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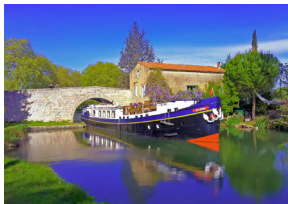
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Below: Two of our European Inland Waterway Vessels:
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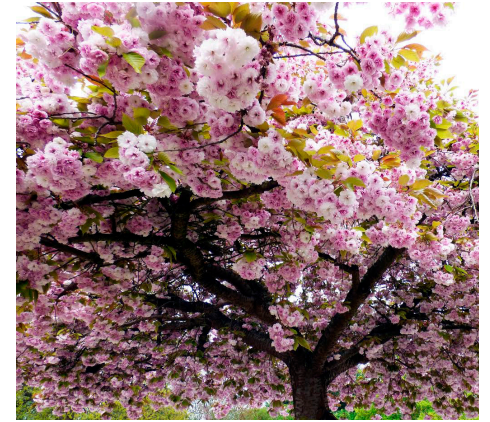
Sue Chapman
PHOTOGRAPHY

THE WESTWELL EYE

172

June

2017



Top: Hebridian sheep at Hothfield Heathlands, Cherry blossom, by Val Butcher.

Bottom: Butterfly on garlic mustard, Tulips at Godinton gardens, by Margery Thomas.

2nd June

5th, 19th June

6th and 13th June

8th June

10th June

13th June

17th June

28th June - 2nd July

NO coffee morning

1.30pm Westwell Art Group

Play reading p.2 + 10

General Election

Kent Chamber Choir p.5

Book Club, p.13

Safari Supper

Egerton Festival p.5

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
2 Pentecost 8am Holy Communion St. Mary Westwell 3.30pm Messy Church	3	4 7.30pm Players read through	5 11am Over 50s Fistssteps	1 Re.F.T. 9.15am Pilates 10.30 Dog training	2 10am Eucharist	3
11 Trinity Sunday 11am Iona Eucharist St. Mary Westwell	12 7pm Fitness	13 11am Book Club pl3 7.30pm Players read through	14 11am Over 50s Fistssteps	15 Re.F.T. 9.15am Pilates 10.30 Dog training 7.30pm WI	16	17 Safari Supper
18 1st Sunday of Trinity 11am Family Service St Mary Westwell	19 1.30pm Painting 7pm Fitness	20	21 11am Over 50s Fistssteps	22 R.F.W.G 9.15am Pilates 10.30 Dog training	23	24
25 2nd Sunday of Trinity 11am Eucharist St. Mary Westwell	26 7pm Fitness	27	28 11am Over 50s Fistssteps	29 Re.F.T. 9.15am Pilates 10.30 Dog training	30 July 1	

From the Editor's desk...

Yet another month bites the dust, but the sun's out and it's warm! The Family Fun day on 1st May was typical bank holiday weather, cold and damp, however a lot of people came out to support the day and get the ball rolling for the church loos, thank you.

Another Election takes place on 8th June so there is no pilates, dog training or W.I. on that day. W.I. is the following week, 15th June.

There is no Friday coffee morning – 2nd June – this month, watch this space for further information.

There are two evenings of play readings, 6th and 13th June, all thespians are needed, regular members of the players and new blood, so put the dates in your diary.

This month also sees the Safari Supper on 17th June.

On page 5 there is a list of gardens in and around Egerton that are open in June; on the same page there is an article about Wealden Wheels, a really inexpensive way of getting a group of people from A – B.

Lucy Farrington has put in a request for old photos of Westwell, if you can help get in touch with her or me see p9

There is a picnic table and bench in the bluebell wood by the gliding club put there in memory of Kip Pitt by Mary Anne and Roger. It is there for all to use. Go to the top of the road, beside Flint Cottage, park the car, then walk a few yards further towards the gliding club and on the left is a small gate, go through that and you will find an ideal place to have a picnic!

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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Telephone Numbers

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Bees (swarming)	
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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
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Library (Ashford)	03000413131
(Charing)	713177
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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
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Wealden Wheels	01233 840000
Wheel Inn (landlord James Meire)	712430
Westwell Community Website:	
http://www.westwellpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/	

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Wealden Wheels

Wealden Wheels, based in Pluckley, Kent, is a Community Transport Company that provides minibus hire to its members. Its fleet includes two wheelchair accessible vehicles.

Wealden Wheels is your village community not-for-profit transport initiative and is supported by Kent County Council, Ashford Borough Council and the Parish Councils of Challock, Charing, Chilham, Egerton, Pluckley and Smarden. However, Westwell Parish Council is a subscriber which means Westwell residents can use the service. It offers self-drive hire from £1 per mile (subject to conditions), or hire with a volunteer driver from £1.60 - £1.80 per mile. These prices include fuel, breakdown and insurance.

In addition to its use for private hire, Wealden Wheels also offers day trips exclusively for members of individual clubs and organisations. These include a day trip to Hastings on 22nd June for shopping, the beach or fish and chips (fare £7.50 per person); 13th July a trip to the Walled Garden Nursery at Hawkhurst (fare £6 per person); 13th August Tonbridge and Tonbridge Castle – take a blanket and picnic to enjoy a free afternoon concert in the grounds of the castle (fare £7.50 per person) and more!

All trips are subject to achieving a minimum number of interested members. Pick-ups can be from Challock, Charing, Chilham, Egerton, Pluckley and Smarden, or other areas by arrangement. Please note that entrance charges and refreshments are not included in the fare price.

Interested in hiring? Then contact wealdenwheels@btconnect.com, phone 01233 840000 or use the contact form on the website <http://www.wealdenwheels.co.uk>

1st Charing Scout Group

There have been huge changes on our building site this month. The concrete floor is almost complete and the steel support posts are in place. The next few months involve many jobs that do not require heavy physical work so any offers of help would be much appreciated. Please contact me or come and have a chat at the Charing Fete.

The cake and savouries stall at Charing Races on Easter Saturday was a great success. We also sold all available racecards.

The date is set for The Great Charing Colour Run on 1st October. 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

Terry Lister

Group Scout Leader gsl_charingscoutgroup@hotmail.co.uk

Egerton Gardens Open in June

7th June; Claire Foinette, Frid Farm, Forge Lane, Egerton Forstal.

14th June; Phillida and Martin Pym, Old Hill Lodge, The Hill, Charing.

21st June; Sue and Jim Cooke, 12, Harmers Way.

28th June; Mary and David Binks, Stonehill Oast, Stonehill Road.

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

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Is your broadband superfast or absolute rubbish...?

In the April edition of The Eye I wrote a short article encouraging anyone with very poor broadband to contact me on the basis that if there were sufficient properties with poor broadband then, by grouping together we could apply for funding and stir some interest in one of the several smaller broadband providers. Unfortunately I have only had a response covering four properties out of the several hundred within the Parish but even this showed the massive disparity between some properties getting an amazingly good service with another property just a few hundred yards away getting almost no service at all. Either you are all sublimely happy with your broadband speed or the usual inertia has crept in and you forgot to respond. It's also possible that some of Westwell residents don't read the Eye which is delivered each month but that's just too sad to contemplate so when you read this article please encourage your friends and neighbours to read it as well.

A shortened version of the original article is reproduced below - please give it a read and then give me a call (07720 908001) or email me at clive.bainbridge@gmail.com.

The Parish Council is aware that broadband provision ranges from very fast to almost non-existent and we wish to explore this further and gain empirical data rather than hearsay about the poor provision. Government policy states that superfast broadband (24Mb/s) should be available to 90% of the UK population by early 2016 and to 95% by December 2017 and that there should be universal provision of a basic broadband (2Mb/s) for everyone by Dec 2015.

We are therefore asking those of you with poor broadband provision to let us know, preferably by email, or if necessary by phone. The basic speed of 2Mb/s is sufficient for simple email and a level of simple use of the internet. However, it will not support streaming of TV / films, is inadequate for running even a small business and will in future have an effect on selling your property to someone who requires or is used to having fast broadband.

Although many and probably most houses within the Parish are now able to connect to superfast broadband the changeover is not automatic so if you have slow broadband it may be worthwhile for you to check whether superfast is available to your address. You can check by typing the following link into your browser <http://gosuperfastchecker.culture.gov.uk/postcode-checker/> For those of you who believe your broadband is slow but have no idea how fast or slow, then go on-line, type the words "broadband speed check" into your browser and select one of the many checking devices that will come up such as [broadbandspeedchecker](#), [Ookla](#), or [uswitch](#).

Update from the New Ashford College – Elwick Road.

Ashford College Parish Magazine Readers

The Governors, Executive, Staff and Students of Ashford College are proud and delighted to invite readers to a **Conducted Tour of the New Ashford College, Elwick Road**, Thursday 15th June. 10am. Coffee and Networking. 10.30am. Presentations followed by a Conducted Tour. A Buffet Luncheon will be served. The event will be attended by Members of the Press and VIP Guests. Please note that places will be allocated on a 'First Come. First Served' basis. RSVP Pat Crawford: pat.crawford@hadlow.ac.uk 07771 635684.

Ashford College is the First Of Ashford's 'Big 8' Projects to be Completed.

The Eighth Egerton Music Festival – 28 June to 2 July

This year's Festival will open with a performance of Mozart's comic opera "The Marriage of Figaro" by Opera Brava.

On Thursday, Stevie Higgins and a world-class West End cast will **sing songs from the shows**, "From Times Square to Leicester Square", including Rodgers & Hammerstein and Andrew Lloyd-Webber favourites. There is a fantastic **Chamber Recital on Friday evening** which will include Schubert and Brahms Piano Trios. On the **same evening** a free fringe event will feature the **Lantern Society Acoustic Club** at Egerton House.

The Royal Academy of Music **Fitzroy Quartet** will give a lunchtime chamber recital on **Saturday** in St James' Church, including music by Dvorak and Haydn. This is followed, by popular request, with a **Picnic in the Garden** in Egerton House walled garden, when the **Coal Porters** will whisk together a cocktail of blue grass, folk and country music. A lovely family event. **Saturday evening** features a **Jazz Supper** – a mixture of classic jazz and numbers from the American songbook, presented by Canterbury Christchurch University Jazz Ensemble, including a buffet supper. The **festival concludes** with a wonderful trio of events: an **afternoon recital by Danielle Perrett**, one of the UK's finest **harpists**; the ever popular **Last Night Extravaganza** featuring for the second time the **Fitzroy Quartet**, plus members of **Sutton Valence Choral Society**, finishing with Jerusalem and Rule Britannia; and finally an evening of pop, folk and laughter with Peter, Paul and Mary's brother, **free, in The Barrow House**.

For the first time a limited number of free tickets are available for some of the events for under 25s, on a first come, first served basis.

As usual there will be an **Art Exhibition** by local artists in the Games Barn, and in the week leading up to the Festival there will be a Music Quiz, and a screening of "Hilary & Jackie" by Egerton Film Society.

Tickets are available now from the Box Office (Little Mundy Bois, Green Hill Lane, Egerton, Ashford, Kent TN27 9EY. Tel: 07393 925401), Ashford Tourist Information Office (Tel: 01233 330316) or www.wegotickets.com – see our website for full details, but hurry because they are selling fast! www.egertonmusicfestival.co.uk

Kent Chamber Choir

The Choir are giving a concert, in Ashford Parish Church Saturday 10th June at 7.30pm.

We will be singing a wide range of splendid choral music in a variety of styles from the early 17th century to the present day by British, European and American composers. Including James MacMillan's anthem O radiant down, a chorus from Brahms's German Requiem, Charles Stanford's song The Blue Bird, and catchy arrangements of old standards by Cole Porter and Marvin Hamlisch. Other composers include Norwegian Ola Gjeilo, Hungarian Zoltan Kodaly, Robert Ramsey and Thomas Weelkes. Francis Poulenc's three French chansons spice things up and Alan Vincent's rhythmic Viva la musica! aims to get your feet tapping.

Our guest soloist is gifted young soprano Fiona Jackson, accompanied by Roger Harris.

Tickets at £10 (£5 children and full-time students) are available on the door or in advance from Rebecca Moate 07770 936024 or rebeccamoate@hotmail.co.uk and from Margery Thomas 07870 829659 margerythomas@f2s.com

Westwell WI

This month's meeting was our Resolution Meeting, members discuss an issue to be put forward to WI as a whole with a view to ensuring that the issue in question is addressed, by putting pressure on Parliament to take action, or to raise public awareness of something that might not be generally known, or it may be something that WI members can take on board to improve life generally for others.

Two issues were discussed this year, the first concerned the raising of awareness of the causes and impacts of loneliness Members voted unanimously in favour. The second resolution concerned the effects of microfibres in our oceans and called on Government and industry to research and develop solutions to this problem. However, it was felt that not enough was known about the subject so members did not feel able to vote on this resolution.

This discussion was preceded by a talk about the Mission Aviation Fellowship. This charity has been working for over 70 years to bring aid and support to the most isolated people which they do with the aid of small aircraft that are able to land in the most inhospitable places where larger planes are unable to do so. As well as medical supplies, they also provide technology to enable communities to connect by telephone or internet to the rest of the world. Members were reminded of our Croquet Evening on 8th June at the home of Liz Jamieson, at 6.30 pm, also a Ladies Lunch on June 16th. The competition was won by a toy witch dressed in blue.

Next Meeting: Thursday 15th June at 7.30pm.

Talk: Eking Out the Rations – Judie Knight

Hostesses: Pat Guy, Mary-Anne Pitt and Jean Lester

Vote of thanks: Mary Thiele

Competition - Violet

Marilyn Warner 

Westwell Community Watch Scheme. Neighbourhood Watch

Once again telephone scams are in the news. Scam phone calls claiming to be from BT and Microsoft Support Centres The caller claims that they need to cut your internet connection unless you provide certain personal details as a security check. Neither BT nor Microsoft would ever contact you in this way. Another scam is from callers claiming to be from HM Revenue & Customs stating you have overpaid tax and they want to refund it to your bank account but need the details. Again HMRC would never contact you like this. In ALL calls of this type just ask them to put it in writing, don't give your address and terminate the call as soon as possible.

Another variation on the same theme is scam text messages to your mobile phone such as.

1. Your tax refund of 727.12 GBP is pending to proceed. Please follow our secure link below. Your bank may require online verification.

2. Your Apple ID has been locked for security. Please go to *****to unlock your account.

3. We have identified some unusual activity on your online banking. Please log in to *****to secure your account"

Neither your Bank nor other financial institutions will ever contact you in this way so please do not divulge any of your personal information Do not under any circumstances reply to or follow the links contained within any such messages.

If you want to get an email notice about any incidents from our on-line Alert Scheme please send your name, post code & email address to me at: westwell.community.watch@gmail.com

Also indicate whether you would like to get Westwell Events news including updates from the Parish Council.

Continued on page 11

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Update of The Wheel: Report of village meeting on 10th April

75 Westwellians took part in a meeting in the Parish Hall on 10th April to discuss the future of the Wheel Inn. The meeting was hosted by parish councillors Clive Bainbridge and Lucy Farrington, who provided local residents with information about The Wheel Inn from Shepherd Neame(SN). On 6th March Clive and Lucy had met with Jonathan Neame, CEO of SN, and George Barnes, Director of Property.

SN had provided us with their view as to why the pub was, in its present state unviable and their proposals for the future and after sharing this information local residents were invited to give their views. A lively discussion followed in which there was a lot of support for keeping the pub even if there was less unanimity on how.

There was a fair degree of cynicism about SN and whether the company were actively managing the pub on a downward spiral, and might continue to do so in order to achieve the 2 house development outcome they desired, and even to redevelop the pub itself. On this basis many thought that there should be outright opposition to the SN proposals and a desire for the Parish Council to "call their bluff" and object to any development.

On several occasions the parish councillors made the point that SN was a business making a commercial decision which was best for the company and not necessarily for our community. We could influence but they held most of the cards.

Some of those present urged caution and suggested that it would be better to support and try to influence their plans towards a good solution for the community.

At the end of the evening views were roughly split 50/50 - there were slightly more in favour of talking to / working with SN rather than opposing them but it was close. The points raised and noted below, were generally accepted as a fair record of what was said, to be taken forward in further discussions in the Parish Council and with Shepherd Neame .

Points raised for further discussion:

1. An independent view on the 18k rent plus full repair and maintenance tenancy.
2. More information from SN, e.g. on what happens if after a year or two the pub is losing money and the tenant wants to bail out.
3. Build only one house (or two semis) to reduce the total loss of the beer garden
4. Affordable housing eg semi or a terrace of cottages rather than £500k+ housing
5. Need to use the pub more now, to make it attractive to potential tenants.
6. Present arrangements make this difficult . How to get more local people to use it.
7. Is SN aware how much the pub is now closed, even at weekends.
8. Need to revisit car parking provision for the pub/village if changes go ahead

Last but not least: if we were to support SN's proposals and effectively make life easier and quicker for them would they in return provide us with a statement that they were doing this development in order to keep a viable pub in our community as part of the company's responsibility to support local communities. A statement such as this would be helpful to the village community feeling there could be a successful outcome for the village.

A fuller version of this report is available with the parish council minutes of 3rd May.

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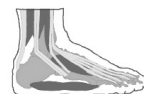
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Letter to the Parishes

As spring gives way to summer, so Pentecost releases us from celebratory Eastertide, to bowl headlong into...Ordinary Time! What is Ordinary Time? A very simple explanation is that it's those bits of the Church's year "in between". Not

Easter, not Christmas, not Advent, Lent or Pentecost.

Pentecost is such a climax event: An outpouring of God's powerful Spirit on God's people. And then what? Where do we go from here? Where did the first Church go? They stayed together, they shared everything they had, they took care of each other - and they told others of Jesus, drew them in to share their faith. This was a period of intense growth, both in understanding, in love, and in numbers, for the fledgling Church. The events at Easter and Pentecost had brought them into life, and now they grew.

The liturgical colour for Ordinary Time is green: How very appropriate for a season of growth. Green is a friendly colour, it's positive, it's calming, yet it enlivens. It comes in many different hues and nuances, it changes with the light, and the time of day, or year.

In nature we cannot always see how plants and animals develop; it happens by small increments every day. But then we notice how things have changed, how they have grown. It is the same with our faith. Look back at your own understanding of God, of yourself, of Church, and notice how different it all looked, and felt, 5, 10, 20 years ago. Think also of your surroundings. If you have lived in your village for a very long time - how has it changed? If you came more recently - how might it look in 10 years' time? There is growth, and change, everywhere.

One part of our mission, our work with and for God, is to care for His creation. This has become more and more important, as the pressure on natural resources grows. Here at home this is felt as more and more land is given over to building projects, and as water quantity and - quality, and air pollution are compromised. In other parts of God's Earth other issues, or similar ones, are experienced, and often by people with much less possibility to mitigate the effects.

We cannot solve these equations by ourselves, but must work together with other individuals, and other states, to find new ways to live that are sustainable both for people and for nature. But we can all commit to living simpler, less wasteful lives, and to finding as many opportunities as possible to care for soil, water, plants, animals and humans. To help them, and in this also always ourselves, to grow and flourish. Composting, rain water butts, gardening and looking after our pets and family, doesn't feel like "spiritual" activities. But in God's economy, they are, or can be.

We can pray for all that we are given to look after. We can use all our resources in a responsible way, as the gifts from God that they are. And we can find ways of sharing, and enjoying God's creation with others, humans as well as other life forms. This is being truly "green" and at the same time, truly godly.

And although the colour green it is greatly abundant, it is far from ordinary. So maybe Ordinary Time could become for us a Special Time to grow in love for, and in understanding and care for God's creation, for His, and our Earth.

Ylva Blid-Mackenzie

(ALM Worship Leader and Funeral Minister)

Etc

Dates for your diary

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

Dates for WAGS (Westwell Art Group)

June 5th and 19th
July 3rd

Book Club May 2017

Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly
We were delighted to have nearly a full house hosted by Jacqui, and Margery's family from Vancouver dropped in to say hello. Although our book was a slow read for everyone because so detailed, factual and episodic we were all pleased Jacqui had brought it to our attention as it prompted deep and wide-ranging discussion and will stay on bookshelves as an important document on the outstanding achievements of black women mathematicians working in what became the US space industry and the struggle for race and gender equality when for the US the priority was winning the space race despite international disapproval. Many of us want to see the film although inevitably it won't entirely reflect the book.

We heard first-hand accounts of the discrimination experienced by a Jamaican immigrant family in London, the experiences here of families of mixed race, how the US army maintained segregation while posted in the UK, sending black soldiers to Ramsgate and white to Margate to avoid fights, how for a long time history and education blanked out aspects of racial and gender discrimination; the reactions of children to people of different colours, that white is also a colour, and explored our own attitudes and backgrounds. The discussion widened to the treatment of natives by colonising powers, the Maoris, Australian Aborigines, Canadian First Nation,

Inuit and Metis, and what has been done in reparation.

For information about the book club contact qatrinadarawi@hotmail.com
Everyone is welcome to the next meeting, The Amber Keeper by Freda Lightfoot.
Tuesday 13th June 11am – midday at Celeste's, there is easy access for wheelers etc.
Bring and share light lunch for those who can stay on. *Margery Thomas*

Westwell Fete on Sunday August 27th.

The Westwell Fete will take place on August bank holiday Sunday 27th August.

I have been asked if I am organising it again the answer is Yes but with the help of the many others, I intend to delegate a lot of the work. I will be contacting those who helped last year and before. If we can all share the work it will be a shared success.

Put July 15th/16th in your diary as a Fete preparations weekend - details to come on Westwell Events and in the July Eye.

To everyone **please start collecting now:**

A bag of waste crockery, for the crockery smashing. A bag of books, for the book stall. A bag of unwanted gifts and undamaged pre-owned items- for the tombola and bric a brac
July 15th/16th will be "collection weekend at the village hall: details in the July Eye. There will be an opportunity to buy raffle tickets..

The Westwell Fete is always a vital fund raiser for our community. Fete funds for 2016 have helped provide the defibrillator; the hall repairs and painting, the car parking matting on the playing field; the plans for the church loos, and more

Please start collecting into those bags and look out for details in the July Eye,

If you haven't helped before and would like to do so please contact Sue Wood on 623902

Thank you so much !

Christine Drury 07796930430

Westwell Church Services for June

www.g7benefice.org

Friday 2nd:

10am Iona Eucharist

Sunday 4th: Pentecost

8am Holy Communion

Sunday 11th: Trinity

11am Iona Eucharist

4.30pm Flower Festival Songs of Praise

All welcome - Hothfield

Sunday 18th: 1st Sunday of Trinity

11am Family Service

Sunday 25th: 2nd Sunday of Trinity

11am Eucharist

Tuesdays:

9am Charing – The Eucharist

7pm Charing Heath – Prayer and Bible Study

Weddings

Martin Hopkins and Sally Roger were married at St. Mary, Westwell on Saturday 6th May

May God strengthen them in their married life together

Funerals

Sarah 'Sally' Matilda Partridge died on 23rd March aged 74. Her funeral took place at Charing Crematorium on Monday 24th April.

Elizabeth Winifred Robson died 15th April aged 92. Her funeral took place at Charing Crematorium, followed by a Memorial Service at St. Mary, Westwell, on Saturday 6th May.

May God enfold Sally and Elizabeth in his tender love and care.



Family Fun.

We suffered to some extent due to the weather but still managed to fill up a lot of Westwell Residents with Coffee, cake, bacon butties and cream teas. Outside events unfortunately were a literal washout. Thank you to everyone who supported us and helped us raise £280 for the church loo fund.



Family Church in June

Messy starts with a birthday party for the Church on Pentecost, June 4th at 3.30pm in the parish Hall. All under 10s welcome with an adult. Last month we made aquaria and fun fish to stick on the fridge, thinking about Jesus' breakfast with his disciples after Easter. This month is all flames and party fun.



Family Church

The all age service is on June 18th at 11am and we will be celebrating Fathers day. The children will be making fun stuff and we will be exploring the delights of fatherhood.

Charity

Does Charity begin at home? The PCC is going to ask congregations to donate a bit each month to a specific charity. There will be appropriate charities chosen each month, for example in October we might support the Food Bank with money as well as food. There will be a list of charities in next months' Eye.

Looking forward to July

July's Messy will be on Sunday July 2nd and will be thinking about some of Jesus' miracles. Don't forget the **Pet Service** on July 16th at 11am in the churchyard, weather permitting, otherwise in the church.

Church Cleaning Rota.

Cleaning Sarah Scarratt

Flowers: Jane Richards

Brass: Sue Norman



Request for Interesting Old Photos of the Parish

Are you lucky enough to have any interesting old photos of the parish? I would like to scan and upload a selection of pictures to the Community website which we have set up at www.westwell.org, so that we have a permanent online archive that everyone can access and enjoy. If you would be willing to let me peruse/borrow your snaps for a couple of days then I promise I will take very good care of them and will return the originals to you as soon as possible. I would also like to put some written pieces on the website containing interesting reminiscences; if you would like to write your own (or alternatively would like to chat to me and then I can write them up for you) I would be delighted to hear from you. Please call Lucy on 07980 658656.



Westwell Church in 1906

Your pictures don't need to be as old as this one!

Liz Robson and Priscilla Eagles

April saw the passing of two wonderful Colonel's widows, Elizabeth Robson, known fondly as Liz and Priscilla Eagles who gave so much to Westwell during the years they lived in the village.

Liz, Felix's wife was a staunch member of the Church, served on the Parish Council, loved looking after animals especially dogs, collected for Lifeboats and was fondly known as the "poppy lady" as she organised and collected house to house selling poppies for countless years. Liz passed away peacefully on Easter Saturday at Warren Lodge where she had been lovingly looked after for over 4 years.

The thanksgiving service for her life at Westwell Church on 6th May was attended by family and many Westwellians on a lovely sunny afternoon. Her son Angus paid a wonderful tribute to his mother and brought laughter and tears to us all.

Priscilla, Jimmy's wife, another staunch member of St Mary's, raised funds with her countless sewing afternoons for the annual bazaar, was a keen WI member, joined the WRVS, delivering meals on wheels to people in Westwell and Hothfield and made toast, sandwiches, tea and coffee at the William Harvey hospital snack bar each week with a team from the village and happily visited sick and lonely parishioners.

Priscilla died peacefully on 20th April at a retirement home at Leigh in Dorset where she lived a happy life after Jimmy died and was much loved.

At a thanksgiving service attended by family and friends her son Anthony paid tribute to a great wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother to many.

Both ladies devoted much time helping their husbands in Church projects. Felix who produced the revised Church guide and Jimmy who aided the sale of the Westwell flagons which produced funds to restore the church roof and install central heating in 1964.

I feel privileged to have been friends with Liz and Priscilla for many years.

Joan Richards.



Westwell Players

The Players had their AGM last week and although we would have loved a few more 'bums on seats' it was a very positive meeting with coffee and biscuits both before and after, one or two of us tried to change the coffee into wine but without success! Good job really as most people were driving. The most important part of the evening happened before anyone entered the Hall! Neil our Chairman and Viki our Treasurer took a bouquet of flowers to Kay our Vice Chairman as she is standing down, this was to thank her for all her wonderful contributions to us over the last 35 odd years! Kay was one of the founder members when we were called 'Westwell Warblers' in our infancy as a Group and she has seen us through – on stage, as prompt, as Producer, as Tea Maker and in almost every guise known to man! She has been a leading light for so long, we shall miss her at the helm and all wish to pass on our gratitude to her with the flowers. Thanks also go to David who has been happy to come and video for us for so many Shows, what a lot we owe them both.

The Westwell Cup was awarded to Neil Cackett who was thanked for all his hard work, taking over as Chairman and choosing and producing the last show, as well as playing a number of parts, he has been another shining star in the Players firmament! The Show, 'Life Goes On' was discussed and praise given to all who took part, it made money for The Hospice in memory of Kip which was a good outcome. Our Hall seating was discussed with everyone keen to see some more comfortable chairs if at all possible. A new Committee was formed and we also discussed housing our wardrobe and props in a more easily accessible site, somewhere, ideally, near to the Hall itself. Eventually we got on to our Panto and were

delighted that Gordon and Sarah are happy to produce and have already chosen a script. 'Once Upon a Time' sounds really good fun, with Cinderella, Snow White and not one but two Prince Charmings!! If you are interested in taking a part and could not get to the AGM, please come along on Tuesday 6th June and again on Tuesday 13th June to read for a part. Our first rehearsal is on Tuesday 5th September so you will have plenty of time to learn your lines before then! The Production dates are 23rd, 24th and 25th November with dress rehearsals on the Sunday and Monday prior to the Show! Please put this date in your diaries!! The Meeting closed with lots of chatter and laughter with all of our members looking forward to another successful show.

Mary Anne Pitt

Plans

The following were approved by the Borough Council:

17/00301/AS Glebe Cottage, The Street, Westwell

17/00319/AS Elvy Cottage, Kingsland Lane, Westwell

17/00341/AS Fallowfields, The Street, Westwell

The following applications was withdrawn:

17/00148/AS Bridgewood Farm, Watery Lane.

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

Hothfield Heathland Annual Highlights 2016

Thereserve was recognised as Kent's "Flagship wetland site" by the Freshwater habitats trust. This provided us with some additional funds to create or improve 12 ponds. These new ponds will quickly be colonised by some of our rarest plants, amphibians and insects.

We had an incredible 450 days of volunteer work across the reserve. The amount of work carried out by this wonderful workforce is amazing, for example they battled back 3.5 hectares (35,000 m²) of invasive birch, providing much needed space for the heathlands plants and animals. They have also improved 127 metres of footpaths across the site, shovelling and wheelbarrowing tonnes of sand to raise paths. In combination with upgrading some of the gates, I hope that access across the site is generally improving. Our herd of highland cattle, and Hebridean sheep were supplemented by Herdwick sheep, and more recently the return of the Konik Ponies. These animals are essential in the ongoing management of the reserve, supported by a dedicated team of livestock checkers.

The primary reason for all this hardwork is improving the site for wildlife. Last year's wins included good numbers of birds such as yellowhammer, linnet, willow warbler, whitethroat that associate with scrubby gorse and heather. Wetland birds such as kingfisher, grey wagtail, little egret and snipe continue to thrive, whilst the mature trees on the edge of the reserve are full of great spotted woodpeckers, nuthatch and treecreeper. Buzzards and kestrels can be seen most days, with more discreet visits from hobby and barn owl

Dragonflies love this habitat, and numbers of our rarest species, the Keeled Skimmer, continue to rise, doubling the numbers recorded two years ago.

I was delighted to discover that for the first

time, badgers have set up home (or should that be set up sett?) in the middle of the reserve.

It is always fascinating to see what unfolds throughout the year, this year we will be running a regular group to study the species that live on the reserve. If you would like to get involved with our volunteer team, either in helping with our livestock, joining our green team or helping to survey the site please get in touch at:- ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk or 07889 737839

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We welcome PS Darren WALSHAW as the new Kent Police Sergeant responsible for the Rural Liaison Team. He has been a serving police officer for nearly 17 years and comes from a farming community having been employed on farms performing various roles. Although now retired his father still owns a farm. Darren says "I am hoping that my farming background will be a good asset to this already established and pro-active unit." Locally the team has received a report from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons that a person in the Ashford area was falsely conducting veterinary work under a genuine vet's details. Research is being conducted in relation to this report.

The team were involved in Operation Yen. This operation was part of a day of action working with Trading standards, and looking into offences of Rogue Trading / Fraud. Two males were arrested at different locations. These offences are linked to teams of travelling criminals who are committing high value frauds against elderly repeat victims. One of the offenders was wanted for a £150,000 fraud and the second was for a £40,000 fraud with other offences added on during the investigation stage.

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

Keep Vigilant

Tony Bartlett – WCWS Co-ordinator