



## The Wheel

### Normal Menu and Special Deals

+

**EVERY WEEK**

**Wednesday Night: Pie Night**

**Thursday Night: Tapas**

**Friday Night: Fish Night apart from:**

**Last Friday of the Month: Italian Food  
followed by Music!**

**Saturday Night: Steak Night**

**8th June - Free entry event - live music and BBQ**

**22nd June - Quiz Night**

**Contact: 01233 712223**

**info@thewheelinnwestwell.uk**



# THE WESTWELL EYE

196

June

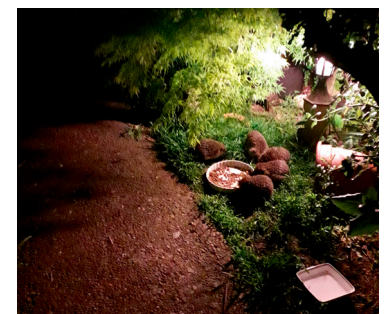
2019



Clockwise: Re-incarnated Orchard Cottage. Opposite the Parish Hall.

Night-time visitors in Westwell - taken by Jenny Burgess.

Another use for the font at Molash Church during the Five Churches Walk. Taken by Margery Thomas



**7th June**

**3rd + 17th June**

**11th June**

**22nd June**

**22nd June**

**30th June**

**The Wheel**

**10.30am Coffee in The Wheel**

**1.30pm Art Group**

**11am Book Club + 8pm Fete Meeting p13**

**7pm Quiz - The Wheel**

**7pm Safari Supper**

**Car Show p13 - Village Green**

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
2 Sunday after Ascension 8am Holy Communion 3.30-5pm Messy Church parish hall	3 1.30pm Art Group 7pm Fitness	4	5 10am Chair exercise 11am Fistssteps - Dance as U 6	6 R.F.W 9.15pm Pilates	7 10am Iona Eucharist 10.30 Coffee Wheel	8
9 Pentecost 11am Iona Eucharist	10 7pm Fitness	11 Book Club - p13 8pm Fete Meeting The Wheel	12 10am Chair exercise 11am Fistssteps - Dance as U 6	13 Re.F.T. 9.15pm Pilates 7.15pm WI Meeting	14	15
16 Trinity Sunday 11am Family Service	17 1.30pm Art Group 7pm Fitness	18	19 10am Chair exercise 11am Fistssteps - Dance as U 6	20 R.F.W. 9.15pm Pilates	21	22 7pm Safari Supper
23 1st Sunday of Trinity 11am Eucharist	24 7pm Fitness	25	26 10am Chair exercise 11am Fistssteps - Dance as U 6	27 Re.F.T. 9.15pm Pilates	28	29
30 2nd Sunday of Trinity 8am Holy Communion Pluckley 10.30am Benefice Communion Charing Vintage & Classic Car Show p. 13	July 1	2	3	4	5	1

## From the Editor's desk...



80

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARY ANNE  
23rd May

Count your garden by the flowers,  
Never by the leaves that fall,  
Count your days by golden hours,  
Don't remember clouds at all,  
Count the night by stars, not shadows  
Count your life by smiles not tears,  
And with joy on every Birthday  
Count your age by friends not years!

*Author unknown*

Mary Anne found this poem many years ago and wrote it in a special book she has to be produced on special occasions.

There are various important bits for you to read in this month's Eye.

New arrangements at The Wheel pages 9 and 20.

Classic and vintage car show – page 13

Westwell Fete – page 13

Events at Hothfield Common – page 9

The Safari Supper this year is on 22nd June, if you would like to take part please get in touch with Sue Wood 623902 / susanwood@uwclub.net

*Carolyn Thorneloe*

The views of any contributor to this publication may not necessarily be those of the editor and team, nor can the Westwell Eye accept any responsibility in connection with any companies or organisations mentioned or any advertiser.

Correspondence to: Carolyn Thorneloe, Gaoler's Retreat, 5, Faversham Road, Lenham, Maidstone, Kent ME17 2PN.Tel: 01622 859376, Email: westwelleye@gmail.com

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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, Charing and Challock, Dave Beckley	0797798199
CROP	01622 851200
Library (Ashford)	03000413131
(Charing)	713177
MS Therapy Centre	01227 470876
NHS Direct	0845 4647
NSPCC	0800 800500
Parish Hall Booking	01233 712016
doriscackett@btinternet.com	
Parish Council (clerk, Sue Wood)	623902
Pilgrims' Hospice (Admin)	504100
(Patient enquiries)	504112
PCC Secretary (Heather Lister)	712981
Police (rural matters only – crime should be reported on 101 or 999)	07980978202
Samaritans	610000
Shopmobility	621196
Solicitor (Thorneloe & Co.)	01622 859416
Victim Support	0845 30 30 900
Water Supplies Queries	0333 000 0002
Water Leak Line	0333 000 3330
Wealden Wheels	01233 840000
Westwell Community Website:	
<a href="http://www.westwellpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/">http://www.westwellpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/</a>	

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IN

THIS

SPACE

Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust,

## What are primary care networks?

The biggest reform of general practice in more than a decade is now underway. A key part of this reform is to form networks of at least 30 thousand patients. These primary care networks will have the potential benefit of offering improved access to a range of services. The first five services are planned to begin by April 2020 and are to include structured medication reviews, enhanced health in care homes, anticipatory care (enabling patients to think ahead and have a better understanding of their health), personalised care (giving patients a greater choice and control over the way their healthcare is delivered) and early diagnosis of cancer.

GP practices are not compelled to join a network but will lose significant extra funding if they do not. As yet, it is not clear how many networks there will be in the Ashford area, but it is likely that each will consist of four or five practices.

Funding for the development of networks will be through the core GP contract, and much of the new money for the NHS announced in June 2018 will be used for this purpose. Primary care networks will focus on service delivery rather than on the planning and funding of services, which will remain the responsibility of commissioners (CCGs).

What are considered to be the advantages of these new networks? They should have the potential to deliver improved services and to extend the range available. For instance, it is planned that physiotherapy, extended social prescribing, clinical pharmacy, physician associates and paramedics will eventually be included. Community based teams, including mental health, are also part of the plan for patients with more complex needs.

Preliminary trials of networks indicate that they have been received with mixed feelings by patients. Some patients prioritise access above all else and favour the new approach. Others are more concerned about continuity with specific doctors, and they fear that this will be lost. During the transition it is very important that practices work closely with Patient Participation Groups in order to take their views into account.

If you would like further information please contact me by email at [kcft.governors@nhs.net](mailto:kcft.governors@nhs.net) or write to me at the KCHFT, Governor Support Office, Hermitage Court, Hermitage Lane, Barming, Maidstone, Kent ME16 9NT.

**John Fletcher Public Governor-Ashford**

### Planning applications

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

19/00439/AS Court Lodge

19/00519/AS Dunn Street House, Pilgrims Way

The following was supported by the Parish Council and no objection raised by the Borough Council:

19/00014/OLE/AS Overhead line between Pilgrims Way and Westwell Lane

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## Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 14th May in the parish hall. This being the Annual meeting of the Parish Council, the first business was election of the Chairman and Vice-chairman: Christine Drury was re-elected as Chairman and Clive Bainbridge as Vice-chairman; appointments to other Committees followed. Councillors signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The Parish Council meets the criteria to use the General Power of Competence; this gives the Parish Council more flexibility to fund projects in the parish.

The Minutes of the meetings in March and April were approved.

**Financial:** The Parish Council's accounts for 2018-2019 were approved, and will now be submitted to the external auditor (PKF Littlejohn) for audit. The Financial report was approved. The change of signatories to the Westwell Eye account has been implemented by the bank to reflect the transfer of responsibility for the Eye finances to the Parish Council.

Larry Krause has been re-elected as the borough councillor for Downs West ward, which includes Westwell parish, and gave the Parish Council an update on the results of the borough council elections.

**Planning:** Three planning applications were discussed and all supported. The Parish Council will submit comments on the Boughton Aluph & Eastwell Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan.

**Consultations:** The Parish Council sent in comments on the proposal to make the overnight lorry parking ban permanent. The Parish Council's submissions to this and other consultations will be published on the Parish Council website, where possible.

**Playing field:** The annual safety inspection will be carried out in the summer. Measures will be put in place to prevent birds perching on the top bar of the swings.

Reports from Parish Council representatives were given, and any other business followed – this included the need for work the Garden of Remembrance; roll-out of the ABC refill scheme; Classic Car Show on June 30 on the playing field.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 1st July at 7pm in the parish hall. All meetings are open to the public and all are welcome.

## 1st Charing Scout Group



Beavers had a very successful camp at our headquarters. For many of them it was their first night away from parents. Hopefully the first of many in scouting. Cubs are getting to be old hands at it after another amazing time at the District camp.

On 4th June we have our AGM at our headquarters at 7pm. We hope to have all our adult volunteers there and discuss our exciting plans for the future. We also hope to see as many people there as possible.

gsl\_charingscoutgroup@hotmail.co.uk      **Terry Lister**



## WESTWELL WI

Our meetings usually begin with the presentation of a birthday card to those members whose birthday falls within the month. This month, among a number of other members, we were especially pleased to give a card to Mary Anne Pitt who was celebrating her 80th birthday this month and was now looking forward to spending her extra 25 pence per week!

May is the month that we have our Resolutions Meeting, when members vote on which issue they would like to be promoted nationally by the NFWI. This year's proposals were put forward by Natalie Harman and they were "A call against the decline in local bus services" and "Don't fear the smear". Voting took place for both resolutions and it was unanimously agreed by the 24 members present to take forward the resolution regarding the decline in local bus services without the option for the delegate to use her discretion. The vote on cervical screening was not as clear cut and following discussion, the vote was 17 for and 3 against taking this resolution forward with the option for the delegate to use her discretion.

Members were reminded of future events:

Croquet at Angela Osborne's – Friday 7th June at 6.30 p.m.

Visit to Stockbury – Wednesday 10th July at 7.30 p.m.

Bat and Trap – Wednesday 17th July at 6.30pm to include a fish and chip supper;

BBQ – Friday 9th August at 6.30 at Gail Hunt's

Quiz Night – Friday 18th October 2019. This event is open to everyone – member or non-members, if you don't have a team sign up anyway and you will be put in a team on the night. Joan Richards reported that the foodbank was desperate for tinned foods such as vegetables and corned beef; breakfast cereals, babies' nappies and long life milk. A collection would be started at the June meeting.

The competition for a Bonny Baby Photo brought a number of entries and the winner was Gail Hunt, second was Joan Richards and joint third were June Scarfe and Liz Hewitt

Anyone wishing to know more about any of the above or the Westwell WI and what it means to be a WI member should email Catherine at [westwellwi2015@gmail.com](mailto:westwellwi2015@gmail.com)

**Marilyn Warner**

**Next Meeting:-** Thursday 13th June.

**Speaker:-** *Melanie Gibson Brown - Suffragettes*

**Vote of thanks:-** Ivy Clifton

**Hostesses:-** Terry Roach; Ros Williamson; Meg Lloyd

**Competition:-** A cartoon



## Time to talk Funeral matters

End-of-life questions? We all have  
But who do we ask?

Brief talks by a local:-  
Doctor, Funeral Director, Solicitor, Care Manager and Vicar;  
lots of time to question and discuss

For carers and seniors - and all  
**Harrietsham Village Hall, 14th June**  
**Lenham Community Centre, 5th July**  
2 - 4 pm Light refreshments provided

When do we talk about dying rather than prolonging life?  
How do I organise my money? I'm not religious: can I have a church service?  
What's best for a funeral?  
Can I choose care options?  
And many more questions...

## Nine Days (Novena) of Prayer

**Friday 31 May - Saturday 8 June 2019**

The Novena is traditionally the nine days between Ascension and Pentecost when the disciples prayed waiting for the Holy Spirit. Make sure you pick up a copy of the booklet - pop them in your pocket and use them each day as, like the disciples, we wait for the coming of the Spirit between Pentecost and Ascension.

Here in the G7 Benefice, as we have done in previous years, there will be opportunities for us all to come together each day to pray, although if you prefer you can do this at home using the booklets.

Please join us this Novena as we pray Thy Kingdom Come. May the Spirit bless us through our waiting with encounters that encourage and transform as we journey on together.

Date	Theme	Church	Time
Friday 31st	Praise	Little Chart	10.00 (Open Praise)
Saturday 1st	Thanks	Hothfield	17.30 (Evening Prayer)
Sunday 2nd	Sorry	Church services	Various
Monday 3rd	Offer	Pluckley	18.00 (Julian Meeting)
			19.00 (Novena Prayer)
Tuesday 4th	Pray for ...	Charing Heath	09.00 (Communion)
		Charing	19.00 (Bible Study)
Wednesday 5th	Help	Charing Heath	10.30 (Communion)
Thursday 6th	Adore	'At Home'	...
Friday 7th	Celebrate	Westwell	10.00 (Iona Eucharist)
Saturday 8th	Silence	Exgerton	17.30 (Compline)

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## In Memorium

I am sure you would all like to join me in sending condolences to the family and friends of the following villagers who sadly died recently:-

David Harvey, condolences to his wife and daughter, Barbara and Michelle

Alf Coley, condolences to his daughter, Clare.

Tony Richardson, condolences to his wife, Pat and his wider family



W  
C  
W  
S

## Westwell Community Watch Scheme

*Keeping you Safe and Secure*  
Neighbourhood Watch

As a new parish council starts its term I am delighted to have been re-elected and asked to continue running the Westwell Community Watch Scheme. We now have a larger Parish with the inclusion of the residents living on Ashford town side of Sandyhurst Lane. This gives us an opportunity to improve the sharing of crime and community safety alerts and information as every household now receives the Westwell Eye.

We will also continue passing critical or urgent information to Westwell Events. But Community Watch is not just about crime and safety, it is also about caring for those in your community. Being neighbourly is not about being nosy. If you know of a vulnerable person in your area, check whether they need a key holder or a contact number for an emergency. Remember one day you may need help!

### Police

Following a reorganisation and allocation of additional resources we now have a new PCSO covering the Downs West ward, Aaron Newell, who will periodically attend Parish Council meetings but also provides regular reports on incidents of concern in our area.

In the April report the only incident in Westwell was a suspected poaching.

Aaron can be contacted at Kent Police -

**Aaron Newell 46056646 -email aaronnewell@kent.pnn.police.uk**

The Kent Police Rural team have published their Spring 2019 Rural Matters magazine giving news of their activities fighting crime in their four priorities, Rural, Wildlife, Heritage and Environmental across the county.

It makes fascinating reading. A copy can be viewed on the Kent Police website:  
<https://www.kent.police.uk/>

**Remember: Crime is rare but working together we can reduce it even further.**

KEEP SAFE and DON'T FORGET: If you see anything suspicious call 999 (if urgent) or dial 101, use <https://www.kent.police.uk/services/report-a-crime/> or contact Country Eye

[westwell.community.watch@gmail.com](mailto:westwell.community.watch@gmail.com)

**Keep Vigilant**  
**Tony Bartlett – WCWS Co-ordinator**

## Godinton House and Gardens



### Delphinium Festival

14th June - 23rd June  
Open 1pm - 6pm daily

\*Jazz Evening      \*Music Sunday  
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# Letter to the Parishes

Hello!

I'm reporting to you from the frontline of Ordination training! Here at the coalface of academic studies, where a mountain of theological books threaten to tumble down and bury me forever and where the essay deadlines chase each other like white horses on the storm-tossed sea, is both a risky and hilarious place to be in your early fifties. Who would have thought that this would be where I find myself? Not me, that's for sure. What an adventure! But this is what can happen, if you let yourself in deep enough with God. There could be upheaval. Things could change; sometimes in small increments, but sometimes in really large ways. Because the Holy Spirit loves change!

As we are now coming to Pentecost, we must try to take in just how much change the Spirit brought when she\* came and fell on the apostles. (\*I say "she", you may have been brought up to say "he", but really of course, the Holy Spirit has no gender. Just saying...) As she settled on each one of them, they changed from ordinary men and women, confused and bewildered by their experiences of Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension, into bold and assured speakers and doers of God's work. These were ordinary people; fishers and carpenters, housewives and former prostitutes. No one had been much to school, although some of them could probably read and write. And now in an instance they could speak foreign languages and so communicate God's truth to all people, Israelites and foreigners alike.

The change that we need in our lives may not be a sudden ability to speak in foreign tongues. It may be a change of direction, or a renewed interest in the things of God: Charity, fellowship, prayer, reading God's word, singing! We can read in the Acts of the Apostles that these are all things that the first Christians did in a really serious way as a response to the Holy Spirit. We could do worse than to try and emulate them.

As the rest of you are not studying theology, I know this may be "Greek" to you, but one thing that the Holy Spirit brought to the disciples was koinonia (κοινωνία). This is a Greek word meaning "fellowship", especially of the Christian kind. We cannot be Christians by ourselves, we must find a group of people to be in relationship with, if we are to flourish. It is often by meeting others that we start to change.

We are facing a lot of change here in the G7. What, with Sheila leaving and Mark being licensed as a Reader this summer, with Jack entering his third year of curacy and the Single Parish hopefully finally coming into being, albeit as a Benefice, so much is happening. As I am starting to see the point at which I am going to leave you too (next summer, to be precise), I would love to see koinonia grow amongst you. An Interregnum can be a time of intensified fellowship, with many people finding a renewed drive to get engaged in service in and for the church. It may feel like a period of uncertainty, but it could also be seen as an adventure! Whatever else happens, we will of course always be friends!

With every blessing,

*Yvonne*

## Cleaning Rota.

Cleaning. Sarah Scarratt  
Flowers. Joan Richards  
Brass. Sue Norman



## Etc

### Coffee at The Wheel Inn

Coffee at The Wheel, Friday 7th June from 10.30 - 11.45am. All welcome.

### WAGS – Westwell Art Group 3rd and 17th June



### Book Club May 2019

The Memory Garden, by Rachel Hore  
This is the story of an academic who needs a break from work and a recent emotional turmoil in order to escape and write a book. She is invited to stay at a cottage on the grounds of a stately home which is rather delapidated in Cornwall. Gradually she realises that there is an extensive garden which has become overgrown with weeds but when worked on reveals a wonderful array of sections which had been designed for enjoyment and self sufficiency. She also discovers the hidden art of a woman servant who lived at the house. The plot deals with issues of inequality between Lady of the house and servants, and artists from the Newlyn group in the early years of the last century. It also touches on modern issues of immigration, civil war and parental access.

Our group had mixed reviews. This is a holiday read and thus easy going with lovely descriptions of scenery and plants and colours, though some found the language and plot rather ordinary and predictable. But it is enjoyable as some would recommend it. The story seems to pick on the real story about a garden and house in Cornwall, the mid 18th century gardens of Heligan, restored in the 1990s in which one of our group has close knowledge of. Our next read is Khaled Husseini's A Thousand Splendid Suns. Tuesday 11th June

### Special Collection - Ashford Food Bank

June 30th will be a special day in Westwell with Classic Cars  
Make it extra special by also bringing along items for the Food Bank

Tinned Food, rice 500 kg, breakfast cereals, long life milk, instant coffee.  
All your donations will go into food boxes Helping local families get back on their feet.

### Westwell Vintage & Classic Vehicle Show

Sunday 30th June at 12noon,  
Westwell Village Hall & Playing Field  
in conjunction with The Wheel Inn.  
Beer Tent, Auto Jumble & Stalls.  
£5 per vehicle entry, email:  
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General public £1.00 entry on the day.  
All proceeds to St Mary's Church Westwell  
Loo fund

### Westwell Fun Fete Sunday August 25th

Save the date and start collecting to make it another great event. Crockery for China smashing; Quality items for Bric a Brac. New items and bottles of wine for the Tombola. Contact Doris on 712016 to leave items in the Village Hall. If you want to set up a stall or run one contact Christine on 627087

Organisers meeting at the Wheel at 8pm on Tuesday June 11th



## Parish News

Westwell Church Services for June

[www.g7benefice.org](http://www.g7benefice.org)

**Sunday 2nd: Sunday after Ascension**

8am Holy Communion

3.30pm Messy Church - parish hall

**Friday 7th**

10am Iona Eucharist

**Sunday 9th: Pentecost**

11am Iona Eucharist

**Sunday 16th: Trinity Sunday**

11am Family Service

**Sunday 23rd: 1st Sunday of Trinity**

11am Eucharist

**Sunday 30th: 2nd Sunday of Trinity**

8am Holy Communion - Pluckley

10.30am Benefice Communion - Charing

**Every Tuesday**

9am Charing – The Eucharist

7pm Charing Heath – Prayer and Bible Study

### Family Church in June

**Messy Church, Sunday 2nd June** *Reaching for the skies.* parish hall 3.30pm - 5pm. For children with an accompanying adult. Fun, games, crafts, story, songs and tea all with a bible theme.

**Next Messy 7th July.** *Sand castles and other buildings.*

**All age service 16th June, 11am** celebrates the Trinity and Father's Day. An informal service with coffee and cake. Things to do for adults and children.

This month's Coffee collection will be in aid of Childhood First. Looking forward...

Every year we collect items for shoeboxes to send to children in need at Christmas. This year I thought we could start a little earlier. Details will be in church this month.

### Project Linus

I was preaching last month on the passage in Acts which tells of the resurrection of Dorcas, a seamstress by Peter. Dorcas was greatly esteemed in her community because of her

care for the poor and her charitable work, which was based on clothes she sewed for others. The drive to help the weak and helpless is part of Christian values and a modern day version of Dorcas' work is given by volunteers in Project Linus. It aims to provide a sense of security and comfort to sick and traumatised babies, children and teenagers through the provision of new home made patchwork quilts and knitted blankets, and give volunteers across the UK the opportunity to contribute to their local community. The organisation began in the UK in March 2000 as a result of a Birmingham quilter's desire to help children in need. They now have a large network of volunteers across the UK who donate their time and skills to create beautiful blankets and quilts.

Our volunteer Area Co-ordinators and their Assistants deliver around 3,500 quilts and blankets to sick, disabled or disadvantaged children across the UK each month. We cannot reach out to every distressed child but we can help to provide them with tangible evidence that someone cares, along with the physical reassurance that comes with being snuggled up in a quilt.

South East Kent' rep is Pam Sawyer. We were asked by William Harvey Special Care Baby Unit if it were possible for us to make some Cot Covers. These items provide much needed shade and privacy for little premature babies, allowing them to sleep comfortably. Kent volunteers also knitted and crocheted blankets which were given to Care Leavers at the Canterbury Christmas Dinner, created by the community, for young people who have grown up with the care system.

The local group has given out lap quilts, incubator quilts, laundry bags and blankets, prem baby hats, cannula mitts and baby blankets. The slogan is "A quilt is a hug you can keep"

If you are interested there are more details on [www.projectlinusuk.org.uk](http://www.projectlinusuk.org.uk)

## The Wheel –

### Slight change to hours for an even better service.

We are very fortunate to have a village pub which is generally open every day. Many only operate at weekends. To continue to provide excellent service James is making some small changes so he can arrange the bar and kitchen team working to better fit how parish residents and visitors use the Wheel. It continues to be a great success; These changes will keep it so. They start on Monday 27th May :

Monday Bank Holiday 27th May : Bar: 12midday – 9pm. Kitchen: 12-3pm and 6-9pm

Tuesday after a Bank Holiday 28th May - Pub closed

Wednesdays – Fridays Bar : 12 noon – 11pm

Kitchen: 12 noon - 3pm and 6 - 9pm

Saturdays Bar: 12 noon – 12 midnight

Kitchen: 12 noon – 9pm

Sundays Bar: 12 noon – 9pm

Kitchen : 12 noon - 4pm; and 5 - 7.30pm

Mondays and Tuesdays Bar : 4pm – 8pm. Kitchen : On request i.e Any functions including family parties, meetings wakes and established bookings including Book Club etc..

These arrangements will mean there is a full service on bank holiday Mondays and everyone including the Wheel staff can recover the day after. For non bank holiday Mondays and Tuesdays if you want a to hold a function just contact James to arrange it. All existing regular bookings, such as the Book Club on Tuesdays are unchanged – there will be a menu. The new arrangements for Mondays and Tuesdays fit the actual use of the pub – less popular in trade, especially at lunchtime - and will avoid staff waiting about with no one to serve unless planned. This will mean even better service when it is needed on Monday and Tuesdays and throughout Wednesday through Sunday. That is a great deal better **than most village pubs !**

**Look out for the usual favourites:**

**Pie night, Steak night, Quiz, Music etc. see back page**

**Tell your friends and see you at The Wheel !**

### Events on Hothfield Heathlands in June.

Contact [ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk](mailto:ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk) for more information.

**Tuesday, 4th June** 9am - 4pm: Practical Conservation Volunteer Day

**Thursday, 6th June** 9am - 4pm: Wild flower survey day.

**Sunday, 9th June** 10am - 4pm: Family task and craft day. Carry out conservation work on the reserve and then be creative with the material we collect.

**Sunday, 9th June** (10am -12noon: Guided walk of the reserve. Click on this link to book, £6 adults, £3 children <https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/events/2019-06-09-bogs-and-heathland-walk>.

**Tuesday 18th June** 9pm - 4pm: Practical Conservation Volunteer Day

**Thursday, 20th June** 9am - 4pm: Wild flower survey day.

**Friday, 28th June,** 10am - 3pm: Practical Conservation Volunteer Day



## Westwell Players

Westwell Players are very sad to announce the death of two of its stalwart members, David Harvey on 8th May and Tony Richardson on 15th May, exactly a week later. These two have both played a large part in the life of the Players and the following is my tribute to them both.

David Harvey joined Players in the very early days and was a tower of strength, both producing and acting in many different roles, his first role was in a Victorian Evening in 1985 but memorably he was Abanazer in Aladdin complete with fez and red robes and compere in so many different revues, notably 'A Bit of This and That (but NONE of the other)' he was a compere 'par excellence' and kept our audiences in fits of laughter. I remember a sketch where he was trying to blow a candle out and it was David's genius that made it so funny we all had tears rolling down our cheeks. Other titles that spring to mind are:-

'Twilight Temptations' in 2003, 'Simply Silver' in 2006 and 'Kaleidoscope' in 2010. He played the part of a boatman in 'Free As Air' and an artist in 'Follow That Girl', he was kind enough to prompt for us for 'Cinderella' – a real labour of love, pulling the curtains at just the right moment. The Players will miss you David and we all send our love and best wishes to Barbara, his widow, and Michelle, his daughter.

Tony Richardson joined a little later, in 1991 when he and Pat both took part in 'Half a Sixpence', Tony was 'a thief' but after that he was invaluable as our lighting man and looking through my scrap books I have found countless pictures of Tony at the top of a ladder, adjusting the lighting or else wielding our huge broom as he made sure that the stage was always swept clean and left ready for the next rehearsal or performance. In later years Tony used to help Pat with making teas for rehearsals and looking after the 'front of house', we still miss them both sorely and now have to make our own tea or coffee! Once Tony joined 'The Players' he was involved with every single performance and hated to miss even a single rehearsal, a truly dedicated member of our society and we will miss you Tony, and again send our love and best wishes to Pat and the wider family.

Players AGM was on May 28th and we will be taking a break for the summer months but very soon casting our Panto for November so please let me know if you are interested in taking a part.

*Mary Anne Pitt 714241*

## June on Hothfield Heathlands

There is good news on the migrant front for the heathland; by late April 2 or 3 nightingales, 2 willow warblers, garden warblers and black caps had been heard. Since then, white throat and cuckoo have also returned. Returned from Africa. Warden Ian Rickards also reports that by mid-May hobby's had been spotted, and swallows and martins were around and about. He is particularly pleased with the willow warblers, as they failed to turn up at Hothfield last year, possibly due to drought conditions in the Mediterranean in the early spring. You can hear recordings of all these birds' calls on the RSPB website or use recognition apps to record and identify them. Black caps are warblers, members of the Sylvia family. Recent research has shown that the black caps that now stay in southern England in winter breed in southern Germany in the summer, returning to take advantage of rising temperatures and increased wild bird feeding in English gardens. They are now diverging genetically from the birds that spend the winter in the Hispanic peninsula and northern Africa.

The dry Spring seems to be holding back the flowering of the southern marsh and Heath spotted orchids, but as the bluebell fade, milkwort, lousewort, sundew and cotton grass have appeared around the upper bog, and tormentil glints in the grass. Slow worms and grass snakes have been seen. Volunteers and KWT staff across the county have already started the annual process of monitoring and in some cases actually counting wild plants. I joined a friendly team at Darland Banks on the edge of Gillingham in May which has the densest population of man orchids in the country. We literally counted and logged the location of every man orchid, many still in bud due to the dry Spring, moving slowly in a line along the steep slopes, which are rich in other chalk downland flora. The final total was in the thousands.

In the case of Hothfield the annual botanical survey of the entire reserve will not count the number of a particular species, but note the presence or absence of species expected to be growing in the various habitats, and the overall condition of each area. Volunteers attended three training days on the heathland in May, to hone their plant identification skills. The survey will take place on Thursdays through June and July and two of the Darland Banks volunteers will join the Hothfield team for this, one of them having grown up in Charing and known the Common since childhood. Meanwhile the maintenance/restoration work on the heathland continues, including new fencing, bug and moth monitoring and litter picking.

Hothfield Heathland is open to everyone; trails are signposted and marked on entrance maps, along with the location of livestock. The noticeboard down the main slope from the Cades Road car park gives recent wildlife sightings. Please keep dogs in check, especially around children and livestock, and keep them away from the heather and undergrowth where they will disturb sensitive wildlife. Please remove dog mess, including in the Triangle compartment. For email alerts on the location of the livestock livestock on Hothfield contact Ian Rickards [ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk](mailto:ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk). or 01622 662012.

*Margery Thomas*

## Egerton Friends Summer Gardens Open

**5th June** Gale King, Iden Farm Cottage, Iden Lane TN27 9AR

**12th June** Jane Harman, Iden, bIden Lane TN27 9AR

**19th June** Sue Steward, Jennings, Charing Road, Pluckley TN9 0QL

**26th June** Kathy Hooke Mundy Bois House, Mundy Bois Road TN27 9EU

**3rd July** Egerton Primary School, Stisted Way TN27 9DL