



The Wheel - November

Normal Menu and Special Deals

+

EVERY WEEK

Tuesday Night: 17.30 - 18.30 Happy Hour

Wednesday Night: Pie Night

Thursday Night: 17.30 - 18.30 Happy Hour

+ Curry Night

Thursday 21st November: Quiz Night

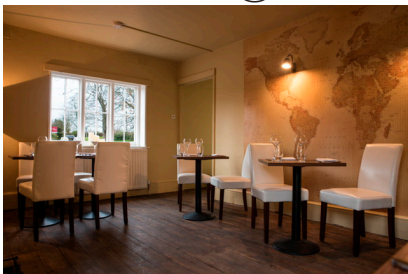
Friday Night: 2-4-1 cocktails 16.30 - 18.30

+ Fish Night

Saturday Night: Steak Night

Contact: 01233 712223

info@thewheelinnwestwell.uk



THE WESTWELL EYE

201

November

2019



Harvest Supper



1st November

11th, 25th November

12th November

21st November

21st, 22nd, 23rd November

10.30am Coffee in The Wheel

1.30pm Art Group

11am Book Club in The Wheel p13

7pm Quiz - the Wheel

Repunzel:- Westwell Players' Show - p10

From the Editor's



HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY to JOAN

Oh I hate it when the clocks go back – no, the extra hour in bed is no compensation!

The Harvest Supper was the usual success. It was a sell out and raised £2600, an excellent result, – thank you to all the cooks, main courses and puddings as well as all the general helpers and particularly Jane Richards.

If you have not bought your tickets for the Players' panto on 21st, 22nd and 23rd November I suggest that you do as they are selling fast, page 10.

There is a new advertisement on page 15 with an article about it on page 16, an increasing problem that seems to affect more and more people.

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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November 2019

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 All Saints 8am Holy Communion 4pm Charing Commemoration of the departed	2 7pm Fitness? 7pm Parish Council	3 7pm Players	4 10am Chair Fit 11am Fistssteps	5 R.F.W 9.15am Pilates	1 10am Iona Eucharist 10.30 Coffee Wheel	2
3 *10am * Players - Hall Remembrance Sunday 10.45am Remembrance 3.30pm Messy Church - Hall	4 11 1.30pm Art Group 7pm Fitness	5 12 Book Club - p13 7pm Players	6 13 10am Chair Fit 11am Fistssteps	7 14 Rc.FT. 9.15am Pilates 7.30pm W1 Meeting	8 15	9 16
17 *10am * Players - Hall 2nd Sunday before Advent 11am Family Service	18 7pm Fitness 7pm Players	19 7pm Players	20 10am Chair Fit 11am Fistssteps	21 R.F.W 9.15am Pilates 7.30pm Players' Show 7pm Wheel Quiz	22 7.30pm Players' Show	23 6pm Players' Show
24 Christ the King 11am Eucharist	25 1.30pm Art Group 7pm Fitness	26	27 10am Chair Fit 11am Fistssteps	28 Rc.FT 9.15am Pilates	29	30

Useful Contacts

Telephone Numbers

Age UK	642094
Ashford Volunteer Bureau	665535
Ashford Volunteer Car Service	633219
Bees (swarming)	
Andy Bithell	740650 / 07933892413
Borough Councillor:	
Larry Krause	643497
CAB	626185
Carers Support Group	664393
Childline Freephone	0800 1111
Cinema	0871 2208000
Citizens' Advice Bureau	626185
Cruse Bereavement Counselling	878225
Curate- Jack Bateson	756674
Doctors (Charing)	714490
(Hayesbank)	624642
Dog Warden	01233 330340
Hospital (William Harvey)	633331
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
Rector	Vacant
Samaritans	610000
Shopmobility	621196
Solicitor (Thorneloe & Co.)	01622 859416
Victim Support	0845 30 30 900
Water Supplies Queries	0333 000 0002
Water Leak Line	0333 000 3330
Wealden Wheels	01233 840000
Westwell Community Website:	
http://www.westwellpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/	

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Celeste Una Muir

Celeste was born in Blackheath on 7th November 1929. An only child, she was always passionate about horses and dogs: riding bareback, rarely without a German Shepherd. Nine years old when WW2 started in 1939, she was evacuated three times, but back in London for the doodle bugs and the Blitz.

With the encouragement of a headmistress who realised her talents Celeste decided to be a doctor, she was in the first year of women medical students at the Royal Free Hospital. Later when working at Beckenham A&E near the rugby club she was allowed to have her German Shepherd with her when treating damaged players and supporters who were often inebriated. Celeste had learned to sail with her cousins and joined the University sailing club, which is where she met Fergus who was reading medicine at Guy's. Medical and sailing friendships became as important as the horses and dogs. On one sailing trip they nearly lost the principle surgeon at Guy's, Sir William Heneage Ogilvie who fell overboard and had to be lashed to the side until they reached harbour. Celeste and Fergus married in 1957. After Nicky and Willa were born Celeste looked after the family in a caravan while Fergus did his National Service. In 1961 Fergus and Celeste came to Ashford as the new doctors at the Ashford surgery which had moved to Bybrook. Always innovating, they were the first GP fundholding practice in the country and one of the first to install a computer. Celeste was one of the first to establish a GP job share. The Ashford surgery was combined with family and social life in Westwell – they moved into The Parsonage in Watery Lane in 1961. Charis and James joined Willa and Nicky. Goats, pigs and cows added to horses and dogs – there was even a parrot: which undid the oven door bolts. Family holidays were sailing and skiing. Remarkably on top of all of this Celeste found time to do courses in joga, fencing, art and literature and was a stalwart member of the WI right from her arrival in Westwell – leading a course in pewter decoration. Celeste was also a leading member of the Soroptomists, becoming the UK president for 1985-86 and always generously welcoming new members. When she retired from GP practice Celeste was an active member of Westwell Parish Council during the turmoil of the high speed railway planning and construction through the parish. She was determined there should be proper mitigation and maximum possible repair to the land affected – including her own. Celeste was well informed by a visit to France arranged by Union Rail, once the end of construction was in sight she set about the restoration including hosting and inspiring work of the Beechbrook project and community company set up to ensure the building yard returned to agriculture – which it did after the auction on December 2010. Celeste was deeply concerned with the environment and visited the Artic and the Antarctic. Those visits also reinforced her passionate interest in colour – which she worked at in her art classes and in her last great project which was the transformation of her kitchen into a kitchen studio and the refurbishment of the garden and pool. She was always available for her 11 grandchildren and her wise counsel and pointed comments were the hallmark of a huge and energetic personality. She will be missed at the Book Club the Ashford Literary Society and in so many of her worlds – all of which are so much the better for her remarkable contributions.

Christine Drury



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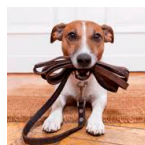
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Advertisement page 15

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If you would be interested in finding out more please contact me on 07391 485101, alternatively, visit our website at www.makingthedifference-kent.com to view our services.

Lenham Apple Pressing Fun Day brings out the crowds!

We held our Apple Pressing Fun Day on Sunday 13th October and it was a huge success! The event took place in Lenham's historic Tithe Barn and despite the inclement weather, people came from all over the region to sample what one attendee called 'a traditional family fair'.

The apple press was very popular, with visitors waiting patiently in line to get some freshly pressed juice. There were plenty of gorgeous Russet apples available, but many people brought bags, boxes and even wheel barrows full of their own apples for us to press! And there were plenty of other activities to keep everyone busy. Tin Can Alley, Hook a Duck, face painting, an adventure tunnel, a Wine or Water stall and also displays from some of the local growers, farmers and environmental groups were all popular. After visiting all of those stalls, many visitors decided to sit and sample the refreshments that were on sale. There were hot dogs, drinks and a marvellous selection of cupcakes, flapjack, biscuits and cakes. And all with a background of wonderful live music throughout the day. In addition to being a great day out for the family, the event also provided us with an opportunity to raise funds to assist with our work.

Our Chairman, Nick Osborne said: "Once again the local community came together to make this a special day in the life of the village. Not only was this a great day out for all the family, it also educated many of us in the ways of growing, preserving and enjoying our local produce. We've had some excellent feedback and so the Trust has decided that this will become an annual event in the village's calendar."

Apple press in action



WESTWELL WI

Our speaker this month was Kate, who is the Fundraising Manager across all three Pilgrims' Hospices in Kent. She works with the Chief Executive on projects involving some of the larger companies such as Givaudan, Balfour Beattie and Eurostar. Kate went on to tell us that, although the Hospices had supported families for 36 years with 140 patients staying each month, the support was not just for inpatients. They also supported 850 people per month in the community with many services offered to both the sick and their carers, offering such things as occupational therapy, massages and classes such as flower arranging etc. The Hospice influenced society by visiting schools, doctors' surgeries and corporate groups, encouraging people to think about end of life plans as well as making plans for life's events.

The Hospices are always looking for volunteers and anyone with any free time, no matter how long or short, would be welcomed. Kate praised member Barbara Gardner who is a volunteer and thanked other members who volunteered at the Hospice Shop in town.

As our November meeting is the Annual Meeting members were informed that Barbara Gardner, Carol Godden and Helen Cale would be stepping down from the committee. Liz Hewitt and Doris Cackett expressed an interest in joining the committee. It was noted that we will need a treasurer for the coming year.

Sue Starkings reported on the SWAN WI birthday event, which had been well-attended. They were feasted on scones and given a piece of birthday cake to take home. They were entertained by St Clements Clog Dancers who gave a brief history of clog dancing and were given the opportunity to take part in a couple of the dances.

Our ladies lunch on Friday 8th November was to be at the Halfway House in Challock, however this has just changed hands so the price of the lunch could not be guaranteed. Sue would find a different venue and notify members.

Pudding Night - 24th January - at the home of Tracy Shaikh. The cost would be £5 for any member attending but not providing a pudding.

Members were reminded of the Christmas Party on Thursday 12th December and asked to sign up for this.

Marilyn Warner

Next Meeting:- Thursday 14th November.

Annual meeting: followed by Social Time

Vote of thanks:- Pat Guy

Hostesses:- Mesdames Pitt, Haynes and Clifton

Competition:- Firework photograph

Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

The health and well being of young people

Young people between the ages of 10-24 make up approximately a fifth of the population yet this age group is sometimes overlooked in health policy making. A recent report published with the Association for Young People's Health, provides some indication of where health outcomes could be improved. Although there has been some success, the UK's performance in some of the key areas measured lags behind that of the eighteen other countries included in the analysis..

The UK is performing less well in the following key areas:-

1. Highest rate of obesity for 15-19 year olds among 14 European countries.
2. Lowest rate of engagement in exercise by 11 year olds
3. Highest asthma death rate in the 10-24 age group in 19 countries (worst except for Australia New Zealand and the USA).
4. Highest percentage of young people not in education, employment or training in 15-19 age group
5. Highest rate of adolescent girls 15-19 year s old giving birth (worst apart from New Zealand and the USA).

On the positive side the UK is improving in seven of the indicators measured such as adolescent birth rate, cancer mortality rate, daily smoking, alcohol consumption, cannabis use and transport injury.

One of the important differences between the UK and the other countries is in relation to the support given to children with long term conditions. Because of this adolescents in the UK are more likely to die from asthma and are more likely to be obese. Sadly, this is happening at a time when more adolescents and young adults are making better choices about their health. In contrast, health services, professional and policymakers are not living up to their part of the bargain and we are falling behind the standards of the better countries.

To improve young people's health we must concentrate on policy initiatives for young people, including improving everyday practice and taking specific actions to reduce existing inequalities.

This information is taken from a research report by Shah, R, Hagell A and Cheung R published by the Nuffield Trust and Association for Young People in 2019.

If you wish to make comments on this information please contact me email kcmt.governors@nhs.net or write to Governor Support Office, The Oast, Unit D, Hermitage Court, Hermitage Lane, Barming, Maidstone Kent ME16 9NT

John Fletcher Public Governor for Ashford

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Keeping you Safe and Secure

Police Rural Crime Week

Animal cruelty, badger baiting, hare coursing, night hawking, fly tipping and vehicle theft were just a few of the issues dealt with by Kent Police's Rural Task Force during rural crime week which ran from Monday, 6th October to Sunday, 13th October 2019.

Throughout the week the officers teamed up with local councils to target fly tippers and the RSPCA to conduct warrants and help them gather evidence into animal cruelty offences.

Numerous vehicles were stopped in connection with waste carrying offences and the local authorities are now pursuing cases against those responsible. During one check officers stopped a Ford Transit in Strood. They found it was not only involved in fly tipping offences but also on false plates and had been stolen from London, the vehicle was seized. During the shift the officers went on to seize a further four vehicles all suspected of fly tipping. On the same evening a vehicle was stopped in Doddington. It was searched and the officers seized catapults, ball bearings and knives which they believe may have been used in connection with poaching offences. All the items have been destroyed.

Rural Police officers joined the RSPCA on three warrants across the county, in relation to an investigation into badger cruelty. Dogs were seized from addresses in Ashford, Maidstone and New Romney and the RSPCA investigation is ongoing. Later the team stopped three men suspected of hare coursing in Chillenden. Their vehicle, a white Ford Transit, was not taxed and was seized by the officers.

Officers on patrol in Doddington stopped a vehicle on the A2. The driver, a man from Gillingham, had been using a metal detector without permission from the landowner. He had found several Roman coins and the artefacts were seized by the team who are now conducting follow up enquiries. In addition to the successful stop checks, two stolen vehicles, a Landrover 90 and a quad bike will now be reunited with their rightful owners after being located by the team during rural crime week.

Rural Task Force Sergeant, Darren Walshaw said: 'The team had a number of busy shifts during rural crime week, but it was very much business as usual. They are out on patrol every day in the rural areas of Kent to target and disrupt criminal activity.

People who live in rural communities often feel isolated and vulnerable and those involved in rural crime rely on threats and intimidation for their actions not to be reported to the police. However we remain committed to working with rural communities to make them feel safer and actively clamp down on the criminals who target them.

Poaching and illegal hare coursing may not appear to be serious offences on the surface but often those involved in this are part of organised criminal networks. They cause thousands of pounds worth of damage to land, property and often use vehicles that are stolen or untaxed, not to mention the cruelty they inflict on animals!'

For more information go to Westwell.community.watch@gmail.com

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

Godinton House and Gardens



Winter Art Fair

29th November - 1st December

10am - 4pm, free admission

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Letter to the Parishes

Do you remember the story of the Ten Lepers that we read on Sunday 13th October (Luke 17; 11ff)? Just two words from that story have stayed in my mind ever since - **Thank You**.

Do you recall your parents/carers always telling you to say Thank you after going to a party/visit to some one else's house and of course when Birthday/Christmas presents had been received Two quite little words, but ones that mean so much.

How about that Church event when we always say Grace? My favourite is Lord Bless this bunch as they munch their lunch! How about getting off the coach after an outing or leaving the Doctor's or Hospital? Or after being served in a shop or restaurant? Do we always say: **Thank You**?

In that story of Jesus healing the 10 lepers – only one came back and said: **Thank You**.

Around this time of year we have our Harvest Thanks Giving Services. Yes, we are encouraged to say **Thank You** to God for all that Harvest means to us – full cupboards, plenty in the shops, the workers who enable this to be true and so on .---

In this month of November we have our Remembrance Services when we **Thank You** to God for delivering us from the evil of Dictators and for the many who gave of life or limb or loved ones or livelihoods

Then in December – we remember the events of the first Christmas and say: **Thank You** to God for sending His Son that we might have eternal life (John 3;16)

And finally look around you – what do you see? Cars, electricity, flush toilets, electronic-ignition gas stoves, refrigerators, microwave ovens, hot-water heaters, central heating systems controlled by programmable thermostats, alarm clocks that begin beeping softly and get gradually louder, energy-saving bulb-shaped fluorescent lights that don't burn out for years, cruise control, digital photography, answering machines, velcro, no-iron dress shirts, the availability of good coffee and fast-food, post-it notes, soap pumps, carbon monoxide detectors. cordless drills, phones, no-lick stamps, bifocals without lines, affordable jet travel and cheap long-distance calling, calculators so inexpensive you throw them away rather than replace the batteries. Overnight mail ----The list is unending !! Do you ever say: **Thank You** or do we just take all that God gives us for granted?

May God Bless you as you reflect on all that we need to say to Him **Thank You**.

And as we sing "All good gifts around us, are sent from Heaven above, then Thank the Lord, O Thank the Lord for all His Love.

And now **Thank You for reading this**

Richard Webb

Etc

Dates for diaries

7th December: Bazaar

Coffee at The Wheel Inn

Coffee at The Wheel, **Friday 1st November** from 10.30 - 11.45am. All welcome.

WAGS – Westwell Art Group

11th and 25th November.



Westwell Book Club 8th October

Any title by Barbara Pym

This was a suggestion by Joan Hazell who attended the September meeting. The author is popular in North America and Joan, who was quite familiar with village life in this country thought Pym was good at describing that.

The meeting started on a sad note with us remembering Celeste Muir our very dear friend who was also such an avid reader and quite selective in the titles she enjoyed reading.

Our group had read three of Pym's 13 novels. 'Excellent Women' was meant to be a very funny read but those who read it thought it moved very slowly and simply described day to day living in a story. Many novels such as 'Quartet in Autumn' deal with the period just after the Second World War and mention rationing and people going to work without much drama or exciting events. Characters you would feel sorry for as they may be lonely with little happening in their lives...but the novels also deal with life in cities or villages with the main characters that we think of as pillars of society. In 'Jane and Prudence' there is a vicar in the plot..and in some novels there are some civil servants and academics. Pym worked at The International African Institute and would often have an anthropologist in stories. She was very observant of simple people's interactions and made the reader feel as if observing a rolling plot. Often she would mention women's

unrequited love for men, which may reflect her own personal experiences . Not very exciting and can seem old-fashioned but a very skilled rendition of simple life of a specific period.

Much admired by Philip Larkin whose opinion of her underrated brilliance helped her rise to fame after a quiet period. She then wrote 'Quartet in Autumn' which made it to the Booker Prize shortlist in 1977. Alexander MacCall Smith was also an admirer of her work which may explain his style of writing as well.

Our next read is **12th November - Me Before You by Jojo Moyes 11am at The Wheel, everyone welcome**. In December 'Nine perfect Strangers' by Liane Moriarty.

Charing Gardeners' Society

The November meeting is our AGM. New members welcome, come and hear how the year has gone and enjoy a free glass of wine or soft drink and a chance to chat. 7.30pm in the Church Barn, Market Place, Charing, TN27 0LP.

Check our facebook page for news and photos of recent events, and for further information about the society including membership details, see <http://charinggardeners.org.uk>.

Christmas Bazaar - 7th December

Urgent

I am beginning to plan this year's Christmas Bazaar so I am looking for volunteers for the day, please let me know if you are available.

Any cakes, homemade produce, unwanted gifts, tombola and raffle prizes would be much appreciated. Thank you, **Penny Knatchbull, 07976 522908 / 01233 714983 pennyknatchbull@gmail.com**

Parish News

Westwell Church Services for November
www.g7benefice.org

Friday 1st:

10am Iona Eucharist

Sunday 3rd: All Saints

8am Holy Communion

4pm Commemoration of the departed -
Charing

Sunday 10th: Remembrance Sunday

10.45am Remembrance

3.30pm Messy Church - Parish Hall

Sunday 17th: 2nd Sunday before Advent

11am Family Service

Sunday 24th: Christ the King

11am Eucharist

Funeral

Calum George Wingate Murray died on Thursday 5th September aged 79. His funeral took place at St. Mary, Westwell, followed by burial in Westwell Cemetery, on Thursday 3rd October.

*May God enfold Calum in his
tender love and care.*

Church Matters November 2019

Remembrance Sunday 10th November If you have a friend or relative involved in any of the wars over the last century you can add them to a Remembrance Board if you send details to hlister@hotmail.com or any of the churchwardens.

Messy Church on Sunday 10th November
People who help us Westwell parish hall 3.30 - to 5pm. For children with an accompanying adult. Fun, games, crafts, story, songs and tea all with a bible theme.

Next month **Messy is 8th December**, theme **Advent**.

All age service **17th November** 11am is **Stir Up Sunday**. Join in the joys of traditional activities and make a Christmas pudding to enjoy later. Help stir the communal pudding

mix. Take a small pudding home and microwave it.

This month's coffee collection is for Porchlight costs.

Looking forward...

Christmas Bazaar is on Saturday 7th December please start collecting jams etc.

Church services for Christmas

Carol Service Sunday 15th December, 4pm

Christingle Sunday 22nd December, 3pm

Midnight mass Tuesday 24th December, 11pm

Remembrance Sunday



This year is 10th November. The main focus will be on those who died in the two world wars. We would like to also honour those men and women who lived in Westwell or have friends or relatives here who served in any of the other conflicts since 1945 or who were conscientious objectors and served in other ways.

If you can give us any information please let me know, Heather Lister, or drop a note into church before it closes for winter after Harvest. hlister@hotmail.com. You are very welcome to bring details with you and post them on the remembrance board during the service if you prefer.

Cleaning Rota.

Cleaning Sarah Scarratt

Flowers Sarah Stevenson

Brass Valerie Hooper



Baroness Harding to launch Kent nursing academy

Baroness Dido Harding, Chair of NHS Improvement (NHSI), is to visit and officially launch a new nursing academy, this month.

The Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT) academy offers a four-year degree-level course for anyone who wants to become a registered nurse (RN), along with a shorter two-year course to become a nurse associate (NA), with the option to progress to being an RN at a later date.

The courses are a new and innovative route into nursing where students can learn while they earn and combine work-based and academic learning with employment as a healthcare assistant. There is no cost to the student. Both courses are fully accredited by the Open University and are thought to be the first of their kind in the UK to be hosted within a community NHS trust.

Forty three students joined the trust in February 2019 to begin their studies.

John Goulston, Chair of KCHFT, said: "We are looking forward to welcoming Baroness Harding to the trust to showcase the work of the academy and the positive impact it has already had, for our workforce and the trust as a whole. The new students have been overwhelmingly enthusiastic, compassionate and responsive and aspire to the very highest nursing standards. Our academy programme has offered people who might not have been able to take the university route into nursing, the chance to achieve their dream." Baroness Dido Harding, Chair of NHS Improvement (NHSI), is to visit and officially launch a new nursing academy, this month.

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Baroness Harding will open the academy on: Monday, 28th October 2019, at 11am at Heathside Centre, Heath Rd, Coxheath, Maidstone ME17 4AH

Contact Information Jane Barlow, Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust
jane.barlow4@nhs.net

Dido Harding became Chair of NHS Improvement on 30th October 2017. She is a non-executive director on the Court of the Bank of England and Chair of the bank's Remuneration Committee. She was Chief Executive of TalkTalk Telecom Group plc from 2010 to May 2017. In August 2014, Dido was offered a peerage and sits in the House of Lords as a Conservative peer. She was appointed to the Economic Affairs Committee of the Lords in July 2017



Westwell Players

My home has looked like a Chinese laundry for a good while. Viki and I went to our old container and found all the clothes smelling of damp. There is more than one leak so we filled my car with boxes, brought them home and I have been washing and ironing and airing and have been thrilled to save most of the clothes – did you know that you can put wigs into a washing machine and – using a gentle wash they come out looking great! Viki and I were amazed and delighted to discover this fact!!! They smell good too!!

We are also delighted to report that our new container is one step further towards its new home behind the hall. Neil and some kind Parish Councillors met a large transporter at 7.15 one morning and watched it being loaded and taken **very slowly** down Amberleas and along towards our Playing Field. Sadly – once there – the transporter driver decided he would ruin all the grass if he tried to take it across to its new site so he deposited it beside the road and we are now waiting for it to be put in place! Hopefully, it will be sooner rather than later.

Details of our new pantomime are as follows:-

“**Rapunzel**” will be in Westwell Parish Hall on **Thursday and Friday, 21st and 22nd November at 7.30pm** and also on **Saturday 23rd November at 6pm**. Prices:- £8 adults and £6 children. Tickets are available on line at www.westwellplayers.co.uk or if you are not familiar with on line booking, give Viki Faulkner a ring on 01233 714001. Viki works during the day but is available most evenings. We are delighted to report that tickets are already selling well so we look forward to seeing you all later in the month! Thanks so much for your continued support!!

Mary Anne Pitt ✍



1st Charing Scout Group



This is proving to be a hectic term for all our young people. Beavers have been working on lots of the basics to get the new joiners up to speed. They are now getting ready for camp later this month

Cubs had a splendid evening with Damian Green. He joined in the conker tournament and then answered questions (some of them very challenging) from the cubs. We have had great fun with team building and getting to know our new recruits. We are delighted that Mark, one of our young leaders, is now 18 and has become an adult leader.

Scouts were pleased to be able to help at the Charing harvest supper. We've had so much positive feedback. We are very proud of them. They are working hard preparing produce for the Christmas Fayre. Look out for the pickled apple. Yum yum.

The old hut has now been reduced to a pile of timber. We can't wait to get it cleared away and the site landscaped. gsl_charingscoutgroup@hotmail.co.uk **Terry Lister**

November on Hothfield Heathlands



We have been experimenting with some machinery on site over October, to look at ways of managing the large amounts of birch scrub that is dominating the reserve.

The heathland and the species that live on it depend on large open spaces, with lots of light. However birch seedlings love these open conditions too and very quickly will fill up the space, reducing the opportunity for plants such as heather, dwarf gorse, hare bells, tormentil and many others.

To keep on top of the tree growth, we mostly rely on grazing animals and our wonderful volunteers using Tree Poppers, bow saws and loppers. In a number of locations we have been losing the fight, and more drastic measures have been called for. We have engaged a local contractor to use a large tractor and flail collector. This machine cuts the vegetation and then collects it at the same time, much as your lawnmower at home, but with small trees.

The material collected is going to be taken off site and used to create energy, another Kent Wildlife Trust project has provided us with the funding to carry this work out. Joint working with some of my colleagues has created some excellent opportunities for delivering conservation work that we normally wouldn't be able to afford.

If you would like to get involved on one of our task days our next Sunday volunteer day is Sunday 10th November. We start at 10am and there will be baked potatoes and cups of tea. For more details contact Ian on ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk

Ian Rickards Area Manager, Kent Wildlife Trust. ✍

Plans

19/01322/AS Tutt Hill Farm, Westwell Lane Prior approval for the change of use of an agricultural building and land within its curtilage to one residential dwelling and associated operational development. The Parish Council is considering its response.

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

19/00139/AS & 19/00140/AS Crouchers Manor, Westwell Lane Single storey rear extension, loft conversion with rooflights; new garage/garden store

18/00876/AS The Old Forge, Westwell Lane Single dwelling on land at the rear of The Old Forge, Westwell Appeal against refusal of planning permission dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate