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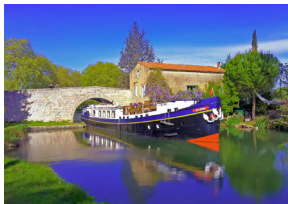
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Below: Two of our European Inland Waterway Vessels: The Anjodi (left and right) and the La Bella Vita (middle).



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THE WESTWELL EYE

176

October

2017



Above and right: A Sunday in Westwell! p14
Below: Iris' Brunch at The Mill House



1st October.	3.30pm Messy Church
9th, 16th, 30th October	1.30pm Painting Group
10th October	Book Club, p.13
14th October.	Harvest Supper
15th October.	Harvest Festival

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 16th Sunday of Trinity 8am Holy Communion St. Mary Westwell 3.30pm Messy Church Parish Hall	2 7pm Fitness	3 7.30pm Players	4 11am Fistepts	5 Re.F.T 9.15am Pilates 10.30 Dog training	6 10am Eucharist	7
8 17th Sunday of Trinity 11am Iona Eucharist St. Mary Westwell	9 1.30pm Painting 7pm Fitness	10 11am Book Club p13 7.30pm Players	11 11am Fistepts	12 R.F.W.G. 9.15am Pilates 10.30 Dog training 7.30pm W1	13	14 7pm Harvest Supper
15 18th Sunday of Trinity 11am Harvest Family Service St. Mary Westwell 2pm Players	16 1.30pm Painting 7pm Fitness	17 7.30pm Players	18 11am Fistepts	19 Re.F.T 9.15am Pilates 10.30 Dog training	20	21
22 19th Sunday of Trinity 11am Eucharist St. Mary Westwell	23 7pm Fitness	24 7.30pm Players	25 11am Fistepts	26 R.F.W.G. 9.15am Pilates 10.30 Dog training	27	28
29 Last Sunday of Trinity 8am Holy Communion Charing 10.30am G7 Communion - Pluckley 2pm Players	30 1.30pm Painting 7pm Fitness	31 7.30pm Players	Nov 1 2	Re.F.T 3	4	

From the Editor's desk!...

What a sad month we have had in Westwell. Arthur Gurteen, Anne Davidson and Kay Hooper have died and I am sure you would like to join me in sending our condolences to their families.

Do read page 12 about recruiting helpers for Messy Church, Heather is desperate for your help.

Harvest supper and festival are this month – 14th and 15th –

Page 14 has an account of an unexploded bomb in Westwell, well worth reading!

Westwell Fete was a great a success financially making a record amount, page 3 has a break down of the takings.

Over night lorry parking between Ashford and Charing may soon be a thing of the past, read page 6. Also page 14 with an update on the future of The Wheel is worth reading - actually why not read the whole magazine?!

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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Useful Contacts

Telephone Numbers

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Larry Krause	01233 643497
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Carers Support Group	664393
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Hospital (William Harvey)	633331
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(Charing)	713177
MS Therapy Centre	01227 470876
NHS Direct	0845 4647
NSPCC	0800 800500
Parish Hall Booking	01233 712016
doriscackett@btinternet.com	
Parish Council (clerk, Sue Wood)	623902
Pilgrims' Hospice (Admin)	504100
(Patient enquiries)	504112
PCC Secretary (Heather Lister)	712981
PCSO	angie.burden@kent.pnn.police.uk
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Shopmobility	621196
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http://www.westwellpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/	

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Westwell Fete 2017 : Another Record Result !

September Eye had the photos. Now here are the Results. It is amazing that we manage to have a really great day and raise money for the things we need in Westwell. Last year we distributed £4452. This year it will be £4645.

£2090.25 will go to St Mary Westwell towards the toilet and kitchen project that is already underway. £2090.25 will go to Westwell Village hall for their next projects which we hope will include more comfortable chairs! £232.25 will go to the Pilgrims Hospice, who also get the books and bric-a-brac remaining after the Fete: together they made over £400 for Westwell: the Hospice may do that again. And £232.25 will go to Carers Support. Both organisations regularly provide help to people in Westwell parish.

A huge thank you to Nick and Tracey and for creating the all day Wonky Wheel Beer Tent and organising an great evening of music and food.

Results £			
Beer Tent & Food	632	Barrow of Booze	478
Bowling	39	Books	145
Dog Show	101	Tombola	497
Golf	99	Wine or Water	82
Greasy Pole	67	China Smashing	125
Nails in Wood	60	Coconut shy	181
Pimms tent	210	Cowpat sweepstake	110
WI Teas	195	Plants and Produce	243
Raffle	1073	Tug of War	33
Egg throw	38	Bric- a - Brac	292
Bouncy castle	22		
Pitch fees and stall contributions,			257
		Total takings	4979
Less Net expenses for Fete after cash donations			- 334
Available for distribution after costs			4645

Thanks again to Perfect Day marquees for the tables and all those raffle prize donors: to Leeds Castle, Kent Gliding Club, Westwell Wines, Trevor Richards, Simon Cole, the Banyan Retreat, the Charing Farm Shop, Apex Masonry and Ron & Myrtle Butcher. Once again a huge thank you to Tarmac for the Barrow and the Booze in it. And this year also thanks to Shepherd Neame who responded generously and provided the beer and equipment for the Beer Tent. But not forgetting Nick, Chris and Tracey who put it all together and organised the cider and wine as well. We always need gazebos on the day: thank you all who brought them along. Westwell's uniquely traditional Fete depends on everyone. Thank you all ! Next years fete will be Sunday August 26th 2018

Save the date !

Christine Drury

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Saving litres with water meters

Ashford's fresh water provider is changing the way some customers pay for the water they drink and use. South East Water will soon be installing water meters for most domestic customers who do not already have one. It means they will be billed for only the water they use, plus a standing charge. The programme will involve putting in an about 14,500 water meters across the town and surrounding areas.

In the majority of cases, South East Water will connect the meter to the external stop tap which is normally found in the footpath at the boundary of the property. Customers will not need to be at home for this and any disruption caused will be minimal. In a very small number of cases, such as a shared water supply, the meter may need to be installed inside the property, often under the kitchen sink.

Previously, water charges were based on the value of a house and the number of bedrooms. However, since 1989 all new homes have water meters and commercial properties are also metered. Under South East Water's Customer Metering Programme, which started in 2011, all domestic properties in its region will be surveyed and, where possible, a meter will be fitted. The company has been working on a street-by-street basis and has now reached Ashford.

South East Water's Metering Manager Oluseyi Onifade said: "One of the advantages of having a water meter is customers have more control over how much they pay for their water. The less water used, the lower the bill. We believe metered charges are a fairer way for customers to pay for the water they use."

The decision to start the compulsory metering programme was taken because the Environment Agency classed the south east of England as water stressed. Its findings were based on anticipated population growth and the effects of climate change which indicated less rainfall for the region. As a result, South East Water needed to find ways to make the most of its limited resources and research showed customers with a water meter are more aware of how much water is being used, or wasted, and subsequently use 15 per cent less than those not on metered charges.

Oluseyi continued: "Just small changes to how we all use water can make a big impact on bills and the environment. The less demand on supplies, means the less we have to take from rivers and underground sources to meet that demand. When we install water meters we give our customers a welcome brochure. This has tips on how to use less water and also has details about some useful gadgets we can send to customers. These include shower timers and toilet flush savers. A four minute shower is all we need to keep clean and a toilet flush saver uses two litres less water than a conventional cistern. It's all about thinking about how we use our precious resource and what we can all do to reduce our impact on our environment."

Plenty of information about the installations including financial support schemes available can be found at southeastwater.co.uk/meters or call the metering helpline on 0333 000 0003.

1st Charing Scout Group

If you read this before the start of October there is still time to come along and support the Charing Colour Run on the 1st. It starts and finishes in Clewards Meadow and there's lots to do including a bar tent and barbecue.

The new term has started for all our sections with lots of activities planned. The beavers are going on camp, cubs have several excursions and scouts never seem to stop
gsl_charingscoutgroup@hotmail.co.uk **Terry Lister**

Parish Council

The Parish Council met in the parish hall on Monday 4th September. There were no members of the public present, therefore the meeting began with the borough councillor's report. Cllr Krause reported that an experimental trial to address the problems of HGV parking along the A20 will begin at the end of October. During the trial HGV parking will be prohibited between 8pm and 7am on the A20 between Charing and Drovers roundabout; adjoining roads will be included in the trial to avoid displacing the problem. If successful the trial may be rolled-out countywide. The success of the trial will depend on sufficient commercial lorry parking capacity coming forward. A proposal to expand the Waterbrook lorry park is in progress.

Minutes of the July and August meetings were approved. Matters Arising included an update on the Wheel: Shepherd Neame now has vacant possession and will shortly begin the refurbishment of the pub fabric but it is not known how long this will take. Pre-application advice has been sought by the brewery from ABC on its proposals to build 4 small properties (2 semi-detached properties) in part of the pub garden. Parish councillors are meeting with Shepherd Neame shortly.

The financial report was presented and approved and followed by discussion on planning matters. The Parish Council supported 2 planning applications; it is not yet known when the planning application from Apta Pots for the Oakover Nurseries site (change of use) will go to the ABC Planning Committee for decision. The Parish Council's response to policies and proposals in the Ashford Local Plan to 2030 for houses on 2 sites in the parish and another at Tutt Hill has been submitted and acknowledged. It will be uploaded on to the Parish Council website, and there will be a link to it from the Westwell Community website.

The annual inspection of the playing field has been carried out by an agent of RoSPA. An assessment of risk was made for each item of equipment; the agent will be contacted for an explanation of the risks identified and action to be taken (no items of high risk were reported). The Parish Council will discuss adoption of its safeguarding policy at the next meeting.

The casual vacancy, which arose when Miss Davidson stood down, was advertised and an expression of interest received; they will be invited to attend the next meeting to observe and confirm interest.

Correspondence was circulated, which included concerns at the Sidcup motor rally, due to take place on Sunday September 24th but as yet poorly advertised – residents would not, therefore be aware that the event is to take place. The motorcycle club will be asked to keep the Parish Council informed of this and future events, in order that residents can be fully briefed (as with the Ashford and District 10K road race).

Fallen wood near Dunn Street will again be reported to Highways for its removal. The new blinds have been hung in the hall, but sound damping may be needed. Additional data on broadband speeds in the parish will be sought. Proposed dates for meetings in 2018 were circulated.

Councillors who were involved in drafting the Parish Council's comments on the Local Plan were congratulated. The Chairman was thanked for organising the summer fete; Cllr Faulkner and Tracey Faulkner were thanked for organising the beer tent and evening entertainment, which contributed to the success of the event.

The next meeting is on Monday 6th November in the parish hall at 7pm, and initial discussions on the Parish Council Budget for 2018-19 will take place. All meetings are open to the public and all are welcome.

Good news at last on overnight lorry parking

From October 30th we can expect to see far fewer lorries parking overnight and over weekends along the A20 and side roads between the Charing and Drovers roundabouts. This length of the A20 and the adjacent feeder roads and lanes will become an experimental no overnight HGV parking zone. A traffic regulation order will be in force with road signs prohibiting HGV and dropped trailer parking between 8pm and 7am. The 18 month experiment includes Government waiving the rule that HGVs need two warnings before being given a penalty notice and potentially clamped. Ashford Borough Council (ABC) have recruited additional enforcement officers to ensure the drivers and operators understand and comply with the no overnight parking zone. You may see them on their electric bicycles in their smart high viz uniforms. This is a huge step forward: after years of broken nights, litter and the rest of the mess and lots of concerted impatience and protest by residents and work with equally determined and effective people at ABC and KCC Highways, there is a potential solution. Success needs both parts of the solution. Additional commercial truck stop capacity needs to come forward so the lorries have somewhere to go; enforcement needs to be effective so the extra truck stop capacity is used. If the trial is successful it will be extended.

The experimental overnight enforcement zone trial along our section of the A20 has been chosen because it has one the worst impacts on residential property of any in Kent; it is being done now because it will help the business case for the Waterbrook Truck stop expansion that has already been announced and will appear as a planning application shortly. We have waited a long time for this: lets hope all aspects of it work. Spare a thought too for the truck drivers; this may be the beginning of much better working conditions for them: proper overnight facilities in a truck stop, secure parking, plug in chiller points. The A20 will still be available for those short rest stops during the day for a phone call or a sandwich etc. There is a long way to go, but we can maybe celebrate the beginning in November with a better night's sleep and safer driving conditions. More news in January: the early stages of the trial will be reported to the ABC/ KCC Joint Transportation Board meeting in December

Carers' Support

Carers' Support was founded in 1994 to provide support to unpaid family carers in and around Ashford, it is a voluntary organisation and independent charity. Its primary aims are to support carers aged 16 and over. Services are tailor-made to identify and meet individual needs.

Carers' support also provides a counselling service for adult carers, and there is a waiting list for carers to access this service. Lots of people do not realise that they are 'carers', By providing information, emotional and practical support Carer's Support provides services to these people, easing the stress they find themselves under and helping them to be better equipped for their caring role. Carers often experience a sense of isolation, stress, guilt and anger and caring can be very tiring and stressful, the role may impact financially as some carers leave their jobs to continue their caring role. These carers do not receive financial support from the government, although some are given a small contribution by way of the Carer's allowance.

Carers' Support aims to expand the service, but needs the funds to do so. All donations would be very greatly appreciated and would be used to continue and expand the valuable counselling service currently delivered locally. If you would like to support this work, please send a cheque payable to 'Carers Support' to the following address: Carers Support, Norman House, Beaver Business Park, Beaver Lane, Ashford TN23 7SH

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The Wheel Inn

Representatives of the Parish Council have had a series of meetings with Shepherd Neame and we remain satisfied that their intention is to open The Wheel Inn as a viable and long term community asset. It will be a free of tie public house, on a low rent for the first five years up until the first rent review, to ensure that the pub is given a long period to bed in.

Although a new landlord has been chosen the details are confidential until they sign the lease but it looks as though it should become public by the end of this month. When we are given the all clear we will publish any details on Westwell Events and follow up with a further article in the next edition of the Eye. The Parish Council have also offered to meet with the new landlords to offer any possible help and support.

Some of you may have heard that a family (Mark & Debs) were interested in taking over the business but I can confirm that their bid was not successful. All we know is that the potential new landlord has experience in running a rural pub, will be investing some of their own money into the business and that the pub will be predominantly food led. This means that B&B will not initially be part of the business plan.

In terms of timetable we can confirm that SN now have vacant possession of the pub and hope to start work on the refurbishment in October, with input from the new landlord, and the aim of completing the work, both internally and on the new beer garden, prior to the pub opening in November.

In relation to the new housing on the old beer garden SN hope to submit the planning application before the end of September. The proposal is for two pairs of semi detached houses built in the style of Forge Cottages with all parking at the rear of the site and therefore not visible from the road. The Parish Council will be looking very closely at the plans when submitted but the design has in many cases followed suggestions from us as the company are very keen to retain the leafy conservation area feel to the centre of the village.

When the final plans have been submitted we will be running a public exhibition with large scale plans so that residents will be able to see clearly what is being proposed prior to the decision by ABC.

Unexploded Bomb in Westwell

Just thought we would share an account of a Sunday here in Westwell (just off Watery Lane) A friend of ours wanted to use his newly purchased metal detector on our land. He barely got a 100 yards when it started bleeping crazily. Treasure? no, not quite. After jabbing at it with a shovel, he pulled the metal object out of the ground and quickly put it on the ground as he saw metal fins on the other end, a bomb of some sort. Unexploded!! We called the police, who called Army disposal Unit, and the following course of action took place. Horses and cows off the field, sheep were luckily in lower field, Army carried the bomb, now named as a British training Mortar, dug a hole, buried it and retreated to our house end of the field. Our 11 year old daughter Isabelle had the lucky task of pressing the button to explode the bomb.

Images on front cover. **Fiona Beadle**

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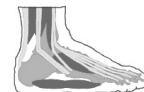
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Letter to the Parishes

The Apostle Paul, writing to the people of the churches in Colossae, urges them to “devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving.” (Colossians 4:2) At the Open Diocesan Synod on March 11th Bishop Trevor issued a call to prayer to the whole diocese. To this end, a whole day (24 hours) has been set aside, from lunchtime on Friday 17th November to lunchtime on Saturday 18th November for people of all ages to come together to pray for a renewed world. The central event will happen at St. Mary of Charity church in Faversham on Saturday 18th November from 10am to 1.30pm although local arrangements will be put in place in various churches across the diocese for those unable to travel. Of course, it is entirely possible to pray alone during these 24 hours but fellowship with other prayer partners is to be encouraged. More details for prayer events being organised for the benefice will be available in the next issue of Pew News and parish magazines. Please see <https://www.canterburydiocese.org/dayofprayer/> for more details.

The news has recently been announced that Canon Darren Miller, from Cheam in Surrey, has been appointed as the new Archdeacon of Ashford. Darren will succeed The Venerable Philip Down who retires in October this year. Darren comes to us from Cheam Parish where he has held the position of Rector and also Area Dean of Sutton and honorary Canon of Southwark Cathedral. Darren is married to Sue and they have two young children. Like Archdeacon Philip, Darren and his family will live in the Archdeaconry in Charing. Although his role will take him away to other parts of the Archdeaconry on many Sundays, I know we will welcome all of them as residents in the benefice. Please pray for Archdeacon Philip and Christine as they move on in October and for ‘soon-to-be’ Archdeacon Darren and Sue and their family as they prepare to take up this new role.

As I write, the drama being enacted on the world stage is causing concern. Tension is mounting as the powerful leaders of North Korea and the USA trade threats while leaders of other powerful nations urge diplomacy and dialogue. In another part of the world, escalating tensions between the north and south in Yemen have brought untold suffering through famine, warfare and now an escalating cholera epidemic; Bangladesh is struggling to cope with the thousands of Rohingya Muslim refugees cast out of Myanmar while the islands of the Caribbean are bracing themselves for the third major hurricane to hit their shores within a fortnight. And just round the corner in our own communities, there are those who do not have the means to scrape together the money to buy a basic meal. Foodbanks across Britain are inundated with requests for emergency parcels as families struggle to feed their children through school holidays. That we should pray is beyond doubt but the question of how we should pray is a harder question. Let us take comfort from Paul’s letter to the Romans in which he writes: “The Spirit helps us in our weakness for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.”

As summer turns to autumn let us continue to pray ‘Thy will be done’ and be ready to act when God prompts.

Sheila Cox

Etc

Dates for your diary

October 14th	Harvest Supper
October 15th	Harvest Festival.
December 2nd	Bazaar

Dates for WAGS (Westwell Art Group)

9th, 16th, 30th October.

Charing and District Local History Society.

A warm welcome is extended to all for the new season of interesting meetings of the History Society.

Meetings are held in the Parish Hall, Station Road, Charing TN27 0JA. Doors open at 7.30pm The lecture starts at 8pm. Annual membership fees are due and are £9 for adults and a joint family fee of £16. Full time students are free. Visitors: £3 per meeting.

Future programme: **12th October** Dr Marc Morris **Bad King John**. Marc will examine the man behind the legend and assesses the king’s actions against the standards of his own age; drawing on contemporary chronicles and the king’s own letters:

Book Club, September 2017

‘Thanks for the Memories’ by Cecelia Ahern
We met at Joan Richards’s and there were eight of us. Most had actually read the book and the discussion was good. The story is very Irish.... very funny and sad at the same time but a lot of moments where you laugh out loud and hope your neighbours don’t mind.

A young married woman has a miscarriage and has a blood transfusion. Soon after that her marriage breaks down and she moves to Dublin to live with her dad. In parallel an Art historian who lectures abroad finds himself deciding to give blood for the first time in his life...and you can probably guess the rest. She gets strange memories and he wants to find out who got his blood...

It is interwoven with a visit to London and a

very funny stint at the Antiques Road Show. The person you love is the woman’s father.. who makes us laugh. A very enjoyable book though slow developing story.

We also had a moment to think about Anne Davidson and Kay Hooper, two very valued women in Westwell and close friends who will be missed.

Our next meeting is again at Joan’s to discuss ‘Olive Kitteridge’ by Elizabeth Strout. 11am on Tuesday 10th October.

Christmas Bazaar 2nd December

Its time to think about the Christmas Bazaar again.

Please join me for coffee at Blackberry Mead Farm on 8th November at 11.00 if you are interested in helping. Or please let me know if you are able to make cakes, donate home produce, raffle prizes, tombola prizes and good quality bric a brac etc .

We also need help with running the stalls and making the bacon butties and teas and coffees.

Please let me know what you can do to make the morning a success!

Westwell WI

Next Meeting: Thursday 12th September at 7.30pm.

Talk: A Spitfire Girl by Melody Foreman

Hostesses: Gail Hunt, Ivy Clifton, Liz Jamieson

Vote of thanks: Pat Warren

Competition: Pink

Westwell Church Services for September

www.g7benefice.org

Sunday 1st: 16th Sunday of Trinity

8am Holy Communion

Friday 6th

10am Iona Eucharist

Sunday 8th: 17th Sunday of Trinity

11am Iona Eucharist

Sunday 15th: 18th Sunday of Trinity

11am Harvest Family Service

Sunday 22nd: 19th Sunday of Trinity

11am Eucharist

Sunday 29th: Last Sunday of Trinity

8am Holy Communion - Charing

10.30am G7 Communion Service - Pluckley

Tuesdays:

9am Charing – The Eucharist

7pm Charing Heath – Prayer and Bible Study

Church Matters in September

Messy Church has been running in the G7 for several years now, first in Hothfield and lately in Westwell where we can enjoy the use of the playing field equipment during and after sessions. There is a core attendance of 10 to 12 children from 5 or 6 families, although numbers vary according to time of year and other family commitments.

At the beginning of the year we were a team of three to plan and organize Messy sessions. Things change however and now it's just me. To keep Messy going I really need another two or three people to create a team. This would involve planning sessions, trying out activities and supporting families during the Messy sessions. There need to be at least two meetings a month to achieve this and make sure all the team knows what's going on. Then even if someone has to drop out one month there is still a core of expertise to keep running the session.

Do you think you or you and a friend would like to be involved?

The next Messy is Sunday 1st October celebrating Harvest with bread making,

rainbow fruit cocktails and other harvest related activities. Why not come along and try us out to see if you'd like to become part of the team? Westwell Parish hall 3.30 to 5pm.

All under 10s welcome with an adult.

Messy in **November** is thinking about prayer and how to make it personal. We will finish with a sparkler fest. **5th November at 3.30 in the church this time.**



The All Age service on 5th October at 11am celebrates Harvest with a collection of food for the food bank. Come and join us to celebrate the end of the growing season and enjoy some of the fruits of the Harvest.

This month's charity is Water Aid and we are asking people to put their loose change into an empty water bottle and bring it to the Harvest service. We will send all the proceeds to water Aid to help provide clean water in areas where there is none.

Next month we will be collecting money to help the Food Bank continue its work. We will ask congregations to give in a retiring collection after each service from Harvest to Advent.

Don't forget the church is open everyday until harvest so it is always there if you need quiet and its weatherproof!

To make the church even more user friendly we are getting into the loo fundraising spirit. Look out for more news as soon as the plans are available.

Dates for your diary, please add December 9th Christmas Crafts; 9am wreaths; 2pm other decorations booking contact Heather Lister.

Church Cleaning Rota.

Cleaning Tanya French

Flowers: Sarah Stevenson

Brass: Rosemary Harding



If you're happy and you know it....become a volunteer!

Babies and toddlers across Kent enjoy our lively Baby Rhyme Time sessions in their local libraries, many of which are led by our team of enthusiastic volunteers. Joyce, Carol and Jackie have been helping with Ashford Library's busy Rhyme Time sessions for many years, coming in every Friday morning to set up the session, joining in with the singing and actions, and talking to the families who attend. After a very busy Friday morning, I spoke with the three ladies once they were relaxing with a well-deserved cup of tea, to find out more about their volunteering experience.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering at Baby Rhyme Time?

I love to see the children, and see the babies growing up. I also love singing although I'm no good at it! It is great fun and a chance to act silly for half an hour. We always work with nice people too.

I like to see the mums connecting with each other, especially first time mums

It's very rewarding, especially when mums and dads turn up even when the weather is dreadful outside. It's a lovely thing for the community.

What do the families attending Baby Rhyme Time gain from it?

I always make a point of approaching new mums to explain that Baby Rhyme Time is free and that the instruments are washed every time.

Sometimes people can't believe it's all free!

It's great to see the children become more confident each time they come.

What do you personally gain from volunteering at Baby Rhyme Time?

The satisfaction of knowing you're helping children to learn through singing.

I have gained confidence through singing in public and made lovely friends. I thought I would be nervous, but now I just don't care!

The three of us get on so well, we now go on trips together.

Joyce and Carol, who met at Baby Rhyme Time over 11 years ago, have since formed a weekly Knit and Natter group at Ashford Library which they also run with equal enthusiasm.

Carol: Volunteering is one of the best things that I have ever done.

We are hoping to start a new Baby Rhyme Time group at Charing Library. If you would like to volunteer please contact the library by phoning 01233 713177, email charinglibrary@kent.gov.uk or call into the library and speak to a member of staff. More information about volunteering can be found at www.kent.gov.uk/volunteering

Plans

17/00786/AS Vicarage Barn, Westwell Court. A decision is awaited from the Borough Council.

17/00959/AS The Dairy, Westwell Court. A decision is awaited from the Borough Council. The following were supported by the Parish Council and a decision is awaited from the Borough Council:

17/01286/AS 2 Gothic Cottages, Westwell Lane, Westwell First floor alterations and extension to form new bedrooms over existing ground floor

17/01233/AS Keepers Cottage, Watery Lane, Westwell Construction of an all-weather riding arena.



Westwell Players

Life goes on.....so they keep telling me. The Westwell Players are meeting every week now – Tuesday evenings at 7.30 or that should really be 7.20, as we need to be able to start our rehearsals promptly so please try to be on time all you lovely thespians and then we can make our rehearsals as much fun as possible, it is a fun show and we will make it something to be proud of if we all pull together.

I want to tell you something about a fellow Player who is very dear to my heart, her name is Kay Hooper and she and I have donned the Producer's hat together for such memorable shows as 'Salad Days' and 'Me and My Girl' amongst many others too numerous to mention. It is with great pleasure I cast my mind back to the many happy hours Kay and I spent together, either working out dance steps for a song routine or planning a backdrop or discussing where we can find a particular prop. We have scoured the Charity Shops in Ashford and anywhere else we happened to be! Kay has been a tower of strength to us all in so many ways and I have just returned from visiting her at her home with her two daughters near to her and helping her through her last illness. She has put up such a wonderful fight to get the last bit of pleasure out of her life, I have such tremendous awe and admiration for her indomitable spirit. God bless you dear Kay.

Our new Pantomime is to be "Once Upon A Time" and promises the usual slapstick and laughter, please keep the dates free, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 23rd, 24th and 25th November, the first two evenings at 7.30pm and Saturdays performance will be at 6pm to accommodate the children. Look forward to seeing you all there!

Mary Anne Pitt 

Anne Davidson

Anne Davidson was a generous but quiet supporter of Westwell events and charities. She joined Westwell Parish Council in 2003, becoming vice chairman in 2011, and offering wise counsel especially on budgetary and financial issues. She was also an active supporter of NADFAS (The Arts Society) in Egerton, becoming Local Area Treasurer. She was a keen gardener, whose magnificent Cyclamen border is still hard to miss.

She began her career in her home county of Essex at the Ford Motor Company, and later moved to Lloyds of London. She was on the Lloyds Members Agency and went abroad many times, mostly to South Africa and Australia, to look after Members affairs.

With her partner, Ron, they moved to Westwell thirty years ago. Despite her many achievements, skills and determination Anne was always a quiet and modest person. She will be missed by her many friends.

Anne Davidson was born on 1st November 1947. She died peacefully on 6th September 2017, aged 69.



September on Hothfield Healthlands

The late summer blaze of purple heather has softened and the bracken is turning bronze. The spiders' webs are ever more obvious spangled with heavy dew. The rabbit-cropped grass is emerald green and springy as ever, woodland paths are crunchy with beech mast and acorns. A perfect setting for an autumn stroll.

Its changeover season for migratory birds. One afternoon in mid-September Warden Ian Rickards had a super view of a hobby over the reserve. He said they will be getting lots of energy from catching dragonflies at this time of year, but they also rely heavily on swallows and martins, and will be following those birds back to Africa, to keep fed over winter. He added that Hobby's latin name is *Falco subbuteo*. When the guy who invented the flicky football game couldn't register "Hobby" as the name for his new game, he chose *Subbuteo*!

Falco is from the Latin *falcis* for sickle, from the shape of the claws; *subbuteo* is from *sub* – near to and *buteo* – buzzard. So my question is, did writer Lindsey Davies choose the name of her Roman hero *Falco* for his grip on or ability to cut to the heart of a problem? The elegant hobby often feeds while on the wing while soaring slowly in circles.

Buzzards, members of a separate genus in the raptor family, are year-round residents and hunt over the open common and the fields across whole area of downland and greensand from Charing, towards Ashford. They are larger than the sickle-winged hobbies, with broad rounded wings with fingers sometimes showing at the ends in flight, and a short tail. The first sign often the mewing call then they are, circling apparently lazily, all the while on the lookout for small mammals. Small birds have a specific alarm call to alert other birds

to the danger of any predatory bird; larger birds protecting their young might attempt to mob a bird of prey and see it off.

The heathland is open to all, including dogs kept in check. Various trails are signposted and indicated on the maps at entrances, which also give the location of the livestock. The noticeboard down the main slope from the Cade Road car park gives recent wildlife sightings. For email alerts on the location of the livestock, or to join the volunteers who help maintain the reserve, check the cattle and carry out summer surveys contact the Warden on 01622 662012 or at ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk. **Ian Rickards**



Buzzard over Hothfield Common

Classified ads

Furniture for sale: Surplus to a refurb
Coffee table brought from Brazil in 1984.
1 metre square, 410mm high
Bureau in need of tlc. 760 x 420 x 990 mm
Modern glass wheeled TV trolley
900 x 450 x 600 mm.
Photographs by email on request
Contact Margery on 07870 829659