



THE WESTWELL EYE

187

September

2018

The Wheel

7th September - Pie Night

**14th September - From 5pm -
Macmillan coffee/tea, cakes + cocktails in Evening**

14th September - Fish on a Friday

21st September - 7pm Pub quiz -
Quiz £2 per person, cash prize

28th September - Back to School Dinner + Band

Contact: 01233 712223
info@thewheelinnwestwell.uk



September 2018

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
2 14th Sunday of Trinity 8am Holy Communion 3pm Messy Church - Parish Hall	3 1.30pm Painting 7pm Parish Council	4 7.30pm Players	5 11am Fistssteps - Dance as U Go	6 Re.FT 9.15am Pilates	7 10am Iona Eucharist 10.30 Coffee Wheel	8
9 15th Sunday of Trinity 11am Iona Eucharist	10 7pm Fitness	11 Book Club - p13 7.30pm Players	12 11am Fistssteps - Dance as U Go	13 R.F.W 9.15am Pilates 7.30pm WI Meeting	14	15
16 16th Sunday of Trinity 11am Harvest Festival - Family Service 2pm Players - Parish Hall	17 1.30pm Painting 7pm Fitness	18 7.30pm Players	19 11am Fistssteps - Dance as U Go	20 Re.FT 9.15am Pilates	21	22 7pm Harvest Supper
23 17th Sunday of Trinity 11am Eucharist 2pm Players - Parish Hall	24 7pm Fitness	25 7.30pm Players	26 11am Fistssteps - Dance as U Go	27 R.F.W 9.15am Pilates 7.30pm ACM Hall Maagement	28	29
30 18th Sunday of Trinity 8am Holy Communion - Charing 10.30am G7 Communion - Little Chart	Oct 1	2	3	4 Re.FT	5	1

From the Editor's desk...

Yes, this was the year we all got wet at the Fete. But rain did not stop play. A huge thank you to everyone who baked cakes, donated tombola prizes and set up stalls, and to everyone who braved the rain with brollies and waterproofs to participate, and to the dogs for the waggiest tail class. Children's races, tug of war and the Westwell egg throw will all have to wait for the next occasion or next year's Fete. There was just too much rain and it was too slippery to risk. Everyone kept going until most of the cakes were sold and quite a lot of beer in the Wonky Wheel Beer tent and burgers and sausages at the BBQ. Sorry it wasn't a Pimms day. Thanks to the WI for much needed tea and coffee in the dry of the Village hall! The Fete result will be in October's Eye. Probably down a bit, but thanks everyone for a memorably wet but good day.

One highlight was the Barrow of Booze raffle; won by Graham Hutchinson it then raised more money for Marie Curie at an auction in The Wheel in the evening.

Thank you Westwell! *Christine.*

3rd September	7pm Parish Council Meeting
3rd + 17th September	1.30pm Painting Group
7th September	10.30am Coffee in The Wheel - all welcome
11th September	11am Book Club - The Wheel - p13
14th September	Macmillan coffee/tea p13
21st September	7pm Quiz - The Wheel
22nd September	7pm Harvest Supper + Auction of Promises
27th September	7.30pm Hall Management AGM

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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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
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KCC Community Warden for Hothfield, Charing and Challock, Dave Beckley	0797798199
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(Charing)	713177
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NHS Direct	0845 4647
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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	lee.sinden@kent.pnn.police.uk
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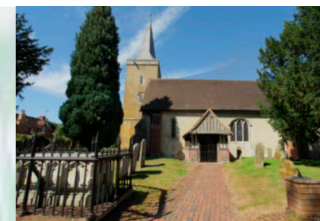


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- All journeys must be booked through the office with at least 3 working days notice.
- Currently there is an annual membership charge of £12 a year, a booking fee of £2.00 per journey, plus a mileage charge of 50p per mile. Charges are calculated from the driver's home so journey costs may vary.
- Drivers will wait for up to an hour and a half at no extra cost (if you have a very long return journey this will need to be discussed at the time of booking).
- At the time of booking you will need to inform the office if there are any health issues / wheelchair use; relevant to your journey which the driver would need to be aware of.
- Drivers ARE NOT allowed to lift or manoeuvre a service user in or out of their cars. If you have difficulty in this area it is your responsibility to find assistance.
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Thank you!

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WESTWELL WI

Once a year we welcome partners to one of our meetings, and this month we were pleased to see a number of husbands and other halves joining us. Our speaker was John Walker and the subject was The Great Train Robbery. To those more mature members, it was interesting to be reminded of the events of that night in 1963 – it was exactly 55 years ago almost to the day on 8th August 1963 that it happened. Our younger members only had an awareness of the event and it was eye-opening for them to hear of the scale of the operation and the amount of money stolen. At the time the value of the stolen money was £2,631,684, which in today's terms is the equivalent of £51,741,444. What amazed us all was how much of the money was never recovered! The police officer in charge postponed his retirement in order to catch the criminals but regrettably they were never able to find them all. The saddest part of the tale is the story of the train driver who was attacked and badly hurt, never fully recovering from his injuries. It was probably for this reason that the prison sentences handed out to those found guilty were so long.

Members were reminded of our Quiz Night on 4th October – come with a team or on your own to join up with others on the night. Tickets are £6.50 and will include a ploughman's supper, just bring your own drinks and nibbles.

We will also be meeting for lunch on 12th October at The Hare and Hounds. Our Centenary Dinner will be on 16th November and members were encouraged to make their menu selections.

Our competition for a 'Weather Snap' was won by Mary-Anne Pitt with her picture of a sunset. Liz Hewitt's picture, also of a sunset was second and Doris's picture of a child playing in the snow was third.

Next Meeting: Thursday 13th September.

Members' Night: the evening will be hosted by one of our members.

Hostesses: Mesdames Sue Starkings, June Scarfe and Teresa Wood

Vote of thanks: Jean Lester

Competition: Thimble



1st Charing Scout Group



This has been an amazing summer for our scouts. We had our first ever kayak camp. Lots to learn and scary tasks to complete, but a fantastic time was had by all.

Hopefully, by the time you read this, we will have an electricity supply to our new headquarters. That means the old hut will have no electricity, so we are committed to finishing the project before the evenings get too cold and dark.

Thank you to everyone who supported our cream teas in the Church Barn.

We are laying a hard standing with paving slabs next to our new headquarters. We need more paving slabs. They can be pre used ones. If you have any we could use please let me know.

Many thanks gsl_charingscoutgroup@hotmail.co.uk **Terry Lister**

New Faces At The Hare & Hounds?

No, not really! Although landlord Darren Ralph, is hanging up his bottle opener, his successor is his brother, Mark!

After running the pub on the corner of Potters Corner for nearly ten years Darren said “its time to live a less stressful life with more normal working hours and a chance to share more of my life with my partner, Lucy”

Longevity in this traditional pub’s tenancy is not new!. First recorded as being a licensed premises in 1782, the Hare and Hounds has a history of long lasting family publicans. It’s first was John Dodd who ran the public house from 1782 to 1824 with his wife, Elizabeth Andress whom he is recorded as having married in Westwell on 1st November 1772. Their son, George then went on to run the pub between 1824 and 1841 with his wife Sarah and two daughters. Another local publican was Herbert Drew who ran the inn from 1934 to 1959. For the 3 years prior to becoming landlord here, he ran ‘The Prince Albert’ in New Street in Ashford town centre.

More recently, Marie and Alan Stack served as landlord and lady for 13 years until retiring in 2008. The current family team running the Hare and Hounds, the Ralph family, took over on the 19th December 2008.

Mark will be well known to the pub regulars as he has often helped with burger flipping at BBQs whilst the kitchen garden he has created adds fresh produce to the pub’s menu. The Ralph family have lived in Westwell since 1962 and his father John has been a Parish Councillor, whilst as a youngster Mark sang in the Choir and played in the boys village football team. Both his other brother, Julian, and son got married at St Mary’s.

Taking over on 6th August, Mark and his partner, Mandy, will be living on the premises. To continue the family connections his son, Stephen, who has been the pub chef since 2008, will also be taking on more responsibilities.

Over a welcome pint Mark shared some of their exciting ideas for the pub’s future. As well as refurbishing throughout, both internally and externally, they plan to extend the garden area to provide more accessible “al fresco” family dining for families as well as being more disability friendly. Whilst confirming their intention to continue to offer a comprehensive range of home cooked meals, Mark also laid out his ambitious ideas to offer regular “themed” dining nights using local specialist chefs to deliver authentic world foods with matching entertainment.

John, who still lives in Westwell Lane and is frequently seen helping out tending the plants and hanging baskets, said “all three sons have done well and made me proud. I know Mark will continue to uphold our family values as he embarks on this new venture”

Like his father, I am sure we all wish Mark and Mandy every success in their new challenge.

For more details visit www.thehareandhoundsashford.com/

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Westwell Community Watch Scheme

Keeping you Safe and Secure
Neighbourhood Watch

Sadly I have to reiterate what I said last month - that most household and vehicle burglaries and thefts are spontaneous and opportunistic. Looking at the reports from Ashford police it is of concern the number of crimes that are committed from properties which are insecure, many because of the hot weather. On a positive note I am pleased to say that there are no reports of thefts or burglaries from the Westwell area. I would like to think it is because the advice from the police has been heeded but fear it may just be fortunate happenstance

So remember to keep your property safe and secure!

What is not opportunistic is the recent spate of "parts" thefts including catalytic converters, number plates etc being stolen from vehicles parked on the owner's drives.

If your vehicle has an alarm make sure you set it when locking up the vehicle.

Again PIR lights, or preferably CCTV cameras, help deter and catch the villains

Enjoy the rest of the summer and any late holidays. Keep safe

If YOU see anything suspicious call 999 (if urgent) or 101 or use Country Eye to report it.

Visit: westwell.community.watch@gmail.com

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

Keep Vigilant - Tony Bartlett - WCWS Co-ordinator

Planning applications

The following were approved by the Borough Council

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

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

The Parish Council objected to the following application and a decision is awaited from the Borough Council:

18/00876/AS The Old Forge, Westwell Lane The erection of a single dwelling with associated access, parking and landscaping on land at the rear of The Old Forge

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

18/01003/AS Fallowfield, The Street Proposed conversion of garage space including proposed roof lights, porch extension and single story rear kitchen extension.

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Letter to the Parishes

At Cornerstone we have been looking at the book of Daniel. A strange book but it contains stories familiar to many of us from our childhood: - Daniel in the Lions' den, Shadrach Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace and the mysterious fingers appearing and writing on the wall at Belshazzar's Feast.

In the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (in chapter three if you want to (re)read it) there are two verses which stand out. To set the scene, Nebuchadnezzar has erected a golden statue and given orders that at the sound of musical instruments everyone must prostrate themselves and worship the statue. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, three Israelites given high positions in Nebuchadnezzar's court refuse to do so. Other members of the court, jealous of their high status betray them to Nebuchadnezzar who then tells them that if they do not bow down and worship the statue they will be thrown into the fiery furnace.

Then Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego say in verses 17 & 18:- 'If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up.' (NRSVA)

What a response. These are not people who are going to be made a little uncomfortable and have a few privileges removed, they are going to be put to death in a horrible way and their response is simply to put themselves in the hands of God and do what they believe to be right.

I expect that most, if not all, of us have been in the position of being asked to do something which does not quite agree with our conscience or we see something which we think is wrong. What do we do then?

If we suspect that an elderly neighbour is being taken advantage of or vulnerable child is being abused do we think it is someone else's problem and leave them to deal with it? If we see someone being shouted at in the street do we avert our gaze, walk by on the other side of the street and hope that someone else does something about it? Fortunately most of us do not experience situations where we are in actual danger and the police would say that we should not put ourselves at risk but we do need to stand up for what we believe in. That is not to say that we should be interfering busy bodies but we should look out for our neighbours and that may mean doing something which takes some courage or makes us feel uncomfortable.

Bowing down and worshipping the golden statue would have meant submitting to values other than those Shadrach Meshach and Abednego believed to be right. As Christians we hold to certain values and we should not be ashamed to proclaim them. Sometimes we will fall short, after all even Christians are human, but that does not mean that we should not keep trying. St Paul in chapter 7 of his letter to the Romans says that he is constantly struggling to do what is right. If even St Paul struggled why should we expect to find it easy? But the more we try to do what is right the more often we might actually succeed.

Kevin Moon

Etc

Dates for diaries

September 22nd, Harvest Supper and Auction of Promises .

September 29th. Pimms and Hymns

December 1st Bazaar

Coffee at The Wheel Inn

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



Ride and Stride Saturday 8th September

Last year R&S raised more than £130,000, a magnificent effort that is invested by Friends of Kent Churches to support repairs and projects like our church loo.

An active Ride & Stride presence is very helpful when requesting a grant from Friends of Kent Churches. I assume that Westwell PCC will be applying for a grant towards the loo project in the not too distant future.

By the time you receive your « Eye » R&S will still be some 5 weeks away: time flies so please begin to make plans to support Ride & Stride by walking and cycling between as many Kent churches as you can. I have placed yellow entry forms in church with a list of all the churches that should be open. If in doubt contact me or go on the Friends of Kent Churches web site friendsofkentchurches.co.uk

Good walking or cycling!

Jolyon Drury 07860 512793

Book Club August 2018

'Our Hidden Lives' by Simon Garfield is a compilation of diaries of five ordinary people following WWII and is the result of a research project of the ten years immediately after the war. The war was won, but there was rationing and uncertainty. 'Very different from one

another', and 'what makes the book is the fresh light it sheds on the immediate post war years' are just two of the captions on the book covers' .

In our group of readers most remembered those years. The war had been won so there was relief and most ladies in our group remember being happy, back from being evacuated and to a certain level of normality in family life or at school, and later as young women forming a career or being newly married. Rationing seems to be still vivid in the memory, the first bananas and oranges, the start of the NHS, the difference between country and town life. Gandhi being assassinated... A very lovely book that one can dip into and read at leisure. Our next book is '**The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie**' by Muriel Spark. **11th September.** Happy reading.

Macmillan Charity Event

There will be a Macmillan coffee/tea and Cakes afternoon on 14th September, from 5pm onwards, at The Wheel plus cocktails in the evening.

WAGS

3rd + 17th September



The Harvest Supper and Auction of Promises

will be held a little earlier this year on Saturday 22nd September 2018 at 7.30 pm in our Parish Hall.

Tickets cost £15 a head to include a traditional home cooked supper. As usual, bring your own wine/drinks.

To reserve your places please contact Jane Richards on 07929 232285 or jane.richards58@googlemail.com.

Offers of a promise for the auction or a pudding would be very welcome too.

I look forward to seeing you there

Jane

Parish News

Westwell Church Services for September
www.g7benefice.org

Sunday 2nd: 14th Sunday of Trinity

8am Holy Communion

Friday 7th

10am Iona Eucharist

Sunday 9th: 15th Sunday of Trinity

11am Iona Eucharist

Sunday 16th: 16th Sunday of Trinity

11am *Harvest Festival* - Family Service

Sunday 23rd: 17th Sunday of Trinity

11a.m Eucharist

Sunday 30th: 18th Sunday of Trinity

8am Holy Communion - Charing

10.30am G7 Communion Service-Little Chart
coffee from 10am

Tuesdays:

9am Charing – The Eucharist

7pm Charing Heath – Prayer and Bible Study

A Service to Commemorate The 127 Canadian Wing and the American 362nd Fighter Groups

Each year, a number of people gather at the Memorial Bedlam Lane Memorial in Egerton Forstal to remember the men and women of 127 Canadian Wing, and 362 American Fighter Group, who were stationed here during the Second World War. Each year, we have recalled the part they played, and their sacrifice. The short service will take place on **Sunday 2nd September at 2.30pm**. All welcome to attend.
The Rev. Canon Sheila Cox



Family Church in September
Messy Church looks at beginning journeys on **Sunday 2nd September 3.30pm** in the parish hall.

Designed for under 10s, all accompanied children are welcome. Art, Crafts, Activities, Bible story, songs, prayer and, of course, Tea.



Family service is the Harvest festival, a bit earlier than usual!

16th September. We invite everyone who has grown food in pots, gardens or fields to join us and celebrate the Harvest we have achieved despite the weather.

Enjoy familiar Harvest hymns and a harvest soup and bread after the service.

October Messy is on Sunday 7th October and will also celebrate Harvest time.

Poppies Galore?

If you'd like to contribute to our Poppy tribute to the men of Westwell who went to war, as mentioned on the Roll of Honour hanging in the church we'd love to add to our Poppy wall.

There are crafty sessions in Church on Wednesday afternoons in September to make Poppies. Materials are provided, and we will enjoy tea or coffee and cakes. Little skill required.

You are very welcome to bring your own making or use our tissue paper resources.

Please join us on Wednesday September 5th, 12th, 19th or 26th from 2pm to 3.30.



The Westwell Remembrance trail

This will be launched at the end of September, look out for marker flags to show where the men of Westwell lived before the war. I will be approaching households to tell them about these over the next few weeks.

There will be a map in the church and sheets to help you follow the trail.

We are supported by the Armed Forces Covenant Trust who have awarded us three Perspex cutouts to commemorate these men. Look out for them in church and elsewhere from the end of September.

Church Cleaning Rota.

Cleaning. Tanya Scott Adie
Flowers. Heather Lister
Brass. Rosemary Harding



Godinton House & Gardens - First Aid to the Red Cross

The beautiful gardens of Godinton house are giving financial first aid to the Red Cross by opening their gardens for this long established and worthwhile charity on **Friday 14th September from 1pm.**

During Autumn the character of the garden at Godinton changes with the dominant colours becoming russets, reds, purple, orange and yellow even before the leaves start to turn on trees and shrubs. Fuchsias, rudbeckias, asters and flowering grasses brighten herbaceous borders and in the Walled Garden fruits and squashes are ripening. Dahlias and annuals will continue to flower until the first frosts and repeat flowering roses keep going while the weather is dry. It's a more relaxed time in the garden with the borders becoming pleasantly overblown mixing seed heads and bowing stems with the autumn flowering plants.

Nick Sandford, Estate Manager said "Godinton has always supported charitable events and we are delighted to open the garden to raise money for the Red Cross, such a well-established worthwhile charity that continues to do amazing work that perhaps does not have the profile of some other good causes.

"We are most grateful to the Trustees of Godinton House Preservation Trust for generously opening the beautiful gardens of Godinton House to raise funds for our work, supporting people in crisis in the local community." Charles Marshall, Senior Community Fundraiser for the British Red Cross in Kent.

Garden entry, £5 adults children under 16 free, House & Gardens entry, £10 adults and children under 16 free. The house and tearoom will be open serving homemade cakes and cream teas, and there will be a selection of plants for sale.

NHS England consultation on Evidence Based Interventions

NHS England, in collaboration with the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE), NHS Clinical Commissioners and NHS Improvement's Getting It Right First Time programme, is publicly consulting on a programme of work called Evidence Based Interventions.

Research evidence shows some interventions, including some operations, are not clinically effective or only effective when they are performed in specific circumstances. And as medical science advances, some interventions are superseded by those that are less invasive or more effective.

There is a general consensus, both nationally and locally, that more needs to be done to ensure the least effective interventions are not routinely performed, or only performed in more clearly defined circumstances.

With this in mind, a consultation is running until 28 September 2018, to get the views of patients across England to determine which interventions should be targeted, and the proposed clinical criteria for them, where appropriate.

These proposals aim to: 1. Reduce avoidable harm to patients, 2. Save precious professional time, 3. Help clinicians maintain their professional practice in line with the changing evidence base 4. Allow for innovation. 5. Maximise value and avoid waste for patients and taxpayers.

The consultation documents (including accessible formats) can be found on the NHS England website, alongside details of how to respond.

Please feel free to forward this information to anyone who may be interested.

Engagement Team NEL Commissioning Support Unit



Westwell Players

The Players have seven rehearsals during September, starting our new Show - 'FLY ME' on **Tuesday, 4th September**, very promptly at 7.30. Please be on time and if you cannot come or are going to be late, please let Neil know. All our cast are very busy at the moment – learning their lines so that we start off with a bang. We have a large cast of both male and female with a number of children involved. The children's rehearsals are being kept to Sundays only until we get much nearer our dates for the Production, which are:- **6th, 7th and 8th December**, times to be announced at a later date. We are starting to hunt for props needed – like a plastic garden gnome – about 12 inches high, a modern suitcase that will open easily when 'man-handled!' and the sort of trolley you get on an aircraft that will take drinks and food etc!!! Please give me a ring if you can help with any of these. Mary Anne 01233 714241.

We are also very busy looking into new ways to store our props and wardrobe and Neil has been doing a lot of hard work, getting permission and looking into the different forms of containers to be the absolute best we can possibly afford. This is so important to the future of the Society and we want to get it right first time! This production should not be too difficult to 'dress' as most people will be able to wear their own clothes. It is typical of us that we have just finished a Murder Mystery (in the Spring) that was set at Christmas time and we are now planning a Musical comedy about a group of travellers going by plane to Spain in mid-summer. What a topsy, turvy world we live in AmDram circles!!

Another big change that is being thought about is – how we buy and sell our tickets. We need your e-mail address so please log onto our Website - www.westwellplayers.co.uk and sign up to be on our mailing list, this will be such an easy way to find out what is going on generally with the Players.

Lastly, although we have cast 'Fly Me' there are always lots of other jobs that you can do so if you are interested in joining our merry bunch of Thespians we would welcome you with open arms. Just give me a telephone call (number as above) and I will answer any questions you may have. You may find you have a hobby that is fun and fulfilling. I am awaiting your call!! Have a very Happy September!

Mary Anne Pitt 



Heather Flowering at Hothfield Heathlands Nature Reserve

This is the month that the heather bursts into flower, covering our reserve with a carpet of purple flowers. Shading from bracken and birch scrub, has restricted the development of heather, but the recent work to create a more open habitat has allowed new heather seedlings to pop up all over the place!!

Heather is probably the species most associated with heathland (the name derived from heather, as indeed was Hothfield (Heathfield) itself). It can only tolerate living in specific conditions, needing nutrient poor, well drained, acidic soil, but when these conditions are met it can spread to produce a carpet across large areas.

There are a number of heather species, the most common being *Calluna vulgaris* or Ling, but we also have plenty of *Erica tetralyx*, Cross-leaved Heath. The latter is a lot less sturdy than Ling, and prefers the wetter areas, the paler pink flowers flowering around the middle of July. There is also *Erica cinerea*, or Bell Heather, which does not occur at Hothfield

Top Facts About Heather

- The idea that white heather is lucky reached England as part of a Victorian enthusiasm for Scottish traditions, and is now known everywhere.
- Each Heather flower has 30 Heather seeds, so a Heather plant produces up to 150,000 seeds per season
- The scientific name, *Calluna*, came from the Greek *Kallune* - to clean or brush, as the twigs were used for making brooms.
- The Heather plant is sometimes also referred to as Ling derived from the old Norse *Lyng* meaning fire and referring to use as a fuel.

Heather and Wildlife

There are a number of bird species that will nest on the ground within the heather. The thick vegetation provides excellent cover for birds like tree pipit and wood lark. Their strategies tend to involve staying very still until the last possible moment when they burst out, trying to draw predators away from their nests.

Others will nest and feed in taller heather, like the **Dartford warbler and stonechat**.

The heather also provides an excellent habitat for reptiles and amphibians. Enough vegetation to hide in, it still provides plenty of opportunities for basking, and warming in the sunshine. Acres of purple flowers are a bountiful source of nectar attracting insects from all over. Honeybees and bumblebees will be working hard to take nectar back to their nests. While predators such as hornets, spiders and dragonflies will take advantage of the host of busy insects.

The heather should be in flower for most of August and into September, following the marked trails from the entrance behind the village play area or from the reserve car park will take you past some great areas.

For further information about Hothfield Heathlands or the other work of the Kent Wildlife Trust go onto our website www.kentwildlife.org.uk or ring our HQ on 01622 662012.