



THE WESTWELL EYE

199

September

2019

The Wheel - September Normal Menu and Special Deals

+

EVERY WEEK

Wednesday Night: Burger Night

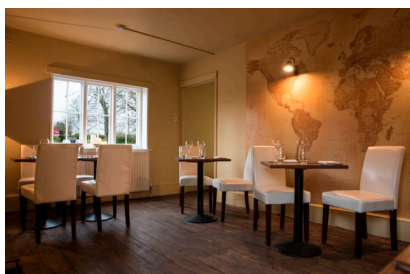
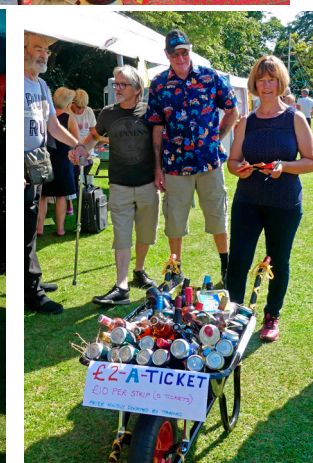
Thursday Night: Tapas

Thursday 19th September: Quiz Night

Friday Night: Fish Night

Saturday Night: Steak Night

Contact: 01233 712223
info@thewheelinnwestwell.uk



September 2019

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 11th Sunday of Trinity 8am Holy Communion 10am G7 Eucharist - Charing	2 1.30pm Art Group 7pm Parish Council 7pm Fitness	3 7.30pm Players	4 NO Fistssteps	5 Re.ET 9.15am Pilates	6 10am Iona Eucharist 10.30 Coffee Wheel	7
8 12th Sunday of Trinity 11am Iona Eucharist 3.30pm Messy Church - Hall	9 7pm Fitness	10 Book Club - p13 7.30pm Players	11 10am Chair Exercise 11am Fistssteps	12 R.F.W 9.15am Pilates 7.30pm WI Meeting	13	14
15 13th Sunday of Trinity 11am Family Service 2.30pm Players - Hall	16 1.30pm Art Group 7pm Fitness	17 7.30pm Players	18 10am Chair Exercise 11am Fistssteps	19 Re.ET. 9.15am Pilates Quiz- The Wheel	20	21
22 14th Sunday of Trinity 11am Eucharist	23 7pm Fitness	24 7.30pm Players	25 10am Chair Exercise 11am Fistssteps	26 R.F.W 9.15am Pilates	27	28
29 15th Sunday of Trinity 8am Holy Communion - Pluckley 11am G7 Harvest Communion Hothfield 2.30pm Players - Hall	30 1.30pm Art Group	Oct 1	2	2 Re.ET	4	5



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	01233 643497
CAB	626185
Carers Support Group	664393
Childline Freephone	0800 1111
Cinema	0871 2208000
Citizens' Advice Bureau	626185
Cruse Bereavement Counselling	878225
Doctors (Charing)	01233 714490
(Hayesbank)	624642
Dog Warden	01233 330340
Hospital (William Harvey)	633331
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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From the Editor's desk...

First of all I must apologise for the unfinished front cover of last month's magazine, putting August's edition together was a bit of a nightmare and I 'lost the plot'; no excuse, but....!
 The picture was of Julian Booty driving a 1923, Vauxhall 30/98 and the other was a view of some other cars on display taken through the mirror of Julian's car. And then there was a large expanse of nothing – sorry!

** Now a plea for the Players, they are not at all sure that they will be able to cast the next show, as they are very low in numbers and as a group they are feeling a bit low about it all at the moment. Please help them, it would be so sad if after all these years they were unable to put on a production due to lack of cast numbers!

Those of you who knew Peter Hayward, who lived in the village for many years, turn to page 16 and support his grand-daughter, Rachael, in a skydive.

On page 6 there is a lovely tribute to David Harvey, who over many years did so much for Westwell and will be greatly missed,

Do go to the history exhibition at Hothfield church on 7th/8th September, it sounds fascinating – page 10

I am sure you would all like to join me in wishing Sheila Cox a long and happy retirement and thank her for her devoted hard work to the G7, and Westwell in particular.

Hopefully there are not so many glaring faults and typos in this month's Eye!

Carolyn Thorneloe

2nd September	7pm Parish Council meeting - all welcome
2nd, 16th, 30th September	1.30pm Art Group
6th September	10.30am Coffee in The Wheel
10th September	11am Book Club in The Wheel p13
19th September	7pm Quiz - the Wheel

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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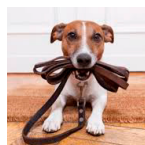
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Plans

19/00943/AS Bridgewood Farm, Watery Lane: Change of use of land for use by gypsy family and removal of condition 2 on planning permission reference

14/01508/AS (Change of use of land for the stationing of one mobile home and one touring caravan for residential use by one gypsy family (retrospective)) The Parish Council commented on the application

19/00951/AS Tylers, The Street: Two storey rear extension, PV roof panels; new rooflight and enlarged replacement rooflight The Parish Council had no objection to the application but recommended the addition of a condition that the trees be retained to preserve the amenity of surrounding properties

The following were approved by the borough council

18/01558/AS & 18/1559/AS Lacton Manor Change of use and conversion of one existing farm building to provide two holiday lets and change of use and conversion of one existing farm building for games room / alfresco dining area to the Planning Inspectorate no later than 28th August. For further details on how to respond see the planning application on the ABC website or contact Sue Wood, on 623902



1st Charing Scout Group



The end of our summer term saw the usual fun and games. Scouts finished their pioneering project, building ballistas to launch tennis balls across the field. They then went on camp and had a brilliant time. Difficult to believe they fitted so much fun and different activities into a week. Cubs had the official weigh in for their potatoes which were sponsored, encouraged and judged by Charing Gardeners Society. Thank you for the support. Cubs then had a day of water activities on Conningbrook Lake. Brilliant fun! Beavers are planning another sleepover before the autumn gets too cold.

We are collecting used printer ink cartridges for recycling (not laser toner cartridges). If you have any please let any of the leaders know. We get paid to collect them and this helps to pay for the running of our headquarters.

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

Peter Hayward

Hello everyone,

My name is Rachael, I live in the Village with my parents whom I'm sure many of you know - Postie Steve and Sue Woods, (Orchard Cottage). I'm sure many of you also knew my grandparents - Cecily and Peter Hayward, who also resided in the village. In May of this year we lost my Grandad, Peter, to his battle with dementia. On 15th September, I will be doing a Charity Skydive at Headcorn, raising funds for The Alzheimer's Society, in memory of my Grandad and all those who have been affected by the condition. I am asking for your support in form of donations - 100% of the money raised will go directly to the charity. My family and I would be grateful for any support. Thank you very much to all those that have kindly donated already.

www.justgiving.com/Rachael-Woods2019



WESTWELL WI

For this month's meeting, Roy Entwistle was welcomed back with his Red Box Peep Show. Members were entertained with a variety of film clips. These included a detailed view of the fantastic Albert Memorial refurbished in 2007, a humorous look at Beryl Cook's artwork interspersed with funny comments, then a longer film showing the intricate displays of glass sculptures by Dale Chihuly installed at Kew Gardens. Following that members were introduced to The Green Man in various shapes and sizes. Roy explained that The Green Man symbolised life, death and rebirth which heralded spring after a long winter.

He then showed a film clip made up from a social event of Probus. The theme was how women would never stop talking, and many photos of current and past members were spied throughout the film, although I think Mary Ann was very surprised by the last photograph of her behind bars.

We saw the Battle of Hastings re-enacted next, with many humorous clips both old and new from Roy's view of the actual events. This was shown to the accompaniment of the monologue of the Battle of Hastings written by Marriott Edgar. For the last but one clip, Roy had used photographs taken in India, and the final film was made up of photographs taken at the Venice Carnival with all of the beautiful and strange costumes and masks worn during the carnival.

Members were advised that Pat Westhead was currently very unwell and would appreciate support from members to either visit her or as an offer of lifts to the monthly meetings, events and art club as she had been advised that she should no longer be driving.

Members heard a report from Sue Fowler on a Bat and Trap evening that had been hosted by Swan WI at Westwell and which was open to a number of other WIs, it was very well-attended. Also, a report from Ros Williamson on the Group Quiz, to which we had entered two teams. Both teams came somewhere in the middle of the scoring, so did not disgrace themselves!

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

Catherine Hazelden & Marilyn Warner

Next Meeting:- Thursday 12th September.

Members Night run by Tracy Shaikh. Volunteers requested on the night to help Tracy.

Vote of thanks:- Valerie Hooper

Hostesses:- Pat Warren, Lindsey Peddle and Doris Cackett

Competition:- Bring a keepsake with a story

Westwell Cricket

Every year Westwell Cricket Club plays one fixture against Little Chart. This has been going on for many years. At it's peak Westwell had no difficulty finding a team, with several residents and their families providing stern opposition for the established club. Sadly most of the youngsters have grown up and moved away and the parents' playing days are behind them. This year Peter Irvin flew the flag for Westwell and the team was otherwise filled with outsiders. They still managed to win the coveted Floreat Forstal trophy. The match was well supported by local residents, several of whom are Vice Presidents of Little Chart. The raffle raised a splendid £166 for club funds. It would be wonderful to have Westwell residents in the team next year.

David Roger Harvey

He had so many attributes..... his deep love for his family, his fun-loving sense of humour, someone who always looked forward in life, and a great doer. He enjoyed nothing more than organising events for his family, his friends and the church. He loved being part of the Westwell Players for all those years; chairing the Millennium committee; being involved with Probus; loving sport whether that was playing it or watching it, and having a huge creative imagination when it came to his beloved garden which he shared with his gardener Peter.

David began life being an inadvertent jet setter! He was born in Rajkot, India on 12th March 1935 where his father had been posted as a District Officer after leaving the Gurkha's. When WW2 broke out David spent his early childhood split between England, India and Australia before returning to England on VE Day. David was first schooled at Twyford, followed by Marlborough. Tragically his only brother Michael, who was 2 years older than him died when David was 15, which affected him greatly. At 17 he left Marlborough, and his father encouraged him to travel out West to his friends in Toronto Canada. David worked in the Department Store, Eatons. Three years later he returned to England to do his National Service in Oswestry, Wales. Unsure of what to do next, his father encouraged him to talk to his uncle, Tom Denning who was in the judiciary. David felt he wanted to help those less fortunate and became a Probation Officer. After attending Bristol University his first job was in Luton and there he met Barbara. They married in 1968, and the following year David became a Senior Probation Officer in Northampton. They threw themselves into all things sporty, playing cards and traditional jazz. David loved tinkling on his honky tonk piano! In 1971 they shared a trip of a lifetime where David accompanied Barbara on her World Tour with the England Hockey team. In 1972 Michelle was born. They moved to Sandhurst Lane when David was promoted to Assistant Chief in Kent. During this time he did a job exchange trip to Canada and also became passionately involved with the Prince's Trust which was dear to his heart. His last boss has said it was a 'privilege' to have worked with him.

Then of course there were the croquet gatherings that local friends and family knew only too well. As one family member has recently said 'I fondly recall learning from him how to win at croquet and how to do so, in a dastardly but utterly charming way'.

The Westwell Players gave David an outlet for his great sense of humour and wit. He loved nothing more than entertaining the audience and responding to the cheers and jeers with his own brand of ad lib! He introduced 'Revue' evenings with sit down meals. He also formed the Millennium Committee. The funds raised helped the planting of the vast area of spring bulbs on the Church green, the Millennium circular tree bench opposite The Wheel, and the installation of the Millennium stain glass window here in Westwell Church.

He loved his holidays/special events; whether that was cruise or canal boat holidays with Barbara; attending the 2012 London Olympics or them all spending a week in Dorset last year to celebrate his & Barbara's 50th Wedding Anniversary.

As we remember David for the person he was, be happy. He was a true gentleman, a loyal friend, a wonderful, loving and fun-loving father to Michelle and husband to Barbara. We are all eternally grateful to have known this wonderful soul who will always be with us.

For that, let us be happy

'A shortened version read by Philip Kealy'.

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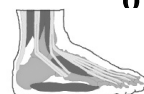


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The only crime in Westwell of which we have been advised by our PCSO, Aaron Newell, is a burglary where a garage door was forced and three bicycles stolen.

(Description of the bicycles: No: 1 - metallic silver/grey Turner 5 spot mountain bike, with mavic wheels and rockshox

suspension forks. No 2 - Metallic blue Turner Sultan mountain bike, with mavic wheels and fox suspension forks. No 3 – none available)

Although securing your property is obviously the first line of defence, burglaries still happen, so the Police also advise:

Making a note of expensive items including the make, model, serial numbers and any details that may help identify items if lost or stolen.

Keep your receipts somewhere safe in case you need them.

Photographing your valuables including any items that you do not want to security-mark, paying special attention to any distinguishing marks such as initials or crests.

Photographs should be taken against a plain background and include a ruler to give an idea of size/scale.

Registering your property on a property database such as www.immobilise.com, will help trace owners of lost/recovered stolen property.

Accurate and detailed information about stolen items can help the police to identify your property, return it to you AND get convictions

All the above will also simplify any resulting insurance claims

Police

The Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Scott, has published his Summer Newsletter which can be downloaded from <https://www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/> Here you will also find an opportunity to participate in his on-line survey to get your views and ideas on local policing.

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

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

A distraction burglary has occurred in the Ashford area within the last 48 hours whereby the alleged offenders have stated that they were Police Officers and used that ruse to gain entry to the victim's house.

Always ask for ID from anyone purporting to be from the Police or any other agency and if in doubt of its authenticity call 999 or 101 depending on the circumstances. Police and other agency officers will not mind you taking the time to check their ID, anyone objecting to this would therefore raise suspicion.

PSE 59727 Andrew Judd

Volunteer & Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer, South East Kent Police

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Letter to the Parishes

It seems very strange that by the time you will be reading this, the date of my retirement will be upon us. Although I have had months to prepare for it, it has nevertheless taken me by surprise. Over the last few weeks I have been doing many things in the benefice for the last time - the last school assemblies and governors meetings, the last service in each church, the last deanery meeting, the last PCC meetings and many more. Unlike previous moves which have been from one ministerial post to another, this one is different. It is a move into the unknown, a new beginning, for the first time in my memory a time that has no regular shape to the week, no deadlines to meet, few diary fixtures. Every move over at least the last 30 years, and probably more, has been accompanied by box loads of 'stuff' - old essays and lecture notes that held memories and 'might just come in useful' but are actually long out of date, programmes and agendas from a vast amount of benefice, deanery, diocesan events and services that held particular memories. And the books and the ministerial resources! Deep theological tomes and academic papers, once useful but serve no purpose in this next stage of my life. So, this time, shelves have been cleared, files and folders have been emptied, documents shredded or binned. In fact, it has been quite cathartic; a letting go of the past in order to move into a new future.

I was reminded of some words from the letter to the Hebrews ... "Let us lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith." (Hebrews 12: 1 - 2) It is so true of life that we can easily cling onto things of the past that have no place in the future. These can hinder our vision of what is to come and hold us back. What might these weights be that hold us back? Perhaps we bear grudges for a past hurt. The Bible has much to say about the right way to proceed, a direction summed up in some words from Leviticus "You shall not bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself". (Leviticus 19:18) The Gospel reminds us that if there is disagreement with one another, we should first put things right before approaching the altar. Bearing grudges leads to resentment and draws us back to the past rather than moving to the future. As human persons we also have a natural propensity to draw around ourselves the weight of guilt, regret and memories of past failure all of which weigh us down and prevent us from looking forward. Our ears become deaf to our Lord's invitation "Come to me all you who are heavy laden and I will give you rest". Through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ we can find peace and reconciliation and the necessary determination to run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus who invites us to follow.

And finally ... speaking of moving from what has been into what will be, I was delighted this week to receive a phone call from the Church Commissioners informing me that the sole objection to the Single Parish had been withdrawn. After the Bishop has signed a document, we will be able to move into this new mode of governance, a new way of being community together as we look to the future. Having been so instrumental in shaping this new context which will bring fresh opportunities for ministry and mission, I am so sorry to be leaving you before the ink is dry on the paper. You will remain in my prayers as you will always remain in my heart.

As I journey onward, please accept my grateful thanks for all your love and support over these last seven and a half years. May God bless you all.

Sheila Cox

Etc

Dates for diaries

19th October: Harvest Supper

7th December: Bazaar

Coffee at The Wheel Inn

Coffee at The Wheel, **Friday 6th September**
from 10.30 - 11.45am. All welcome.

WAGS – Westwell Art Group
2nd, 16th and 30th September.



Book Club August 2019

This month we read works by the comedienne and TV/Radio personality Jenny Eclair. She was born Jenny Hargreaves but changed her name to Eclair at a party in order to sound French. The actress has appeared in several TV shows such as Grumpy Old Women and Loose women. Her books reflect her wry sense of humour and deal mainly with women standing up for themselves..with all sorts of consequences. In one collection of short stories, 'Listening In', the reader could laugh out loud at humorous though often very sad situations. How would you feel if a person brought in by an estate agent to your home begins to open wardrobes or inspect the contents of your fridge simply for the sake of it, with no real intention to buy? This was from 'Listening In', a collection of short stories. In another novel, 'Life, Death and Vanilla Slices', a woman remembers events in her life while recovering from a coma. And in another work, 'Moving', an elderly woman is showing an estate agent through her house and remembering events that took place in each room. The plot is cleverly woven around three characters and deals with events spanning three decades in a very witty style. Eclair's stories are dark, bitter sweet and tinted with sarcasm.

This is not everyone's favourite writer but the language is good and the plot's very entertaining. A lovely author for a hot summer.

Our next book is 'Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine' by Gail Honeyman. Tuesday, 10th September.

September - Charing Gardeners' Society

Check out our Facebook page for photos of the very successful summer show held on 13th July and the visit to Tram Hatch garden in August. There is no monthly talk in September but members will be visiting the garden of a CGS member on Saturday 7th September. To join the society in time for that, just contact Nicky Bromley (01233 713615). The membership form is available on the CGS website <http://charinggardeners.org.uk>.

Our Autumn Show is on Saturday 21st September, and is always a spectacular end to the showing season. Held in the Parish Hall, there are classes for flowers and plants, fruit and veg, cookery, crafts, floral art including first-time entrants, and a class for children. Entries from non-members are very welcome. The fee is £1 whatever the number of entries. Bring exhibits between 9 and 11.15am, view the show and hear the results with cake and a cuppa from 2pm. Full details of the classes can be found on our website - have a look and have a go!

Parish News

Westwell Church Services for September
www.g7benefice.org

Sunday 1st: 11th Sunday of Trinity

8am Holy Communion
10am G7 Eucharist-Sheila Cox farewell

Friday 6th

10am Iona Eucharist

Sunday 8th: 12th Sunday of Trinity

11am Iona Eucharist
3.30pm Messy Church - Parish Hall

Sunday 15th: 13th Sunday of Trinity

11am Family Service

Sunday 22nd: 14th Sunday of Trinity

11am Eucharist

Sunday 29th: 15th Sunday of Trinity

8am Holy Communion - Pluckley
11am G7 Harvest Communion - Hothfield

Every Tuesday

9am Charing – The Eucharist
7pm Charing Heath – Prayer and Bible Study

Funerals

Ruth Temperley died on Tuesday 4th June aged 89. Her funeral took place at Charing Crematorium on Friday 5th July.

Sheila Julie Brooksbank died on Tuesday 9th July aged 61. Her funeral took place at St. Mary, Westwell, followed by burial at Westwell cemetery, on Wednesday 31st July.

*May God enfold Ruth and Sheila
in his tender love and care.*

Church Matters September 2019

This is the beginning of our season of celebration of Creation. See flier for details. We start back on the Sunday 8th September. This is the new pattern to avoid clashing with school holidays and bank holidays.

Messy Church on Sunday 8th September.

Creation Month parish hall 3.30 to 5pm. For children with an accompanying adult. Fun, games, crafts, story, songs and tea all with a bible theme.

All age service 15th September celebrates

Animal Creation.

A Thanksgiving service for animals in our lives. Bring a pet, a picture or a story. An informal service with coffee and cake. Things to do for adults and children. 11am at St Mary This month's coffee collection is for Food Bank costs.

Please don't forget to drop off something for the food bank if you can. The box is in church. Any non perishable foods are very welcome..

Looking forward...

Samaritans child shoe boxes and leaflets are now in the church. You can drop off items in the church or if you would like a box to fill between you and your friends please ask Heather to drop one off or collect one from the church. Email hlist@hotmail.com if you are interested.

Harvest services will start in September, from 15th September when we celebrate Animal Creation.

19th October is the Harvest Supper followed by Harvest festival at 11am on Sunday 20th October. We finish with bread and soup.

The 127 Canadian Wing and the American 362nd Fighter Groups

Each year, a number of people gather at the 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. Many gave their lives, or were injured during the war. Each year, we have recalled the part they played, and their sacrifice, with gratitude and thanksgiving.

The short service will take place this year on Sunday September 1st at 2.30pm. All are very welcome to attend.

Cleaning Rota.

Cleaning Scottie

Flowers Heather Lister

Brass Rosemary Harding



Events in Westwell this Summer

The annual Safari supper took place on June 22nd, providing a great evening and once again raising over £500 for St Mary Westwell, with many thanks to all who cooked and hosted so generously. 30th June saw the return of the Classic Car Show on a gloriously sunny summer Sunday, photographed and commented by Rob Ward, Westwell's very own motoring journalist who has written these reflections on the day:

“Sadly, unable to attend the first year that Graham relaunched the annual Vintage and Classic Vehicle Show, Emily and I were very keen to ensure we supported this year and support we did. I had the great pleasure in being asked to drive Bill Hotchkiss' beautiful Jaguar XK150 to the event.

Graham was anticipating a fairly large turn out on the day as the last year's pre-registered attendees turned out to be no gauge at all on the final numbers, which hugely exceeded expectation. This year, due to the stunning weather, it was looking to go in a similar direction, mainly as the registered attendee numbers were well into the twenties this time.

I arrived at the playing field around 10:30 after collecting the Jag and squeezing my camera gear into the boot back home. Some cars had already arrived and a nervous Graham was pacing a little, apprehensive yet recognisably demonstrative as ever!

As with any new venture like this, you can put up all of the Facebook posts and fliers you like, you can tell as many people and tap into as many resources as you can to gain interest, but until that day comes, you never really know how many people are going to stick to their promise.

The day surpassed expectations from all angles. Attendance was huge with people still arriving well after the 12noon supposed cut-off. There was a great variety of cars from the 1920s, right up to the early 2000s, from stunning, very rare and perfectly restored marques, to modern classics, sparking nostalgia for everyone.

The cars were all of a high standard too. Some really interesting stories of build, restoration and even initial purchase as I wandered round to speak to some of the owners. Every car had a fantastic history and each owner spoke of their car with such passion.

This is really what makes an event like this so popular. It doesn't matter what you bring, be it a rare one of two, 1920s Commer truck, to a pre-restoration Ford Model A or a 1984 BMW, you all share a common interest that brings you together, makes you get out on a Sunday morning, give the car a polish and get out and drive! After all, that's what they were all built for! I'd like to take the opportunity to congratulate Graham on what was a thoroughly successful day and I look forward to helping to grow this fantastic event even more next year”.

All the entry fees and proceeds were generously donated to two favourite Westwell projects: a loo for the Church and loo twinning. In total £650 was raised. Thank you Graham!

August should have been Gliding, but due to the high winds this has been rearranged for September 20th. The August Bank Holiday Fete photos are in this issue; results will be in the October Eye. 9th October is another annual Westwell event: the Harvest Supper and Auction of Promises. Contact Sue Wood on 623902 for details on how to participate in either of these events.



Westwell Players

Westwell Players are taking a well earned break for the summer months! We have had a party at the Hall with food brought along by all partygoers and some games organised by the Committee with lots of chat and memories re-lived. Scripts are being read and Pantomimes discussed with who could do what in mind! I am going to give you some names and numbers to ring if you are interested in helping out with our November Production. Please ring up if you are at all interested in any aspect of front or back stage participation. We would love to hear from you. Neil Cacket, Chairman - 07454 714186 Viki Faulkner, Treasurer - 01233 714001 Mary Anne Pitt, Vice Chair - 01233 714241. We would particularly like someone to come forward who is interested in the technical side, the taped music, lighting etc. and a tea lady or gent would be lovely too! In anticipation -- !!!!!!!!!

Mary Anne Pitt 

Step in to Hothfield's History 7th/8th September, St Margaret's Church

Immerse yourself in an exhibition of Hothfield's memories hosted in and around our beautiful 13th century church's historic interior with its stained glass windows. Admire the colourful Tufton tomb and learn about the Lords who owned the estate and built the manor houses. There will be displays of past Hothfield inside and outside the church to tell the stories of notable past residents now in the churchyard and the interesting features of the church. Further displays in Church Lane will compare past views of the country estate with the current scene. Stand where the estate's horses once worked and where the army trained in both World Wars. Touch the tree that was hit by a doodlebug and read Private Cresswell's story. There will also be a rare opportunity to visit the bell tower, plus there will be children's competitions with prizes. Light lunches and delicious home-made cakes and refreshments will be available at the church café.

Open from 10.30am to 4.30pm on both days. Admission is free, and there is ample parking. The church is wheelchair accessible (apart from the bell tower) and has an accessible lavatory. Well behaved dogs on leads welcome! Proceeds to Hothfield History Society and Friends of St Margaret's..To find out more information please visit www.hothfieldmemories.org.uk

Celebrating New Reader Ministry

On September 22nd at 18.30 in Canterbury Cathedral, Mark Taylor will be admitted to the Office of Reader. All are welcome to attend this service. The following Sunday, there will be a local celebration of Mark's new ministry at the benefice service in Hothfield at 11am.

What is a Reader, I hear you ask? According to the diocesan website, a Reader is "a theologically trained lay minister equipped to be a significant resource within the local church and community. Readers are ministers of the Word with a passion for communicating the Gospel."

Readers are called to work collaboratively within the ministry leadership team, preaching, leading worship and offering many other forms of ministry according to their individual gifting and calling. With appropriate training and authorisation, Readers may also take funerals. In the current climate of declining clergy resources, Readers are an invaluable part of the ministry of the Church of England. Following his licensing, Mark will serve with the rest of the team across the whole benefice. Please pray for Mark as he embarks on this new ministry. *Sheila*



September on Hothfield Heathlands

We are enjoying the full glory of the heather and the late summer insect and bird activity. A cool find reported by warden Ian Rickards are the Beewolves, *Philanthus triangulum*, a large solitary wasp of sandy areas. After seeing a small number over the last couple of years, there seem to be dozens this year. Adults feed on pollen but their larvae eat meat, so the female paralyses then carefully carries honey bees to the burrow in the sand, and lays an egg on them. Each cell has several bees, preserved from mould in the humid warmth by nitric oxide emitted by the bee eggs.

Gaseous emission is a solution used by some sundew species to avoid eating the insects they need for pollination, leaves and flowers emitting different combinations of volatiles. Here in the upper bog however, the round leaved sundew, *Drosera rotundifolia*, uses spatial separation and colour; the tiny white flowers are attractive and easy to land on, and carried along a slender stem rising several inches above the rosette of leaves, not obviously connected to the plant to the human eye, and well placed to attract passing flying insects. The leaves pressed close to the soggy ground or moss entrap insects crawling around. Thus immediate survival of the plant and provision for future generations are catered for.

One of the many uses of heather was to make ale and another shrub on the heathland bog myrtle or sweet gale, *Myrica gale*, was used to sweeten heather ale. There is just one colony of sweet gale, in a square of wooden fencing halfway up the upper bog on the left, visible from the causeway. Thought extinct since the 1960's, it is not known how this species has survived hidden for so long. A strongly resinous shrub, it was a precursor to hops in ale, provided fragrant oven wood, resin for candles, insect repellent and poultices, and a yellow dye. It's a good botanical for gin and vodka, was an Ingredient in Viking berserker brew, and I bet the druid Getafix in Asterix knew about it. Gale is from Old English *gagol* as in the place name Galsworthy.

Ticks have been in the news this summer. Ian reminds walkers that ticks on humans on the reserve are still few and far between, but definitely increasing and a very regular occurrence on dogs. He advises keeping dogs to the main paths and checking yourselves and your dogs on leaving the reserve. For tick removal and other medical information go to the NHS website. The Heathland is open to everyone; trails are signposted and marked on entrance maps, as is the location of livestock. The noticeboard down the main slope from the Cades Road car park gives recent wildlife sightings. Please keep dogs in check, especially around children and livestock, and keep them away from the heather and undergrowth where they will disturb sensitive wildlife. Please remove dog mess, including in the Triangle compartment. For email alerts on the location of the livestock on Hothfield contact Ian Rickards ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk. or 01622 662012.

Margery Thomas 

Egerton Gardens Open - September

4th September: Phillida and Martin Pym, Old Hill Lodge, The Hill, Charing TN27 0LU

11th September: Wendy Simkins, Barlings, Stonehill Road, TN27 9DU

18th September: Pam Scrivens, Tram Hatch, Charing Heath, TN27 0BN

25th September: Mary Walker, 3, Water Villas, Rock Hill Road, TN27 9ED