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February at the Wheel

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and other essential works



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'The Wheel Inn'
for latest information

When Reopened
Food
at The Wheel

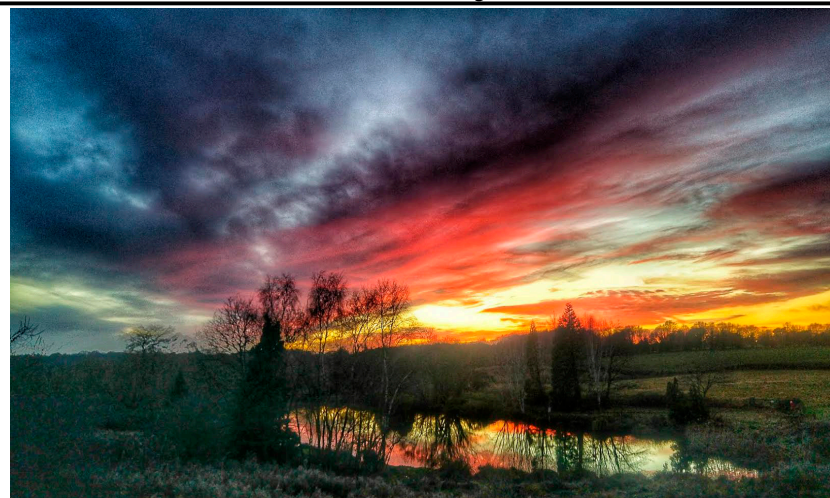
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Friday - Fish and Chips
Saturday - Steak
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07725 904808
(Andrea's mobile)

www.wheelinn-westwell.co.uk

THE WESTWELL

168 February 2017



Sunset over Westwell - taken by Doug Harman
Westwell Church in the snow - taken by Michael Briest

Every Mon, Wed, Fri 6am Early Morning Fitness - Parish Hall
3rd February 10.30 11.45am Coffee Underwood, p13
17th February Book Club The Wheel, p13
Every Tuesday 7.30pm Players' rehearsal
Most Sundays 2.30pm Players' rehearsal
Thursdays 10.30am No Dog Training this month

February 2017

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Mar 5 4th Sunday before Lent 8am Holy Communion St. Mary Westwell 2.30pm players	6 6am Early Morning Fitness 1.30pm Painting 7pm Fitness	7 7.30pm Players' rehearsal	1 6am Early Morning Fitness 11am Over 50s Fistssteps	2 R.F.W.G 9.15am Pilates No Dog training	3 6am Early Morning Fitness 10am Eucharist 10.30 Coffee, Hoopers, Underwood	4
12 3rd Sunday before Lent 11am Iona Eucharist St. Mary Westwell 2.30pm players	13 6am Early Morning Fitness 7pm Fitness	14 11am Book Club p13 Celeste Muir 7.30pm Players' rehearsal	15 6am Early Morning Fitness 11am Over 50s Fistssteps	16 R.F.W.G 9.15am Pilates No Dog training	17 6am Early Morning Fitness	18
19 2nd Sunday before Lent 11am Family Service St Mary Westwell 2.30pm players	20 6am Early Morn 1.30pm Painting 7pm Fitness	21 7.30pm Players' rehearsal	22 6am Early Morning Fitness	23 R.F.T. 9.15am Pilates No Dog training	24 6am Early Morning Fitness	25
26 Sunday next before Lent 11am Eucharist St. Mary Westwell 2.30pm players	27 6am Early Morning Fitness	28 7.30pm Players' rehearsal	Mar 1 6am Early Morning Fitness	2 R.F.W.G	3 6am Early Morning Fitness	4

From the Editor's desk...

Apologies to Clive Bainbridge for omitting his memories of Kip from the January Eye and also to Joe Stuart Smith for spelling his name wrong – I know perfectly well the difference in spelling for male and female Joe/Jo!

There is no dog training in February, in fact for 6 weeks, as Mark, the trainer, is having a hip operation.

You can book your tickets now for the next Players' production on 9th, 10th and 11th March.

The coffee morning on the first Friday of the month will vary its venue, so keep an eye on the magazine calendar. February is being hosted by Kay and David Hooper.

As you will see from the enclosed leaflet, it's Citizen Award time again, so get your thinking caps on for your worthy winner and have your nomination in by 10th Mach. The rules and regulations are on the leaflet.

You can read about the future of The Wheel on page 3. The village is getting a Defibrillator, which you can read about on the same page and you can also book a session to learn how to use it.

Advance notice:- The WI meeting for March is on the 3rd Thursday due to the Players' next production and a diary muddle.

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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Rachael Heyhoe Flint, Baroness Heyhoe Flint, OBE DL

June 1939 - January 2017

An English cricketer, businesswoman and philanthropist. She was best known for being captain of England from 1966 to 1978, was unbeaten in six Test series: in total she played for the English women's cricket team from 1960 to 1982. Heyhoe Flint was captain when her team won the inaugural 1973 Women's Cricket World Cup. According to Scyld Berry: "She was, among other achievements, the Dr W.G. Grace of women's cricket – the pioneer without whom the game would not be what it is."

Heyhoe Flint was chiefly a batsman. She played in 22 Women's Test cricket matches, with a batting average of 45.54 in 38 innings. She scored three Test centuries, including her highest score of 179, a world record when she scored it against Australia at the Oval in 1976, earning a draw to save the series by batting for more than 8½ hours. She was captain of the first England women's team to play at Lord's in the 1976 Women's Ashes series. After being replaced as England captain in 1978, she played her last Test match in the 1979 series against West Indies, but went on to play in the 1982 Women's Cricket World Cup.

Outside cricket, she played as goalkeeper for the England national field hockey team in 1964. After retiring from cricket, Heyhoe Flint worked as a journalist, broadcaster, - in 1973 she was appointed TV's first woman sports presenter with ITV's World of Sport, - award-winning after-dinner speaker, businesswoman and board director. She was appointed (MBE) in 1972, and was one of the first ten women admitted to the MCC in 1999, as an honorary life member. In 2004, she was the first woman elected to the full committee of the MCC and latterly became a Trustee. She was made a director of Wolverhampton Wanderers F.C. in 1997, later becoming an ex officio Vice President.

She was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of the West Midlands in 1997, [9] and was President of the Lady Tarners charity from 2001 to 2011.

She was received an OBE in the 2008 New Year Honours, and in October 2010 was inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame, the first woman to achieve this accolade. In April 2011, Heyhoe-Flint was granted the freedom of Wolverhampton.

On 19 November 2010, it was announced that she was to be ennobled to sit in the House of Lords as a Conservative Party peer. "I was completely taken by surprise when I took the call from the Prime Minister in September," Heyhoe Flint said. "Obviously I am really thrilled at my appointment, but still very humbled at the thought of joining such an historic institution ... My background in sport, journalism, charity and community work will I hope stand me in good stead and I hope I can make a positive contribution as a working peer. I will certainly look forward to the commute from one Lord's to another Lords." She was subsequently invested as a life peer on 21st January 2011 taking the title Baroness Heyhoe Flint, of Wolverhampton in the County of West Midlands.

*Mystery guest
Doug Harman*



The Wheel Inn

Sadly we will be losing James and Andrea from The Wheel. They have decided to move on. We shall miss them and their boys. The good news is that it isn't immediate: they will all still be around for a few more months, and their intention is for The Wheel to be open at weekends. The Bar will be open and there will be fish and chips on Fridays and steak on Saturdays, but both a on preorder basis – see The Wheel ad on back page for details.

The Wheel closed for 2 weeks on January 20 th for kitchen refurbishment and other essential works. It is good news that Shepherd Neame are undertaking these improvements, but as we all know works often overrun. James and Andrea will reopen The Wheel as soon as the work is done.

Some time ago the Parish Council registered the Wheel as an Asset of Community Value. This doesn't mean the parish council can guarantee its viability, but it does mean we can discuss with Shepherd Neame what the options are for the future running of the Wheel. Contacts are being made and Shepherd Neame are keen to talk to the parish council. All we know at this stage is that no decisions have been made, so discussions are most certainly worthwhile. As soon as we have more information about what the options are, we expect to have a meeting in the parish hall to share what we know and hear from Westwell residents and others.

We will advertise the meeting as widely as possible including with a Westwell Events email and Westwell Facebook message and a notice on the Westwell community website : www.westwell.org. And of course in next month's Eye if the meeting is in March or later.

In the meantime do use the Wheel when it reopens : that is what an asset of community value means in practice. Clive Bainbridge and Lucy Farrington are the Parish Council contacts with Shepherd Neame, do get in touch with either of them if you want to comment now.

Christine Drury, Chairman Westwell Parish Council

Village defibrillator

The Parish Council has placed an order for a defibrillator, which will be located in a cabinet on the outside wall of the parish hall. Delivery is expected in late January, early February.

The equipment has been obtained at a discounted price from a supplier recommended by the Kent Association of Local Councils, and one-third of the cost is being paid for by a contribution from the proceeds of the 2016 summer fete. The remaining two-thirds is being met from ring-fenced funds held by the Parish Council on behalf of the Community Led Plan group – the committee agreed that because the defibrillator is for the benefit of the community, this would be an appropriate use of the money

Emergency first aid and resuscitation training

The equipment is known as an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and as the name implies anyone can use it without any specialist training. However, to boost confidence we are offering a free emergency first aid course, which will include use of the AED, for local residents.

The course will be held on **Saturday 18th March** from 10am and will last around 2 hours. Andrew Saunders is an experienced professional and trainer but will make a serious piece of work both interesting and fun.

The course is open to 20 people so please give me a call or email to book your free place as you never know when these skills may be life-saving.

clive.bainbridge@gmail.com 07720 908001

Community News

Useful telephone Numbers

Age UK	642094
Ashford Volunteer Bureau	633219
Bees (swarming)	
Andy Bithell	740650 / 07933892413
Borough Councillor:	
Larry Krause	01233 643497
CAB	626185
Carers Support Group	664393
Childline Freephone	0800 1111
Cinema	0871 2208000
Citizens' Advice Bureau	626185
Cruse Bereavement Counselling	878225
Doctors (Charing)	01233 714490
(Hayesbank)	624642
Dog Warden	01233 330340
Hospital (William Harvey)	633331
KCC Community Warden for Hothfield and Charing - Dave Beckley	07811 271306
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
PCSO	angie.burden@kent.pnn.police.uk
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
Wheel Inn (landlord James Meire)	712430
Westwell Community Website:	
http://www.westwellpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/	

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Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Wednesday 4th January and began with the Open Session, which gives members of the public the opportunity to raise matters of concern with the Parish Council. This was followed by the election of Councillor Lawrence as Vice-chairman, Councillor Miss Davidson has stepped down from the role for the short-term for health reasons but will continue as a parish councillor.

The Minutes of the November and December meetings were agreed and there were no Matters Arising.

The Financial report was presented; invoicing of advertisers and subscribers has been taken over by the Clerk who will report on Eye finances at Parish Council meetings. It was agreed that the village defibrillator will be located outside the parish hall and it is hoped that it will be installed in February, it was noted that additional hall exterior lighting will be needed; Councillor Bainbridge will arrange a 2-hour training session in the use of the defibrillator, provisional date is February 25th. A quote will be sought for ad hoc gardening jobs for the parish council : initially these would be maintenance of the shrubbery outside the hall and establishment of the Garden of Remembrance in the cemetery.

The draft Budget for 2017-18 was discussed. It was noted that the Parish Council's Reserves have fallen because of recent projects such as the church path and cemetery access. It was agreed to increase the Precept by 2%, to £15759. Quotes for grounds maintenance were circulated, it was agreed to place the contract with Aspire (Ashford Borough Council's newly established in-house service) for 3 years but with a break clause after 1 year in the event that the required standard of work is not achieved.

Planning: no new planning applications had been received; the Tarmac application for a significant increase in out-of-hours working periods was approved by KCC (the planning authority for this type of application) but with conditions. The revised draft of the Local Plan to 2030 is not now likely to be published until April. The Oakover/Vatre application will be decided by the ABC Planning Committee and the Parish Council will speak at the meeting (having raised some objections to the application).

The draft Risk Register had been circulated and suggested changes incorporated, the amended Register was adopted.

Reports were given by Parish Council representatives. The 3 new village signs have been ordered and will be installed within 28 days of completion. The Chairman and Councillor Bartlett met KCC Highways with Councillor Parker (Hothfield) to discuss lorry parking, and saw detailed proposals to prevent lorries being able to park on the A20; and learned that there is now also a proposal to increase formal lorry parking capacity at the Waterbrook site. Overgrown hedges: where these are a cause for concern landowners will be asked to take the appropriate action. Trees underneath power lines on the playing field were pruned by UK Power Networks. Measures to address problems for disabled users on the crazy paving behind the hall are in hand. An offer from Graham Hutchison to help with the playing field and other tasks in the parish was accepted with thanks. Broadband in the parish: some properties, notably in Pilgrims Way, still do not have access to a fast service. This will be discussed by the Parish Council at a future meeting. The next meeting is on Monday 6th March in the hall at 7pm, all meetings are open to the public and all are welcome.

Mystery Guest:

Who do you know who has sold 1.5 million books worldwide?

Today's guest was born at home in Neasden, west London to Dad, a Metropolitan Police Officer and housewife Mum. Starting his Primary school, on the first day he decided that he didn't like school much and so just walked home, much to the chagrin of his mother whom promptly marched him back again. At the London school he helped make a movie about Egypt, providing some direction, and starred as a canopic jar filler complete with entrails (in the jar, not his!). This was shown at school open day to the throng of parents. A rather challenging learning environment meant he had to quickly learn some self-defence skills in the playground! He also recalls the chemistry-obsessed father of a friend who liked to blow things up in the garden. Some of his friends were injured, thankfully not him.

The family moved to Capel-le-Ferne when he was 10 and he joined his new school for the last year of primary school. Then he went to Astor Secondary Modern in Dover, but things didn't go well, until at 15, he recalls enjoying and learning Kung Fu and getting involved in photography and film-making. Dad was a keen photographer too.

He left school with an Art A level. He told his Dad he would like to become a Policeman - but was discouraged for his poor handwriting. And Dad said: "You'll never make a career in Art" so, thanks to that art A-level, he started a 4-year apprenticeship with a printing firm in Dover, gaining a Diploma in printing during a 3 month stay in Heidelberg Germany.

He also joined the Territorial Army for what transpired to be a 13 year commitment. Having been a soldier for just six-months, he was about to go off to fight in the Falklands war, but all the equipment was lost when the enemy sank the Atlantic Conveyor. As he progressed, he gained his crossed rifles (as a sniper) but subsequently, towards the end of his TA career, taught cadet officers field-craft and battle tactics. For a more relaxed hobby, he DJ'ed at a local nightclub.

By the age of 21 he was married with 2 daughters, buying a house in Folkestone for £11,000. And despite their subsequent break up – things remained amicable, and he took the photos at his ex-wife's second wedding. His current relationship developed and produced a third daughter.

He remained in the printing industry but was made redundant in the recession and changed to work for high-end printers Gross Monty in Ashford for one-year until again, he was made redundant.

It was at this point he decided to retrain as a journalist, he felt that he wanted to write, and headed to London and the media school at the London College of Printing at the Elephant and Castle, where he'd originally studied for his print apprenticeship many years earlier.

He eventually gained a Certificate in Periodical Journalism. He pestered his way into 'work experience' at 'Amateur Photographer Magazine'. After 2 years he was appointed as Technical Writer, then Deputy Technical Editor, Technical Editor, then on to Web Editor, travelling all over world to shoot and write about photography and photography kit. **Contd. on p 9**



Westwell WI

Ladies – have you ever wanted to do something different – try out a Segway? Climb the O2? Are your interests less adventurous – croquet, wine tasting? You can do all this and more with the WI.

As we are a very mixed group of ladies of all ages, our activities are extremely varied – members just pick what appeals to them. In the coming year we will be having a croquet evening – this gets very competitive! We will also have a mystery trip – this is usually to a local place of interest and we try to find somewhere not usually visited by members or the public in general. Some of us will be having another go on segways, and a few brave members plan to climb the O2 later this year. Every couple of months we meet up for lunch in a local restaurant or pub. So our other halves do not feel left out, we are holding a barbecue evening and a race evening to both of which they are invited. In addition our wine and cheese tasting evening is open to all, as is our annual quiz night.

All this is in addition to our regular monthly meeting with a speaker, followed by refreshments and a chat. (Our monthly meeting was cancelled in January due to the bad weather.)

If you think this might be for you, try us out as a guest for a couple of months – just turn up at the Parish Hall.

Advanced notice:- the March meeting is on the 3rd Thursday of the month (16th March) due to the performances by the Westwell Players that week - see page 10

Painting Group (open to non-members)

February 6th, 20th.

Marilyn Warner

Next Meeting: Thursday 9th February at 7.30pm.

Talk: Mad Musicians & Crazy Dancers - Alan Haines

Hostesses: Kay Hooper, Liz Jamieson, Ivy Clifton

Vote of thanks: Terry Roach

Competition - Orange



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Westwell Community Watch Scheme

Keeping you Safe and Secure

Did you know

Following the retirement of Alex Harrington we welcome new Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for East Kent - Andrew F Judd. He is a retired Police officer of 30 years service and was based at Ashford for most of his career and worked as an Inspector in the field of Neighbourhood Policing and Community Safety for most of this time.

Currently based at Ashford Police Station his contact details are below.

Andrew Judd NHW East division Liaison Officer, Tel: 01233 896151 Mob. 07980965236
andrew.judd2@kent.pnn.police.uk

A resident reports receiving an e-mail from Scott & Mears, a legitimate debt recover company, with an attachment detailing a debt. Before opening the attachment he phoned the company and they had no knowledge of the sender (John Hughes) and said they have had a number of calls on this issue. It was a fraud – be warned

2-WATCH-4

From the Kent Police Rural Crime Team – January 2017

Nothing reported so far this year

From KCC Trading Standards –

“Migrant Helpline’ scam email steals bank details”

Criminals are using a genuine charity ‘Migrant Helpline’ to send scam emails that contain banking malware. If you click on the link in the email a well-known Trojan (Ramnit) will be downloaded to your device. Once activated the malware targets and steals personal and business banking information.

If you receive this email delete it immediately

Don't click on links or open any attachments

Check your antivirus software is running and up to date

Contact your bank immediately if you think your bank details have been taken,

Policing in Kent

Matthew Scott, the new Kent Police and Crime Commissioner is seeking your views on an above target increase in the Kent Police precept for 2017/8

To see his arguments and respond to the Consultation go to

http://kent-pcc.gov.uk/home.php?entry_id=1483720151 and have your say

For more on these and news of other local criminal activity go to the Police and Community Watch page at www.westwell.org

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Keep Vigilant - Tony Bartlett – WCWS Co-ordinator

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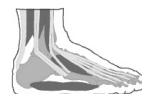
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doriscackett@btinternet.com



Letter to the Parishes

As you read this we will be in the season of Candlemas, occurring at the mid-point of winter and in pre-Christian times seen to herald the coming of spring: a festival of light. In Christianity it commemorates the ritual purification of Mary 40 days after Jesus' birth, when Joseph and Mary brought the infant Jesus to be presented to God at the Temple in Jerusalem, in obedience to Jewish law.

Candlemas is rooted in a winter festival of birth and light but importantly it is also a celebration of living and ageing in undiminished faith. Luke's Gospel tells us that Jesus was recognised as the promised Messiah by both Simeon and Anna, devout Jews who trusted in God's promises. Simeon acknowledged Jesus as 'a Light to the whole World'.

Simeon and Anna were old people at the end of their lives, witnessing the dedication of Jesus at the beginning of His earthly life. They had been waiting in faithful expectation of God's promise of a Messiah being fulfilled, dedicating themselves to worship, service and prayer. Their faith enabled them to recognise that God's promises were realised in Jesus and confidently to praise God for His love and unfailing covenant with His people.

So here we are, at the beginning of a new year, in the midst of a winter when our future can feel very frightening and dark. The old political and social certainties are under enormous challenge and the alternatives on offer can feel terrifying. Candlemas reminds us of the importance of holding fast to our faith, in confidence that God is who He says He is and is to be trusted. He loves us and promises our good but in order to be open to His truth, we have to allow ourselves also to be open to the possibility of surprise and discomfort by what He asks of us. When we cannot rely on things around us being predictable, do we dare to trust Him and believe that His message is true for us today? Can we dare to be obedient to what Jesus teaches us? To let His love change our behaviour and challenge our prejudices, particularly at a time when we are feeling insecure and confused?

Jewish law taught that Mary and Joseph, needed to make an animal sacrifice to God as an atonement for sin. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus shows us the full extent of God's love and care for us and that Christ's sacrifice of Himself for our sin means that all we need to do, all God wants us to do, is to accept His love.

Simeon and Anna were old people at the end of their lives but they recognised and celebrated Jesus' life with joy. They praised God and looked to the future with hope because they recognised that in Jesus God had fulfilled His promises to us all.

The challenge for each of us, both in this season of Candlemas and throughout the year is, like Simeon and Anna, to have faith in God's promise that He has a good plan for this world and our future. As the song of Simeon tells us: 'These eyes of mine have seen the Saviour, whom You have prepared for all the world to see: a light to enlighten the nations.' May we too look forward in hope and expectation.

Mary Penwarden
Authorized Lay Reader 

Etc

Coffee at The Wheel Inn

Coffee at Underwood, Kay and David Hooper, **Friday 3rd February** from 10.30 - 11.45am. Before coffee there will be Iona Eucharist at 10am in St Mary's

Charing & District Local History Society
The Campbells - speed kings: Speaker: *Donald Stevens*

A film composite showing Sir Malcolm and Donald Campbell winning their world speed records, both land and water (cars and boats) **9th February** at Charing Parish Hall. 7.45pm for prompt start at 8pm

Painting

Painting Group in the Parish Hall at 1.30pm
6th, 20th February and 6th, 20th March.

Book Club meeting, January 10th 2017.

We met at Margery's as the pub was closed. We had a large group this time and it was good to see some who had not been for the last three meetings! The book, *Under the Tuscan Sun* by France Meyes, had a mixed review. It is a sort of 'year in Provence' memoir. Written by an American academic (writer) who buys a ruin in Tuscany and goes back to it whenever she has a break from her lectureship in California! She must have had money for that was an expensive project. She was helped significantly by her partner, another lecturer, who seemed to do most of the work, with lots of handsome locals, though our lady protagonist seemed to give herself all the credit. The book was made into a film and a lot of our discussion was about the latter! We therefore decided to watch the film together, over tea, later next month! A bit of follow-up...

Next month we meet at Celeste's to discuss several books which were in our late friend Sheila Horton's collection. That will be a very interesting meeting, with a longer entry in the Eye. Happy reading.

1st Charing Scout Group

We start this year of fundraising with £21,000 in the bank! Thank you so much for all your support. We hope to start work on the foundations as soon as the weather improves. Our main fundraising event this year will be the Charing Colour Run. More details soon... Sainsburys Active Kids starts again this month. We have benefitted in the past from this and are hoping that you will save your tokens for us again.

gs1_charingscoutgroup@hotmail.co.uk
Terry Lister



Further note from our other leaders. We have just heard that Terry has been given the Chief Scout's Award for Merit. Congratulations! We are very proud of you.

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Westwell Church Services for February
www.g7benefice.org

Friday 3rd:

10am Iona Eucharist

Sunday 5th: 4th Sunday before Lent

8am Holy Communion

Sunday 12th: 3rd Sunday before Lent

11am Iona Eucharist

Sunday 19th: 2nd Sunday before Lent

8am Family Service

Sunday 26th: Sunday next before Lent

11am Eucharist

Tuesdays:

9am Charing – The Eucharist

7pm Charing Heath – Prayer and Bible Study

All Age service

Sunday 19th February at 11am.

Theme creation. Join us for a fun light hearted service with. Lots to do for all ages.

Dates for your Diary

Dates for your Diary

All age service 19th March, preparing for Mother's Day.

Mothering Sunday 26th March. Communion service celebrating our mother church.

Easter Day Sunday 19th March 19th family service with communion. More details next month.

Does this Float your Boat?

Taking your children to a messy afternoon themed around an idea?

Joining others, adults and children for coffee and biscuits round a table, talking about today's theme?

Meeting in a small group to explore the bible in someone's house?

An informal meeting in church with following a service sheet with chance for children to play and join in?

A spiritually based church service with communion?

A modern communion service?

A traditional morning service following the old pattern of words and praise?

The Church of England is a broad church with different approaches to worship and all of these are available locally. The services listed above increase in formality and structure as you move down the list.

Interested in exploring ideas? Try the Lent meetings at various times and places, a session a week for 6 weeks. Details next month or in the Church porch.

If you just want to dip a toe into a service and see try Cornerstone in Little Chart, every Sunday at 11am or Messy in Charing and Westwell monthly on a Sunday afternoon at 3.30pm the beginning of the month? Or if you want it to include Hymns and simple worship? All age service in Westwell at 11am on the third Sunday of each month.. Coming up Easter and Mothers Day.

More structured spiritually based? The Iona service First Friday of the month at 10am or second Sunday at 11am, both with communion.

More traditional services? First Sunday at 8am the service that has been held since 1600 or fourth Sunday at 11am a modern service with communion.

Want to know more? Or Would you like to go with someone to introduce you?

Ring Martin Wyatt 01233 712150 or Sue Wood 01233 623902 or Heather Lister 01233 712981.

Church Cleaning Rota.

Cleaning Wendy Bartlett

Flowers: Heather Lister

Brass: Valerie Hooper

The Church is being cleaned on the 3rd Monday of each month by Helpful Hands. This helps the cleaning rota and only requires one helper to vac the carpet , sweep the alter area and porch three times a month i.e 1st, 2nd and 4th weeks. The brass rota is reduced so one person has two months to clean the brass once.

Thank you for your dedicated help it is much appreciated by the PCC and myself

Mystery guest contd. from p 5.

Later, working for another firm producing 'What Digital Camera Magazine' and then to 'Total Digital Photography Magazine'. The redundancy once again struck a blow, forcing him to 'go freelance'.

The week after he went freelance he was married to his second wife, and on returning from their Orient Express honeymoon, he was commissioned to write a book called 'The Digital Photography Handbook', which has become – and remains – a UK, No1 best-seller. Now in its 6th edition, it is sold in 19 languages.

The family moved to Westwell in 2006, where he continues as a freelance photographer, writer of reviews and teaches photography.

Most recently he's set up 'Capture and Create', a new business offering photographic holidays - luxury cruises with photographic training included.

In his career he has interviewed Patrick Litchfield and David Bailey

and possesses over 300,000 digital images plus thousands of slide and negative photos, from the days of yore. **Answer p 18.**

Memories of Christopher Pitt

Chrissie and I have been neighbours and more importantly friends with Kip for over 30 years. I have experienced the loss of someone close to me but it is rare when it is someone who has had such an impact on your life, both unseen and visible. The visible aspects are his amazing handiwork all around our house, the set of wooden stairs to the flat, the postbox in the porch, until recently the oak front gate and many more examples where his love of woodwork and his extraordinary engineering skills and knowledge came to my rescue.

How many people are lucky enough to have a neighbour who can bring a JCB digger up to the house.

The unseen impacts are the countless occasions when he has provided his own special brand of humour that somehow remains with you decades later. Such as the time I was replacing the lid on my septic tank and dropped a tool into it. I recall Kip stirring the murky depths trying to locate it and his words that you have to be quite close to someone to be up to your elbows inwell you get the drift.

Or the time when we were on an overnight ferry crossing to Holland and we shared a twin bunk-beds cabin with Anne and Kip. Chrissie was in my bottom bunk and had removed the ladder as she claimed it made her claustrophobic. That was fine until about 3am when I needed to get down to floor level and the only way in the pitch black seemed to be to get across to Kippy's bunk and down his ladder. This plan was executed with great stealth until unfortunately Kip suddenly awoke... to find a strange apparition hovering beside him in the bed...and the quiet of the night evaporated in laughter

There are just so many stories to tell....

Kip was a huge character and a significant influence in my life. We will miss him.

Clive Bainbridge



Westwell Players

There is lots going on in Westwell that you don't know about, lines being learned and props and scenery being organised. Westwell Players are getting ready to put on a Spring show and all beaver away at home learning and practising ready for Rehearsals. Tuesday evenings resounds with laughter in the Parish Hall as Neil Cackett puts everyone through their paces. It's 'books down' on Sunday 29th January at 2.p.m. and there will be some extra folk there to see that the tea and coffee in the interval are a little more than just biscuits, to sustain all you promising actors in your hour of need. Details are as follows:- Title: "Life Goes On" – a series of humorous sketches, Dates, 9th, 10th and 11th March and the time is 7.30.p.m. in the Parish Hall. Tickets are priced at a very reasonable £7. And there is a warning that some of the content is thought to be unsuitable for children. Tickets will be on Sale from now and the Box Office is with Doris Cackett at No 6, Gold Hill, Telephone No: 01233 712016. If you wish you can e-mail Doris at doriscackett@btinternet.com please remember to fill in the Subject on your e-mail with 'Westwell Players tickets'. If you send your request, please remember to include a stamped addressed envelope for Doris to return them to you. The Players are very grateful to Westwell WI for kindly agreeing to move their March Meeting to another venue as there was a slight misunderstanding as to which Thursday was WI night! Even the most organised of people make mistakes sometimes and there has been great consternation when it was realised that the Hall had been double-booked! 'Life Goes On' is quite a challenge for the Players with some old friends returning to tread the boards once again, Lucy Whitling is taking part this time and we are all so pleased to see her smiling face back each week once again after a break to bring up two lovely children. Most of the sketches are short so there are not too many lines to be learned which is a great relief to most of our happy band! News too of Pam and Fred Nash who are happily settled in Norfolk where they have joined another amateur dramatic society who all learn their lines before the first rehearsal. I am looking forward to hearing about their first parts with the new Company and am sad that it is a little too far away for us to go and see the Show! Good luck to them all nonetheless, Norfolk's gain is Westwell's loss and we miss them both dearly but wish them both well in their new home and in the new show too!

Mary Anne Pitt 

Plans

16/01673/AS & 16/01674/AS Church Barn, Westwell Court, Eastwell Lane, Westwell To replace the existing double doors/windows to the side of property with similar style black powder coated aluminium bi-fold doors. Approved by the Borough Council.

16/01469/AS Church Barn, Westwell Court Variation of Condition 7 of application 90/00614/AS (Conversion of redundant barn and former stables into 5 dwellings) to allow planting of boundary hedge. Approved by the Borough Council.

16/01470/AS Vineyards, The Street, Westwell Erection of a side conservatory. Approved by the Borough Council

February on Hothfield Heathland

Do you still feel like hibernating through to the end of winter? You would be in good company with many animals and invertebrates on Hothfield Heathland. However, a walk out there at this time of year is exhilarating and you won't be alone. Among the birds seen in January were a great white egret, along with all the little egrets, water rail and stone chat. The highland cattle and Herdwick sheep have spent the winter outside and on a warm February day you might even see a small tortoiseshell butterfly emerging from hibernation in its adult state. It will also be one of the last flying about in late autumn.

Hibernation for our resident butterflies and moths means different things for different species. The master of camouflage, the buff-tip moth which feeds in summer on birch, oak, willow and hazel, all present on the heath, spends winter as a chrysalis underground, emerging only in late spring, to fly in June and July. As a moth it most closely resembles a birch twig and there is always plenty of birch to lurk in on the heath.

The meadow brown butterfly overwinters as a green caterpillar (larva) hidden head down deep in a clump of grass. On warmer days it will be munching away at the grass, always one of its preferred food species, fattening up for the next moult. The vibration of your footsteps will make it drop to the ground out of danger until you pass and it crawls up to its feeding station again.

The caterpillar of the small copper butterfly feeds on the underside of leaves of sorrel and dock, eating itself into a groove and attaching itself for the winter to a leaf or leaf stem by a pad of silk.

The year's final brood of the small white butterfly overwinters as a chrysalis (pupa) attached to a tree trunk by a silk girdle. Gardeners won't want to know that this, one of the cabbage whites, is just waiting to metamorphose and find food plants in the brassica family on which to lay its eggs.

So even if the grass snake is tucked up under a log pile for a few more months, everything on the heath is not still and calm in winter, there is always something to see or hear or guess at. And the bluebell leaves are already pushing up to the light. Gardeners can help a myriad of wildlife by leaving wild corners untidy until later in the spring, allowing whatever is hibernating in the leaf litter, log piles and long grass to awaken naturally. There is more information about wildlife gardening on the website of the Wildlife Trusts. Warm clothes and sturdy footwear, or wellies for puddle-lovers, are all you need to enjoy a breath of fresh in this special space on our doorstep, open to all, including dogs that are kept in check. The noticeboards at the entrances 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 or check the cattle and contact the Warden on ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk, tel 01622 662012.

Margery Thomas

