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# THE WESTWELL

169 March 2017



*Doris and Nigel - taken by Leah Hutchinson*

3rd March  
6th, 20th  
9th, 10, 11th March  
14th March  
16th March  
26th March  
27th March  
28th March

10.30 - 11.45am Coffee p13  
1.30pm Westwell Art Group - p3  
7.30pm Players - Life Goes On  
Book Club, Joan Richards p13  
7.30pm WI  
Mothering Sunday  
Parish Council AGM  
am Village Litter Pick - p2

## March 2017

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
2	3	4	1	2	3	4
1st Sunday of Lent 8am Holy Communion St. Mary Westwell 2.30pm players	6 1.30pm Painting 7pm Parish Council	7 7.30pm Players' Dress rehearsal	8 11am Over 50s Fistssteps 7.30pm Holy Communion	9 Re.F.T. 9.15am Plates No Dog training 7.30pm Life Goes On	10 7.30pm 'Life Goes On'	11 7.30pm 'Life Goes On'
12 2nd Sunday of Lent 11am Iona Eucharist St. Mary Westwell	13 7pm Fitness	14 11am Book Club p13 Celeste Muir 7.30pm Players' rehearsal	15 11am Over 50s Fistssteps	16 R.F.W.G 9.15am Plates No Dog training ** 7.30pm WI **	17 7pm Fitness Dance As U Go an evening of dancing	18 10am Defibrillator Training
19 3rd Sunday of Lent 11am Eucharist St Mary Westwell	20 1.30pm Painting 7pm Fitness	21 7.30pm Players' rehearsal	22 11am Over 50s Fistssteps	23 Re.F.T. 9.15am Plates No Dog training	24	25
26 Mothering Sunday 11am Family Service St. Mary Westwell	27 Parish Council AGM	28 Village litter pick p2 7.30pm Players' rehearsal	29 11am Over 50s Fistssteps	30 R.F.W.G	31	April 1

# From the Editor's desk...

Have you bought your tickets for the next Westwell Players' production yet? If not, get in touch with Doris now as tickets are selling fast and there's only about a week to go, March 9th, 10th and 11th – see page 10.

The WI Art group has changed its name to the Westwell Art Group and meets every two weeks on a Monday afternoon, open to all you can read all about it on page 3

Don't forget to book your place for the defibrillator training morning on 18th March.

The Parish Council AGM is 27th March, do go and support your hardworking councillors who do fantastic work for NO financial reward, it is your opportunity to show your support and gratitude.

The St. Mary's Restoration Fund has been re-opened (page 3) to raise money for a loo and a kitchen, both greatly needed as it will make the church a much more popular venue for extra activities.

Every contribution helps, however small so do support the events already planned and if you have any thoughts of other ways to raise money please get in touch with Sue Wood or Martin Wyatt.

*Carolyn Thorneloe* 

**Stop Press:** Shepherd Neame have now asked to meet with the Parish Council and a meeting is being arranged this month.

Come and hear more at the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30 on 27th March in the Parish Hall.

The views of any contributor to this publication may not necessarily be those of the editor and team, nor can the Westwell Eye accept any responsibility in connection with any companies or organisations mentioned or any advertiser.

Correspondence to: Carolyn Thorneloe, Gaoler's Retreat, 5, Faversham Road, Lenham, Maidstone Kent ME17 2PN. Tel: 01622 859376, Email: westwelleye@gmail.com

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The Weald of Kent Protection Society is looking for new members to support our work. The Society recognises that our villages need to accept some level of development in order to accommodate necessary 'new blood' but also the families of those who want to stay in the countryside. The problem today is the threat of inappropriate developments, with far too many houses on one site, or houses that bear little relation to the needs of local residents.

We are especially vigilant for our countryside, too, where applications for poultry farms, large barns, and traveller settlements are rife as well as housing developments on green field sites.

We undertake to scrutinise all planning applications and where appropriate submit comments in planning terms to the local authorities, who respect our views.

You can support this Charity in our mission to protect your village and countryside by joining the Weald of Kent Protection Society. Membership is £15 per person per year ( £20 per couple). Social events and outings are included in our programme.

Details from Fay Merrick [secretary@wkps.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wkps.org.uk). or our website [www.wkps.org.uk](http://www.wkps.org.uk)

We need your support to carry on with this valuable work!

### 1st Charing Scout Group

We are on our way!! A test hole is being examined to determine what sort of foundations we need, then work will begin soon on our new headquarters. All we need now is help to build it and the money to finish the job....

We were disappointed to see that the proposed new Hothfield Scout Group isn't now happening. We were looking forward to working with them. We have several Hothfield based members and all are welcome.

Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers are available now. Our box is looking awfully empty.

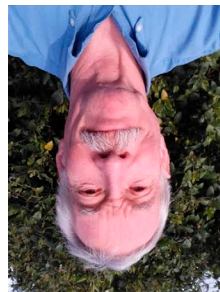
### Letters to the Editor

Congratulations to the Parish Council on the neat new 'Westwell' signs on the approaches to the Village.

Special thanks are due to Ron Butcher's perseverance in achieving this.

*Martin Wyatt*

*Martin Wyatt  
Mystery guest*



### Westwell Art Group (WAGS)

#### (previously known as WI Painting Group)

We are a very friendly group of ladies who meet 1.30 - 4pm, twice a month on a Monday. Some of us paint, some draw – one thing we have in common though is a good natter!! Every other month we have a visiting tutor, Helen Taylor from Dungeness, who gives a lesson on a particular subject or medium.

We welcome new members, including those with no experience. We share our resources, so if you would like to give us a try you don't even need to bring a pencil! We can provide you with whatever you need until you decide which medium you want to spend money on. We share our knowledge to help you get started. If you are into colouring, that's fine by us – just bring along your book and sit with us for the tea and chat.

The group began in a member's house to share their enjoyment of painting, when we outgrew her large dining table we decided to move to the Parish Hall. All being members of Westwell WI, we looked to them for financial support which they very kindly gave us. The group has grown in numbers and as our newer members do not belong to the WI, it was decided to go back to being an independent organisation. **Dates: March 6th, 20th, April 3rd, 24th**

Cost: £4 per regular session (inc refreshment), additional cost when tutor is with us

For further details, ring Ella Young 01233 712414 or Marilyn Warner 01233 663804

### Restoration Fundraising Committee – relaunched!!

#### Renamed the St Mary Improvements Committee

The aim is to raise £20,000 towards the cost of installing a lavatory and kitchen servery in the Church, both much needed!

Watch the Eye for more information on the following fun events:

**May:** Family Fun Day

**June:** Safari Supper

**August:** Gliding Evening

**August:** Summer Fete

**September:** Pudding Party

**October:** Harvest Supper and Auction of Promises

**December:** Christmas Bazaar

Contact Martin Wyatt [martin.j.wyatt@gmail.com](mailto:martin.j.wyatt@gmail.com) 712150

Sue Wood [susanwood@uwclub.net](mailto:susanwood@uwclub.net) 623902

Plus make a note in your diary that the annual Pet Service will be on Sunday July 16th

### Charing & District Local History Society

**The First Prize - why did so many invaders and settlers want England?** Speaker: *Imogen Corrigan* Many people over the centuries have wanted to live in and claim England as their own. We look at the great attractions of England, not just the varied and rich pastures and natural wealth, but also unparalleled education, justice and hierarchy.

**9th March** at Charing Parish Hall. 7.45pm for prompt start at 8pm.

### Indian Meal.

Bina Patel is cooking one of her legendary Indian meals for a fund-raiser for Hothfield Church on 28th May. £20 for a three course meal and coffee in Hothfield Village Hall.

Book at the Post office 620841



## 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:	
<a href="http://www.westwellpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/">http://www.westwellpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/</a>	

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## Mystery Guest:

Our mystery guest was born in North London to mum: a butcher's cashier (in the days where the money was handled by a cashier in a separate booth in the corner of the shop) and dad, a Master Pattern Maker. His brother, Bob, was 9 years older. His early life was nearly cut short but for Bob's intervention. The old-fashioned pram was out in the garden on a warm autumn afternoon when a leaf dropped into his mouth. Fortunately, Bob saw this and ran to Mum saying "I think that child is choking." This triggered a dash to extract the obstruction and thus his life was preserved. Thanks Bob!

At his infant school Christmas play he remembers playing the key role of a snowflake! Aged 7, the family moved to Crawley New Town. He remembers going to the Sainsbury's shop where butter was cut off a slab and individually wrapped and salt could be bought in 'loaf' form. They often bought some so he could play with it as 'snow' for toy cars.

On Sundays the family attended Southgate Hall, a 'Plymouth Brethren Assembly'. Sundays consisted of morning service, lunch, read a book, or play some records, Sunday School in the afternoon and evening service. Dad would often preach there or at Quaker services or at the local Cheshire home.

At 12 he attended Thomas Bennett - a comprehensive school and joined the debating society, enjoying singing in the choir and acquiring 5 'O' levels. He helped his dad build an electronic organ from scratch and joined Mullard Electronics as an electronics apprentice which included using the 'computer link' to program a remote computer, dialling up at 10 characters per second connection speed. At day-release he gained an HNC.

He also helped with recording a monthly magazine for the Blind, manually editing errors from the tape with razor blade and sticky tape.

At the apprenticeship's end he went to Shropshire (chosen because it offered the cheapest houses) and got a job with Decca Radio and TV in Quality Control, then for a firm in Birmingham called SANACO Computer Services as Support Engineer followed later by a move to another computer company, Comshare 1977 in the Wakefield office looking after clients including Rowntree Mackintosh and Comet.

He was soon promoted to Area Manager in Bristol looking after clients such as British Aerospace, BAT and Westland Aircraft. He met his wife-to-be at a German class and they got married, living in Luckington, Wiltshire.

In 1980, he was promoted to the London UK HQ where he got involved in Sales Training, moving to Westwell and commuting. The job began to evolve into an International role, and after a daughter and then a son were born, the family took the chance to work in South Africa and then Singapore.

He continued in an International role, launching new products and training sales people in some 20 countries. After 22 years he turned to running his own consultancy - now giving business advice to Law firms.

He still enjoys choral singing, playing the guitar, fancy dress parties and has 2 Children, 4 grandchildren - twins Josh and Felix in Hong Kong and May and Robin in London - and is now Churchwarden of St Mary Westwell.



## Westwell WI

After having to cancel last month's meeting at the last minute due to inclement weather, it was good to see such a good turn out this month, although the talk was not what we were expecting! Our speaker, Alan Haines, took us on a lively and nostalgic trip back to the 1960s with clips from TV of almost forgotten adverts, TV programmes and news items.

Our younger members were rather bemused by our enthusiasm to complete the advert jingles and to name the programmes. We were also reminded of items in the news such as the Great Train Robbery as well as the first Tupperware party – most of us confessing to still having some in the cupboard. Alan also reminded us of the dearth of radio stations with just three on the BBC, and how we used to listen to Radio Luxemburg at night time. (How many of you remember Horace Batchelor from Keynsham, Bristol and his scam for winning the pools?) All these reminiscences were interspersed with some amazing magic tricks in which Alan was ably assisted by a couple of willing members.

Our secretary, Tracy, shared information about the 'Green Heart' campaign being supported by the WI to raise awareness of climate change. We were encouraged to wear a green heart on Valentine's Day and give one to a friend, or to carry a cotton shopping bag decorated with a green heart. It is hoped that this will stimulate conversation on this important topic.

We have a busy year ahead so below are a few dates for your diaries. As well as our monthly meetings, we will be holding a Race Night on 27th April and on 5th July we will going on our usual Mystery Trip.

During the year, we have one or two open events planned to which all and sundry are invited so if you are interested in any of them, make a note in your diary, more details to follow –

On 22nd September we will be holding a Quiz Night so if you want to come along you can either get a team together or you can join in with a smaller existing team.

On 20th October we will be holding another Wine and Cheese Tasting Evening (over 18s only)

*Marilyn Warner*

**Next Meeting:** Thursday **16th March** at 7.30pm. *Note change of date*

**Talk:** Orphans in Mongolia - Cliff Griebe

**Hostesses:** Terry Roach, Pat Westhead, Celeste Muir

**Vote of thanks:** Jean Lester

**Competition** - Yellow

### Litter!

"Are you saddened by the amount of litter in our beautiful lanes? Please help with a Westwell Spring Clean Litter Pick on the morning of Tuesday 28th March: Contact Lucy on 07980 658656 for details



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## Westwell Community Watch Scheme

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### Neighbourhood Watch

The value of our Community Watch scheme was demonstrated earlier this month when a number of our residents, including the postman in the Sandyhurst Lane area, advised us of suspicious activity by the occupants, black male and female, driving a black Audi saloon during the weekend of 27th to 29th January. Apparently car was parking on drives of houses in Sandyhurst Lane and possibly also in the village (at night), and the occupants getting out and looking around the house and parked vehicles. They were also seen parking in, or driving slowly around, surrounding roads. When reported to the police using 101 we were informed it was an untaxed "vehicle of interest." The details are:

### Vehicle: Black Audi A6 - Reg: AV54 BDF

If seen it should be immediately reported to the police through 101

The new East Kent co-ordinator, Andrew Judd, is proving very prolific in cascading much more information on current crimes and criminal activity across the area. Where relevant this is uploaded to the WCWS page of the Community website and if URGENT will in future be advised by email to all those currently receiving "Alerts" courtesy of Westwell Events. If you don't want further WCWS emails please contact [westwell.watch@gmail.com](mailto:westwell.watch@gmail.com) to unsubscribe. If you are not already receiving Westwell Events information and wish to get community safety alerts please contact me at the same email address [westwell.watch@gmail.com](mailto:westwell.watch@gmail.com).

### 2-WATCH-4

From the Kent Police Rural Crime Team – February 2017

The Rural Liaison Team (RLT) has continued to tackle Hare Coursing and Poaching Offences across the county. They responded to East Kent to a vehicle linked to rural crime in the Thanet area where it had been suspected of being involved in hare coursing offences and had caused significant damage to farmers fields. The vehicle was located by an off duty RLT officer and was stopped and seized as part of the clamp down on Poachers.

Joint collaboration work was carried out by Kent Fire & Rescue and the RLT with visits to victims of arsons at Farms. This was done to promote a joined up approach to preventing and detecting offences and to share intelligence between the two organisations.

There has recently been an increase in thefts of trailers, particularly Ifor Williams. Ifor Williams hold a database of owner details for their trailers and horse boxes and it is important to update them when you buy or are about to buy a trailer as they will be able to confirm if it is a stolen one. Please also consider photographing and recording the details of your trailers including chassis numbers and any other identifying features.

There has been an upsurge in thefts from vehicles and of vehicles themselves and the theft of heating oil continues to be a problem.

A new crime prevention leaflet advising on these and other common criminal activity has been issued by the Police. You can view it by visiting the Police and Community Watch page of the Westwell community website [www.westwell.org](http://www.westwell.org)

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

Keep Vigilant - Tony Bartlett – WCWS Co-ordinator

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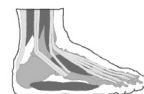
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# Letter to the Parishes

‘These three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.’

Familiar words from the end of Paul’s first letter to the church in Corinth. Chapter 13 is a very familiar passage about loving each other and is a popular reading at weddings but actually it isn’t about love between a man and a woman at all. It is about how we are to one another in church.

Lent is a good time to consider how we fit into the Church we are part of – nationally, internationally and locally. This passage is one that points us in a direction that helps us understand our responsibilities within the Church.

In order to fully understand this passage one needs to look at the context. Paul is writing to church in trouble. There have been dissensions and arguments and Paul is trying to help the Christians in Corinth to understand that they all have something to offer but they need to work together in order to have a church community that works well together. There have obviously been problems about all sorts of things, leadership Chapter 3 and 4, incest Chapter 5, grievances between church members Chapter 6, married life Chapter 7, food sacrificed to idols Chapter 8 etc. Just like the best in soap operas 0- it’s all there in the Bible!

In Chapter 10 onwards Paul addresses worship and how some were abusing the Lord’s Supper then in Chapter 12 he talks about all the gifts that different people have in the church and how these should be honoured and respected by each member as all are needed.

It is in this context of issues, problems, the diversity of gifts, yet being one Body in Christ, that this famous chapter on love comes in. We can have all the best gifts but if we don’t have love they are useless.

This isn’t the lovey-dovey stuff of romance. It is about kindness, understanding, trust, faith and respect. Paul doesn’t even say that they should LIKE each other but they must learn to LOVE one another. Liking someone is about our preference. We like someone’s personality or their manner or the clothes they wear. That doesn’t necessarily mean we love them. It’s just that we like what we see.

With love it is slightly different. We may like the person but we may not. We may think they look ugly but it doesn’t stop us appreciating them. We may think they dress untidily but it doesn’t mean we should shun them. We may not like their personality but that doesn’t mean we don’t value what they bring.

Some of the people I’ve found hardest to deal with in churches have been the most valuable because they bring gifts that I don’t have and it’s been when I have chosen to embrace them and use them wisely by listening to them that I, and the church, have gained the most.

We in the G7 Benefice, are the Body of Christ, in this small part of the world, let us then love one another for the benefit of the whole Church and for the sake of Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Revd. Bonnie Appleton*

## Etc

### Dates for your diary

April 9th.	Annual PCC Meeting in Church at 12.15
June 17th.	Safari Supper
August 28th.	Fete
September 17th	Harvest Festival
October.?	Harvest Supper.
December 2nd	Bazaar

### Book Club ‘Sheila’s Books’

Six of us and we met at Celeste’s house. We had chosen six different books from the collection of Sheila Horton, our good friend who died in 2015. She started this club with Joan Hazell and Liz Jamieson...The books varied. One was by Ruiz Zafón and a translation from Spanish. ‘The Angels Game’ is a story about a writer who struggles to be popular and takes place at the turn of the last century in Barcelona. There are echoes of forbidden books and secrets and strange disappearances. Another book was Ayana Mathis’s ‘The Twelve Tribes of Hattie’. A novel about the matriarch of a black American family of the Great Migration ..her children and her grandchildren. Jackie had read that one. Liz read Sally Vickers’s ‘Miss Garnet’s Angel’ which is about life in Venice . A retired teacher, Miss Garnet, takes a six month rent on a modest apartment and befriends a young Italian and English twins who are restoring a 14th century chapel. She falls in love with an antiques dealer. It is a story of self rediscovery juxtaposing Julia’s journey with the apocryphal tale of Tobias and archangel Raphael. Much more interesting than last month’s book about that same city. Joan read a very funny story by the Swedish writer Catarina Ingelman-Sundberg. “The Little Old Lady who Struck Lucky Again” is about a woman who lives in sheltered housing but enjoys stealing to help needy people. She decides with her league of pensioners to leave her flat and embark on an adventure with her

friends by going to Las Vegas. The women stay in an expensive hotel and start stealing again this time trying to outwit the casinos. They come across a group of real criminals and engage in trying to outsmart them to get the biggest heist yet. A very funny story and cheerful plot. Margery read two books. The first by Margaret Atwood was ‘The Edible Woman’ takes place in 1960s Toronto and is a study of dystopia in society. It was written in the early years of feminist movements and awareness of gender issues in the west. Her second read was by the actress Julie Walters: ‘Maggie’s Tree’ is about the behind the stage life of actors in the New York theatre world. Celeste read ‘The Garden of Evening Mist’ by Malayan writer Tan Twan Eng. It takes place during the Japanese occupation where the writer’s sister is brutally killed by the occupying forces. Her traumatising makes her decide to make a garden in her memory and she becomes an apprentice. The language is very poetic and description of gardens vivid. A very appropriate book as Sheila Horton was such a passionate gardener. Rosemary read Mary Wesley’s ‘Part of the Furniture’ which Sheila would have described as a ‘comfort blanket’. Talks about bombings during WWII in London and escape to Devon with characters similar to Cazalet chronicles ..a very enjoyable read. June read another Wesley book: ‘Harvesting of Peacocks’ is about a young woman who refuses to have a termination after getting pregnant..to her family’s dismay. She manages to live on her own and survive by making a living as a lady of the night, in a ‘sophisticated’ way. An admirable character. This also happens in Cornwall.

A lovely meeting. Our next book is ‘The Reader on the 6:27’ by Jean-Paul Didierlaurent.

**14th March, 11am, at Joan Richard’s.**



## Westwell Church Services for March

[www.g7benefice.org](http://www.g7benefice.org)

### Wednesday 1st Ash Wednesday

7.30pm Holy Communion - with ashing

### Friday 3rd:

10am Iona Eucharist

### Sunday 5th: 1st Sunday of Lent

8am Holy Communion

### Sunday 12th: 2nd Sunday of Lent

11am Iona Eucharist

### Sunday 19th: 3rd Sunday of Lent

11am Eucharist

### Sunday 26th: Mothering Sunday

11am Family Service

### Tuesdays:

9am Charing – The Eucharist

7pm Charing Heath – Prayer and Bible Study

## Family Church March

All Age service moves this month to **26th March** so that we can celebrate Mothering Sunday together.



An informal service with children's activities and an opportunity to celebrate motherhood and all the good things it stands for..Love..Care. Come along and share the joy, and the cakes!



Returns on **2nd April** at Westwell Parish hall.  
3.30 to 5pm

For children under 10 with an adult to help.

This month we are preparing for Easter.

Fun, Games, Story and snacks.

Make a note in your diary that the annual Pet Service will be on Sunday July 16th

## Lent Courses in G7 Benefice

As in previous years, there will be a choice of Lent Courses on offer this Lent in the G7 Benefice. You are encouraged to attend one of them. If there is not one this year in your parish, please consider joining another one. Please contact the leader if you hope to attend. All courses are open to people from the whole benefice. You will find more details of each course on leaflets in the churches.

### Westwell Wednesday/Thursday evenings

**March 9th, 15th, 23rd, 29th, April 5th.**

7.30–9pm at Tutt Hill Farm Cottage, Westwell Lane, Tutt Hill. Host: Heather Lister; Leader: Rev Canon Sheila Cox. Please book by phoning Heather on 01233 712981 or email to [sheilacox@g7benefice.org](mailto:sheilacox@g7benefice.org) The course begins on 9th March and will be based on the book

“Let me Go There”:

The Spirit of Lent” by Paula Gooder.

## Easter Lillies

If anyone would like to order an Easter Lily please get in touch with Joan Richards 624009

### Can I help? –

Rector G7 Benefice: The Revd Sheila Cox  
The Vicarage, Pett Lane, Charing.TN27 0DL  
[sheila.m.cox@btopenworld.com](mailto:sheila.m.cox@btopenworld.com) 712598

Assistant Priests:

The Revd Philip Cox

[potager@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:potager@tiscali.co.uk) 840274

The Revd Richard Webb

[revrichardwebb@googlemail.com](mailto:revrichardwebb@googlemail.com) 714663

Youth and Families Minister:

Church Wardens: Martin Wyatt

[martin.j.wyatt@gmail.com](mailto:martin.j.wyatt@gmail.com) 712150

Sue Wood [susanwood@uwclub.net](mailto:susanwood@uwclub.net) 623902

## Church Cleaning Rota.

**Cleaning** Melanie Major

**Flowers:** Lent

**Brass:** Valerie Hooper



## Sandyhurst Lane Residents' Association

Sandyhurst Lane Residents' Association's (SLRA) Annual General Meeting is at 7.30pm on Wednesday 29th March at Sandyacres Sports & Social Centre, Sandyhurst Lane. Both new and existing members are welcome; a free glass of wine or soft drink awaits your arrival. Membership is open to all residents living in Sandyhurst Lane and adjacent roads.

The meeting is an opportunity to meet neighbours, hear about current issues and have your say on local issues in the 'Open Forum'. We shall also be holding the annual election of the committee. We are very keen to recruit some new committee members, so please let us know if you are interested in putting your name forward (call the Secretary on 01233 647721 or email [info@sandyhurst.co.uk](mailto:info@sandyhurst.co.uk)).

The Open Forum will include contributions from local councillors and we shall also be hearing from our new police Neighbourhood Watch contact, Andrew Judd. The evening will conclude with a talk by committee member Doug Harman, a leading authority on digital photography, which promises to be of great interest.

Issues which are currently of interest to the SLRA include:

The Ashford Local Plan to 2030. We lobbied against the inclusion of six proposed development sites in the draft Plan. Only one was included (Eureka Park) and for that we successfully lobbied for no vehicle access from Sandyhurst Lane and the inclusion of a generous landscaped 'buffer zone'. We are continuing to press our case in the face of efforts to amend the draft Local Plan to include omitted sites and to vary the design of sites already included.

1 The Boundary Commission review of borough ward boundaries in Ashford. We opposed proposals for dwellings in Boughton Aluph & Eastwell ward to be moved to a new urban Goat Lees ward and proposed that dwellings in and adjacent to the even numbered side of Sandyhurst Lane should be moved from Bockhanger to Downs West ward. We have been successful with the latter proposal, which mirrors our success in persuading Ashford Borough Council to include these properties in Westwell parish.

2. Lorry parking. We continue to press for a solution to the HGV parking problem, in particular in the vicinity of Potters Corner. Some progress has been made and we await new proposals from KCC and ABC.

3. Protected trees. We have successfully opposed the felling of a number of birch trees in the buffer zone between Sandyhurst Lane and the Goat Lees development.

4. We are supporting the development of a Neighbourhood Plan by Boughton Aluph & Eastwell Parish Council. The Plan will be important in decisions about a number of proposed development sites.

5. Our Neighbourhood Watch scheme is fully operational, with ten local coordinators keeping residents informed of advice and alerts from Kent Police.

We welcome new members who live in our catchment area and you are warmly invited to our AGM. Full details of the Association can be found on our website (<http://sandyhurst.co.uk>).

## Plans:

17/00150/AS Kingsland House, Kingsland Lane. Erection of a new 3 bay timber framed garage and extension of existing tarmac driveway

17/00148/AS Bridgewood Farm, Watery Lane. The continued use of the land as a gypsy caravan site

These applications were discussed at a meeting of the Parish Council in late February.



## Westwell Players

I am sure you have all seen the magnificent banner that our Chairman and Producer – Neil Cackett has erected on the village green opposite the Wheel? Just in case you haven't here is all the information you should need:-

**“Life Goes On” – A Series of Humorous Sketches  
(Some Adult ‘Jokes’ So Not Really Suitable for Children)**

**Date: 9th, 10th And 11th March, 2017**

**Time: 7.30.pm**

**Venue: Westwell Parish Hall**

**Licensed Bar**

**Tickets Available From : Mrs. Doris Cackett,**

**6, Gold Hill, Westwell / Tel: 712016 / e-mail: [doriscackett@btinternet.com](mailto:doriscackett@btinternet.com)**

**Please remember to fill in**

**The ‘subject’ on your e-mail as ‘Westwell Players Tickets.’**

**Ticket Price: £7.**

I do hope this is all you need to send you hot-foot to Doris's door or straight on to the telephone for your block booking! Alternatively, a quick visit to the computer and whizz an e-mail off to Doris! We would love to realise our dream of playing to full houses each evening so even if you have never been to a Westwell Production before please come this time and find out what it is all about. This is also an ideal opportunity to see if you would like to join us for our forthcoming panto in November, or if you just want to be entertained, absolutely no pressure, bring a small cushion to sit on and most of all ENJOY! I am sure you have all seen the magnificent banner that our Chairman and Producer – Neil Cackett has erected on the village green opposite the Wheel? Just in case you haven't here is all the information you should need:-

*Mary Anne Pitt*

### The Gardening Group at Charing Surgery

Firstly, we would like to thank all the kind people who over the past months have called to bring us plants, together with their words of encouragement. The Garden is now in its second year, and is really beginning to take shape. We enjoyed a wonderful harvest of fruit and vegetables last autumn, with courgettes taking pride of place (oh to have some now!) With SPRING just around the corner the group is hoping the bulbs and wallflowers which were planted in the autumn will produce a display to please all. The Rose Walk, (path from the A20) being in its second year, will we hope give colour and scent in the early summer through to autumn. There is a display of photos in our Garden Room documenting the progress of the garden from the beginning - do please take a look if you have time when visiting the Surgery. If anyone has second hand garden tools they no longer need, such as hand trowels, grass rakes, garden brooms or loppers, the Group would be very grateful. And if anyone out there is looking to dispose of a greenhouse, we would be delighted to hear from you! Finally, if you are a patient of Charing Surgery, and think you might be interested in joining the Group to help with the garden, you would be most welcome to visit us any Tuesday morning between 10-12 to try it out. Alternatively, you could ring Jo'anne on 01233 713582 for more information.

## March on Hothfield Heathland

Signs of Spring are there a-plenty for the visitor to Hothfield Heathlands in March, you only have to stand and listen to the birds calling, before wandering through the varied habitats to enjoy the peace and beauty of this special place, right on our doorstep.

Large as it appears, the Heathland is not regarded by KWT as a self-sufficient oasis of healthy diversity. On the contrary, for the species on the heath - and other very rare habitats such as acid grassland and acid bogs - to stay robust and to survive they need to be connected to the wider landscape surrounding the reserve, to feed, breed and widen their respective gene pools. Birds and larger mammals can move easily over or through areas inhospitable to them to suitable habitats. Smaller species may be unable to develop a viable population without reaching more sources of food or nesting or breeding areas very close by.

Nationally this approach has been enshrined in the Wildlife Trusts' Living Landscapes strategy since 2006. Putting this into practice at Hothfield, the Ashford Meadows Project funded by Biffa Award and managed by Camilla Blackburn has been working with direct neighbours of the reserve to help enhance or restore their flower-rich grasslands, not just meadows and pastures but also woodland rides and glades. The plants that thrive in specialised environments like the bog itself won't necessarily spread much further afield but the slightly less choosy insects and small animals that come to those plants will thrive and increase with a greater area of suitable habitats and the birds and animals that in turn feed on them will also do better.

On Hothfield some of the project money has been used to improve fencing, do bund work to improve some of the wetland areas and for bracken control works all of which will directly enhance the biodiversity of the reserve. Bracken along with silver birch would like to take over all the open spaces on the reserve if allowed so bracken bashing and birch pulling are regular tasks for the volunteers.

The Ashford Meadows Project also aims to improve other important habitats such as hedgerows, ponds and KWT's network of Roadside Nature Reserves right across the Ashford area including in urban areas, which also need these wildlife-friendly corridors and stepping stones. The project has involved a wide range of organisations, landowners and individuals, including Ashford Borough Council. Biffa Award has supported environmental projects across the UK through the Landfill Communities Fund since 1997. There is always more to do and new corporate sponsors are always welcome; if your business can help, please contact Marion Turner on 01622 662012 for a chat or email [Marion.Turner@kentwildlife.org.uk](mailto:Marion.Turner@kentwildlife.org.uk).

KWT has produced advice leaflets on managing grassland habitats, from pasture and meadows on different soils to woodland, golf courses and churchyards, <http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/what-we-do/advice-and-consultancy/habitat-management>. Every extra site, however small, makes a difference. For more advice on managing your land, please contact Vincent Ganley by email at [vincent.ganley@kentwildlife.org.uk](mailto:vincent.ganley@kentwildlife.org.uk) or by phone on 01622 357864.

Despite the fairly dry winter, warm clothes and sturdy footwear are still needed to enjoy a the heathland, 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 contact the Warden on [ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk](mailto:ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk), mobile 07889 737839. **Margery Thomas**