



THE WESTWELL EYE

183

May

2018

The Wheel

6th May - from 5pm - Reggae and Garden Party

11th May - Old School Dinner Night

15th May - Pie Night

19th May - Royal Wedding Party - page 13

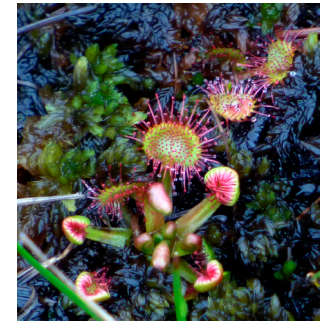
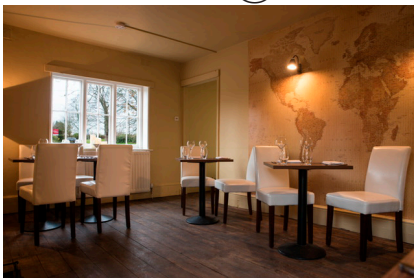
25th May - 7pm Pub quiz -

Quiz £2 per person, cash prize

28th May - National Burger Day

Contact: 01233 712223

info@thewheelinnwestwell.uk



4th May

8th May

1st, 2nd May

14th, 21st May

19th May

25th May

10.30am Coffee in The Wheel - all welcome

11am Book Club - The Wheel

Local plan hearings - Civic Centre

1.30pm Painting Group

Royal Wedding Street Party - The Wheel

7pm Quiz - The Wheel

May 2018

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
3 6th Sunday of Easter 8am Holy Communion Messy Church Reggae and Garden Party From 5pm The Wheel	4 7pm Fitness	1 Book Club - p13 7pm Parish Council	2 11am Fisticuffs - Dance as U Go 7pm Tai Chi	3 Re.FT 9.15am Pilates 10.30 Dog Training	4 10.30 Coffee Wheel	5 Mating Work Party Playing Field 9-11am - p13
6 7th Sunday of Easter 11am Iona Eucharist	7 1.30pm WI painting 7pm Fitness	8 Pre Night The Wheel	9 11am Fisticuffs - Dance as U Go 7pm Tai Chi	10 Ascension Day R.F.W 9.15am Pilates 10.30 Dog training 7.30pm WI Meeting	11 10am Iona Eucharist Old School Dinne The Wheel	12 Royal Wedding Street Party The Wheel - p13
13 Pentecost 11am Family Service	14 1.30pm WI painting 7pm Fitness	15 22	16 11am Fisticuffs - Dance as U Go 7pm Tai Chi	17 Re.FT 9.15am Pilates 10.30 Dog Training	18 25	19 26
20 4th Sunday of Easter 11am Eucharist	21 1.30pm WI painting 8pm Players AGM	22	23 11am Fisticuffs - Dance as U Go 7pm Tai Chi	24 R.F.W 9.15am Pilates 10.30 Dog Training	25 Quiz Night 7pm The Wheel	26
27	28 7pm Fitness National Burger Day The Wheel	29	30 11am Fisticuffs - Dance as U Go 7pm Tai Chi	31 Re.FT 9.15am Pilates 10.30 Dog Training	June 1	2

From the Editor's desk...

Thank you to all regular contributors to the Eye, you all sent your copy to me in time, as I requested. This was so all readers could have their copy before 1st May.

The Players are to be congratulated on another success; 'Death by Paintbrush' was wonderful. Thanks to those who worked so hard preparing the delicious food and also those who cleared up and washed up.

Christine has the Fete off the ground with the first meeting, but as always more volunteers are needed; don't be shy, give her a ring 627913 / christine.drury@btopenworld.com to offer your help, don't wait to be asked!

Charing Library has been revamped, the children's corner looks very child friendly and welcoming – p16.

Well done to all those who were mad enough to take part in the London Marathon, whether you finished or not. My daughter-in-law is seriously mad, she did it in 3 hours 18 minutes!

Front page photos, **clockwise from top left**; Adding the cowl to the oast house at Court Lodge, taken by Lucy Farrington. A view of the Downs from Westwell, taken by Margery Thomas. Woodanemones, sundew and a chiff chaff, all taken by Val Butcher.

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.

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

COPY DEADLINE - 20th of the month

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN THE WESTWELL EYE

Classified ads from £3 p/issue - Business block ads from £60 p/year.

Prices include free design, illustration and layout.

Copy & payment to be received by the 20th of each month.

Payable to:- The Westwell Eye, either direct to bank or cheque

Sue Wood, 14, Sandyhurst Lane TN25 4NS

Would you like to receive the Westwell Eye but don't live in the area?

You can now receive it every month by post. For an annual subscription, simply send the editor your name and address and pay £8 to Sue Wood, cheque payable to The Westwell Eye

Printed by Print Junction - 01233 624462 - info@print-junction.co.uk - Drum Lane, Ashford, TN23 1LQ

Useful Contacts

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, Charing and Challock, Dave Beckley	0797798199
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	lee.sinden@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
Westwell Community Website:	
http://www.westwellpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/	

AZ CARING SERVICES



For all aspects of care and support work,
Daily and Live In
 please contact Arthur and his team on
 07552 766428
 email: arthurzvik@hotmail.co.uk.
 Excellent local references

Oil Boiler Service established 1987

Family friendly business
 Professional, efficient service



For servicing, breakdowns and
 commissioning contact: P&V Quenby Ltd
 01227 760428 www.oilboilerskent.co.uk

CHIROPODY & PODIATRY

Podplus Shop & Clinic
 Julie Rose Stadium, Ashford, TN24 8NG
 01233 660 851 www.podplus.co.uk

Planning applications

The following were supported by the Parish Council and a decision is awaited from the Borough Council

18/00415/AS The Cottage, Tutt Hill Single storey south east side extension, two storey north west side extension and single storey rear replacement extension

18/00384/AS Harven, Watery Lane, Westwell Erection of oak framed garage to house a horse box & a tractor to replace existing woodshed

18/00488/AS Court Lodge, Eastwell Lane, Westwell Restoration works to 3 kilns

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

18/00413/AS Land at Lenacre Hall Farm The development of 21 new residential dwellings, access, drainage, car and cycle parking and landscaping

18/00206/AS 3 Westwell Lane, Tutt Hill Approved by the Borough Council.

Ashford Civic Awards have returned in 2018

The present series started in 2012 coinciding with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Heroes and Heroines identified then came from all parts of the Borough and were honoured for going "above and beyond" in helping and enriching the lives of others, but often unknown except by those they helped. The same qualities are being sought for the 2018 Awards recipients. If you know someone you would like to nominate find more information at www.ashford.gov.uk/civicawards. Or contact Sue Wood. **Closing date for submissions 21st May.**

Who is supporting the event?

The Civic Awards are sponsored by local companies, as well as Ashford Borough Council working together with the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce and reflecting the partnership approach, which delivers for the residents and the businesses of Ashford.

The sponsors are: MJ Allen Castings & Machining, Peter Brett Associates, Chart Hills Resort, Facts & Figures Financial Planners, Hadlow College, HR GO Recruitment, ITL Group, Pillory Barn Creative, Quinn Estates, Red Alert, RIFT Group, Stanhope plc, and Wilkins Kennedy. Stanhope plc, and Wilkins Kennedy.

Charing Gardeners' Society

The final 'talk' before the summer gap when we are all busy in our gardens, is a hanging basket and container workshop run by Kevin Giles at Plants at the Swan, The Swan, Maidstone Road, Charing, on Wednesday **16th May**. There will be two training sessions, 1 - 3 pm or 6 - 8 pm, 15 participants per session. Minimum charge £5 to members, £8 to non-members plus cost of materials. Kevin will demonstrate good practice in planting and maintenance, and supply compost, sphagnum moss and a variety of suitable plants at discount prices. Bring your own basket/container, liner, moisture granules etc and be sure you can lift it once filled!

To book a place call Christine Flannery on 01233 714160.

You can join this very friendly society at any time. Annual membership of £3 includes our annual, packed with articles, show schedules and details of members' events. Membership benefits include discounts from some local businesses, and a "Wine and Wander" visit in June and August to members' gardens. To join contact Nikki Bromley on 01233 713615/ nixbrom@gmail.com

TO LET

TO LET

TO LET

TO LET

TO LET

We are an Independent Residential Letting and Property Management company based in Ashford, Kent.

Established in 2004 Classic Lettings has grown to become a leading Residential Letting Agency in Ashford, the surrounding villages and the wider Kent area.

We offer Letting Only, Rent Collection or Full Management services.

Give us a call for a chat and see how we can help with your investment property.

Your property investment in trusted hands



Classic Lettings
Residential Letting Agent

01233 623534
info@classiclettings.co.uk
www.classiclettings.co.uk


CURTAINS

CUSHIONS

ROMAN BLINDS, ETC

01233-713130 07788-600262

DAWNLEONARD63@BTINTERNET.COM



SOFT FURNISHINGS
WINDOW TREATMENTS FOR BEAUTIFUL HOMES

Country Funerals

Ashford's only independant Funeral Directors

For a caring 24 hour service contact Leah Hutchinson

01233 712222
07708407229

Pre-paid funeral plan available
Yonderway, Westwell, Ashford, Kent TN25 4LE




CHIROPODIST

CHRISTINE GRIFFITHS
MSSCh MBChA
HPC reg

FOOT CLINIC
Mon - Sat including evenings
Home visits available
Tel: 01233 664702
07958 328525




Suzie's Care Service

Personal Care and Support

Sitting Service

Transport to Dr's and Hospital

Housekeeping



07581 013899 / Suzieusher12@gmail.com



Thorneloe & Co.

Solicitors



Conveyancing Quality

An independent family practice providing a friendly, high quality personal service.

Specialists in:

- Wills
- Estate Administration
- Trusts & Taxation
- Lasting Powers of Attorney
- Court of Protection

- Residential Conveyancing
- Commercial Conveyancing
- Re-mortgaging
- Equity Release
- Buy-to-Let

01622 859 416

thorneloe@thorneloe.co.uk www.thorneloe.co.uk

Now at St. Mary's House, Lenham, Kent ME17 2PH

Authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority
Registered Number



SELECTA TWIST

40oz WOOL TWIST
MADE FROM 80% PURE
NEW BRITISH WOOL

£19.95

sq.m
INCLUDING FITTING

VISIT US TODAY AT
SELECTA HOUSE
CHARING HILL
CHARING
KENT TN27 0NL
8AM - 6PM MON-FRI
9AM - 5PM SATURDAY

CALL 01233 714 999

CARPETSDIRECTCHARING.CO.UK



CARPET
WOOD
LAMINATE
VINYL

Worried about suspicious activity ?

Westwell is a rural community, so do use Country Eye to record pictures of fly tipping or incidents.

The Country Eye App is easy to download onto iPhones and Android devices.

Set location on your phone to send the location with the photo.

Country Eye is supported by Kent Police, but it is not a crime reporting service.

In an emergency ring 999 ; for non emergencies phone 101 to report a suspected crime.

Spring is here at last: enjoy it safely; avoid leaving things out that others might easily pick up.

News from Charing Library

Have you seen our new look library yet? Charing Library has been redecorated for a fresher, more modern look. We have gone with a green, nature theme to complement the beautiful spaces outside the library and bring the outdoors in!

The library has been repainted, re-carpeted, and more space created for a comfortable seating area where library users can relax and chat. We have purchased a lot of new books for the library too, with something for everyone.

The children's library has new furniture to reflect the nature theme so little ones can sit on a log or hay bale and enjoy a book! Our Story and Rhyme Time sessions have resumed every Thursday morning at 10am - parents, grandparents, carers, babies and toddlers all are welcome to come along and sing popular rhymes together and listen to a fun story.

If you like to knit, crochet or craft, why not try our Knit and Natter group which meets every other Friday from 2.30 to 4pm. Or if you prefer just a cup of coffee and a chat, our Talk Time group meet every Thursday at 2pm. We are looking for volunteers to facilitate these groups, so if you would like to be involved, please contact Charing Library for more information on 01233 713177, or email charinglibrary@kent.gov.uk



Godinton House and Gardens



Delphinium Festival

15th - 24th June

Open 1pm - 6pm daily

- * Jazz Evening
- * Punch & Judy
- * Delphinium Day
- * NGS Open Day
- * Create your own succulent teacup
- * Watercolour picture with a difference

01233 643854

www.godintonhouse.co.uk



WESTWELL WI

Our talk this month was about a charity whose name is familiar to most of us but the history of its origins may not be so. We learnt how the charity formerly known as Dr Barnado's Children's Homes was founded 150 years ago by Thomas Barnado. Although Thomas had started training as a doctor in order to fulfil his ambition of becoming a Church Missionary in China, he never completed his studies but instead devoted his life to caring for destitute children. This was done first of all in institutions but gradually Thomas moved towards the concept of villages of cottages where children would be looked after by House Parents in small units which would try to bring a sense of family. Nowadays, the scope of the organisation now known simply as Barnados is much wider, encompassing child poverty, sexual exploitation, domestic violence and assisting young carers.

This month's competition brought forth a number of entries of miniature flower arrangements in an eggcup – the range of blossoms brought a fragrance to the hall!

Our forthcoming **Fashion Show** will be held on the morning of **9th June** at 11.30 at the Parish Hall. This is being presented by Ibbidy-Bobbidy-Boo of Tenterden, and will include a range of garments for women of all ages. It is an open meeting - anyone can attend so tell all your friends! Tickets are on sale at £5 each to include a glass of Prosecco or non-alcoholic fizz.

Next Meeting: Thursday 10th May.

Talk: John Arthur Boyd 'A Walkabout'

Resolutions Meeting

Hostesses: Mesdames Hayley Light, Gail Hunt and Liz Jamieson

Vote of thanks: Terry Roach

Competition: A holiday snap



1st Charing Scout Group



With the weather getting warmer we are all looking forward to camping together with hundreds of others at Godinton Park in May.

We are now working on the disabled access paths for our new headquarters. A lot of work and a lot of regulations, but we are getting there.

Plans are well under way for this year's colour run. Why not come along on July 1st. It will be great fun.

gsl_charingscoutgroup@hotmail.co.uk

Terry Lister. Group Scout Leader

Nine Days (Novena) of Prayer

Friday 11th May - Saturday 19th May

The Novena is traditionally the nine days between Ascension and Pentecost when the disciples prayed waiting for the Holy Spirit. Here in Canterbury Diocese we have prayed together for many years during the Novena using art and scripture and this has become a rich part of our shared prayer life. Since 2016 our Novena materials have also become resources for Thy Kingdom Come, a global prayer movement begun by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York as a time to pray for evangelism in the days between Ascension and Pentecost. This is an invitation to the whole world to pray at this time so when you pray using the Novena materials during the Nine Days you're joining with thousands of others not only around the Diocese but also internationally. Make sure you pick up a copy of the booklet - pop it in your pocket and use it each day as, like the disciples, we wait for the coming of the Spirit between Pentecost and Ascension.

Here in the G7 Benefice, as we have done in previous years, there will be opportunities for us all to come together each day to pray, although if you prefer you can do this at home using the booklets.

Please join us this Novena as we pray Come Holy Spirit: Thy Kingdom Come. May the Spirit bless us through our waiting with encounters that encourage and transform as we journey on together.

Changed Lives			
Date	Theme	Church	Time
Friday 11th	Praise	Westwell	10am (Iona Eucharist)
Saturday 12th	Thanks	Egerton	9.30am (Morning Prayer)
Sunday 13th	Sorry	Church services	Various
Monday 14th	Offer	Pluckley	6pm (Compline)
Tuesday 15th	Pray for ...	Charing	9am (Communion)
		Charing Heath	7pm (Bible Study)
Wednesday 16th	Help	'At home'	---
Thursday 17th	Adore	Hothfield	12noon (Midday Prayer)
Friday 18th	Celebrate	'At home'	---
Saturday 19th	Silence	Little Chart	5pm (Open Prayer)

Church Cleaning Rota.

Cleaning.	Tanya Scott Aide
Flowers.	Rosemary Heddle
Brass.	Suzanne Pier



Kilby's Chimney Sweep

All Types of Fires and Stoves
Swept Using Brush and Vacuum

Pots, Cows
and Birdguards
Supplied and Fitted.



07756 007428 / 01233 840948

ICS Registered - Fully Insured
Certificates Issued

Airport Transfer & Chauffeur Service ETM Cars

Competitive Prices
Professional Service
Safe Comfortable Journey
Bottled Water Provided

Free Wi-Fi

Dave Hopper
01233 629551
info@etmcars.co.uk



ANP Security



Supply, install and maintain
security systems, including

Intruder Alarms
CCTV

Free no obligation
survey and quotation

Andy Peddle 01233 224874 - Westwell

KINGSLAND CARPENTRY

Flooring, Doors, Windows
Kitchen and Bedroom Furniture
Quality Bespoke Carpentry and
Cabinet Builds



City and Guilds Qualified
Call Simon (Westwell)

07899 968179/01233 612242

COUNTY PROBATE SERVICES

Easing the Stress of Bereavement

- We are practical and fast and above all sympathetic
- Less costly than banks and most solicitors
- Part of Malcolm Horton Chartered Accountants Practice so expert on Inheritance Matters and Trusts
- If there is no will can advise on Intestacy
- Free Initial Consultation

Contact: 01233 712112

Info@countyprobateservices.com www.countyprobateservices.com
Accredited by ICAEW C004168781



W
C
W
S

Westwell Community Watch Scheme

Keeping you Safe and Secure
Neighbourhood Watch

Whilst we live in a “rural” parish, many of the practices and traditions of the farming community are new, and sometimes disconcerting, to those of us who are not from that background or who live in the more urbanised parts of our area.

We have recently had a number of reports of individuals, or groups of individuals, being seen out at night with torches and sometimes dogs, well off the beaten track. In many cases these reports were prefaced with the word “suspicious” The vigilance of the reporters is creditable and poaching is of course a criminal offence, but sometimes the so called “suspicious characters” are doing nothing wrong nor different from what has been practiced for years.

Please do not be too alarmed if you do experience something like this but DO make a note of what you see and when as if a crime HAS been committed in your area the police will be only too pleased to get your information. The frequent outcome is explained in the Rural Liaison Team report below.

Neighbourhood Watch is not just looking out for villains - it's about looking out for our community

Kent Police

The Rural Liaison Team has just published their quarterly report and it records that this period has been a busy one for the RLT. The snow presented its own challenges to the force but also the rural community. Sadly as the lambing season gets into full swing there have been several reports of livestock worrying across the county. These incidents have not only been against sheep but also other stock including Alpacas. The RLT are assisting local officers with investigations into these offences.

The Rural Liaison Team (RLT) officers met with other units to actively target our patrolling around the borders of all three divisions on the A20, Charing, and Ashford. Officers pursued a vehicle in the Woodchurch area that was directly linked to rural crime. The vehicle failed to stop for the Gypsy Liaison Team (GLT). After exiting his vehicle the male was swiftly detained with assistance from RLT Officers and taken into custody.

After suspected poachers were verbally aggressive to a farmer in Ashford, the RLT sent out an appeal on Farm Watch for a vehicle that had been seen in the area. The appeal was successful and the vehicle identified had numerous coursing reports linked to a well-known poacher from Dover. RLT officers attended his home and issued a Community Protection Warning. Officers also served a Community Protection Warning to another individual, in the Wingham area...

Failure to comply with a Community Protection Notice is a criminal offence and an offender may be liable to pay a fine of up to £2,500.

These are the first Community Protection Warnings that the team have been able to issue. It has only been possible because the rural community have been calling incidents into our control room with suspect and vehicle descriptions. Officers have successfully deploying to incidents and stopped persons near the locations. We will continue to collate evidence of offenders and look to take action where possible and would encourage the rural community to please keep reporting these incidents to us.

If YOU see or suffer anything suspicious call 999 (if urgent) or use Country Eye,

Phone 101 or log in to <https://www.kent.police.uk/services/report-online/> to report it

For further details of Westwell Community Watch visit our Police & Community Watch

web page on the Westwell website at www.westwell.org

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

Shear Pawfection Mobile Pet Grooming Service

No mess, no stress.

I require 2 parking places +
hook up to power

New customers £5 off
ref: Eye10



07592 779502

www.shearpawfection.co.uk

Facebook

[www.ShearPawfectionMobilePetGroomingSpa](https://www.facebook.com/ShearPawfectionMobilePetGroomingSpa)

Simply Gardens



General Garden
Maintenance
One off or Regular

Andy Jenner
07584060447

info@simplygardensashfordkent.co.uk

Proud members of

Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters

French Polishing Furniture & Antique Restorations

Some Upholstery Repairs
Old Furniture Refurbished

Gordon Forster
35 years experience

01233 712665
07973440309

www.rga-forster.co.uk
gordon@rga-forster.co.uk



B & B in Westwell The Lodge - at Glebe Cottage



Self Contained Annexe,
Twin Room, Ensuite Shower,
Continental Breakfast

£60pn,

[https://www.airbnb.co.uk/
rooms/13655402](https://www.airbnb.co.uk/rooms/13655402)

Ring Geraldine Bortoli
01233 713919/07852 271886

High Quality Painter and Decorator

for all your domestic needs



David Farnfield
Excellent Westwell reference
available

www.davidfarnfield.com
07710 130275/01233 750450

PARISH HALL RENTAL

Would you like to hire the Westwell Hall
for your next event? Equipped with:-
Full Catering Facilities,
Stage with lighting and Piano

Rates from - £8 per hour

Table and chair hire also available
(to take away)



Please contact:

Doris Cackett (01233) 712016
doriscackett@btinternet.com



Letter to the Parishes

I wonder how many of you have seen the art installation that has been in Canterbury Cathedral for the last few months. Entitled 'suspended', it is both eye-catching and thought provoking and since it hangs over the centre of the nave, it cannot be missed. The round ball is made up of items of clothing discarded by refugees as they reached the beaches of the Greek Island, Lesbos and tells the stories of those who have been driven into exile, forced from their own homes, through war. War artist, Arabella Dorman, creator of 'Suspended', who spent ten years working in Iraq and Afghanistan, felt moved by a sense of compassion and national culpability to go out to Lesbos and document the journey of the refugees. "Nothing prepared me for the human drama, the scale of tragedy, that I witnessed unfolding on those beaches" she says, as she described the hundreds of items of clothing strewn across the beaches, stained, torn and wet, discarded by those who were offered clean clothes on arrival. "Suspended" captures the power evoked by the empty item of clothing and helps the viewer to engage with the hidden story of the wearer of those clothes, seeing the refugee not just as a number but as a real person.

On Easter Sunday morning, we heard in the reading from John's Gospel that "Peter and the other disciple set out and went to the tomb. The two were running together but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself." The power evoked in the discarded grave clothes was to be fully revealed in the resurrection. We can spend a lifetime engaging with the 'hidden story' of the wearer of those grave clothes as the true meaning is revealed to us as we grow in our journey of faith.

At the centre of the art installation 'suspended' is a central orb, a light that changes in density, sometimes shining brightly as the light of hope but, as it dims, reminding the viewer that refugees may be left unseen and in darkness as their plight is forgotten.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ brings the light of hope into the world, not just for Easter Day but for every day, for we are 'easter people', travelling with the light of Christ in our midst. But there is no doubt that at times it seems as if the darkness has overwhelmed the light. Archbishop Justin in his Maundy Thursday sermon spoke of the harrowing experience of having to read through pages of documentation of abuse in the Church of England in preparation for Independent Enquiry. More accusations and revelations come to the surface day by day. As I write, the leaders of the nations are talking of military action as a reprisal for the use of chemical weapons in Syria while day by day, in Yemen, the numbers of those dying from famine and disease continues to mount. Gun crime in America, terrorist attacks in various European cities and more. Do we sometimes feel the encroaching darkness and wonder where is the light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." Instead of allowing ourselves to be engulfed by the darkness, let us instead be that light shining in the darkness, casting light on the plight of those who suffer so they are not forgotten as we pray all the more fervently. The wearer of those discarded grave clothes is with us day by day, lighting up our path and enabling us to carry His light into the darkest places.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Sheila Cox

Etc

Dates for diaries

Saturday 2nd June - Pimms and Hymns -
St Mary

June 16th. Safari Supper

August 26th. Fete

December 1st Bazaar

Coffee at The Wheel Inn

Coffee at The Wheel, **Friday 4th May** from
10.30 - 11.45am. All welcome.



Help restore the playing field parking

Start the bank holiday weekend with a good deed and a work out! **Saturday 5th May** -
Westwell Playing Field

The task is to help remove the thin layer of turf that has buried the matting over the winter. There will be some tools available, but if you can bring a sharp flat spade that is just the right tool.

Come anytime for 1/2 hour between 9 - 11am.

Contact for questions: Sue Wood

Book Club April 2018

We had a choice of two books with the same title this month. Paradise Lane, by Elizabeth Gill or the same title by Ruth Hamilton. Most read the first as it was available to borrow or buy. The story was about a young woman who, upon her father's death, realises she was brought up in an affluent home where she does not really belong as she was the daughter of one of her father's affairs with a poor but very beautiful woman from a mining community in Durham. The protagonist, Annabelle, decides to leave London and travel to Durham in search for her birth mother after being rejected by her step mother upon the death of her father. Her whole world changes..she finds work at the local newspaper and becomes involved in the lives of people who are struggling to

survive in very harsh conditions. The other title is also about a girl though from a very poor family who ends up on her own and she is helped by her neighbours, on Paradise Lane, and especially by a rich man who endears her as an uncle would. Both are about interactions between rich and poor folk.

Our next book is A Moveable Feast by Ernest Hemingway. **Tuesday 8th May**, 10:45 at the Wheel.

WAGS

May. 14th, 21st

June. 4th, 18th

July. 2nd, 16th, 30th



May 19th Royal Wedding Day- at The Wheel

As we all know Prince Harry and Meghan Markle are set to marry on the **19th May**.

At The Wheel we are aiming to throw a British/American Street Party.

We want to try to keep this as local as possible but if you would like to bring your friends please do! The wedding will be shown on our projector in our outside area as well.

We will serve the food at approximately 1pm, a buffet style table of mixed American and British food.

There will be plenty of food for everyone. Cost £10.00 per person. So we can plan we do require pre booking and pre payment for this event!

Look forward to your booking: James at The Wheel.

PS we will of course also have the Cup final on a screen!

Car Show

Watch This Space for more news on our Village Classic Car Show **Sunday 24th June**.

Parish News

Westwell Church Services for May

www.g7benefice.org

Sunday 6th 6th Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion

Thursday 10th: Ascension Day

10.30am Communion - Charing Heath

7.30pm Deanery Communion - Little Chart

Friday 11th:

10am Iona Eucharist

Sunday 13th: 7th Sunday of Easter

11am Iona Eucharist

Sunday 20th: Pentecost

11am Family Service

Sunday 27th: Trinity

11am Eucharist

Tuesdays:

9am Charing – The Eucharist

7pm Charing Heath – Prayer and Bible Study

Family Church in May

All church services start with a cuppa and cake from 10.30 and finish with a chance to chat over coffee.

Messy Church **6th May** explores Christian ideas in an informal family setting in Westwell Parish Hall at 3.30pm with time for creative activities, energetic fun games, outdoor if possible, a bible story, songs and prayers and of course a yummy tea.

20th May All age service at 11 am, an informal service involving all ages with activities and opportunities for involvement with a friendly look at the Gospel and life in Christ. We would love to welcome you, please come and try us out.

We collect charitable donations at coffee after services.

In April and May we will be collecting for the Hospice.

Water Aid is our focus in June and July then in August and September running up to the Harvest services we will be supporting the Food Bank administration costs.

Church Matters May 2018

We held our annual church meeting on April 8th.. The PCC's role in overseeing the church was explained. Finance is led by Evan Thomas; the Church buildings and Churchyard working group, by the churchwardens; the services and worship group a by the Churchwardens and Heather Lister. Links with the wider Deanery of Ashford by Joan Richards and Penny Knatchbull. There are 46 on the church electoral roll of whom 7 live out of the parish. We particularly welcome the views of the newcomers to the Westwell community.

We are part of Pluckley's Heritage trail and a new board will be going up soon to reflect this.

All these reports are available to read in Church, which is open every day until harvest.

One of the two main issues for the year was the construction work to enlarge the circulation space at the back of the church, provide a toilet and kitchenette area with library space and to refresh the boilers. This is proceeding slowly but surely with particular thanks to the family trust which has given us a substantial grant to kick start the process. There will be an open meeting to explain this and display the plans to all interested parties in the Summer.

The Rector described our place as one of the 7 churches that work together in the G7 benefice, . This led to the second major issue; as the admin gets more arduous and the number of active clergy reduces we are looking at ways to help reduce the workload and make us more attractive to new clergy when Rev Sheila retires. One suggestion is to reorganise the benefice to make us 7 individual churches, each with its own church council but working more closely together as a single parish for admin purposes. There will be a brochure to illustrate this and the PCC will arrange a parish meeting later in the summer so that everyone can see what is proposed and express their views to the PCC before we make any major decisions.

Care in the Community

With an increasing number of elderly people there is an increased need for care in the community. In an ideal situation, those in need, whether it be medical or social, should be able to get an integrated care package. In practice this is difficult to deliver. One major problem is that it involves various people and also two financing bodies, the NHS and local government. Integration of these is the real challenge.

At a recent meeting in Ashford, speakers described how the Dutch system of integrated care has overcome these problems. Other countries including Germany, France and the USA are beginning to use similar systems.

So what is the Dutch system?

The Dutch company called Buurtzorg (the word means neighbourhood care) now employs 14,000 staff operating in 40-50 teams all managed by a very small central office. 70% of the staff is nurses who are accessible 24/7. The teams are responsible for delivering both the health and social care. Each nurse multi-tasks which avoids the need for a number of nurses each with a different specialism,. They spend as much time as is needed with any one patient. Because of the structure of the organisation, overheads are kept to a minimum and it is claimed that there is a cost saving of 40% over the traditional system. A unique feature is the management. Each team takes on all aspects of planning and management as well as the delivery of services. There is no hierarchical structure within the teams

What are the lessons learned from the Dutch experience?

1. The major change in approach, once accepted by staff, proved popular.
2. No line management means staff trust each other to work effectively.
3. A smart IT system is essential.
4. Success is in simplicity.

A large difference between the Netherlands and the UK is the separate organisation of health and social care. It would certainly require a radical rethink and an acceptance by both the NHS and local government that working together is essential.

I would be interested to receive any comments on the above. Please contact me by email at kcht.governors@nhs.net or by writing to me at the Governor Support office The Oast, Unit D, Hermitage Court, Hermitage Lane, Barming, Maidstone, Kent ME16 9NT.

**John Fletcher Governor Public Governor-Ashford area
Community Health NHS Foundation Trust**

Westwell Players

May has so many lovely associations. May Day, when in France all the sons visit their Mothers with a bunch of lily of the Valley or Muguet des Bois as they are called in France (I am not sure of my French spelling – many apologies if I have it wrong!) also it is the end of the April showers or I hope it will be this year as the beginning of April has been very wet and miserable and pretty cold too! The Players have a lot to be grateful for as we have now put our Murder Mystery to bed! ‘Death By Paintbrush’ by Lesley Gunn, was such pleasure from start to finish and we all look forward to doing another of these evenings. We have so many people to be grateful to, ticket sales, cooks, waitresses, washer uppers, front of house, raffle, and our lovely audiences who laughed in most of the right places and put their thinking caps on and asked all the right questions! What fun we all had with this show and to have a member of the author’s family in the audience on Saturday evening, well that was just the icing on the cake. (Lesley Gunn who is related to our Elaine Jefferies who plays Cook in this production) Thanks to all our actors – our scenery designer and painter, our back stage ‘boys’ particularly the curtain puller and long suffering ‘prompt’ and our bar staff, what a lot of people work really hard to produce our shows. Thanks so much to our long suffering Producer who is also our Chairman. He does so much more than just produce, such as choosing the play, producing the tickets and programmes, taking photos, providing the official secrets papers and the ‘guess who did it’ sheets and lots and lots more. Our rehearsals have been so much fun, we have to double up as tea and coffee makers, Christmas tree decorators, makers of paper chains and all manner of other things. We are always interested in hearing from our audience members so please give someone in the cast your ‘feedback’ and thank you very much for supporting us yet again – all our efforts would be in vain without you and what a bonus the new chairs were this time! Happy month to all our readers!

Mary Anne Pitt 

Westwell Fete Sunday 26th August

Organising the Fete has started. Thanks to all those who have already said “yes of course”. In May I will be getting raffle prizes and sponsorship and asking more of you to confirm you will be there on the day. The raffle team is always well organised; teams for all the stalls will mean we can all enjoy as well as help. If you are new to Westwell contact Sue Wood to find out how you can get involved. Next meeting 7pm at the Wheel. Thursday 7th June. *Christine Drury*



May on Hothfield Heathlands

Spring is in the air at last and so are the heathland birds, bees and insects. Butterflies too, we hope, after the recent report from the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme that last year was the seventh worst year on record for butterflies. There was also good news, with two species enjoying long-term increases: the red admiral was up 78% and the comma up 91% on 2016. Val Butcher’s photo of a comma butterfly was taken in early April. It will have hibernated camouflaged as a dead leaf.

On a ‘very cool windy night’ in late March volunteer moth recorders Terry Dunk and David Rayner listed over 50 moths. The list, available on the Moths UK Flying Tonight Facebook group, includes a yellow horned moth, not recorded on Hothfield since 1976. Named for its yellowish antennae, it emerges in early spring from a pupa that overwintered among leaf litter on the ground. Speckled grey, so perfectly camouflaged on birch trunks, it flies at night but also sometimes on sunny afternoons, in woods and on heathland containing birch. The caterpillars munch on birch leaves at night and rest through the day between two leaves spun together.

In May Ian expects many songsters to have arrived. Nightingales from Africa are usually invisible apart from, briefly, their chestnut tail, but until late June they can be heard singing by day as well as at night. White throats, in the warbler family, migrate from south of the Sahara, building several nests before choosing one. Willow warblers are expected from tropical and southern Africa, and inhabit any open-canopied trees and shrubs, not just willow. Numbers are in decline so they are on the UK conservation amber list. Ian reports good numbers of singing yellowhammers already; resident all year on the open heathland, their tumbling courtship flight can be seen in May, before nests are built low down in protective gorse

bushes. Chiffchaffs have also been heard; they arrive early from Africa but may have overwintered here. By late May the cuckoo will be searching out up to a dozen ready-made nests in which to lay a single egg. All these birds feed themselves and their young, including unnoticed fosterlings, on insects and caterpillars. Gardeners can help preserve the wild food chain by going easy on sprays and slug pellets and leaving leaf litter and wild corners. The RSPB website has video clips of all British birds and their song.

There is much activity at ground level now, with bees and hoverflies foraging among the flowers. David Rayner beautiful photo of the metallic green tiger beetle, one of the fastest British insects, which emerges in April and armed with ferocious jaws is a fast hunter of spiders, caterpillars and ants in heathland and sandy grassland. Look out for solitary mining bees building mini volcanos of soil around the mouth of its burrow. These tiny holes are often seen on the paths across the heath. The bees seek the nectar and pollen of fruit trees. Also at ground level, the volunteers have been pulling birch trees, repairing winter damage to fences before the main nesting season, and are “looking forward” to bracken bashing.

Check the KWT website for 2018 talks, walks, family events and courses. The Wild About Gardens Scheme has tips on encouraging more wildlife into gardens, the garden awards and volunteer advisers. Hothfield Heathland is open to everyone. Please keep dogs in check and clean up. Various trails are signposted and indicated on the maps at entrances, which also give the location of the livestock. The noticeboard down the main slope from the Cade Road car park gives recent wildlife sightings. For email alerts on the location of the livestock on Hothfield, or to join the volunteers to help maintain the reserve or check the cattle contact the Warden on 01622 662012 or at ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk. *Margery Thomas*