



THE WESTWELL EYE

177

November

2017

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Below: Two of our European Inland Waterway Vessels: The Anjodi (left and right) and the La Bella Vita (middle).



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Harvest Supper: Adam, Simon, Stephen, Chris, Charlie and Mike prove that real men can indeed do washing up - supervised by Sue Peters.

Below: Beautiful fungi and Tree fungi taken by Val Butcher.



- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 5th November. | 3.30pm Messy Church |
| 13th, 27th November | 1.30pm Painting Group |
| 14th November | Book Club, p.13 |
| 23rd, 24th November. | 7.30pm Players' Show p10 |
| 25th November. | **6pm** Players' Show p10 |
| 25th November | 7 for 7.30pm Curry and Quiz night Hothfiels p13 |

November 2017

	SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
3		7pm Fitness		1 10.30am Eucharist Charing Heath 11am Fisteps 7pm Parish Council	2 Re.F.T 9.15am Pilates 10.30 Dog training	3 10am Eucharist	4
5	4th Sunday before Advent 8am Holy Communion St. Mary Westwell Messy Church 2.30pm Players	6 7pm Parish Council	7 Watery Lane resurfacing p6 7.30pm Players	8 11am Fisteps	9 R.F.W.G. 9.15am Pilates 10.30 Dog training 7.30pm WI	10	11
12	Remembrance Sunday 10.45am Remembrance Service St. Mary Westwell 2.30pm Players	13 1.30pm Painting 7pm Fitness	14 11am Book Club p13 7.30pm Players	15 11am Fisteps	16 Re.F.T 9.15am Pilates 10.30 Dog training 7.30pm Players	17	18
19	2nd Sunday before Advent 11am Family Service St. Mary Westwell 2.30pm Players	20 7.30pm Players	21 7.30pm Players	22 11am Fisteps 7.30pm Players	23 R.F.W.G. 9.15am Pilates NO Dog training 7.30pm Players Show	24 7.30pm Players Show	25 **6pm** Players Show Curry and Quiz night. p13
26	Christ the King 11am Eucharist St. Mary Westwell	27 1.30pm Painting 7pm Fitness	28 7.30pm Players	29 11am Fisteps	30 Re.F.T 9.15am Pilates	Dec 1	2

Kay Hooper Not From the Editor's desk!...

Kay entered the world on the 11th October 1941, in the Lancashire village of Whitefield, near Tottington. She went to school, first at the local primary and then to Stand Grammar School for Girls, where the pupils were seated in alphabetical order. Because her surname was Allen, she found herself on the front row, a most exposed position!

There were frequent bus journeys into nearby Bury, ostensibly to attend ballroom dancing classes at the Bury Palais. Coincidentally they also provided an opportunity to meet boys but she soon realised that very few boys were interested in ballroom dancing.

In her sixth form years, she worked in Woolworths, then she became a student teacher for a year at an all-boys school progressing to teacher training college in Sheffield.

She met David, who was at the university, complete with scooter, and married on the 10th April 1965. After three years in the United States with David and daughters Kathryn and Sue they returned to the United Kingdom, and settled in Westwell. She was presented with the Westwell Citizenship Award. And she was a key member of the Westwell Players, performing, producing and prompting. Kay was a former churchwarden and a member and former President of the WI. She was treasurer of the Village Hall Management Committee.

Kay and David travelled to many parts of the world, often in the company of good friends: America, South Africa, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, Canada, Australia, Africa, Egypt, much of Europe, Greenland and Alaska, preferring adventure to sitting on a beach.

According to family, Kay's favourite things were: liver and bacon, tripe and onions, vanilla slices, and Eccles cakes; pillar box red and autumn colours - oranges, greens and browns; yellow freesias, scented roses; Chanel Mademoiselle and J'Adore; Pink Jacobs Creek Sparkling; Enya, Cliff Richard, James Galway, and musicals; dancing, tennis, bridge, embroidery, photography, gardening, entertaining, puzzles and reading.

Kay was a loyal, strong, kind and generous friend, exactly the sort we would all like to have. Kay passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by close family on the 15th September. She will be sorely missed

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

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Useful Contacts

Telephone Numbers

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Bees (swarming)	
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Borough Councillor:	
Larry Krause	01233 643497
CAB	626185
Carers Support Group	664393
Childline Freephone	0800 1111
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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
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(Charing)	713177
MS Therapy Centre	01227 470876
NHS Direct	0845 4647
NSPCC	0800 800500
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	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
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http://www.westwellpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/	

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WESTWELL WI

The meeting began with the sad announcement of the passing of Kay Hooper, a long-term member and previous President of the WI. A minute's silence was observed.

Our talk this evening was a very interesting one by Melody Foreman about The Spitfire Girls. These were the women who, in spite of the danger, delivered Spitfires and other planes to the RAF during World War II.

Melody's talk focussed on Mary Ellis who had wanted to fly from the age of 3. At 13 she missed hockey lessons to learn to fly and subsequently joined the Air Transport Auxiliary during World War II. Mary is still alive today, living on the Isle of Wight where at one time she had been Manager of Sandown Airport.

We heard from Lindsey about the successful Quiz Night that had been held at the end of September when nearly 50 people, members and non-members, competed in teams for the accolade. The successful team was headed by Joan Richards and included a couple from New Zealand – just shows how popular this event was!

Our competition was for anything pink and a variety of entries were on show. Ivy's pink diary got the most votes.

Marilyn Warner

Next Meeting: Thursday 9th November at 7.30pm.

AGM plus a talk on Growing up in the Middle East by Nada Kydd

Hostesses: : Hayley Light, Pat Westhead and Liz Jamieson

Vote of thanks: Doris Cackett

Competition - Brown

Harvest Supper

The Harvest Supper was a great success thanks to the sterling work of the 'Dinner Ladies' of Westwell led by Jane Richards assisted by sous-chefs Denise Dwyer, Rosemary Harding, Sarah Stevenson, Sue Wood and many more who donated the excellent puddings.

Many thanks too to the kind donors of some fantastic 'promises', the generosity of those who bid and won the promises, David Harding who organised the promises and the 'Washing - up Men' of Westwell (see photo).

From entrance money and generous bids, some £2,500 was raised which will go towards the project to build a loo in the Church to make it more comfortable for the future.

Martin Wyatt

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Update on Overnight Lorry Parking ban

The nighttime enforcement along the A20 Charing to Drivers roundabouts experimental zone starts on October 30th

If there are still lorries parked along the A20 or in side roads overnight it will be because the lorry parks are completely full and there is nowhere to send them.

This situation may continue until the lorry park capacity increases.

What will be very clear is that the lorry parking capacity is needed and the application to expand capacity at the Waterbrook Truck stop should be progressed.

There is certainly now wide awareness of the issue and a commitment to a solution. Delivering it may take a little while .

Short term stops during the day are not affected by the ban. Expect these to continue.

1st Charing Scout Group

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Charing Colour Run. Despite the weather and equipment failures it was a fabulous day. It was also financially successful and raised over £3,500 for our appeal.

From the outside the new headquarters looks almost complete. There is still a huge amount of work to do inside. Any offers of help will be gratefully received.

Our scout troop is now so successful that they are splitting to meet on two nights, Monday and Wednesday. We hope to see you at the Remembrance Day service this month

gsl_charingscoutgroup@hotmail.co.uk *Terry Lister*

Have your say on Kent County Council's proposed 2018/19 Budget

To balance KCC's budget for 2018/19 we have to find an estimated £66m of savings in response to additional spending demands and reduced government grant. Our consultation includes plans for £56m of savings with a further £9m yet to be identified.

We would really welcome your comments on these plans as well as suggestions as to where you think savings can and should be made.

Leader of Kent County Council Paul Carter said in a recent press interview that "the consequences for next year's budget are really very significant"

KCC plans to increase Council Tax by the amount permitted under the referendum principles, including the additional social care levy. The estimated increase for 2018-19 is 3.99% (£41.84 per year for a band C property.) This will increase KCC's share of the Council Tax bill for a band C property to £1,089.68 in 2018/19.

Since 2011-12 KCC has saved £589m in response to the financial challenge.

Please visit: www.kent.gov.uk/budget to have your say on our proposals to fix the 2018/19 budget gap and tell us your priorities.

The Wheel Inn and the new housing development

On Friday 13 October the Parish Council held a small exhibition of the plans that have been submitted for the development on the land adjacent to the Wheel Inn, formerly the beer garden. The architect answered any questions and a good number of local people turned up.

Some of the Parish Councillors were also on hand to talk and listen to what people were saying and this will help the Council when we discuss the plans at our meeting on 1 November. Shepherd Neame (SN) have listened closely to suggestions from individual Councillors to try, as far as possible, to ensure that the development blends in with the conservation area, particularly by designing the two pairs of semi's in the general style of Forge Row and retaining and enhancing the appearance of the trees in the area. The Parish Council when formally reporting back to Ashford Borough Council will be keen to ensure that if the development is passed by the planning authority, then there are conditions on their approval which ensure that the building work closely follows the agreed plans.

The new housing provided SN with the opportunity to spend significant sums on refurbishing The Wheel and offer a low rent for a long period to provide the best possible opportunity for the pub to grow and prosper. As many of you will now be aware, although SN will continue to own the building, the business will be free of tie enabling the new landlords to totally own the business. You will very soon meet James and Matthew and then see that they have a wealth of experience and importantly huge amounts of energy and enthusiasm for this project.

On page 6 there is an article by James, one of the partners in the business, and I have faith that they will do everything they can to make The Wheel a success but it most definitely requires local people to use and support the pub. We have all missed our pub so when it's back let's make sure that it becomes the centre of our community, bringing all of us together.

Kent County Council Highways & Transportation

We are now entering the winter period for 2017/18 and I would like to take this opportunity to remind you about Highways & Transportation's winter service provisions.

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/what-we-look-after/winter-service>

This section will provide useful information on:

Salt Bins (including locations), Gritting Routes, How and when we salt the roads, Clearing snow in the community, The latest weather updates, How we deal with rural roads with help from the local farmers, Tips on Winter Driving.

Please also have a look at the Snow Code web site, which you may find has some useful information and hints. <https://www.gov.uk/clear-snow-road-path-cycleway>

We work closely with the local farmers and provide them with the necessary equipment in order to clear country lanes and act as extra resources when we are fully mobilised during a snow emergency.

Our website also provides information on all aspects of highway management, such as our tree policy, information on roadworks and planned works, crash and casualty data. It also allows you to report faults online: <http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>

Please take great care on the roads this winter. Highways & Transportation will continue to work hard to keep the roads as safe and clear as possible; however you can also help us in the following ways: Drive to the conditions of the road at all times, especially during times of rain, ice and snow, If we do get snow on the roads, please don't make any non-essential journeys

The Wheel Inn - contd.

I began my hospitality career as an apprentice working at the Marquis at Alkham and it was there that I found my love and passion for the trade. I then moved to Cheltenham to work at the 5 star luxury hotel Ellenborough Park, where I developed my managerial skills in the fine dining Beaufort Restaurant. After this I moved back home to Kent and became the General Manager at The Swan Wine Kitchen, situated above Chapel Down vineyards, at the young age of 23.

Matthew began his hospitality career training at Westminster Catering college, he then found himself a job at The Savoy as a Commis chef. He then learned everything again but completely different to college, learning from the inside how the industry works. For two years he worked extremely long hours but he found his true passion for cooking. Matthew then worked at various pubs and restaurants obtaining many awards along the way. His last job was working for Keith Flint from The Prodigy, who had bought his local pub and turned it from almost nothing into a successful business. It was this experience which drove Matthew to repeat the challenge but this time to own the adventure.

It was at The Swan at Chapel Down where I first met Matthew and our friendship blossomed as we planned to eventually own our own place. And then we found a lovely place called The Wheel Inn.

I have lived in both Charing and Egerton and in fact my mum Lindsay and my grandmother Gwen, who sadly recently passed away, both have close ties to Westwell. They lived locally with Gwen being married in St Mary's Church and mum being christened there with the party afterwards being held at the pub. Matthew and I will be living above the pub and are looking forward to many fascinating stories people have about the areas history.

Our opening evening will be on the 10th November with doors open at 6pm till 12pm. We will not be serving food but supplying canapes of our new menu for all guests to enjoy along with sparkling wine. Matthew and I want to preserve the history of The Wheel and return it to its former glory as a well established pub, with great atmosphere and delicious high quality local food. We will be offering a fine dining 'a la carte' menu and of course a range of classic pub staples - we will have it all. We cannot wait to be part of the local community and most importantly have fun doing what we do best.

Watery Lane Resurfacing.

From Tuesday 7th November for 3 days Watery Lane will be closed for resurfacing between Hothfield Works and the A20.

Access to individual properties will be maintained during the resurfacing work. Watery Lane will not be available as a route to and from Westwell village. Use the Tutt Hill, or Westwell Lane / Sandyhurst Lane routes to access the A20.

Road closure and diversion signs will be in place.

The work is being done by Tarmac to a specification agreed with KCC. It is a planning condition as part of Tarmac's permission to increase their out of hours working.

It will also deal with the damaged road surface outside Alcina and Greenways. The work will include cutting back the vegetation along the roadside: to facilitate the resurfacing it will also improve the visibility along the road, especially at corners.

The planning permission conditions that require this resurfacing also encourage us to restart regular liaison meetings with Tarmac. The first one is likely to be at the end of November. Contact Sue Wood on 623902. if you would like to attend these.

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Neighbourhood Watch

This month we have experienced thefts from two neighbouring sheds in Sandyhurst Lane broken into on 23rd/24th September. It seemed that the intruder(s) had come from the farmer's land behind the gardens. Please take care to lock away your garden equipment and tools. Ideally fit intruder alarms to your outbuildings. We have also had reported the theft of lead from a building on Lenacre Hall Farm during the night of 14/15 October.

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

Visit: westwell.community.watch@gmail.com

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

2-WATCH-4

Yet another telephone scam to be aware of. Unscrupulous scammers have instigated a new scam involving checking your double glazing as a way of getting your details and even getting into your property.

Calling from an overseas telephone number and targeting the elderly and vulnerable, they claim there is a government initiative to test the durability of your double glazing. They tell their victims that a member of staff will attend with a device which looks like a mobile phone (and probably is) to test your windows

The police advice is not to engage with the caller, divulge any personal details or make any follow up arrangements for them to attend your address. If you do receive any such calls please let Andrew Judd, the Police NHW coordinator know on

Kent Police

The summer months have been a testing period for the Kent Police who has been placed under an unprecedented demand. As previously mentioned this has impacted on the team's deployment within the rural community. The force priority being to tackle the call and resource demand, as a result all operations were cancelled to enable all officers to be utilised. Despite this demand the Rural Liaison Team have still been trying to address their rural issues whenever possible, whilst they have not been engaged in or attending various incidents. As we now progress into the autumn months the team are returning to their primary role, and planning operations within the rural community to tackle the ongoing issues. Here is a snapshot of the work that has carried out by the Rural Liaison Team since the last report: We continue to see a seasonal rise in poaching reports across the county following the harvest. Op Salmon dates are now being planned and pencilled into the teams duties. I cannot stress enough the need for the community to continue to report such incidents to the police control room as they happen. The rural officers are sent notifications of every hare coursing or poaching related incident and will make further enquiries where possible to identify offenders and vehicles.

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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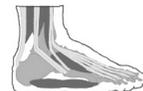
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Letter to the Parishes

November is a rich month in terms of the church calendar. We enter through the celebration of All Saints Day on November 1st but almost imperceptibly we move into All Souls Day on November 2nd where we commemorate the faithful departed. A few days later, people will gather in churches all over the country to take part in services of Remembrance as we remember those who have died in past and present conflicts. November 26th ushers in the celebration of Christ the King as we worship Jesus risen, ascended and glorified before returning once again to the beginning of the church calendar with Advent Sunday. These milestones in the church's year remind us that we are a community of pilgrim people, travelling together on a journey, learning, sharing, supporting and rejoicing. The last Sunday before Advent is also often referred to as "Stir up Sunday", its name taken from the Collect for the day that invites us to be stirred up by God to good works and righteous living.

Stir up, O Lord,
the wills of your faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works,
may by you be plenteously rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Traditionally it has also been the day when the Christmas pudding was prepared ready for Christmas Day. This is a tradition that harks back to Victorian times when whole families would come together to stir in the ingredients. According to tradition, Christmas pudding would contain 13 ingredients to represent Jesus and his disciples. It is stirred by each member of the family from East to West, to remember the Wise Men that visited Jesus in the Nativity Story.

The customary garnish of holly represented the crown of thorns. Adding coins to the pudding was said to bring luck if you found them in your portion on Christmas Day although biting down on them may hasten a visit to the dentist!

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews has something to say on this matter. He writes "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works" (Heb. 10: 24). With this in mind, may we as God's Pilgrim people work together to build a better world in which people can live in harmony with one another and justice and equality can be found in every place.

Sheila Cox 

Church Cleaning Rota.
Cleaning Sarah Scarratt
Flowers: Rosemary Heddle
Brass: Rosemary Harding



Etc

Dates for your diary

December 2nd Bazaar

Dates for WAGS (Westwell Art Group)

13th, 27th November.

Charing and District History Society.

Meetings are held in the Parish Hall, Station Road, Charing TN27 0JA. Doors open at 7.30pm The lecture starts at 8pm. Annual membership fees are due and are £9 for adults and a joint family fee of £16. Full time students are free. Visitors: £3 per meeting. Future programme: **9th November Annie Kemkaran-Smith Behind the Scenes at Leeds Castle.** A look at the original interior design and the recent refurbishment.

Book Club, October 2017

Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout

We met at Joan Richards. Had the book discussion over coffee and then a nice lunch. Opinions on the book were polarised. The book is written as a collection of 13 short stories spanning 25 years of the lives of people from a Maine seaside community. The stories are linked by the character of Olive Kitteridge, a retired maths teacher whose wicked wit and harsh demeanour mask a warm but troubled heart and staunch moral centre. The work won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

Our next book is a biography: **Toast, by Nigel Slater.** We meet at Nada's **14th November** for coffee and then a light lunch.



25th November Curry and Quiz night

Hothfield Village Hall, 7 for 7.30pm

Tickets from Hothfield Post Office.

Bina's famous Curry and a feast of Quiz questions £12 per person; 6 per table. Bring your own beverage. A fun night out and supporting The Friends of St Margaret's Church Hothfield.

Christmas Bazaar 2nd December

As you all know this year's Christmas Bazaar is scheduled for the 2nd December in the village hall as usual from 9 am to 11.30 am. All are welcome for Christmas shopping, Christmas fun and delicious bacon sandwiches. Maybe a surprise visitor will appear for the children!

We are still looking for any volunteers to help set up on the Friday and help run stalls and help clear up. We are also looking for raffle prizes, tombola prizes, good quality bric a brac, any unwanted gifts, homemade cakes and other delicious goodies, jams and chutneys and anything Christmassy to get us in the festive spirit.

Many thanks and please contact me if you are able to help. Looking forward to seeing you all. Penny Knatchbull
07976 522908/01233 714983
pennyknatchbull@gmail.com

Have a very Crafty Christmas

Wreathes, Kissing Balls and More **Saturday 9th December** in the Parish Hall In aid of the church loo fund Make an Evergreen Wreath of your own design. **9am to 12noon**, with refreshments All materials provided £40. Indoor arrangements for Christmas, Kissing Ball or Swag or table centrepiece. **2 - 5pm** with refreshments. All materials provided. £40. Numbers limited. To Book **Hlister@hotmail.com or 01233712981**

Westwell Church Services for November

www.g7benefice.org

Wednesdays 1st: All Saints Day

10.30am Eucharist - Charing Heath

Friday 3rd

10am Iona Eucharist

Sunday 5th: 4th Sunday before Advent

8am Holy Communion

4pm Commemoration of departed -
Pluckley

Sunday 12th: Remembrance Sunday

10.45am Remembrance Service

Sunday 19th: 2nd Sunday before Advent

11am Family Service

Sunday 26th: Christ the King

11am Eucharist

Tuesdays:

9am Charing – The Eucharist

7pm Charing Heath – Prayer and Bible Study

Baptism

Harriet Mabel Poole was baptised at St. Mary's,
on Sunday 17th September.

May God make her home Christian and loving

Wedding

Nicholas Peter Ashton and Louise Rosamund
Horne were married at St. Mary, on Saturday
23rd September.

May God strengthen them in their married life

Funeral

Kathleen (Kay) Hooper died on Friday 15th
September aged 75. Her funeral took place at
St. Mary, followed by cremation at Charing
Crematorium, on Monday 2nd October.

May God enfold Kay in his tender love and care.

Church Matters in November

Messy Church, 5th November. Venue tbc 3.30
to 5pm. Theme Talking with God.

Story, Samuel. Things to make and do:-Prayer
Rockets; Coloured Lanterns, Glow in the dark
activities. Refreshments

All children under 10 welcome with an adult.
Contact Heather lister hlister@hotmail.com or
01233712981 for details.

Family Church, Sunday 19th November. 11am

Getting Ready for Winter. Stir Up Sunday

December Messy 3rd December Westwell
Parish Hall 3.30 to 5pm. Theme Advent.

December family Activities to look forward to
Church Bazaar 2nd December 9am-11.30
in the Parish Hall, Carol service, Christingle
Service. Check the details in the next Eye.

Sunday 5th November – ‘Service of Commemoration for departed loved ones’.

This is an opportunity to come to church for a
short service of hymns, readings and prayers
to help you to give thanks for the lives of those
you have loved and lost and to find support for
your continuing journey. The Service will be
held in Pluckley Church at 4pm.

Remembrance Service - 12th November

We hope to offer poppy crosses on which to
write names of family or friends who suffered
or died during past wars. These will be placed
along the path on the way out of the service.

Sunday 12th November,

“Light a Candle for Peace” peace vigil, 12noon – 11pm.

The vigil will be shaped by dividing the 11
hours into different countries, one for each
hour. There will be a brief explanation of the
needs of each country we pray for, practical
activities or suggestions to help us to pray, and
the lighting of a candle at the end of each hour.
Little Chart Church.any time.

“A Time to Get Ready”.

Sunday 3rd December - Advent Services.

Advent is a time of preparation, of reflecting
on the birth of Jesus Christ and looking to His
second coming. Advent services often feature
candlelight, a reminder of Christ the Light of
the World, and hymns that suggest waiting and
hoping. As well as all the morning services
taking place in each church in the benefice
(see list of Services for details) there will be
an ecumenical service at Charing Methodist
Church at 6pm. All are welcome.

The Gardening Group at Charing Surgery

When we last reported on the gardens at the Surgery, we had just received a donation of a greenhouse. Over the last few months it has been well used, and is proving to be a great asset. The Rose Walk from the A20 to the Surgery did surpass all our expectations with colour and scent, the only drawback was the very dry weather which has I am sure affected most gardens and frustrated gardeners. We still have the country roses in bloom, we hope they will continue to give a good show well into the autumn.

Our vegetable harvest has not been as good as we had expected, perhaps due to the very dry weather. Try as we might, watering has been very hard, One day we may be able to arrange to have an automatic watering system, we can but dream!

One morning in late June, two members of the group undertook a survey amongst patients leaving the surgery. We were keen to find out if people knew about the Gardening Group and its purpose. The results were very reassuring, nearly everyone spoken to knew about the Group, all were very complimentary, saying that they enjoyed sitting in and walking through the gardens on their way to and from the Surgery. Some said they would love to join the Group, but having large gardens of their own made it impossible for them to do more. We would like to thank everyone who took the time to talk to us that day.

We were visited in July by a member of the Kent Wildlife Trust to judge the Gardens in the Wildlife category. At first the thought of being judged did seem very scary, but in reality the lady who came turned the experience into a very pleasant afternoon. To our delight, a few weeks later we found we had won a silver gilt award, and three of the Group are off to Canterbury later in October to the Award Ceremony.

In late September, the Group had an outing to Sarah Raven's garden in Sussex. This was funded by the Partners of the Charing Surgery in recognition of all the hard work and enthusiasm of the members, and for the difference the Gardening Group is making to the patients' lives.

Just a little reminder that the Group is always happy to receive spare gardening tools, at present in particular garden forks/spades and pruning saws. For offers of tools or enquiries about joining the Group, please do contact Jo on 01233713582.

Plans

The following have been approved by the Borough Council:

17/00786/AS Vicarage Barn, Westwell Court

17/00959/AS The Dairy, Westwell Court

17/01286/AS 2 Gothic Cottages, Westwell Lane

17/01233/AS Keepers Cottage, Watery Lane

The following applications will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting:

17/01379/AS Swinford Cottage, The Street, Westwell Replacement of an existing rotten window to the front of the house, like for like

17/01443/AS The Wheel Inn, The Street, Westwell Erection of 2 pairs of 3 bedroom semi-detached houses, car parking, replanting of trees, hard and soft landscaping works, and other associated works

17/01560/AS & 17/01561/AS The Mill House, Eastwell Lane, Westwell 1) Enlargement of Entry Hall to form connection between Mill House and Granary

2) Removal of wall and window from north elevation to form enlargement of Entry Hall to form connection between Mill House and Granary.



Westwell Players

“ONCE UPON A TIME” AT Westwell Parish Hall

TICKETS GO ON SALE ON 3RD NOVEMBER, 2017 for Westwell Players new Pantomime – “ONCE UPON A TIME” ! Hurry and get yours asap!

Our Box Office this year is with TRACEY FAULKNER - Tel: 01233 623531 - email your ticket requests to boxofficewestwellplayers@gmail.com and then send a SAE to: Alaina, Watery Lane, Westwell, TN25 4JJ

Prices are - £7 for adults with a concession for children - £5 (under 16)

DATES: 23, and 24th NOVEMBER (THURSDAY and FRIDAY) @ 7.30 AND 25TH NOVEMBER (SATURDAY) @ 6.00 To accommodate the children.

We are rehearsing on Sunday afternoon as I write this in the morning (15th October) and I have spent the last few days getting my costume organised. I am playing The Mad Hatter this year and felt I was a little foolhardy to take on any role (even a small part like this) as I am in the throes of finalising the sale of the home I have lived in for 45 years, a mammoth task! The skip is half full, with plenty more in garages and house to add to it but we (my buyer and I) are waiting for the Solicitors to settle the question of who owns the strip of land between my boundary and the road, the verge, so to speak! I am praying we will hear that all is well next week, prayers please everyone. I will shout it from the rooftops when I hear that I can move! However my readers will think I have ‘lost the plot’ and they will probably be right! Back to Pantoland.....How is it all going I hear you ask? Well, I am pleased to be able to report – the tickets are being printed, the programmes are being thought about – the scenery is underway and lines are being learnt, our Dame is already almost word perfect with no script on stage but the rest of us are still using scripts – when will Sarah say those terrifying words – ‘SCRIPTS DOWN NEXT WEEK’? The 7 dwarves are all chosen and most of them are doubling up as pirates as well. I know you cannot wait to hear how our panto evolves, we have Cinderella’s daughter marrying Snow White’s son (or is it the other way round, even I get confused and I have been there for every rehearsal!) Will our wicked witch wear the usual black or will she trim it with orange? How does Alice in Wonderland get in on the act at all, not to mention Little Red Riding Hood and the BIG, BAD WOLF!! Did I mention- Captain Hook (hence the pirates!) and I haven’t see Peter Pan or Wendy yet, but you never can tell!! Will it all end – happily ever after or will there be a twist this time, please come to the Parish Hall at the end of November to find out what happens to all the clever characters in Pantoland this year

Mary Anne Pitt ✍

Mrs Anne Southwick

Mrs Anne Southwick of Charwell Cottage and formerly of The Wheel Public house passed away at home on 29th September 2017.

With her late husband Wilf she enjoyed many decades of living in Westwell, and residents will remember her best during the years that she and Wilf were the licensees of

The Wheel pub, 1971 – 1981. A very happy time for them.

Anne will be sadly missed by her sons and her wider family and friends.



November on Hothfield Heathlands

Rich autumn colour holds strong on the Heathland as winter draws nearer, perfect for a stroll in midday sun or a bracing walk wrapped up against the elements.

In Autumn one instinctively looks for mushrooms and toadstools, but Hothfield Heathlands hosts a wide range of some of the 10,000 or more British species of fungi right through the year. A flush of substantial fungi appeared in late July responding to the rain after the early summer drought, flourishing on through August. On a balmy 15 October with temperatures nudging 20C a stroll through varied habitats in a small portion of the reserve revealed twenty-six different species in just two hours. These included tiny black and white fingers on a fallen log, fresh and fossilised bracket fungi on live trunks, stumps and fallen branches, various dainty parasols emerging from cow pats and horse dung, through heather or just in grass, dots of orange slime on decaying birch boles, rows of pimples in the bark fissures of a struggling willow, various bun types in grass and leaf litter, and puff balls nestled in grass. Some were in perfect condition, others already collapsing or liquefying, their role as fruiting bodies accomplished. One magnificent bracket had caught a bramble stem firmly in its flesh.

They might be called ‘primitive’ plants but fungi are all fine-tuned to the conditions of their habitats and all occupy a particular niche in their food chain. With no chlorophyll to make food through photosynthesis, it’s the permanent and large underground network of mycelia that make food - energy - by breaking down living or dead organic matter. Yellow brain is parasitic on the mycelium of other fungi. The oyster mushroom stuns nematode worms lurking in the host wood

with a powerful toxin then absorbs the worm’s juices. Thirty years on from the great October storm we know that this process of decay is integral to regeneration, although difficult to appreciate if it involves honey fungus or dry rot fungus damaging valued plants or essential structures. Do take away photos and memories, but please leave all the fungi for others to enjoy. The ‘others’ include organisms that depend on the fungi for food or habitat. Ian reports that the Oyster fungi beetle is severely threatened, primarily due to its food source (oyster fungi) being over collected. That will affect whatever feeds on the oyster fungi beetle higher up the food chain, everything is interlinked. Leaving them alone also avoids the dilemma of which are edible and which poisonous. Many grow-your-own kits are available, using coffee grounds, soaked straw, fresh logs and even telephone directories (also an endangered species) as the base for the spawn.

The Woodland Trust publishes an attractive series of identification swatch books including a round one on fungi; plasticised and small enough for a child, they are perfect for little explorers. More fungi are shown on the Wildlife Trusts site: <http://www.wildlifetrusts.org>

The heathland is open to all, including dogs, which must always kept in check, and always on leash in the Extension. 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, or to join the volunteers who help maintain the reserve, check the cattle and do summer surveys contact the Warden on 01622 662012 or ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk **Ian Rickards**