

Spring 2024

OUR PLACE WYE

The new quarterly newsletter for the villages of Wye and Brook

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Send your articles to
newsletter@ourplacewye.org.uk



At the end of March, Our Place Wye is holding a thank you tea party in the village hall for people who have volunteered in the community over the past 12 months.

Initially we thought of this as a means to thank all of the OPW volunteers: the people who have helped out at the Christmas Street Party, the community lunch, delivering this newsletter, digging the sensory garden.

But then we realised that there were so many other people who help out in the community in some way who it would be good to include. So our new administrators, Laura and Mel (welcome to them), set about finding contact addresses for all the volunteers who help out with the sports clubs, the scouts, the Wye Gardeners, the Wye Historical Society, Wye Ground Force, Wye Heritage, the church, the parish council...

At the time of writing, we have no idea how many people will come on March 24 but what has become clear is that a huge number of people do give their time for free in our community. If you're one of them and you haven't received an invite, please let Laura and Mel know by emailing admin@ourplacewye.org.uk. We'd love to see you there. And, on behalf of the community, thank you.

Jasper Bouverie, Chair OPW



VIRTUAL LUNCH

Ivor Groves, retired postman, now living in Wye. Ivor has recently been made honorary ambassador at Wye Cricket Club.

What brought you to Wye and how long have you lived here?

I always wanted to retire here and was lucky enough to move here around six years ago. I have a long association with the village as my grandmother was Doris May Kempe, who at one time lived at Kempe's Corner. I remember coming to Wye in the 1960s and I have memories of the Wye Racecourse and the crowds that came to the Victoria Inn (now The Tickled Trout). I also played cricket against Wye and the college elevens. I played football for Hinxhill as a young lad too.

What do you like about the village?

Wye is a very special community with its historic buildings, public houses and lovely green spaces, not to mention the beautiful North Downs and all the lovely walks to surrounding areas.

I loved the vibrancy of Wye in past decades, Wye College charity Burns Night suppers for example. I feel like the elderly are well looked after in the village and I enjoy meeting friends at the various eateries here.



How are you involved socially in village life?

I enjoy membership of the Wye Historical Society, The Options Club on a Monday and the Community Lunch.

I also believe in helping others and was keen to help the people delivering prescriptions during the pandemic.

Have you got a claim to fame?

I worked for 39 years as a postman (29 delivering to Eastwell). I got to know hundreds of people during this time which was amazing.

I also completed 15 marathon events including London, Amsterdam, Dublin and Paris, raising money for charities including the RNLI, The Royal British Legion, Kent Air Ambulance and Pilgrims Hospice.

I ran in the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games in 1986 and I was made Freeman of the City of London in 2007. This is something I am particularly proud of.

I also won a gold medal at Crystal Palace in athletics in 1987. I helped the southern counties' veterans win the British Veterans Championships in 2008.

Have you met anyone famous?

When collecting the incoming mail at Ashford train station, Sir Paul McCartney would always pop into the station buffet when he was passing and have a cup of tea and chat to everyone. I have also met the Duke of Kent, Sir Geoff Hurst, Jimmy Greaves and Peter Shilton.

What are you having for lunch today?

Pasta and salad. The omelettes at Wye Coffee shop are heavenly and I treat myself occasionally!

What is the secret to a happy and healthy life?

I believe eating well and exercising are the most important things. I also think it's best not to worry about things too much as it doesn't change the outcome.

Below: Ivor delivering post in Ashford town centre in the 90s.

Above: Ivor today at the almshouses.

Left: Ivor's certificate of the Freeman of the City of London



STOUR MUSIC FESTIVAL

Alice Wilkinson



Since 1962, over the course of the last two weekends each June, musicians and audiences have gathered together for Stour Music, a world-class feast of early, baroque and classical music in Boughton Aluph's beautiful church. A team of volunteers runs the front of house, sells programmes, helps in the car park and works in the bar, welcoming audiences and helping make the festival a unique part of East Kent's life.

Hilary Sell, a volunteer for many years, explains a little about the experience: "Volunteering at Stour Music is always a really great experience. There is a very friendly atmosphere among young and old. As a volunteer I have always felt part of the festival. I can go to the concerts and it is always a pleasure to meet the public and musicians in the course of the duties and

we all work as a happy and cooperative team.

I would recommend volunteering for Stour Music as a really interesting and rewarding activity."

If you are interested in being part of the team, please email Alice at friends@stourmusic.org.uk or ring her on 07976 354 683. To learn more about the festival visit www.stourmusic.org.uk.



WYE FOOD BANK

Dee Pizzo

Are you aware the village has a food bank?

At present there are two boxes, one in the porch of Wye Church and another at Lady Joanna Thornhill Primary School. They have been particularly successful over the Christmas period, but many items are still needed. Please drop of all donations at one of the locations.

Be assured that your donations of non-perishable food items and dried or tinned foods are very much appreciated and will get to the people who need them! The box in the church porch is emptied regularly and donations are taken directly to individuals and families both in and around our village and to various food banks in Ashford.

If you would like a food parcel please feel free to contact Graham Thorn: 07934251881



PLEA FROM THE CHURCH

Penny Haynes

Even if you are not a regular churchgoer, most of us benefit from having a church (and vicar) in Wye. We are all used to the church building being a focal point of the community, as it has been for more than 700 years. Even if you're not a regular churchgoer, you've probably attended funerals, baptisms or weddings. Yet, unfortunately we cannot take the church and the vicar for granted. We have to raise the money for upkeep.

The 200 regular members of the church contribute £90k a year to support the church, but we are currently looking at a shortfall of £20k in our annual budget commitment and can no longer meet this on our own. We are appealing to the wider community to help if you can, by a monthly donation of £5.00 or more to help ensure the future of our church in Wye.

You can do this online at www.parishgiving.org.uk and following the link to St Gregory and St Martin Wye. Thank you.

A big thank you to all of the lovely volunteers who deliver the newsletter. Without them you would not be reading it!

WHY I LOVE TO WRITE IN WYE

Lucy Strange, author, mother and Wye resident

I first started writing when I was working as an English teacher in the Middle East.

I had grown up in a village near Canterbury and spent much of my childhood exploring the local countryside. I loved to be surrounded by nature – walking in the woods or hiking in the hills. Even when I lived in London, I gravitated towards the wildest parts of the city – the parks and gardens and riverside paths. So, when I found myself living in a high-rise city apartment in the middle of the desert, I felt utterly adrift. I ached for green things – the fields and forests of home. I began an expat blog – as a way of channelling those feelings of loss and homesickness

into something creative. And I started writing a children's book too . . . It ended up being my first published novel: *The Secret of Nightingale Wood*.

Now, six books and several life-chapters later, I find myself living just outside Wye, amidst the very Kent landscape I longed for all those years I was working abroad.

I am lucky enough to have a writing shed at the bottom of my garden. As I write this, I am looking out over a flock of sheep grazing in a green meadow. In the distance, I can see pockets of woodland suspended in the soft hammock of the hills. If I open my window, I can hear a song thrush singing in a hawthorn tree. I can smell wet grass, and damp blossom and the sweetness of the rain-soaked earth. And I know that I am home.



Above: Author, Lucy Strange
Below left: Lucy's new book 'The Island at the Edge of Night'.
Below right: Lucy's other titles



Award-winning children's author Lucy Strange has lived in Wye since 2018. Her latest book, *The Island at the Edge of Night* (Chicken House) will be published on 11th April 2024. It's suitable for all book-lovers aged 9 and up, and is available for pre-order now from all good bookshops. Lucy will be signing books at Ashford Waterstones at 11am on Saturday 13th April, and at Canterbury Waterstones at 2.30pm – she'd love to see you and your families there!

We are grateful for the support of the following local business sponsors: Canterbury Cider, Meade Home Improvement, Garden of England Wedding Classic Cars, No4, New Flying Horse, Sawyers, Sealey Cleaning, Spacemaker Architects, Ticketyboo, Tickled Trout, Wilmington Therapy, Rebel Farmer, East Kent Flower Company and Wye Farmers' Market. If you would like to become a sponsor please contact admin@ourplacewye.org.uk

Thanks to Our Place Wye funders:



EVENTS AND LISTINGS

Find out what is happening in Wye and surrounding areas over the coming months.

MARCH - JUNE

2nd March

- 9am - 2pm Mother's Day Market at The Hub, Wye

24th March - Palm Sunday

- 9:30am at St Christopher's, Boughton Aluph,
- 11am at St Mary's, Brook
- 2 pm Thank you tea party for volunteers at village hall

28th March - Maundy Thursday

- 7pm at St Mary's, Brook

29th March - Good Friday

- 11am to 12noon (Not the 10 O Clock Service, St Gregory and St Martin's, Wye
- 2-3pm Stations of the Cross at St Gregory and St Martin's Wye (formal service with Communion)

31st March - Easter Sunday

- 9am at St Mary's, Brook (Catholic worship)
- 9.30am at St Christopher's, Boughton Aluph
- 10am at St Gregory and St Martin's, Wye
- 11 am St Mary's, Brook

7th April

- 12 noon to 4pm Daffodil, tea and art exhibition, Challock church

6th May

- Five Church Walk
- Wye Literary Festival (to the 8th tbc)

6th June

- 80th anniversary of VE Day, Wye village - details TBC

21-23 June and 28-30 June

- Stour Music Festival at St Christopher's, Boughton Aluph

- **Please note** that **Wye Farmers' Market** will take place as usual on the first and third Saturdays of the month.
- The **Options Club** meet in Wye Church every Monday for board games, chat and coffee.
- The **Community Lunch** is held every 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the Village Hall. **For more details or to book a place please contact Community Warden Richard Sinden on 07969583920**

EVENTS AT LUCKLEY HOUSE

Independent Living Scheme, Little Chequers, Wye, TN25 5DY

Open to all Wye Residents:

- Monday - 2-4pm - Knit and Craft Group
- Tuesday - 2-4pm - Darts and Board Games Group
- Tuesday - 10-3pm Warm winter space in the lounge
- Wednesday - 10-11am - Coffee Morning
- Wednesday - 7-9pm - Bingo
- Thursday - 9-10 am - Breakfast Club
- Sunday - 10-11am - Coffee Morning

'WHY SHEEP' YOUTH GROUP

"Why Sheep? Calling all young people in school years 6 to 9. There is a group just for you and your friends, called Why Sheep? We usually meet monthly on the third Sunday of the month from 6:30-8.00pm. This month we're going to the Roller Disco at Ashford Stour Centre on SATURDAY, 16 March from 1:30-3:30pm. Anyone in school Years 6 to 9 is welcome, so do join us.

For more information, contact Jo Rall (07905 919930).

If you have any upcoming events you wish to be added to our June Newsletter please email: admin@ourplacewye.org.uk

USE IT OR LOSE IT!

WYE, LITTLE BURTON, ASHFORD

Mondays to Fridays except public holidays

Wye Church	1040	1140	1240	1340
Little Burton Clarke Crescent	1048	1148	1248	1348
Sainsbury's Bybrook Retail Park	1056	1156	1256	1356
Ashford Park Street	1104	1204	1304	1404

ASHFORD, LITTLE BURTON, WYE

Ashford Park Street Stop C	1014	1114	1214	1314
Sainsbury's Bybrook Retail Park	1022	1122	1222	1322
Little Burton Clarke Crescent	1030	1130	1230	1330
Wye Church	1038	1138	1238	1338

A PATH TO BETTER HEALTH

Richard Sinden

There is increasing evidence that exposure to plants and green space, and particularly to gardening, is beneficial to mental and physical health. Gardening is known to relieve stress and boost cognitive function. Gentle gardening can help you burn off 300 calories an hour. The exercise you get from gardening helps to fight chronic conditions like heart disease and diabetes.

Gardening connects people within a broader community and combats the negative health impacts of loneliness. It is not surprising that gardening is consistently ranked in the top five activities for providing happiness and meaningfulness. With all those benefits why not give gardening a go?

There are several opportunities in Wye to get involved in gardening:

- Wye Ground Force arrange working parties to do gardening tasks in public spaces around Wye. Contact Kathy: 01233 720806
- St Gregory and St Martin's Parish Church has a monthly Churchyard tidy at 10am until 11am on the 2nd Saturday of the month. Contact Teresa Redfern: 01233 812352
- Wye Parish Council Allotments. Two large sites Beanfield and Churchfield. Contact Jane Burnham: 01233 812042

- Wye Gardener's Society meets in Small Village hall third Wednesday of the month 7.30pm. Contact wiegardenerssociety@gmail.com
- Wye Sensory Garden is Wye's newest garden located opposite Wye Fire Station in Little Chequers. The garden has been created by a dedicated group of volunteers and we could always do with more help to improve and maintain the garden. Contact KCC Community Warden Richard Sinden: 07969 583920.



Above: Allotments in Wye
Below: Sensory Garden in August 2023



MEET OUR NEW PHARMACIST



Many of you will have had the chance to meet Nana, our new pharmacist who started in January.

Nana has been a pharmacist for six years, recently moving from the Well pharmacy in Lydd to be closer to family in Ashford.

Before working for Well, Nana worked extensively in hospitals and was an optician for many years before retraining as a pharmacist. Nana's enjoying working in this peaceful village, having originally lived in London.

When asked what she's looking forward to most, Nana said 'helping the community and getting to know my patients'. We wish her a warm welcome.

NO4 IS OPEN!

Nicholas MacLennan tells us about No4 Wine Bar and restaurant which opened in February

Why did you decide to take on No4?

I always loved the look and feel of the place, it's been empty for nearly two years and I couldn't wait to bring the place back to life.

What type of food and drink is on offer?

We are offering a wine bar and speakeasy where you can order drinks and eat Tapas. Then we have a 30 cover restaurant where we serve Mediterranean style food.

What can customers expect from a night at No4?

We have redecorated and changed the feel of the place. We will be offering outside dining in the summer and benches to the rear south-facing garden for drinks and tapas.

What will No4 add to the village?

It will offer a new place to enjoy local and international wines, classic cognacs, a different dining style and a touch of class.

Describe No4 in 3 words

Unique. Relaxed, And different

Instagram: @No4_Wye

For Bookings: info@no4wye.co.uk



Above: tapas at No4, Below: The outside of No4



A CUPPA WITH...

**Claire Sledger
Owner of Sawyers**

How long have you owned Sawyers for and how would you best describe it?

I have owned and managed Sawyers for five years. Having been a primary school teacher and SENCo for 18 years, I wanted to do something different. I have an English and Art degree, as well as teaching, and as a hobby which then turned into a business, I used to upcycle and put new life into vintage furniture. Sawyers started on the back of that. I filled it with my vintage and upcycled furniture and, over the years, it has kind of evolved into what it is now. A mix of quirky, vintage things where people can come and have a drink, enjoy themselves and take it all in. I especially wanted Sawyers to have a cosy village feel, where all feel welcome...the kind of place where if

I was on my own, I would feel comfortable having a drink by myself, which hopefully we have achieved, although that is mainly down to our lovely, friendly customers who are just the best.

What can people expect from a night out in Sawyers?

A night out in Sawyers consists of a warm welcome, great drinks, great music, friendly faces, brilliant atmosphere, fantastic bar staff and always something different (even if I do say so myself!). We have monthly music nights, Sunday folk sessions, quiz nights and lots more.

Have you got any exciting events happening over the next few months?

We are always planning music events and host bands and singers from a range of different musical genres, from acoustic rock, to reggae to latin and soul. Coming up in March we have a great reggae duo called Gumboots; in April, the Quiet Americans and many more. We'll also

have our regular Sunday folk session where everyone is welcome to come down, you can bring your own instrument or just sit back and enjoy. Our quiz nights are proving to be quite popular too!

What's your favourite tipples?

If I had to say one drink, it would be a lovely glass of full bodied red wine.

What's your favourite song or band?

Pink Floyd- I have every album they have ever done. My favourite song is 'Wish You Were Here' as it reminds me of my late father.

What would your last meal be?

Anything I haven't had to cook!

Instagram: [sawyersinwye](https://www.instagram.com/sawyersinwye)

Facebook: [sawyers](https://www.facebook.com/sawyers)

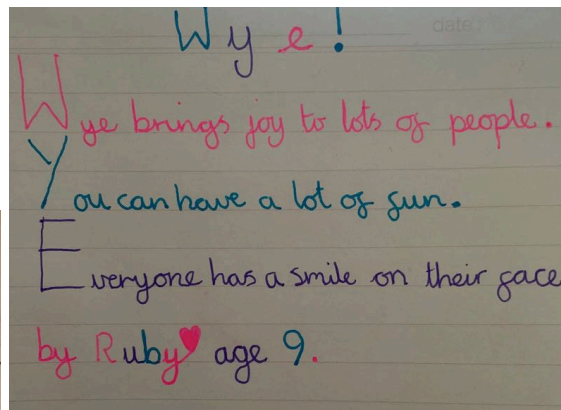


CALLING ALL YOUNG PEOPLE OF WYE

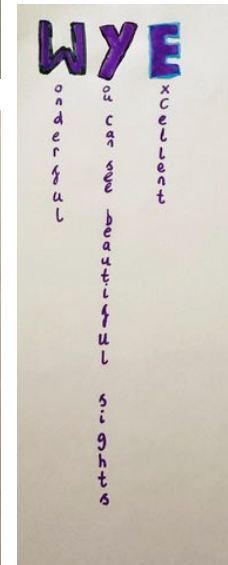
We want to know what you love about Wye, whether it's in words, a small poem, a picture or photograph. Please send to newsletter@ourplacewye.org.uk We'll try to include as many entries as we can!



ROSA FROUDE / AGE 8



Above: Josh age 9
Below: Bethan age 11



KNITTING REQUEST!

Ann March,
Co-Director of Our Place
Wye

One of my claims to fame is that I am the Wye Post Office Box Yarn Bomber and for the past three years I have knitted and installed toppers on a seasonal basis. My last topper was Robin Hood, Maid Marion and a Band of Merry characters but it's looking quite faded and tired so I'm working hard to replace it with a new creation.

I first started knitting the characters during the Covid lockdown to while away the loneliness and isolation. Now that I am more active and volunteering in various roles in the



community, I am finding less time to knit.

I wondered if there were any other knitters in the village willing to knit a woodland creature of their own choice (approx. 5 inches tall) that they could donate to be included in a topper I plan to install on 1st May 2024? If you're keen to help please contact me on Facebook or via admin@ourplacewye.org.uk

OUR PLACE WYE CIC

Our Place Wye aims to nurture a more inclusive and integrated community, stimulating a healthy, caring and sustainable community in Wye and the surrounding area.

Our activities include management of the Our Place Wye Facebook Group and publication of this newsletter, the Community Lunch, construction of the Sensory Garden, and, from last year, management of the Christmas Street Party.

Set up in 2016 as a community interest company (CIC), we have at different times been funded by the National Lottery Awards for All, the Kent Community Foundation, Wye with Hinxhill Parish Council and Ashford Borough Council.