

OUR PLACE WYE



In early August I emailed all the members of the Our Place Management team to ask two questions: what would they say is the top priority for the new government, and what would they most like to see happen in Wye over the next couple of years.

The answer to the first question revealed the scale of the problems that the new government is confronting. According to our team, the government needs to prioritise sorting out the NHS and the social care system; resolve all wars and conflicts; solve the migration problem; provide more housing - particularly social housing; address the cost of living; provide more money to local authorities; and then there's climate change of course.

Here in Wye, the answers were similarly ambitious: a proper village fete; some affordable housing; a 20-mph speed limit for the village; safe footpaths and cycle routes; things to bring generations together; efforts made to maintain community spirit while the village grows; sorting out the traffic; a more robust caring and support structure; rapid movement on the Methodist Hall; and a pedestrian crossing at the bottom of Bridge Street.

Priorities will change as will our views on what needs doing both locally and nationally. Asking the questions was merely an attempt to find out what was on people's minds in August 2024. Maybe someone will do the same thing in 10 years time. Hopefully by then the government will have got a few things done. And here in Wye we'll be happy with how things have moved on. *Jasper Bouverie, Chair OPW Photo: Harvest Festival 2022 Rebel Farmer, Brook.*

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VIRTUAL LUNCH

Mark Deller, Professional Singer, Conductor and former Director of Stour Music Festival

What brought you to Wye?

For most of my working life I was a professional singer/conductor, performing all over the world. After leaving Cambridge, where I was a choral scholar at St John's College, I went to sing in the choir of Salisbury Cathedral, where amongst other things, I was invited by the City Council to run the first ever Salisbury Festival of the Arts. But a burgeoning international singing career meant that, in 1969, I really had to be in or near London, so I joined the choir of St Paul's Cathedral. Not wanting to live in London, I moved with my family to Wye, which I knew well, having grown up in Canterbury for the first 18 years of my life. The main reasons for choosing Wye were that it had a good (fast) train service to London and it also had Wye College. The many overseas postgraduate students and their families meant that the local primary school had children from all over the world, so the village was truly multicultural.

After moving to Wye in 1969, I was invited to become the conductor of Ashford Choral Society, a post I held for the next fifty years. And thanks to my earlier experience running the Salisbury Festival, in 1974 I took over running the Stour Music festival from my father, who had started it in 1962. For the same reason, when the Canterbury Festival was revived in 1984, I was invited to become its director; a post I held for almost twenty years.



Above: Mark Deller has been conductor at the Ashford Choral Society since 1969

What first got you into music?

Well, I had a certain amount of environmental conditioning! My Dad was a famous singer, and I had a great musical education, first as a boy chorister at Canterbury Cathedral, and then at the King's School. By the time I finished at Cambridge, it seemed that my natural progression was to become a professional church singer, which I was for about fifteen years; but then following the success of my first recording in 1962 with my Dad, I also became a member of his ensemble, the Deller Consort, making my first USA tour with them in 1966 – forty concerts in eight weeks on the road, coast to coast and up into Canada.

What's your proudest achievement?

Musically, I suppose adding more than 70 new works to the repertoire of Ashford Choral Society, and helping them to achieve a standard of performance that they never thought possible. And successfully steering Stour Music through 45 festivals was important. But maybe, if there is one thing of which I am most proud, it was being responsible for raising £100k

and commissioning the design for the restoration of the big south transept window in All Saints' Boughton Aluph, which had been blown out during World War II.

What's the most exciting place you've performed in?

I've performed more concerts in Paris than in any other city, but my first visit to Rio was certainly amazing; and conducting in the Colon Opera House in Buenos Aires in 1979 and again in 2003 was probably the pinnacle of my conducting career.

Have you met anyone famous?

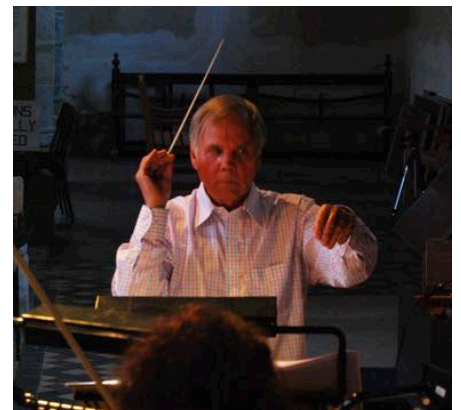
A lot of famous musicians. Several well-known actors who came to perform at Stour Music – Celia Johnson (of Brief Encounter fame), Peggy Ashcroft and Judi Dench and her husband Michael Williams, who invited my wife and I to see them at Stratford and have dinner with them after the show.

What are you having for lunch today?

Probably one of Sarah Wakelin's excellent home-made ready meals. Spoilt for choice there!

What is the secret to a long and happy life?

Good health, keeping busy, thinking about others before oneself, having good and kind friends and a caring and loving family. Not forgetting my cat!



Above: Mark Deller in action in 2011

WYE WILL REMEMBER THEM

On Thursday 6th June, the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Landings was marked in the heart of Wye

The event, organised by Wye Parish Council, was a great success and saw many gather to watch Ashford Choral Society and the scouts and cubs help with the lighting of the beacon.

We spoke to Kevin Rall at the event who chatted about his father and his experiences during World War 2. He told us the following:

Like many WW2 Veterans my Dad never really spoke about his experiences. His discharge papers list 'Battles and Campaigns': "General Order 33 and General Order 40 published by the War

Department in 1945". General Order 33WD45 for instance specifies the geographical combat zone. In my Father's case it is 'Air Offensive Europe, Normandy, Northern France'. It's possible that he may have had some small role in the air defence relating to D-Day but sadly I will never know as he died in August 1987, a month before my wife and I were married.

Needless to say, I am very proud of my Dad's service in World War Two. He was stationed in Mendlesham, England and then in Leuchars, Scotland where he was involved in secret missions. He then went to Europe.

My Dad gave me a slip of paper when I was a teenager which I kept in my wallet until it wore out. On it is said, "Do all the good you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, for all the people you can, While you can!"

I now work for a charity called Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) and one of our founding members, Stuart King is a veteran of the D-Day landings. In 1945 Stuart King was in Germany with the RAF when his mother sent him a magazine with an article about the 'embryo' concept of Mission Aviation Fellowship. Over the next months God spoke to him, calling him to missionary flying. And, over the following years, God impressed on him the need to 'do all we can, where we can, while we can'. As far as I know Stuart King and my father never met, and they both took very different paths but they both obviously tried to live by these words.

MAF's co-founder, Jack Hemmings, now 102, was at the 80th Anniversary of D-Day in Normandy.



Left: George Edward Rall in front of B17, The Duchess, named because it was his nickname for Kevin's mother and his then fiancée, Clare Lieb

Right: Jo and Kevin at the 80th D-day Anniversary on the green. Kevin is wearing his Dad's jacket and dog tags and Jo is wearing an MAF fleece.



COMMUNITY GARDEN OPENS!

On Sunday 19th May, over fifty local residents joined us in Little Chequers for the Community Sensory Garden official opening. The sun shone brightly for the afternoon and we celebrated everyone who helped bring the garden to life.

Councillor Noel Ovenden officially opened the garden with Richard Sinden, Community Warden, who along with other volunteers turned some wasteland in Little Chequers into the garden.

Please come along and visit the Community Sensory garden through the year and while you are there, please help yourself to any ready fruit and vegetables. If you would like to help maintain the garden please contact us on admin@ourplacewye.org.uk.



Above: OPW chair Jasper Bouverie thanking all the hard working volunteers in Wye for dedicating their time.

Right: Noel Ovenden and Richard Sinden cutting the ribbon with some garden shears!



DANCING INTO WYE

Liz Moriarty, Dance Teacher at Margaret Giles School of Dancing

I love coming to Wye to teach. As I cross the railway crossing, often receiving friendly waves from my pupils on their way home from school, I feel excited to be going to work in such a beautiful place. It's not uncommon for my husband and dog to hitch a ride on a Saturday so they can enjoy the walks and the farmers' market. The village halls are spacious, clean and well managed, and then of course, there are the super students.

I am the latest custodian of a long established dance school, Mg Dance or to give it its full name Margaret Giles School of Dancing. Miss Giles was well known in the village for pushing her pug dogs around in a pram! She started her school back in the 1940s (the exact year I don't know so if any readers have information on that I'd be interested to hear from them).

In Miss Giles' day, parents probably sent their children to ballet to gain discipline and good "deportment". Since then sports science has come a long way and the physical benefits of exercise are well understood.



Above: ballet class in action!

We are all advised to keep fit for our heart, lungs and bone health (teenage girls especially benefit from weight-bearing exercise) the mental health benefits are also now well recognised. Exercise reduces stress, improves mood, sleep and confidence. What's more, through studying brain scans, neuroscientists have discovered brain cells are able to regenerate and exercise is key to that process. The beauty of dance, as highlighted in a TV programme by the late Dr Michael Mosley, is that it can enhance cognitive ability too. In experiments, people who took a dance class before a cognitive test performed better; the combination of exercise, the music and the challenge to remember steps gave the brain a wonderful boost.

I feel lucky to be teaching in a time when evidence backs up what dancers have always intuitively understood; dance brings so many benefits, yes deportment and yes the discipline it requires to master a skill, but what was once possibly viewed as a slightly frivolous activity has proven itself to be so much more. It is a privilege for me to meet the very young children who walk through the door not knowing their left from their right and seeing them grow into young adults. Most won't go on to have a career in dance, but hopefully they'll all have a strong physique and attitude that will benefit them for the rest of their lives and a love and appreciation for the art form that is dance.



*Above: Barre exercises
Alongside Ballet MG Dance offers Tap, Modern Theatre and Street Jazz.*

For more information on the classes on offer please visit the website:
www.mg-dance.co.uk

We are grateful for the support of the following local business sponsors: Canterbury Cider, Meade Home Improvement, Garden of England Classics Wedding Car Hire, No4, New Flying Horse, Sawyers, Sealey Cleaning, Spacemaker Architects, Ticketyboo, Tickled Trout, Wilmington Therapy, Rebel Farmer, The East Kent Flower Company, Musika, Wye Beauty, Wye Farmers' Market, The Hub, Hobbs Parker, Wilder-Work, The Vault Hair and Beauty and The Bowl Inn Hastingleigh.

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's happening in Wye and surrounding areas over the coming months.

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER

- Saturday 14th September - Challock Summer Fair
- Sunday 15th September - 9am - 12pm - Grand Jumble and boot sale - Crundale Village Hall
- Saturday 28th September - Pie and Mash Supper Club - Perry Court Farm
- Monday 30th September - deadline for fully funded energy upgrades. Check Department of Energy Security to see if you are eligible. [#saveenergystaywarm](#)
- 5th & 6th October - Perry Court Apple Fayre
- Saturday 12th Oct - Brook Village Hall - Jumble 2pm
- Friday 25th October - Ashford Green Party Quiz - Wye Small Village Hall - 7pm
- Sunday 3rd November - Craft Fair - Wye Village Hall - 9.15 - 4pm
- Saturday 9th November - Firework display by Lady Joanna School - Wye Village Hall, - 7pm
- Saturday 16th November - Bingo Night - Brook Village Hall - 7pm
- 16th & 17th November - Christmas Fayre - Perry Court
- Friday 6th December - Our Place Wye Christmas Street Party - Church Street, Wye - 6-8pm

WYE GARDENERS AUTUMN SHOW

Saturday 21st September

The Large Village Hall, Bridge Street, Wye
The show is open to all and free to enter.



- The large Village Hall open for entry at 10 -11:30am
- Hall open to the public at 2:30pm
- Winners announced at 4pm.
- Refreshments available.

- **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.

EVENTS AT LUCKLEY HOUSE

Little Chequers, Wye, TN25 5DY

Open to all Wye Residents:

- Monday - 2-4pm - Art and Craft Group
- Tuesday - 2-4pm - Darts and Board Games Group
- Wednesday - 10-11am - Coffee Morning
- Wednesday - 7-9pm - Bingo
- Thursday - 8:30 am - Breakfast Club
- Sunday - 10-11am - Coffee Morning
- Sunday (fortnightly) - 7pm Film Club

OUR PLACE WYE COMMUNITY LUNCH

Wye Village Hall, £5 for two courses, tea, coffee and biscuits.

12:15 for 12:30 serving. To book contact KCC Community

Warden; Richard Sinden on 07969583920

Open to all Wye Residents:

- 11th and 25th September, 9th and 23rd October
- 6th and 20th November, 4th and 18th December

WYE HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Latin School, Wye College Garden.

Free entry to all. Tea and homemade cakes are offered for a small donation. 10am - 12pm. 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month.

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

BUS TIMETABLE:

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

APHRA BEHN, BROUGHT TO LIFE IN NEW NOVEL

Pat Marsh, Secretary Our Place Wye

Local author Pat Marsh has a new novel entitled *Three Faces – The Story of Aphra Behn*. It brings to life Aphra Behn, the first Englishwoman to make her living as a professional writer.

The book launch took place on 10th July in the Harbledown parish church where Aphra Behn was christened Eaffrey Johnson on 14th December 1640. She was the daughter of a barber and was brought up in a Canterbury pub. The Finches of Eastwell Manor noted that she had lived in Wye.

When asked about her inspiration for the book Pat said, 'I was intrigued to work out how she came to rub shoulders with the highest in the land and be buried in Westminster Abbey as a celebrated poet, playwright and novelist.'

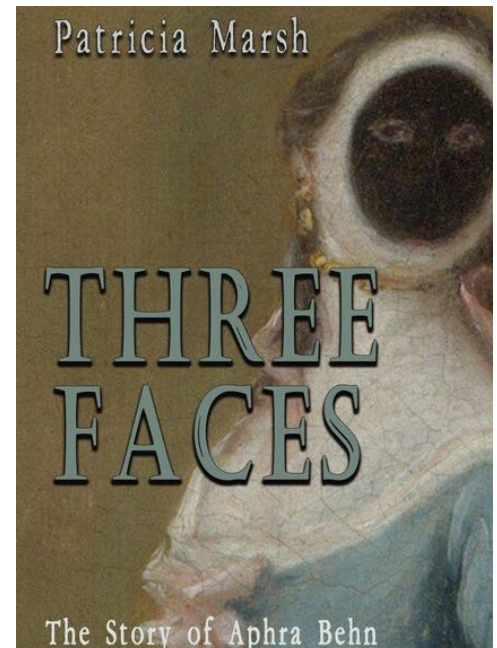
Three Faces is set in one of the most turbulent periods of human history,



Above: Pat Marsh at her book launch in July

marked by civil war, the execution of the King, the institution of a republic, constant threats of uprising, the restoration of monarchy, endless plots and counter-plots, the Anglo-Dutch Wars, plague, the destruction of the heart of the City of London by fire, the persecution of Catholics, the deposition of a king and the establishment of a new dynasty.

Aphra Behn is on her deathbed, looking back on a life requiring her to hide her background, her feelings and her loyalties, showing different faces to different people. Her work shows her as an early local feminist. Virginia Woolf said of her: "All women together ought to let flowers fall upon the tomb of Aphra Behn... for it was she who earned them the right to speak their minds."



Above : *Three Faces* in print now available

Local playwright Bruce McKay has described the novel as "a fabulous picture of Aphra Behn and her extraordinary Restoration life".

Three Faces is published by The Conrad Press and can be ordered from any bookshop or online at a cost of £10.99. It is also available as an ebook on Kindle.

Tickety Boo in Wye is stocking the book and it can be bought for £10 cash or £10.99 with a debit/credit card.

WYE ADVENT WINDOWS, ALL WELCOME!

Katie Cole

For the fifth year, we will be continuing a village Living Advent Calendar for Christmas 2024.

If you would like to take part, you just need to decorate one of your home's windows for Advent. We will organise the windows to 'open' on different days throughout Advent. You'll be given a date to 'go live' and be asked to include that number in your window. We would like to include as many people as possible so you could open on the same

day as a neighbour or even organise for your road to have its own special day or theme. Whilst there are some very arty creations, Christmas is all about tradition so a bit of tinsel and some baubles will always be a winner – this is definitely a more-the-merrier event! If there's a budding artist or designer in the village who could refresh the design of the Advent window guide, that would also be great!

If you would like to take part please email katiejcole@gmail.com by November 15th.



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

CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW WINNERS!

Local business Kent Wildflower Seeds, run by the Denne family who live in Wye, won a Silver-Gilt medal at Chelsea Flower Show back in May. A fantastic achievement for the first time RHS exhibitors, it was also the first time a wildflower company had exhibited in the Great Pavilion which showcases the very best of the country's specialist growers.

Their wild but highly ornamental display was designed to show that wildflowers aren't just for meadows, they can be used in a garden of any size or style. Featuring species often found growing on the Kent Downs, such as oxeye daisies (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), wild red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), and ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), their stand also featured the work of Kent-born



Above: Silver-Gilt display

regenerative fine furniture maker Sebastian Cox and an original artwork by Claire Basler, commissioned in partnership with Somerset-based natural fragrance house Ffern.

Charlotte Denne, designer of the display said: "We want to reframe wildflowers and show the value of including native plants in traditional planting schemes. As well as supporting the ecosystem of your garden, they also play a role in improving soil health and can provide a bounty of nutrient-rich edibles".



Above: Wildflowers and furniture from Sebastian Cox

Follow them on Instagram @kentwildflowerseeds
Visit their website kentwildflowerseeds.co.uk.

A CUPPA WITH...

Kathryn & Jessica Hickson, Owners of Wye Wholefoods

How long have you been running Wye Wholefoods?

We opened on 15th March 2023 in the former bakery building. When the bakery had to close after nearly 9 years, we took the opportunity to have the shop and created Wye Wholefoods. We have always had a love for the community of Wye and used to visit regularly before running the shop.

How would you best describe Wye Wholefoods?

It's a space where we can share our passion for delicious, minimally processed and natural food and eco-friendly household items with the community. Where we source our products is highly important to us and so we take great care to thoroughly research all the brands we hope to work with. Many of



Above: Kathryn and Jessica attended Wye Coronation party in 2023

our products are organic - where available. As far as possible we try to source from cooperatives, B Corps and local businesses. We are aiming to reduce the amount of plastic packaging on our products by looking into sourcing alternatives and by expanding our refill station offerings.

What are you most proud of?

Getting our degrees in Applied Animal Science and Nutrition.

What's your favourite tippie?

Apple juice mixed with elderflower cordial is definitely one of our favourite drinks!

Do you have a favourite song?

It's hard to choose a favourite so we normally listen to the radio and enjoy whatever comes on.

What would your last meal be?

Our favourite meals do change often but homemade burgers with huffkin rolls will always be a regular favourite meal.

What's the best recipe for an autumn day?

Apple pie is enjoyable to make as an autumn treat. It's very satisfying when the pastry is successful. Using a mix of different apple varieties with some rhubarb or blackberries added in makes for a lovely, sweet dish.

Opening hours:

Wednesday to Friday 8:30am-2pm /
Saturday 8:30am-12:30pm



YOUNG PEOPLE'S CORNER

We asked you where your favourite place to play is in Wye and here are just some of the things you told us:

I like to find rabbits in the woods around Wye'
William age 7

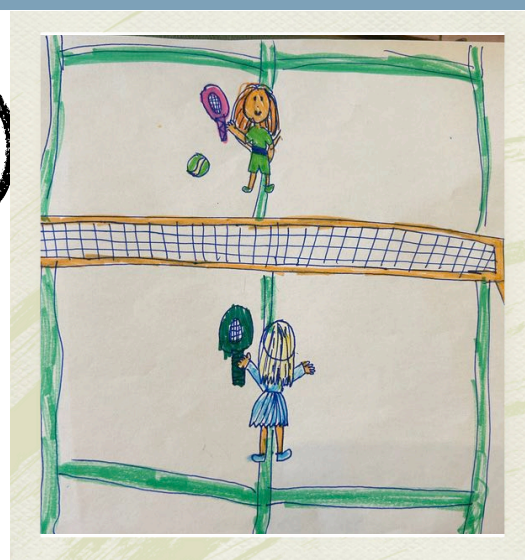
"I like to play in Wye park because there are lots of places to do gymnastics and to play with my friends."
Sophie age 10

'I like to play in the big trees on the village green and pretend they are my treehouses'
Arlo age 5

Right: 'I love to play tennis at the tennis courts with my friends'
Lola age 9

'I love the zip wire in the field. Myself and friends love to pretend we are flying through the sky'
Emma Age 8

Right: 'Me and my sister playing in Wye Playground' Iona age 6



For our Christmas edition we want to know your favourite Christmas tradition in your household.

Please send entries to admin@ourplacewye.org.uk

WHAT MAKES WYE, WYE

Laura Starley

For the first article of this new feature we had to begin with the infamous Wye Crown. It signals home to local residents and a walking beacon for others coming to Wye. It has been used for many a pub trivia question and is also taught to the children in our local schools. Here is the origin of those white chalk marks just one more time for the people at the back. I have sourced the following excerpt from Discovering Britain Website. www.discoveringbritain.org.uk

The origins of the Wye Crown go back over 100 years to the early days of the twentieth century when Wye was home to a thriving agricultural college. Nestled on the footslopes of the Kent Downs above the fertile Stour valley, the varied soils of the college land made the perfect outdoor classroom for a wide range of agricultural and horticultural studies. Keen to celebrate the coronation of King Edward VII in 1902, the college's principal came up with the



Above: Wye Crown is visible for miles around

brilliant idea of carving a crown into the hillside above the village. Far easier to say than do, the credit for the mammoth task of putting this idea into practice - from design to drawing board to digging - goes to 'Tommy' J. Young, the college's Lecturer in Surveying. Laying out a symmetrical design on an irregular surface was a tricky challenge, but Young had the idea of plotting the outline from a vantage point from the fields below the hill.

While a team of students armed with flags stood in readiness on the hillside, Young signalled to them from his vantage point in the field below, getting them to move positions until the right shape was achieved. Some say he copied a drawing of a crown from an 1887 florin (a coin worth 10p in modern terms) and stuck this to his

surveying tools, but it seems the perfect shape was simply achieved by his good eye. With the outline marked, the back-breaking task of removing 7,000 barrow loads of turf, soil and chalk took 35 students four days to complete over the spring of 1902. In the event, the coronation was postponed with the king suffering from appendicitis, but this did little to dampen the spirits of the college and a bonfire was lit beside the new crown on the evening of 30th June. The Crown was later illuminated by 1500 fairy lights on the night of the actual coronation on 9th August 1902. The King was able to view the spectacle of the illuminated crown himself when he stayed at nearby Eastwell Manor two years later.

The Wye Crown has been used for bonfires and other illuminations right through to the present day, including the coronation of King George VI in 1937 when it was lit by electric lights. During the First and Second World Wars it was covered with heaps of brushwood to camouflage it from enemy aircraft and prevent it being used as a landmark.