

# OUR PLACE WYE

The run up to Christmas is always a busy time. So busy that it's easy to overlook the people who arrange things in the village which somehow seem to always happen and which contribute to a feeling of celebration and community. Everything of course is organised by someone!

The Christmas tree, for example, seen here, miraculously appears every year from Perry Court farm shop. The Christmas lights were originally purchased by Ann and Peter Sutherland when they ran the Christmas Street Party and are now put up by Lennie Jefferies and his band of volunteers - using a cherry picker kindly loaned and operated by T Denne Ltd.

Then there is the Christmas Street Party itself, now organised by Our Place Wye, with its stalls erected by Martin Mackey and his volunteer crew and also of course manned on the night by a number of volunteers from village clubs and societies. Then there are the services in our churches with many volunteers arranging the flowers, ringing the bells, singing in the choir and providing coffee.

I'm sure there are others. The purpose of this piece is just to acknowledge and thank those who make these contributions - and also to possibly pull in others who might want to contribute. If you'd like to help make a difference, please contact the Our Place Wye administrators at [admin@ourplacewye.org.uk](mailto:admin@ourplacewye.org.uk)

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Send your articles to [newsletter@ourplacewye.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@ourplacewye.org.uk)**



## VIRTUAL LUNCH

### Katie Cole, Wye resident, and the face behind our much loved Wye Advent Windows

#### What brought you and your family to Wye?

We moved to be closer to my husband's family and still be able to commute to our jobs. I'll never forget when we first drove over the manual level crossing - the willows, the pub, the ancient church, free parking, a public loo with flowers in it! When a stranger said a friendly hello and then remembered me when we saw her later in the pub, I knew we'd found our new home.

#### Tell us about yourself and your interests

I'm old enough to have missed the online dating scene, so I'm unpractised at answering this question! Instead, my husband asked me out by the printers at university. I said no thanks. I realised my mistake on a camping trip three years later and had to grovel, but we've been together ever since and have two girls, aged eight and eleven. My job in public health is always interesting, and around that I like to exercise and try out new recipes on friends and family.

#### Where is your favourite place to go in the village?

I love running up to the Crown. Being the first one up there on a snowy day is magical.

#### What is your proudest achievement?

I was responsible for setting up a programme to support vulnerable



*Above: Katie started the Advent windows in lockdown 2020*

children who were shielding in the pandemic. It was in an area of east London where many families live in high rise, overcrowded homes on low incomes. We won a national award for bringing professionals together to provide all sorts of support including toys, books, health care and most importantly a listening ear. Hopefully it did something to make a dreadful situation a little easier.

#### Tell us a little about how Wye Advent Windows started

I saw online that my old street in London was doing advent windows during that awful lockdown in December 2020 and loved the idea for Wye. It was cathartic and a break from working on the pandemic response. I felt it was something positive to do to connect us as a village and give us a cheery reason to leave the house. I know my children love to see all the advent windows in Wye and it has become a yearly tradition ever since.

#### Have you met anyone famous?

Chris Whitty through work. I once blagged backstage passes to a Maria Carey concert. Colin Firth walked past twice on our honeymoon.

#### What are you having for lunch today?

I had brunch at Badger's Hill in Chilham in an enclosure with ducks and geese. It was an unplanned and surreal celebration of my husband's birthday.

#### What is your favourite part of Christmas lunch?

Sprouts. No! Parsnips! No! It's sprouts. Parsnips! It's like choosing my favourite child - impossible!

#### What do you do to relax and find peace in a busy world?

Running around Wye, staring out of a train window, staring into my fish tank or crafting an Advent window!

**The Wye Living Advent Calendar 2024 will be starting from 1st December. A huge thank you to all those who have volunteered to decorate a window for the fifth year of this new village tradition.**

**Each day, a new Advent window will be revealed and you can find them all over the village. You could venture out to see the latest one for a daily walk, use them to entice the children out at the weekend, or do the whole lot on Christmas Eve.**

**There is a free booklet with a map available from the church porch and station lobby. New windows will be posted on the Our Place Wye Facebook group each day.**



*Above: An Advent window from 2023*

## WREATH MAKING GUIDE

**Louise Courtenay - Lead florist at East Kent Flower Company**

In this step-by-step guide, I'm going to show you how to make your very own seasonal wreath from scratch. So, clear some space, grab yourself a drink of choice and begin creating!

### Tools required:

Secateurs or carbon scissors, reel wire and 20-gauge florist wires.

### Materials Needed:

Wreath Base / Frame, Moss, Foliage, decorations and ribbon

There are three core components present in any wreath – the base, foliage, and decorative items.

The frame is vital and this forms the base of your wreath – it's what everything is attached to and what provides the rigidity. Wreath frames are usually made from copper but you can get natural frames made from twigs.

Our wreaths are always made with a variety of foliage and textures. Examples include: branches of spruce, pine, and yew, bay or conifer, contorted hazel, teasels.

### Step 1 - Condition & prune your foliage

Once I have gathered my foliage, I leave them in water for at least 24 hours. Trim the foliage into workable sizes, about hand size.



### Step 2 - Creating the moss base for your wreath

If you are using a wreath frame, I recommend creating a moss base to attach the foliage. Use the wire reel to wrap around the moss and lock it in place on the frame. Start by tying the end of your wire to the top of the frame (don't cut it to a length – keep it on the reel). Next, make sausage segments by taking the wire you have previously attached and tightly winding it around the moss at one-inch intervals. Make sure that you pull it tight for maximum stability. Once you have done this the entire way around, keep the wire attached to your reel as we will need this for the next step.

### Step 3 - Binding greenery to the moss base

I divide the foliage into mini mixed bundles. Select your first mini bundle, place it on top of a section of the moss, and then wrap the wire reel around it in the same way you secured the moss. It's a simple process of then repeating this around the entire moss wreath base to create a complete circle. Always place the next mini bundle slightly overlapping, in the same direction and on top of the previous bundle to cover the stems.



Above Left: Louise's beautiful handmade wreath. Above: Step two Below: Step three



The overlapping ensures the moss base is completely covered too. Make sure the wire is pulled tightly around the foliage to secure it and bind it properly to the moss base.

### Step 4 Decorating

Our wreaths are usually decorated with a selection of natural whole or sliced oranges, limes, pine cones, cinnamon, feathers, ilex berries etc. Each element has a wire attached to create a "leg". Poke the wire through the foliage, into moss and bend it so it returns into the moss at the back. Add a pretty bow and you are ready to hang your creation!

We sell DIY wreath making kits with YouTube instructions or perhaps you might like to come to our Flower School and attend one of our wreath-making classes? Alternatively, if crafting is not your thing, we can make you a wreath for delivery or collection! All options are on our website: [www.eastkentflowercompany.com](http://www.eastkentflowercompany.com)

## THANK YOU AND GOODBYE!

Martyn and Sarah of Wye Butchers are retiring at the end of December. We wanted to say thank you and goodbye to them on behalf of Wye.

Martyn and Sarah have been running Wye Butchers for 10 years but their family have owned the butchers since 1966. Here are some quotes from

the Our Place Wye Facebook group. There were far too many to fit in here but they all echoed the same sentiments. We wish them a very happy and well deserved retirement! 'They are both legends and I have passed Sarah's cooking off as my own a few times!'

'Martyn and Sarah's shop is one of my favourite places, they are always a huge pleasure to talk to.'

'They are a lovely warm, kind and generous couple. They have donated meat to feed all the residents of Luckley House for Christmas lunch.'

'It is the end of an era!'



'I will really miss them both. Sarah made my mum's 90th birthday cake, it was amazing!'



## OUR BIG ROUND UP

Christmas is often a time of reflection for many and at Our Place Wye this is no different. Therefore we wanted to share what we have achieved this year with you, the readers. Without the help of all our volunteers who give their precious time to help we would not be able to do the things we do. We are so grateful and want to make sure they all feel appreciated

- We have served 23 community lunches to 25 plus people each time. That means lots of washing up!
- Opened Wye Community Sensory Garden after years of co-ordination and hard work.
- Hand delivered a quarterly newsletter into the homes of Wye residents.
- Hosted a thank you party for all the volunteers in the village.
- Run and monitored Our Place Wye Facebook group.
- Supported the Options club which meets in the church every Monday. Also provided support for the volunteer driving scheme
- Worked with various agencies including Wye Surgery, the PPG, the Parish Council and the Church to ensure we are all working together to create a more inclusive community.

If you would like to volunteer at Our Place Wye please email at [admin@ourplace.org.uk](mailto:admin@ourplace.org.uk)

## WYE CHRISTMAS STREET PARTY

This year sees the return of one of Wye's favourite winter-time traditions, with the 27th Christmas Street Party, on Friday 6th December from 6-8pm now organised by Our Place Wye

Alice, who is organising the event on behalf of Our Place Wye, said:

*'It's an evening for the village to come together in anticipation of Christmas and enjoy the lights on Church Street, carol singing and music from local choirs and groups. There are fairground rides, stalls offering games, a lucky dip, mulled wine and street food galore, from curries, a barbeque, doughnuts and mince pies to all kinds of homemade cakes and goodies from a range of local businesses, groups and societies. Father Christmas will be saying hello, with sweets for those who've been good!'*

She explained that another one of the highlights will be the Grand Raffle to raise money for community projects. Local businesses have already generously donated an array of wonderful prizes, including the following:

A camping holiday in France courtesy of Venue Holidays. A Spa Day for two at Eastwell Manor. A basket of goodies from Tickety Boo, and vouchers for local restaurants.

If you would be able to spare a couple of hours to help with the Street Party please email Alice at [christmas@ourplacewye.org.uk](mailto:christmas@ourplacewye.org.uk) or ring 07976 354 683.

For raffle tickets, come along to the Farmers' Market on 16th November, or on sale at the pubs at the end of November. They will also be on sale on the night.



We are grateful for the support of the following local business sponsors: Canterbury Cider, Meade Home Improvement, Garden of England Classics Wedding Car Hire, 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, The Bowl Inn Hastingleigh, Smart Decluttering Solutions, Embrace Yoga With Me, Wye Coffee Shop and Genesis Landscaping.

If you would like to become a sponsor please contact [admin@ourplacewye.org.uk](mailto: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.

## DECEMBER '24 - MARCH '25

- Sunday 1st December at 6.30pm - Advent Carols at Wye Church
- Friday 6th December at 6-8pm - Our Place Wye Christmas Street Party - Church Street, Wye
- Sunday 8th December at 3pm - Christmas Carol Service at Hinxhill Church
- Wednesday 11th December at 10.30am - WI Christmas Carols at Wye Church
- Sunday 15th December at 10am - 3pm - Handcrafted Community at Wye Village Hall (with pre booking Santa Grotto). Booking via their Facebook page
- Sunday 22nd December at 6.30pm- Christmas Carol Service at Wye Church
- Sunday 22nd December at 7pm - Live Band at the Tickled Trout - Heros
- Christmas Eve at 4.30pm - Crib Service at Wye Church
- Christmas Eve Midnight Mass at 11.30pm at Wye Church
- Christmas Day Eucharist at 10am at Wye Church
- Sunday 19th January at 10am -2pm - Handcrafted Community - Wye Village Hall
- Saturday 15th February at 10am -2pm - Handcrafted Community - Wye Village Hall
- Sunday 16th March at 10am -2pm - Handcrafted Community - Wye Village Hall

Please note the Tickled Trout will be closed for maintenance from Monday 6th Jan - Thursday 9th Jan (included)

Correction: Please note that the music on the green for D Day was performed by Ashford Concert Band and not the Choral Society.

- 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:

- December 4th & 18th & January 8th & 22nd
- February 5th & 19th & March 5th & 19th

## WYE WOMENS INSTITUTE

They meet at 10.30am on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at St Gregory & St Martin Church, Wye. Welcoming group with a speaker each month covering a variety of topics.

**If you have any upcoming events or articles you wish to be added to our March 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



## SAVE OUR COMMUNITY WARDEN!

The team of Our Place Wye is saddened by Kent County Council's decision to move our Community Warden Richard Sinden to a different area and leave Wye without a community warden and more importantly without Richard!

We hope that Kent County Council can be persuaded to reverse this decision. Richard's 12 years of experience cannot be replicated. Richard is known, respected, consulted and above all trusted by the community.

There is a petition now available for signing, in Wye News. It is next to the photocopier on bright yellow paper, The petition asks that:

'Kent County Council reverse its decision to move our community warden Richard Sinden to a post elsewhere, and so leave Wye without a dedicated warden.'

If anyone wants a copy of their own to collect signatures, please get in touch 07887 685133.

Wye needs Richard Sinden!



Above: Richard Sinden receiving a village award from Wye Parish Councillor and OPW Director Penny Haynes

Wye Pharmacy are kindly holding a raffle with all money raised going towards our Wye Sensory Community Garden. Tickets are £1 each or 3 for £5 and the winner will be drawn on Friday 20th December. Thank you to the pharmacy for organising this!

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE  
**SHOPPING LOCAL**

## CALLING ALL THEATRE LOVERS!

### Alison, from Garlinge Theatre

Since officially opening its doors on March 31st 2024, The Garlinge Theatre in Chartham is a recently revived 300-capacity event space in the heart of Kent's Area of Natural Beauty. The theatre has played host to a variety of events, including live music, original plays and musicals, dance acts and even as a filming location. We have recently signed a long lease along with the Light Root home education hub with the view of becoming the go-to place for new and exciting art of all kinds.

As an independently run theatre with community in mind, we welcome events that may challenge audiences and engage them in new and profound ways. We have been fortunate so far to have hosted a



Above: The Mad Cow the Muscial in July 24

number of original plays and events that have had themes addressing the environment, spirituality and animal rights. As well as engaging events, we also welcome educational pursuits and workshops. We are also keen to have a resident theatre company and youth theatre group that will produce in-house productions.

We are currently in the process of applying for funding. If successful, this will help us to continue to develop the theatre to a standard it deserves and to extend the

## GARLINGE THEATRE

reach out to the wider community. If you have a project in mind that you would like The Garlinge Theatre to host, have experience with funding applications, would like to make a donation or volunteer please do get in touch: [garlingetheatre@gmail.com/](mailto:garlingetheatre@gmail.com) 07968 810638.

Coming up at The Garlinge Theatre:

**NOVEMBER 16TH** - Live music from The Native Oysters, featuring Arcelia. "Soulful folk from the valleys of Kent".

**NOVEMBER 23RD** - 'Find Me' by Spotlight Actors

**DECEMBER 14TH - 22ND** - 'Secret Santa' by Elite UK Tours

**DECEMBER 15TH** - Christmas Cabaret

[www.garlingetheatre.co.uk](http://www.garlingetheatre.co.uk)  
[facebook.com/thegarlingetheatre](https://facebook.com/thegarlingetheatre)

## SINGING FOR YOUR SOUL - WYE COMMUNITY CHOIR

Emerging from the Covid pandemic without a Musical Director or even any rehearsal space, the future was not looking rosy for Wye Village Community Choir. But that soon changed, with the appointment of former accompanist Caroline Mortlock to the Director's role. Caroline, a retired teacher, and an accomplished pianist and musician, brought all those skills to form the vibrant choir that we see today.

A home was found in the Small Village Hall, meeting every Tuesday evening during term time. The choir now boasts nearly 40 singers, although they stress that new members are always welcome!

As a community choir, there are no auditions, and anybody can join. Caroline says "Many members have come to us thinking that they can't sing, but we have shown them that they can, and very well too. The choir sounds terrific! But best of all is seeing people really enjoying themselves and having fun."

Wye Choir have sung at many events since those early days, raising hundreds of pounds for charity. Last December they staged their first Christmas Concert. This year they are presenting 'Christmas-tide' a concert of carols and readings, at the Village Hall on Saturday 14th December, **For tickets or enquiries please email [bouttell1@virginmedia.com](mailto:bouttell1@virginmedia.com)**



Above: Musical Director Caroline Mortlock  
Below: Anyone can come along and join in on a Tuesday



## A CUPPA WITH...

### Robert Holliday aka Bob to the children of Lady Joanna Primary School

**Please introduce yourself for those who do not know you**

I am Robert, aka Bob. Some of you might have seen me standing in Bridge Street as the Lollipop person at Lady Joanna Primary School. I was the caretaker there for over seven years. It was my best job ever!

### What do you like most about Wye?

I love being part of the Wye Community. The School children were the best part of my job. However, I must also mention the staff because I have made lots of special friends there who I am still in touch with. When I retired in December 2022 the pupils and teachers all surprised me by dressing up as 'Bob' for the day. It was very touching and something I'll never forget.



Above: Teachers dressed up as Bob on 'Bob Day'

### What's your favourite tippie?

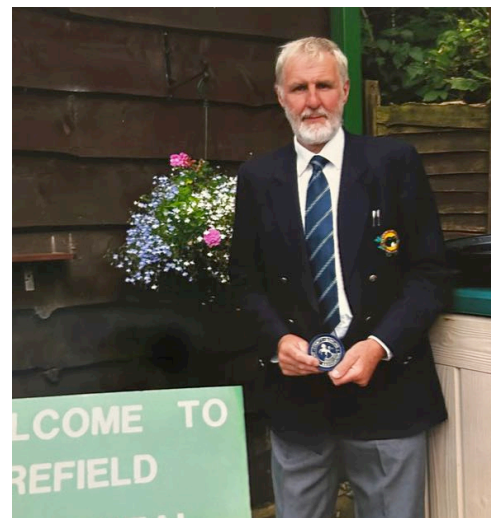
I don't really drink alcohol but I do like a nice dark fruit coffee or a nice cup of tea.

### What keeps you busy during retirement?

In retirement I seem to be more busy than before! I've got my own allotment and I volunteer by running the gardening club at Lady Joanna school. I am also one of the greenkeepers at our local bowls club which keeps me busy. I actually bought a boat after I retired that I am yet to go out on!

### Do you have a favourite song?

I like Motown, particularly the Four Tops and Diana Ross and The Temptations.



Above: Bob as Greenkeeper at his Bowls Club  
**What's your secret to a happy life?**

Try not to get wound up, stay positive and help others when needed. Try and be happy and say hello to people. That's about it!

**You may or may not find Bob at the Wye Christmas Street Party incognito....**



Above: Left to right: Bob on his last day, Bob in his youth



## YOUNG PEOPLE'S CORNER

We asked you what your favourite Christmas traditions are and here are just some of the things you told us:

I like looking at all the Christmas lights around the village. Isabelle, aged 12

My favourite Christmas tradition is going on the Santa train with my family. Rosie, aged 10

I love Santa. Orla, age 3



My favourite Christmas tradition is opening stockings in the fire place. Ezra, aged 7

I love putting up my Christmas tree and decorating it with my family. Harry, aged 6

We want to know your thoughts on a Spring day. Please send entries to [newsletter@ourplacewye.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@ourplacewye.org.uk)

Above: Ezra's stockings beside the fire

## WHAT MAKES WYE, WYE

### Maureen de Saxe

We asked local historian Mrs de Saxe to explain just how Wye came to be

There is evidence, from pottery, that there have been settlements in the area from the Bronze Age, at least 3,000 years ago.

Trade between East Kent and Roman Gaul was well-established by the late Iron Age; with corn, cattle and iron being exported from Britain, and pottery, wine and olive oil coming in from Europe. When the Romans invaded in AD 43 they would have found, in the area round Wye, a settled agricultural community and an important iron-smelting industry for them to exploit.

By about AD 70 the Roman road from Canterbury to the Weald had been built. This ran close to Wye along the stretch of road that is now the A28 past Perry Court farm, and provided improved road access to Canterbury and areas to the west. Existing local tracks would have been used and maintained by the Romans for cross-country travel and the transport of produce, such as oysters from north Kent. The river, which was navigable at that time, continued to be an important route for trade to and from Canterbury



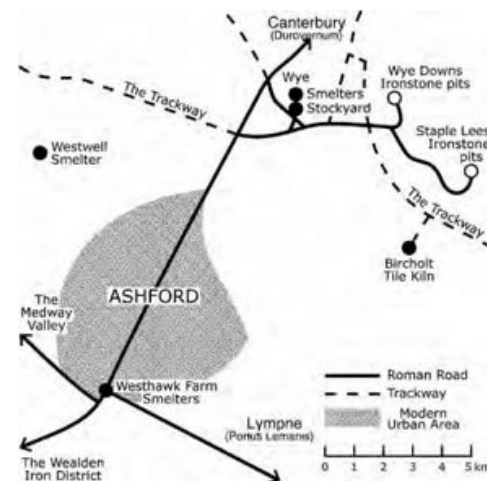
Above: Artist's impression of Roman iron smelting (by Colette Williams)

and beyond. A significant amount of the pottery found in the area by the river was imported ware, often of high quality.

The Roman occupation of Wye lasted for over 300 years and during this time the area is believed to have become an Imperial Estate. Industrial and commercial sites were developed on the west bank of the river, with the important iron-smelting area at the northern end. On the eastern bank, on the high ground (known as Bolt's Hill), and north of the stream now culverted under Bridge Street, there was a Romano-British settlement. This extended over some of the ground that is now part of the Churchfield estate. Roman tiles found in the area, alongside pottery and occasional coins, suggest that there had been a significant tiled building on the site, and it is thought that this might have been a Roman shrine or temple overlooking the river.

When Roman jurisdiction came to an end in AD 410, it was gradually replaced over the following two centuries by Saxon rule. Little is known about this period in Wye's history but, by AD 600 it was given special status as belonging to the Saxon kings. An important minster church was established with authority over eight daughter-churches in settlements around Wye.

Remains of a Christian Saxon burial ground on Bolt's Hill, unearthed when houses were built in the 1920s, suggest that this was the site of the early church. The name 'Wye' is derived from the Saxon word meaning [the place of] a 'heathen temple' and it is considered probable that the church stood on the site of the Roman (non-Christian) shrine.



Above: Roman industrial activity linked to Wye

Both photos are sourced from the Kent Archaeology Society Website