


# OUR PLACE WYE

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Richard Sinden, Wye's Community Warden, writes: I have been very privileged to be the KCC Community Warden in Wye for almost fourteen years. There are many things I am extremely proud to have been a part of over these years. The Community Lunch at the village hall, which still provides a two-course lunch with tea, coffee and biscuits every other week for just five pounds. The Community Sensory Garden that I helped create over the past couple of years. However my proudest moment was in May last year when I was invited to and attended the King's Garden Party for my services to the community.

But all good things must come to an end, or do they? After an exhaustive reorganisation of the Warden service, you and I learned that I was to be redeployed away from Wye. Many letters of protest were sent, and over 1000 of you signed a petition organised by the wonderful Sue Powell to try to keep me here in Wye. The good news is it has worked! Wye is still losing me for four days a week, however Wye Parish Council has decided to sponsor me to be in Wye one day a week on a Wednesday. Because I enjoy being in this amazing community I will also be returning as a volunteer one Saturday morning a month to help maintain and improve the Sensory garden.

You can still contact me on Monday – Friday on: [richard.sinden4@kent.gov.uk](mailto:richard.sinden4@kent.gov.uk)



# VIRTUAL LUNCH

**Dan Ralph**

**Curate at St Gregory and St Martins Church, Wye**

## What brought you to Wye?

I moved into the area in May 2024. I am a native of Kent and have spent most of my life living by the sea. I grew up in Herne Bay and until our move, we lived in Whitstable for 20 years. Moving to Wye is a result of my new role at the church. It has been an adventure discovering the beauty of Wye and the surrounding area and we feel fortunate to be part of this community.

## What is a Curate, and what inspired you to get ordained?

Whilst I was planning for a career in Graphic Design, after I finished university, I had the opportunity to work for my local Anglican church. This naturally led me to explore ordination and becoming a priest as a vocational calling. My faith has been an important part of my life since my teenage years, and I have sensed a call from God to serve in the church since my early twenties.

After undertaking the Church of England's discernment process, I was selected to be trained and went to Theological College in 2022. This culminated in my ordination at Canterbury Cathedral last June and the beginning of my new role as Curate at St Gregory and St Martins Church in Wye.

In simple terms, a Curate is like an apprenticeship. For three years, I will work alongside Ravi learning what's involved in leading a church and putting some of those things into



Above: Dan and Vicar Ravi Holy at Canterbury Cathedral

practice under supervision. My time here is meant to prepare me to become a Vicar and learn to do all the things a priest can do.

## What are the biggest challenges for the church in 2025?

Every church has challenges, just like any organisation. We hope that St Gregory and St Martins will continue to be an important part of village life. We desire to be a place where all, no matter who they are and whatever their age, can come and feel welcome and accepted.

## What's your proudest achievement?

I am happy to say I have many things I am proud of. However, the thing that I'm most proud of is my family. I am so blessed to have my wife Nat and my two boys Jonah and Ezra – they mean the world to me.

## What do you enjoy doing outside of the Church?

In terms of hobbies, I love stories. I have a particular love of film and enjoy going to the cinema whenever I can. For over 10 years I have logged and rated every film I watch on an app called Letterboxd – yes, I know that's a bit nerdy! I also love reading, listening to audiobooks and watching a good boxset.

## Have you met anyone famous?

Many years ago I worked in the food hall at Marks and Spencer in Canterbury – it wasn't unusual to see whoever was starring in the Marlowe Panto that year. Although, I will never forget my first week working there, aged 18, and I served former Kent and England cricketer, Dean Headley. As I scanned his shopping, I was utterly starstruck and almost certainly embarrassed myself!

## What are you having for lunch today?

Scrambled egg on toast. We have ducks, so I get to enjoy fresh duck eggs regularly. I often have a tub of them in the church if you ever want to pop in and give them a try!

## What's the secret to a peaceful and happy life?

That's a big question. As a person of faith, it would surprise no one for me to say that God's guidance and presence is a great source of peace in my life – not that my life is always peaceful!

I have found that the things that bring us the most joy and happiness often don't come easy. Sometimes, the things that disturb our 'peace' actually help us mature and grow, help us achieve more than we thought possible and provide a joy we would not have experienced otherwise. I want to be someone who isn't afraid to embrace the challenges of life!



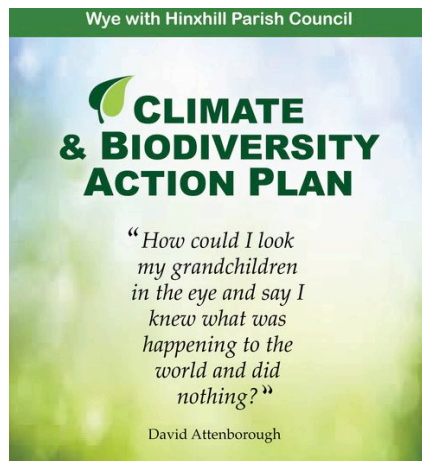
Above: Dan's first Sunday service as a Curate, pictured with Ravi Holy and Dawn Stamper

## CLIMATE BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

Cllr Pat Marsh

Over the years much work has been done in our community on ways to reduce our carbon footprint and promote both sustainability and biodiversity. The Parish Council's Climate & Biodiversity Action Plan benefited considerably from this work, which was incorporated into it.

The Plan went out to consultation at the end of last year and we received some useful additions from residents, such as promoting local businesses which improve biodiversity and providing local facilities for disposal of batteries. Another good idea was supporting allotment holders through organising bulk purchase of mulch, bark chippings, etc.



The Action Plan was adopted by the Parish Council at its meeting in January and we have begun implementing it. As the largest proportion of our carbon footprint comes from consumption of goods and services, we are reviewing the Council's procurement practices and switching to local sourcing wherever possible. We will be supporting the community to do the same and setting up

a hub in the former Methodist Church to provide information on all aspects of cutting our carbon footprint, including decarbonising our homes and buildings, as well as encouraging eco-friendly gardening.

We aim to position our parish as a leading community in sustainable living which we can all be proud of.

The Action Plan can be read on the Parish Council website:  
<https://www.wyeparishcouncil.gov.uk>



Centre: Front cover of the Action Plan Above: Cllr Marsh attending the consultation and Repair and Recycle event

## WYE STREET PARTY, MAKING MEMORIES FOR THE 27TH YEAR

Alice Wilkinson

Way back at the start of December in the depths of Winter, Wye enjoyed a wonderful evening for its 27th Christmas Street Party. Many local organisations took part and created a festive evening to remember of games, food, music and mingling. It came with the added good luck of missing storms on either side of it!

There was brilliant live music from Lady Joanna's choir, Wye School's band, Wye Village Community Choir and Santa's Belittled Helpers provided the backdrop.

The organisers would like to thank local businesses for donating 28 fantastic prizes for the Grand Raffle. If you weren't lucky this year, then there's always next year! Prizes were generously donated by Venue Holidays, Champneys Eastwell Manor, The Tickled

Trout, Joshan of Wye, Wye Physiotherapy, Ticketyboo, Canterbury Cider, Simply Ice Cream, The Vault, Perry Court Farm, Wye Beauty, Wye Wholefoods, Wye Farmers' Market, Oshen's Hair Boutique, Wye News and Wye Motors. Thanks in particular to Telereal Trillium, the developers of Wye College, who supported the event with a grant of £1000.

Big thanks are also due to all the many volunteers involved in the evening and in putting up the Christmas lights, without whom it wouldn't have been possible. It raised around £3,500 for local charities and causes.

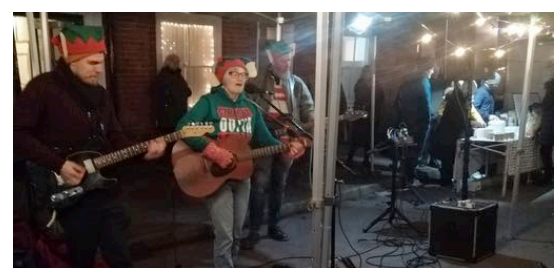
### Where do the profits go?

Our Place Wye have decided to use the profits from the sale of raffle tickets to award small grants of up to £300 to local societies or organisations who are in need of additional funding.

**For more information on the grants and application process please email:**  
[admin@ourplacewye.org.uk](mailto:admin@ourplacewye.org.uk)



Top: Lady Joanna Thornhill Primary School Choir in action  
 Below: Santa's Belittled Helpers braving the cold!



### Thank You!

A big thank you to the team at Wye Pharmacy for raising £102 for our Community Sensory Garden in December. This money will go on bulbs and plants for the Spring!





## Claire Wallis, Owner of Positively You Coaching Services

For children, simple activities can encourage them to open up. The Skittles Game is a great way to start conversations about emotions. Each

Most importantly, we can all help by looking out for one another. Checking in on a neighbour, reaching out to a friend, or asking someone how they're really doing can make a huge difference. A supportive community helps everyone feel more connected.

If your child is struggling, Claire runs an online group coaching session every Thursday from 5-5.40 pm after Easter, over Zoom. The six-week course helps children build confidence, emotional resilience, and coping tools.

A woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing glasses and a white t-shirt with the text "Positively Unfit" in a cursive font. She is smiling and looking slightly to the right. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.



# BROOK RURAL MUSEUM

## Events 2025

Admission  
payable on  
the door

Details to  
follow



**Brook Easter Bunny Trail**  
Sat 19 April, 10am-12pm

**Hop Exhibition Launch**  
Sat 24 May, 2pm-5pm





**Birds of Prey Display**  
Sat 14 June, 2pm-5pm

**Medieval Fayre**  
Sat 19 July, 11am-4pm







**Rural Craft Workshops**  
Sat 6, 13 & 20 Sept, 2pm-5pm



**Harvest Festival**  
Sat 4 Oct, 2pm-5pm



The Green, Brook, Ashford, TN25 5PS  
brookruralmuseum.org.uk

# EVENTS AND LISTINGS

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

## MARCH - JUNE

- Monday 17th Mar, Wye Parish Council meeting - 7:30pm
- Tuesday 18th March - River Clean up, meet at Wye Village Hall Car park - 10:30am
- Saturday 22nd March - Ashford Choral Society Concert, Wye Church, 7.30pm. For tickets email [tickets@ashfordchoral.org.uk](mailto:tickets@ashfordchoral.org.uk) or buy at Wye News
- Saturday 22nd Mar - Wellbeing Writing workshop - Reece Pavilion, 10am - 4:30pm - [lucystrange@hotmail.com](mailto:lucystrange@hotmail.com)
- Sunday 20th April - Easter Sunday Service, St Gregorys, Wye, 10am
- Saturday 26th April - Wye Parish Council AGM - all welcome - Small Village Hall - 2-4 pm
- Thursday 8th May - VE Day Commemoration - Churchfield Way Green - 6.30pm Ringing of Bells, 9.30pm Lighting of Beacon and tribute will be read
- Sunday 18th May - Our Place Wye Thank you tea party for village volunteers - Large Village Hall
- Monday 19th May - Wye Parish Council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- Friday 20th June - Sunday 29th June - Stour Music Festival - Boughton Aluph Church
- Sunday 21st June - Pilgrims Way Challenge Event (Hiking or Running 25k, 35k or 55k), 11am - 10pm, Wye
- Sunday 29th June - Benefice Service, Wye, 10am
- Sundays in May/June - Tickled Trout's live music sessions, 5.30pm

## JUST MISSING OUT SCHEME

The Pensioner Just Missing Out scheme supports Kent pensioners in need of help with significantly rising living costs. The scheme is available for pension-aged residents on lower incomes who are not eligible for Pension Credit or the government's Winter Fuel Payment.

If you or someone you know may be entitled to this please visit the KCC website and search cost of living help.

- **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.
- Wye Community Choir meets every Tuesday, 7.30 pm in the small village hall.

## EVENTS AT LUCKLEY HOUSE

Little Chequers, Wye, TN25 5DY

Open to all Wye Residents:

Monday - 2-4pm - Knit and Natter

Tuesday - 2-4pm - Darts and Board Games Group

Wednesday - 10-11am - Coffee Morning

Wednesday - 7-9pm - Bingo

Thursday - 8:30 am - Breakfast Club

Sunday 10-11 - Coffee Morning

Please contact them or drop in for further information

## OUR PLACE WYE COMMUNITY LUNCH

Wye Village Hall, £5 for two courses, tea, coffee and biscuits.  
12:15 for 12:30 serving. To book message: 07395433939

Open to all Wye Residents:

5th and 19th March,

2nd and 16th and 30th April

14th and 28th May, 11th June

## GOVERNOR NEEDED AT LADY JOANNA THORNHILL (ENDOWED) PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lady Joanna Thornhill School seeks to inspire a love of learning in every pupil through our curriculum for the Head, Heart and Hand. Join our school governing board and help shape our vision. Email: [chair@ladyj.kent.sch.uk](mailto:chair@ladyj.kent.sch.uk) for more details

If you have any upcoming events or articles you wish to be added to our next Newsletter please email:  
[admin@ourplacewye.org.uk](mailto: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



# SPOTLIGHT ON BRAMBLES

## Melisa Moore

Many of us will have driven past Brambles countless times wondering what lies behind that long driveway. I recently had the pleasure of meeting with Wayne, Care Manager, and Karen, Operations Manager who showed me around and told me all about life at Brambles.

The modern care home can take up to 28 residents and employs 34 members of staff. Brambles boasts an impressive programme of activities to ensure the residents are engaged both physically and mentally. These include weekly film nights, bowling, arts and crafts and the popular Cuddle Club where animals are brought in for residents to handle. In the summer months they hold outdoor activities and events including a barbecue where all are welcome. When I arrived some of the residents were busy attending their weekly flower arranging class in the



Above: Brambles staff with their long term service awards

lounge, making beautiful arrangements to be displayed around the Care Home.

Karen explained 'No care home is like being at home but this is the next best thing. We work hard to create a relaxed and homely environment. We're not just looking after our residents but their families too'.

I was lucky enough to speak to Iris, the oldest resident at Brambles who is 106 years young! She was born two weeks after the end of the First World War. The walls of her room were decorated with photographs and personalised letters from the late Queen marking her 100th birthday and from King Charles and Queen Camilla for her 105th and 106th

birthdays. Iris however, does not like to discuss her age and I don't blame her! Another resident will celebrate her 102nd birthday in April. When I asked her what the secret was to a long life, she replied 'Having had good parents'. She also told me that when she went into hospital for a spell she tried to encourage the other patients on the ward to move to Brambles!

Most of the people who live at Brambles are long term residents but some come for respite care. One lady apparently enjoyed her respite care so much that she later asked to move in full time.

Wayne explained that they will soon be offering day care at Brambles to give carers the option of dropping off their loved ones for the day so they can work or take a well earned day's rest themselves. They're hoping this will be rolled out by the Spring.

For more information please visit website: <https://bramblescure.co.uk> or call T: 01233 813217 or even pop in for a cup of tea!

# WITHERSDANE HALL WELCOMES STUDENTS

**Withersdane Hall is a big part of Wye's history. Maybe you worked there when it was Wye College, studied there or, like us, walk past it wondering what is happening there now. We asked Laura Pecetta from Xenophon College London to tell us about their new Wye campus at Withersdane Hall**

Laura explained that the campus, which can accommodate up to 250 students, is part of their Italian parent institution Niccolò Cusano University, who invested a great deal of time and effort to restore Withersdane Hall to its former academic prominence. They offer bachelor's and

master's programs in Business & Management, Applied Computer Science and Psychology all based in the wonderful surroundings of the Wye countryside. They began welcoming students in September 2024 and hope to be near to capacity by Autumn this year.

Spanning over seventy thousand square metres, the campus includes classrooms, accommodation and study facilities. Laura explained that work was undertaken to preserve the history of the structure in keeping with the natural beauty of the surroundings by restoring original parts of the complex with traditional designs and materials, ensuring the campus blends seamlessly into Wye's rich historical landscape.

Laura commented 'Xenophon College London and Niccolò Cusano University extend their heartfelt gratitude to the



Above: A view from the back of Withersdene in 2022

Wye community for their invaluable guidance and support throughout the project and we look forward to strengthening our partnership with the local community'.

**Wye wishes you a warm welcome!**

**Thank you to all the volunteers delivering this newsletter. Without them you would not be reading it!**

## THANK YOU FROM WYE

### We wanted to acknowledge Justine Haskell who is leaving her role as Hall Manager after 14 years

The Wye Village Hall and Recreation Field Charity was founded in July 1977 to administer the Village Hall buildings and the surrounding land. A Hall manager role was later created to oversee all events and administration of the halls and grounds.

During the 14 years Justine has been in her role, she is most proud of her work during the refurbishment of the Halls from 2017 until 2019. The result of this saw a village amenity to be enjoyed by all ages with four indoor facilities, three



Above: The team who helped with the refurbishment at the Open Day in Nov 2018, Justine is second from the left

children's play areas, landscaped gardens, and a large recreation ground hosting an excellent tennis and padel club! When asked about her job she explained 'The best thing has been my involvement in both everyday village life with the regular meetings of village groups, for example the Bridge Club, and also some of the best days of people's lives including birthdays, weddings and christenings.

'People would also be surprised to know how many times I have attended a fire alarm in the middle of the night.

Thankfully it's always a false alarm! Next for me is working at Ashford Port Health at Sevington. As interesting as the village hall in a very different way.' We wish her the best of luck in her new job!

Jo Hall, the chair for Wye Village Hall Charity explained what is next for the Hall;

'Our vision for the future is to seek to maintain the quality of this superb village amenity by constantly reviewing the condition of the fabric, by replacing worn-out equipment, and by embracing new technology and at the same time continuing to make the use of the Hall as affordable as possible and maybe even install an outdoor table tennis table!'

To do all this they need to continue to attract more volunteers. If you would like to help please email: [jrall0807@gmail.com](mailto:jrall0807@gmail.com).

## A CUPPA WITH...

### Hugo Willett Landlord of The Bowl Inn, Hastingleigh

#### How long have you been running The Bowl Inn for?

I took it on in June 2024 so it hasn't been that long but I'm loving it! I was 18 when I started which made me the UK's youngest pub landlord. My family have always run pubs like the Tiger Inn in Stowting and the Black Horse in Monks Horton so it's in the blood. I could pour a pint of Guinness at the age of four!

#### What can people expect from an evening at The Bowl Inn?

The best thing is the community spirit here. I know all the locals personally and greet everyone myself as I'm always on the bar. We serve homemade food at weekends like soups, nachos and sausage rolls as well as pizzas on a Saturday night. We stock local wines, ales and cider too.



Above: Hugo behind the bar at The Bowl Inn  
Bottom right: The Bowl Inn pub

#### What's your favourite tippie?

Probably a pale ale or a pint of Guinness.

#### Do you have a favourite band?

I love music and I always play 60s rock, 70s or 80s music in the pub. My favourite bands are Dire Straits and Jamiroquai. We sometimes have random disco nights in the pub which are really fun - we get the smoke machine out and all the locals are up dancing.

#### What would your last meal be?

That's easy - a roast dinner!

#### Do you have any exciting events coming up?

I usually run a monthly quiz night which is really well attended with 60 people packed into the pub. I'm also holding the annual Beer Festival again this year which will be on the August Bank Holiday weekend. We'll have seven bands playing, local real ales and ciders, face painting and food. All proceeds go to the Pilgrims Hospice.

#### Opening hours:

**Thursdays & Fridays: 5pm-11pm**

**Saturdays: 12pm - 11pm**

**Sundays: 12pm - 10pm**

[www.thebowlonline.co.uk](http://www.thebowlonline.co.uk)

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





## YOUNG PEOPLE'S CORNER

In this edition we wanted to share our favourite jokes with you!

I ate an alarm clock yesterday.  
It was very time-consuming

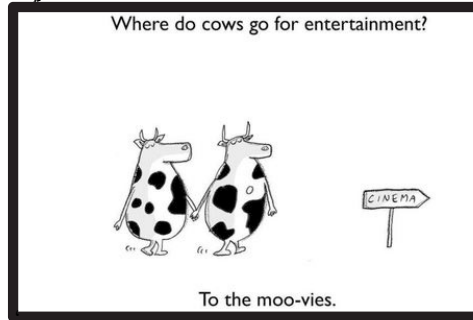
How do all the oceans say  
hello to each other?  
They wave

What's a snake's strongest  
subject at school?  
Hisss-tory



Why did the old man fall down  
the well?  
Because he couldn't see  
that well

What do you call a  
dinosaur with one eye?  
Do-you-think-he-saurus



Please send in your favourite summer memories to:  
[admin@ourplacewye.org.uk](mailto:admin@ourplacewye.org.uk) for our next edition.

## WHAT MAKES WYE WYE:

### THE PUBS OF WYE

Robert Starley

A quick look at some of Wye's public houses, past and present.

Probably the best known inn in the village due to its prominent location is The Tickled Trout. It started out as the Victoria Inn sometime around the early 1850s. It remained the Victoria until 1983 when it changed to its current, some would say more appropriate name. It was known by locals as the 'Old Vic' into the 1990s.

The 'Old' Flying Horse, High Street, first mentioned in 1768, though reputed to be earlier. It occupied the corner of the green opposite the college, and closed in 1956. The New Flying Horse opened up on Upper Bridge Street in 1832, meaning that the village was blessed with two Flying Horses for well over a hundred years. There is a plaque that remains on the building of the Old Flying Horse today.



Above: The Old Flying Horse circa 1940s/50s  
Bridge Street used to be home to two largely forgotten inns. The George Inn, roughly halfway up, first appears mentioned in the mid 1800s and seems to have closed around the time of the second World War. Slightly further up on a corner now occupied by Etienne the Magician could be found the Swan Inn. Again first mentions of the pub seem to be from around the 1850s, and it appears to have closed in the 1920s. Bridge Street is also home of course to Sawyers micro pub, originally called The Barbers Arms, opening in 2013.

There is some evidence of a pub in the village from the mid 1800s by the name of The Black Dog. It is last mentioned on licensee records in 1862, but no record of its location is evident. Similarly, there is a very vague mention of a Saracens Head circa 17th century, but no further

information can be found. It has been reported that at one time there were up to five pubs on Church Street. so perhaps these were two of those?

Lastly, The Kings Head on Church Street can trace its history as an inn back to the early 18th Century and was primarily a coaching inn in Victorian times. After changing managers a handful of times in short succession in the last few years, and then closing and being sold, the pub is now under new ownership and is reported to be reopening this year following refurbishment.

Below: The George Inn on Bridge Street. The building is still there today with the same name



The dates and photos in this article were sourced from [dover-kent.com](http://dover-kent.com) and [pubwiki.co.uk](http://pubwiki.co.uk)