

SUMMER 2025

OUR PLACE WYE

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Send your articles to

newsletter@ourplacewye.org.uk



Wye is perhaps unusual in having so many clubs and societies - ballet and cubs for the very young, sports clubs for those a little older, history and heritage for those older still. Think of a pursuit and there's a good chance that there'll be a club in Wye to help you do it. These organisations, many of them set up when Wye College was still in existence, are all run by volunteers and many need both members and managers to keep them going.

To help with recruitment Our Place Wye is organising a sort of Freshers' Fair in the afternoon of Sunday September 7th at Wye Village Hall. There will be a climbing wall and a bouncy castle... ice cream if the weather is good. And you will be able to see what different clubs have to offer. Hopefully you'll be tempted into signing up! Email us at admin@ourplacewye.org.uk for more information.

VIRTUAL LUNCH

Sue Powell

When we heard our very own Sue Powell was turning 90 this summer we pleaded with her to be our guest for this feature. We all wish her a very happy 90th birthday!

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

Our first house was in Old Wives Lees, where our first two children were born. We soon needed more space, and a garden. My husband worked in Ashford, so Wye was a good fit. We came to Wye in 1971 and I have never regretted it – one of the best decisions of our life. We bought our house for £12,500! It was big, cold and dark and I was pitied by those who had chosen Chequers Park. But ours was old, and full of possibilities, as was the garden. Few people even knew it HAD a garden. A year later the twins were born; so the next few years were full of small children and marked by a lack of sleep!

What are you most proud of?

Apart from my children and grandchildren, I am proud of what Wye has achieved in creating a welcoming community – especially through the activity of Our Place Wye. The loss of Wye College was a blow – so many Wye people worked there, and developed friendship networks which are hard to replace. But new ones are formed as the village grows and new families arrive.



Above: her salad days! On the Helvellyn trig tower, celebrating the climb

Some years ago I helped develop the Wye Village Design Statement, to protect the built environment and provide a context for new development – helping guide change in ways that will enhance rather than detract from the quality of life in the village and its environment. The VDS is still approved Supplementary Planning Guidance – and could be given more frequent reference in local planning decisions.

In a wider context, working with refugees has widened my horizons and my understanding of what lies behind the headlines. In particular, I am proud to have helped set up and run Kent Refugee Help, a small local charity now in its 18th year. Depressingly, the need for its services continues to grow.

What world events have had the greatest impact on your life?

I was working in America when Kennedy was assassinated. When the news came through, the men in the office immediately pulled down the blinds and picked up their phones. I thought the former was an impressive mark of respect: in fact they were all frantically trying to contact their stockbrokers. The Exchange was closed shortly

afterwards. A few days later (Sunday) I was watching the TV news. Lee Harvey Oswald was being moved from Dallas police HQ to the county jail. Jack Ruby emerged from behind a garage pillar and shot Oswald with a handgun while the cameras looked on. I couldn't believe what I had just seen. This was the reality in a country where gun ownership is legal.

Have you met anyone famous?

When I and my friends in London had just graduated we all shared rented flats, usually for a year – there was constant coming and going. I once shared with Biddy Baxter of Blue Peter fame. She was very elegant, and always wore heels. She was also short sighted – corporate panic if one of her contact lenses went missing!

What are you having for lunch today?

Lunch is a movable feast. Unless pre-arranged (rare!) it's usually a question of opening the fridge and see what falls out. So today – I don't yet know!

What advice would you give your younger self?

My younger self was self conscious and anxious. I think I came across as serious to the point of being earnest. Looking back, I would tell myself to lighten up!



Above: Sue in May 2024 at the opening of the Wye Community Sensory Garden, being thanked for her work to get it open

STOUR MUSIC FESTIVAL RETURNS

Sue Davison
Festival Administrator

Just on your doorstep (across the A28 and up Church Lane) is the site of the summer festival of Stour Music, held over the last two weekends of June each year in the church of All Saints' Boughton Aluph. This year will be our 64th festival, but if you have never visited before, you will find a warm welcome in the Festival Marquee where drinks and supper are available before and after concerts. There is plentiful parking space and room for picnics. Audience members return each year as much for the relaxed informal setting as for the high quality of the music. The concert programme includes music

from across the centuries – from Bach to Mendelssohn, but there is also jazz and a grand firework display. Tickets are available from £20, half price for those in full-time education.

And you may well see some familiar faces among the volunteers, drawn from the local community, from programme sellers and car park stewards to our 'Glow-Worms' who put out lanterns and fairy lights each evening to light the way.

We hope to see you there on what we hope will be warm summer evenings and balmy Sunday afternoons. For more information about the festival programme or to book tickets please visit www.stourmusic.org.uk.



Above: Aerial view of Stour Music festival in action

Highlights this year include:

- The Gesualdo Six - Friday 20th June
- Fretwork & Iestyn Davies - Saturday 21st June
- Solomon's Knot - Friday 27th June

Stour Music
20th - 29th June 2025
Boughton Aluph Church
www.stourmusic.org.uk
Telephone box office:
0333 666 4466

RIVER CLEAN UP IS A HUGE SUCCESS



On 18th March the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership, in collaboration with Our Place Wye, organised a litter pick along the river bank between Wye and Conningbrook. Five wonderful volunteers filled 14 bags of litter in 3.5 hours!

The Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership works closely with landowners and local communities to promote both landscape and nature conservation, and develop opportunities for appropriate access and informal recreation. It operates as a working partnership of sponsoring organisations, staff and local people. Partnership staff have many years of experience of habitat management, practical conservation, working with farmers and local communities on a wide range of projects.

If you'd like to help on future litter picks please email: kentishstour@kent.gov.uk

OUR PLACE WYE THANKS LOCAL VOLUNTEERS WITH ANNUAL TEA PARTY

On Sunday 18th May, Our Place Wye held its annual thank you tea party for all of the wonderful volunteers who give their time to help in the village.

Over 40 people attended the event in the village hall from a variety of groups including Wye Arts, Wye Gardeners, Wye Heritage and Wye Under Fives to name but a few. It was a great opportunity for our societies to come together but also for people to make new contacts.



Above: Volunteers enjoying a chat and cake Below: Jasper Bouverie, Chair of OPW, addressing the volunteers

Guests were treated to an amazing array of home baked treats such as scones, cakes, shortbread and flapjacks. Our thanks go to all those who offered to bake, wash up and set up the hall. The event was a huge success and we look forward to doing it all again next year!



For more information on volunteering in the village please email: admin@ourplacewey.org.uk

SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD- THE WAY FORWARD?

Luke Magee, Principal of Wye Secondary School, explains his decision to ban phones during school time.

It is a current trend for politicians to talk about schools banning phones, and schools to announce they are doing so. Wye School decided in 2018 that, to enhance focus and social engagement, our school would implement a strict ban on mobile phones during school hours. Students could have a phone, but it could not be 'seen or heard' during the school day. The decision was not popular with everyone but was generally accepted by students and parents as they could see the aim was to help the atmosphere within our classrooms and corridors.

The school I worked in before Wye School had a ban on phones in lessons but allowed them in social times. This did mean that lunch was often near silent as each student typed into their phone, with little conversation and no play. The aim of the ban was to give students a break from their device and to encourage them to talk, to play, and to have a chance of having the childhood we older generations had, without a device being ever present.

**'When we give our children
access to the whole world in
their pocket, we give the
whole world access to our
children'**

Smartphone Free Childhood Website

Since enforcing the ban, lessons are undisturbed by the constant buzz of notifications, allowing pupils to concentrate fully on their studies. Teachers reported a noticeable improvement in attentiveness, with students actively participating in discussions rather than sneaking glances at their screens. Beyond academics, the social dynamic transformed in the way we hoped. Where once faces were buried in phones during breaks, now pupils interact more with one another, laughing, playing sports, and fostering real conversations. The absence of digital distractions has encouraged stronger friendships and a more cohesive school community. It also reduced school time social media issues, although sadly they still occur outside of school.

While some initially resisted, arguing that phones were essential for connectivity and security, we addressed concerns by ensuring accessible alternatives for urgent communication. Over time, even the sceptical students have recognized the benefits, admitting that they feel less stressed and more present in their daily experiences.

Ultimately, banning phones has been a success and I am glad that Wye School did so early on. Social media since 2018

has only grown as an influence on children and teenagers and I would urge parents to consider how they relate to devices in their own homes and socially, and how their example impacts on their children.

Smartphone Free Childhood is a movement that has gained momentum since 2024 publishing the harmful effects of smartphones and in particular Social Media use for children under 16:

- **Harmful Content: Smartphones expose kids to explicit, violent, and extreme content; 90% of girls and 50% of boys report receiving unwanted explicit material.**
- **Addiction: 1 in 4 young adults show signs of smartphone addiction.**
- **Academic Distraction: Teens get 237 notifications daily; bans improve grades by 1-2 levels.**
- **Grooming: Predators use apps like TikTok and Snapchat to exploit children; there has been a 66% increase in abuse images of under-10s since 2022.**
- **Cyberbullying: 1 in 6 teens report recent cyberbullying.**
- **Mental Illness: Depression, anxiety, and suicide have risen since 2010; earlier smartphone use links to worse mental health.**
- **Opportunity Cost: Kids spend more time on screens than playing and learning important life skills.**

To Join the grassroots parents movement to protect childhood from Big Tech, please visit www.smartphonefreechildhood.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, New Flying Horse, Sawyers, Sealey Cleaning, Spacemaker Architects, Ticketyboo, Tickled Trout, Rebel Farmer, Musika, Wye Beauty, Wye Farmers' Market, The Hub, Hobbs Parker, Wilder-Work, The Vault Hair and Beauty, Smart Decluttering Solutions, Embrace Yoga With Me, Genesis Landscaping, Wye Coffee Shop, and The Bowl Inn Hastingsleigh.

If you would like to become a sponsor please contact admin@ourplaceweye.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.

JUNE - SEPTEMBER

- Tuesday 3rd June - carers' support group, Brambles 11 am.
- Saturday 14th June- Lady Joanna Thornhill School Summer Fair 10-2pm
- Friday 20th June - Sunday 29th June - Stour Music Festival, Boughton Aluph Church
- Saturday 21st June - Pilgrims Way Challenge Event (Hiking or Running 25k, 35k or 55k), 11am - 10pm, Wye
- Sat 21st June - Handcraft Community ,Wye Village Hall,
- Saturday 21st June - Bodsham School Fayre, 11:30 - 4pm
- Saturday 21st June - 'Great Mates' band, Sawyers 6 - 9 pm
- Sunday 29th June - Benefice Service, Wye Church, 10am
- Tuesday 1st July - carers' support group, Brambles 11 am
- Saturday 12th July - Brook Village BBQ - from 5pm - £3 adults, children under 16 free - licenced bar, live music
- Sat 19th July- Handcraft Community Wye village hall
- Saturday 26th July - DJ Loose Roots, Sawyers, 6pm - 9pm
- Tuesday 5th Aug - NO CARERS SUPPORT GROUP
- Saturday 30th August- 'Dadgads' band, Sawyers, 6pm - 9pm
- Tuesday 2nd Sept - carers' support group, Brambles 11 am
- Sunday 7th September - Our Place Wye Freshers Fayre, Wye Village Hall, 2 - 5pm
- Sun 14th Sept - Handcraft Community at village hall, Wye
- Sundays in Summer- Live Music, Tickled Trout
- Third Sunday of each month - Folk Music sessions, Sawyers

Our Place Wye is able to make small grants to village organisations from proceeds of the Christmas Street Party (more details admin@ourplacewye.org.uk). We have recently awarded grants to:

- Brook Playground fund
- Wye Scouts
- Wye Community Choir

- **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:

11th and 25th June, 9th and 23rd July.

Please note there is no community lunch during August

GREEN DOCTORS EVENT

Weds Sept 24th September 1.30pm at Wye large Village Hall.

This is a free session open to everyone giving advice on heating costs and how to reduce them for the winter months. This will take place straight after the community lunch.

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

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS AT BODSHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Rebecca Smith

"The school is now finished... I visited it today June 9th 1875."

No doubt a lot has changed at Bodsham School over 150 years, but many things have remained the same. "The children are remarkably well taught, their behaviour is good, they answer questions intelligently and well." (1875) This could have been written yesterday!

Set in the hills just outside Wye, Bodsham School's setting is timeless pulling in families from the surrounding villages and towns. When arriving at School Hill in the spring-summer term, the school field is dotted with children sitting on the grassy bank, enjoying lessons in the sunshine or armed with equipment as they commence pond



Above: Looking for life on the new pond dipping bridge with Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Stephens

dipping over the newly built bridge over the school's pond.

Being small, a very personal learning experience is offered rooting children in the immediate community and the wider world through fun and meaningful opportunities. Pupils put aside the distractions of the modern world to simply be children.

Whether growing pumpkins for the autumn decorating competition, hunting for Easter eggs or cheering each other on the rolling school field, children are encouraged to see the world and its wonders through the lens of nature and close community spirit.

In March, the school choir, led by Kent Teacher of the Year nominee Caroline Allen, sang for past pupils who returned to school sharing their memories and even workbooks from 1902! In April, keen Bodsham runners took part in the TCS London Mini Marathon running past Buckingham Palace for the second year running raising money for a new ICT suite; for such a small school, the extra opportunities are endless.

On 21st June the brilliant Bodsham PTFA will be hosting the fabulous Summer Fair – live music, pony rides, entertainers, cake competition, bouncy castle, the famous fancy food tent and more... we hope to see you there!



Above: Pupils geared up ready to participate in the TCS London Mini Marathon

SUPPORT ON YOUR DOORSTEP: NEW CARERS GROUP LAUNCHES

Mary Stewart

Our Place Wye and Brambles Care Home have introduced a Carers group for Wye and surrounding areas. A new initiative dedicated to providing a helping hand and a listening ear to carers in our community.

Recognising the invaluable role carers play, this group aims to offer a supportive network where individuals can share experience, access resources and find respite and a hot cup of tea or coffee.

The meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of each month at 11am at Brambles Care Home, Wye (not meeting in August). The group welcomes carers of all ages and backgrounds. Whether you are caring for a family member, friend or neighbour, you will find a supportive community there.

If you'd like further information please email: admin@ourplacewye.org.uk



WYE ARTS

Speakers/events take place on the third Monday of the month, starting at 7.30pm, in the large village hall. Doors open at 7.00pm. Members: £5 and Non-Members: £7

- 16th June - Canterbury Musical Theatre Society
- 21st July - Andrew Bond, My Darling, My Dearest, Wartime Letters.
- August Break
- 15th September - Jack Deans, Fingerprints and Murder
- 20th October - Tony Harris, This time Tony IS Winston Churchill
- 17th November - AGM and Derek Handy
- 15th December - David Bowdler, The Good Sax Guide

Please contact Sarah Bradley: 07961030757 or wyearts@gmail.com

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

CALL FOR SUPPORT - BROOK PLAY AREA

Alison Wood

The playground at Brook Village Hall, a valued community space for generations of local children, is now outdated, unsafe, and requires removal and a full replacement. To address this, the Brook Village Hall Playground Committee is leading a phased redevelopment project starting in 2025, to create a modern, inclusive and engaging play area for children of all ages and abilities.

Plans include a complete overhaul of the playground, featuring new equipment, improved access, picnic areas and natural landscaping. We're particularly excited that the zip wire is expected to be the first new feature installed.

Designs have been shaped by community consultation, with input from local families to ensure the space reflects the needs of all users.

We've begun applying for grant funding and are delighted to have already been awarded a contribution from Our Place Wye. Further support is now being sought to help deliver the remaining phases of the project.

We warmly welcome sponsorship, donations, or help with fundraising events from individuals, businesses, or community groups. Together, we can restore this essential space for the benefit of our whole community.

If you'd like to support this vital project, please contact Alison Wood at awood.brookpc@googlemail.com or call 07870 634544

THE LOST PUBS OF WYE - UPDATE

Jane, Wye Resident

I was very interested in reading the article by Robert Starley on The Lost Pubs of Wye. At the end of the article, he says "there is a very vague mention of a Saracens Head circa 17th century, but no further".

Indeed, he need go no further as we live in the cottage that was the Saracens Head: 13, Church St, as it says so in our deeds. In our cellar is the coal hole but also a much larger entrance that must have been for barrels. There is also a fireplace in the basement that must have been used for some kind of brewing.

We have owned the cottage for 17 years now.

Thank you Jane for sharing this with us!

A CUPPA WITH...

Robert & Catherine Maylam, Canterbury Cider

Canterbury Cider is based in Bilting and is run by Robert, a local arable farmer, and Catherine, a nurse. Robert grew up in Bilting and Catherine returned to Wye after completing her training in London. They were married in Wye Church 33 years ago and have three adult children, Emily, George and Henry.

How long have you run Canterbury Cider for and what inspired you to start the business?

In 2019, needing to diversify on the farm, Robert decided to 'have a go' at making craft cider. The first batches were a little to be desired but with practice and with Robert, Catherine and George attending a cider making course in Gloucestershire, Canterbury Cider was born! All the family were in on tastings! The Cider business has continued to grow; we sell online, direct from the farm, at local markets and to retail outlets and pubs. We have a



Above: Catherine and Robert Maylam

range of sparkling and still ciders perfect for all times of the year.

Together with the cider, we also have a large shepherds hut nestled at the top of the farm for holiday lets. The hut is tucked away in a private area with beautiful views across the arable land and new vineyards towards the woods. It is quite picturesque.

What is it like to own a farm in 2025 and how have you diversified over the years?

Farming in 2025 is challenging and hence the need for a number of diversifications on the farm. Recent government intervention has made the future

uncertain but we are determined to continue. Farming is hard work but a passion—we are lucky to be living in such a beautiful area of Kent and we love to showcase the farm. Conservation is high on Robert's farming agenda and the delight of seeing Red Kites and Barn Owls back on the farm is wonderful.

What's your favourite tippie?

Robert's favourite tippie is Harveys Best Bitter. Chilled white wine or bubbles for Catherine!

Do you have any events on this Summer?

Come and have a listen to our play list over the Summer with our Cider Saturdays based at the farm. We have a small orchard with a few apple trees, straw bales dotted together with tables, cider of course and a local food van. No need to book. Our next Cider Saturday date is:

Saturday 28th June 12 – 5pm
Bilting Grange Farm, Canterbury Road, TN25 4HA. **For more info or to book the hut please call Catherine on 07796565065 or email info@canterburycider.co.uk**

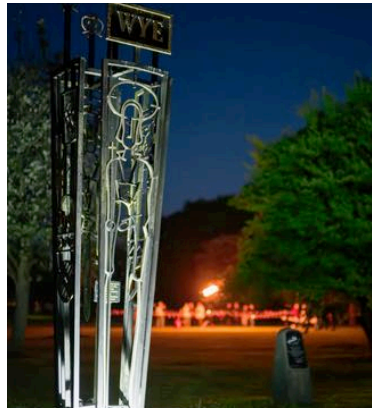


COMMUNITY CORNER

Capturing local sights, special moments and the charm of our village in pictures from the Our Place Wye Facebook Page



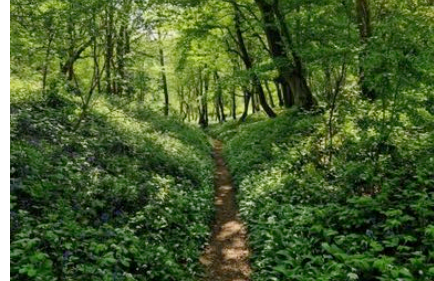
Above: Wye Scouts using the archery equipment at camp, part funded by Our Place Wye



Above: Wye Commemorates VE Day 80 years on. Picture by Duncan Malcolm



Above: The Wye Sunday walking group walking to St Eustace's well over May day weekend. Picture by Michael Hurn



Right: Jane Taylor's picture of the wild garlic growing in the downs

WHAT MAKES WYE WYE - 145 BRIDGE STREET

Emily Ward, Owner of Ticketyboo Gift Shop

Sutherland Stores was my parents' greengrocery from 1980 until 2000. Behind the shop is my family home where I grew up. It had historically been an animal shelter which was later converted into two one-up and one-down cottages for farm workers. In the 1950s a female farmer from Hastingleigh owned the property and would leave her milk and cream in the shop with an honesty box. The money was collected at the end of the day. She housed her farm labourers which she sourced from Ireland in the two cottages numbers 141/143.

Prior to this, Quentin Fry operated a cobblers here. He would sit in the window at the front doing repairs and the entrance was at the side. Later the cottage rooves were removed (that's another story!) and the cottages were left derelict.

In 1966 upon retirement the village policeman bought the shop and



Above: The house behind 145 Bridge Street when Mr and Mrs Sutherland bought it in 1980

cottages for £750! Initially he ran it as a florist, later adding fruit and veg into the mix. He made the house a four-roomed ground floor property which is how it was when my parents bought it. I then came along and the property needed expanding. The only way to go was up!

When my parents moved here, Taylor's Garage was opposite. There was a lot of banter between Taylor's and Sutherland Stores across Bridge Street. I would be sat out on the drive in my pushchair when Mum and Dad had a queue. Eileen, who used to operate the petrol pumps, would nip across the road and keep me entertained in between customers. Not ideal - it was called coping! Those times hold fond memories for our family.

The location has seen various changes

since my parents moved here in 1980, including the one way system, the demolition of the garage and the building of Twysden Court.

After running their greengrocery for 20 years my parents followed with Ticketyboo mark one for a further 20 years and the rest is history in the making...!

Below: Sutherland Stores showcasing the fruit and vegetables in the 1980s and now with Emily!



Emily now owns and runs the bespoke gift shop, Ticketyboo. She brings so much joy to everyone she meets. From the young to the old and even all the furry customers in between.

Ticketyboo is open:

Tuesday - Friday 10am- 5pm

Saturdays - 9.30am - 4pm

or shop online: ticketybooshop.com