Summer 2024

OUR PLACE WYE

The quarterly newsletter for the villages of Wye and Brook

A few years ago, the community warden Richard Sinden started talking about a patch of land opposite the fire station. “It could be a men’s shed,” he said at first, and then a bit later, “Maybe a community garden.”

Initially the Our Place Management team didn’t have much idea as to what he was talking about. We nodded our heads and expected that he’d move onto something else. But that was to severely underestimate Richard. Before long he’d arranged a lease for the patch of land from Ashford Borough Council and was recruiting volunteers to do battle with the brambles. The land was cleared. And then, after the weeds used the pandemic to their advantage, the land was cleared again.

Now, five or six years on from that original meeting, the garden is very nearly complete. The layout was designed by professional local designers Lucy and Francis Huntingdon. Richard oversaw the planting. At the time of going to press, we are expecting our borough councillor Noel Ovenden to officially open it on Sunday 19th May. Hopefully, by the time you read this, we will have had a successful celebration.

That will be an opportunity to thank everyone who has been along with their handforks and their trowels, who have helped with cementing and compacting and building those raised beds. But this is an opportunity for that too. Thanks everyone!

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Virtual Lunch with the butcher - 2
Architects raising money for charity - 3
The Rebel Farmer embedded in the soil - 4
Events and Listings - 5
Young voices on why our libraries matter - 8

Our Place Wye

VIRTUAL LUNCH

Martyn & Sarah Wakelin, Owners of Wye Butcher's & Deli

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

Wye Butcher's has been a family run business since 1966, when Ken and Rosemary Wakelin, Martyn's mum and dad, purchased the shop. We have been running the business for 10 years since they passed away.
Older Wye customers will particularly remember Rosemary behind the counter always ready for a chat with the locals. We've tried to keep this up as much as we can and run the business as they did.

What were your backgrounds before taking on the butcher's?

Martyn - I started out as a butcher's boy at age 13, learning to remove meat from pig heads.
Sarah - I'm a trained chef.

How has the business changed over the years?

Many changes have been made over the decades, not least the meat hanging on the rails outside the shop. The butcher's even had its own slaughter house at the back of the property which is now long gone.
We also don't throw sawdust on the floors anymore but traditionally this was done to soak up excess blood spilt on the floor.

The shop has had to diversify with the times. As well as selling good quality meat, we sell many other products such as fresh fruit and vegetables, English and continental cheeses and local free range eggs from Chartham Hatch. A selection of dry foods and tinned goods too so you could do a weekly shop without really needing to

go to the supermarket. Our deli counter has evolved over the times from selling cooked hams and pies to now selling ready prepared meals, all prepared from scratch by Sarah on the premises.

What are the most popular meals you can buy from the deli?

Anything from lasagne to fish pie and shepherds pie etc- all the old family favourites!

What's the most important thing about running the business?

Our aim is to always sell the best quality products we can source and as locally as possible- for example lamb from Romney Marsh. Our beef is traditionally hung for 21 days too.

How do you enjoy yourselves outside of work?

We enjoy a mixture of gardening, fishing, motorhoming, motorcycling... not sure how we fit it all in!

Have you got a claim to fame?

Martyn - I was an accidental extra in a Top Gear Christmas special video! I was standing by the shop door as they drove past filming cars. Not sure what year it was but Clarkson and co were the presenters at the time. Blink and you'll miss my star moment!

Have you met anyone famous?

Martyn- Paul O'Grady was a regular customer until he passed away recently.
Sarah - I served the Queen at the Mansion House when I was training to be a chef.

What are your favourite cuts of meat?

Shoulder of pork, ribeye steak, belly pork and home cooked honey roasted ham.

What are you having for lunch today?

Martyn- I'm having a ham sandwich.
Sarah - rice cakes for me!

What is the secret to a long and happy marriage?

Don't ask us- we will never know!!

Opening hours:
Tue to Fri 8.00am to 5.00pm
Sat 8.00am to 2.00pm
Sun & Mon closed
T: 01233 812225

Above: Martyn and Sarah back in 2002.
Top Centre: Martyn and Sarah in April this year

SPACEMAKER MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Wye Architect firm raises over £14,000 for charity

Wye based Spacemaker Architects offers an innovative scheme where a potential client books an hour's architectural consultation and in return the company donates £50 to one of the eight charities the practice supports.

By meeting with over 300 people, the scheme has raised over £14,000 to date and the charities that have benefitted include the Jasmin Vardimon contemporary dance centre, Porchlight and Pilgrims Hospice.

Founding partner Adam Roake said, "It's such a simple idea and one that people seem to love and charities appreciate. By booking an hour of our time for a donation to charity people get lots of ideas but there's no obligation to continue to work with us, although most people do, and a local charity will be £50 better off."

Above: Adam, Louisa and Ben of Spacemaker Architects

As well as creating new spaces in existing homes, Spacemaker Architects enjoy creating homes from scratch and obtaining planning permission where others have failed. For example, they recently designed a new house on a derelict piggery that enhanced the beauty of its location in Boughton under Blean by using materials typical of Kentish agricultural buildings.

Spacemaker Partner Louisa commented, "Whether we're designing a small extension or a more ambitious new build we really enjoy working in this part of the world and to work for so many people who are open to our creative designs."

www.spacemakerarchitects.co.uk

THANK YOU TEA PARTY

Melisa Moore

On Sunday 24th March, over 50 volunteers joined us in the village hall for a celebratory tea party where we were able to thank them for all their time and commitment running the village's many clubs and societies.

We'd like to thank all those who made the delicious cakes which were on offer and those who gave up their time to set up, wash up and make the event the great success that it was. If you are interested in volunteering for any clubs or societies in the village please do contact: admin@ourplacewye.org.uk.

WYE HERITAGE - COME AND SEE US!

Karen Mitcalfe

The Wye Heritage Centre, housed in The Latin School Wye College, is open on the first and third Saturday mornings from 10am to 12pm. In fine weather you can also enjoy the Latin School Garden which contains many beautiful flowers and shrubs.

You will see a display or exhibition relating to Wye or Wye College Heritage. Recent displays have included the history of hops in Wye, the Latin School itself and the Wye College Terracotta Panels. You can also see plans for our new centre to be housed in the soon to be refurbished college buildings.

There are many ways you can help us preserve and share the heritage of our village and Wye College. You can become a member for a small annual fee. We would be thrilled to have you as a volunteer and we happily accept donations of relevant items to add to our living archive.

www.wyeheritage.org.uk

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

LIFE, THE WILDER WAY

We asked Ed Kyrke-Smith aka Rebel Farmer what brought him to Brook and why the land he lives on means so much to him

It must be over 10 years since I first discovered permaculture and got myself a subscription to the quarterly Permaculture magazine. I was a new father, living in Camberwell London, and was inspired to set up a new life in Kent. Permaculture is an ethical design system. The core ethics are Earth Care, People Care, Fair Shares and Future Care guided by 12 design principles. It is often applied to growing food for community and has real power to create positive solutions to a diverse range of problems. It took my anxiety about the future and turned it into positive action.

The excitement of taking stewardship of a 3-acre homestead in Brook has never left me and I will forever feel privileged. Learning to grow food year-round using local materials, YouTube and a few books has been a wild and sometimes tough adventure. I set up Rebel Farmer five years ago to help share these principles. Sharing these ideas with the community and inspiring the next generation is now my main purpose in life and it has led me towards some incredible enlightenments about people, place, and planet. Sharing stories and experiences together is what humans do best.

The soil is alive, it is responsible for the air, the food, the materials we build with and has allowed for civilisation. It miraculously supports all life and when we support it, in return it gives us nutrition and wellbeing. Just add living seeds, fresh water and access to the warmth and a little sunshine. As an ecological steward of the land and now indigenous to Kent, my life is now fully entwined with this living soil, and I am very keen to share how humans can be a keystone species in the regeneration of the landscape by slowing down and carefully observing this nature we are all part of.

Below: Ed's homestead in Brook

We are so very lucky that 'Our Place Wye' has so much of this beauty to observe all around us and we do not need to go very far to enjoy this reciprocity with the living landscape.

Ed invites you all to join him in this celebration of place and purpose and help inspire a positive future for all. You can learn lots more about this journey with these links:

Volunteering, events, staycation and eco glamping
www.rebelfarmer.co.uk

Join local like-minded, nature loving landholders **www.klawonline.co.uk**

Support local produce
www.kentfoodhubs.co.uk

Change the system with The Kent School of Food **www.theyardkent.com**

Corporate away days supporting nature
https://wilder.work

Be the change you want to see
www.permaculture.co.uk

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

Thanks to Our Place Wye funders:

The POLEBROOK Fund

KENT COMMUNITY

EVENTS AND LISTINGS

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

JUNE - SEPTEMBER

8th June
- Kent Gravel Ride at The Hub

15th June
- 10am - 2 pm - Lady Joanna School Summer Fayre. £1 entry
- 9am-1pm - Diabetes Awareness Day, Wye Surgery

21st-23rd June and 28th-30th June
- Stour Music Festival at All Saints Church, Boughton Aluph

22nd June
- Wye Gardeners' Society Summer Show, Wye large village hall

23rd June
- 2pm - 5pm - Brook Open Gardens. Tickets and tea available from Brook church on the day

28th - 30th June
- 10am- 4pm - Wye Affordable Art Show, Wye Church

12th July
- 7pm - 10pm - Ashford Green Party Quiz Night, Wye small village hall. For more details contact: Ashfordgreenparty@mail.com

13th July
- Medieval Fayre at Brook Rural Museum
- 11.30am- 4pm - Bodsham School Summer Fair

14th July
- Wye Cricket Club Community Day

21st July
- Canterbury Ride feed station at The Hub

27th July
- Information day at The Hub hosted by the Our Stour Project for Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership

- **Please note** that **Wye Farmers' Market** will take place as usual on the first and third Saturdays of the month.
- The **Options Club** meet in Wye Church every Monday for board games, chat and coffee.
- The **Community Lunch** will be held on 12th & 26th June, 10th & 24th July. **For more details or to book a place please contact Community Warden Richard Sinden on 07969583920**

Correction from March Newsletter:
Please note that Graham Thorne can be contacted on **07703784685** if you would like to receive a food parcel.

EVENTS AT LUCKLEY HOUSE

Little Chequers, Wye, TN25 5DY
Open to all Wye Residents:

- Monday – 2-4pm - Knit and Craft Group
- Tuesday – 2-4pm – Darts and Board Games Group
- Wednesday – 10-11am – Coffee Morning
- Wednesday – 7-9pm – Bingo
- Thursday – 9-10 am – Breakfast Club
- Sunday – 10-11am – Coffee Morning
- 14th June - 8pm - Dancing Queen and Abba Tribute night. Buffet and entertainment £8 (please book your place via Denise Libberter, Scheme Manager)
- 18th July & 16th August - Entertainment nights - please check noticeboard

D-DAY CELEBRATIONS

6th June - 80th Anniversary of D Day landings

- 7.30 p.m - The church bells will ring until 8 p.m. Villagers are encouraged to bring a picnic supper to eat on the Green
- 8 - 9 p.m - Ashford Concert Band will play on Churchfield Green - all welcome to come and enjoy the music, perhaps dress in 1940's costume, have a dance on the grass
- 9 p.m- A piper in full ceremonial dress will play for 10 minutes and LED tea lights will be given to all the children
- 9.10p.m- Proclamation is read
- 9.15p.m- Beacon is lit, followed by singing the National Anthem

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

ANYONE FOR CRICKET?

Tim Mitford-Slade, Secretary of Wye Cricket Club

Wye Cricket Club, founded in 1882, has one of the most picturesque grounds in Kent, nestled under the iconic Wye Crown. The Club sits at the very heart of the village off Cherry Garden Lane and, for many years, ran both Saturday and Sunday senior sides, with players drawn from local farms and Wye College. Although the focus is very much on social cricket, Wye has enjoyed success in the Kent Village League, winning back-to-back promotions to reach Division 1 in 2016. A Junior Section was introduced at Under-11 level by Richard Elgar in 2013 but with no commercial investment and the departure of several senior players, Wye fell on hard times and had to withdraw from the League in 2018. In hindsight, this is perhaps the best thing to have happened to the club, as it allowed the juniors to find their feet in a small, inclusive and supportive environment. Those fledgling ten year olds are now the backbone of the senior team. Indeed, Wye now has two senior sides playing league cricket, a Sunday development side to support our youngsters and a thriving junior section, with a programme of cricket for all ages and abilities serving Wye and the surrounding rural areas.

We are always looking for new players and junior coaches www.wye.play-cricket.com or email wyecricket@gmail.com

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

Simon Edwards

Wye Patient Participation Group (PPG) is a group of patients and patient carers registered at Wye Surgery. By working in partnership with the practice partners and staff it helps to improve services for the whole of the practice population. The group has provided volunteers for activities such as flu and Covid vaccination clinics. Alongside this it is also currently organising a Diabetes Awareness Day taking place on the 15th June 2024. It is important that the group reflects a cross section of patients and carers and new members are always welcome. A dedicated Patient Participation Group Facebook page is under preparation. This will enable us to reach out to the wider patient population which now stands at about 10,000. Quarterly meetings are held in the Surgery meeting room. If you would like be involved, or just hear more about what the PPG does, please contact me: sfge@btinternet.com / 07816 949620

BROOK RURAL MUSEUM NEEDS YOU!

Dr Philippa Mesiano, Community Engagement Manager

Recently awarded an £88,294 grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the museum has commenced an 18-month project 'Brook Rural Museum – Reaching out into our communities'. The primary aim of this new project is to extend the museum's reach and impact across Ashford, connecting with a broader range of audiences through outreach projects and a public programme at the museum.

As part of this project, we are looking for new volunteers to join our front of house team! Duties include welcoming visitors and guiding them round our historic 14th-century grange barn and 19th century oast house. Availability required on one or two Saturdays and/or Sunday afternoons from 1:30pm to 5:30pm, late May to end of September.

If you would like to volunteer during this exciting phase, please get in touch at: **enquiries@brookruralmuseum.org.uk**
Open from 2pm – 5pm on Saturdays and Sundays between 25 May and 29 September 2024.
FREE* to visit across the 2024 season.
***This offer excludes group visits (5+ adults), guided tours, and special events. www.brookruralmuseum.org.uk**

A wide range of agricultural tools, carts and farm implements are on display at Brook.

WYE PARISH AWARDS 2024

Pat Marsh

At the Annual Parish Meeting on 20th April residents who have made a special contribution to our community were recognised with awards.

Mary Stewart received the KALC Community Award in 2024. Mary supports many organisations in Wye including Wye Car scheme, Wye Arts, Wye Heritage Society and Wye Village Hall Committee. A Director of Our Place Wye, she volunteers at community lunches.

Our Place Wye received the Wye Parish Council Challenge Cup, which is awarded to an organisation contributing most to the community.

Katie Cole received the Scotton Cup, which is awarded for contributing most to the local environment. Katie was awarded the Cup for organising the Wye Street Advent Calendar.

Olusola Ifekoya (Sola) received the Big Coombe Challenge Plate, which is awarded to an individual for promoting community wellbeing. Sola was head pharmacist at the chemist's in Wye for many years.

Paul Burnham received the Wye Gala Trophy, which is awarded for 'commitment to the village'. Paul was awarded the trophy in recognition of the books he has written about Wye and for his work with the Wye Historical Society.

Ellie Taylor received the David Marriott Trophy for Young Endeavour, which is awarded to a young person who has contributed to the community. Ellie was awarded the Trophy for her commitment to raising money for charity.

Paul Burnham receiving his award with Maureen de Saxe from the Wye Historical Society

A CUPPA WITH...

Robyn
Owner of Wye Beauty

Introduce yourself and tell us how long have you owned Wye Beauty

I'm Australian and have been doing beauty therapy for over 40 years. I started my own salon in Tenterden in 1984, and still have some clients who continue to come from those days. I opened a second salon in the Ashford International Hotel in 1990, then moved to Wye as my children were at Lady Joanna school by then. I've been in the Wye premises for 17 years. I sold the Tenterden salon in 2009.

How would you best describe Wye Beauty?

The salon is welcoming, friendly and relaxed and people feel better after they've been to us.

Most are regulars which is fantastic. We offer waxing, manicures, pedicures, red vein, skin tag and milia treatment, body massage, facials, spray tanning, microdermabrasion, ear piercing and electrolysis.

We also have a new treatment; 3D Lipo. This includes four advanced technologies to obtain results for fat-melting, cellulite-reduction , skin-tightening and inch loss.

We also have another therapist Lillie. She carries a lot of Slim Logic body treatment for inch loss and cellulite, waxing, eyelash extensions, brow and lash tinting , facials, and deep tissue massage.

What is your favourite treatment to carry out?

My favourite treatment is facials, people love being looked after and you can see a visible difference afterwards. We cater for men and women, the youngest are eight-year olds (for ear piercing), up to 92-year olds. You are never too old to want to feel fabulous!

What's your favourite tipple?

Probably a j20!

Above: Robyn In Wye Beauty Salon

What's your favourite song or band?

Taylor Swift!

What would your last meal be?

My last meal would be roast beef with Yorkshire pudding (as long as it was with our own beef). We have a smallholding with sheep, pigs and cows and provide locally grown meat to the surrounding area. A case of beauty and the beast!

Opening hours :
Tues - Fri 8.30 - 5pm , Sat 9 - 1 pm.
Summertime : Thursday evenings by appointment only (with Lillie)
www.rtbs.co.uk

YOUNG PEOPLE'S CORNER

With the threat of Wye Library potentially closing in the near future, we heard from some of the Year Six pupils at Lady Joanna Primary School about their love of reading

I always knew that I loved reading, and when I was eight, I started reading *The Hunger Games* because I always wanted to know what they were about. Since I was about three, I've been to Wye Library with my Dad, chosen a book that I wanted to read and walked back home to read it.

Honestly, I can't imagine not getting a book from Wye Library. I know that without that library and its books, my vocabulary and writing would not be the greater depth that it is now. I owe that all to Wye Library. I know that when you read books your knowledge and vocabulary expands, I know that books are a safe space for everyone and that, without them, some people worry because they don't have anything to distract them from that worry.

Grace, Age 11

Books are created, read, loved and cherished all over the world.

When authors create books, their mind is like a tree, their ideas come from such a small seed that grows and grows until what is left is a beautiful tree that produces the sweetest fruit.

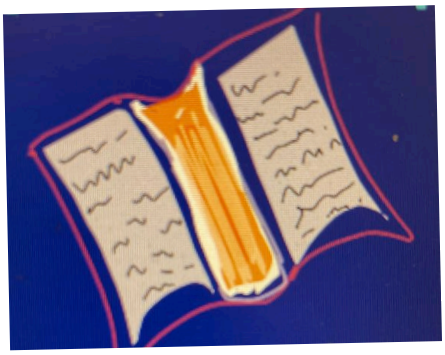
Words are shared as well, they are twisted and turned and developed. Each story comes from another and by unleashing the world of fantasy, you are letting new novels be created.

Martha, Age 11

We want to know your favourite place to play in Wye. Please send entries to newsletter@ourplacewye.org.uk

Naomi 'Reading is a way to escape from reality and live in a universe of your own choosing. One of the things I love about reading is that you become immersed in a story and that story could take you anywhere from a fantasy land to a sci fi multiverse'.

Emily 'I love the library because I can save so much money because I don't need to buy the books I can just get them for free!'



Above: illustration of book by Martha

EVENING OF SPOKEN WORD

Chrisopher Horton

An enthralling evening of poetry and prose took place in St Gregory and St Martin Church, Wye on 13th April that featured poetry and prose from local residents.

Christopher Horton started off the night's readings with a series of poems about the local area and its landscape. Beyond this, his set included a number of poems with a strong sense of social commentary but also featured trout fishing! This was followed by a reading from Lucy Strange, Wye's most famous local writer. She enchanted the audience with her highly imaginative teenage (and beyond) fiction.

Above: Lucy Strange - local author
Top right: Ravi Holy - Vicar

After a brief interval, Heidi Conroy then read short stories that were deeply witty, meaningful, clever and vivid, all at the same time. Ravi Holy rounded off the night with a reading from his draft memoir that was profound and insightful, reminding us of the importance of non-judgement and recognising opportunities for significant life transformation.

This event raised funding for the church and the core Literary festival which is taking place in May 2025. The festival organisers are grateful to Sue Puckey and Ravi for the support they provided by allowing the event to take place in the church. If you missed out on this event but would like to be involved with more similar events in the future then do get in touch at: wyeliteraryfestival@gmail.com

OUR PLACE WYE CIC

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