

AUTUMN 2026

OUR PLACE WYE



Photo: Kevin Flemen

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 - Virtual Lunch - farewell to Reverend Ravi Holy
 - 3 - A new gallery and a thank you and goodbye
 - 6 - Opening of The Kings Head
 - 7 - A Cuppa With.. Author Paul Cobb
 - 8 - Our Place Wye needs you
- Send your articles to admin@ourplacewye.org.uk

FAREWELL VIRTUAL LUNCH

Reverend Ravi Holy, outgoing Vicar at St Gregory and St Martin Church, Wye

What will you miss most about Wye?

So many things: the beautiful countryside that I spent many happy hours running in with the late, great Huxley (may he rest in peace) particularly the fields between Wye and Brook, the Wibberley Way and King's Wood. Then there's the wonderful cafes, pubs and restaurants and obviously the church itself. But most of all it's the people – not just church members but people in the village generally.

There's a reason why we've stayed here nearly 17 years – which is almost twice as long as the average clerical stint. My two best friends from theological college have done three jobs each in the time I've been here...

What's been your proudest achievement during your time here?

A couple of people – from very different parts of the community – have told me that the church has felt more open and accessible to everyone, regardless of their social status or level of religious faith since I arrived and that makes me very happy. That's certainly the atmosphere that I've tried to create because it reflects my understanding of who God is and what true Christianity looks like. The outworking of this has been things like having Wye's Got Talent in the church back in 2010, the evening with Reverend Richard Coles and Jo Brand a few years later and various funerals – such as Karen Hymers' which I took dressed as Elvis – which have enabled people to celebrate their loved ones in ways which are appropriate to them.



Above: Ravi is moving on after 17 years in Wye

What advice would you give the incoming vicar?

In a sense, that's not my place! Part of why the diocese allows a 'fallow period' between vicars is so that the church community can reflect on where they are now and where they want to be in the future and that might be a new or different direction. So, as a matter of principle, I need to 'let go and let God' and hand this church (which it has been my privilege to serve for the last two decades) back to God and to the community to which it belongs. Having said that, since the direction in which I have led it has been towards greater inclusion and openness, it would seem a shame to reverse that! But I'm sure that those responsible for choosing my successor won't let that happen and will appoint someone who can build on the foundations that I have laid and, hopefully, help the church to flourish and grow even more.

What are the biggest challenges the Church faces at the moment?

Even though Wye has a well above average congregation, we still struggle to pay our operating expenses – which are much more significant than you might imagine. Contrary to popular belief, we don't get any financial support from the government and all our income comes from the donations of our regular members and visitors. So, if you aren't a

regular donor already and would like to see the church continue to provide things like weddings and funerals or clubs like Options and Bumps and Babies as well as regular services, you could consider joining our planned giving scheme.

What are you most looking forward to in your new role?

Until recently, I thought that I would probably stay in Wye until I retired but I had a very clear call to this group of churches in Folkestone which, as I explained in the parish magazine, has had some significant problems in recent years. In effect, I heard a cry for help and I answered it, even though it meant leaving my comfort zone. But then, that is what the Christian life is all about: call, service and sacrifice. So, I'm excited to know that I'm going to be able to help people in need plus it's hardly all doom and gloom! Folkestone is a lovely place with lots going on so I'm looking forward to both the challenge and the adventure. And being by the sea. One side of my family are from Great Yarmouth so I'm kind of getting back to my roots.

What are you having for lunch today?

On the day I wrote this, I had leftover burgers and sausages from the barbecue that Nikki and I hosted last night for the people from the church who are getting confirmed on Sunday.

We wish Ravi all the best in his next role - he'll be sorely missed!



Above: Ravi dressed as Elton John heading into Lady Joanna primary school!

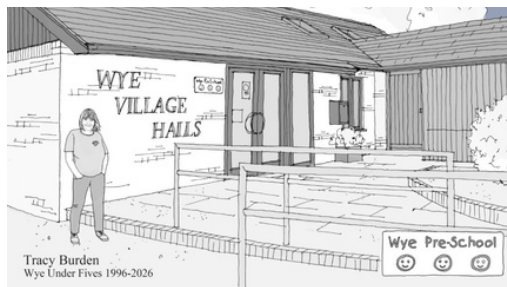


FAREWELL TO TRACY AFTER 30 YEARS

Penny Wilcox

During July this year, at our celebration event, Wye Under Fives Preschool formally waved Tracy Burden off into retirement. Tracy worked at the preschool for 30 years and didn't want a big fuss or party. However, knowing that she has given so much to the preschool and the children of the village, we wanted to make a bit of a fuss and thank her in Our Place Wye. Tracy is a private person but kindly indulged me, over a cup of hot chocolate to reflect on her 30 years at the preschool.

Having first attended the preschool as a parent with her eldest child, Tracy became involved at a time when it was very much parent-led, with volunteers helping to run sessions. After the birth of her second son, the preschool manager at the time saw something



Above: portrait by Lucy Sheeran

and encouraged her to come and work at the preschool. Thirty years later, it is hard to imagine the preschool without her.

Laughing, Tracy said she has always found children much easier than adults. "They're my level," she joked. "They're honest, funny and every single one is different." Tracy has seen plenty of changes over the years. When she first started there wasn't even a garden, just orange plastic fencing in a section of the field. Today, the outdoor space (now enclosed) has become one of her favourite parts of the preschool.

Over the years, Tracy has learned as much from the children as they have from her.

"They've taught me patience," she reflected

'and they've given me more confidence than I'd ever have had." Her happiest memories aren't of big events but of the everyday moments that make preschool life so special: children wearing spoons over their eyes to stop sunscreen running in, asking if they could "go to the shops now" after a visit from the fire engine, treasured handmade cards, and drawings that still have pride of place in her home.

As Tracy begins her retirement, she is looking forward to spending more time with her husband, tackling the Lego collection and most importantly, focusing on her family.

From everyone at the preschool and across our village community, thank you, Tracy, for your kindness, your patience, your humour (including a few practical jokes) and your unwavering dedication over the past 30 years. We know you hate fuss but we think you deserved a little bit!

With love from the Trustee Committee and Preschool Staff past and present

WYE WELCOMES NEW GALLERY

Emma Freeman, Artist

Wye Gallery & Studio is a new art gallery in the heart of the village, created to support artists and showcase talent from across Kent, East Sussex and London. Our aim is to build a welcoming, inclusive space where both emerging and established artists can share their work with the community. Each month we announce a theme and send out an open call, inviting artists and designer-makers to respond. Selected pieces form part of a curated exhibition that celebrates the breadth and diversity of creativity. During the year, we will offer occasional solo shows for artists whose work has resonated strongly with visitors, giving standout makers a dedicated moment in the spotlight. Our Shared Studio is a self-directed, friendly space where visitors can build



Above: Wye Gallery and Studio on Church St

confidence in their creativity while becoming part of a growing community of artists and makers. You can book a seat at one of our communal tables and make use of a wide range of tools, with staff nearby for general support. You're welcome to bring your own substrates and mediums, however a small selection of art supplies will be available to purchase if needed. Studio sessions are offered at an introductory rate of £10 per hour.

We also aim to provide a programme of creative workshops, including painting,

sculpture, printmaking, journalling and crafts. These sessions are hands-on and beginner-friendly, offering opportunities to learn new skills in a supportive environment.

Wye Gallery & Studio is run by artist Emma Freeman and designer-maker Rebecca Norris, who bring together decades of creative experience across painting, sculpture, textiles and handcrafts. Their combined backgrounds in art, wellbeing and community support shape the welcoming, imaginative ethos of the space.

For more information visit:

www.wyegallery.co.uk or email:

wyegallery@gmail.com

Address: 24 Church Street, Wye



Above left: Emma Freeman. Above right: Rebecca Norris

YOGA IS NOT JUST ABOUT TOUCHING YOUR TOES!

Niki Epps, Yoga Teacher and Gardener

As a yoga teacher and gardener, I spend a lot of time helping people move. It's something I notice every day. Whether I'm teaching a class, working in someone's garden or simply getting on with everyday life, I'm reminded that how we move really matters.

When people hear the word yoga, they often think you need to be flexible or able to touch your toes. The truth is, yoga is for everyone. For me, yoga isn't something that only happens on a mat. It's about moving more comfortably through everyday life. Whether you're gardening, walking the dog, carrying shopping or playing with grandchildren, yoga can help improve strength, balance, flexibility and posture, making everyday tasks feel easier and more enjoyable.

Over the past 15 years, I've had the privilege of teaching people of all ages and abilities in health clubs, village halls,



Above: Niki enjoying her other passion, gardening one-to-one sessions and online. One of the things I enjoy most is seeing people leave class standing a little taller, moving a little more freely and smiling a little more.

One of my favourite places to teach is outdoors. Practising yoga by the lake encourages us to slow down, notice our surroundings and be more present. Fresh air, birdsong and the changing seasons provide the perfect backdrop for taking a little time out from our busy lives and reconnecting with ourselves. If you've ever wondered whether yoga might be for you, why not come and give it a try? You don't need to be flexible or experienced – just curious. I'd be delighted to welcome you to Yoga by the Lake. To book please call 07919 360 580 or search Niki Epps Wellbeing on Facebook.

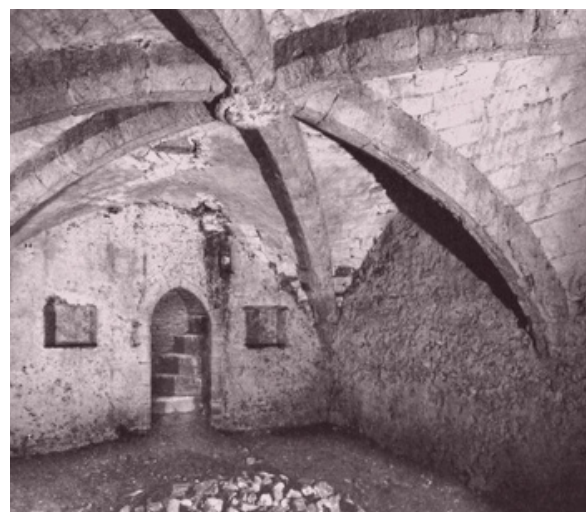


HISTORIC MONUMENT TO OPEN FOR ALL

The Undercroft beneath the front garden of 2 Bridge Street is listed as an historic monument in Wye. We are delighted to say that it will be open to the public on Farmers Market Saturdays from 10.00 to 12.00 for guided tours.

Our first opening will be on September 19th. Please visit our website for further information.

<https://thewyeundercroft.co.uk/>



Community Car Scheme



Do you need help getting to your medical and other essential appointments?

Call us today on 01233 665535 or email: transport@ashfordvc.org.uk

Volunteer Centre
Ashford

www.ashfordvc.org.uk

We are grateful for the support of the following local business sponsors: Canterbury Cider, Meade Home Improvement, Sawyers, Sealey Cleaning, Spacemaker Architects, Ticketyboo, Tickled Trout, Musika, Wye Beauty, Wye Farmers' Market, Hobbs Parker, The Vault Hair and Beauty, Genesis Landscaping, Not Just Travel, Smart Decluttering Services, The Bowl Inn Hastingleigh, The Hub and Niki Epps Wellbeing

If you would like to become a sponsor please contact admin@ourplacewye.org.uk

Thanks to Our Place Wye funders:



EVENTS AND LISTINGS

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

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER

- 2 Sept, Ride and Stride (meet at all participating churches)
- 11 Sept, Big Sound Collective Concert, All Saints Boughton Aluph
- 19 Sept, 11.00- 1.00, Teddy Bear Extravaganza, Wye Church
- 20 Sept, 2.00 -5.00, Family Day, Wye Juniors FC, Wye
- 21 Sept, 7.30, Wye Arts Talk- Melanie Gibson-Barton Suffragettes & Suffragists, Large Village Hall
- 26 Sept, 9.15, Wye Community Choir, Come and Sing - open to all 16 plus. Small Village Hall, Wye
- 27 Sept, Harvest Festival at All Saints Boughton Aluph
- 7 Oct, 7.30, Lady J School, Wye Historical Society talk, In and Out of the Workhouse: the Good, the Bad and the Scandalous. Sarah Bradley
- 10 Oct, 7.00, Murder Mystery Supper, Brook Village Hall, for tickets email: janetjessop@btinternet.com.
- 19 Oct, 7.30, Wye Arts- Just Men Singing, male voice choir, Large Village Hall
- 24 Oct, 2-4, Jumble Sale - Brook Village Hall
- 4 Nov, 7.30, Lady J School, Wye Historical Society talk, My Grandfather the Flier". This will be a joint meeting with the Wye RAFA group.
- 16 Nov, 7.30, Wye Arts AGM, Large Village Hall
- 21 Nov, Ashford Choral Society Concert, Wye Church
- 21 Nov, 7, Quiz Night, Brook Village Hall, Tickets £5 per person in advance from Michelle on 07876591969.
- 29 November, 6.30, Advent Carol Service, Wye Church
- 2 Dec, 7.30, Lady J School, Wye Historical talk, The Historic Tale of Two Regions - The Story of the Ancient Kingdom of Kent and the Commonwealth of Virginia in the Year of Our Lord 1606 .
- 4 Dec, 6.00-8.00, Wye Christmas Street Party

OUR PLACE WYE CARERS' SUPPORT GROUP

This group is open to all those who provide care for an incapacitated friend or family member. Held at Brambles Care Home at 11 am on the first Tuesday of every month

Sept 1 - 11am - Oct 6 -11am, Nov 3- 11am Dec 1- 11am

email: admin@ourplacewye.org.uk for more info

- **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 at 10 am 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:

Mon 2-4pm - Knit and Natter

Tues 2-4pm - Darts and Board Games Group

Weds 10-11am - Coffee Morning

Weds 7-9pm - Bingo

Thurs 8:30 am - Breakfast Club

Sun 10-11 am - Coffee Morning

Contact [01233 812665](tel:01233812665) or drop in for further info

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 or ring: 07395433939. Please book 48 hours before the actual lunch.

Open to all Wye Residents:

Sept 2, 16 and 30, Oct 14, 28 Nov 11, 25 ,

Dec 9.



Please make use of the pink bin at every Farmers' Market! This is the place to recycle all your old electrical equipment - computers, toasters, lights, kitchen gadgets etc!

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



KING'S HEAD REOPENS!

Will Thompson, Manager

At its heart, The King's Head is exactly what it has always been – a pub. Whether you're joining us for a meal with family and friends, catching up over drinks, or simply popping in for a pint after work, you'll always find a warm welcome.

Our menus celebrate the best of British pub dining, with comforting classics, seasonal dishes and quality ingredients sourced wherever possible from local Kent producers. Good food, good drink and genuine hospitality are at the heart of everything we do.

Our newly created courtyard and heated carriageway provide the perfect setting to enjoy food and drinks outdoors throughout the year, whatever the weather.



Above: Freshly painted ready to welcome people!

As a village pub, we're looking forward to becoming a hub for the local community, hosting regular quiz nights, live music, themed evenings and seasonal celebrations including Mother's Day, Father's Day and Christmas.

Our boutique bedrooms are currently being completed to a high standard and we look forward to welcoming our first overnight guests early in the New Year, with bookings available directly through our website.

Food is currently served from 12pm to 9pm Wednesday to Saturday, and from 12pm to 6pm on Sundays, while the bar remains open until 11pm Monday to Saturday and 10pm on Sundays. As we continue to grow, we'll soon be serving food seven days a week and hope to introduce breakfast in the near future.

Above all, we want The King's Head to be a place where everyone feels at home—a welcoming village pub where great food, good company and lasting memories are made.

www.kingsheadweye.co.uk



JOIN US AT OUR FAMILY DAY, SUPPORTING WYE JUNIORS FOOTBALL CLUB!



Our Place Wye is delighted to invite the whole community to a fantastic Family Day on Sunday 20th September, from 2pm until 5pm, at Wye Juniors Football Club.

This free community event is all about bringing local people together for an afternoon of fun, friendship and community spirit. Best of all, every penny of profit raised on the day will go directly to Wye Juniors Football Club, helping to support the club and the opportunities it provides for young people in our village.

Wye Juniors is a volunteer-run club and teams range from Under 8s through to under 17s. They face significant running costs each year and to continue to run they are looking for sponsorship to

help keep the club thriving!

On the day there will be something for everyone to enjoy, including a free bouncy castle, free bungee trampoline, a football tournament, Wye Scouting group, other community sports clubs, and plenty of food and drink available throughout the afternoon.

Whether you're a long-time resident or new to the village, this is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate everything that makes Wye such a special place to live. To enquire about being a sponsor or to rent the pitch please email:

wejuniorstreasurer@gmail.com or visit www.wyejuniorssc.co.uk

Visitors are kindly asked to walk up Cherry Garden Lane to the football field on the day.



OUR PLACE WYE

presents

FAMILY DAY!

SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2026

JOIN US AT

WYE JUNIORS FOOTBALL CLUB

- ★ SCOUTING GROUP
- ★ FREE BOUNCY CASTLE
- ★ FREE BUNGEE TRAMPOLINE
- ★ FOOD & DRINK
- ★ FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT
- ★ OTHER SPORTS CLUBS

FREE COMMUNITY DAY FOR THE FAMILY!

 **SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2026**

 **2PM – 5PM**

EVERYONE WELCOME!

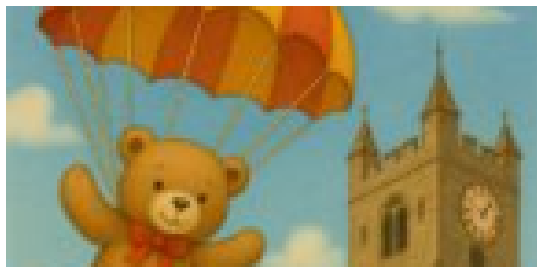
 **WHAT3WORDS LOCATION:** <https://w3w.co/unicorns.opens.clots>

PLEASE WALK UP CHERRY GARDEN LANE TO THE FOOTBALL FIELD IF POSSIBLE.

Big thank you to all our volunteers who deliver the newsletters, without them you would not be reading it!

TEDDY BEAR PARACHUTE JUMP RETURNS Pip Graham

Back by popular demand - come and join in the fun, we are hosting our second teddy bear parachute jump, where the bears will be thrown off the church tower in Wye. A fun day out for all, plus a tombola, raffle and some delicious cakes. Entries are just £2.50 per teddy. The Teddy Bear Categories are: Best Dressed, Most Creative Costume, Best Homemade Parachute and Most Unique Design!



What you'll need to make a teddy bear parachute:

- A lightweight plastic bag, fabric square, or bin liner (approx. 40-60 cm wide)
- 4 pieces of string or wool (each about 50-60 cm long)
- Sticky tape or a hole punch
- A small teddy bear (ideally under 200g)

The event will take place on Saturday 19th September from 11am - 1pm

EVENT 2026 SCHEDULE



13TH
SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER FAIR -
WYE VILLAGE HALL
10AM-2PM

11TH
OCTOBER

HALLOWEEN FAIR -
WYE VILLAGE HALL
10AM-2PM

15TH
NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER FAIR - WYE
VILLAGE HALL
10AM-2PM

29TH
NOVEMBER

CHRISTMAS FAIR WITH
SANTA - HAMSTREET
VICTORY HALL 11AM-3PM

13TH
DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS FAIR WITH
SANTA - WYE VILLAGE
HALL 10AM-3PM

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL:
HANDCRAFTEDCOMMUNITYKENT@GMAIL.COM

A CUPPA WITH... Paul Cobb, author of historical fiction Please tell us about yourself, past work and what brought you to this area?

I grew up on a Yorkshire Dales farm, and after I completed a Masters in Environmental Science, Linda and I came to Wye in 1984 when I got a job with a new organisation called the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, doing conservation and environmental work with farmers. The work gave me a deep love of the history and landscapes of Kent and Sussex, which I carry into my novels, and Wye has been home ever since and the place where our son Izaak grew up.

Considering it's not Yorkshire, Kent is 'alright'. At the time I retired in 2024, I was working on trials to improve water quality on farmland by planting 'cover crops' which retain water and nutrients in the soil.

What inspired you to write Thegn of Berewic?

I had written short stories and poetry but always had an idea for a novel in which two young people who loathe each other are made to marry to end a long-running blood feud between their families. A kind of Romeo and Juliet in



reverse. Once I retired, I had the time to get back to ten years' worth of scribbling and 'Thegn of Berewic', the first in my four-novel historical fiction series called 'The Book and the Knife' was published. Berewic is meant to be in Sussex, so my knowledge of those Anglo-Saxon landscapes has been useful.

Was there a particular historical figure or event that inspired the story?

Both - my fictional characters are interwoven with real historical events and characters. Not only are the young people in my story wed on the day of the Battle of Hastings in 1066, but their families are also offshoots of the great Houses of England at the time, the Wessex (of Edward the Confessor) and the Godwins (of King Harold), so a child of theirs would have some claim to the English throne. To survive the catastrophe of the English defeat and the Norman occupation that follows, they must learn that their differences are the strengths they need in each other.

As to whether they might even fall in love, you'll have to wait and see...

How far along are you with your next novel and what can readers look forward to?

More happens to them that day than their marriage, and I have thrown in a couple of plot twists about their pedigrees that spice everything up. Then there are the eponymous book (of knowledge) and knife (with a foretelling on its blade), so lots to look forward to!

What do you enjoy doing when you are not writing?

I have an allotment on the Beanfield which Linda grows plants for in the greenhouse, and I try not to kill when I plant them out. In fact, I do grow from both plant and seed on it, and it gives the farmer in me a lot of satisfaction, not to mention food and the benefits of being outside. Other than that, a long walk with a pub en route is perfect for me.

What is your favourite tippie?

I like a good beer, and I was delighted when we visited our son in Canada recently to find Beer Farmers, which produces a delicious IPA from its own produce called Cover Crop.

You can purchase 'Thegn of Berewic'
from Ticketyboo in Bridge Street.

www.paulcobb.com



COMMUNITY CORNER

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



Above: Kim Eva Stead shared this beautiful photo of sunset in Wye. Below: Wye Walkers celebrate the Summer Solstice at Wye Crown



Above: The Wye Crown gets a makeover and is gleaming white again



Above: The Tickled Trout hosting its annual Duck Race to raise much needed funds for the Pilgrims Hospice



Above: Michal Bakala captures the storm above the Forstall



OUR PLACE WYE COULD YOU SUPPORT OUR WORK?

Jasper Bouverie, Chair

The directors of Our Place Wye have been dreaming about money - and in particular how much money we might be able to raise in our own community to carry on our work.

I won't go into detail here about our costs - because I've written about them before and because, if you don't know what Our Place Wye does, then you could visit the window of Number 9 Church Street where you will find an excellent explanation. (Thank you to Rob Barker and Sally Barton for the design and to Sarah Wakelin for the cake!) Suffice to say that our costs total about £12,000 a year.

We recover some of this through sponsorship from local businesses, who advertise in the newsletter and on the village Facebook group. We also receive a £5 contribution from those attending the community lunch.

Up to now, for most of our funding, we have relied on grants from organisations such as the Kent Community Foundation, the National Lottery Community Fund and Wye with Hinxhill Parish Council.

But then we started dreaming... of money growing on trees nearby? Well... certainly nearby. We started wondering whether more funding for our work could come from the community that benefits from it? When applying for grants, we are increasingly aware that we are competing with many other worthy causes and communities for limited funds. While we will continue to seek external funding, we believe it is also reasonable to ask those who value what we do to consider supporting us directly. So...

Have you benefited from the village Facebook group? Perhaps you discovered a local event, found a trusted tradesperson, recovered lost property, or helped reunite a lost pet with its owner. Have you enjoyed reading the village newsletter and learning more about local people, events and history? Do you value the community garden and perhaps enjoyed some of the herbs and vegetables grown there?

Have you attended the community lunch, the carers' support group, the Volunteer Tea Party or the Christmas Street Party?

If any of these things has enriched your life, we hope you will consider making a contribution towards the work of Our Place Wye.

From September, collection boxes will be available in selected village shops and pubs, and we have also launched a Crowdfunder page to make donating easy. We are aiming to raise an initial £2,500. To find this page you can either visit www.crowdfunder.co.uk and search for Our Place Wye, or you can use the QR code below and you will be taken there directly. Please don't be put off by the 'suggested donation' buttons.. this is imposed on us by Crowdfunder. We would be very grateful for much smaller donations and you can add anything upwards of £1 in the textbox provided. Whether large or small, every donation will help us continue supporting village life and bringing our community together.

Thank you for your support.

