WINTER 2026

OUR PLACE WYE



Photo: Amy Mitford-Slade

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Send your articles to admin@ourplacewye.org.uk

VIRTUAL LUNCH

Imogen Amos, local Wye resident, PT and Hyrox athlete

Please tell us a bit about yourself and how long you've lived in Wye

I've lived in Wye since I was born and I absolutely love where I live. I went to the University of Kent where I graduated with a First in Biomedical Science.

I've always wanted to be a full time athlete but I'm currently working at Eastwell Manor part time as a wellbeing fitness instructor and personal trainer. I love helping people achieve their goals and giving them lots of burpees in classes! They've also been really accommodating for when I need time off to go to races etc. People know me round the village as the girl that runs, or the girl with the dogs as I'm often walking my two dogs. I have an older brother James who plays basketball, my dad is GM at a large health club in central London and my mum teaches Pilates so exercise and fitness have always been in the family. I played tennis from the age of 5 and then went on to play netball for Breakaways in Ashford then Crystal Palace...then I started running, and now Hyrox!

You've become a hugely successful, world-record breaking Hyrox athlete. How did you get into this and what's your next challenge?

My background is in running and for a long time I was doing a lot of running races, be it cross country or road, ranging from 5k to half marathons. But I also loved the gym and getting stronger. I then saw Hyrox on Instagram and looked into it and thought that's a bit of me - running and strength work combined! I reached out to a nearby Hyrox gym and did my first session and was humbled....but hooked. Hyrox is basically a functional fitness race



where you have 8 stations and between each one is a 1k run. So you start with a 1k run followed by 1000m ski erg, run, 50m sled push etc. You can do singles, doubles or relay so it really is for everyone!
Although I have done a lot of solo races, this season I'm currently trying to get into the challenger division & eventually the Elite 15 pro doubles with my partner so am trying to get as many races as possible and finish high up to get points to qualify into this division and hopefully the Elite 15. I was racing in Oslo at the end of September and qualified for the World Championships in Hong Kong next year with my doubles partner. It means I can travel all over the world and see amazing things and do what I love!

What advice would you give to someone starting their fitness journey?

My advice would be to just start. Just move a little, day by day, week by week and just build on that until you are where you want to be. Consistency beats perfection, so build good habits and repeat them! And find something you enjoy!

Which sporting star inspires you?

I'm inspired by a lot of amazing female athletes across the running and Hyrox world, it's hard to name just one!
I think Lucy Davis is just an incredible all-round athlete but also such a role model for girls.

How do you think the children's play area and sporting facilities could be improved in the village?

I think there should be a push towards more functional fitness facilities. Everyone needs functional fitness as it trains your body for real life. This type of fitness allows you to get up from the floor, sit up from lying down and therefore makes daily activities easier. For children, functional fitness helps them develop the strength, coordination, balance and confidence they need to move well, play actively and develop healthy habits for life. For example, mini hurdles, soft medicine balls, agility cones and ladders, resistance bands and soft balls.

I have been asked to be an ambassador to help with David Reece's quest to expand the children's play area in Wye so am actively involved in the project.

What are you having for lunch today?

For today's lunch I had leftovers from dinner which makes my life so much easier at work because I need to eat a lot of food and eating takes up a large proportion of my day!
I had pasta, roasted vegetables and salmon followed by dark chocolate, biscuits, yoghurt and fruit.



Above and top centre: Imogen competing at the Hyrox World Championships at The Strawberry Arena in Stockholm in June 2026

WYE PLAY PARK PROJECT UNDERWAY

David Reece, Wye Village Hall

The Village Hall and the Parish Council are jointly planning to renew the play park on the Recreation Field in 2027, as the current equipment is old and deteriorating. The new play park will have equipment chosen to develop children's confidence and physical skills, accessible to children of all abilities.

We have a goal of around £120,000. We already have nearly half. We are actively working to raise the rest, and we need to show big potential funders that we are also raising funds at the local level. Our Patrons have kindly agreed to join the project because they believe strongly in its value to the village. They can spread the word through their many contacts, and they have committed to supporting our fundraising activities with their own projects, which will be announced shortly. Our Patrons are:

Etienne Pradier

Etienne has lived in Wye for 33 years and is our very own French magician! His amazing magical shows have entertained royalty and celebrities around the world. Etienne was a Patron for the major refurbishment project for the Village Hall and organised several sold-out magic events for the village.

Laurence Harvey

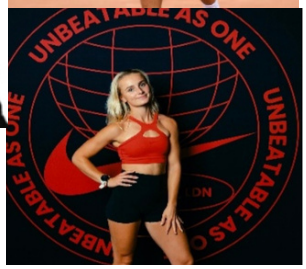
Laurence is a popular coach who has been coaching tennis and padel at Wye Tennis Club since 2011. He has already raised funds for several good causes through arranging sporting events, and when he heard about the project, he said he was keen to help out and support!

Imogen (Immy) Amos

Immy is known in the village as 'the girl who runs'! She is a real role model for the young and is planning a family Hyrox/functional fitness style class to raise money for the new play park.







Above: Etienne
Top Right: Laurence
Bottom Right: Imogen
All agreed to help get this project finished!

If you would like to help in any way on the project, please contact David Reece on 07813 834613 or 01233 812130

NEWS FROM OUR PLACE WYE

We are delighted to announce the launch of a new parent carers group for parents who care for young children with SEND or older children with additional needs (see right for details). This is in addition to our existing carers' group which meets monthly at Brambles Care Home on the first Tuesday of the month at 11 am.

Many thanks to all those who contributed to our crowdfunding campaign. We were delighted that nearly 70 people contributed and that we raised £1750. Our Place Wye has also secured £5000 funding from the Colyer Fergusson Trust so this will keep us going well into next year. Thank you!

If you want to get involved or help us at all please email: admin@ourplacewye.org.uk we would love to hear from you.



GREEN DOCTORS BOILER REPAIR

Green Doctors have confirmed they have a boiler repair and replacement scheme which could help anyone who has an inefficient, broken or faulty boiler. It is subject to strict criteria which must be met to ensure those at risk of ill-health or fuel poverty are supported as a priority. A guide to possible eligible household criteria is as follows:

- Aged over 65
- Someone aged under 5 in the household
- Has a disability or long-term health condition which makes them particularly at risk of fuel poverty / not being able to maintain a warm home.

The scheme is designed to repair a system as a first action, and where a replacement is the only option this can be applied for under the same scheme. In all cases, the client must be seen by a Green Doctor during a home visit for an application to be made for these schemes. **For more info please phone 0800 233 5255 or visit the website: south.greendoctors.org.uk**

LOOKING BACK

John Barnes, former Wye College student



Above: The Coulter's Coach has been donated to Brook Museum by Dorothy Coulter. Picture from Wye Historical Society

70 years ago in September 1956 I first set foot on Wye station. I got off the train and asked the porter the way to Wye College. He pointed me past a grotty rarely-patronised pub, The Victoria (since rebranded) and up the hill through the council house estate.

So I set off up the hill. I had no luggage. This had been sent on British Rail's excellent "Luggage in advance" scheme. I had arranged with Ben Coulter, the local courier of his time, to pick up my case from Wye station and convey it (with many others) on his pony and 4-wheel flat cart up to Withersdane Hall where I was allotted a room for the year. Not surprisingly I was astounded when I first saw the historic brick building complex when I arrived to book in at the porter's lodge. I had had no idea what to expect.

I had been told that Wye College operated on a system similar to Oxbridge whereby we were required to wear an academic gown to formal dinner each evening. And men were required to wear a tie (so I kept one permanently in my pocket) and women to wear skirts (no trousers). So one of my first jobs was to buy a gown, battered, worn and torn from many years' use, from the student union shop. I would sell it on 3 years later. Freshers arrived a day earlier than the main student body to give us a chance to settle in in peace.

And the Principal, Dunstan Skilbeck, took the opportunity to give us a pep talk and introduction to student life. One thing he told us then shocked me deeply and is still clear in my mind today. "Here at Wye", he said, "you will receive lectures from clever and brainy people, many of whom will be worldwide experts in their field. Everything they tell you, disbelieve it! Until you have been able to confirm by your own study that what they have told you is correct!" This was a complete contradiction of everything I had been used to. I had always implicitly believed everything my schoolmasters had told me. But it sank in and was my first step on the way to being a sceptic.

I had no father and my mother was on a very small income so I was on the maximum grant. Tuition fees were of course also paid by Middlesex County Council. I cannot recall the level of grant but my recollection is that it was neither generous nor mean. I managed. The arrangement was that the tuition/grant was paid direct to College, they deducted the tuition and rent and maintenance and paid me a cheque for the balance. In those days very few students had a bank account or cheque book but we all had a Post Office savings account. I thus took the cheque to the Post Office (then, I think on the corner of The Green) and the clerk entered the amount and the new total and stamped it.

A luxury which will surprise modern students was that pretty much everything was included in our maintenance payment. Bed, cooked breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea (all buffets) and evening meal (with full waiter service. No one got up from their place from when the senior staff member said grace till after top table had finished and gone). There were two Irish cleaning ladies at Withersdane, Peggy and Margaret, they made my bed and replaced the sheets each week. Other laundry we were expected to do ourselves. I liked it so much that I spent all three years in the same room at Withersdane.

If you have a story to share please email us at admin@ourplacewye.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, and Rowie's Pizza

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

Thanks to Our Place Wye funders:

The Frank Brake Community Fund

COLYER FERGUSSON CHARITABLE TRUST

KENT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

EVENTS AND LISTINGS

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

DECEMBER - MARCH

- **27 Nov, 4-8pm, Canterbury Cider, Bilting, Christmas Fair on the Farm**
- **2 Dec, 7.30-9.30pm, Lady Joanna School, Wye Historical Society talk - The Historic Tale of Two Regions - The Story of the Ancient Kingdom of Kent and the Commonwealth of Virginia**
- **2 Dec, 6.30-8.30pm, The Old Chapel, Bridge Street, Parent Carers Support Group**
- **4 Dec, 6.00-8.00pm. Wye Christmas Street Party**
- **4 Dec, 6pm, Sawyers, WyeBeats (DJ) raising money for Wye Juniors Football Club.**
- **5 Dec, 9-12 noon, Wye Church, Christmas Market**
- **12 Dec, 7.30pm, Wye Village Hall, Wye Village Community Choir Christmas Concert, Free all welcome**
- **13 Dec, 10-3.00pm - Large Village Hall, Handcrafted Community Christmas Fair with Santa**
- **16 Dec, 8pm, Wye Church, Big Sound Collective Concert**
- **19 Dec, 9-12 noon, Wye Church, Christmas Market**
- **20 Dec, 6.30pm, Wye Church, Christmas Carol Service**
- **21 Dec, 7.30pm, Large Village Hall, Wye Arts presents; Ginger Cow Theatrical Productions Panto**
- **24 Dec, 4.30 and 11.30pm, Wye Church, Annual Crib Service and Midnight Mass**
- **25 Dec, 10am , Wye Church, Christmas Day Eucharist**

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, care can be provided during the meeting. Please speak to Brambles to arrange first on 01233 813217

Dec 1 - 11am, Jan 5 - 11am , Feb 2 - 11am, March 2 - 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 -Bingo and Hoy Bingo

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

All welcome - Contact 01233 812665 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:

Dec 9, Jan 6, 20, Feb 3, 17, March 3, 17 and 31



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

COULD YOU BECOME AN ON-CALL FIREFIGHTER AT WYE FIRE STATION?

Alex Knights

Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) is looking for new recruits to join the crew at Wye Fire Station as an on-call firefighter.

Being an on-call firefighter is a vital and rewarding role that makes a real difference to the local community, with crews responding to a range of emergencies including fires, road crashes and rescues.

On-call firefighters are paid to be on standby during agreed hours, provided they can get to the station and be ready to respond within five minutes. The pay can vary depending on a number of factors, but the starting annual salary for a fully trained firefighter providing 50 hours of availability a week is £6,266.



The role offers flexibility to fit around other work and responsibilities, with firefighters coming from all walks of life. Many balance their on-call firefighter role alongside office-based jobs, shift work, working from home or self-employment. At Wye fire station, KFRS is particularly looking for people who can offer availability overnight and at weekends.

Interested in finding out more? If you have any questions about the role, requirements, training or application process, you're welcome to visit Wye Fire Station on their training night which occurs every Tuesday from 7pm to 10pm. It's a great opportunity to meet the crew and find out whether being an on-call firefighter could be right for you.

You can read more on the KFRS website at www.kent.fire-uk.org/oncall-firefighter. Applications will be open from Monday 2 November!



BE PREPARED THIS WINTER, NOT SCARED!

Pat Marsh

Since the pandemic, local water shortages and months-long drought this summer, we have all become much more aware of the fact that our daily lives can be suddenly impacted by outside events over which we have no control.

Towards the end of the year, the Government will be sending out information to every household on what we can do to be ready for emergencies, for example by building up a stock of non-perishable food and bottled water. You can see their advice here: https://prepare.campaign.gov.uk/.

If you live with children under five, use medical equipment reliant on electricity or water, or have a disability, make sure you are registered with The Priority Services Register (PSR). You can register here: https://www.thepsr.co.uk.

You may like to consider sharing your list of emergency contacts with a trusted neighbour and perhaps giving them a key. You can also join the Message in a Bottle scheme. It gives paramedics, police, and firefighters vital details like medications, allergies, and emergency contacts by storing a completed form inside a plastic bottle kept in your fridge: https://lionsmessageinabottle.co.uk/

The Parish Council is reviewing and updating our community resilience plan with details of who to contact in any kind of emergency and how to set up a rest centre if people need to be temporarily evacuated from their homes. **If you would like to volunteer with our Wye Community Resilience Plan, please contact our Parish Clerk by email: Clerk@wyeparishcouncil.gov.uk**

ADVENT WINDOWS

Would you like to take part in the Wye Advent Calendar this year?

Each year, windows around Wye are decorated and 'open' each day throughout Advent. If you'd like to join in, please email katiejcole@pm.me by the end of November and include your address. I'll allocate you a number to open/launch on. You choose how to decorate your window - some people put up decorations and lights, and others do something crafty and artistic - whatever it takes to spread some cheer.

You can also join in by visiting the windows. Some families have made it a tradition to walk around them all on Christmas Eve, followed by a mince pie etc.

A leaflet with a map to guide you around the Advent Calendar windows will be available in the church porch and at the station from early December. Thanks to Our Place Wye for covering the printing costs.

A PLACE AT THE TABLE - OUR COMMUNITY LUNCH

At Christmas, we often talk about getting together with family and friends. But some of the nicest conversations happen when you sit down with someone you might otherwise only wave to in the street. That's part of what makes our community lunch special.

The lunch is open to everyone in Wye. Some people come regularly, while others drop in when they can. You can come with a friend, bring a neighbour or arrive on your own. There's no need to have been before or to know anyone in the room. For £5 per person, you get a main course and pudding, prepared in advance by The Tickled Trout pub and served by our volunteers. It's a simple idea: a good meal at a shared table, with time to chat and enjoy being in one another's company.

Feedback from our diners:

'Excellent value, the food is well prepared and tasty. Saves me cooking for one day'.

'Friendly atmosphere, nice ambience. It feels good to be around other people and get to know them.'

'Everything about it is excellent, especially the kindness of the helpers.'

Each table has a posy of flowers - these go home with one of the diners, a different person each time along with any leftovers to avoid any waste.

We're grateful to the Tickled Trout for preparing the food, to our volunteers for giving their time, and to everyone who comes along. If you've been thinking about joining us, we'd love to see you at the table. The lunch is held at Wye Village Hall at 12:15pm for a 12:30pm start on the following Wednesdays:

Dec 9 , Jan - 6, 20 , Feb 3, 17, March 3, 17 and 31

If you would like more information or to book a place, email: admin@ourplacewye.org.uk or phone/message: 07395 433 939

A CUPPA WITH...

Chase Langley from The Hub, Wye

Please introduce yourself for those who don't know you

Greetings! I'm Chase Langley, Manager at The Hub, coffee addict and father of two. I've lived here in beautiful Kent for nearly a decade, having moved from London to Ashford at the request of my Kent-native wife (not sure if that gives me a pass on being a DFL or not).

I've been working at The Hub since the very beginning, which hit three years in September, a milestone we're all really proud of.

What do you like most about working at The Hub?

What I love most about The Hub is the community it builds, not just for the cyclists passing through but also for the locals and regulars who give the place a feeling of familiarity and friendliness.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

When I'm not in the café, I can often be found locked in a soundproof room recording audiobooks, drawing, or riding a bike or skateboard with varying levels of injury. Other than that, I'm dancing around the living room to music with my two kids!



Above: Chase Langley

Is The Hub hosting any fun, festive events this year?

Yes, we have a few things planned so far, such as quizzes, a bauble-painting workshop and a coffee cupping, which is like a wine tasting but for coffee! We also have some more festive things that will appear on our calendar in the next few weeks.

Keep an eye on our social media or the noticeboard in the café, as we'll be putting everything up over the coming weeks.

What's your favourite Christmas tipple?

I'm not really a huge drinker unless it's caffeinated. I'd love to say I enjoy a whisky or something cool at Christmas, but I'm sorry to say I'm actually a big fan of ginger wine.

The big question now, sprouts or no sprouts for Christmas dinner?

For the sake of my wife, I'll have to say sprouts. Her mum's sprout casserole makes them worthwhile.

What's your favourite Christmas song?

That's a very hard question! I love them all really, but it's got to be either "Baby, It's Cold Outside" or any song from "The Muppet Christmas Carol".

The Hub is open 7 days a week from 08.30am - 4.30pm. For more information visit the website: www.hubwye.com or email: info@hubwye.com



Above: A group of cyclists enjoying a well deserved coffee at The Hub

COMMUNITY CORNER

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









Above: Our Family Day at Wye Juniors was a huge success. The bouncy castle and bungee trampoline were a big hit, as were the archery provided by the Scouts and the football games run by the volunteer coaches. We raised £500 for Wye Juniors!



Above: Elspeth Dunn captures the sunset over the sunflowers in September

Right: Kevin Flemen's picture of a hawkmoth caterpillar in the allotment Below: David Archer's snap of the pumpkin fields









Above: The teddy bear parachute day at the church hosted by The Marlowe's Panto Dame Ben Roddy raised an amazing £475!

WHAT MAKES WYE WYE: ANNUAL CHRISTMAS STREET PARTY

Gemma Lewis

This year sees the return of one of Wye's favourite winter-time traditions, with the 29th Christmas Street Party, on Friday 4th December from 6-8pm, organised by Our Place Wye.

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

One of the highlights will be the Grand Raffle to raise money for community projects.

Local businesses have generously donated an array of wonderful prizes, from a camping holiday in France or Spain, a private magic lesson from Wye's very own magician Etienne Pradier to vouchers for local restaurants and pubs and lots, lots more.

For tickets, come along to the Farmers' Market in November, or look out for them on sale at the pubs at the end of November and start of December and on the night. We are looking for volunteers to help with setting up and clearing away on the day, for just an hour or two. If you can help, please contact Gemma at christmas@ourplacewye.org.uk or call her on 07835 772026

Looking forward to seeing you all there - let Christmas in Wye begin!

