



Thank you Ann Spencer for this jolly knitted Spring "hat" for the post box outside Wye post office

22ND APRIL – EARTH DAY– THINK EARTH!

**CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES
REDUCE WASTE
MINIMISE POLLUTION**

Our Place Wye has a new Administrator who's joined the team – a huge welcome to Caroline Fleming. She will be making sure all our wonderful Our Place Wye volunteers are kept abreast with what's going on.



Caroline is also the point of contact for anyone who has good ideas about how to improve or support our community at this difficult time. If you have any enquiries, please direct them to her:

**caroline@ourplacewye.org.uk
07561 600889**

REBUILDING OUR COMMUNITY | DEE PIZZO

I moved to Wye two and a half years ago. I received a warm welcome, made good friends quickly, and have experienced this as an open yet tightly knit community where people notice and care for each other, for which I am really grateful.

COVID has turned our ways of life upside down, stifling people's desire to be open and friendly. We have had to change, to step around each other on the street and in the Co-op. We haven't been able to visit each other's homes. Organisations and groups have made huge efforts to keep in touch with their members, and neighbours have tried to notice and respond to nearby needs, and not to leave anyone isolated. Yet we have had to cover our faces in order to stay safe, keep our distance and protect each other. We haven't been able to read each others' faces or respond to spontaneous smiles behind the masks.



My question now is: how will we proceed with what we have learnt? Will we be able to unlearn it? Will we be able to keep the vision of an open and warm community uppermost in our minds in order to return to it? I wonder if the fear that we have all experienced will hold us back, and if so, for how long? Now, or very soon, a great work of rebuilding begins.

The image of an underground stream is a good one: flowing underground it finds its own pathway in order to survive. It gathers nutrients from deep within the soil. When it bursts to the surface it has new vitality, energy, beauty. The challenge that faces us is to rebuild what, in these dark months, has appeared entirely lost. We need to be thinking about it now.

The Spring gives us plenty of inspiration, as does the Easter story. The dark earth has been holding and nurturing seeds of new life: now they are bursting forth. On Easter Day, whatever we might believe about the resurrection of Christ, we celebrate life bursting forth from the darkness of death.

This is my wish: that as and when we can safely remove our masks and meet together freely, we shed our fear and rebuild our precious village with all the creativity, energy, wisdom and vitality that we can muster.



A VIRTUAL LUNCH WITH ELIZABETH MARRIOTT | BRAMBLES RESIDENT

What brought you to Wye and what do you like about the area?

David, my husband, became the vicar of Wye in 1967 and did the job for 27 years. Wye is just beautiful. A lovely village in beautiful countryside. Friendly people. The usual thing.

What's the most interesting work you've done?

I looked after the boys at the Cathedral Choir School. I was matron. We had a great staff there. But being the vicar's wife has definitely been the work of my life. And in Wye it was never boring. We had people from all over the world. I remember one archdeacon who came to stay didn't know how to go to bed. He'd never slept in a bed before. We rented our spare room to students and I was always cooking them meals. We used to invite students back to the vicarage on Sundays and at Christmas we used to invite the overseas students. I invited them for 1 o'clock and sometimes they'd come and sometimes they didn't. I remember once they turned up at a quarter past 3.

What's the most exciting thing that's happened to you?

Meeting and getting married to David. We met in Switzerland but that's a long story...

Have you met anyone famous?

We had various celebrations at the college which involved important people and the Royal Family. But I was just in the background. I didn't meet them.

You're still here even though David retired in 1994...

When David retired, we weren't allowed to stay in the village because you have to "make way for the new vicar". A lot of people think you're going to interfere and tell them how things should be done. But we weren't really like that. There have been three vicars since David. We were very lucky because James Loudon offered us the flat at Olantigh which was far enough away to prevent any interfering but, after a year there, David had a terrible accident in Cyprus and died. I went to live with my mother in Orchard Drive. She died in 1999. I stayed on in her house for a while and now I'm here at Brambles.

How has the village changed over the years?

The main thing is that the college is finished. We all miss that.

What's your favourite food and what are you having for lunch today?

I love lobster – and any fresh fish. Today I'm having sweet and sour chicken. The food here at Brambles is good and sometimes we can have something different like sweet and sour chicken. The others had something else today.

What's the secret to a long and happy life?

It's all in the genes. My mother's family lived until they were in their 90s. She lived till over 100. Be careful with your health. I've had operations... Now I'm 92. I haven't had any children to look after me. But I'm in touch with my nieces. They look after me.



WYE CHURCH BUMPS & BABIES

Thursdays during term time for babies under one, 9:15-10:30am in the church yard

BYO picnic blanket and dress up warm, we'll provide teas and coffees and yummy treats

Anyone who's had a baby will know that while they're one of life's greatest joys, they're also really hard work. I know that was my experience. Sleepless nights, cold cups of tea, long hours of bobbing up and down... it's tough. There are good times too, of course there are, but sometimes a supportive smile, a hot drink, reassuring advice, can be the difference between a good day and a bad.

At Bumps & Babies we don't want anyone to do maternity leave alone, especially at the moment. We want to be a space where mums, or dads, or carers, can find mutual support and friendship. And we want everyone caring for a baby to have at least one morning a week where they get to enjoy a hot drink while it's still hot, usually with a slice of homemade cake, too.

So if you're the parent or carer of an under-one we're here for you, we've been where you are now, and would love to welcome you on a Thursday morning from 9:15am. Here's what some of our mums have to say:

"I heard about Bumps & Babies when I was feeling quite low after having Dara – I felt exhausted every day and pretty lonely – motherhood was definitely a life changer! However, when I entered Wye church everything changed. I found somewhere that Dara and I could go where I got to eat homemade cake and he could roam around safely in lovely surroundings. Beth and the other ladies and Ravi (who Dara adored!) made us feel so welcome and we met some great friends too. I would highly recommend going along, regardless of your beliefs, you will be welcomed with open arms and probably have some pretty interesting conversations as well... some of which could definitely raise an eyebrow or two!" – Anna

"My daughter and I loved attending Bumps & Babies in Wye. There was always a warm welcome, an encouraging smile and a lovely cup of coffee. I found the group to be inclusive and supportive. Every week I looked forward to the chance to drop in, have a chat and feel like a human being for a few hours!" – Holly

"Bumps & Babies was a little life-line for me after the arrival of our son in April 2019. I really looked forward to the warm welcome, a hot cup of tea and a delicious slice of cake each Thursday morning. My husband and our son's Grandma also enjoyed coming along when they could. It was great to meet other parents local to Wye and chat about the highs and lows of parenting in a calm and relaxed environment. Our little boy really enjoyed the toys, cuddles and the cake too!" – Katherine



MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS WHO FUND THIS NEWSLETTER – DELIVERED TO 2000 LOCAL HOUSEHOLDS



In partnership with
**THE NATIONAL LOTTERY
COMMUNITY FUND**



Wye with Hinxhill
Parish Council

TICKETY
BOO



NORWINS

