



A huge thank you to Katie Cole for organising Wye's living advent calendar during December and to everyone who got involved. It was lovely to see so many windows decorated around the village and it brought some much needed cheer to the community.

Everyone will agree that the pandemic has caused massive turbulence in societies throughout the world. We are very far from "getting back to normal". There are concerns that some industries and things that we took for granted only a few years ago may never recover. Yet this could also be seen as a time of opportunity: a time to remodel society in a way that suits ourselves, our local community and our planet. We at Our Place Wye strongly believe that this is the case – and that we should all be endeavouring to define "what we want" and get involved in our local community to make it happen. This shouldn't just be something for retired people, we also need the vision of youth.

The Our Place Wye Management Group now consists of 10 people, with representation from the Church, the Parish Council, KCC, the surgery (via the Patient Participation Group) and the Co-op (through their Community Outreach Representative). In the autumn we set up two working groups – on social and environmental issues:

Social Group

This group is responsible for the community lunch (which is currently on hold due to COVID), Wye Community Companions, Social Prescribing (in association with the Clinical Commissioning Group) and the digital training that we've been offering to anyone who is currently offline.

In the autumn we were excited to receive a grant of £15,000 from the National Lottery "Power to Change" to investigate the feasibility of setting up an organisation to deliver social care within Wye and neighbouring villages. Feasibility will involve consulting with people who are currently receiving care and also ascertaining whether we have sufficient carers in the locality to support a 'community-run' service.

If you would like to help with any of these social initiatives, please contact Mary Stewart at maryrosstewart@gmail.com

Environment Group

This group is currently prioritising works on the Sensory Garden in Little Chequers. Plans for landscaping and for planting are currently being set in motion and we are hoping that further works will be carried out on site once the lockdown is lifted.

The group is also working on energy initiatives (both renewable energy and energy saving), cycle paths (in consultation with Wye Active), and cleaning up the River Stour.

The group is aware that there are numerous possibilities for environmental improvement locally and will be looking to set priorities over the coming weeks. If you would like to help with any of these environmental objectives, please contact Pat Marsh secretary@ourplacewye.org.uk

Finally a big thanks to everyone who has already offered their help and support to Our Place Wye, and to all those who have contributed to the positivity on the Our Place Wye Facebook group and in this newsletter. We feel that, despite the pandemic, we have made important progress over the past year – and it certainly wouldn't have been possible without all of you.

SAVE THE HONEST MILLER CAMPAIGN

Our names are Cat, Alice and Emily and we live in Brook. We'd like to share with you the details of our new campaign to Save The Honest Miller. The pub was bought by new owners during the first lockdown of 2020. Planning application for residential properties on the land was submitted, then withdrawn and we fully expect a revised application to be re-submitted.

We strongly believe The Honest Miller is viable and would love to come together as a community to ensure the survival and future prosperity of this beautiful, Kentish pub. If you would like to hear more about our campaign, we have a leaflet which outlines our plans and ideas in more detail. We have also set-up a short and confidential survey to gauge support for opposing development on the land and plans for a community-led buyout of the pub, if it were to become available on the market again.

Please email us as savethehm@gmail.com to receive the leaflet and a link to the survey. You can also follow us on Facebook/Instagram/Twitter @SaveTheHonestMiller to keep updated with the latest news:

#SaveTheHonestMiller | @SaveTheHonestMiller



A reminder that Our Place Wye delivers the **Welcome Pack** to all newcomers to the village.

It contains the latest edition of the Parish Magazine, a letter of welcome and a very useful Wye village Information leaflet. Please get in touch if someone has recently moved in near to where you live: **Sue Powell 01233 812533** or suepowell80@gmail.com

A PLACE I LIKE IN WYE...

During the lockdown last spring I learned to value Churchfield Green. It's great to have such an open space when you've been inside most days. You get a feeling of openness from seeing the Downs beyond the village. And it's a space for social gatherings even if it is with only 1 or 5 others depending on regulations. Last year, with a group of friends, we started to meet weekly for a few socially distanced rounds of the Swedish game Kubb. Great!

~ Robert Feather

What's your favourite place in Wye and the local area?
Email an image and short paragraph explaining where you've chosen to: amy.creeden@gmail.com



PLEASE RECYCLE

A VIRTUAL LUNCH WITH ED KYRKE-SMITH | OWNER AT REBEL FARMER

What brought you to Wye?

I arrived in Brook in August 2015 after spending my whole life living in Camberwell, London. I had learnt all I needed to about urban life and was ready for a more rural one. I wanted more space to be able to process the waste product I produced with my tree surgeon business. The high speed rail allowed my wife Cat to commute to her media job in London and we had a choice of fantastic schools for our only child, Freddy. We settled on a run-down period house with a few outbuildings and a whole three acres of space after an intensive six month search. Since 2015 my dream of growing year round, chemical free food has blossomed to the point where we have started a business called Rebel Farmer.

What do you like about the area?

The area around Wye with the beauty of the North Downs is an outstanding area of beauty and I love it here. Without the air and light pollution, my health increased and I found a love for astronomy while building on a love for photography. The Wye community has been very friendly and I've found a great network of friends. I've built connections in many parts of the wider community of Ashford and Kent and I love being able to explore the amazing countryside with new secrets at every turn.

What's the most interesting work you've done in your life?

My most interesting work would be the work I'm doing currently in developing the Rebel Farmer brand, to grow year round food in a holistic way (closed loop system with minimal non-local inputs), creating compost and developing a microgreen business. It has all spawned from my love for the natural world having worked outside day to day with trees for many years. Arboriculture is extremely interesting.



Have you met anyone famous?

I've met quite a few famous folk being married to a TV producer, but they are all just human. I love all music and I met Nick Cave once, which felt pretty special.

What are the plans for the Sensory Garden in Wye?

Plans are still being put together but there are some fantastic ideas in play. We have started by using two local waste products, local muck and local cardboard waste to suppress weeds and bring lots of fertility to the space. We are hoping to have many uses for the space with accessibility key to the design. Smells, textures and tastes with raised bed herb garden and dwarfing fruit trees. All going well we should be including some students of Lady J with the design process and link together with the Incredible Edible Garden that I designed at the front of the school so it can also be used as a teaching space. There are some lovely volunteers involved.

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

It has to be fresh, locally grown, chemical and plastic free. I am a Locavore. Today I had a quick lunch of two poached eggs on toast.

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

Find what makes you happy while supporting your family and community and protecting our earth. Bring an end to greed and waste. Sleep well.



UK COVID VACCINE DELIVERY PLAN

The UK COVID-19 Vaccines Delivery Plan published on 11 January 2021 aims to have offered a first vaccine dose to everyone in the top four priority groups by 15 February:

- Residents in a care home for older adults and their carers.
- All those over 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers.
- All those of over 75 years of age and over.
- All those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals.

Wye Surgery is part of the Ashford Stour Primary Care Network (PCN), which is in charge of the vaccinations taking place at the Musgrove Park Medical Centre, Beaver Road, Ashford, TN23 7SP. Both the Pfizer BioNtech and Oxford Astra Zeneca vaccine are being given here. The GP surgery will contact you to offer an appointment.



IT support

Would you like to try out a smartphone, tablet or laptop for free, and get help using it to contact friends and family, and search useful information? OPW is considering a scheme to provide digital devices to villagers who need them and try to get everyone connected. We want you all to have these opportunities so please get in touch if you would like to register to join this free scheme. Call **07561 600889** leave your name and number and we will call you back as soon as we can.

You can now follow Our Place Wye on Instagram! We're looking for budding photographers in the community to share snaps of Wye and the local area.



Search **@ourplacewye**

THE 3 RS – REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE – ENVIRONMENTAL TIP OF THE MONTH –

Get £35 at the flick of a switch!

Just switch off at the socket instead of leaving your TV and appliances on standby. Your electricity bill will be on average £35 lower at the end of the year, according to the Energy Saving Trust.

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



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In partnership with
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Wye with Hinxhill
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01233 629551

NORWIKS



Wye, Ashford, Kent
07366 925687



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