

OUR PLACE WYE ON FACEBOOK

Facebook is one of those love-it or hate-it subjects. Plenty of people talk about its convenience, how good it is for contacting old friends, and how Facebook groups are a brilliant way to connect with likeminded individuals. But then there will be plenty of others who are concerned about privacy, the power of such huge multinationals, taxes, and the role that the company may or may not have played in various political events.

When Our Place Wye set up the Facebook group, we discussed these issues. We thought for a while about setting up a group around a completely new platform, but ultimately we decided that, because many villagers were already Facebook-users, we would be foolish to look elsewhere.

The management team feel that the success of the group has vindicated the decision. We now have nearly 3,000 members; 2,560 of these are described as 'active'. In the past month there have been 65 posts, 2,021 comments and 6,493 reactions. The original grant from the National Lottery has been replaced by sponsorship from local businesses and, recently, a grant from the parish council. We need the money partly to prevent the site becoming a free-for-all. We also didn't want offensive language or behaviour that was likely to divide rather than to unite. And we also wanted the group to be regularly updated and looked after. So we recruited an administrator and are now onto our third. All have been fantastic. A big shout out to Amy, the current incumbent, and to Rona and Lucinda, the volunteer admins who have been supporting her so wonderfully.

We also need money, however, because we're mindful that Facebook doesn't reach the whole community. Some people don't like the idea of Facebook for the reasons above. Others are perhaps not sufficiently adept at the digital technology. To the first group, the team would like to encourage you to at least give the Facebook group a try. Many of us are members of the group but actually don't do anything else on the platform. The benefits in terms of knowing what is happening in the village are considerable. Over the past three years the group has supported the community in a multitude of ways: helping to find lost dogs, keys, phones and gloves; sorting out shopping for people; raising matters of community concern like scratched cars and burglaries; celebrating the seasons in photos; and so on.

If you feel that you are not proficient in computers, then we can help. Recently we've provided computers to people in the community who want to start on their digital journey late in life. We would be happy to help you too – through training and/or the provision of equipment. Please get in touch by ringing **07561 600889** or emailing **caroline@ourplacewye.org.uk**. But if it's all really 'not for you', then that's fine. Our editor will continue to produce this newsletter – funded, like the Facebook group, by local businesses and the parish council. It might be old-fashioned but it's another vital way of bringing the community together, and it's not Facebook!



DIGITAL DEVICES IN THE COMMUNITY

The organisation TopUpToTeach is collecting old laptops for distribution to children and older people who wish to be better connected but don't have the right digital equipment. If you have a laptop plus charger, under ten years old, or a tablet, please go to www.topuptoteach.org for further information on how to donate and to register your details. Any queries about this scheme please contact Maria Cox on **07745 589810**.

E-CONSULT FOR WYE SURGERY

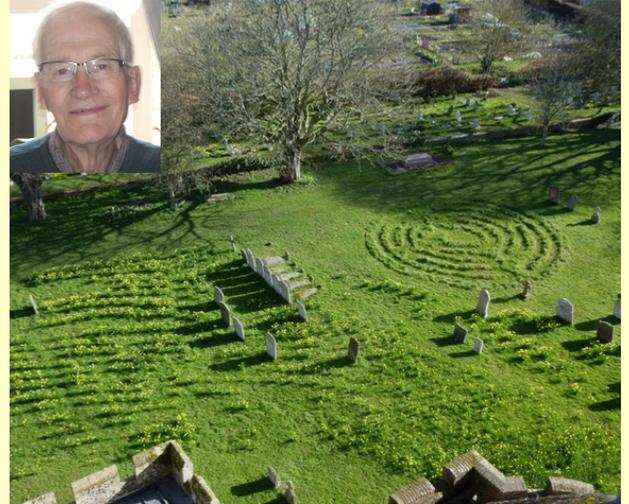
Quite a few people seem to be struggling with the E-consult system when trying to make an appointment with the doctor. If you would like a bit of a hand to help you learn how to do it, then please contact Eileen Burton on Eileenburton73@gmail.com or call **07717 318450**.

A PLACE I LIKE IN WYE...

"I'd rather be in Wye!" Why Wye?

As I look down from the tower, I see much of the story of Wye. The ancient stones tell of continuity: a sense of place; the trees and the setting is close to nature (the ranks of daffs now over). There is also a "spiritual" dimension to challenge us in the Labyrinth, the circular path cut into the churchyard grass. As you walk round it – small children may want to run round it! – you may use it to reflect on where we have come from and indeed where we are heading; or just to let go of any stresses or strains. and give thanks for the loving and caring community in which we live. Why don't you give it a whirl?!

Alan Ramsey, with image taken by William Roberts



'A Place I Like in Wye' is a new regular section of this newsletter – send us your suggestions to be featured: amy@ourplacewye.org.uk

WYE CHURCH UPDATE

We've opened our church buildings for Sunday worship with health and safety measures in place. After such a long time, people are very happy to be able to gather for communal worship and to socialise outside afterwards. Children and leaders of Wye Sunday Club have been enjoying eco church in the churchyard, making connections between the environment, fun activities and the Christian faith.

Over the last few weeks we've enjoyed hosting weddings with up to 30 people present. There is now no cap on numbers attending funerals – the number depends on the capacity of individual church buildings determined by their risk assessment. We're looking forward to other gatherings resuming subject to government announcements on 21st June.

We recognise that some won't feel able to return to Sunday services in the church buildings just yet and others prefer the format of online worship. So we've decided to continue Wye Benefice Virtual Church on Facebook at 8.45am on 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, alternating with BCP Communion at 8am in Wye church on 2nd and 4th Sundays. Services in Boughton Aluph will continue at 9.30am, and at Brook at the new time of 11am. (No service in Brook on 1st Sunday). Full details will be in the July Parish Magazine and on the Wye Benefice website.

WYE DOMICILIARY CARE PROJECT

The feasibility study looking into a domiciliary care project for Wye is now well underway with research being carried out by business consultant and village resident Bruce McKay.

To backtrack briefly, this idea came out of several meetings of local people held about six years ago, when several people spoke movingly of their poor experiences of home care, mainly for relatives. They had found it very difficult to actually get care in the first place, partly because Wye and district is regarded as a rural area, with few local carers. Even when they managed to find carers, they often found that the carers were always in a rush, as they had so many calls, and were not paid travel time. Often they had many different carers, for example, one terminally ill person had 8 different carers in the last 3 weeks of his life, and this obviously affected the quality of care received. Often the staff were given little support and training for their difficult role, and were thrown in at the deep end, again not conducive to receiving quality care. None of this was satisfactory for either the carers or the cared for.

The idea of this project is that it might be possible to set up a not for profit community company for this area, to provide domiciliary care. This has been done successfully in other parts of the country. The aim of this project is to find out whether such a scheme could work here so that people needing care and also carers would receive a better deal.

We would be very much like to hear from anyone in Wye or district, whether someone receiving care, or a carer who might be interested in this project. Please contact Bruce Mackay bruce@gariochmckay.com



A VIRTUAL LUNCH WITH EMILY WARD | OWNER AT TICKETYBOO

What brought you to Wye?

I was born in the William Harvey Hospital in 1981 and my family home has always been 141 Bridge Street. I have lived in Headcorn, Harrietsham and for the last 3 years, Westwell, and now I'm back because of Ticketyboo.

What do you like most about the area?

The countryside. I LOVE walking!

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

Oh my goodness, definitely what I am doing with the shop. Nothing compares. There are so many balls to juggle and I love it.

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

Getting married to Rob at Chilham Village Hall, collecting our poodles when they were puppies and moving to Westwell.

Have you met anyone famous?

I have met Louis Theroux several times.

Ticketyboo has a fascinating history – tell us how long it's been in your family...

My parents when coming to the village bought one of five general stores, which they named Sutherland Stores, which had earlier been a cobblers and then a dairy. Sutherland Stores was the village greengrocer's in the 1980s and 1990s. Mum and Dad worked SO hard, the seven days a week kind. The day I was born Mum had been stacking shelves up a ladder! I used to go to market with Dad and "helped" him trim the cauliflowers! I can remember filling up the orange boxes and being allowed a Sunday treat from the sweetie shelves. I used to go with Mum to do deliveries every Thursday too. We went everywhere: Luckley House, Orchard Drive and even Withersdane in my pram across the fields in the snow, towed by our family Airedale, Prince! After 20 years of incredible hard work and no holidays(!), Mum and Dad were ready for a well deserved rest and a few years off. They were not ready for retirement though so reinvented the space as Ticketyboo, an affordable art and gift shop which they ran for another 20 years!

On Christmas Eve 2019, whilst Dad was shutting the shop, I was travelling home from London, my final commute after 12 years. I had been made redundant and my days as a PA to a lawyer were over. I didn't know what the future held career wise, but I did know my Dad's health had shifted down a gear. As we started 2020 it was clear that Dad had to accept it was time to retire and of course then Covid struck. Prospects of a new job were slipping away as we were all in lockdown and I was food shopping for everybody. Then one day in May last year Dad called me and said he had a question to ask. Never did I think it would be, "Em, would you like to take the shop on?"! I didn't hesitate in saying YES! It is all VERY special indeed and sometimes a bit of a "am I dreaming?" moment!

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

I LOVE food! Anything from the sea, but ham egg and chips is always a firm favourite. Today, Rob made me a tuna salad for lunch.

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

My Nanny lived till she was 92 and swore by a glass of sherry every day!



Emily outside the shop today running Ticketyboo and when it was a general store as a baby

TICKETY
BOO

Open
Tuesday – Friday 10-5
Saturday 9:30-4



WYE ROVING REPORTER | CHARLOTTE TOWN

WYE SIXTH FORM LIFE

This sixth form experience has been very different to the one we prepared for. With months off school, due to the coronavirus and government guidelines, an introduction to the world of online learning and an array of restrictions put in place, to keep students safe, our time in Wye sixth form has been anything but normal. Yet despite the odds being against us, Wye has managed to create a sixth form which prioritises student needs and a quality education, with a happy, friendly environment for both teachers and students.



I have attended Wye school since year 7, joining as the second year of students in 2014. I knew as soon as I completed my GCSE's and received my results that Wye was the only option for sixth form. Wye has always created a caring environment, ideal for these vital years, converting from childhood to adulthood. Wye is lucky enough to have a small sixth form, where students' individual needs are met, rather than pupils being viewed as only a collective. My favourite part of Wye sixth form was the comfortable environment the students and teachers made, where everyone was comfortable using their voices and nobody was worried about asking for help if it was needed. If students were passionate about making a change in the sixth form or holding an event for the school or a charity, the teachers would listen and help students achieve what they wished for.

In my opinion, the best thing about Wye school is the community. You feel like part of a supportive family, who will look out for you at all times, which is all you can ask for as a pupil. My fondest memory of Wye was receiving my GCSE results. There were no unhappy faces and teachers were present, celebrating their students' successes alongside us. I can only hope that our A Level results day will be as memorable, but I can assure it will be another celebration, with students receiving the grades we have worked hard for, with the help of our brilliant teachers.

ENVIRONMENTAL TIP OF THE MONTH

Strawberry season is upon us! Lots of local, seasonal fruit to buy. Think about the carbon footprint of out-of-season fruit and vegetables sourced from around the world – buy local and seasonal whenever you can!

FOOD BANKS IN OUR LOCAL AREA

The Salvation Army, 115 Cudworth Road, South Willesborough
Please phone in advance: 01233 643480 as opening hours limited.

For families, there is also Sure Steps Children's Centre, Belmont Road, Kennington. Please phone in advance: 0300 041 8600

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



HM Government

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Wye with Hinxhill
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TICKETY
BOO



NORWINS

