



10 October marked World Mental Health Day and with everything that has happened in 2020, it's a stark reminder that not only has people's physical health been affected by the pandemic, but also their mental wellbeing.

What has been inspiring to see over the past few months is the camaraderie within Wye and the surrounding areas. From thoughtful sharing of goodwill posted on our Facebook group, to volunteer groups providing essential support to those who were shielding, it is important that we all try to keep this up as we head into the winter months.

As we enter a second wave of COVID-19 and with the added risk of flu season as well, we need to remember to stay safe – wash hands regularly, wear a face covering where told to, and keep 2m distance from those outside your household or bubble.

Yet, try to consider your mental health and that of those around you – on page two we have included a doodle that highlights some of the ways you can look after yourself and others.

Lastly, Our Place Wye would like to say a big THANK YOU to the volunteers who deliver this newsletter each time – we really appreciate this as it's an essential role.

DIGGING FOR...

By Kim Elliott

In April, four weeks into lockdown, our family took on an allotment in Wye. The idea was impulsive and we were incredibly lucky to be offered a plot immediately. Our friends and family were very surprised – we were gardening novices who had historically demonstrated limited interest in the gardening world!

The first day we visited the plot was exciting, but overwhelming – our allotment was neglected and tangled with brambles and nettles. We had virtually no idea what we were doing, and basics like compost and seeds were difficult to get hold of. Still, we set about clearing what we could (which our two children loved as it meant hacking away at thick branches and discovering what was beneath) and meeting (at a distance) fellow allotment holders. Soon, we had make-shift veggie beds planted up with donations of seedlings.

As the year has gone on, we have grown and eaten plums, beans, courgettes, carrots, potatoes, beetroot, raspberries, apples and more. We have learnt lots (such as we can't beat the birds to the cherries!), worked hard in the fresh air and felt part of a lovely inclusive community. For me personally, it has provided calm, clarity and a great sense of achievement. Having our allotment has changed us for the better and been one of the unimagined gains in this strangest of years.



Kim's blossoming allotment and impressive sunflower

NEIGHBOURLINESS AND KINDNESS IN WYE

Through the recent "conversationnaire" that was delivered along with the last month's newsletter and shared on our Facebook group, Our Place Wye has collated ideas, suggestions, comments and feedback from local residents on their experience over the past few months. Maria will be reporting back on key messages in the next newsletter.

For now, here are just some of the things you've had to say as a community:

I have smiled and most enjoyed:

"The letter writing to residents at Brambles and now visiting on a weekly basis"

I gained and learnt:

"People care, the kindness of strangers"
"Gained a fulfilling role, albeit temporary, shopping for people shielding"

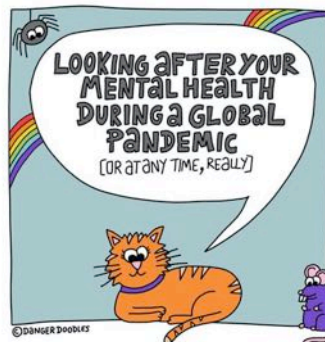
It has been nice to have:

"The opportunity to be of use to others"
"Caring neighbours"

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing kindness and neighbourliness in Wye.

Please also remember that we have Wye Community Companions, who are trained volunteers ready to assist anyone in the area who might need a little extra support or help – please contact the Community Warden, **Richard Sinden on 07969 583 920** for more information.

On our website <https://ourplacewye.org.uk/> you can find information on staying safe when supporting others as well as a list of trusted points of contacts for anyone who may need it.



By Jen Danger – <https://dangerdoodles.com/>

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE COMMUNITY LUNCH?

Our Place Wye understands the importance of the community lunch, which used to take place every week for those who were looking for companionship in the village. We have been looking into ways to restart this, being conscious that losing this social weekly event may cause people to feel isolated, especially with winter approaching.

A mini social get together has been proposed and we will be running a trial coffee morning for a group of four in the Reece Pavilion in October. Residents who attend will be provided with tea, coffee and individually wrapped biscuits as they chat and catch up with their fellow residents. The group must adhere to government guidelines sitting 1.5 meters apart, use hand sanitiser and wear a mask upon entering and exiting.

Unfortunately, at this time we cannot provide lifts to and from the Pavilion and there will be a £1 cover charge per person. Please contact KCC Community Warden **Richard Sinden on 07969 583 920** or **Mary Stewart on 07906 096 762** to find out more about joining.



A VIRTUAL LUNCH WITH CHRIS IRWIN

THE KING'S HEAD

The King's Head is open everyday 8am-10pm
Call to make a booking: 01233 812418

What brought you to Wye?

I have children that live near Canterbury. We wanted to be closer to them so started to look at how we could work together as a husband and wife team and where we would live. It was Deb that came up with the idea of a pub and it ticked all the boxes.

What do you like about the area?

Kent is beautiful and I used to live in Chestfield so knew the area reasonably well. When we found out that the Kings Head was going to become available we came to look at it straight away. As soon as we drove into Wye we both fell in love with it.

Have you met anyone famous?

I worked in events for over 20 years and met loads of celebrities, but the most famous was when I was very young, out with my mum in Battersea Park. We saw lots of lighting and cameras set up so walked over to have a look at what was going on. There was John Wayne getting ready to do a scene for a film called Brannigan. There were no crowds, just the film crew and us. He saw us and walked over to say hello. He was my film hero and to a six year old the biggest person I'd ever seen.

What are your plans for the King's Head?

We would like everyone to feel really welcome when they come to visit us and enjoy a relaxed atmosphere. The first thing we asked our team to do when we took over was to relax and have some fun. We are looking to really elevate the food to another level and give our guests an experience to remember when they come to stay or dine with us.

What's your favourite food?

Chinese food. I love the different flavours and textures.....but obviously everything our chefs cook for us!

What do you think might be the secret to a long and happy life?

Play a little bit every day. Enjoy the people that you work with and come to the Kings Head!

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



PLEASE RECYCLE

LATEST NEWS FROM WYE SOCIETIES GROUP

Wye Arts – we are not able to hold any events at the moment due to the rule of six, but we are working on next year's programme. If by any chance there is a change in the rules, Wye Arts will consider arranging events, but sadly, this seems very unlikely.

Wye Gardener's Society – it is not possible to arrange anything for the rest of 2020 but next year's programme is being worked on.

Wye Historical Society – it will be some time until meetings with speakers can take place, but a new season of events is being planned. Members have been contacted to see if there are any suggestions. The chairman, Tim Betts is working on a newsletter, to be circulated at the end of October. If you would like to know more about the society, or to join, please contact **Cilla Deeks on 01233 812589**.

TWISTED TRICK OR TREAT – HALLOWEEN 2020

It has been suggested on the Our Place Wye Facebook group that this year we embrace a different approach to trick or treat. People can still get creative in carving pumpkins and displaying them in their windows or porches, or simply sticking up pictures of pumpkins. The twist is that rather than knocking on doors, parents can give their children a sweet for every pumpkin they spy when walking round the village!



HOW ABOUT HAVING OUR OWN RENEWABLE ENERGY?

Our Place Wye is considering applying for government funding to look at the feasibility of setting up a community energy scheme. This could possibly result in having our own means of renewable energy production (solar panels, wind turbines, or biogas), independently of private energy suppliers.

The advantages are obvious: cheaper energy bills and no need to go through the hassle of switching between suppliers when you find you're being ripped off. And speaking as inhabitants of planet earth, we could reduce our carbon footprint, not just as individuals but on a whole community level.

We would love to know if you support this idea. Please send us your comments on email: secretary@ourplacewye.org.uk or look out for the post on the Our Place Wye Facebook group.

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



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