



It's been a hot summer, which has meant lots of people venturing outside to meet family and friends and make up for lost time together from the "lockdown" months. Yet, we feel it's important to remind you of the severity of the coronavirus pandemic and the continued importance of protecting ourselves and each other.

Some top level and basic advice to remember and follow is:

- wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds and use hand sanitiser when out and about
- socially distance from those not in your household by remaining 2m apart, or at least 1m if not possible
- wear a face covering (that goes over your mouth and nose) when visiting indoor public places

The government advice may seem confusing at times and is constantly being reviewed and updated. To help the community, please make yourself aware of the current guidelines and stay safe. Sources of information include online, TV and radio.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SEPTEMBER?

Phil Chantler, Head Teacher of Lady Joanna Thornhill Primary School

On Thursday 3rd September we welcomed all the children back into school, with a staggered start to the day – children arrive from 8.30-9.30 a.m. by class group, with similar arrangements at the end of day. We hope to be able to reduce the time it takes to half an hour, but this will depend on how well families manage the “drop off / pick up and go” routine, which we will keep under review each Friday so as to give families as much notice as possible of any changes we make. We are particularly mindful of the difficulties for families with children in different year groups and for childminders who bring and collect children of different ages.

Breakfast club will re-open on 28th September with children bringing their own breakfast in. All of our staff will receive full training before term starts on how to keep “COVID Safe” so that everyone is working in a safe environment. We have benefitted from what we have learned so far during the lockdown and are confident in our arrangements. Staff that were fortunate enough to continue to come into work have been amazing and those who were unable to attend for various reasons have been very supportive. We are lucky to have a great team and look forward to welcoming two new teachers to join us in September.

Since the start of the pandemic parents have been astonishingly supportive of the school and the new arrangements. We are also extremely thankful for everything that Richard Sinden, our Community Warden, has done for the school and the community. He has been a great support and a welcome presence during the peak times for children arriving and leaving school.

# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: ETM CARS ON DRIVING FORWARDS

DAVE HOOPER, OWNER OF ETM CARS

ETM Cars have been based in the village for just over two years now, although some residents still don't know we are here.

Along with most other businesses, we have found things very tough during lockdown and although I wouldn't say things are back to normal, we are slowly starting to see the return of customers both old and new, using our chauffeur services again.

During lockdown we had our executive vehicles fitted with "safety screens" between the driver and back seat passengers and we have masks and sanitiser readily available and are confident that we are taking all necessary steps to ensure the safety and comfort of our passengers.

Prior to lockdown the majority of our business was for airport and city runs but we have seen an increase in the number of longer journeys requested to places such as Bristol and Torquay, where we are taking passengers to reunite with family members that they have not been able to see for months. These passengers prefer the personal door to door service that we offer, as opposed to taking several trains across country.

We are also happy to offer a local taxi service to the residents of Wye when possible. Many of you will have already met myself and Graham who also lives in the village. All of our drivers are local, courteous and helpful and along with Sue in the office we really feel that we offer a friendly, professional and competitive service.

Please do think of ETM for your next journey whether you are venturing out to a local restaurant or heading further afield, we look forward to hearing from you soon.

## TV license changes for over 75s

The BBC is withdrawing funding for free TV licenses for over 75s, unless they're signed up for Pension Credit. Many people in this age group are still eligible, but around 1.2m still don't take advantage. Age UK are campaigning to remove the fee and its website has advice for those affected.



ETM Cars are a chauffeur company based in Wye Kent, providing luxury vehicles for all aspects of business and leisure travel in the South East and beyond.

### SERVICES WE PROVIDE

- Competitive pricing based on customer requirements
- A safe, comfortable travel experience
- Friendly, local, experienced chauffeurs
- Business and private accounts welcome

We accept all major credit cards 

01233 629551 | [info@etmcars.co.uk](mailto:info@etmcars.co.uk) | [etmcars.co.uk](http://etmcars.co.uk)

## Winter Flu Vaccines – take care of yourself

The seasonal flu vaccine will be available towards the end of September and all eligible vulnerable groups are urged to have their injections as soon as possible, in order to avoid the double whammy of simultaneous coronavirus and flu. You can book this in the normal way by calling Wye Surgery to make an appointment.



## A VIRTUAL LUNCH WITH MARIA STUTTAFORD

### What brought you to Kent?

To be honest, it was a practical decision based on the proximity to London and major transport links. We are an international family and we need to be somewhere with good connections and an easy-to-look-after home and garden. Now we're here we're so pleased to have found this friendly corner of the world.

### What do you like about the area?

Other than the friendliness, we enjoy the walking, cycling, running, beer tasting, wine tasting, local farm produce, our lifestyle... the list could go on. We feel very fortunate.



### What do you do as the COVID-19 Coordinator for Our Place Wye?

So far I've been learning more about Wye and the people living here. The next step is to learn more specifically about what has worked well in Wye during lockdown and what worked less well. It would be really good to take these lessons into the future. I'm looking forward to meeting more people socially distanced and online.

### What's the most interesting work you've done prior to this new role?

I'm really lucky that I've done unpaid and paid work in several different countries and the work has been really varied. It's really hard to say what has been the most interesting. A common theme has been a strong belief in social justice and overcoming inequalities. I was involved in developing a local theatre programme in a rural part of South Africa to tell people about the findings from research on stroke and hypertension. We had so much fun!

### How have you been spending lockdown?

At the start, my college course was still in progress so I had online classes to attend and assignments to do. My volunteering commitments have continued too. And of course I started working with Our Place Wye! Don't get me wrong, we've also had fun on weekly family Skype calls, organising silly gifts to send my parents and sharing crazy stories with friends.

### What are you having for lunch today?

Pizza is my favourite food, especially when it's homemade by my husband, so hopefully that!

## Wye Caring for Wye

A "conversationnaire" to develop future activities of benefit to the local community

If you haven't done so already, please complete our conversationnaire online: <https://bit.ly/32I33ZJ>

Or, if you prefer, complete the hard copy that was posted with this newsletter – return details on the form.

The Our Place Wye COVID-19 Coordinator role is funded and supported by the National Emergencies Trust via the **Kent Community Foundation** Coronavirus Emergency Fund & the Coronavirus Community Support Fund, distributed by the **National Lottery Community Fund**



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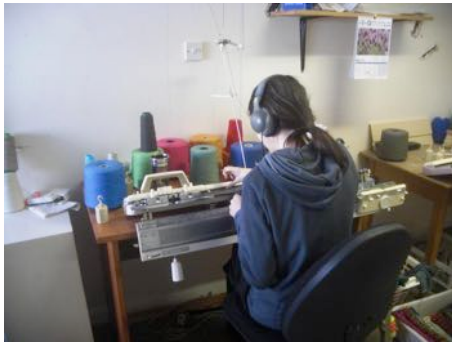




## WORK EXPERIENCE & TRAINING AT WYE COMMUNITY FARM

Learn new skills and improve your confidence at The Woolshed, Wye Community Farm's mini-mill where we turn the fleece from our sheep into beautiful, sustainable products. Friendly sessions held every Wednesday. Transport provided from Wye village, which is well served by bus and train.

For further information and to book your FREE place, contact us at [info@wyecommunityfarm.org.uk](mailto:info@wyecommunityfarm.org.uk)



### Wye Community Companions

These are trained volunteers ready to assist anyone living in Wye who might need a little extra companionship, support or help with everyday tasks.

For more information please call the Community Warden, Richard Sinden, on **07547 321046**

### Welcome to Wye!

Our Place Wye recently took over another initiative: the **Welcome Pack**. This is delivered to all newcomers to the village, with a friendly knock on the door to say hello. The pack contains the latest edition of the Parish Magazine, a letter of welcome and a very useful Wye Village Information leaflet. This was paused during lockdown, but is now back in business.

Could you please help by letting us know if anyone has recently moved in near to where you live. We don't want anyone to be left out, if we can possibly avoid it. Over to you.....!

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

