

Weald News

Week beginning 3 July 2017

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Holiday at Home

Everyone needs a holiday, a time to relax and do something different. For some people getting away is difficult, if not impossible, so CAMEO (Come and Meet Each Other) comes to the rescue...as they have for many years...by organising a few days 'Holiday at Home'. This year's dates are Tuesday 25th July to Thursday 27th July inclusive. All sorts of activities are being organised from making cards, painting, doing word searches and crossword puzzles and, of course, chatting - sounds great. Coffee, lunch and tea is provided and all for just £6 a day. If you would like to find out more, please contact Judith Howard on 01732 458285.

I'm hoping to get feedback from the last CAMEO meeting in June when the topic was, 'Do you Remember When?' I'd love to hear what memories people have about their lives, particularly life in the village. There is still room for more memories in our new village history book!

Shop and post-office closing

We are fast approaching the beginning of July, a month where a lot will be changing in Weald. At the end of the month our last shop, The Old Bakery, will be closing as Barbara retires and, at the same time, Carol will be retiring and the post office located inside the Old Bakery will close.

Of course we all wish Barbara and Carol a peaceful and RELAXING retirement, or an ENERGETIC and chaotic retirement, whatever they decide to do!

If you would like to leave a token of your appreciation for all Barbara and Carol have done for the village you can put something in a 'secret' box in the shop (Barbara and Carol forget you've just read that!!!)

Despicable me

As I write this, members of St George's 7-11 Film Club are sitting, no doubt enthralled by the 3D computer-animated comedy film 'Despicable me' which first brought 'minions' to the world. I had hoped to see it again as Richard and I had seen in on the TV a couple of years ago, quite by accident...it was hilarious!

In the film, a man who delights in all things wicked, super villain Gru hatches a plan to steal the moon. Surrounded by an army of little yellow minions and his impenetrable arsenal of weapons and war machines, Gru makes ready to vanquish all who stand in his way. But nothing in his calculations and groundwork has prepared him for his greatest challenge: three adorable orphan girls who want to make him their dad.

The new film 'Despicable Me 3' is due for release any day now. It will be interesting to see whether it is as good as the first one. I might even pay money to go and see it!!

Hundreds of recipes

I've been on my hands and knees looking through the hundreds cookery books and have found the recipe for a Greek type salad with orzo pasta I made as a starter for the Safari Supper this year. Trouble, is I also found numerous other recipes that made me salivate!! I ended up sending more than one to Lisa Martin to be included in the cookery book she is putting together of recipes past and present. It's going to be a great book!! You can either put it in her mailbox at 'Trose', Windmill Road or email it to her at lisa@hardwarecentre.co.uk The last date to have anything included is Monday 31st July.

Willy Wonka eat your heart out!



The School fete was a rip-roaring success as usual helped by the fact that we only had a few spots of rain. It's lovely to see parents as well as children getting into the swing of things. Gigantic Wonka bars welcomed visitors to green and all the wonders that



the committee had provided, including a giant tractor full of balloons. How many were inside the cab? 78, not as many as some people thought. When I look at the photos I wondered if the children of the two dads who dressed up as Oompa Loompas took any photos to bribe them with in years to come?!! I'm grateful to Lesley Knight for wielding her camera

so well to record the event, especially the group hanging

up the Wonka bars. Richard and I were so busy talking to people about 'The Book' that we rarely surfaced for air so I don't have any of my own photos. The organisers need to award themselves a Prosecco or 10 for a job well done. I'm looking forward to hearing how much money was made this year. It would be great to have an update as to how the money is going to be spent and the benefits to the school from previous fetes. I'm sure the parents with children at the school already know but lots of other villagers who come to give their support would love to know to.

Book sales - 74 sold already!



Richard and I were really pleased with the response to the Weald History Group stand at the School Fete profiling pages from its prospective book 'The Changing Face of Weald'. We have set a publication date in November this year and are offering people the opportunity to order the book, pre-publication at a 10% saving, £13.50 rather than £14.99...we need to raise the money to get it printed!!

So many people have been involved so far, nearly 100 and counting! Some contributors have written sections, others shared their research, photographs or a memory or two. The 'gift' of a helicopter for a morning resulted in some lovely new bird's eye view photos of the village, one of which graces the new front cover. Serendipity has also played a part with a chance meeting in Kall Kwik resulting in the offer of creating an index, an important part of a history book but something that seemed out of our timescale.

We are sure that the book will be of interest not only to Weald villagers but to an outside audience so, if you are interested in placing an order, please send an email to me, Susan Gidman, at wealdnews@hotmail.com.

P.S. thanks for taking the picture Rosie...my friends all think I'm looking thinner!!!

A year of change

Some years seem to come and go with little to disturb calm waters while other years see momentous changes - this seems to be one such year. Our shop and post office is closing, the Parish Council finally secured the title deeds to the little Methodist Church and, now, I have heard that Matt and Emma are putting the Windmill pub up for sale. I was away with the Weald Horticultural Society members and

friends for a three day 'Garden Fest' (6 gardens in 3 days!!) when I heard the news so can't comment more.

'On the busses'

The Parish Council meeting in the Memorial Hall last Wednesday was packed with villagers, young and old, concerned about Arriva's proposed withdrawal of the 402 bus service.



Philip Lightowler, the Head of KCC Transportation Team came to tell us the latest news and to listen to/address our concerns about the bus service to the village. The news was a bit like the curate's egg (if you don't know the tale...the curate tells his bishop that the bad egg he is eating for breakfast was 'good in parts').

It seems that Arriva took a commercial decision to withdraw the services from Weald in order to streamline its services, develop its main routes and 'attract more custom' and build its core market. Queue much derision from the audience, many of whom are current Arriva passengers from Weald. KCC had offered to subsidise the route but Arriva just wasn't interested. Unlike the County Council who are required to consider social necessity, commercial operators, like Arriva, do not.

On the plus side, Philip Lightowler told the meeting that he had managed to squeeze some money out of his budget to organise a service, although much reduced in nature, using a single Go Coach bus. The route will be between Tonbridge and Sevenoaks and offer five off peak journeys, the scheduling of which allows for plenty of time at each venue. The 401 service on a Sunday remains unchanged.

Mr Lightowler apologised, saying that he was sorry he couldn't meet all of our needs but was pleased that he could still offer some services. As an aside, he commented that staff in his department still talk about the campaign to save the bus spearheaded by Paula Eyres and Ham Woods several years ago! Concern was still expressed that villagers needing to go to up the doctor's surgery in Hildenborough would not have enough time for their appointment.

Although it is unlikely that anything will change the Parish Council will be requesting a meeting with Arriva and inviting them to come and speak to us directly.

I shall be completing my report on the Parish council meeting in my next newsletter.

Return of ACCORDARE quartet

Tickets are still available for the concert on **Sunday 16th July** in the **Memorial Hall** at **15.00**

Accordare String Quartet will play a selection of Mozart, Mendelssohn & Brahms featuring special guest, clarinetist Rachel Bishop. Following the concert a strawberry cream tea with fizz will be served. Tickets cost £20 per head. Contact Richard Gidman 01732 454222 to book tickets.