

# Weald News

**Week beginning 10 July 2017**

## *Lucky black cat?*



This poor little black moggie with distinctive white tips to his front paws and looking rather thin and underfed has been taking what he can from other cat's bowls in 17-20 Glebe Road. Unfortunately he/she/it is somewhat aggressive to resident felines (I think I might be if I didn't know when my next meal would be coming from!) Do you recognise the cat or have any idea where it might have come from. If you do, please contact David Gunderson (davidgunderson@live.co.uk) who suspects that he might be a stray.

## *Friday night is Quiz Night!*

There is still time to book a space at the Weald History Group's quiz night on **Friday 14th July in the Memorial Hall from 19.00**. At the cost of £12 you not only get a great night out with a 'posh' ploughman's for supper, but the opportunity to contribute to the printing costs of the new Weald history book, 'The Changing Face of Weald'. We are on the homeward stretch as far as fund raising is concerned so please give us your support!!

Sample pages from the book will be on display and a sample copy available to view. To reserve a ticket/s email wealdnews@hotmail.com or speak to Richard Gidman (454222) Sheila Turley (463339) or Elizabeth Miller (07513 458907). Bring your friends and pit your wits against our quiz compiler extraordinaire - you'll be glad to know that there is only one history round! It's my mother's 92 birthday on Friday, and she always remembers that it is the same date as Bastille Day which marks the storming of the Bastille in the 1700s, and is known as La Fête Nationale Française in France..I wonder if there will be a question about that??!

## *Strawberry cream tea and fizz*

On **16th July in the Memorial Hall at 15.00** the quartet, Accordare with Lead violinist Robbie Norman and special

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guest, clarinetist Rachel Bishop will play a selection of Mozart, Mendelssohn & Brahms. Robbie was keen to come back to Weald to play again. Whether it was the good acoustic in the hall or the thought of a scrummy tea that drew him back I'm not sure but we are thrilled to have him and his fellow musicians. The concert this year is another fund-raising activity to help pay for the printing of the new village history. Following the concert a strawberry cream tea with fizz will be served. Tickets cost £20 per head. For information email wealdnews@hotmail.co.uk or contact Susan Gidman 01732 454222 to receive the concert programme and player notes or to book tickets.

## *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.

## *Coffee & cake, or tea & sympathy!*

Groups in the community are already thinking of ways we can help each other once the village shop closes later this month. Going to Barbara's was more than just a need to buy something like a newspaper, eggs, bread etc. or to visit the post office it was about connecting with each other. Part of the pleasure of walking up through the village was to stop and talk to others doing the same thing. For some people it was, perhaps, the one chance they had of seeing someone during the day. So, get out your diary and write these dates down. There is going to be a '**Community Coffee Stop**' on **Thursday** mornings in **August** from **10.00 -12.00** in the **Memorial Hall**.

We are lucky that August is a long month and there are five Thursdays to put in the diary - 3rd August, 10th August, 17th August, 24th August and 31st August. EVERYONE is invited to pop in and see a friendly face, have a chat and a cuppa. If you have a neighbour who is not computer savvy and, perhaps, does not get this newsletter, please pass on the information OR come along yourself and bring them with you! It is going to be a struggle getting used to the village

without a shop so we need to look out for each other and maybe let us know if they are struggling with anything.

## The heady smell of lavender



The Weald Horticultural Society's summer outing to the Lavender Farm 'Hop Shop' at Castle Farm was only a couple of days after a long 'Garden Fest' weekend visiting six

gardens in three days; some brave souls did both!

The group at the Hop Shop was shown how the oil is distilled on the farm and how the pure oils are used for soaps, hand creams, natural sleep products, candles, massage oils and food essences. As well as harvesting the oil, bunches of lavender are collected by hand to sell fresh during the season and also to air dry for sale throughout the year. The Hop Shop also specialises in culinary essences of lavender which, it seems, is now fashionable as a food flavouring. They have developed a range of lavender foods for the farm shop – from lavender ice cream, chocolate, fudge, jams, cakes and biscuits to lavender salt and chutneys. YUM!

The visit was followed by supper at The ? I'm not sure if lavender was on the menu!! The picture of the group was taken by Graham Usher who had more energy than me...I stayed at home!

## Allotment Open Day

July is already turning out to be another busy month. On **Sunday 23rd July the Allotment Association is holding their annual open day between 10.30 – 14.00.** If you haven't visited the allotments before this is a great time to meet the people in the village who still 'grow their own'.

At one time the size of an allotment plot was 10 rods (an area equivalent to 206.6 square metres) which was supposed to be enough land to supply vegetables for a family for the whole year. Nowadays some plot holders manage a full plot and other a half plot. Jim Hawkins, the current chairman of the Association, can trace his family's involvement with working an allotment for over 100 years, ever since they were first made available. It's not just vegetables that are grown but flowers and chickens (do you 'grow' chickens??! (I love the English language - you can ALWAYS find just the right word for something).

Some plots on the allotment are 'un-managed' (if there is such a word) at the moment so, if you fancy growing some flowers and vegetables of your own, come along to find out more and share gardening tips over a burger from the barbecue, tea or coffee as well as the chance to win something at the tombola or raffle. Entrance to the allotments is on Long Barn Road.

## Traffic through the village

Living, as I do, on Windmill Road next to the Old Gospel Hall I'm aware of the increase there has been of heavy traffic. How some of the lorries and vans manage to squeeze themselves past the parked cars is a miracle!! I'm also aware that some cars hurtle up and down the road. I wonder what makes people travel so urgently (I typed that wrongly and wrote 'ungently' which is just as appropriate!!) Last year, when one young mother had the wheels of her baby's buggy clipped as she walked her son to school, an urgent traffic survey was undertaken at the behest of the Parish Council so that they would have 'evidence' to report to the Roads and Highways department at the Council. Unfortunately the site of their automatic traffic' recorders which dealt with speed were inappropriately positioned so the Parish Council have asked for the survey to be done again....but we are still waiting!

However, Parish Councillor, John Blackman has since taken the initiative himself to record traffic movements at the Forge Crossroads. The first day he recorded 1341 traffic movements in the village one morning between 07.30 and 12.30. Trying to record the type of traffic as well as the number of vehicles was difficult so, on the second day, John enlisted help in the form of my husband, Richard. They recorded an afternoon's worth of traffic from 12.30 -17.00. Even the short time I was there the traffic was coming thick and fast. I look forward to hearing the results and discussing possible calming methods we might employ.

## Defibrillator

Some time ago the Parish Council discussed placing a defibrillator in the village. Parish Councillor, Catrin Beddoe, has been researching options and hoped that we would be able to obtain one from the British Heart Foundation but, it seems they have no funding to release one to us. Another option was to rent one at an annual cost of £365 or buy one at £1300. We still need to decide where one might be located and how to organise an appropriate electricity supply and train people in its use. During the question and answer session it was suggested that we ask Kent First Responders to organise the training and ask if any of the supermarkets might wish to sponsor.

## Methodist Church change of use

The Parish Council have finally received planning permission for change of use for the Methodist Chapel when it is refurbished but it was for weekdays use only. The clerk to the Parish Council, John Caird said that for a fee of £195 we can ask for a variance to include weekends.

## Sign off from Sue

This is my last full newsletter for a while as I concentrate on getting our history of the village ready to go to print!! There is a huge amount still to do and every minute counts. If you would like to order a copy at the pre-publication price of £13.50 rather than the published price of £14.99 please contact me at [wealdnews@hotmail.com](mailto:wealdnews@hotmail.com)

I will be trying to put a diary of events together so, if you have something for that, please let me know.