

Weald News

Week ending 4 August 2017 - Editor: Sue Gidman, wealdnews@hotmail.com

This newsletter really does add weight to the title of the history of the village almost ready to go to print... 'The Changing Face of Weald'. Last Saturday Barbara Edwards closed her shop, the Old Bakery, for the last time. She has given over 30 years service to the village and now, hopefully, will take some time to rest and recuperate from the early mornings and business of the shop. Carol who ran the post-office had closed a few days earlier but came back on Saturday to raise a glass or two with her old colleagues.



We had all known the time for the shop to close was coming as Barbara and Carol had announced their intention to retire six months ago. I'm sure there are many, like me, who put their head in the sand and thought that it would never happen, that a 'caped crusader' would zoom to our rescue and the shop would be 'saved' in the same way that the Windmill pub was 'saved'! It didn't happen and with a week to go a village meeting was held to discuss what to do ANDwe did get our caped crusaders after all in the guise of



Ian and Linda Walker who are now mobilising all the help that was offered at the meeting and have opened Weald Community 'pop up' Shop in the Memorial Hall. We are almost at the end of the first week of opening every morning and the village has heaved a huge sigh of relief. Linda says that she has over 80 volunteers sign up to help and both she and Ian have been overwhelmed by the support from the village.

In addition to offering the staples of bread, milk, eggs and papers, the couple have organised a team of volunteers to bake cakes and biscuits so that shoppers can sit down and have a cup coffee or tea with cake and biscuits. One significant service that Barbara offered and which is now being replicated, is the chance for a chat. For older residents this might make the difference between a day of silence and one of companionship.



The 'pop up shop is open every day in August from 08.00 - 12.00 and on Sundays from 09.00 - 11.00 so please call by, say hello and give your support. My great nieces who have come to stay for a few days are eager to make some scones



on Saturday morning and to come up and sell them. Both Evie (9) and Eliza (7) have 'form' in cooking and you might want to come up and buy a scone or two so you can say in a few years time 'I knew them when they were just girls!!'

The Memorial Hall as a venue is working out wonderfully but it is a short term solution so we need to consider what we might do in the longer term perhaps even to rival the success of the Community Shop at Ide Hill - it is certainly something we can aspire to!

They say a week is a long time in politics but it's nothing to a week in a 'sleepy' village!

It was amazing, too, to see the turnout for the special 'coffee and a chat' morning on Thursday organised and run by St George's church.

Yum, yum summer supper



With all the news and activity that the new community Shop has generated it would be easy to forget that many of the annual village activities for July have still taken place, including the Horticultural Society's Summer Supper.

We had all been looking forward basking in the late evening sunshine and warmth at Southmeads while eating our meal. But, despite the exceptional heat of most of July, the weather worsened...of course it did, the children were due to break up from school....and degenerated into!! YES - rain, rain and more rain. A decision was taken to change the venue to our trusted Memorial Hall which was beautifully decorated up with green table cloths and pots of summer flowers. The supper as always was provided by members and was as yummy as usual with at least 10 puddings to choose from (Slimming World here I come again!)

What has always been a feature of the Hort suppers is a fiendish quiz set by Nigel Turley. This time there was not one but two to contend with. The first was a picture quiz and we had to match two pictures together which then formed a name of the town in England for example. Felix the cartoon cat was matched with someone putting luggage on an aeroplane rack and you get 'Felixstowe' and a group of singers with guitars and a heap of stones....got it? yes, 'Folkstone'! We certainly needed our supper to give us the energy for the story quiz. Another skill that Nigel possesses is the ability to combine clues into a story line (although somewhat tenuous at times!). All the clues were the names

of shops...I drank my way through a bottle of Prosecco while attempting this one!

Holiday at home

Cameo had another successful 'Holiday at Home' where people came to share time and activities together...another place for a good chat! I remember that a couple of years ago I was writing about how good the village was in having events that included food of some kind....I'm now going to add chatting to the list!

Dates for your diary

We plan to run one more fundraising event towards the printing costs for the new history book. I have an Indian friend who is a great cook and she and I have often talked about cooking an **Indian themed 'buffet banquet'**. Before we organise anything - and it would be sometime in October - I would like to assess interest. If this is something you might like to attend please bounce me a message back with just the word YES. This will not commit you, but give Shalini and I a clue as to how many we would be catering for.

AND

The date for the **official launch of the book** is **Friday 18th December**. Mark it in your diary and I'll give more information soon. This is later than predicted but the book will be in print in time for Christmas. We are still offering the chance to buy the book at a pre-publication price of £13.50 rather than £14.99, published price. If you have not yet ordered your copy, please send me a cheque along with your name, address, telephone number and email address plus, of course, how many books you would like to order!

Taxi Please!

Please put a note on your calendar for Friday 11th August and Saturday 12th August that the new village Community Shop will be running from the Church Hall as the Memorial Hall has been booked for wedding festivities. If you are unable to walk up the hill and would like a lift there will be a taxi service operating between both halls.

The newsletter can be a bit 'samey' if all I am recording is what I am involved in...please let me know if you have anything you would like to add. I am rather busy at the moment trying to get our history book ready to go to print so I don't have a lot of time to poke around for news.