

Weald News

Week beginning 10 October 2017 - Editor: Sue Gidman, wealdnews@hotmail.com

I'll huff and I'll puff!

It's almost 30 years since the great storm of 1987 and thousands of trees were flattened as it passed over the south of England. We had just come back from living in the USA and only felt the flick of its tail which brought down several of our roof tiles. But...I can remember opening the paper that weekend and seeing the pictures of devastation in the south. Weald suffered as did many town and villages all around Kent. All the roads into and out of Weald were



Photo: Ken Hocking



Photo: Brandon & Sarah Gough

blocked and it took days for traffic to get through. John Sparrow clambered down into the village and opened the butcher's shop using a generator and the Windmill pub and local shops all supported the village during the clearing up efforts. Sarah and Brandon Gough had only recently moved to Long Barn and woke to find many of the great trees, including a row of poplars had fallen. Luckily the house, though damaged was repairable. Many great trees were lost at Riverhill. Jane Rogers shared her memory of the storm with me to put into our Weald History book....she said 'We lost 400 trees with a girth of more than 12 inches, a mature monkey puzzle tree came down on top of the

house, a falling Monterey cedar destroyed the old squash court and fallen trees littered the drive like skittles'. Bob Ogley was the editor of the Sevenoaks Chronicle at the time and the book he produced after the storm went on to be a best seller. He is talking about the night of the storm at the Sevenoaks Library on Thursday 12th October at 19.00 and on Saturday 14th October at the Sevenoaks Town Council offices on Bradbourne road at 15.00.

Use it or lose it: more busses for Weald

Our Parish Councillors have been pressurising Kent County Council for WEEKS and WEEKS about the bus service through Weald and it just goes to prove that persistence can pay off...My mum always used to say to me 'If at first you don't succeed, try, try and try again'. It's good to know that other people grew up with similar exhortations!

The following message has been posted on the village website,

'Additional journeys have now been added to the 435 bus timetable through Weald. We hope that this will allow more residents to support the bus service to ensure its long term survival. If we can increase passenger numbers and prove that there is a real demand for the service we will continue to press for further improvements. Of particular note there are now **two early morning commuter services direct to Sevenoaks railway station, at 06.57 and 07.47**, as well as **three returning services in the evening leaving the station at 16.10, 17.26 and 18.26**. If residents would consider swapping their cars for the bus even on an occasional basis this would ensure that the service continues in the future for all.'

This is quite a result and we must try to use the service as much as we can. Thanks Councillors!!

A Medieval Housewife

Dressed as a medieval housewife, Toni Mount, the speaker at last Wednesday's Women of Weald meeting had us all enthralled. Her talk was meticulously researched and illustrated including information on manners, childcare, food, fashion and how an elderly husband instructed his 15 year old bride to behave and look after him!! At school we learned our history mostly through the the action of kings and queens, battles and revolutions. I am finding it more and more satisfying to learn about the lives of those 'below the salt' and particularly enjoy historian Ian Mortimer who brought us 'The Time Traveller's Guides'. I'm pleased now to find that Toni Mount who, as well as being an enthralling speaker, is also an author. I bought her book, 'A Year in the Life of Medieval England' am am looking forward to curling

up on the sofa for a good read! Like many other historians she has also turned her hand to writing historical fiction with a series of 'who-dunnits'! I am in the process of compiling a list of speakers for next year's WOW meetings so, if you know of anyone good, please let me know their details.

School extension

I have been asked to pass on the following message by David Pyle, the Head of Weald CP School.

Dear Residents other interested parties,
Those of you who have wandered by Weald CPS recently will have noticed that the school is in the midst of building works. For many years, the school has been in need of enhanced facilities and, with the recent expansion of the school to one class per year group (seven in total), the requirement for teaching space has become more acute. In addition, we have become increasingly conscious of the unwelcoming and restricted nature of our reception and school office area.

The current works, which are scheduled for completion at the end of December 2017, involve the creation of:

- * A new classroom at the back of the School Hall
- * A new kitchen servery
- * A medical treatment room
- * The re-location of the school office to the front of the school
- * An expanded reception area with integral radio station studio
- * A new headteacher's office
- * New fire alarm and entrance security systems

All efforts are being made to limit the disruption to the school and local residents; however, some noise and dust will be inevitable in the short term. It is not expected at this stage to work beyond the hours of 8.00 am and 6.00 pm with occasional Saturday working between 9.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. Deliveries will be managed around the school day and health & safety issues will be adhered to closely.

In the New Year, once we have settled into our improved accommodation, we will hold an Open Morning for those of you who may not have been inside the school for many years and might be interested in seeing how it has changed.

In the meantime, I thank you for your understanding and co-operation. If you require any further information, please contact me.

Kind regards,
David Pyle

Money raised for Macmillan

I'm pleased to say that the Brownies made £202.50 for the Macmillan charity. The new generation of Weald is being 'grown' well!!

Fresh, pressed apples

This Saturday morning, 14th October from 08.30 - 11.00, Judy and Mike Whiddett are setting up their apple press outside the Community Shop....the Cabin.

If you are lucky enough to have a glut of apples and would like some freshly squeezed juice then bring your washed apples along with some clean empty bottles/containers and go away with delicious bottles of juice!! All Judy and Mike ask for the pressing is a small donation to be given to the community shop funds.

A living Advent calendar



It's never too early to be thinking about and planning for Christmas. Rachel and Matt Yates have come up with a tremendous idea to help us all to celebrate the joy and love of the season, to help us countdown to Christmas Day and then to build up to the beginning of a new year. They would like the village to create a Living Advent Calendar!

To make this idea work 24 households, businesses or community buildings in Weald village need to volunteer to illuminate a window with festive decorations in December. One window is 'opened' each day at 18.30 from 1st December to 24th December and remains illuminated until Twelfth Night (5th January).

If you volunteer, you will need to decorate your window and then reveal it on your scheduled day in December. It's not a competition and you can create any kind of festive decoration you like. The only rule is that it must be centred around a window that is easily visible to the public, and must be illuminated. On your allocated day, you could just do a simple switch on of your lights, reveal your window and enjoy it with whoever happens to be passing by. Or you might want to invite some friends, family or neighbours for the occasion. This idea is the first time it's being tried in Weald, so let's embrace the idea and make it a tremendous success!!

If you'd like to volunteer to decorate a window in your home or business, or any community building, please email, telephone or pop a note through Matt and Rachel's door (Southwood, Hurst Lane, Weald) with your name, address and contact details by 1st November. They will get in touch to let you know your allocated day and give some more information OR email: rachelyates08@hotmail.com OR Phone: 01732 66893

Thursday Dinner Club

The Windmill Pub is holding their third Dinner Club this Thursday with a Seafood theme...book your table to avoid disappointment!

Circle Dancing

Sunday 15th October 14.00 - 16.00 in the Memorial Hall. £5 a ticket. Visit 'The cabin' for more information.