

Weald News

2nd January 2018 - Editor: Sue Gidman, wealdnews@hotmail.com

Thanks from John Caird

Late last year, John Caird, Clerk to the Parish Council, became seriously ill and was rushed to hospital where, for a tense couple of weeks, things were touch and go...it was, therefore, a GREAT delight to see him back with us at the December meeting of the Parish Council. John has asked me to pass on his thanks for all the prayers and messages of support he and his wife received - it meant/means a great deal to him. He is still building up his stamina and I know that he makes a regular walk from his home, 'Pagwood', to the Community shop where he can sit, pass the time of day with friends before setting off home again. We hope the recovery continues well. The next Parish Council meeting is on 24th January.

Looking forward to events in January

I often wonder if there is ever any 'down time' in Weald, where we all sit in our houses, twiddling our thumbs and thinking, 'Nothing ever happens in Weald!'...I don't think so...I already have a list of events for January.

A trip around Wessex

On **Monday 8th January** at their first meeting meeting of the year, CAMEO (Come and Meet Each Other) has invited Valerie Crooks to give an illustrated talk about Wessex. The afternoon starts at 14.30 in the Church Rooms with a gentle game of bingo and, after the talk, afternoon tea is served. If you haven't yet been to a meeting of CAMEO, you will be made most welcome. They are having two meeting this month as their Christmas party had to be postponed. It will now be a New Year's party (with crackers) on **Monday, 15th January, from 15.00 – 16.30, in the Church Hall**. This is not just an event for people who regularly attend the monthly CAMEO meetings but for all seniors. Help with catering is always appreciated so, if you can help, or if you need a lift, please contact Judith on 01732 458285

Elizabethan Gardens

On **Wednesday 10th January at 20.00**, the Horticultural Society is welcoming garden historian, **Sally Berkeley, to talk about Elizabethan Gardens**. For me it will be a double pleasure - I love Elizabethan gardens and have had the pleasure of working with Sally many years ago when she ran a series of classes for the WEA in Sevenoaks. I hope she will be bringing some photos with her to remind us that flowers do bloom - I'm fed up with winter already. The 20.00 start allows those of you who still go out to work to have time to come home for a bite to eat first.

Our Church Record

Several years ago, when Mike Conacher was the Chairman of the Tonbridge section of NADFAS (National Association of Decorative and Fine Art Societies), he was instrumental in setting up a church recording sub-group, under the direction of Henry Middleton, former curator of Maidstone Museum. Almost six years later and the group are able to present their report to St George's congregation at the **10.30 service on Sunday 14th January**.

The recording group visited St George's a number of times to record all elements of its structure and fabric from stonework to silver, building materials to the monuments, decoration etc. Everything was meticulously logged and photographed so that the record now forms a complete picture of the church. One of the reasons that it has taken so long to complete is that the format and content of the report is strictly monitored by the Fine Arts Society to meet national standards. The resulting document will be of use to posterity in common with the records for other churches in England. Only when the report met the stringent requirements of NADFAS was it 'signed-off', the resulting book being deposited at the V&A, and a copy given to the church. It will be interesting to see what they made of our heating system which always casts such a rosy glow over the special Christmas Carol Service!



Henry Middleton will be giving a short presentation about the report before handing it over to Rev. Mandy Carr. All are welcome to this important service.

'Och aye the noo' (with apologies to my mother!!)

The next Weald village event then you might like to put **Saturday 27th January** in your diary as the Memorial Hall Committee are preparing a **Burns Night Supper at 19.00 with a piper, piping in the haggis**. I'm wondering who gets

to recite 'Rabbie' Burns special evocation to the haggis?

Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,
Great chieftain o the puddin'-race!
Aboon them a' ye tak your place,
Painch, tripe, or thairm:
Weel are ye worthy o' a grace
As lang's my arm.

Which, I'm reliably informed (well, Google informed) means:

Good luck to you and your honest, plump face,
Great chieftain of the sausage race!
Above them all you take your place,
Stomach, tripe, or intestines:
Well are you worthy of a grace
As long as my arm.

You'll breathe a sigh of relief to know I'm not going to add in the other seven verses!!

Tickets (available from the Community Shop) cost £15 per person for a three course meal (blinis and smoked salmon, haggis, neeps and tatties followed by a selection of puddings and Scottish cheeses).

Winter walk

One event I had given serious thought to take part in was the New Year's Day walk from the Community cabin across the fields to The Greyhound at Charcott...my enthusiasm didn't last long as it was teeming with rain (so much for a



resolution to exercise more than just the two fingers I use for typing!!). But I did stagger out with my camera and recorded a picture of the hardy souls that congregated at 10.30. I haven't seen any of them since so I hope they haven't got stuck in the mud or come down with a heavy cold! I'll write down the date for the next walk and make sure I have shoes that are suitable for our rough tracks.



While I was taking the picture of the walkers my eye caught sight of the bottle bank and the range of bottles that, I pre-

sume, couldn't be put inside!!! Some families must have had a very boozy time...please will you invite me next year?!

Rifle through your wardrobe

There was an overwhelming response from everyone in the village to the last two appeals for warm clothing for the charity Samara's Aid which sends clothing and other humanitarian aid to people made homeless in Syria, Iraq and Jordan.

In the last three years alone, 88 articulated lorries have transported over 52,000 banana boxes of clothing to these countries enabling 250,000 people to be clothed. In addition, 40 shipping containers of humanitarian and medical aid have been sent and 11 ambulances sent to Syria. Samara's Aid has opened two hospitals and are in the process of building a critical care hospital there.

We can still help and still make a difference. The next collection in Weald will take place between Monday 22nd January and Wednesday 24th January in the Church rooms between 10.00 and 12.00. What is needed? One or all of the following!

Clothes in excellent condition (both winter and summer)
Shoes
New clothes (please keep the labels on)
Very good quality bedding
A monetary donation towards fuel costs

If you are unable to bring your donation to the Church rooms, the Church is open from 09.30 - 17.30 on a daily basis and items may be left in the vestibule. If your New Year's resolution is to downsize your wardrobe (or is that just me??!) then please rifle through it and see what you can give. If you would like more information about Samara's Aid please visit their website: samarasaidappeal.org

A wonderful book

Unfortunately Bob Ogle, who was to help us launch the new history of Weald was unable to be with us as he had the nasty flu bug that has been going the rounds. However, I sent him a copy and this is what he wrote in his email, 'I must say I am overwhelmed by what you have achieved. I knew it would be good but the content has far more detail than I had expected and it will be difficult for me to give the coverage it deserves. Congratulations to you and your team. It's a wonderful book and the village should be proud. I am sorry that I wasn't there to share in the excitement of the launch.'

We have received some lovely feedback as well as pointers to the several and varied errors dotted throughout! I would like to say that they were deliberate, to check to see if people were reading the book BUT, sadly, that is not the case. I'm in the process of drawing up a sheet of 'errata'... SO, if you have found an error or two PLEASE let me know!! I think Bob's review of the book should be in this Thursday's Sevenoaks Chronicle. In this week's paper the editor printed my thanks to everyone involved along with a picture of me opening the first box of books...the bags under my eyes were because I had just flown overnight from the USA... that's my excuse anyway. Books are on sale at the Community shop and the Windmill.