

Weald News

30th January 2018 - Editor: Sue Gidman, wealdnews@hotmail.com

What's at the end of a rainbow?



There have been times recently when I have not had my camera with me and I have missed a perfectly lovely shot BUT, last week, as I was 'tootling' up Church Road on my way to see my mum, I saw the end of the rainbow which of course moved with me as I was driving. It took a moment or two for me to remember that I had my camera with me and another moment or two to stop the car and rum-

mage in my bag. All the time I was praying that the image would not fade! My prayer was answered - it must have been where the rainbow stopped of course. The image was quite faint but computer trickery has helped to darken the rainbow.

Beavers: nibbling forward

Amanda Armes contacted the parents of the Beavers group recently to say that, with regret and for personal reasons, she had decided to step down as Leader at the end of term, 28th March. She asked if anyone would be interested in taking on the activities of the group or sharing the role. She says that she has found that working with the group is extremely rewarding. As many of the children want to go to camp in May it will be important to have a new leader in place.

Beavers meet for an hour at 16.45 on Wednesdays and the group has just over 20 children between six and seven and a half years old. The children take part in lots of activities including Health & Fitness and Disability Awareness Badges, making bird boxes and Mother's Day cards and lots more. There is a lot of scope for the new leader to choose what the children do.

If you are interested in finding out more about what the role involves, please call Amanda on 01732 668781. Please note that, in order for the admin to be completed for a new leader in time for the start of the summer term, interest needs to be registered by 16th February.

Challenge Wratislavia

I've written in the past about Weald residents who excel at music. I should have realised that other talents would come to the fore. The young lady leaning nonchalantly on her foil (or is it an epee or a sabre??!) is 12 year old Stella Donati who is representing England at 'Challenge Wratislavia' international fencing tournament for children under 15. Held in Wroclaw, Poland, the tournament, which this year takes



place from 22nd - 26th March, has been a meeting place for young fencers from all over the world for many years.

Going to Wroclaw will be the first international competition that Stella has attended and playing with England in the U13s.

She first decided she wanted to take up fencing when she was seven. (I wonder if she got her inspiration from watching 'The Three Musketeers'?!) Stella, who formerly attended Weald Primary School and now in year 7 at Weald of Kent Grammar School, fences with MX Fencing Club, the same club as Megan Beddowes, also a Weald resident. Megan herself is part of the England squad, this time as a coach.

Countries likely to participate based on last year's list are Russia, Italy, France, Poland and England. All the different forms of fencing - foil, epee and sabre are represented in the competition. Stella and Megan fence sabre and Stella will be fencing sabre for England alongside other U.K. competitors.

When I wrote to Stella's mum, Rachel, I presumed that, as a fencer, her daughter must be pretty fearless and quick on her feet. Rachel replied, *'Stella is indeed those things and is also tenacious, I've always respected the way that she thinks about what she can learn from every competition and her ability to take the knocks as well as the successes and still be her funny, observant and thoughtful self (even when it's not easy). Fencing is such a brilliant sport - it opens up friendships across schools and age groups.'*

Good luck Stella!

Go 'Go-Coach'!

Considerable effort has been expended by Lucy Harris, Deputy Chair of the Parish Council and concerned villager, Jackie Mitchell, to retain a bus service in the village. Several years ago, when Richard and I had not lived here long, we (the villagers not just me and Richard!) fought and won to retain a service when Arriva was going to cancel the service completely. At that time, the County Council acknowledged the pressure from villages such as ours and money was found to keep the service going. Therefore it was really alarming last year when we found ourselves in the same scenario. This time, despite extensive discussions and citing 'commercial pressures', Arriva withdrew its service.



BUT Austin Blackburn, who owns and manages GoCoach, stepped into the breach. During the day, the bus runs every two hours to Sevenoaks railway station. In addition there are also two early morning services for commuters - the first bus leaving the village at 06.57 arriving 07.11 and the next at 07.47 arriving 08.01. At the end of the day there are two buses suitable for commuters coming back from the station, one at 17.26 and the last one at 18.26.

If you take the bus you can buy a carnet of 10 tickets for £12 which do not go out of date. This is great news! I remember when I worked in London that my parking ticket at the station cost me £5.40 A DAY (I believe it is now something like £7 a day!) There are plenty of new timetables at the Community Shop if you would like to see where and when they go.

Monthly community walk

If you are planning to go on the circular walk from the White Rock Inn at Underriver (**Saturday 3rd February starting at 10.00**) Mike Conacher has this message:

The White Rock pub is about to have urgent work done to fireproof their cellar and following that some refurbishment. Unfortunately they will no longer be open for drinks or food after the morning walk although the publican is happy for people to leave cars in the front of the pub. So, perhaps, after the walk when we return to Weald we could repair to The Windmill for refreshment.

Big Breakfast

You know I always love to write about eating...well, second to eating itself! A new event is being organised in the village

during half term. On **Saturday 17th February** you can come and join other residents at the 'Big Breakfast' from 08.30 in the Memorial Hall. Let someone else do the planning, organising, buying and preparing breakfast!! If you would like to come, leave your name and number of children over 5 years at the Community Shop. It will cost £5 for adults and £3 for children over 5.

Quiet Day at St. George's

A quiet day for adults, based around three short, reflective services, is being organised by members of St George's Church on **Saturday February 24th** from **10.30 to 15.30**. The organisers have called the day, 'Come to the Well'. In between the services, there will be time for reflection, creative activities, prayer ministry and even a short walk! I'm reliably informed that you don't have to be a member of the church to take part.

Life can be so hectic that it is good to unwind and spend some time in quiet reflection. Soup and bread lunch will be provided and the day will end with tea and cake for a suggested donation of £3.

For further details and to book a place, please email Nikky Goozee nikkygoozee@hotmail.com

Sleeping rough

Last year I ran a story about six year old Malachy Trotter's concern for the homeless, his letter to the Prime Minister and presentation about homelessness to the pupils at Weald School. Following this, the Head Teacher, Mr David Pyle and three members of staff and parents of Weald CP School spent a night sleeping out on the streets of London raising around £4000.

Mr Pyle and teachers Mr Taylor, Mrs Mulley, Ms McAvoy, Mrs Donoghue, Miss Littlejohn, teaching assistants Mr Fox, Mrs Jones, Mrs Gallivan and several parents are planning to do the same this year on **Thursday 22nd February**. If you would like to donate you can do so by visiting the following page on the website <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/WealdStaff> With a larger number of people sleeping out this year Mr Pyle is hoping that even more money can be raised.

P...p....pick up a pancake

On **13th February, Shrove Tuesday**, in St George's Church rooms from 12.00, you can come and eat your fill of soup and pancakes...nuff said!



Burns supper

I had friends and last minute visitors from India to stay at the weekend. My cooking challenge on Saturday evening was catered for by Hilary Allen and the Memorial Hall Committee as we all came up to the Hall for the Burns supper. Wonderful... thank you.