



Weald News

6th February 2018 - Editor: Sue Gidman,
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An abiding love of wood

It is with sorrow that I put 'pen to paper' to write that Brian Carter, who lived in Elmfield Close, died in the early hours of Saturday morning 27th January. He and Maureen, who married in 1959, moved to Weald, to a newly built house in Elmfield Close where they have lived ever since.

When Brian was given his discharge papers, his Commanding Officer had written that throughout his service Brian had been, *'loyal and hard-working and always willing to help. He is intelligent and both a skilled draftsman and carpenter; he seems to be able to turn his hand at anything. He is to be trusted and is honest and sober.'* These few words summed him up beautifully then and for the rest of his life.

Although Brian earned his living as a piano tuner and repairer his passion was for crafting objects in metal and wood including many items you will have seen in the village. The next time you use the gate to go up the path into St George's Church, remember Brian; when you look at a



notice on the church notice boards, remember Brian and, as you walk past Jack's Garage, look up and admire the weather vane, then think of Brian. A more unusual and beautiful weather vane is over his shed in Elmfield Close. Brian was particularly fond of it. He also made toys for his



children Kevin and Rosalind and musical instruments, including guitars and lutes as well as many intricate models. His last, a scale version of Brooklyn Bridge, he worked on during his visit to the Hospice in

the Weald, Pembury in December. London Bridge is still at home!

Brian's funeral will be held at St George's Church on **Monday 12th February at 15.00**. Rather than sending flowers, the family have asked people to make a donation either to the Hospice in the Weald or the Woodland Trust where,

to honour Brian's abiding love of all things wood and in his memory, they hope to buy a small piece of land.

The knock of the ball on willow

Not being a cricketer and not having grown up with a dad who was 'into' cricket (his passion was for athletics in the summer and rugby in the winter) I can only hazard a guess at what 'nets' mean. I know that many clubs and societies have their own language and cricket is no different. By looking at the weather conditions outside I know that cricket is not going to be played outside...so, I guess, that at this time of year 'nets' are where aspiring cricketeers can practise their bowling and batting skills inside without having to run for miles to retrieve a ball well-batted!!

I understand that with the new cricket season approaching, Weald Cricket Club nets are running throughout March and April on Thursday evenings between 7.00 and 9.30pm at Tonbridge School Sports Centre (indoors).

<http://www.sportscentre.tonbridge-school.co.uk/home/>

Anyone who fancies a bat or bowl is welcome to come along - all abilities and ages welcome. There is plenty of spare kit (pads, bats etc) available that can be used. Just turn up or call Tim Stringer on 07981 641098 for more information. Details about the club are on our website and EBC page: <http://wealdcricketclub.co.uk/> and <http://weald.play-cricket.com/>

If you've never played, have a go as the Cricket Club is suffering from lack of cricketers for a second season.

A vision of things to come

I had a little look inside the old Methodist Church to see what the builders have been up to and it is quite exciting! The new toilet area is complete and, when I was there the



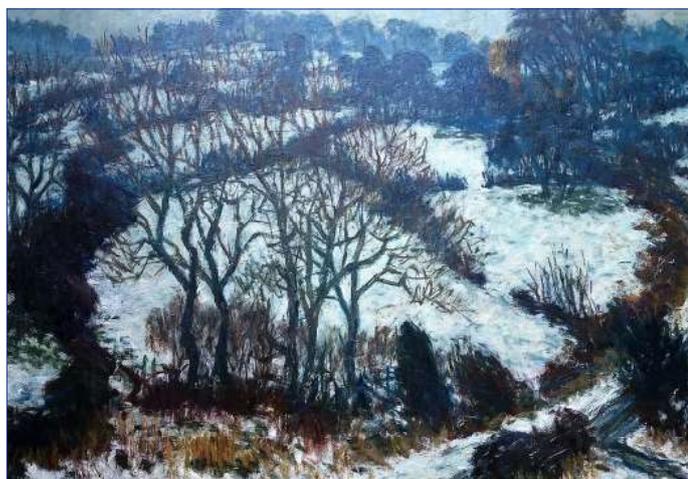
men were about to install the kitchen units. Phew! We won't know ourselves! The floor had been sanded and was waiting for its new coat of varnish. The cabin with the cafe has been wonderful BUT, we really need to move as the list of items that can be purchased from the shop seems to grow daily - AND- I have heard on the grapevine that several stalwarts have agreed to have their kitchens inspected so they can begin to make cakes for us again...Hooray! I'm first in the queue but, PLEASE make it chocolate!

A raw kind of cold

There have been times when I have seen an amazing view but have not had my camera with me and, occasionally, I have had the camera with me but have not had the memory card installed!! Yesterday was not one of those days.



Yesterday, early morning, I had had to go up into Sevenoaks and when I came back home over Hubbard's Hill bridge the snow had settled. I was struck by the view as it looked so like one of Philip Moyses's paintings we had as a section divider in the new Weald history, 'The Changing Face of Weald'...not the view itself, as I was looking down the hill and he was looking up Church Road, but the 'feeling' of the landscape was just the same. I had always thought his painting showed a raw kind of cold and I imagined him perched in his studio window looking out at the landscape. LUCKILY, my camera and I were together AND the memory card installed!!



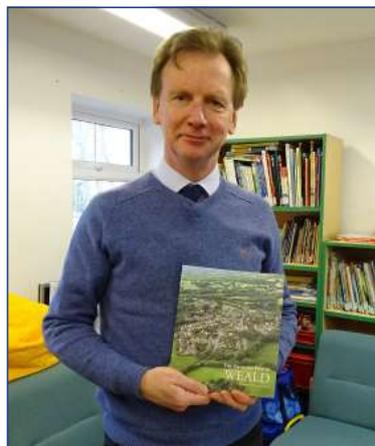
As I came further down the road I remembered that the flock of sheep had been huddled under the trees as I had passed by earlier. So, of course, I stopped the car and trudged to the hedge. The sheep looked in my direction and

started to amble/run towards me looking rather expectantly. I felt quite guilty that I had raised their expectations of something to eat!! I did apologise but I'm not sure what sheep language is for 'I'm sorry, now't to eat here'. However, I love the photos I took....now made into cards for sale in the Community shop. I went up the road again today and the sheep were gone!!



Weald School in the book

I went up to see Mr David Pyle at Weald School on Friday to give him a copy of our new Weald History book for the school library. He had loaned us the old school logbooks to look through for information. They give such a wonderful



snapshot of the life of the school. The first piece we used was dated 1895 and talked about a poor student who had done much better, repaying the attention paid to her. In 1900 we read of a boy receiving a caning for disobedience 'which had resulted in him kicking Miss White'. One of the most poignant entries was written on 4th

March 1946 by the headteacher, Mr Percy. 'Have managed to preserve my attendance at school altho' my attention to duty is much disturbed as my wife died on 2nd inst.'

I have arranged with Mr Pyle to be at the school with a pile of books on **Friday 9th February at 15.00** when the children are collected from school prior to half-term. If you have not yet got a copy of the book, or know of someone who wants one, please come along! They cost £14.99 each. I've had some good feedback from people who have enjoyed dipping in and out of it.

'Pre-Raphaelite Women'

The Women of Weald (WOW) have invited Delia Taylor to come and talk to them about Pre-Raphaelite women on **Wednesday 7th February at 14.15**. When I was booking the event. Delia said that 'it is rather saucy'. I thought the Women of Weald could cope with a bit of sauce!! Do come and join us if you are free.

DIARY DATES

Wednesday 7th February

'Pre-Raphaelite Women': Delia Taylor

WOW monthly meeting in the Memorial Hall at 14.15

Thursday 8th February

Thursday Night Dining Club (Steak Night)
at The Windmill Pub

Friday 9th February

'The Changing Face of Weald' book sale
at Weald Community School from 15.00

Friday 9th -Saturday 10th February

Murder is Academic a play by Cathy Eva Bennett
in the Memorial Hall at 19.30

Monday 12th February

CAMEO: **NEW TIME this month**

Canada & Alaska - Brian and Jan Saunders
in St George's Church rooms from 11.00 followed by
soup and sandwiches

Funeral of Brian Carter
St George's Church at 15.00

Tuesday 13th February

Shrove Tuesday: soup and pancakes
in St George's Church rooms from 12.00

Saturday 17th February

Big Breakfast
in the Memorial Hall 08.00 - 11.30

Saturday 24th February

'Come to the Well': a quiet day
in St George's Church 10.30 - 15.30

Advanced notice: Save the date!

Saturday & Sunday 21st-22nd April

'I am...' flower show at St George's Church

Saturday 5th May

Village Safari Supper from 18.45

Friday 11th May - Sunday 20th May

Christian Aid Week

Sunday 3rd June

Music in the Memorial Hall at 19.30