

# Weald News

21st March 2018 -

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## 'Spring is sprung - the grass is rizz!'

The picture I have put at the top of this newsletter was taken on 14th April last year. This year, having had one of the coldest winters in living memory, (at least the latter half of it), I'm sure we won't have blossom so early. I also remember that last year I had to nurture my daffodils to make sure some were still in bloom for the Horticultural Society Spring Show! This year, I'm struggling with either slugs or snails (or both!) who decide they want to chomp their way through all the buds so I won't have many again this year It's WAR!!!

One of the flowering plants I love the most at this time of year is the hellebore. I have many varieties in the garden from a double white bloom to one that is pale pink with darker pinky/maroon spots to a luscious deep crimson variety given to me last year by Mike and Jean Conacher. They are all doing well! I have also just bought another called 'Dorothy's Dawn', bought in memory of a friend called Dorothy who has recently died. It jumped off the plants stand and into my basket before I could do anything about it!

When we first started our garden I asked friends if they could give us a plant rather than a 'moving in' present and the garden is now so full of friendly memories. After a year or two I began to look at plants with appropriate or humorous names, so, if you come past the garden in the summer look out for 'Buxon Beauty', a HUGE deep pink rose.

I'm already planning my entries for the **Horticultural Spring Show on Saturday 7th April**. Although the entries have to be at the Memorial Hall in the morning, the show itself is open to the general public from 15.00. The sight of the flowers always lifts the heart and, it seems, more people are entering one or more of the sections. Bring it on!! See you there!!

## Abandoned church restored

The latest talk in a series organised by Weald History Group's is on **Monday 9th April at 20.00 in the Memorial Hall**. Dode Village was abandoned in 1348 as a result of the Black Death and the church has had a chequered history ever since. Douglas Chapman and his wife Mary bought it in 1992 and have spent the last 25 years restoring it. The talk will focus on its history and the work he and Mary undertook to restore it. Please come and join the group, everyone is welcome.

## A Schoolgirl's Way

At a previous talk, the History Group were enthralled by Mary Smith's talk about an underground air-raid shelter discovered in the grounds of Maidstone School and, in the archives, a set of pictures and sketches drawn by Helen Keen, the art-teacher at the time. The pictures and story of the girls activities during the war were collated to form

a book called 'A Schoolgirl's War'. The talk was so popular that Mary came again and, this time, talked at one of WOW's monthly meetings.

Recently I have heard from her to say that the school has been so delighted with the interest shown in the tunnels that they are seeking to make them more available to the general public, opening them to both children and adults. As part of the experience they want to provide a more extensive exhibition of artefacts related to the war and wartime schooling and wondered if anyone in the village had any artefacts that they would be willing to donate to the school. They are looking for two categories of objects:

- 1) Anything that dates from and relates to the war, eg ration books, letters, pieces of uniform, medals, etc.
- 2) Anything that illustrates school life of that time. These objects do not necessarily have to date exactly from the war itself but would typify aspects of 1940s school life, eg exercise books, school cap or beret, other items of school uniform, ink well, etc etc. They would be particularly interested in sourcing some school furniture from that general period, eg desks and chairs, or the combined desk and chair.

Mary has said that any contributions would be very gratefully received and, if you are able to help, please contact Lila Brewer at the school on 01622 752103 or by email at lbrewer@mggs.org. Alternatively, Mary would be happy to be in touch with you via email at: marysmithjones@hotmail.com

## Weald history archived

While we are talking all things historical I want to report that Richard and I visited the Kent Archives at Maidstone recently to give them six 'The Changing Face of Weald' books. We made the arrangement as the 'permissions fee' for use of material in the book. Claire, who heads up the unit and



Sheila, who helped to make digital copies of some of the maps, were very supportive and were pleased with the result. We have now sold 435 books!! If you are interested in giving a non-fattening present to a loved one for Easter how about a book? It's a 'snip' at only £14.99 and available from the Weald Community shop, the Windmill Pub or Sevenoaks bookshop!

### Graffiti artist/s not required in Weald

I'm always pleased to report on the many great things that happen in our village, either an event or the achievement of a particular person but, from time to time something crops up that does not paint our village in a very good light (I'm sorry about the unintended pun!!)



Recently someone (or some people) with a can of spray paint decided to adorn a container and a couple of the doors and fences at the recreation ground with graffiti. It seems a great shame that the person (or persons) don't have anything else to do but wreak mischief. Why can't their energy be used in a better way in the village!! The matter has is being reported to the police and

the offender's 'signature' will be able to be traced.

### Dog poo alert

While I am on the subject of unacceptable behaviour I have to report that someone has been walking their dog (or let the dog walk themselves) and it has 'pooed; a number of times up Windmill Road. That in itself is not nice - but the window-cleaner's ladder was dirtied and he picked it up without knowing!! UGH!! Please, please if you walk a dog can you make sure that they don't foul the roads, pavements and verges or, if they do, it is taken away. I was pleased to see someone with a dog poo bag clearing up their dog's mess the other morning but they left the bag behind in the hedge! I don't know if they came back for it???

### Wanted: Scout leaders for Weald troop

Today there are three scouting sections in Weald with a total membership of 60 covering the ages of 6 to 14. The groups are all led by enthusiastic and dedicated leaders who are providing an exciting and balanced programme

within the framework of the Scout Association.

Records show that Scouting in Weald has been part of the village scene since the early nineteen thirties. Originally, the meetings took place in a small 12'x 6' wooden hut on a corner plot of the present scout field. The remainder of the field was bequeathed to the group in the early 1970s and the new hall, now named 'Jubilee Hall' was built almost entirely by volunteers and opened in 1977.

Since the early days of Boy Scouts and Wolf Cubs hundreds of boys and now girls have passed through the movement in the village; some even have children of their own who have become members and enjoy the variety of activities that the group offer. They can often to be found supporting many village activities from church parades to providing refreshments at the annual 10k & Fun Run, helping with Christian Aid Week and running the annual village bonfire and firework display.

Last year the group experienced a surge in numbers but, to accommodate them, the group desperately requires additional leaders, especially in the Scout and Beaver sections. The Beaver Leader is leaving us at the end of March and although the Colony will function until the summer holidays the future is uncertain unless a new leader is found.

Any present leader will tell you how rewarding it can be **so if you or any one you know can help please contact** either our Group Scout Leader, John Talbot on 07973281773, committee chair person Julie Turner 01732 667331 or any leader.

### St. George's Day celebration

To celebrate St George's day (23rd April) St George's church is organising both a flower show at the church over the weekend Saturday 21st April - and Sunday 22nd April with the theme, 'I am the way, the truth and the life'. Many Weald organisations have committed to providing an arrangement of flowers to adorn the church and unless you suffer from bad hayfever it will be a sensory treat!

Saturday evening will be a treat for the tastebuds as St George's have organised a family supper get together (and dancing) in the church hall 19.00-22.00. Tickets at £10/£5 can be obtained from Rebecca Johnson by calling 01732 463464. As with many village events you are encouraged to bring your own drinks and glasses.

### Important dates for your diary

I am alerting you to some important future dates for your diary. I am working closely friends and members of the shop committee to organise several fund-raising events which will support the continued development of our wonderful community shop, particularly as they make plans to move into the newly refurbished Wesleyan Chapel. The events are:

Sunday 6th May:	Indian buffet lunch with live Indian sitar music.
Sunday 3rd June:	CIRRUS quartet classical dinner concert
Sunday 7th October:	Classical trio and afternoon tea.

Information will be given in the next newsletter.

## DIARY DATES

### Sunday 25th March

PALM SUNDAY service: St George's Church at 10.30

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### Wednesday 28th March

Parish Council Meeting at 19.30 in the Memorial Hall

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### Friday 30th March

Good Friday: Service of Reflection on the Cross  
14.00 at St George's Church

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### Saturday 31st March

Lambing Day at Romshed Farm from 11.00 -13.00

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## APRIL

### Sunday 1st April

Easter Day: Holy Communion at 08.00 and Family  
Service at 10.30 at St George's Church

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### Wednesday 4th April

Cyril Baldwin: Weird Wills, Funny Funerals, Eccentric  
Epitaphs: WOW in the Memorial Hall at 14.15

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### Thursday 5th April

TAPAS Night at the Windmill Inn

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### Saturday 7th April

Horticultural Society Spring Show  
in the Memorial Hall at 15.00

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### Monday 9th April

CAMEO post Easter Tea Party in the Church Hall  
from 15.00 - 16.30

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### Wednesday 11th April

Rat Pack tribute Evening at Giacomos at 19.30

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### Monday 16th April

Kent Fire and Rescue Defibrillator drop in training  
in the Memorial Hall at 11.00 - 12.30; 13.30 - 15.00  
and 19.00 - 20.30

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### Friday 20th April

Elvis Evening at Giacomos at 19.30

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### Saturday & Sunday 21st-22nd April

'I am the Way, the Truth, the Life...' flower show at  
St George's Church

St. George's family supper  
in the Church Hall at 19.00

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### Tuesday 24th April

Horticultural Society visit to Beth Chatto's garden

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### Thursday 25th April

James & the Giant Peach: St George's 7-11 Film Club

## MAY

### Wednesday 2nd May

Canine Partners Robin Marchant talking to WOW in  
the Memorial Hall at 14.15

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### Saturday 5th May

Village Safari Supper from 18.45

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### Sunday 6th May

Indian Buffet Lunch in the Memorial Hall from 12.00

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### Friday 11th May - Sunday 20th May

Christian Aid Week

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## JUNE

### Sunday 3rd June

CIRRUS quartet: Music in the Memorial Hall at 19.30

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### Saturday 30th June

Summer Fete on the Green from 12.00 -16.00  
theme 'Alice in Wonderland'

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### Saturday 7th July

Barn Dance at Westwood Farm from 18.00 - 22.00