

Weald

27th March 2018 -

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Have you seen this cat? If you have, please call Lesley Knight on 01732 463391 She wants it back home!

Twin successes



I've featured Maddie Ball in one of my previous newsletters as she had won two Taekwondo medals and will be training for her black belt over the coming months BUT she has a twin sister, Sophie, who is equally talented but in a different field.

She and Maddie both got A*s in all three Sciences and Maths at GCSE levels; Sophie scooped a Bronze award for the

British Physics Olympiad AS Challenge. Phew!

Now, as part of volunteering in the community, they are interested in tutoring particularly in Chemistry GCSE. They can offer up to hour long sessions starting in the Easter holidays. Their help would suit someone studying for GCSE Chemistry but who may have difficulty in a particular section. If you are interested please send an email to: mandssciences@hotmail.com

Bring on the flowers!



I've just been outside and the temperature is dropping yet again; snow is predicted to fall over the next couple of days!! Never mind, at least the flowers won't be over and done for by the time of the **Horticultural Society, Spring Show on Saturday April 7th!** Last year was really difficult as the heat had made everything come out early. My fear this

year is that the slugs and snails will have eaten all my daffodils before they have had a chance to shine.

Along with numerous daffodil and tulip classes there are opportunities for flower arrangers to represent such titles as 'Oranges and Lemons', 'Sun Burst', 'Spring Greens' and 'Small Beginnings' and for bakers to shine too by entering a jar of tasty marmalade (I nearly wrote, 'a tasty jar of marmalade' - it's interesting the difference the placing of words make!), hot cross buns, brownies and a savoury flan and cup cakes decorated for Easter.

Children are encouraged to take part and can enter sections for a 'posy of spring flowers for Mum', 'A pot of bulbs I grew myself', 'A hungry caterpillar made from egg boxes' and, for budding cooks, 'an Easter treat - courgette/carrot muffins'.

Entries need to have been sent to Judy Whiddett by 18.00 on April 5th to whiddett@btinternet.com or delivered to 1 Patience Cottages, Longbarn Road.

The Horticultural Show will be open for visitors at 15.00 on Saturday 7th April

I can remember entering the village flower show where I grew up and winning prizes for my scones...a LONG time ago! It's amazing how long these memories last and how vivid they are. I hope the children entering this year will have similar fond memories of their growing up and joining in village activities.

Funerals, Wills & Epitaphs

Cyril Baldwin is coming to speak to WOW at their next meeting on **Wednesday 4th April**. His talk is entitled, 'Funny Funerals, Weird Wills and Eccentric Epitaphs.' One reviewer wrote, 'His seemingly macabre subject turned out to be very entertaining, with a large amount of little known and highly amusing detail which was greatly enjoyed by all who came along.' I understand that William Shakespeare left his wife, Anne, his 'second best bed'! I'm interested to hear more. Although I've made my will I might want to re-write it once I've heard the talk and leave some weird bequest to my nearest and dearest (I've already threatened my niece with all the patchwork fabric stored in my sewing room!!). My father is buried in a woodland burial site near Norwich and I always smile as I pass one plot marker (they all have to be in wood) which says, 'Mine's a pint.'

After a short business meeting which starts at 14.15 we will have the talk followed by afternoon tea. Please join us if you can.

'These boots were made for walking'

It's interesting that each monthly, community walk is led by a different member of the group. The April walk, scheduled for **Saturday 7th April**, is being co-ordinated by Andrw Priest who has told me that this one, which sets off from the **Community Shop at 09.45**, will be 3.8 miles long with 2.8 of those miles 'off-road' and 1 mile on a quiet country road. There are seven stiles on the route and, given the amount of rain we have had recently, the route may still be muddy. So, anyone planning to join in are advised to wear walking boots or wellingtons! The walk should take around 1 hour 45 minutes which gives the group time for coffee and cake in the shop afterwards.

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.

DIARY DATES

Wednesday 28th March

Parish Council Meeting at 19.30 in the Memorial Hall

Friday 30th March

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

Saturday 31st March

Lambing Day at Romshed Farm from 11.00 -13.00

APRIL

Sunday 1st April

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

Wednesday 4th April

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

Thursday 5th April

TAPAS Night at the Windmill Inn

Saturday 7th April

Horticultural Society Spring Show
in the Memorial Hall at 15.00

Monday 9th April

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

Wednesday 11th April

Rat Pack tribute Evening at Giacomos at 19.30

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

Friday 20th April

Elvis Evening at Giacomos at 19.30

Saturday & Sunday 21st-22nd April

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

Saturday 21st April

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

Tuesday 24th April

Horticultural Society visit to Beth Chatto's garden

Thursday 26th April

Soup & Scrabble in the Memorial Hall from 12.00

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

Saturday 5th May

Village Safari Supper from 18.45

Sunday 6th May

Indian Buffet Lunch in the Memorial Hall from 12.00

Friday 11th May - Sunday 20th May

Christian Aid Week

Thursday 24th May

Soup & Scrabble in the Memorial Hall from 12.00

JUNE

Sunday 3rd June

CIRRUS quartet: Music in the Memorial Hall at 19.30

Thursday 28th June

Sandwiches, Scrabble & Scones in the Memorial Hall
from 12.00 (next one in September)

Saturday 30th June

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

Saturday 7th July

Barn Dance at Westwood Farm from 18.00 - 22.00

I know that many people who attended Brian Carter's funeral earlier in the year were moved by the poem that his son, Kevin, had created using memories of his dad. It brought back memories to me of my dad, although his talent was in growing things in the garden while Brian's was for making things. I asked for a copy of the poem and have permission to share it with you. Keith edited this version but I have the full poem should you wish to have a copy.

My Dad – intro

Even though we know that death comes to all of us,
When we lose a loved one it always comes as a shock,
It always seems unfair. It seems wrong.

And I believe that is because, God 'set eternity in the heart of man'. In other words, He placed the hope of eternity in human hearts. Is that the reason we want films to have a happy ending? Good wins over evil. Love is stronger than death. I believe this narrative is woven into our very being. And I believe that my Dad now lives in heaven.

We will miss him here on Earth but we will carry him with us always. We see the objects he has made, we remember his mannerisms, the things he loved and shared, his jokes, his stories. If we listen, we will still hear his advice.

His DNA is written into me, my sister Ros and my children. Sometimes my daughters smile at my mannerisms and say 'You're just like Grandad!'

What I've written here as a 'tribute' to my Dad is not an elegant eulogy. It's more like a children's story - or perhaps you will think of it as a failed poem. It starts with me as a baby and then invites you to wander through a number of reminiscences. I hope that you will recognise something of the essence of my Dad as you listen.

*I hope you like it. I made it up myself**

*This was something Dad used to say by way of a catchphrase, usually following his re-telling of an old joke.

My Dad



My Dad is big and strong, and clever
Sometimes we have play fights.
He stands on his knees and holds his hands up ready like a boxer.
He blocks all my punches then tickles me.

My Dad is big and strong, and clever
Sometimes we play football in the back garden.
The goal is between the apple tree and the flowers.
Mummy doesn't like it when the ball goes in the flowers.

My Dad is big and strong, and clever
He does judo and sometimes he challenges me to a fight in the bedroom.
Usually I charge and he throws me on the bed... It's really fun.

My Dad is big and strong, and clever
He gives me and my sister 'horsey rides' up and down the hallway.
It's funny when my sister holds his ears.

My Dad is big and strong, and clever
I'm going to wait by the gate at the top of the drive
And when Dad comes home from the station on his scooter bike
He's going to let me climb on the back
And I'll put my arms around his tummy and hold on tight
While we ride 'weee-ee!' all the way down to the garage.

My Dad is big and strong, and clever
When he plays the piano, I like to sit on the stairs and listen.
Usually he doesn't finish 'cause he keeps going over the tricky bits.
He gets cross with himself when he doesn't get the right notes
'Come on – they're all in there somewhere!' he says.

My Dad is big and strong, and clever
He's helping us in our new house.
He helped fit a new kitchen
Everything fits.
He said 'Look – it all fits where it touches' and
'Two fits like that would kill a horse'.
Today he's helping us fix the shed roof
Mum reckons that now the roof is best bit.
'You be careful up there, Brian!' she says.
He just sniffs and carries on.

My Dad is big and strong, and clever
Now I've got kids of my own and that makes him a Grandad.
He's doing the horsey rides again.
Now there are new children to pull his ears.

My Dad is big and strong, and clever
Trouble is, he's got cancer again.
He got over it before but this time it's worse and he's having a really big operation.
'I'm not too pleased about losing my eye' he said
'It's my good one too
But next time you see me I can wear an eye patch and pretend to be a pirate.'

My Dad is big and strong, and clever
He's ill again though, and it's getting harder.
He's in the hospital all the time, with lots of tubes in him and machines that go 'beep'.
Mum holds his hand. He wants to come home.

My Dad is big and strong, and clever
He didn't come back to Elmfield Close.
But he has gone home.
To his real home.
The home we dream of but we've never seen.
Where there's no more pain and no more sorrow.
He lives in our hearts...And he lives in Heaven.

