

Weald News

10th April 2018 - Editor: Sue Gidman, wealdnews@hotmail.com

I don't remember an April in the recent past being quite so cold and gloomy - in fact I can't remember ANY April being quite so cold and gloomy! It is almost gloomy enough for me to crawl back to bed and decide to stay there for the day. But, when I look outside and see all the various daffodils I have planted in the garden (and some I swear got there of their own accord) things don't seem so gloomy after all. It seems that Spring is hovering, just waiting for a breath of warm air to work its magic.

Since being involved in putting together the new Weald history book, I see our village through different eyes - dates, events and people come to mind, especially now with the fabulous array of daffodils under the trees on the green; they have been there since the 1990s. In 1990 the Horticultural Society entered an exhibit to the Chelsea Flower Show. Unfortunately, it was stolen but the compensation paid by R.H.S. was used to buy the bulbs. For many years, as the flowers die back, they have been dead-headed by Lesley Knight so that the plants energy goes back into the bulb rather than making seeds. I know she would be happy for someone else to help! So, if you see a dead head, pick it off (picked bunches not allowed!)

Sunshine inside



Despite the cold weather, and a worry this year that not many daffodils and tulips would be open in time for the Horticultural Society Spring show, the Memorial Hall was full of colour and gorgeousness. Brian Jarvis always does well in the first show of the year and won the Fenn Challenge

Bowl for most points awarded. Although he garnered the Daffodil Society Award for his daffodil exhibit, the single bloom Mackney Challenge cup was won for the fifth time by Lesley Knight for the single stem shown above - she also won for her deciduous flowering shrub. I need to ask Doris Wheeler pointers for showing hellebores as she won that class (as well as for her evergreen flowering shrub). I have over five varieties of hellebore in my tiny-weeny garden as



I love their colour so early in the season. Liz Hindley won with her pansies and Ann Bell for her 'flowering pot'. (That's what I wrote in my notes but I'm sure it was called something else!!)

I might not have done well with the hellebores but my miniature flower arrangement, 'Small Beginnings', was enough for me to win the Barty Cup. Sheila Turley gained a first for her arrangement 'First Shoots' and 'Sun Burst' and Justine Frost for 'Spring Greens' as well as Best in Section for her 'Oranges and Lemons' arrangement. A review of the Spring Show would not be complete without mentioning the Todd family. Julie Todd's tulips in a bucket won the silver plate for 'Best in Show', while Todd's expertise seems to be in the kitchen. He scooped 'first' for his marmalade, hot-cross buns, quiche and five cup-cakes.

It's always special to see young people at the beginning of their Horticultural Society challenges...Emilia Jones won the Dunsford Cup for the under 8s and Jacob Frost for the 8-12 age group. If I have missed anyone out I apologise!!

'I am the Way, the Truth, the Life...'

While we are still talking about spring flowers let me remind you about St George's Church celebration of St George's Day. The church will be decked out with flowers to the theme of Jesus' sayings, 'I AM...'. The show will be in the church between **Saturday 21st April to Monday 23rd April** (between 10.30 and 16.00. on Saturday and Monday and between 13.00 and 16.00 on Sunday. Coffee and bacon sandwiches are available in the Church rooms until after lunch when the team will start serving afternoon tea - with cake of course!).

It is quite a challenge to interpret the sayings. The Brownies will be considering the statement, 'I am the gate,

whoever enters through me will be saved', while the Cubs & Beavers, Weald History Group and the Women of Weald each take one part of the saying, 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life'. The Community Shop may have a slightly simpler task with, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.' Weald Community School have another saying that MIGHT be easier to interpret, 'I am the water of life whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst.' I put the word MIGHT in capital letters because it depends on whether the phrase is interpreted literally or figuratively - we shall have to wait and see! In addition to the groups I have mentioned above there will also be arrangements from The Women's Stoolball team, the Horticultural Society, Westwood Farm, CAMEO, St George's Church members and the Mission Action Team.

There is still time to book for the Saturday evening family supper with entertainment which is being held in the Church Hall at 19.00. Tickets are £10 for adults and £5 for children. If you would like a ticket for the supper, please contact Moya Grady on 01732 454372 or Becca on 01732 463464.

'What have you done now?'

Twenty nine years ago, chartered surveyor, Douglas Chapman was chatting to a friend in a jacuzzi (as one does) when his friend asked him if he wanted some candles. Douglas said 'yeah, why not' but was amazed and surprised when he collected them to find that they were large, church candles stored in two two pallets, 1000 in all. His wife's response when he finally got them home was, 'What have you done?'

But that wasn't the end of the story. Six weeks later Douglas read an advert in the paper that the little church at Dode was for sale. It was located in the middle of nowhere and derelict. The inhabitants of the small hamlet of Dode Village had been wiped out by the Black Death which struck Kent in 1348. By 1349 the church and hamlet were abandoned. In 1361, in an extant document of the time, the Catholic Church wrote that the church was no longer financially viable and no priest would be coming to minister there. Its sad decline was halted briefly in the 1950s when it the church was re-dedicated but, by the early 1990s, it was again suffering neglect, was de-consecrated, and came on the market.



Douglas Chapman had spent his career surveying ancient buildings and this one sparked his interest. He and his wife visited it and despite the tangled undergrowth and graffiti

covered walls, Douglas fell in love with the building; three days later, unbeknownst to his wife, he went along to the auction and, 'for the price of a small house', found himself the owner of Dode Church! I can just imagine the tone of his wife's voice when he got home and told her that they were now owners of a deserted church - 'What have you done NOW?!'

The Chapman's spent seven years restoring the church and, after completing the work and appearing on national TV and in the newspapers, they were inundated with 2000 visitors. Since then, civil marriage services have been conducted in the old church and a retreat has been built to one side as well as a stone circle in the grounds where handfasting ceremonies take place. On the 900th anniversary of the building of the church, the Chapman's used 900 of the candles that Douglas had acquired to light up the church. The History Group are planning a visit to see the church later in the year.

Soup and Scrabble

I'm not sure if it is the soup that is the draw for the monthly 'Soup and Scrabble' lunch, or the chance to pit your wits against fellow Scrabblers with the chance of a big score OR just the fact that it another Weald event where neighbours, old and new, can meet up with each other.

I have to say that my friend Val (who lives in New Zealand) not only plays in her home town of Rotarua but also with other Scrabble addicts all over the world; she plays on-line. It can take minutes, days or weeks dependent on the person she is playing against. I gave the game up years ago when she put a list of acceptable two letter words on the table next to her. I didn't think that was a test of word power but a power play!

The next Scrabble session in Weald is on **Thursday 26th of April at 12.00**. If you haven't been before, or if you have not left your name on the list, please contact Eve Walker at Prospect House by the end of day on Tuesday 24th April so that enough soup can be prepared.

Sunday 6th May...BOOK NOW

Indian Buffet

If you would like to support the Community shop then join us for an Indian themed fundraiser...Sunday lunch!

Tickets are £18 for per person for adults and £15 for children. A professional sitar player will perform after lunch and talk about the music.

To reserve a place, please contact Susan or Richard Gidman at wealdnews@hotmail.com Tel: 01732 454222 OR Karen Long at kcaelong@btinternet.com Tel: 01732 463698.

DIARY DATES

APRIL

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

Tuesday 24th April

Horticultural Society visit to Beth Chatto's garden

Wednesday 25th April

Parish Council Meeting at 19.30, Memorial Hall

Thursday 26th April

Soup and Scrabble in the Memorial Hall at 12.00

Saturday 28th April

Coffee Morning at St George's Church Rooms from 10.00 - 12.00

MAY

Wednesday 2nd May

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

Saturday 5th May

Horticultural Society Plant Sale 09.30 - 11.00 in the Memorial Hall car park

Village Safari Supper from 18.45

Sunday 6th May

Indian Buffet Lunch in the Memorial Hall from 13.00

Wednesday 9th May

Archeology from the Air: Weald History Group at 20.00 in the Memorial Hall

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Friday 11th May

Children's Disco for Years 1-6 in the Memorial Hall from 18.00 - 19.30

Saturday 12th May

'Round the Green Challenge' 13.00 - 13.30
Stool Ball Match on the Green 14.00 - 17.00

Sunday 13th May

Christian Aid Service at 10.30 in the Memorial Hall
Family Trail to Westwood Farm leaving from the Green between 14.00 - 15.00

Tuesday 15th May

Family dog-walk leaving 18.00 from the green

Thursday 17th May

The Sevenoaks and Tonbridge Concert Band at St George's Church 19.30 - 20.30

Friday 18th May

Quiz night and Fish and chip supper in the Memorial Hall 19.30

Sunday 20th May

Village Open Gardens between 14.00 and 17.00

Monday 21st May

Golden Oldies Film: 'The King and I' at St George's Church

Wednesday 23rd May

Parish Council Meeting at 19.30, Memorial Hall

Thursday 24th May

Soup and Scrabble in the Memorial Hall at 12.00

JUNE

Saturday 2nd June

Pandora's Fun Dog Show on the green

Sunday 3rd June

CIRRUS quartet: Music in the Memorial Hall at 19.30

Wednesday 27th June

Parish Council Meeting at 19.30, Memorial Hall

Thursday 28th June

Sandwiches, Scrabble & Scones in the Memorial Hall at 12.00

Saturday 30th June

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

JULY

Saturday 7th July

Barn Dance at Westwood Farm from 18.00 - 22.00

Saturday 24th - 26th July

CAMEO's Holiday at Home