

Weald News

1st October 2018 - Editor: Sue Gidman / wealdnews@hotmail.com

DIARY DATES

A full list of 'diary dates' is given at the back of the newsletter.

OCTOBER

Tuesday 2nd October

Weald Badminton Club in the Church Hall
19.30 - 20.30

Wednesday 3rd October

'They Dared to be Doctors', Toni Mount - Women of Weald meeting, Memorial Hall 14.15 - 16.30

Friday 5th October

Sevenoaks Weald Art Group (SWAG) in the Memorial Hall 09.30 - 12.00

Saturday 6th October

Apple juicing outside the shop 08.30 - 12.00

Village walk from the Memorial Hall at 09.45

Harvest Supper at 19.00 in St George's Church Hall

Sunday 7th October

Harvest Festival Service at St George's Church 10.30

'Trio Vita' concert in th Memorial Hall from 15.00

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Mobile Library in the Memorial Hall car park
11.40 - 12.25

Friday 12th October

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'Trio Vita' in concert

I asked violinist, Robbie Norman, how they had come by the name 'Trio Vita' (the last time he came to Weald to play was with a quartet called 'Accordare'). I had fondly thought that he had taken his inspiration from the village and the fact that Vita Sackville West and her husband, Harold Nicolson, lived here. No such luck. He said it was from the Italian meaning 'to live' and I thought, just to check - I'd hate to give you miss-information - I would look up the word's etymology on-line...phew, half an hour later I discovered more than I really needed to know!! I found it in Old Norse vita, from Proto-Germanic 'witana', ultimately from Proto-Indo-European 'weyd'- ('see'), Latin, Malagasy, Norwegian, Swedish, Romansch, Swahili and more. But, you really don't need to know all that - suffice it to say that 'Trio Vita' will transport the audience on **Sunday 7th October from 15.00** with their playing. There are a few tickets left (£15 including afternoon tea) so contact me, Susan Gidman 01732 454222, if you would like to join us. The funds raised at the concert will go to the British Legion's annual campaign.

Apple juicing

Mike and Judy Whiddett will be outside the Community Shop with their apple juicing machine on **Saturday 6th October from 08.30 - 12.00**. If you are lucky enough to have apple trees in your garden (the Millers house is called 'Apple Trees' so I'm presuming they have a few!!) and would like to convert some of the crop into juice, then come along but bring your own containers. As last year, the Whiddetts ask that a donation for the service be given to the Community shop.

Monthly perambulation

This is a lovely time of year for a walk as the temperature dips and the trees change colour. The trees on the green are fast becoming a glorious shade of gold. There is plenty of time after you have had your apples squeezed to a pulp to join the walking group who will be leaving the **Memorial Hall at 09.45 on Saturday 9th October**. I understand that they return an hour and a half later in time for coffee at the Community Shop or something a little stronger at the Windmill. I'm sure Richard and Kay, our new landlords (or should that be 'land-people' nowadays??) will offer a warm welcome.

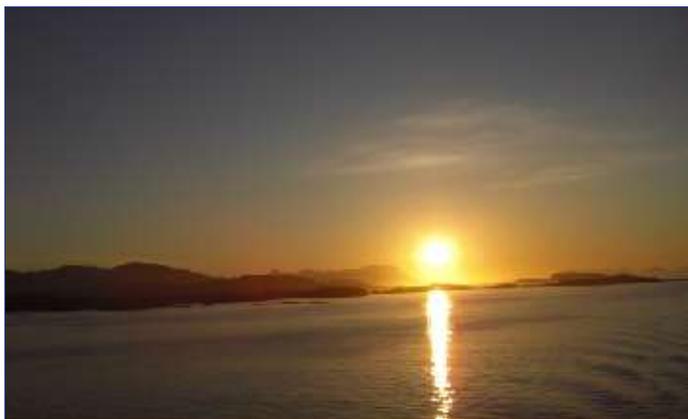
Harvest celebration

Saturday 9th October is a particularly busy one from **juicing your apples at 08.30**, joining a **village walk at 09.45** to sitting down to a **Harvest Supper in the evening at 19.00** in St George's Church Hall. I'm exhausted just thinking of it all - but that is the beauty of Weald...so much to do! On **Sunday**

7th October the congregation at **St George's Church** will be celebrating the harvest with **communion at 08.00** and a **family service and parade at 10.30**. Everyone is welcome.

Land of the Midnight Sun

On **Monday 8th October**, Valerie Crooks, is the guest speaker at CAMEO (Come and Meet Each Other). The title of her talk is 'Land of the Midnight Sun'. CAMEO welcomes new members at their meeting in the **Church Rooms from 14.30 - 16.00**. Several years ago Richard and I went on a 'midnight sun' cruise to Norway. It is quite spooky being out on deck at midnight watching the sun dip down towards the horizon, seeming to skim the surface of the water before starting its ascent once again. Because the sun was out, our body clock thought it was still day!



Midnight!!

A living Advent calendar

It's never too early to be thinking about and planning for Christmas (I don't believe I've just written that!) Last year's 'Living Advent Calendar' success encouraged Rachel and Matt Yates to organise it again this year. Twenty four households, businesses or community buildings in Weald village need to volunteer to illuminate a window with festive decorations in December. One window is 'opened' each day at 18.30 from 1st December to 24th December and remains illuminated until Twelfth Night (5th January). There are no rules other than the window must be easily visible to the public, and must be illuminated. If you are interested, please email rachelyates08@hotmail.com, telephone 01732 66893 or pop a note through Matt and Rachel's door (Southwood, Hurst Lane, Weald) with your name, address and contact details by 1st November. They will get in touch to let you know your allocated day and give some more information.

Shoes, clothes and blankets

It is now four years since Samara's Aid began collecting and sending clothing etc. to displaced people in Syria and they are still desperately needed. Just between April and July this year, Samara's Aid distributed aid to more than 100,000 people who had had to flee their homes and were living in makeshift tents and shelters but many did not receive aid. With winter coming on, the need is even greater. Shoes or boots, especially for children, clothing and blankets would be greatly appreciated. It is especially important that all donations are in excellent condition as, firstly, it is important

that the recipients to feel really valued and not that they are being given cast-offs and, secondly, they have no means of mending or even easily washing anything. Any gifts can be dropped off in **St George's Church Rooms between 09.00 and 11.00 on Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th October**. If you don't have any clothes to give but would like to contribute a financial gift towards the cost of transport would be much appreciated.

Lunchtime supervisor needed

Weald school is looking for a new lunchtime supervisor. Duties would include preparing the dining hall for lunches, supervising the children (along with other staff) whilst they are eating and then going out on the playground or MUGA. The hours would be 11.30 am – 13.00 every day (term-time only). The appointee would need to be able to put-up/collapse dining tables and stack benches. If you are interested, please telephone 01732 463307 and ask to speak with Mr Pyle the head-teacher or email: office@weald.kent.sch.uk

WOW's monthly speakers

In addition to a range of regular monthly activities (bridge, walking, book group etc) members of WOW (Women of Weald) get together on the first Wednesday of every month to enjoy listening to a variety of speakers. Subjects have been varied and last month Russell Bowes regaled the group with a seemingly inexhaustible supply of amusing and informative facts concerning the tea leaf. Lynne Robbins, secretary of WOW, has sent me a copy of her fascinating report of a talk entitled, 'A nice cup of tea'. I have given a synopsis with this newsletter but if you would like a copy of the full report please contact me at wealdnews@hotmail.com

This **Wednesday, 3rd October at 14.15**, we are looking forward to the return of historian, Toni Mount, whose talk this time, 'They dared to be doctors', sounds fascinating. If you haven't been to a WOW meeting before, please come along; you will be made most welcome. Of course, as with most Weald activities there will be afternoon tea following the meeting!

Art group reconvenes

Sevenoaks Weald Art Group (SWAG) has reconvened for the Autumn term. They meet in the Memorial Hall on **Fridays from 09.30 - 12.00**. Although this is not a directly taught class (people work on their own projects) advice is given.

STOP PRESS: Macmillan Coffee morning

Linda tells me that £240 was raised in the Community Shop last Friday in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care. The cakes people had donated were AWESOME and, it seems, that people were very generous. Can't we have a charity coffee morning every month? We can vote for the charity we would like to support, starting, of course with 'Canine Partners'! My request would probably be for Alzheimer's Research...I'll start my diet now ready for more cake!

A nice cup of tea

Apparently 34 million cups of tea are consumed every day in this country, while two thirds of the world's population drink at least one cup a day. Although we have been drinking tea in Britain for about 350 years, China and Japan had a 4,500 year start on us!

The tea leaf in question comes from the 'camellia sinensis' bush, not to be confused with the camellia we are familiar with. It is a very accommodating little bush, because it produces fresh leaves every 7-10 days. This means that by the time the workers in the tea plantations have toiled up to the top of a hill picking leaves, a fresh crop awaits them at the bottom. Tea has some very advantageous properties; its leaves can be dried and reused, it is easy to transport and prepare and also has some medicinal properties; it contains magnesium and potassium, can be mixed with milk or lard, retains vitamins and is both a digestive agent and an anti-oxidant. It can both soothe you if you are upset, or conversely perk you up if you feel tired; it's better than wine for this purpose because you stay sober, and while you are boiling water (which until recently was unsafe to drink anywhere, and still is over large areas of the world) you might as well add a tea leaf or two!

From the beginning, it was a rich man's drink - aristocrats drank it in China and in Japan it was first drunk by wealthy Buddhist monks. Apparently, tea was discovered in India when someone noticed the effect that chewing tea leaves had on monkeys!

There were two different ways of producing tea; either the leaves could be dried in the sun which would leave the leaf whole and produce green tea, or roasted in the oven where they would be oxidised, crumbling into smaller pieces which were easier to transport and stayed fresh for longer. In order to sell it, as much as possible was crammed into barrels by the simple expedient of getting into the barrel and jumping up and down on the leaves! By the middle of the 12th century bricks of tea were so commonplace that they were the preferred method of currency, since they were extremely light and you could always chip a corner off a brick if you were exhausted to give yourself a pick me up or to make soup.

The talk ranged from Japan where, by 593 AD, the rich Imperial Court turned the drinking of tea to a fine art carried out in tea houses over several hours, to the Dutch India Company which was the only European group allowed to trade with the Orient. As a result, we had to import tea from Holland so only the wealthy could afford it; Samuel Pepys wrote in his diary on 25 September 1660, 'One pound and a quarter of Chinese tea as medicine for Mrs. Pepys' cost: £4:10 shillings'; a huge sum at the time. By 1727 even those people of 'the middling sort' were drinking tea! However it was still only the comparatively wealthy who could afford it. Because tea was so expensive the tea caddy, or 'cadhay', (a Malaysian word for one of the seven or so different sized tea leaves came into being, capable of holding one and a quarter pounds of tea. It was divided into three sections; two were lined with tin holding two different types of tea, while the one in the

middle was a small porcelain or glass bowl with a spoon to blend them. The key to the 'cadhay' hung from the belt of the housekeeper or lady of the house, so that no one could steal any!

One startling fact was that the tea leaf has played its part in female emancipation in this country. Thomas Twining's granddaughter Mary inherited his coffee shop on the Strand and turned it into a grocer's selling 'Twinings' tea, for which Queen Anne had granted a royal license in 1711. At this time, there were very few public places where respectable women could visit and talk to their friends. Now they were able to sit and sip tea with each other at tables in the window without inviting adverse comment, while they waited delivery of their groceries. Twinings still hold the honour of being, 'Royal purveyors of tea'.

Such was the popularity of tea that demand exceeded supply and the amount of tea we could purchase from China was insufficient. So a gentleman called Robert Fortune was despatched to the Himalayas to find out the secrets of cultivating the bush. By dint of bribing the locals, he succeeded in stealing thousands of cuttings which he placed in sacks soaked in water. They were brought down on the backs of donkeys to British occupied India. Once Britain could produce the tea bush themselves they pulled out of trade with China virtually overnight, leaving thousands of people ruined. Bringing tea to Britain necessitated a supply of boats to bring it back to Britain; the age of the tea clipper was born. The most famous one, the Cutty Sark, can be seen in all her glory in Greenwich. Carrying in total one and a half square miles of sail, they were famous for their speed because they just 'clipped' the top of the waves. Bets were often placed as to which clipper would get to Britain first, and incredible as it may seem, on one occasion in 1846 there was a dead heat between two clippers who had left Bombay at the same time!

Tea really came into its own in Victorian times when the Establishment and the Church decided to crack down on the licensing trade, and stressed how repugnant and sinful it was to be drunk. A familiar phrase was: 'Tea, the drink that cheers but not inebriates.' Ironically, because the aristocracy and the middle classes did not want to be associated with the 'hoi-polloi', they created 'afternoon tea'. In Edwardian times a wealthy young lady may wear two different outfits for afternoon tea. At home with the family she could wear a negligee but, if she were receiving visitors, she had to wear a hat, a short jacket and a long flowing dress or skirt, together with kid gloves which she would only remove for eating bread and butter.

Russell finished with a few more interesting anecdotes; Brooke Bond PG Tips goes back to 1865. There was only a Mr. Brooke but he thought Brooke Bond sounded impressive. The name 'PG tips' was short for 'Pregested' which sounded impressive but in reality included the sweepings from the floor. The history of the teabag dates back to 1901, when they were made of raw silk with a thread of cotton. This signals the end of the ceremony of tea drinking and dawn of convenience! It took a very long time for it to catch on and by 1970 only 8% of the country used them; today 94% of tea sold is in the form of tea bags.

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Sunday 7th October

Harvest Festival Service at St George's Church 10.30

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Valerie Crooks, 'Land of the Midnight Sun'
CAMEO meeting in the Church Rooms 14.30 - 16.00

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Samara's Aid collection 09.00-11.00 Church rooms

'Sew and Company' : Memorial Hall 12.45 - 14.45

Weald Badminton Club in the Church Hall

19.30 - 20.30

Wednesday 10th October

Samara's Aid collection 09.00-11.00 Church rooms

Thursday 11th October

Mobile Library in the Memorial Hall car park

11.40 - 12.25

Friday 12th October

Sevenoaks Weald Art Group (SWAG) in the Memorial Hall 09.30 - 12.00

Saturday 13th October

Horticultural Society Annual Dinner in the Memorial Hall 19.15 for 19.30

Tuesday 16th October

Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells Beekeepers Lecture

'Cooking with Honey' by Mr P Vagg

in Weald Memorial Hall from 19.30 to 21.30

Weald Badminton Club in the Church Hall

19.30 - 20.30

Friday 19th October

Sevenoaks Weald Art Group (SWAG) in the Memorial Hall 09.30 - 12.00

Tuesday 23rd October

'Sew and Company' : Memorial Hall 12.45 - 14.45

Weald Badminton Club in the Church Hall

19.30 - 20.30

Wednesday 24th October

Parish Council Meeting in the Memorial Hall at 19.30

Thursday 25th October

Mobile Library in the Memorial Hall car park

11.40 - 12.25

'Soup & Scrabble' Memorial Hall from 12.00 -14.30

Friday 26th October

Sevenoaks Weald Art Group (SWAG) in the Memorial Hall 09.30 - 12.00

Tuesday 30th October

Weald Badminton Club in the Church Hall

19.30 - 20.30

NOVEMBER

Friday 2nd November

Sevenoaks Weald Art Group (SWAG) in the Memorial Hall 09.30 - 12.00

Saturday 3rd November

Village walk from the Memorial Hall at 09.45

Weald Fireworks: torchlight procession 18.30 from the Memorial Hall - fireworks and barbecue at the Scout Field 19.30

Sunday 4th November

All Souls Service of Remembrance 10.00 at St George's Church

Tuesday 6th November

'Sew and Company' : Memorial Hall 12.30 - 14.30

Weald Badminton Club in the Church Hall

19.30 - 20.30

Wednesday 7th November

Women of Weald AGM - Memorial Hall 14.15 - 16.30

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11.40 - 12.25

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