

VILLAGE DIARY

MAY			
2	Parish Council Meeting followed by Planning Committee	Village Hall	7.30pm
7	Annual Bluebell Walk	Village Hall Car Park	2.30pm
9	Parish Council Statutory Annual Meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
13	Football Festival	Playing Fields	All day
13	Innominata Concert	Church	7.30pm
24	History Society Wine & Buffet (Members Only)	Went House, West Malling	
27	Plant Sale	Churchyard	10.30am - 4pm
JUN			
4	Wateringbury Village Fete	Playing Fields	Noon - 5pm
11	Footpath Walk	Village Hall Car Park	2.30pm

June 4 - WATERINGBURY VILLAGE FETE at Playing Fields

Noon to 5pm Lots of Fun for Everyone

Grand Raffle with great prizes

Don't forget to keep your fete programme which is with May's Rostrum – take it along to the fete and enter the £25 cash draw

Wateringbury Junior Football Club enjoy our 20th year this Summer and part of the celebration is to hold a **football festival**. This event is to be held at the **playing fields** on **Saturday 13 May**. As well as the efforts and skills on the pitch there will be refreshments and side stalls for your entertainment. The day will be split into two sections; the under 10s and under 11s in the morning tournaments, starting at 9:45am and the under 9s and under 12s competing in the afternoon, starting at 2:15pm. A massive 72 matches are scheduled throughout the day. We have some amazing young talent in the village, so please come along and support the boys and girls. Up the Bury!

VILLAGE PEOPLE *Please let us have your news and tributes by 17 May for our June magazine. Entries are free*

Wedding Congratulations to Lucy Edmonds and Dipak Patel who are to be married in Notting Hill on **Friday 26 May**

John Edward Fisher 1934-2017

John was born in Dover and evacuated to Watlingtonbury with his family including his brother and two sisters in 1940.

John went to Watlingtonbury school followed by the boys technical school in Maidstone, an apprenticeship in engineering followed that led to National Service in the RAF based in Australia.

Unfortunately during this period an incident occurred resulting in life threatening injuries requiring long periods of rehabilitation. Throughout this time John was engaged to Val and married in 1962 setting up home in Glebe Meadow and remaining in the same house. John returned to engineering commencing work in Maidstone before working for Mr & Mrs Cayzer at the village garage, where he remained until health issues forced an early retirement. John continued to enjoy his garden and would often be seen walking with his rough collie around the village until loss of sight. In his final years as his health failed he was cared for devotedly by his wife Val.

APRIL PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

It was announced that **Dennis Stones had resigned** from the Council. The Chairman (Richard Tripp) asked the Clerk to write to Dennis and formally thank him for his years of service to the community. The vacancy caused by this resignation will hopefully be filled at the May meeting.

Richard Tripp thanked the Rostrum editors for their help in publicising vacancies on the Council. Five people had enquired about serving on the Council. There followed an election for a casual vacancy; there were 3 applicants and after a secret ballot it was declared that **Frances Fielding** had been the successful candidate. (Frances has lived in Phoenix Cottages since 2002). The two unsuccessful candidates can put their names forward to fill the remaining vacancy if they wish).

KCC Councillor Matthew Balfour reported that under the Local Transport Plan 4 the problems of traffic congestion at Watlingtonbury traffic lights had been included 'as a desire'. This meant that if money became available some work may be done. It was the first step in a long process.

A member of the public questioned Matthew about **the changes to the Arriva bus timetables**. Matthew agreed that the changes to the No 6 bus route through the village would cause great inconvenience to many people. KCC had no control over the bus company who had not responded to the many concerns raised. Another member of the public said she understood that our MP Tom Tugendhat had received a large number of letters from constituents on the timetable changes throughout the area. He too had met with Arriva. It would appear that Arriva had chosen to ignore all requests to reconsider its timetable changes which had recently come into effect.

In the elections on 4 May Matthew Balfour is standing for re-election. The Chairman thanked him for his regular attendance at Parish Council meetings over the past 4 years.

Borough Councillor Simon Jessel reported that the severe year-on-year withdrawal of grant monies from the National Government was causing grave concerns to Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council who are looking to sell assets to provide essential services. They were even considering selling the council offices at Kings Hill and leasing them back.

January Crime report – there were 2 reported crimes – both burglaries.

Standing Orders Councillors unanimously agreed to adopt updated procedures on Casual Vacancies.

Watlingtonbury Village Car Park Councillor David Marks reported on meetings he had instigated regarding the problems at the car park. After discussion it was agreed that the clerk request copies of deeds and covenants held by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council (owners of the car park) which related to the land and its operation. It was hoped that the parish council could gain some influence on its operation.

Internal Audit of Parish Accounts It was agreed that the Clerk ask Colin Hanley if he would carry out the audit.

Old Road Allotments – there was one vacant allotment.

Cemetery – the unwanted spoil had been cleared. The use of the car park for antisocial activities was a cause for concern. Although the hedge had been lowered it still hid the car park from view. It was agreed to write to the landowner requesting permission to remove the hedge and replace it with a picket fence.

Public Forum – Among the items raised were:

Village Fete on 4 June plans were progressing well but more volunteers were needed to ensure success. There were 32 stalls booked but 3 or 4 more could be accommodated.

Trees at Village Hall - concerns were expressed about the height and condition of the trees. The clerk was asked to seek advice from a tree surgeon.

Condition of A26 outside Post Office - work to install broadband cables had left the road in a poor state and despite requests the contractors had not made good the surface.

Blue Plaques - plans were progressing well for the erection of 7 blue plaques on properties in the village.

Planning - Councillors considered 2 planning applications:

TM/17/00358/FL two storey side extension and single storey rear extension at **136 Bow Road**. Councillors had no objection to the plans but were concerned that the property was in a Zone 1 flood area.

TM/17/00611/LB Listed Building Application to install a gas flue system going through the outer garden wall at **Glenside, 288 Old Road**. Concern was raised over the close proximity to the adjacent property that gas fumes would rise up to the bedrooms of 292 Old Road.

Next Meetings In May there are 2 meetings, the regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday 2 May at 7.30pm** and the Statutory Annual Meeting on **9 May** to receive the Chairman's Annual Report and the Annual report from the village school.

FOOTPATH WALK

The April walk took us to the edge of the Golf course at Flite Woods via Old Road and the Wisteria Cottage to Catering Woods, just a reconnoitre for next month's Bluebell walk. On the day, the woodland floor had a covering of Wood Anemone, Lesser Celandine and some Stitchwort, some bluebells were beginning to open.

Next Walk: 7 May meet Village Hall 2:30pm for our annual woodland Bluebell walk - hopefully a good show awaits us.

June Walk: will be on the **11th** (a week later than usual due to the village fete). Again, meet Village Hall at 2:30pm for a walk to Livesey Street and the river, (depending on conditions underfoot).

Kevin Reynolds 01622 813763

COVER PICTURE: The **Mont-Saint Michel** stands as a French echo of St Michael's Mount on the English side of the Channel.

FASHION SHOW & SALE

7pm Friday 12 May 2017

St James the Great Church, East Malling

Enjoy an evening of fashion and fun hosted by Travelling Trends

See, try and buy this season's fashions at greatly reduced prices

Tickets £10 from Shirley Gurteen 01732 521831

All the money raised will help us to build the Apple Tree Room

TESTON & WATERINGBURY PRESCHOOL

We continue this term with our theme 'people who help us' and look forward to welcoming one of our mums, Claire, who is a veterinary nurse who will be talking to the children about how to care for their pets.

We also have Mark and Jerry from our amazing animals paying us another visit to talk about how they run their rescue centre and bringing along some of their collection of animals including corn snakes, a skinny pig, a chinchilla, rabbits, a rat, a gecko, a bearded dragon and my favourite a loveable chameleon called Gonzo.

The children will also have their own Preschool pets to look after this term as we again welcome 5 hungry caterpillars who will, under the watchful eye of the children, grow into colourful butterflies come early summer when we will release them into our garden.

We are again collecting Sainsbury's vouchers this year and would welcome any of your unused vouchers, just drop them in to the preschool. Our children benefit greatly by the sports equipment that we receive through this scheme.

If you are interested in joining our preschool please contact **Tina Driver on 07805 796353** and come along for a taster session.

WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Summer term heralds the arrival of national examinations. Our Year 1 pupils will be taking the phonics screening test, our Year 2 pupils will be taking maths, reading and writing assessments and our Year 6 pupils will be sitting their end of key stage 2 SATs. The results of these examinations will be scrutinised by our teaching staff, the local authority, Ofsted and the DfE. What is most important to remember, however, is that any test is simply one measure of a child's educational and personal development. The full picture is much more complex, rich and interesting which is why we have the highest expectations of our children but refuse to narrow their primary school experience by teaching to the tests.

Our annual Spring Concert was a huge success at the close of last term with more than 40 children performing confidently with a solo instrument, in ensembles or as part of the school orchestra. Music at Wateringbury continues to grow, enriching the school and our pupils' lives.

We marked St George's Day with our annual flagpole assembly which coincided with the birthday of Queen Elizabeth II and a chance to honour her long life and service to the country. Our annual open air service with St John's to mark Rogation Sunday will take place on the school field on 21st May at 10:00, followed by games and a picnic. Term 5 ends on 26th May.

Mrs Chasey Crawford Usher – Headteacher
www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk

~ ~ ~ DANCE CLASSES ~ ~ ~

Freestyle dance classes for children aged between 5-11 years.
An opportunity for your children to learn Freestyle dance routines
whilst having fun.

Classes will be held at **Wateringbury Village Hall** after school on **Tuesdays**,
Details from Chrissie - info@cim-dance.com

The Gardens Open Day alongside Yalding Beekeepers **Sunday 14 May 10:30 to 16:00**

A fantastic opportunity to enjoy these much loved private gardens in spring. Throughout the day, there will be live music playing - so why not have a lazy Sunday and relax in the tranquillity of the gardens with a mid-late morning refreshment and a piece of homemade cake in the beekeepers refreshment tent, or stay on for a hog roast lunch with a cold beverage from The Gardens staffed bar.

Visit the beekeepers apary in the paddock, see live bees behind glass in an observation hive, make your own solitary bee house, or find out more about beekeeping. Or just browse some beekeeping equipment, craft, plant and country stalls.

The Beekeepers Auction is back this year and info for buyers or sellers can be obtained by emailing treasurer@yaldingbeekeepers.co.uk

Entry fee of £5 per person, children under 16 are free. Free parking. Sorry no dogs (except guide dogs). Disabled access friendly. The Gardens, Benover Road, Yalding ME18 6EX

DIG THIS - RENT AN ALLOTMENT

And grow your own produce
There is a vacant allotment in Old Road
Contact the Parish Clerk on 01622 817068

WATERINGBURY FOOTBALL CLUB



**th ANNIVERSARY
FOOTBALL FESTIVAL**

Saturday 13 May 2017

Wateringbury Playing Fields, Fields Lane, ME18 5NQ

Morning Session: 9.45am-12.45pm - under 10s and under 11s

Afternoon Session: 2.15pm-5.15pm - under 9s and under 12s

*** Great Football * Refreshments * Side shows ***
Come down and show your support for our local club

We are very grateful to the following for their support of the event
**John Childs Associates, The Moody Mare, John Evans General
Builder, Tapestry, The Youth Worker Co, Beautiful Beauty Therapist**

NEW PET SHOP OPENED RECENTLY IN WATERINGBURY.....

PETS LOVE US

Inside of Medway Wharf Marina ME18 5ED

*** Free Parking * Disabled Access * Free Advice ***

Tel: 0333 666 6364

Saturday 13 May, 7.00pm for 7.30pm

including a Cockney Supper (Steak & Ale Pie and Mash, and Apple Crumble)
with Entertainment

Tickets at £12 each are available from Fr Derek (01732 874420 or derekandpam@dcarpenter3.orangehome.co.uk). He will happily deliver them to you. Brush up you Cockney Rhyming slang in advance so that you understand the language during the evening!! Fr Derek is helping with a project to raise £180,000 for the Campsite at Comp Wood.

WAR NEWS, MAY 1917

May 4: first U.S. destroyers arrive in Queenstown, Ireland
16: end of Battle of Arras on Western front
24: first Atlantic convoy, following very heavy merchant ship losses to submarines
25: first massive German air raid by 23 Gothas on Folkestone with 290 casualties

Arthur Henry Hodge died on 2nd May when his ship was sunk in the English Channel. Arthur was the village's 6th naval fatality of the war. His photo is from his obituary in the Kent Messenger. Arthur lived with his wife near the North Pole, and worked for The Phoenix Brewery as a drayman (a deliveryman using a low, flat-bed wagon without sides, pulled by horses).

In May 1915 he was included on a list in the parish magazine of men who had been rejected for military service as medically unfit. The list was probably published to deter the giving out of white feathers in the village. However, in December 1915 he enlisted, before conscription was introduced, in the navy. His enlistment record shows him as 5ft. 8¹/₄ inches tall with a 39 inch chest, light brown hair, hazel eyes and a fresh complexion. He joined HMS. Derwent, in February 1917, as a stoker 1st class. HMS Derwent was an elderly (launched 1903) 550 ton destroyer, with a complement of 70 officers and men. Part of the 1st destroyer flotilla, its duty was to escort convoys across the channel. It hit a contact mine laid by a German submarine, UC 26, off Le Havre sinking with the loss of 58 officers and men. Arthur was 36 years of age and, as he came originally from Teston, he is on both village war memorials. Two days after HMS Derwent sank, the first US destroyers and crews arrived in Ireland. Placed under British command, they enabled the convoy system for merchant ships with naval protection to be extended to Atlantic crossings, reducing the critical losses of merchant ships. Six days later the UC 26 was rammed and sunk off Calais by a British destroyer.

On the home front, the village seems to have been quiet in May and the parish magazine was largely devoted to ecclesiastical matters. The problems discussed make a strange contrast to the slaughter continuing on all war fronts.

There was concern that the Churchwardens' accounts for the year ended 31st March showed that the Churchwardens were personally owed over £30: a special appeal was to be held. Nevertheless, it had been agreed that the vestry clerk's salary was to be increased by nearly a third and the collection on Whitsunday would go to the assistant curate as a war bonus. The Church organ needed to be overhauled: "the principal coupler refuses to act; some of the stops require two hands and much strength to pull them out; and many notes have a habit of cyphering*.

Terry Bird <https://www.sites.google.com/site/wateringburylocalhistory/>

* An organ cypher is the continuous sounding of an organ pipe when the key is not depressed.

COFFEE, CRAFT AND CHAT

This month we will meet on **Wednesdays 3, 17 and 31 May** between **10.30am - 12.30pm in the church**. Join us for tea/coffee, homemade cake, conversation and optional knitting, crocheting, etc. For more details call 814673.

HISTORY SOCIETY

Bob Ogley made his 8th visit to speak at the Society on Wednesday, and true to form his talk "The Great Storm and how it changed my life" was superb. We had of course all heard the story of the hurricane, which according to Michael Fish, was not a hurricane, just a storm, but Bob brought it all back to life with his charming relaxed delivery, with many anecdotes and stories and how it did indeed change his life. After the success of his book, which was in the best sellers list for many weeks, he was besieged by Counties around the country, asking him to produce similar books about their experiences. He also visited Jamaica to see the results of "Gilbert" which really was a hurricane!

There will be no meeting at the hall in May – it is the Society's Wine and Buffet meeting – slight change of date – 24th May, (not 17th as shown in the programme). This will take place at Went House in West Malling and is open to members only.

We hold our AGM on 21st June. Unfortunately our speaker has had to cancel, due to unforeseen circumstances, but a new speaker is being sought and we will notify members next month.

MUSIC ON THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION VILLAGE (Charity No. 210063)

SUMMER CONCERT SAT 20TH MAY 2017 - 2:30PM

All welcome to RBLI's free Summer Concert, held in the beautiful Garden of Honour in RBLI, Hall Road, Aylesford ME20 7NL. The Kent Police Band will proudly present RBLI's free Summer Concert. The 25 piece band will play show tunes, popular marches and classical music. Refreshments will be provided by onsite Café Base Camp, and there will be parking and toilet facilities within walking distance

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Saturday, 27 May 2017

10.00am – 4.00pm

at the Church of St John the Baptist, Watlington

** * * * a great choice of plants for all types of gardens * * * **

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 14-20 May 2017

Helping refugees since 1945: Your support is more vital now than ever.

Please look out for the little red envelopes coming through your door for the annual house-to-house collection in the village and be as generous as you can. All the door-to-door collectors live in Watlington and give their time freely for this important charity. Christian Aid helps the poorest peoples of the world, regardless of creed or culture, to work to improve their lives. Christian Aid Week was started 60 years ago to support refugees in Europe in the aftermath of the Second World War, and Christian Aid continues today to be a rock for those in need and far from home.

If you would like to help with this year's collection please phone **Becky** on **01622 813396**."

OPEN GARDEN for CHRISTIAN AID at BISHOPSCOURT

Saturday 13 May, 11.00am to 3.00pm.

Come and Support **Christian Aid** by visiting the garden at **Bishopscourt**

Teas, Wonderful Homemade Cakes and a Plant Sale

Entry £2.00. Dogs welcome on a lead, disabled access to most of the garden

Bishopscourt, 24 St Margaret's Street, Rochester, ME1 1TS

SIMPLY SOUP LUNCHES

Thank you to everyone who supported our Simply Soup lunches during Lent. A total of £345 was raised for the following charities: Send-a-Cow £65, Heart of Kent Hospice £68, Christian Aid £74, Embrace the Middle East £58 and MS Society £80. The charities were chosen by the 5 catering teams who made and served a variety of delicious soups and cakes.

PRIESTLY PONDERINGS

Rev Nick Williams

father.nick@btinternet.com

The Vicarage, 2 The Grange

parishofficeemwt@gmail.com

East Malling ☎ 01732 843282

Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Alleluia, Christ is risen. This short sentence, used for the first time this year when a rather bleary eyed group of people from all three congregations gathered for the first communion of Easter at Dawn on Easter morning outside the church at East Malling. For Christians it heralds new hope reminding us of the certainty that Jesus Christ has triumphed over death and evil and risen from the grave. Or it seems it only means that for some people. I say that because as was reported by our newspapers and extensively by the BBC half of the 2,010 people surveyed on behalf of the BBC did not believe in the resurrection. Ok you may say that is only to be expected we are after all becoming a more secular society. We then discover that only 37% of Christians believe in the resurrection, which is a slightly different story (you can find the survey at

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-39153121>.

Clearly something is wrong when 63% of those who describe themselves as Christians don't subscribe to the major cornerstone of the faith. The question we need to ask ourselves is why might this be and why should anyone else choose to believe what we say we believe when 63% don't believe

it themselves. It's a problem and on the face of things it is disheartening, but it's no bigger a problem and no less disheartening than the situation faced by the disciples following the crucifixion.

With the help of the risen Christ they took heart, their faith in the promises of Jesus was itself resurrected and they were inspired to take their faith out into the world around them, a faith that continues to this very day and daily through acts of faith, compassion and friendship helps millions to know the love of Jesus Christ and his Church for all people.

These statistics are disappointing, but they shouldn't be disheartening, they tell us we need to make our Church more relevant to the people around us, we need to help people inside as well as outside the Church to regain the belief in what Jesus Christ did for each and every one of us, Christians should see those statistics as a challenge not a death sentence, and answering that challenge is the continuing task of all our Churches as people born again into the hope and joy of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave.

Rev Nick Williams

INNOMINATA CONCERT

IN WATERINGBURY CHURCH

SATURDAY 13 MAY 7 FOR 7.30pm

A group of dedicated singers, singing a cappella

and making most enjoyable and relaxing music

Tickets from Post Office or Handy Stores £7.50 accompanied children free

EASTER FUN WITH FAITH - SATURDAY 15TH APRIL

Although it was overcast, the weather stayed dry for our Easter Saturday. This meant, the children were able to do one of their favourite activities; egg rolling down the church path and had a good run around finding the clues to a quiz. The morning started with Rev Nick telling the start of the Easter story before the children went into their groups. As usual, the children were so well behaved and a calm of concentration flowed throughout. Two hours passed quickly and was enjoyed by children and helpers alike. After the final re-enactment from Rev Nick we held our prize giving of chocolate and lots of it! Size certainly didn't matter in the egg rolling this year. Three of our younger children won the top three prizes: 18.1m, 15.3m and 15.2m so well done Chloe, Iona & Joshua respectively. More prizes for wonderful colouring and acts of kindness and consideration to others were given and of which there were many. Each child was sent home laden with goodies; Easter garden, stained glass window, decorated cakes and biscuits, a sticker scene of the Last Supper and design of colourful patterns on a wooden cross already made as a wind-chime. A banner showing the story of the holy week was coloured in and is hanging up on one of the church walls. Our standalone cross had sad messages written on shapes of nails but then decorated with a long paper chain and flowers of glorious colour added. This was carried into the church as part of the service on Easter Sunday and it looks wonderful. For this event to happen, I need a band of helpers and every year they do not fail me! Not only turning up to help but they make the experience for each child such a happy one. Thank you to these amazing people and this year. I had 39 helpers! I must mention special thanks to Claire who, as usual, did a fantastic display on the cross. Also, Jan, Angela and Cathy for the continuous supply of refreshments of drinks and biscuits to the children and cuppas with delicious hot cross buns to the helpers! Lastly, I would like to thank Wateringbury School. Each year you allow us to use your tables and any stationery items, so thank you Mrs Crawford-Usher and Rob Brydon-Brown. I'm looking forward to seeing the children again on Saturday 31st March 2018.

Debbie Bond

BENEFICE SERVICES

Visit our website www.wateringburychurch.org.uk

SUNDAY 7 MAY 8.30am Holy Communion - East Malling 9.45am Family Service – East Malling 9.45am Family Service – Teston 10am Holy Communion – Wateringbury	SUNDAY 14 MAY 9.45am Holy Communion – East Malling 9.45am Children's Church - Teston 10am Matins - Wateringbury 6.30pm – Evensong - Teston
SUNDAY 21 MAY 8.30am PB Communion - Wateringbury 9.45am Eucharist - East Malling 9.45am Children's Church - Teston 10am Family Service for Rogation at Wateringbury School** 6.30pm Holy Communion - Teston	SUNDAY 28 MAY 8.30am Communion – East Malling 9.45am Morning Praise – East Malling 9.45am Children's Church - Teston 10am Holy Communion – Wateringbury 6.30pm Eucharist - Teston
Every Monday – 2-3pm – Scout & Guide HQ, Glebe Meadow – Toddler Praise	
Every Thursday - 9am in East Malling Church – Holy Communion	
Pilsdon Community, 27 Water Lane, West Malling - Rev Viv Ashworth invites you to the Barn Chapel to join members of the community for a Eucharist Service every Wednesday at noon and 6pm on Sundays	
For baptisms, weddings, funerals and other arrangements please contact the Vicar Rev Nick Williams on 01732 843282 or email father.nick@btinternet.com For all other enquiries, please contact the Administrator on 01622 815218 or email parishofficeemwt@gmail.com	

SPECIAL SERVICES AND EVENTS

****On Sunday 21 May** we will be holding our **Rogation Service**, by kind invitation, **on the field at Wateringbury CofE Primary School** (or in the school hall in the case of rain). This will be a family-friendly service at the usual time of 10am, and everyone is welcome. If you don't know what the ancient festival of Rogation is, come along to find out more! Please bring folding chairs/picnic blankets for your own comfort!"

IN OUR JOYS AND SORROWS - FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS:

Baptism - we welcomed into the family of the Church: **Sophia Catherine Meheux** on 19 March 2017.

Holy Matrimony - our congratulations to **Tommy Tutt** and **Sophie Braybrooke** who were married on 7 April 2017.

Funerals - we extend our deepest sympathy to the friends and loved ones of **Ellen Eileen Lancaster** (21 March) and **Stanley David Lawrence** (27 March).