

## ROSTRUM JUNE 2020 E EDITION

Our next issue will cover the summer months of July and August and will be our third e only version of our village magazine. We hope to resume our normal hard copy magazine in September but this will depend on government guidance. If you have a neighbour without an internet access, please consider printing it out for them. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Christine, Ela and Trudy

### VILLAGE PEOPLE

*Please let us have your news and tributes by 17 June for our July/August double issue E edition of the magazine. Entries are free*

**Congratulations to Bob and Sandra Edmunds** on the arrival of their granddaughter **Juno Georgiana Patel** who was born on 1st May in Kings Hospital, London weighing in at 7lbs 8oz. A first baby for **Lucy and Dipak**

#### **RIP Peter George Curd 28 July 1928 – 18 May 2020**

Peter was the middle child of James George and Dorothy Audrey Curd, an old established local family. He lived all his life in Pizienwell and at the age of 4 he moved with his family to 141 Pizienwell Road, and there he spent the rest of his days. He started his working life as an interior decorator. At the age of 19 he became a carpenter and worked with the local bomb damage repair team. Later he made chestnut fencing in the local woods. His love of gardening led to his final job which was as gardener at Mereworth Castle. His own garden was always a picture and gave enjoyment to many passers-by. A recent fall caused Peter to be hospitalised and he died in Pembury Hospital from Corona related pneumonia. His cremation will be on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

#### **The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of death of Tom Smith (1893-1920)**

Tom Smith from Canon Lane, Watlingbury was buried in the family grave at Watlingbury cemetery a hundred years ago on 17<sup>th</sup> June 1920. Tom's name is on both the village and Watlingbury School war memorials.

Tom had enlisted as a volunteer in the army shortly after the outbreak of World War I in 1914. Initially serving in France, he was later sent to Greece serving on the Salonika front where there was a very high level of casualties from disease. When discharged from the army in 1919 he was assessed as 100% disabled and he died, aged 27, the following year in the military hospital at Fort Pitt, Chatham.

He is the only WWI casualty to be buried in the village cemetery. He would have been entitled to a Commonwealth War Grave if buried at the hospital. His grave is now badly neglected.

Many, many thanks to **Benny and Rupal** at the **Handy Stores** and to all our local businesses for their first class service to us all during the Corona lock-down. And of course to **Borough Councillor Sarah Hudson and her volunteers** for organising the Community Fridge at the village hall twice a week.

**Thank You** At the beginning of the lockdown period I found a gift on my front doorstep. It was a sunflower seedling in a small pot along with a message to "keep smiling and keep safe". This unexpected kind gesture not only made me smile, but shed a tear too. Thank you young neighbours, **Jamie and Freddie**, for your thoughtfulness. *Trudy*

#### **Be a good neighbour, cut your boundary hedges, trees and shrubs**

Please do try and think of your neighbours and keep your boundary greenery under control. Overhanging shrubs can be a source of nuisance for your neighbours. If front boundary greenery is not kept under control it can be a source of danger for pedestrians if they have to duck or step off the pavement to avoid it.

#### **Crossroads Care appeal**

Crossroads Care Kent, a registered charity, are putting out an appeal to local residents who may be receiving Government food parcels which they do not necessarily need. Crossroads supports a number of Young Carer families who are struggling to afford their increased shopping bills. Crossroads have started distributing food parcels to them from donated supplies. Crossroads office is

in the heart of Watlington, near the GP surgery so excess food parcels can be dropped off during office hours.

## **HISTORY SOCIETY**

The Society is hoping to gather together a collection of memories and photos of village life in lock-down and living with the Coronavirus. Contributions would be most welcome and should be sent to [rostrum2@hotmail.com](mailto:rostrum2@hotmail.com)

## **VE 75 - 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020**

The celebrations to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of WW2 in Europe were, like the nation's events, different from those originally planned. However, streets answered the call to hold Stay at Home Front Garden Street parties. Many dug into their cupboards and found bunting and decorated their houses and front gardens. Street and gate artists were also at work drawing on gates and roads.

These local events were all the more appreciated since they were a welcome break from the lock-down isolation and gave neighbours the opportunity to mark the occasion in a fun, social distancing, way.

Those belonging to the local scouts were set challenges to make bunting and posters and cook cakes for the celebration tea party. The big challenge was to camp out overnight in their back gardens.



VE 75 at Canon Lane



VE 75 at Canon Lane



VE 75 at Canon Lane





VE 75 at The Brucks



VE 75 at The Brucks

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## **TED BATES SHARES SOME PERSONAL MEMORIES OF THE FIRST VE DAY**

In 1945 and after more than five years of warfare, few had even begun to imagine how it would all end. When the end came in Europe it was as a big surprise to most. You could positively 'feel' the relief and joy felt by everyone. At that time and aged 15, (and long before the NHS had been invented), I was a bed-patient in the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital at Stanmore, Middlesex, suffering from the then incurable disease of tuberculosis affecting both my left wrist and my right knee. The only treatment available at that time was to immobilise the affected joints in a splint or plaster, and bed-rest in a Sanatorium - not just for a few weeks, or for a matter of months, but usually for years. When Victory-in-Europe Day came on 8th May, I had been in bed both at Stanmore and in Scotland where the whole hospital had been evacuated at short notice to avoid the V1 doodlebugs and V2 rockets, for some twenty months. The regime in both had been a cross between that of a strict boarding school and a military camp, with the Ward Sister acting as the Commandant, discipline being enforced by the switching off of the only wireless in the ward, the main source of news from outside.

As dusk fell that evening, I found myself dancing with many others around a huge bonfire built that day by the Junior Doctors, Nurses, and the very few up-Patients, to the now-familiar music of Glenn Miller, Joe Loss, and Vera Lyn. Much to the surprise of us both, I found myself dancing (in my pyjamas) with the attractive and young(ish) Matron who was well aware from the various scrapes with which I had been involved, that I should have been in bed and asleep some hours earlier. The free-standing Ward Block Boys which was my home, sported a small clock tower on the roof. An athletic House Surgeon had by now crawled up this roof and jammed the handle of a metal bed-pan on the hour hand of the clock - and thus time passed unrecorded. By virtue of the Google-Earth web-site, I recently revisited the scene, and was not entirely unsurprised to note that the metal hour-hand is still slightly bent, after 75 years have passed!

Where have all those years gone? So many people have come and gone in that time. Where have all the loves, hopes and hates, and mixed experiences gone? But war continued in the Far-East for a few more months until VJ Day in September, and after the dropping of two Atom Bombs on the people of Japan - but that is another story. I and many other Christian people prayed for a cure to be found for TB, and many years later one was, but the first antibiotic drug Penicillin had already been discovered. Trials were held at Stanmore in the RNOH, but the results were sadly negative. However Penicillin did prove to be a cure for another illness from about which one in three children in the hospital suffered, namely Osteomyelitis. So I lived to see the miracle of one in three of the child patients go home cured, only six weeks after the introduction of this revolutionary drug. Some few years later I became a trial patient for the second antibiotic drug, Streptomycin, which did prove to be effective against TB. So I would ask everyone who cares to keep praying for a cure to be found soon for the Coronavirus illness, as I know from my own experience that we do have a loving God, who listens.

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## **CHURCH ONLINE: A VIEW FROM A VIRTUAL PEW**

The closure of ordinary Church operations was as unexpected for SJB as it was in all other aspects of life. The last few days had frantic communications from the diocese every few days until at last it was clear that we could not keep the building open safely and then the general order went out. It was a shock. I went down and locked the door, after saying the Lord's Prayer alone in the central aisle, and we placed notices up.

From the outside the Church may look like a quiet place but there must be at least a dozen different groups running meetings and activities that all had to stop. For a moment there was just the shock of it, amongst all the other shock.

Easter was fast approaching yet no services possible. At the same time, the bitterness of a series of deaths in our community pummelled home the realisation that the usual range of support measures and consolations for the deceased and their loved ones were also being interrupted. A large portion of the people who were the central volunteers of the community would need to be shielded.

For a moment it was as if the community had been stopped in its tracks. In fact, it only had been stunned.

One of the Church Wardens thought we should form a working party - a virtual group to try to work out what else is possible. So Liz, one of the wardens, Barry, Lay Reader and chair of the Church council, and Christine from the Church newsletter Team agreed to meet online. I was 'tech-support'.

But to do this meant training. Now you might not have characterized the more .... 'senior elders' of the Church as being the type that would respond well to a Skype call. And I cannot pretend that I would choose to train someone in online video calls down a phone line. In fact, to think of it now, I have no idea how we got it all working.

But something else was going on. A steely determination formed amongst a set of pretty hardy folk who don't like being stopped. That stubbornness, which might in other circumstances have more commonly prevented something, now turned to set its eyes on the thing that was getting in the way - the virus. And whatever doubts or hesitations about social media and the virtual world there might have been before, were now shoved aside because a more important value was at stake - *feeling connected as a community*.

The weekly Church Newsletter *went rogue* under Christine who instituted emergency innovations! It was clear that this email newsletter was the only surviving link that could reach almost everyone. Throwing aside all careful conventions about maintaining a tone largely associated with the service and a few news items, it rapidly expanded remit and content range. Reflections, memories, jokes, and a widening group of contributors assembled and produced. Subscriptions started to rise. Solutions for 'non-emailers' were found.

Meanwhile the online worship phenomena had kicked into life in the bigger Churches but Easter was upon us and SJB was shut. So the virtual group initiated *the experiment*. Canon Liz Walker, who was helping us while we looked for a new vicar, was invited to send an audio recording which we combined with a video of a corner of a garden and put it on YouTube. We thought YouTube was easy enough for most folk to find. It also provided data on usage which was to become fascinating. At the same time we invited members of the congregation to take a photo of three candles for Good Friday to remember some early losses to families in our community. These were combined into a slideshow with music also on YouTube. Both proved popular.

It was decided *the experiment* was a success and now it really started to get out of hand. Additional components were added to produce a program shape and people got themselves trained in audio recording and emailing. A few actually record their elements under their duvets to maximise sound quality. The team of contributors expanded and the numbers of listeners grew.

Fast forward to the present. Video teams scout good recordings from our gardens and local surrounds. There is a growing list of rotas of prayer speakers, readers, sermon givers, and service 'top and trailers' with the return of music and recordings from our bells - Yes! those are *our bells* being rung by the bell ringers at the start. The regular weekly views exceed our previous congregation numbers by some margin.

But this is not the half of it!

Skype meetings and Fellowship groups began, and a WhatsApp group kicked into life and quickly got right out of hand with a commitment to joy combined with moments of sincere solidarity. The full Church Council has resumed ordinary operations online. SJB has leapt into the 21st century!

It is only a fraction of the life of Church that we usually experience in our little community and the loss of face to face pastoral care cannot be replaced. We know there are a lot of scared folk out there. But the feedback on what the teams have been able to do has underlined the value of these efforts in our extraordinary times. There will come a time when the building is reopened, but the Church in this virtual way *is open*. Its spirit is alive.

If you have not joined before because of a fear of crossing that threshold, now you can step into our virtual community and find a real welcome. If long ago you stopped coming and are nervous or embarrassed about the idea of returning. Do not be. Get in touch. The word Church means to assemble. If you are interested, come in, click the links and join the assembly. Our Youtube page is <http://tiny.cc/krymmz>. Our Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/wateringburychurch>. Email [sjbnewsletter99@gmail.com](mailto:sjbnewsletter99@gmail.com) if you are interested in our weekly congregational newsletter.

Bob Bowie

## **ON LINE CHURCH SERVICES FROM WATERINGBURY CHURCH**

The church have now developed a short audio worship for each Sunday. It is put on line each week and is available at any time. The worship consists of opening and closing music, an address and prayers and lasts between 15-20 minutes. Worth a listen.



Here is the link <http://tiny.cc/krymmz>

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June - address given by Canon Liz Walker  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June - address given by Barry Fisher  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June - - the all age worship team  
Sunday 28<sup>t</sup> June - address given by Rev Jim Brown

**From West Peckham comes The Dambusters Hymn for us to enjoy**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7BLutyfPMAQ&feature=youtu.be>

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## THE WATERINGBURY PLAYERS

If we cast our minds back to the last weekend in January, another highly successful Panto, Robin Hood and The Babes in the Wood was performed by The Wateringbury Players. A fantastic cast and crew put together a hilarious, fun-filled, edge of your seat romp through medieval England. Much fun was had by all. Robin Hood and The Babes in the Wood made a surplus of £1957. A magnificent sum which will enable us to make good donations to our named charities this year:

Mesothelioma UK

The Kenward Trust

St John the Baptist Church Wateringbury.

Many thanks for all the continued support and we look forward to seeing you all at our next production. Stay safe and healthy.

The Wateringbury Players

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## THE "SPANISH" FLU

Wateringbury was hit by the so-called "Spanish" flu in July 1918 with 17 children absent from school according to the Wateringbury school log, "most of them suffering from influenza". This flu probably originated in Kansas, USA and was brought to Europe by American troops. It gained the name "Spanish" flu as the British, French and German newspapers minimised their reporting of it during World War I for security reasons, whereas Spain, which was neutral in the war, had fewer press restrictions. The Wateringbury parish magazine stopped in May 1918 because of paper shortages, and only restarted in 1920 so a key local information source is absent for the period of the epidemic.

The "Spanish" flu had a more severe impact on people in their prime, without underlying conditions, than on the young and the elderly. Although vaccines had been developed by 1918 for various diseases, microscopes at the time were unable to see viruses and so the chances of the development of a successful vaccine were minimal. However, this particular strain of flu eventually disappeared.

The second wave of the flu, with fewer infections but more fatalities in the U.K., started in September 1918. The Prime Minister, Lloyd George, spent several weeks close to death, but it was successfully covered up. The government saw the war effort as the clear priority so work places remained open, as did pubs. The main brewery in Wateringbury, Leney's, which owned a large portfolio of pubs, does not even refer to the flu in its board minutes. Decisions as to whether to close schools or not were taken locally not nationally. The vicar decided to close Wateringbury School on 24<sup>th</sup> October due to staff and pupil absences. It reopened on 4<sup>th</sup> November, despite continuing absences, although cooking classes were suspended. There were no fatalities recorded of pupils and staff until the third wave in March 1919 when a teaching assistant, Miss Tappler, died.

Looking at the burial book for Wateringbury, there was an increase in deaths in 1918 but whether these were from the flu is not known. Food shortages had become more serious in 1918 than previously in the war. Most 1918 burials were elderly people and men in their prime were out of the village at war. At least a couple of Wateringbury men serving in the war are known to have died from the flu. Fred Martin from Bow Road died on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918, the last day of the war, at a Prisoner of War camp in Cologne, most probably of the flu. He had attended Wateringbury School and had been a scout in the Wateringbury troop. Walter Neeves from Tonbridge Road, who had also attended Wateringbury School, died in France at the end of 1918, after the armistice. He was in the newly formed R.A.F. and his service record shows influenza as the cause of death.

The long term impact of the flu pandemic was surprisingly small given the number of fatalities. The collective consciousness of Spanish flu is reduced by its coincidence with war, but consciousness of it is now increasing during the current pandemic. The range of estimates for fatalities globally exceeds 50 million, many times the number killed in the war. For the U.K. the loss of over 220,000 was less than the UK's casualties from the war but more than the current epidemic.

The "Spanish" flu and Covid-19 are different diseases. The worlds they infected are different. In 1918 the disaster of flu came on top of the disaster of war. Nevertheless we can see similarities and differences between "Spanish" flu and Covid-19, but the final outcome of Covid-19 is as yet unknown.

Terry Bird

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## **WATERINGBURY SURGERY**

### **Update - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Surgery Planning:**

Wateringbury Surgery wants to keep our patients and staff as safe as possible during this difficult time. Therefore, we are continuing with the following temporary changes to our services

- 1) All online appointment bookings will be suspended.
- 2) All GP appointment requests will be triaged by a GP. The receptionist will take your details and a GP will call you back (please ensure you remain near the telephone or have your mobile with you at all times). If the GP feels it is appropriate for you to be seen, they will book you an appointment at the surgery. The receptionist cannot book any appointments with the GPs
- 3) We will continue to book some appointments with the Practice Nurses, HCAs and Phlebotomist, however, on the day of your appointment do not attend if you have a new continuous cough or a high temperature (hot to touch on your chest or back). Please telephone and cancel.
- 4) We will be sending screening text messages prior to appointments to ensure patients are well before attending.
- 5) Attending for appointments

You will be asked when you are booked for an appointment the make and colour of your car. On arrival at the surgery please wait in your car (if walked to the surgery wait outside at a safe distance from patients collecting medication) .The clinician you are due to see will come out to the car park and escort you into the surgery.

#### **6) Medication requests**

If you need to request medication and you usually drop your request into the surgery please telephone the surgery between the hours of 10:00 – 12:30 and 14:30 - 16:30 and select option 3 for the prescription line or alternatively download the NHS app.

#### **7) Medication deliveries**

If you are a dispensing patient and have received a letter or text as you are a high risk patient or shielding and do not have a family member, relative, friend or neighbour to collect your medication we can deliver your medication to you. Please contact the surgery and asked to be added to the delivery list. If you usually collect the prescription to take to a pharmacy we can arrange to send this electronically to a nominated pharmacy of your choice. Please contact the surgery to arrange this.

8) Doctorlink. This is an online symptom assessment service which you can register for via our website. The symptom checker will ask you a number of questions to help to identify your problem. The outcome of your assessment will direct you to the right treatment, whether emergency care, your GP, nurse or self-care.

Once the request has been submitted, you will then be contacted by the Practice Team, to arrange an appointment within the identified time-frame (as outlined in the outcome of your symptom checker). This system avoids the Patient calling the surgery to be added to the triage list.

The information you provide will be shared with our clinical team (where appropriate) and will assist in providing robust information of your problem to the required clinical team member prior to your appointment.

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## **WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Lockdown and online school have become the new norm for teachers and families, and whilst it may be 'remote' teaching and learning, in many ways our school community is closer than ever.

Our staff have adapted quickly to new online routines and have also maintained a safe and caring environment in school for the children of key workers through term-time and the holiday periods. Staff are also managing their own families and home learning for their own children so this is no small feat. School families have risen to the challenge of keeping their children motivated and enthusiastic about home learning whilst also juggling their own jobs, household routines and care for family members. We know that this has been a big ask for parents and has not been without its challenges. Parents have worked with us closely throughout to keep us informed about their children's learning and mental and physical wellbeing. Through photos, videos, emails and phone calls, we can see the work – and the fun. We remain confident that our children's positive outlook and energy will enable them to return to school as the independent and creative learners that we know and love. The children will also have acquired new skills and resilience as they've adapted to lockdown. For some, the challenges will have been great and these children and families have our total commitment to restoring their confidence, positive attitudes, mental health and academic success.

Even though we've been apart for many weeks now, we have kept channels of communication open. Our weekly school newsletter continues to circulate with photo montages, ideas for family fun and key information. We have enjoyed sharing our children's successes, ideas and activities in our newsletter and this has enabled us all to stay connected. Our children's creativity and acts of kindness have made us all smile each week. We've shared news of edible science experiments, stay-at-home St George's Day and VE Day celebrations, pebble art, sketching sessions, cardboard box creations, painting with vegetables, home baking and weekly musical thank you performances for our wonderful NHS. In time, we will find ways to collate and celebrate all that we have achieved individually and collectively during this most unusual of times.

For now, our focus is on maintaining the routines, keeping the dialogue flowing and reinforcing the importance of children's mental health and wellbeing. We are also busy preparing our back-to-school strategy as the lockdown begins to ease. The health, safety and wellbeing of our staff and pupils will be at the centre of all our decision-making during this process.

At the forefront of our minds, is also the urgent need to press ahead with our plans to expand two of our smaller classrooms, which are 37% below the Department for Education's current recommended classroom size. This project is now more critical than ever as socially distanced lessons become something we all have to adjust to. Our capital campaign to fund this project came to a halt just as the coronavirus pandemic took hold. We are now appealing to the local community and businesspeople to support this critical campaign with a donation, large or small, so that we can undertake this work in the summer holidays. The completion of this project will also be a fitting tribute to Richard Dunn, our school governor who sadly passed away recently due to coronavirus. Richard championed this cause for the benefit of the pupils and our school before his untimely death. Please visit our fundraising page at <https://www.givey.com/classrooms2020> if you would like to help or email our Co-chair of Governors, Gail Isted, at [gisted@wateringbury.kent.sch.uk](mailto:gisted@wateringbury.kent.sch.uk) or phone 07792 451284 for more details.

*This is a very special community and we thank you all for your ongoing support during these unprecedented times. Stay safe and stay in touch.*

**Chasey Crawford Usher – Headteacher**  
**[www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk](http://www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk)**

## **WATERINGBURY GUIDES**

My last update was sent literally as lockdown was announced and for a while guiding virtually came to a halt. We have now found our way out of the bunker and have been sending the girls many varied activities to try at home. Some of the girls have been documenting their aspirations; others

have enjoyed making and eating confectionery (now they can obtain most of the ingredients!). They have been making cocktails for their mixology badge, and trying their hand at upcycling and craftivism.

Inevitably, our sailing day, the patrol camp, the trip to Wicked in London and a day trip to Margate have all gone and as I write I'm waiting to hear the fate of a water fun day and our canal boat trip. Sadly, the summer term is our busiest and best time and I feel really sorry for the girls as they are missing out on a wide range of outdoor activities. We can only hope that we get the green light to start outdoor activities soon subject to the all the social distancing rules and if so, we might consider trying to meet through the summer holidays to make up for lost time and provide fun and stimulating activities for our girls in a safe environment.

Sheena and Emily

1<sup>st</sup> Wateringbury Guides

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## TESTON AND WATERINGBURY PRESCHOOL

During lockdown we have been so proud of our children. They have been keeping very busy with their families; painting, crafting, enjoying long walks and even learning to ride their bicycles. Thanks to all parents and children for keeping us all entertained with their messages and photos.

I would also like to thank our staff who have continued to send group messages, story times, singing songs and nursery rhymes for the children to enjoy at home during this difficult time.

Following Government guidelines we are preparing to open our doors to some of our older children on 1<sup>st</sup> June to help with their transition into big school.

As soon as it is safe to do so, we look forward to welcoming our other children and families back to our pre-school.

Stay safe

Tina, Jo, Louise, Gill, Sara, Wendy, Anna and Caroline

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## FROM OUR MP TOM TUGENDHAT

I hope that everyone is staying safe and well in these difficult times. I know how many in our parishes are supporting each other and the strength of the community this is showing. The Government has published its latest guidance on the next stage of our response to the virus. Because of the care people have taken in recent weeks, we are able to look at how we can all reach out more and try to get back to work. The social distancing measures that we have all been through in the past few weeks have brought down the infection rate and given us the ability to look for ways out. That's what we've all got to think about now - taking reasonable steps to get back to normal, but staying alert throughout.

The new restrictions give us greater freedom and flexibility about the steps we can take to protect ourselves and others. The message to Stay Alert is being used in France, and elsewhere to ensure we all remain aware of the dangers but start to help people get back to work. We know the cost of the lockdown to individuals across our country. We need it to end, to re-open our economy as quickly as possible, and to do it in a way that doesn't risk the infection rising too high.

If you have any concerns about the guidance, or questions about what you may, or may not, be recommended to do then please get in touch. Though my office in Tonbridge is understandably closed to visitors and I am working at home, I can still answer e-mails on [tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk) or pick up the phone, where the best number is 01732 441563.

Over the past few weeks so many people have gone to extraordinary lengths to help protect our communities. I'd like to thank everyone, and especially our key workers. Whether it be doctors or nurses working in the NHS, the waste collectors who continue to empty our bins, or supermarket workers making sure we have all the food we need, thank you.

The past few weeks have seen our communities pull together like never before, and the street parties for VE Day showed just how united we can be. I hope this continues once the pandemic is over. But in the meantime please stay safe.

Tom Tugendhat, Member of Parliament for Tonbridge and Malling

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## REPORT FROM OUR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR SARAH HUDSON

**Garden Waste.** TMBC have reintroduced garden waste collections, which is good news. Kent County Council have also re-opened the Waste Recycling Centres across the County, but under an appointments system to comply with social distancing measures. To book a slot use this link: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/rubbish-and-recycling/visiting-a-hwrc-during-coronavirus>

New time slots are released every day.

**Wateringbury Community Fridge.** The Wateringbury Community Fridge is going from strength to strength and is very well attended. We are helping over 90 families every week! This is open on Tuesday and Friday afternoons now, due to changes in the delivery times of the food from Fareshare, between 1pm and 3pm, at the village hall. Community Fridges redistribute good food to communities, allowing them to access nutritious food, whilst saving money and reducing waste. The motto is 'Take what you need, pay what you can'. Anyone can come along - just bring a bag for life, so you can fill it up with fresh fruit and veg, meat and all sorts of food cupboard staples. We ask for a minimum donation of £5. Huge thanks go to the team of volunteers who help me with this.

**Prescription Collections.** If anyone is self-isolating, or shielding and needs a prescription collected, or has letters they need posting then please get in touch with me on 07740 664843, and I will help. I have a small team of volunteers who are happy to help in any way they can.

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## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

As with all Parish Councils, meetings have been postponed for the time being due to the virus and present restrictions. The next meeting of Wateringbury Parish Council will be on 1<sup>st</sup> September which may be held in public, depending on Government advice, or virtually. More information will be made available later.

Many thanks go to our Borough Councillor, Sarah Hudson, for all her efforts on behalf of the village – the living wall, the community larder and helping those in the village who needed assistance during the lockdown. Thanks also to the resident who produced and put up signs closing the play equipment – these remain out of bounds for the time being.

Some work previously discussed and agreed at a meeting have or are due to be carried out. Two of the three bus shelters have damage to their roofs. A quote for new roofs for both of £2500 was received from Bailey Roofing. Damage to the **Bow Road shelter** was caused by a tree and any work was dependent on the tree being removed by the landowner, Clarion Housing. This has now been done and work should be carried out shortly.

Additional repairs to the **track leading to the playing fields** have been carried out by Birkby Construction at a cost of £750.

The **VAS electronic speed sign at the corner of Canon Lane** needed to be replaced. KCC would not cover the cost so this had to be at the parish's expense. An amount of £7000 was included in the 2019/2020 budget. Replacement was dependent on the result of a speed survey near Canon Lane on Tonbridge Road. This was carried out on the 29<sup>th</sup> February and the results sent to KCC in late March. On these results KCC have agreed to install a new solar powered VAS sign at a cost of £7982.25. There may be some delay in installation due to present restrictions.

**Planning.** A planning application from Tregothnan Estates is awaited for building 65 homes just the other side of Teston Road (opposite The North Pole Pub) which lies within Kings Hill. Access to the site is crucial and Wateringbury & Teston PC's will oppose any attempt to open a new access from Wateringbury to Kings Hill.

**Our PCSO Wendy Stanley has retired** and PCSO Amy Sears has taken over. John Ibbs has resumed his village warden rounds now that some restrictions have been lifted. He will observe social distancing at all times.

For any up-to-date news or public notices please continue to check the website [www.wateringbury.pc.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://www.wateringbury.pc.kentparishes.gov.uk) or for any queries please contact the Clerk at [clerk@wateringbury.pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@wateringbury.pc.org.uk) or telephone 01622 817068

**Be alert, stay safe**

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