

Welcome to our October 2020 Free Village Magazine

VILLAGE DIARY

OCTOBER	
6th 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting followed by Planning Committee Via Zoom - contact Clerk for access details
	Footpaths Walks in small groups - see details in magazine

VILLAGE HALL- SOME GOOD NEWS.

Activities have started again at the hall. It has been quite a challenge to get everything in place to meet the government guidelines, but the hall can now be classified as "Covid-19 Secure". In addition to the existing Terms & Conditions, hirers now have to comply with an additional set of Covid-19 Special Conditions. They must ensure that all the Social Distancing and Covid Cleaning requirements are met during the activity they are responsible for. You will not be surprised that the cleaning is quite demanding. Surfaces that are frequently touched, such as door handles, hand rails, table tops, switches are cleaned at the beginning and end of each activity in the rooms used including toilets, kitchen and corridors. All this is in addition to the regular cleaning carried out twice a week by our cleaners.

The hall was ready as from 1st Sept. The "Rule of Six" did cause a blip but at the time of writing Pilates, Yoga, Badminton, Zumba, Kent Acting Studios and Happy Dance Academy have restarted. We have worked with each of these hirers and have been very impressed by the professionalism and effort put into their preparations. Of course Sarah Hudson and her band of helpers have kept the Community Fridge running through the shutdown. Other regular hirers still have things to sort out.

There is still much uncertainty about large events. So for the present we are not taking any bookings for one-off events such as children's parties and receptions.

You will notice when you come into the hall, wearing your mask of course and after sanitising your hands, things that are the similar to those in supermarkets and shops i.e signs – "Keep Your Distance", "Sanitise/Wash your hands", "Catch it. Bin it. Kill it". Sanitisers are provided at key points around the building. As for the toilets only two people to enter at a time and only two cubicles in the ladies toilet are in use. People are asked to clean the toilet after use with the sanitiser provided in each cubicle. There are paper towel dispensers and bins in the toilets and kitchen.

Stating the obvious, by following the social distancing rules to keep ourselves safe we are also keeping others safe. This way we can get back to the many activities we like to do together. Hopefully see you at our village hall soon. If you have points to discuss you can contact us vvh.enquiries@gmail.com or me mikejhoiles@aol.com

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

New Arrival Congratulations to:

Bethany and Jordan on the safe arrival of daughter **Delilah** who was born at Pembury Hosital on Tuesday 8th September weighing in at 6lb 9oz - first Granddaughter for **Keith and Christine Fisher** and a first Great Granddaughter for Val Fisher.

Gordon and Sheena Self on the arrival of their first grandchild **Amelia Ivy** born on 6th September in Harrow Hospital to **Chris and Jen**

Katie and Dane Luchford on the arrival of their first baby **Elizabeth** who was born on 15th August in Pembury Hospital and weighed 6.5lbs.

Emily and Thomas on the arrival of their first baby **Ava Elizabeth Saunders** who was born at Pembury Hospital on 16th August and weighed 3lbs 12 ozs. A first grandchild **for Amanda, Steve, Claire and Aaron.**

Alastair and Christine Byron on the birth on 18th August of a healthy grandson **Kit** (Christopher Theodore) who weighed in at 9lb 3oz in Royal United Hospital, Bath

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Congratulations to Juliette Pattinson on her recent promotion to Deputy Director of Division of Arts and Humanities at the University of Kent and also on her being made a professor. Juliette's parents live in the village. Many residents will remember the talk she gave at the church on Women Secret Agents in WW2.
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APPRECIATION

Thank you to the volunteers of the Friends of Wateringbury and the individuals who have been attempting to make our village litter free during these troubled times. You will have noticed the transformation going on at the crossroads ie the living wall creations, newly planted shrub areas and shortly there will be a new telephone box library. Thank you to all those who helped our lead Sarah Hudson for making all these projects come into fruition. Appreciation must go to two of our households in the conservation area:

1) 193 Tonbridge Road-the old Family butchers shop (1876-2000).
Featured on our cover

2) 189 Tonbridge Road--the old tearooms/grocery store.

These residents have completely renovated the historical frontages and are a credit to our great village. *Mike Williams.*



FIRST WATERINGBURY GUIDES

Wateringbury guides have finally been given permission to meet face to face albeit outside only. This is great and on our first week back we played rounders and Kwik cricket. As we have 23 girls but a limit of 15 at any time we had to play the games in two shifts which added an extra challenge especially in the first group as they were the smaller group by far. Leaders were called in to help and I scored my first (and second and third) rounder in many decades. Thank goodness guides generally can't catch!

The following week we ran a wide game in an orchard. The game was based on the suffragettes getting their campaign messages out on posters on noticeboards before being caught with the offending material by the police. The grass was a bit long but it turned out fine as it cushioned any falls and also provided excellent camouflage to hide from leaders/policemen. I don't know if the rules were followed that closely but frankly, who cares?! The girls enjoyed themselves and that's what matters. We hope to have a treasure hunt and maybe some outdoor cooking for the remaining meetings this month. At the time of writing we have been given permission to come indoors at the end of the month but this presents a whole new set of challenges not to mention the additional cleaning at the end of the meeting so we are currently considering our options. *Sheena and Emily*

FOOTPATHS GROUP

I had a telephone call the other day from Kevin Reynolds informing me that for personal reasons and the difficulty in trying to think of ways to arrange walks during the present lockdown crisis, it was the right time for him to give up the responsibility of arranging the Footpath Group Walks, and giving reports to Rostrum. I sincerely thank Kevin for all the walks he has arranged over the last few years and for his interesting write-ups, a regular feature in Rostrum. Kevin has had discussions with Lisa Dean and she is prepared to take on the responsibility for arranging walks, within Government Guidelines, and also the write-ups. Lisa moved into the village nearly three years ago and has been a regular attender on the walks since moving to Wateringbury. Kevin has promised to give Lisa every assistance in handing over the responsibility and continuation of walks around the surrounding village area, and we look forward to being able to enjoy again the freedom of regular walks which were open to all parishioners.

Syd Thompsett (01622 812338)

Traffic - Have Your Say - Kent Police and Crime Commissioner invites all residents to complete a short survey which aims to gauge **views across the country on what traffic law enforcement may look like in the future**. Go to : <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/apccsaferoads>

WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The term is off to a fine start! Our 6th annual Wateringbury Walk took place, as always, on the first Friday afternoon back at school and we all enjoyed a picnic at Teston Country Park. It was wonderful to see our classes back and enjoying each other's company. All our children completed the 2-mile walk with only a few achy legs. Building fitness and stamina are school priorities and the children will be working towards running a mile or half mile, depending upon age.

Our annual Harvest Service will, sadly, not be able to take place at church due to restrictions but we are making plans for an outdoor service to bring some of our children together with safe space and fresh air between them.

Our new Reception Class have had small group taster sessions and they already feel a real part of our school. The children haven't had the usual transition due to Covid but the teachers have worked hard to put in visits and videos which have been a valuable substitute and the children arrived confident and ready to go!

Over the summer we had to carry out urgent work to expand two of our cramped classrooms to give the children more space. We are very grateful to all those who have already contributed to our village fundraising for this critical project. If you haven't yet heard about the project or been able to donate, it's not too late. You can donate online at www.givey.com/classrooms2020 or send a cheque in to school made payable to Waterringbury CE Primary School. Thank you for your support for this project. The newly enlarged classrooms are wonderful and children and teachers are settling in well. The project couldn't have been completed at a more significant time. The fine weather has been welcome as classes have spent a great deal of time outdoors for play and learning. The zoned areas for class 'bubbles' are working well and the children seem to enjoy the focused time outside with just their class. Many dens and fairy houses are cropping up around the field!

This has been a school year start unlike any other and I am grateful to the community, parents, staff, governors and children for their support and communications during a very difficult lockdown. We are all looking forward to 2020-2021!

Chasey Crawford Usher – Headteacher

www.waterringbury.kent.sch.uk

FOOTPATHS GROUP

The Footpath Group has recently been out walking in small groups. I am very sorry that Kevin is not able to come with us and sincerely thank him for all the lovely walks he's led for us. I moved to Waterringbury in late 2017 and Kevin and the Footpath Group have helped me to get to know the paths, tracks and lanes around the village. Kevin managed to ensure we almost always had good weather, often giving me cause to comment how lucky we'd been. Kevin has a lot of local knowledge and from him I learnt about the area, its history and the plants, animals and birds all around us. I thank him for his efforts and I'll do my best to keep us walking together even in these difficult times.

Recently we've been having walks following the practice of our local Ramblers, which at the time of writing meets the government rules. We go out in groups of no more than 6 people, taking appropriate precautions: everyone staying 2 metres apart, particularly when gathering at the start; not sharing any food, drinks or equipment; and everyone having hand sanitiser to apply before and after using gates and stiles. There is still a risk of infection when gathering together in groups so everyone needs to assess their own risk, take responsibility for their own health and that of the group and make their own decision. If you join us you must be following the rules regarding isolating and testing that apply at the time.

I'm arranging walks following this approach. To ensure we keep to the maximum of six I need people to 'book' with me. If you contact me and tell me if the weekend or during the week is better for you, I'll let you know when and where we'll be starting from. The plan is to have a leisurely walk lasting two to three hours.

Our small group walks have followed two different routes recently. The first took us to the millpond, on to Manor Farm then along the footpath crossing the Waterringbury stream and on, climbing up to the top of Gibbs Hill. We continued by walking down the road to Nettlestead churchyard, over the railway pedestrian crossing and back to Waterringbury on the river path. Along the way we noticed seasonal plants - a few wild hops flowering in the hedgerows and cob nuts that had fallen onto the path.

For the second walk, which we did in very warm September weather, two groups of us walked on different days up to Cattering Wood, and on a series of tracks and paths through the woods, enjoying the quiet and shade among the trees. On one occasion we came across a small newly born adder on the path. It was the size of a large earthworm, about 6 inches long, but moved in a distinctive way – wriggling from side to side and with its head raised. I looked it up and have found that adders give birth to between 6 and 20 live young in August and September. Our route took us on to Red Hill Farm where we admired the views to the south through the vineyards and saw that the grapes were being picked and processed. We returned to the Tonbridge Road following the same path we'd earlier climbed, this time enjoying the views of Bow Hill and far beyond.

If you are interested in joining us for a walk, please text me on 077 5953 9032, or find me on the Watlingbury and Nettlestead Residents Community Chat group on Facebook. **Lisa Dean**
07759539032

NOTES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 2020

It was announced that parish council meetings will be held by Zoom for the foreseeable future and certainly until May 2021 as recommended by guidelines. The meeting was recorded to help the Clerk to take the Minutes.

Business Support Grant – TMBC had received guidance from the Government confirming Parish Councils can receive a £10,000 grant for properties that are eligible for Small Business Rate Relief. Watlingbury Cemetery does have this relief. An application for the grant was completed online. The scheme ended on 28 August.

Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant – contact from TMBC asking for details of any local charity/organisation that would benefit from this grant. The Parish Council put forward Crossroads Care for consideration who during lockdown appealed for food parcels for their young carers who were struggling to afford food for their families. TMBC have contacted Crossroads Care who were appreciative of the referral. No further update.

Kent County Cllr, Matthew Balfour praised the work of the KCC in their distribution of PPE to care homes and carers during the early stages of the pandemic. Figures show there have been low levels of infection in the county. Approx 6,500 KCC employees had been working from home since lockdown. From now on staff were being encouraged to spend 2 days per week in the office. There are moves to reopen libraries and other public buildings. Cllr Balfour had attended a meeting with Borough Cllr, Sarah Hudson to discuss speeding issues and the numbers of HGVs in the village. He advised there will be dramatic cuts to budgets in 2021.

Discussions followed about the problem of traffic speeding through the village from the Mereworth side. A resident had noticed the pole for the flashing 30mph sign was in place and was advised the unit is still on order. It has been recognised there is insufficient space along the A26 to put in physical traffic calming measures (eg an island); but attendants of the meeting found it difficult to understand why other low cost ideas could not be implemented (eg 30 mph markings painted on the road surface). The Council is frustrated by the lack of cooperation by KCC Highways and will not abandon the matter until it is resolved. It is suggested that residents email Cllr Balfour directly with their comments - matthew.balfour@kent.gov.uk

Proposed 20mph limit in Bow Road from the traffic lights to school - The PC are trying to progress this and other highway issues with Kent County Council

Borough Councillor, Sarah Hudson advised she had been busy since the start of lockdown. She had printed and delivered postcards to homes in the village offering help with shopping, collecting prescriptions, etc. Requests are still being made for her to assist.

A **"Community Fridge"** had been set up in the village hall operating two days a week (currently now only on Fridays) – providing fruit & vegetables, meat and groceries for £5 per bag to any resident. Donations had been received from Hugh Lowe Farms. The scheme has proved an efficient way to reduce food waste and landfill. National Lottery funding has enabled the progress of the "Living Wall Phase II" at the crossroads. Cllr Hudson had repainted the village sign and arranged for a plaque by local sculptor Jason Mulligan for the gardens and an unveiling ceremony will take place in due course with our MP Tom Tugendhat presiding. She had noticed the reduction in volume and speed of traffic through the village at the beginning of lockdown and subsequent increase

since restrictions have been lifted. She had communicated with Kent Police at Coldharbour and as a result a mobile speed van had been operating recently near the church. There are plans to create a "Community Library" in a converted disused red telephone box to be placed near the village hall. On 19 September there will be a bike workshop at the village hall where people can bring along their bikes for a free road worthiness check. Sarah would be interested to know if there is a demand for a local bike park. It's coming up for the 100th anniversary of the Royal British Legion and metal silhouettes (Tommies) of WW I soldiers which she would like to purchase – Cllr Hudson would like suggestions on where these could be placed in the village. Outline planning application had been received for development of land in Kings Hill by Tregothnan Estates – Cllr Hudson would be voting against the application on the grounds that there is insufficient infrastructure to support further housing in the Kings Hill area. Currently the Borough Council lacks income due to the relaxation of rent and parking charges and the Borough council would be discussing savings of £100,000. In the future it is possible the electoral boundaries within T&M Borough Council will change with Watlingbury possibly merging with another village.

The **Crime Report** showed during August there had been three motorbike thefts in the area.

Speedwatch Group – during August the group carried out 3 one-hour sessions. Their activity has been limited due to Covid regulations and the reduction of sites where they have been permitted to carry out their observations. Results for the survey carried out in the downward direction of Red Hill showed the percentage of offenders against vehicle count was over 22%.

There were no planning applications.

*The public are welcome to attend the **next Zoom meeting** of the Parish Council on **Tuesday 6 October at 7.30pm**. Please contact the Susan Cockburn, Clerk to the Parish Council at clerk@watlingbury.pc.org.uk tel 817068 to obtain details on how to join this meeting.*

*Approved minutes of the **September** meeting will appear on the Parish Council website www.watlingbury.pc.kentparishes.gov.uk in due course.*

TESTON AND WATERINGBURY PRE SCHOOL

Our term 1 has started well with all our new children settled in. Luckily the weather has been kind and the children have enjoyed exploring the garden and discovering all the new residents in our bug hotel! The children have also adapted well to our new handwashing routines throughout the day as we continue to keep our children and staff safe.

Continuing with exploring our book 'Harry and the bucket full of dinosaurs' by Ian Whybrow we have learnt some dinosaur names, where they lived and what they ate. We will now be looking at dinosaur bones, rescuing them from ice and will finish off with the children going on a dinosaur hunt.

To help with our fundraising, we have a 'bags to school' collection from Teston village hall on Monday 23rd November. If you are having a clear out of clothes, handbags, shoes, belts, towels, bed sheets or curtains please bag them up and bring them along to Teston village hall between Monday 16th November and Friday 20th November 09.00 – 3.00pm. All monies raised will go towards craft material for the children. We thank you for your support.

If you are interested in joining our preschool please contact Tina Driver on 07805 796353 or email on tandwngroup@gmail.com and come along for a taster session.

ROSTRUM AMENITY FUND

We were pleased to be able to donate £500 to the School Classroom appeal and received the following acknowledgement from Chassey Crawford-Usher the head teacher:

"Dear Rostrum I was touched to learn of your generous donation to our classroom campaign. Thank you for supporting the school in such a meaningful way. Your gift is given in the spirit of helping every child and for that I am deeply grateful. Kind Regards"

WATERINGBURY PLAYERS UPDATE

With another successful Panto behind us .. Robin Hood, we were looking forward to planning our 2021 Panto . However with the current situation we have come to the difficult decision that it is not going to be possible to perform a Panto in January . Despite this , we are confident that we will be able to perform a Panto in January 2022 and are putting all our efforts into organising that ! Thank you for your continuing support Keep well See you all soon. *The Wateringbury Players*

NEWS FROM OUR MP TOM TUGENDHAT

Like many industries, our train operating companies have not been immune from the challenges of the pandemic. The increase in number of people working from home has caused challenges for them in getting us back on the trains. The Government took swift and decisive action to help the companies running our trains. Many operators, including GTR, were put under what is called 'Management Contracts'. In short, it was a part-nationalisation of our railways which happened right at the start of the pandemic.

This continues to be the case now, as companies rebuild their timetables. On 7 September, we saw the latest timetable changes published. Although there is a need to ensure that empty trains do not run and burn money, there is also a need to make sure that we all have the connections we need. The consequences of the September timetable change on Southeastern lines have been severe. While the company have said that 98% of its services are back to normal, a disproportionate amount of the 2% still missing affect our community.

We've lost a rush hour service from Tonbridge to Charing Cross. Indeed, Tonbridge station has lost the Medway Valley Line altogether. This is a hugely important connection from Medway right the way south to Tonbridge, following the route of the River Medway via Wateringbury, Maidstone and Aylesford. We need these public transport connections to take the pressure off our overcrowded roads. Southeastern have extended 2 additional services to Tonbridge per day. But that's not enough. **I've launched a petition to keep the Medway Valley Line coming to Tonbridge, which you can find on my website or direct at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MedwayValleyLine>**

Added with the continual delay in delivering the Thameslink service on the Maidstone East line and there is no doubt we are being short-changed by our rail options at the moment. The longer-term solution is to get the trains running back to their normal timetable again. That is the aim for December should we be able to return to a form of normality.

WATERINGBURY GUIDES AND BROWNIES

I have been involved with brownies and guides in the village since 1974 and have a lot of archive material that I wanted to share with former members. I have been building a Facebook archive page

for any girl that was a member of brownies and/or guides between 1974 and 2002 and I am now trying to contact as many girls as I can. Were you a guide or brownie, or perhaps your mum was, or maybe even a leader with one of the units? Do you know anyone who has moved away from the village who was a member? If so, please contact me at sheenastewartx3@gmail.com and I will let you know how to join the closed book page. Judging by the comments from those who have already joined, make yourself a cup of tea or coffee, sit comfortably and spend a few happy hours enjoying the memories. *Sheena Stewart Assistant leader, W'bury Guides*

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NETTLESTEAD AND WATERINGBURY PRESCHOOL (NWPS) AND OUT OF SCHOOLS' CLUB *Graded as Outstanding by Ofsted*

So lovely to see all our children back at Preschool and Out of Schools Club this term. Our new children are settling-in well and enjoying all the activities on offer at the setting. They are particularly enjoying the outdoor area available to them, playing on our wide selection of wheelie toys, football, hockey, obstacle courses and play park, as well as exploring the field and woodland areas. We are very lucky to have so much area for the children to run around.

Childcare, Education and Out of School Clubs, including holiday club
01622 813120, enquiries@nwps.uk, <https://nwpreschool.org.uk/>

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WATERINGBURY SCOUT GROUP

As Rostrum goes to print Wateringbury Scout Group Leaders are getting excited to see our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers again. Weekly Zoom meetings packed with fun activities have kept all our sections busy and amused since March, with loads of amazing achievements and badges being earned. But we know how our young people all change so quickly and we're wondering who's grown the most in the last 6 months! While the Scout Association is exempt from the 'Rule of 6', we must ensure we keep our young people and volunteer leaders safe. As well as planning crazy activities, awesome adventures and silly games all online with our Covid-safe rules and guidance, we are also thinking about what activities can be enjoyed 'face-to-face but apart' in the coming months. We aim to run many outdoor sessions, so if you see us in our neck-scarves around the village then give us a wave!

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WATERINGBURY CHURCH SERVICES IN OCTOBER

SJB Church web site: www.wateringburychurch.org.uk
Church Face Book Page: fb.me/wateringburychurch
Friends of SJB Church [web site www.fowc.org.uk](http://www.fowc.org.uk)

On line worship at <http://tiny.cc/krymmz> any time after 3pm on Saturday. Previous services are also available on this site

We have had to set a capacity for the church (taking into account the Covid regulations). **To date we have been able to seat all who wish to attend our services but it may prove to be the case that we won't be able to meet all the applications** and we don't want to have to turn anyone away at the door

Please notify your intention to attend Sunday Worship by 2pm on Saturday

office@wateringburychurch.org.uk / **01622 813852** when the up-to-date current protocol will be given to you.

Sunday 4th 10am Communion led by Canon Liz Walker
On-line worship with reflection by Canon Liz

Sunday 11th 10am Morning Praise led by Barry Fisher
On-line worship with reflection by Barry

**Sunday 18th 10am All Age Worship with Ruth Dunn and
Kate Millar**
On-line worship with reflection by Kate Millar

Sunday 25th 10am Communion led by Rev Jim Brown
On-line worship with reflection by Rev Jim

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HARVEST This year, sadly, because of virus restrictions, we are not able to celebrate God's gifts to us in the time-honoured way. Instead we have joined with the school and supported *Make a Difference in Maidstone* with members of the congregation invited to donate to help raise funds for their work which supports the homeless, those in addiction, socially isolated, disadvantaged and in crisis in the Maidstone area. To find out more of their work or to donate go online at www.madm.org.uk.
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A VIEW FROM THE VIRTUAL PEW: GONE RUNNING

My lockdown take up is running. I'm not good at it being heavier than I should be and having had a bad twisted ankle experience a few years ago as an exercise when I vowed to never run outside again! But I've been inspired by a few fellows of a similar vintage in the locality who started running and have really transformed themselves, and perhaps not just in terms of external physical form.

It is said that we change ourselves through what we do. Running is a bit of a religion like all sport, with things like the Church of the 'park run' a fine example of volunteering, communal spirit and striving.

Although I can't remember any specific instances where Jesus is mentioned as running he certainly got about a bit on foot, climbed hills and mountains and wandered on long walks into the desert. And there are plenty of other stories of running including one instance in Mark's Gospel where an unarmed follower is mentioned running away naked from the police as they arrested Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. I tend to wear shorts and a Tee shirt when I run which is a relief for everyone all round as well as respectful of local decency laws.

I benefit hugely from a group of local encouragers and one particular running mate who is now quite accomplished. As runners know pace matters and people have running styles and my style is to start moderately and then get progressively slower. So it is a great act of hospitality to have an experienced friend who will keep stopping and waiting for me to catch up and keep pushing and gently encouraging me to keep going. He is also getting sneaky about the routes, so just when I think I can't go on any further I realise we are now a long way from the village and have to run back. But it shows that welcome and hospitality are part of sporting activity, as much as a competition. Yes for sure it is good to win things, but the real battle to win is an interior one.

Good running, walking, rowing, riding and striding to you all. And also rolling for those on wheels, and those who potter about or are restricted to wondering in the mind due to limited mobility. Keep going and may you find it changes you for the good.

God Bless, Bob Bowie

WATERINGBURY SURGERY NEWS

Face coverings must be worn when attending the surgery

We want 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:

- * All online appointment booking are still suspended.
- * 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.

* We will continue to book some appointments with the Practice Nurses, HCAs and Phlebotomist. On the day of your appointment do not attend if you have coronavirus symptoms - a new continuous cough, a high temperature (hot to touch on your chest or back) or a loss of, or change to your sense of smell or taste.

Medication requests We are accepting paper requests again which can be placed in the box in reception. If you can sign up to the NHS app, or email gp.g82200@nhs.net or telephone the POD service on 03001311100. We are encouraging all patients who can sign up to online services to do so to ease pressure on the POD team who then help those who are unable to access online services.

Flu Season We are booking appointments. If you know you are eligible for a flu vaccine please contact us now. Do not wait for an invitation from the surgery. More people are now eligible for flu vaccine this year so look on line for up to date information. Please wear a face covering. On arrival at the surgery you will be greeted by a member of staff who will mark you as arrived and ask you to enter the side door of the surgery and queue (socially distanced). We will have two stations set up in the waiting room where you be greeted by one of the clinicians. Whilst you are queuing please ensure you have your arm exposed to receive the vaccine. You will then leave by the main door.

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CHURCH CHRISTMAS CRAFT BAZAAR Sorry to disappoint our many regular stall-holders and customers but in the present Covid climate we are unable to hold our event this year. Thank you all for your support in past years – we hope to see you all in 2021. *Jan Pursey*
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NEWS FROM OUR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

A fantastic Community Project took place on Saturday 19th September, at the Village Hall, where Stewart Vanns from Community Cycleworks held a Dr. Bike workshop. As part of the Government incentive scheme to get more people on bikes, and exercising, we were encouraging all residents, big and small, to bring their bikes for a free roadworthiness check. Kent Police Community Safety Unit also attended to help with marking bikes to prevent theft. Each bike serviced received a free blinky light. Funding for this event was provided by Clarion Futures.

Having received confirmation from TMBC Planning, the village will soon be the proud 'owners' of an iconic red telephone

box. This will be placed in the small garden owned by TMBC, next to the entrance to the village car park. This will be adapted with shelves to form a village library. There will be a red letterbox next to it for returned books, as these need to be out of circulation for 72 hours for Covid19 reasons. This is an exciting community project that will help residents of all ages.

Next year is the 100th Anniversary of the Royal British Legion, and I would like to purchase some silhouettes of Tommies, as seen in other villages locally. I am looking for suggestions as to where these could get placed, so please contact me at sarah.hudson@tmbs.gov.uk with ideas.

The Community Fridge is open every Friday in the Village Hall from 12 until 1pm. No appointment is necessary, just remember to bring a shopping bag, wear a mask, and keep a sensible distance between people. This is an opportunity to not just save money on great fresh fruit and veg and other staples, but also to reduce food waste and therefore reduce landfill.

The gardens at the crossroads are now planted and hopefully not just cleaning the air, but making the village look welcoming, attractive and a nice place to live. Many compliments have been made. There will be a small opening ceremony with our MP, Tom Tugendhat this month, but due to Covid19 restrictions, sadly no big event.

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