

VILLAGE DIARY

MARCH			
4	Footpaths Walk	V Hall Car Park	2pm
6	Parish Council Meeting followed by Planning Committee	Village Hall	7.30pm
7	Coffee, Craft & Chat	Church	10.30am
7	Lent Lunches	Church	12.15pm
8	WI - Competitions Day (members only)	Village Hall	2pm
17	Football Club Quiz Night	Village Hall	7pm
21	Coffee, Craft & Chat	Church	10.30am
21	Lent Lunches	Church	12.15pm
31	Easter Fun with Faith	Church	9.30am
31	Art Exhibition	226 Tonbridge Rd	11am-4pm
APRIL			
1	Footpaths Walk	V Hall Car Park	2.30pm
1&2 7&8	Art Exhibition	226 Tonbridge Rd	11am-4pm
12	Women's Institute	Village Hall	2pm

LITTER HEROES

The Parish Council has notified The Friends of Watringbury that from **2nd to 4th March "The Great British Clean-up"** will take place. Thousands of people across the nation will be doing their bit to keep their area clean and tidy. **Will you become a Watringbury Litter Hero?** If you require black sacks or any more information please ring Mike on 01622 814529.

POST OFFICE TRANSFORMATION

It's goodbye old PO, **welcome PO with Flannagans Local Produce Store**. The refurbishment of the Grade II listed building has revealed an inglenook fireplace and old beams. By utilising store rooms more retail space has been created allowing lots of mouth-watering locally sourced products to be sold including fresh bread from Teston & Plaxtol Bakeries, Home-made cakes and pies, deli items such as cooked meats, quiches and cheeses. There are also home-made jams, fruit juices, ice creams in yummy flavours and lots more as well as the old PO favourites of cards, toys, fancy goods and stationery. Well worth a visit.

VILLAGE PEOPLE

Please let us have your news and tributes by 17 March for our April magazine. Entries are free.

Steve Biggs and **Melissa Khouri** are proud to announce the birth of their son **Charlie Ethan Biggs** born on the 29th December 2017 at Pembury Hospital, weighing in at 7lb and 1oz.

DAVID JOHN SKINNER, 20 June 1943 – 18 January 2018

David lived in Watringbury all his life. He was born at Prospect Place where his parents Edwin and Phyllis owned a butcher shop. He went to the village school which was then in a Victorian Building on Red Hill, where one class mate remembers him giving a short talk on growing plants. So, his great love of growing things must have been in his genes. In 1954 (aged 11) he started growing plants to sell using some land behind the butcher's shop. As David grew, so did his business. He acquired land of his own on part of a market

garden. On 18 January 1969 he married his beloved Rosemary. They worked hard together over the years and Bijou Nurseries rightly gained a reputation for the quality of its plants, especially fuchsias.

David had a great sense of humour and a fund of stories of village life. He was a people person and took a genuine interest in the lives of his friends and customers and their families. He willingly gave advice and shared his knowledge of plants. Rostrum extends its condolences to Rosemary, Louise, Jo and their families who will be continuing to run Bijou Nurseries to which David devoted his working life.

The family wish to thank everyone for all their cards, prayers and support at this difficult time.

Thank you to Watringbury Players for such an enjoyable pantomime "Camelot the Panto". Every year the pantomime seems to get better and better. Well done to all the cast and those who work behind the scenes to produce such professional standard performances.

EASTER ART EXHIBITION

Watringbury based portrait and seascape artist Thomas Best-Shaw will be exhibiting his paintings at South View House, 226 Tonbridge Road, Watringbury on Saturday 31 March, Sunday 1 & Monday 2 April and Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 April, 11am - 4pm. For viewings outside these times, please call 01622-299713 or email bestshaw1@gmail.com. Do go along & see his work. All welcome. 10% of all sales will be donated to shelterbox.org

WATERINGBURY CRICKET CLUB

The new season will soon be upon us and our first match is on Sunday 22 April against Loose. Please come down and support your local team. We play on the sports ground in Fields Lane. If you would like to join the club or just find out something about us then please contact the Club Captain, Dan Vallance, on 07733222651 or e-mail him at cavman1976@hotmail.com

We have just started nets practice and you are welcome to join us or come and meet some of the team. It takes place on Sundays, 11am-12pm at Maplesden Noakes School. There will not be a session on the 1 April.

DEFIBRILLATORS

Recently, a survey carried out by the British Red Cross indicated that 50% of our adult population are not aware of **the location of their nearest defibrillator**. If someone should have a cardiac arrest and stop breathing, after dialling 999 for an ambulance, one should carry out CPR and, if circumstances permit, get help to locate your nearest defibrillator. This piece of equipment is vital to re-establish the normal function of the heart until the Emergency Services arrive. The defibrillators in our local area are listed below:

- 1) Outside the entrance to **Watringbury Village Hall**
- 2) **Watringbury Surgery** (Monday-Friday 8am - 6pm)
- 3) Outside **Teston Village Shop**
- 4) Outside the entrance to **Nettlestead Village Hall**

On all the boxes containing the defibrillators there is a number to ring to obtain the code to open the box. Simple, electronic, and verbal instructions for using the equipment will be given when the equipment is activated.

FOOTPATH GROUP

With rain just before the start of the of the February walk I was beginning to think it was going to a bit of damp one, but just before the start we were blessed with the sun coming out. Walking to Gransden then up to the top of Canon Lane where I intended to go through Cattering Wood to the old disused Ketteridge Lane, but conditions underfoot were very muddy so a diversion on the path between the woods and Kings Hill to the old Teston Road was taken and glad we did, not many knew that the path was there! Back into the woods we returned to the start where some took refreshments and chat in Where Memories Meet.

4 March walk meets village hall at 2pm for a local walk towards Bow Hill and Tutsham.

1 April meet at 2:30pm village hall for woodland walk and the early Spring flora. NB: later summer start time.

KFR 813763

WATERINGBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At our March meeting, we will be holding our 'Competitions Day', which is for members only.

On 12 April Pat Mortlock is coming back to tell us about 'The King's Supporters', which is a look at the mothers and wives whose support was vital for the monarchs of the Tudor period. The monthly competition is 'An Example of Lace', meeting starts at 2.00 pm, visitors very welcome.

Our February speaker Captain Brian Laverick-Smith, during his very interesting and informative talk 'Bother on the Hover', told us about his experiences as a pilot on Hovercrafts based in Dover. Brian worked on Hovercrafts from their inauguration until their demise and enjoyed every minute, although it was not always smooth sailing. He met many well-known people and he and his crew dealt with some very awkward passengers and situations, another trip back in time for many of us who had experienced the pleasure of travelling to France in a Hovercraft.

CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING KENT (CILK)

CiLK is a charity based in Kent providing information, advice and guidance to disabled people, their friends, family and professionals around independent living. CiLK give out information on various topics such as how to get a wheelchair, basic benefit information, aids and equipment, support at home (including Direct Payments), accessible transport and much more. CiLK was established in 2002 and is run and managed by disabled people for disabled people. Since April 2016 CiLK have been part of Kent Advocacy providing community advocacy to physically disabled people in Kent on issues such as problems with social services, housing and attending benefit assessments and tribunals. CiLK has an office in Ashford and has a drop in on Tuesdays from 10am to 3pm. CiLK can be contacted on: Telephone Number: 01233 633187, Email: enquiries@cilk.org.uk Website: www.cilk.org.uk

TESTON & WATERINGBURY PRESCHOOL

Firstly, may I just say a huge thank you to all at the Crown City Chinese restaurant for their help in decorating our hall for our Chinese New Year celebrations, and providing us with a selection of authentic Chinese dishes for all to try.

Our theme for term 4 is 'Planting and mini beasts' where we will be planting and measuring runner beans, making butterfly cakes and reading about the enormous turnip! We will also be keeping a close eye on our bug hotel in the garden to see who's visiting in early spring.

As well as the mini beasts this term we will also be welcoming back 'our amazing animals'. They came to see us last year and the children are keen to see how they've been since their last visit. Walter the skinny pig, Maud the Chinchilla and Filepe the chameleon were big favourites with our children last time.

We will be celebrating Mothers' day by asking all our mums, nans and aunties to come in and join their children in a craft activity. Prepare to get messy!

We will also be celebrating world book day on 1st March when staff and children will be dressing up as their favourite book character.

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

WATERINGBURY JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB QUIZ NIGHT

7pm for 7.30pm start, Saturday 17 March - Wateringbury Village Hall

Well it's back - the famous WFC quiz night. Definitely a quiz night with a difference. You don't need to be Einstein and the accent is most certainly on humour and fun. Tickets are now available by email registration only to **wfquiznight@btinternet.com**. Tables of 6 at £5 per person. Bring your own nibbles and drink. Smaller parties are fine, but we will be making up tables of 6 from these parties. Come along for a fun-filled evening and win that honorary "ology" you've always dreamed of!

Karl Smith, Academy Coach WFC

NETTLESTEAD & WATERINGBURY PRESCHOOL & OUT OF SCHOOLS' CLUB

This term the children and staff have been out having fun in the snow. The children enjoyed making hand prints and foot prints in the snow, as well as finding prints left by rabbits and birds.

We have also begun to prepare children for school by starting 'fledglings'. Each week children explore different letter sounds and bring in something beginning with the sound to talk about.

Calling out to the community: the preschool and out of schools' club offers an invaluable service to families. We are a non-profit making charity pre-school and are run by a voluntary committee of parents. As such, the parents have a say in how the setting is run and support us in raising much-needed funds. We would welcome involvement from the local community. So, if you feel you would like to become part of the committee, or could support the setting in any other way, we would love to hear from you.

Moirra Atkinson, Manager

Tel: 01622 813120

KENT TOAD PATROL

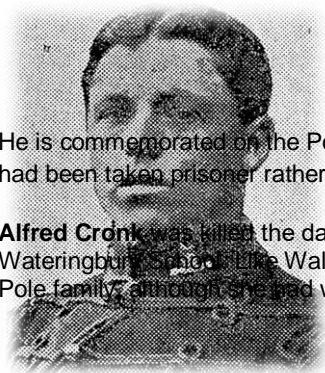
Could you help a toad across a road? Kent Reptile and Amphibian Group (KRAG) a volunteer organisation is looking to recruit more people to help Kent's declining toad population which suffers each spring when thousands are run over on our roads and lanes when they wake up from hibernation to begin migrating to their breeding ponds. More info at <http://kentarg.org/project/kent-toad-patrol/>

WAR NEWS, MARCH 1918

- March 4: First "Spanish Flu" case at a US Army camp in Kansas.
- 21: Spring (or Luddendorf) Offensive on Western front by Germany.
- 26: General Foch appointed to coordinate British and French armies.

March 21 1918 saw the start of the final major German offensive on the Western Front, bolstered by troops taken from the Eastern Front following Russia's surrender. It was initially very successful in taking ground, with British troops withdrawing along the front. Wateringbury suffered two immediate casualties on the second and third days of the offensive. Both came from families still living in or very close to the village.

Walter Maytum came from a large family. His mother, Grace had 13 children, although 3 had died by the time of the 1911 census. His father, Thomas, was a waggoner working with horses, which may have influenced several of his boys, including Walter, to join cavalry units. Walter attended Wateringbury School, where he won many prizes, and joined the Wateringbury scout troop. Five boys from the Wateringbury scouts lost their lives in WWI, 4 of them in 1918. After working as a farm labourer, Walter joined the 15th Hussars before the outbreak of war as a professional soldier. He was killed, aged 21, in the Somme area of France.



He is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial along with fellow Wateringbury scout, Percy Fuller. Walter's photo is from the Kent Messenger in June 1918 when his mother still hoped that he had been taken prisoner rather than killed.

Alfred Cronk was killed the day following Walter's death, also in the Somme area. Alfred was born and lived until at least 1911 near the North Pole in Wateringbury, but apparently, did not go to Wateringbury School. Like Walter he was a farm labourer and came from a large family of 8 children 3 of whom had died by 1911. He married Ellen Costin in 1912. She also came from a North Pole family, although she had worked for some time as a live-in servant in Hunton and Maidstone. When Alfred was killed, aged 33, Ellen was living at 16, Bow Terrace. Alfred was not a

professional soldier, probably joining up in 1916 as a volunteer or conscript. He was in the 7th Battalion Royal Fusiliers whose dramatic war diary for the day of his death graphically reflects the conditions prevailing, including the extensive use of gas. He and 35,000 others whose bodies were never identified are commemorated on the Arras Memorial.

The parish council met on the same day as Alfred's death. Mr. Owen English drew their attention to the problem of the constant flooding of the Tonbridge Road near the Church, due to the blockage of the culvert carrying water from Wateringbury Place to the pond at the Thatched House. The parish wrote to the County Council about the problem, who promised in their reply dated 28th March 1918 to "see that this matter receives early attention".

Terry Bird

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

Continued

WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

As the days grow longer and the school field begins to dry out, school life turns more to the outdoors. Our Year 6 and Year 1 children buddied up to tally birds for the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch. The variety of birds they logged was impressive! Our children continue to run 10 minutes around the field and playgrounds at least 3 times per week and to reinforce the importance of healthy diets and limiting high-calorie 'snack' foods, we allow crisps in lunchboxes only on Fridays.

Safer Internet Day was marked on 6th February. Each class completed a circus of activities which highlighted the endless possibilities and interest of the internet and emphasised how to manage personal safety and good behaviour online.

We will celebrate World Book Day on 1st March with an Art & Book Week. Classes will explore the theme of movement and journeys through literature and art and the week will include visits by two authors (Billy Bob Buttons and Christopher Lloyd). These events will also coincide with the completion of the essential work on our library – new roof, windows, heating, carpet. We are in the middle of planning the library redesign with a children's committee.

Year 5 will be busy this term studying Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream and performing their own abbreviated version on 28th March. Their study of Shakespeare begins with a school trip to the Globe Theatre in London where they will tour the theatre and take part in Shakespearean workshops.

Our busy term wraps up with a new initiative from our oldest children: Year 6s Got Talent! Auditions were held some weeks ago and a number of acts will be presented to parents and friends cabaret-style on 23rd March. Every child is involved: front-of-house, production, technical, stage management – and the money raised from ticket sales will help fund the Year 6 Leavers' party in July.

Our term closes with our Easter Service on 28th March at 9am at St John's and term ends with our annual egg hunt on 29th March. We wish all families and community members a joyful and peaceful Easter.

Chasey Crawford Usher – Headteacher

www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra

Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre, Saturday, 24 March 2018

Mozart – Symphony No. 32, K.318

Brahms – Violin Concerto – Bartosz Woroch (violin)

Beethoven – Symphony No. 6 "Pastoral"

0333 666 3366 or mso.ticketsource.co.uk

BENEFICE SERVICES IN MARCH

Church Face Book Page: fb.me/wateringburychurch

SJB Church web site: www.wateringburychurch.org.uk

Friends of SJB Church web site www.fowc.org.uk

Sunday 4 March (3rd in Lent) 8.30am Holy Communion - East Mallong 9.45am Family Service – East Mallong 9.45am Food for Thought – Teston 10am Holy Communion – Wateringbury	Sunday 11 March (Mothering Sunday) 9.45am Family Eucharist – East Mallong 9.45am C&P Mothering Sunday Svce - Teston 10am Mothering Sunday Svce – W’bury 6.30pm Evening Praise - Teston
Sunday 18 March (5th in Lent) 8.30am Holy Communion – W’bury 9.45am Holy Communion – East Mallong 9.45am Parish Communion - Teston 10am Family Service – Wateringbury	Sunday 25 March (Palm Sunday) 8.30am Holy Communion – East Mallong 9.45am Morning Praise – East Mallong 9.45am Come & Praise - Teston 10am Holy Communion – Wateringbury 6pm Benefice Choir Event – East Mallong 6.30pm Parish Communion - Teston
Saturday 3 March - Messy Church in Wateringbury 3-5pm	
Every Monday – 2-3pm – Scout & Guide HQ, Glebe Meadow – Toddler Praise	
Every Thursday - 9am in East Mallong Church – Holy Communion	
Pilsdon Community, 27 Water Lane, West Mallong – Rev Viv Ashworth invites you to the Barn Chapel to join members of the community for a Communion 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	

**VISITING PREACHERS FOR OUR SERVICES AT
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH**

25 March, Palm Sunday, 10am – Canon Alan Vousden

30 March, Good Friday, 2pm – Pauline and Ruth

1 April, Easter Sunday, 10am – Canon Derek Carpenter

15 April, 8.30am – Canon Alan Vousden

IN OUR SORROWS - FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

We extend our deepest sympathy to the loved ones of:

Michael Anthony Cayzer (Interment of Ashes on 9 February 2018)

SIMPLY SOUP LUNCHES IN LENT

Wednesdays 7 & 21 March, 12.15 to 1.30pm

There is no charge – donations are invited for a different charity each week

COFFEE BREAK – Wednesday 7 & 21 March, from 10.30am to 12.30pm

We would be pleased to welcome you to one of our morning sessions for a hot drink, cake and chat. Knitting, crochet and drawing are some of the crafts shared during our time together and you can be assured of help if you are keen to expand your skills. For further details call Pauline on (814673) or Gillian (813076).

LENT COURSE

Weekly discussion groups continue to meet in the church vestry on either Monday evenings from 7.45-9pm on 5th, 12th and 19th March; or on Wednesday lunchtimes between 1-2pm on 7th, 14th and 21st.

WATCH CLUB

We will be meeting from 4-6pm on the following dates during March at the Village Hall:

Sunday 11th – for indoor hockey

Sunday 25th – for Easter celebrations

MESSY CHURCH

Our next session of Messy Church is on Saturday 3 March from

3-5pm. Come along with your children (up to about 8 years of age) for light touch Christian teaching and some messy and not so messy activities. For further information please contact ruth.dunn33@btinternet.com or call 01622 812342.

PRIESTLY PONDERINGS

Rev Nick Williams

The Vicarage, 2 The Grange,

East Malling

parishofficeemwt@gmail.com

01732 843282

Dear Reader

As you may be aware we have entered the season of the church year called Lent which began on Ash Wednesday, 14 February. Ahead of us we have 40 days of reflection and self-examination that lead into the joy of Easter and the telling once again of the resurrection story. It is truly a time of reflecting on the old and looking forward to the new.

For the Christian community in the villages of East Malling, Wateringbury and Teston the reflection and anticipation of this Lenten and Easter season has this year a particular relevance. For some years the three churches have been part of what the wider church terms a single benefice under a single vicar. This has not always been the easiest arrangement and all three villages, I suspect, feel they would be happier with their own vicar. Sadly, however, and amongst other considerations, the financial position of the three churches precludes this happening.

A short while ago a review into the position of all the churches in Malling Deanery (a wider grouping of churches under a Rural or Area Dean) was carried out and its recommendations were launched last week in the form of a consultation document. The document proposes that in effect the Benefice of East Malling, Wateringbury and Teston ceases to exist. It is proposed, and it is important to note that this is a consultation document, that Wateringbury forms a new benefice with Mereworth and West Peckham; and Teston forms a similar pairing with Barming, whilst East Malling in time partners with Larkfield.

As I said, this is a consultation document. Nothing is fixed immutably and each church is conducting a survey of its worshippers to ascertain what they think about the proposal. Now, it may be that you don't think your village church has any relevance for you. You may not attend it or support it, so where it sits administratively may be a matter of indifference. Nonetheless, your parish church is there for you whether you use it or not. Its clergy pray for all of you daily and if asked will conduct your marriages, baptise your children and ultimately conduct the funerals of your loved ones. For better or worse each of the three parish churches are your parish churches as they have been for generations before you.

So, your views count every bit as much as the views of the faithful few who worship in each church Sunday by Sunday. I, as the current Vicar of all three churches am interested in what you think so please email or write to the Parish Office to let me know what you think of the proposal as outlined. The Benefice will put together and submit a response to the plan so if you wish to comment please do so not later than the last day of March.

I began by writing about the reflection of Lent and the renewal of Easter, the proposal as outlined, offers something for us all to reflect on and potentially it could offer the opportunity for renewal and new life.

Yours in Christ **Rev Nick Williams**

FEBRUARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

At the start of the meeting the Chairman announced that Chris Talbert had resigned from the Council. The Clerk was asked to write to Chris to thank him for his many years of service on the Parish Council. There are now two vacancies on the council. Two candidates had put their names forward to fill the first vacancy. After a secret ballot neither candidate was elected. Councillors felt that they did not know enough about either candidate to make an informed decision.

KCC Councillor Matthew Balfour reported that we were living in difficult times. The KCC had been required by central government to make cuts of £75 million from this year's budget and a similar amount next year on top of the substantial cuts made in previous years. The KCC's priority was on supporting the vulnerable. The chairman thanked Matthew for his support in trying to solve the traffic congestion at the Cross Roads. Parish Councillors would be meeting with KCC traffic planners in the near future to discuss the proposed plan. Matthew Balfour was asked find out about KCC's plans for the main former MacIntyre Care building at Pelican Court.

PCSO Wendy Stanley whose area covers Kings Hill and Watlington, attended the meeting and introduced herself to councillors. In response to questions Wendy provided a little more up to date information about local crimes. Two people had been arrested recently in relation to cars being damaged. At the moment the main focus of thieves were of tools from vehicles and sheds and vehicle crimes including theft of number plates. PCSO Stanley recommended vehicle owners to fit anti-tamper screws to their vehicle plates to deter loss. She explained she did not spend set hours in any location – she went where she was needed. The best way to contact her is via the 101 police non emergency number as she always picked up any messages left at the start of her shift.

Crime Stats for November from the Kent Police website showed a total of 13 crimes. 6 violent crimes, 3 burglary, 1 public order, 1 bicycle crime, 1 criminal damage arson, 1 vehicle crime. Councillors were concerned about the high number of crimes described as violent and asked Wendy about this. She replied that she could not go into specific details but many were of a domestic nature rather than street crime.

Insurance of Sports Pavillion the clerk was instructed to write to the Chairman of the Association to inform him that the Parish Council will not insure the Sports Pavillion or contents after September when their insurance policy came up for renewal. In accordance with the terms of the Association's lease it is their responsibility to insure the Pavilion and its contents. Recently elected parish councillor Stephen Tickner, who said he used to run a football club, volunteered to represent the Parish Council at meetings of the Sports and Recreation Association.

Village Car Park After debating the problems councillors agreed that the chairman could meet representatives of T & M to discuss possible options which could free up more short-term parking spaces for users of local businesses and the village hall.

Data Protection The Chairman and Parish Clerk had attended a recent meeting about new regulations due to come into force on 25 May 2018. The Chairman outlined options available in order to comply with the statutory requirements. He would up-date councillors in due course.

Village Fete Councillors were disappointed that this year's fete had been cancelled due to lack of volunteers. The chairman did not recall the Parish Council receiving a copy of the Watlington Village Fete Committee Constitution and would endeavour to obtain one. It was hoped that the fete could be held in 2019.

Village Signs After studying quotes councillors deferred a decision on appointing a contractor until more information was received.

Traffic Matters The good news is that from 11 March **the No 6 bus** service through the village will be reinstated.

Polution Monitoring Equipment will be installed by T & MBC in the foyer of the village hall to monitor pollution levels at the Cross Roads which is one of the most highly polluted areas in the South East. Councillor Tripp thanked the Village Hall Trustees for their co-operation. The equipment will be in situ for at least a year.

Planning The Council has no objection to the application for change of use of annex to separate dwelling at 5 Phoenix Cottages.

Next meeting The public are very welcome to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council at **7.30pm in the village hall on Tuesday, 6 March.**