

**Welcome to the September issue of
Wateringbury Village Magazine.**

VILLAGE DIARY

SEPTEMBER

- 4th Wateringbury Footpath Group** - Village Hall -
2.30pm
- 6th Parish Council meeting** - Village Hall - 7.30pm
followed by Planning Committee
- 8th WI meeting** - Village Hall - 2pm
- 9th Wateringbury Footpath Group** - Village Hall -
10am
- 17th Unveiling of Leney Blue Plaque** - The
Orpines - 11am
- 18th Strawberry Tea Party** - Manor Farm in Old
Road - 2pm
- 21st History Society meeting** - Village Hall - 8pm
Flower Club meeting - East Malling Institute -
7pm
- 24th Film *Fields and their Secrets*** - Nettlestead
Church - 7pm

OCTOBER

- 2nd Wateringbury Footpath Group** - Village Hall -
2.30pm
- 4th Parish Council meeting** - Village Hall - 7.30pm
followed by Planning Committee
- 6th, 7th, 8th CEMENT! The Musical** - Church - 7pm
- 19th History Society meeting** - Village Hall - 8pm
- 29th Music concert** - The Undercroft, Nettlestead
Place - 4pm

*Wateringbury Local History Society
and
Rapport Housing & Care
invite you to the unveiling of Leney blue
plaque
at The Orpines, Wateringbury
on Saturday 17th September at 11am and
afterwards to have a cup of tea or coffee and
view the
Meadow View Court show flat and communal
facilities.*

VILLAGE PEOPLE

Please let us have your news and tributes by 17 September for our October edition. Entries are free. Email www.rostrum2@hotmail.com or phone 01622 812023

Congratulations to Carl and Sandra Farrin, Rostrum distributor in Mill Lane, on the arrival of their **Great Grandson, Freddie Peter Farrin**, who was born on 27th June to parents Stephanie and George Farrin.

RIP Michael Shadbolt Michael died in June in Cornwall where, on retirement, he made his home with his wife Sheila (died July 2013). Although well into his 90s, Michael liked to keep in touch with the village he loved and still received a copy of Rostrum each month.

HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society is delighted to 'get back to normal' and have a full programme of talks planned for 2022/23.

The first two talks are:

Wednesday 21st September when Barbara Stevens will give a talk 'My year as a Journalist' and

Wednesday 19th October when Geoff Collins' topic is 'Women of the Air.'

The Society meets in Wateringbury Village Hall and talks start at 8pm. It's time to join or renew membership for the year to July 2023 and is good value at £15 for 8 talks plus other events. Visitors are also always very welcome at £5 an evening. If you require further details please contact our chairman David Barrow on 01622 814631.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE – The WI Inspiring Women

The Wateringbury WI will next meet on Thursday 8th September at 2pm in the Village Hall. The speaker will be Brian Nobbs who will give his talk 'The Birds of Kent'. The competition will be announced in the pre meeting email.

Visitors will be welcome at this meeting.

Margaret Malsher

FIRST WATERINGBURY GUIDES

As always the summer term is full of outdoor activities and we had a day with other units at Lower Grange Farm, Maidstone, climbing, fencing and going on the cavebus. This was rather challenging in the heat but most made it all the way through. I took ten girls to Tonbridge for a Water Fun Day and this time the raft was built before we arrived so it, and the girls stayed up, but because of the weather, many of the girls 'fell in'. Some of them also took part in sailing at Heysden Lake so we've really been out and about making the most of the facilities around here.

We finished our summer term with a trip to Mote Park to go on Sky Trail and Dinogolf. Some girls were more confident than others but even I got to the second tier level on the ropes but I refused to dangle from a rope over the edge of the climbing frame.

Some of us are off to Wellies and Wristbands at Foxlease in Lyndhurst, Hampshire, over the August bank holiday so probably by the time you read this you'll know if we got soaked or boiled! It's a festival style camp so no blue guide uniform, plenty of colour, and lots of pamper activities including

hot tubs, lots of glitter and henna. There are also adventurous activities including inflatables on the lake, climbing, archery, canoeing and raft building to name but a few. There will be music bands all evening and I'm reliably informed that Ed Sheeran (ask your daughter or granddaughter!) came once before so we'll see who comes this time.

We haven't yet planned our term for September to Christmas but we have more ideas than evenings so it will be a case of seeing what we can fit in. We have a weekend away indoors at the end of October and we'd also like to do a sleepover at some point so that every guide (and we have 40 of them) at least gets the opportunity to spend one night away as a guide.

Are you an adult that would love to join in with our fun but doesn't know where to start? We could take more girls if we have more leaders whether in uniform or just as a unit helper so please do come and join the fun and have something valuable to add to your CV. Please contact me on 01622 815416 or email to sheenastewartx3@gmail.com.

Sheena Stewart and team 1st Wateringbury Guides

Yalding Yuletide Market 2022

We are planning this year's event on 3rd December and if you have a business or are a local charity that would like a stall at this year's event please contact

Tony on amarshall36@btinternet.com or

Jason on jason.bryant1968@btinternet.com for further details and application form.

GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE

Following the hottest and driest Summer on record, we now have a hosepipe ban; a difficult time for gardeners and wildlife!

Short term, I think that we need to prioritize our most precious plants and water either in the evening or early morning to minimize evaporation and, at the same time, top up shallow containers for all our wildlife.

Garden plants can be watered with water from cooled down washing up water ('grey water') or even bath or shower water, if you can work out how to do it!

Long term, install water butts if you haven't already. Once we've had some rain and the ground has had a good soaking, apply a thick layer of mulch on flower beds to keep the moisture in, whilst also suppressing weeds. You can buy a variety of peat-free products to achieve this or, if you make your own compost, then that will also enrich the soil.

On these warm evenings, bats are whizzing around my garden particularly across the pond. Mine are 'Pipistrelle' bats which are our smallest but most common species. These mammals are a gardener's friend as they feed on midges and other small insects. If you want to do more to attract them into your garden, then light coloured, night scented flowers, such as honeysuckle, evening primrose and nicotiana, will attract the insects that then attract the bats.

Hopefully, by the time you are reading this, we will have had the much-needed rain and our gardens and wildlife will have started to recover.

Pauline Knutton

Fields and their Secrets

A Kent war film by Philip Day

This film, including the story of a pilot whose Spitfire came down close to the Hop Pole in Nettlestead Green during WWII, will be shown at

Nettlestead Church, Saturday 24th September at 7.00pm.

Admission is free!! Refreshments will be on sale. Car parking available at Nettlestead Court Farmyard, adjacent to the Church. Further information from Marguerite 01622 871272 or Yvonne 01622 812016.

Tonbridge and Malling Ramblers

For full details of all our walks and walk leader contacts, see www.tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk or email info@tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk.

NETTLESTEAD AND WATERINGBURY PRE-SCHOOL

What a fun-packed, busy end of term 6 we have had! The term was finished by the preschool children and parents joining in our sports day. The children all did so well with the different races and then enjoyed cheering on their parents with their races. With the hot weather the children enjoyed some water play and lots of ice lollies, finishing off with lots of bouncing fun on an obstacle bouncy castle. The school leaver children had a lovely ceremony, where they posed for a picture in a graduation gown and cap with a certificate with their Key Person. They were presented with their Learning Journal as a precious keepsake of their time at the setting, along with a little leaver present.

Primary school teachers have also dropped by to meet the children that will be starting with them in September '22 to support them with their all-important transitions. We wish all our school-leaver children the best of luck in their new adventures!. We will miss you all lots!

Finally, as the warm summer starts drawing to an end, we have been kept busy with our Summer Holiday club, which is always great fun, watching the different age groups mix and creating new friendships.

In September we look forward to welcoming our new children and families, getting to know them all. The settling in period isn't just important for the children but also for the new families of the children, supporting them on their important preschool journey.

WATERINGBURY FOOTPATH GROUP

During the summer we had some lovely walking weather, but at times it was simply too hot for most people to enjoy a walk during the heat of the day. I cancelled one of the planned walks as it coincided with the July severe heatwave, which was disappointing. But we had 3 good walks during July and August.

The first route took us along the river from Bow Bridge to Nettlestead church, then up to the top of Gibbs Hill and back via the waterfall, Manor Farm and Old Road. It's always nice to pause at the top of Gibbs Hill to admire the views of Wateringbury, Mereworth, Teston and further afield. In August we took advantage of the hot and very dry conditions to have two walks down Livesey Street, a byway which is not open to traffic, running from the North Pole to Teston village. It was a

pleasant shady walk, usually it is too muddy for us but it was dry underfoot this summer!

Walks will be leaving the Village Hall on:

Sunday 4th September at 2.30pm

Friday 9th September at 10am

Sunday 2nd October at 2.30pm.

Everyone is welcome. You don't need to let me know in advance if you're coming, but if you haven't been on a group walk with me, please feel free to contact me for more information and so I can keep you updated about our plans.

Lisa Dean 077 5953 9032

TESTON & WATERINGBURY PRE-SCHOOL

As the long summer holiday slowly comes to an end, we start to think about another busy academic year! We finished on a high note with our brilliant sports day. The sun shone, the cakes were yum and fun was had by all. A big thankyou to all those mums and dads that gave us excellent feedback, it melted our hearts. You can see these on our Facebook page.

Soon we will be welcoming back the children from last year, many to start their final year with us. We will also be welcoming our new children, some starting their learning journey. This can be a difficult time for our little ones and their mummies and daddies; a time of change and the first step towards independence from mum.

We will meet our new starters and their parents before the hurly-burly of pre-school starts properly. This gives them the opportunity to explore the setting and meet their Keyworker who will be looking after them. This is a very relaxed meeting so that parents can talk to staff about any worries or concerns that they may have; a first step to building a good relationship. We feel this is very important and one that we believe benefits parents, staff and most importantly, our little ones. So don't worry mum, we will take special care of your little one and with you watch them grow and develop.

There are still limited spaces so, if you would like your child to be a part of this amazing pre-school family, please contact us:

testonpreschooladmissions@gmail.com,

tandwngroup@gmail.com

Tina Driver 07805 796353.

FROM OUR MP TOM TUGENDHAT

I hope that you had a wonderful summer and were able to enjoy the weather, although I can imagine it was too hot for many, it was hotter than I would have liked! August, for many of us, is a chance to reset. A chance to relax and spend some much-needed time with the family.

I have managed to spend some time reflecting on my own campaign to become leader of the Conservative Party, and Prime Minister. The one aspect that I will never forget is the support that so many of you showed me throughout. It helped me more than you could imagine and gave me the strength to keep going through what were very tough, busy days.

I received countless messages of support from friends, neighbours, parish councils, and local councillors, all from our community and I want to say thank you to everybody. I am proud of the campaign we ran.

Now I hope that whoever wins, they start with tackling the issues that are affecting us all, the cost of energy and the rising prices we're all feeling. There are so many other areas

the new Prime Minister must focus on including ensuring our NHS is able to deliver for all of us.

I am looking forward the return of Parliament and getting back to what I do best, and that's standing up for you, and making your voice heard on a national level. Tom Tugendhat MP

Phone: 01732 441563 Email:
tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk

THE WATERINGBURY REGATTAS

This splendid silver cup is still presented each year, pandemics permitting, at the National Schools Regatta. The inscription reads

*Wateringbury Regatta
Medway Cup, 1867.*

A similar cup is retained by the Royal Engineers who were frequent winners. Several pewter cups from the regattas are still in existence.

From 1864 to 1873 there were annual Wateringbury regattas between Teston Weir and Bow Bridge. We do not know why they stopped but there was a one year revival in 1894. Other regattas were held at different times in Tonbridge, Maidstone and the Medway towns.

The railway, opened along the Medway valley in 1844, enabled large numbers to attend, drawn by newspaper adverts for the Wateringbury regatta placed by the South Eastern Railway. These adverts specified the times of trains to the regatta from a variety of locations.

The mid-Victorian period saw increasing national prosperity, reflected in more leisure time and interest in all kinds of sport, of which rowing was just one.

Under the patronage of Viscountess Falmouth, contestants and spectators came from all classes of society. For competitors, a distinction was made between amateurs (gentlemen) and professionals seeking the cash prizes rather than cups. For spectators some segregation of classes was achieved by grandstands, for those spectators prepared to pay to flaunt their fashionable clothes.

Although the competition between regatta contestants was serious, apart perhaps from the [washing] "tub races", many, in the crowds of thousands, were there for the fun. Most years there was a large band, "booths for the refreshment of the inner man", betting, coconut shies, and a greasy pole over the river. A dinner after the regattas for contestants and organisers with many toasts, singing and plenty to drink was the norm.

The lady spectators presented a special Ladies Challenge Cup, but ladies did not participate in the rowing itself until the 1894 revival when all the lady winners were all from the *Fremelin* family. It was 1976 before women were allowed to row in the Olympics.

Terry Bird

AFTERNOON CONCERT

with **MARGARET WATSON** and her **Golden Harp**.

At The Undercroft, Nettlestead Place

(by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Roy Tucker).

Sunday 29th October 2022 at 4pm with Harvest Buffet.

Tickets £10 each available from Yvonne Cronk 01622 812016,
Marguerite Allen 01622 871272, Jackie Bennett 01622 813322

FLOWER CLUB

Such a lot has happened since July. Our members took part in the Kent County Show where they won prizes. Iris Shaw won the Best in Show and the best use of texture.

We enjoyed a Kent flower clubs day at Eltham with a talk by the original Calendar Girl, Tricia Stewart, played by Helen Mirren in the film of a Yorkshire WI having a different (!) calendar, as fundraising for one of their members whose husband had cancer. Tricia treated us to a most entertaining morning and funny stories of how it all came about and how true to form some of the actors that played the characters in the screen adaptation were similar to the people they played! After an entertaining morning and a picnic lunch on the lawn outside we had a wonderful demonstration by Delyth Price, a national demonstrator from Wales. Her demonstration of several competition pieces for the next day area show were completed with grace and ease and wowed us with her colour choice and palette of complimentary designs.

In July we had an open evening with our National demonstrator, Vanessa Wellock, from Yorkshire, attended by many visitors from local clubs and distinguished guests. She had a difficult journey due to protestors on the M25. The last 50 miles took her 3 hours. The show began with help from committee and a couple of our guests, also demonstrators, and we had a completely foam free demonstration! No oasis was used at all. Considering the heat, the flowers lasted not too badly. I was lucky enough to win one arrangement myself.

At our August meeting Eleanor Bracken from London and Overseas area presented *Snapshots* – It was a more sedate evening with designs incorporating her own memories of places she has visited. The colours of designs blended well with their heritage in warmer climates.

In September there will be a workshop with Area Speaker and teacher, Jean Hoar, making a lavender wand with fresh lavender - a delight to have in your drawer or even a bunch of them in a vase.

Please feel to join us at East Malling Institute on 21st September, open to members and visitors. Contact us if you wish to come along to this friendly club. All programme details on www.wateringburyflowerclub.co.uk
Jean Schofield, Secretary WFC

JULY PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Announcements - The chairman announced that David Marks has resigned from the Council. Councillors expressed their thanks to David for his 10 years of service, particularly for sharing his extensive knowledge of planning matters.

Allotments - At a recent visit a few plots were found to need attention. The large mound of spoil near the gate was also discussed.
If removed it would create space for another allotment plot.

Crime Report - Four crimes appeared on the police website relating to the village: personal property found in Canon Lane, theft of a motor vehicle, criminal damage to a vehicle, vandalism to play equipment. There was also one traffic related crime of a vehicle with no insurance.

Play Equipment - Three quotes had been obtained for new play equipment, to be placed near to the existing equipment, all in the region of £55,000. The council propose to consult with householders to see if the community support such

expenditure. They also propose investigating grants and other sources to help finance the project.

Planning Applications - Oakenwood Cottage, 243 Red Hill - Councillors had no objections (subject to Listed Buildings Officer's agreement).

Ground floor rear extension and associated internal alterations. Installation of 1st floor shower room and roof light to rear, dormer window to the rear and demolition of existing garage structure and erection of replacement double garage.

Speed Watch - David Merry, village Speedwatch co-ordinator, attended the meeting and councillors thanked him and his team of volunteers for all their efforts to make our village roads safer. He reported that Kent Police had recently appointed a Speed Watch Officer to aid local volunteer teams. David outlined some new options for monitoring vehicle speed which had some cost implications. Councillors were happy to consider providing finance if this proved to be of benefit to the community.

There was no meeting in August. **The next Parish Council meeting** followed by Planning Committee **is on Tuesday, 6th September at 7.30pm** in the Upper Room of the Village Hall. Councillors value the support of residents and there is an open forum at the end of each meeting to allow for matters of local concern to be brought to the attention of the council.

Approved minutes of these meetings will appear on the Parish Council website www.wateringburypc.org.uk in due course.

CONSULTATION

The Parish Council is inviting all village residents to be part of our consultation process on replacing and improving play equipment in the playing fields. We are proposing to close the lower play area where the equipment is nearing the end of its life and enlarging the upper play area to accommodate new play equipment primarily for the 2 - 5 age range. The intent is to update and mitigate the loss of some equipment in the lower playground where it has become financially unviable to continue repairing old equipment.

The Parish Council is seeking residents' views on spending money to expand the provision in the upper playground. Grants will be applied for where available, but we expect some of the funding will come from the Parish Council. We recognise that with financial restraints as they currently are - any further capital investment in play equipment should only be undertaken with the collective support of the Parish.

Initial quotes from three suppliers did include a 'proposed' layout which may help give people a visualisation of the new play equipment. If you are reading this on Facebook, we would appreciate your vote – if you would also like to pass on your views or are reading this in the Rostrum (the link to the proposed layout is also on the Parish Council website www.wateringburypc.org.uk), please email your views to clerk@wateringburypc.org.uk Thank you.

CEMENT! The Musical by J.J. Overell

Having, over the past few years, combined to give several concerts, parishioners of Snodland and Wateringbury, with members of the Wateringbury Players, are staging the

world dernière production of this new work, which one publisher rejection email described as 'unlike anything else we've ever been sent'. The tale attempts to link dramatically the two Medway settlements. It also pretends to be Dickensian, even having the audacity to suggest that it sprang from the pen of the great man himself – who lived his final years just a little further downriver.

Come along, if for no other reason than to find out just why that pretence is so preposterous. Not tempted? What if I say there'll be refreshments? Yes, I thought that would pique your interest. Performances will take place on Thursday 6th, Friday 7th and Saturday 8th October at St John the Baptist Church, Wateringbury, at 7pm.

Tickets cost £10 and are available from The Handy Stores and Post Office, Wateringbury, by contacting jjoverell@btinternet.com, or at the door – in the likely event that they haven't all been snapped up long before opening night. All proceeds to St John the Baptist, Wateringbury, and Christ Church Community Hall, Snodland.

REV GARY WRITES

The Rectory, 72 The Street, Mereworth
gary.rev@outlook.com ☎ 01622 813178

Harvest Festival – more than sharing.

I trust you were able to get away for an enjoyable break over the summer holidays and that too much sun didn't spoil the summer fun! I do appreciate that some people didn't get a summer break for one reason or another and so I hope you'll be able to grab a bit of time away for a few days with family or friends in the autumn. I think we all agree it's good to have some sort of break from the usual routine for rest and relaxation.

Looking ahead now we'll be celebrating Harvest Festival at the church on the 2nd of October. When I was a kid back in the 1970's Harvest Festival was the main event in the year when we were reminded of the importance of sharing what we had with others. With the growing importance of Food Banks and the collections made at supermarkets we have more reminders these days of the importance of sharing. But Harvest Festival continues to remind us of that important fact as well. But because Harvest Festival services are times for giving thanks to God, they also remind us of something else as essential to human flourishing as sharing. Jesus said:

"Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God"
(Matthew 4:4).

Harvest Festival services remind us that we depend for our very life upon the goodness and provision of God. God has spoken the cosmos into being; not just things for us to eat but stones, earth, water, sky, air, fire, gravity, light, energy. All those things and much more besides are what they are and being what they are they go together to make up the cosmos – an ordered world which we can inhabit. Human life requires more than food, it requires every word that God has spoken to bring each essential part

of the cosmos into being. Gathering together to say 'thank you' to God goes a long way to keeping alive within us the truth and facts of our existence. Perhaps some people need confronting with these truths more than ever.

So, I hope you can attend our Harvest service next month. If you don't usually attend church or haven't been for a long time please don't be put off; you will be very welcome and it will be lovely to see you.

God bless. *Gary Townsend.*

Priest-in-Charge of Mereworth, Watlington and West Peckham

WATERINGBURY CHURCH - SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

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

Church Face Book Page: fb.me/watlingtonchurch

Friends of SJB Church [web site www.fowc.org.uk](http://web.site/www.fowc.org.uk)

Saturday 3rd - 3-5pm Messy Church (for young families) –

Bible Story, Action Songs, Prayer time, lots of crafts and ending with afternoon tea. All welcome

Sunday 4th - 10am – Matins led by Barry Fisher

Sunday 11th – 10am - Holy Communion with Rev Gary

During this service there will be Messy Church on Sundays for children in the vestry

Sunday 18th - 10am - All Age Worship

Sunday 25th - 10am – Holy Communion with Rev Gary

Sunday 3rd October - 10am – Harvest Praise with Barry Fisher

Sundays in term time at 5pm Benefice Youth Service is held in Mereworth Church. Not just for youth but for those who enjoy informal worship.

WEEKLY ZOOM BENEFICE BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Mondays at 7.30pm for about an hour

Rev Gary Townsend invites you to join him for bible study.

To join please email gary.rev@outlook.com for the link to the meeting.

IN OUR JOYS – From the Parish Registers

Baptism –

3rd July- Alfie John Vickery

Dates for your Diary - Events in the church

6, 7 and 8 October CEMENT – THE MUSICAL World Premiere A light-hearted look at Cement written by Jonathan Overell with Voices Across the A20 and Watlington Players. Tickets £10 from Post Office or Handy Stores

19 November – Christmas Craft Bazaar 11am-3pm

COFFEE, CAKE, CHAT AND CRAFTS

7th and 21st September 10.30-Noon in the Church

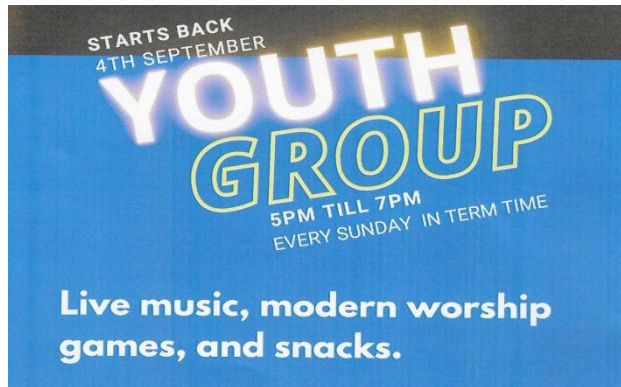
Do go along to the church if you value good coffee, home-made cake and a chance to meet new people. Some who go along have revived their knitting and crochet skills. Miranda is also happy to show any interested how to do felting.

Bargain Books the church has a good selection of second-hand books of all descriptions, 50p each or 3 for £1.

Do come along and browse in coffee morning time.

JUBILEE FLOWER FESTIVAL THANKS

Very many thanks to everyone who supported the Community Flower Festival to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The flower arrangements were delightful and we hope the Souvenir programmes helped to spread the word about the many activities in our village we can enjoy. The event also raised £628 for church funds which will greatly help with spiralling electricity and other costs over the coming months.



IN
MEREWORTH
CHURCH
SUNDAYS
4 th 11 th 18 th

Saturday 3rd September 3-5pm

Your invitation to:



Where: St John the Baptist Church, Tonbridge Road, Wateringbury

For young children and their carers