

## **Welcome to the September edition of Rostrum**

*When you use any of our advertisers, please let them know you read their advert in Rostrum*

### **VILLAGE DIARY**

#### **September**

- 2** **Parish Council Meeting** - 7.30pm – Hall upper room
- 7** **The Wateringbury Players AGM** - 6.30pm - Hall.
- 10** **WI meeting** - 7.30pm-9.30pm - Village Hall
- 16** **Footpath Group** - 10am – Hall car park
- 17** **Doodle Bugs & Rockets talk by Bob Ogley** – 8pm  
- Hall
- 17** **Flower Club** - 7pm for 7.30pm start – East Malling  
Institute
- 20** **WW2 & Village History displays** – 10.30am-4pm -  
Church
- 20** **Scouts Group AGM** – 7pm – Hamlet Wood campsite,  
Coxheath
- 21** **Village History Walk** – 2.30-4.30pm (pre-booked)
- 21** **The Village Market** - 10.30am-1pm - Village Hall  
and car park

#### **October**

- 5** **Footpath Group** – 2.30pm – Hall carpark
- 7** **Parish Council Meeting** – 7.30pm – Hall upper room
- 8** **WI meeting** - 7.30pm-9.30pm - Village Hall
- 15** **Hop Bine & Hop Pickers in Kent talk** – 8pm –  
Village Hall
- 15** **Flower Club** - 7pm for 7.30pm start – East Malling  
Institute
- 19** **The Village Market** - 10.30am-1pm - Village Hall  
and car park

#### **THE WATERINGBURY PLAYERS**

Hi everyone. Hope you are all having change to have had a great summer.

As Autumn approaches our thoughts turn to our next Panto. Our AGM will be held on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September** at **6.30pm** at Wateringbury Village Hall.

If anyone is interested in joining our team backstage or performing, we especially need help with costumes, please contact us on the email

[wateringburyplayers@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wateringburyplayers@hotmail.co.uk)

**Come along to Wateringbury Church on**

**SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

**10.30am-4pm – Free event**

**Enjoy browsing**

**History Society Archives**

**WW2 Displays**

**WW2 Memories of 'Ordinary' People**

**Church Registers of Baptisms and**

**Marriages**

***Refreshments - Tea, Coffee and Cake available***

**THE OAST THEATRE, TONBRIDGE**  
**“A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE” By Tennessee Williams**  
**11<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

The Oast Theatre opens their new season with this brilliant play. It is definitely one not to be missed!  
Performances: 8 pm (Sunday 3 pm)  
Tickets: £14 Book online at [www.oasttheatre.com](http://www.oasttheatre.com)  
Credit card bookings 0333 666 33 66 (booking fee applies)

**VILLAGE PEOPLE**

*Please let us have your news and tributes by 17<sup>th</sup> September for our October issue of Rostrum. Entries are free. Email: [rostrum2@hotmail.com](mailto:rostrum2@hotmail.com)*

**RIP**

**Jennifer Button** – A friend remembered

My very dear friend, Jennifer Button, sadly passed away on 31<sup>st</sup> July, at home, surrounded by those she loved.

Jenny and her husband, Alan, moved to “The Wardens” in Wateringbury 47 years ago, and she and I have been friends for over 40 years.

Probably one of the most talented people I know, Jenny was an accomplished artist, author and playwright. She trained at Brighton College of Art, had several novels published, and wrote plays which were performed in the village, and which everyone enjoyed. Her early involvement in the Wateringbury Players saw her painting sets for many pantomimes and summer shows, and also taking an active part in directing them. Jenny and I staged a village community production of “The Lion. The Witch and the Wardrobe” in the Church, of which I have many wonderful memories.

Jenny always had time for children and set up a junior drama group as part of the Wateringbury Players called “Waterbrats”. This was very popular and a real joy for all of them.

In her working life she worked tirelessly for the Education Department of Oxfam, going into schools and running workshops. She had a natural talent for working with children of all ages.

Many in the village will remember Jenny and Alan’s wonderful hospitality. She loved nothing more than being surrounded by friends. I and many others will miss her.

Rest in peace dear friend. *Maggie Hoiles*

“She will always be remembered for her sense of fun, curiosity, generosity, vast cultural knowledge and monochrome glamour.” *Vanessa*

The funeral is on the **9<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm at Vinters Park Crematorium.**

**Great Grandad Congratulations to Colin Craig** who became a first-time great grandfather on 7<sup>th</sup> July with the arrival in Maidstone of Mia Eleanor. Congratulations too to grandad Duncan and proud parents Matthew and Maria.

**Belated Diamond Wedding Congratulations to Derrick and Sandra Brown** who celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on 14<sup>th</sup> August in Auldgirth, Scotland with their 2 daughters and families. The happy couple were married at St Pauls Church, Crofton Road, Orpington.

Many **congratulations to Cathy and Brian Miller** who celebrate their **Golden Wedding Anniversary** on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2025!

They were married at Paisley Abbey, Renfrewshire, in 1975. They bought their home together in Wateringbury a few years later, where they have lived happily ever since. Happy Anniversary, we hope you enjoy the celebrations!

## **HISTORY SOCIETY**

It is time to join the Society for the coming year £20 (or £10 for under 21s) which is great value for 8 talks and a Christmas Social Evening. Or come along on any evening for £7 as a visitor. All talks are held in the village hall with the talk starting at 8pm. Free tea or coffee from 7.40pm.

The new season of talks opens on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September** when **Bob Ogley** will be telling us about **Doodle Bugs and Rockets**.

Other interesting talks booked for the coming year are: Hop Bine and Hop Pickers in Kent, The Disgraceful Sons of George III, The Rise and Fall of the Darnley Family of Cobham Hall, The History of Cricket in Kent, The Roaring 20s, What the Victorians Did for Us and The English Country House. We look forward to seeing you.

To mark the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of WW2, the History Society is organising 2 free events. **Heritage and WW2 Displays on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September in the church 10.30am-4pm. The Parish Registers of Baptisms and Marriages will also be on display.** Do come along and have a browse. tea, coffee and cake will be available.

On **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September** Terry Bird is leading a **History Walk** around the village. Meet in the garden of The Beck (junction of Mill Lane and Tonbridge Road) at 2.30pm. The walk will be approximately 2 hours. **Booking is essential** as number of walkers needs to be restricted. If you wish to come, please email [wateringburyhistorysociety@gmail.com](mailto:wateringburyhistorysociety@gmail.com)

*Christine Byron*

## **FOOTBALL CLUB**

Wateringbury players and coaches are taking a well-earned rest for the Summer, but are looking for new players for next season. If you would like to join our fine club and are in the following age groups, please get in touch:

Girls and Boys Under 8 (Academy) - Geoff King 07801 756506

Girls Under 10 - Grace Mayhead 07514 309224

Boys Under 12 - Matt Goodchild 07590 619037

Girls Under 13 - Jon Tucker 07968 123872

Men (Goalkeeper required) - Tony Garrett 07890 053921

## **WATERINGBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL**

We had an excellent year last year, including a very successful Ofsted visit, and look forward to more of the same going forward. Have a look at our newsletters on our website to find out more! Our outdoor learning area and resources for play have been growing thanks to some amazing fundraising by our children, through the colour run in the summer as well as some very generous donations from families of the school. Being a small school, we see the children all playing together and not being worried about what year group they are in. This really adds to the family feel of the school and creates a culture where children learn from each other.

For those of you looking for school places for September 2026, we will be holding four new entrants' tours on 7<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> October at 10am or 13<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm. Come and

see our school in action and have the chance to ask questions. We also have a couple of spaces in other year groups if you are looking for a space now – please contact the office to arrange a chance to look around the school.

We look forward to sharing our news throughout the year! If you have some ideas for community projects that we could be part of, please let us know! Debbie Johnson (Headteacher).

[www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk](http://www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk) tel: 01622 812199.

## **WI**

We meet 2nd Wednesday of every month at the village hall 7.30 to 9.30pm.

Our July meeting seems so long ago but it was very well attended. We had lots of visitors as well as members who came along to learn the benefits of CPR. Our speaker, Tim from the NHS, bought along lots of mannequins so we were all able to get the feel of the actions needed to save a life or support somebody else doing so. We also learnt how to use the defibrillators dotted around the village.

We had a lovely cream tea with Lucy at "Where Memories Meet", fresh scones and individual pots of tea each prepared how we had asked for them. It was a lovely afternoon and a cosy place to meet friends.

We also sent off 20 Teddy bears that we have knitted for the Buddy Bag Foundation, a charity for children in emergency care. Well done ladies. Our next box will be going off near Christmas time.

We supported the 'Breast Cancer Now' tea party at the Old Police House in Bow Road. Thank you to everyone who donated cakes and pastries and items for sale your generosity is what makes these events so enjoyable and successful. We didn't have an evening meeting in August but the Committee have been busy behind the scenes preparing for the rest of the year. Our September meeting with Jill Eaglton is called "Colour your Soul and Dress yourself Happy". Curious? Come along on the **10<sup>th</sup> September** 7.30pm to see what it's about.

Visitors £3, refreshments £1, raffle £1. All ladies 18 and over welcome

Sharon Goshawk, President

## **FROM SARAH HUDSON, Wateringbury Parish, T&M and KCC Councillor**

The weather this summer has resulted in vegetation across the parish growing much quicker than usual. It has meant that on more than one occasion we have had to tackle problems caused by the speed at which vegetation has grown.

The greatest impact is on our pavements and public rights of way. And while, generally, KCC are responsible for their maintenance, often the adjoining vegetation is in private ownership.

Where a hedge, tree or shrub overhangs a road or footpath or obstructs a road sign, KCC has the power under Section 154 of the Highways Act 1980 to require the owner of the hedge, tree or shrub to lop or cut it within 14 days. This is a power that KCC doesn't wish to use unless it has to, but sometimes it is necessary where signs are obstructed.

Over the past few weeks there have been many instances where we have had to get vegetation cut back to

enable signs to be seen or pedestrian access, including the hedges along the A26, both opposite the cemetery and also from Meadowview to the GP surgery, allowing mobility scooters and wheelchair users safe passage.

If you want to report any areas overgrowing on to the pavement or road you can do so directly to the KCC website here - <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-or-track-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement>

Alternatively, do send us an e-mail and we are happy to get this sorted for you. [matt.boughton@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:matt.boughton@tmbc.gov.uk) and [sarah.hudson@kent.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.hudson@kent.gov.uk) are the best ways to get hold of us.

### **'MAINTAINING A Foothold IN CHALLENGING TIMES' a collection of poems by ANTHONY LE FLEMING**

Congratulations to Antony Le Fleming who lives in Wateringbury on the publication of his book of poems earlier this year. In the poems the author attempts to come to terms with today's changing and challenging world, looking back to a vanishing post-war age. The book is available from Troubador Publishing, email: [tradeorders@troubador.co.uk](mailto:tradeorders@troubador.co.uk) tel: 0116 0279 2299

### **Tonbridge and Malling Ramblers - Kent countryside walks**

**11<sup>th</sup> September** - Circular Walk from West Peckham to Plaxtol - 5.2 miles

**18<sup>th</sup> September** - Hosts of oasts around Hunton - a leisurely flat walk - 5 miles or shorter 3.5-mile option

For full details of all the walks, see Tonbridge and Malling Ramblers Facebook page or [www.tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk](http://www.tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk).

### **GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE**

Over 100,000 people took part in the Big Butterfly Count in August, myself included. It's not clear yet whether the warm Summer weather this year has helped restore numbers but it is clear that climate change is reshaping the distribution of wildlife in our area. For this reason, the 'Jersey Tiger', previously only found as far north as the Channel Isles, was included on the identification sheet for the first time. This day flying moth is also known as the Spanish flag as its black and white tiger stripes resemble the flag when its wings are closed but when it flies its hindwings display a vibrant red or orange with black spots. I've seen them in my garden recently so they were on my list!

The very hot Summer, lack of rain and the resulting hosepipe ban has caused difficulties for both gardeners and wildlife alike. In our gardens, the best we can do is deadhead, water and feed our plants regularly. When deadheading, it will encourage the plant to flower again if you cut down to the next leaf joint or bud whilst also cutting back anything that has died back. I water either in the evening or early morning when the sun is not on the garden and this is also the best time to feed plants.

This might be a good time to consider installing a water butt or two as it seems likely that we will be experiencing more Summers like this one in the future.

*Pauline Knutton*

## **WATERINGBURY GUIDES**

Wateringbury Guides went to camp in July to Comp Wood scout site near Mereworth. Thanks to a grant we got a train to Margate and spent the day in Dreamland, some time on the beach, got ice creams and rounded the day off with fish and chips for tea. Our presence in uniform generated a lot of questions about Girlguiding and we were very happy to fly the flag and tell everyone how much we were enjoying ourselves and that we were camping each night.

Back on site we did some archery, built and used rope bridges, made stretchers from natural materials, played wide games and learnt both verses of the National Anthem. Mel led a brilliant campfire and we actually got the tents down on the last day dry.... just!

We knew we had a few pairs of sisters in the unit but realised that all four sets had come to camp, along with two leaders who are sisters, and twin daughters of one of our leaders meaning we had six sets of sisters or twins among 22 campers! Can anyone beat that? Sheena Stewart

## **NETTLESTEAD & WATERINGBURY PRESCHOOL**

A warm welcome to all our old families coming back after the summer break and to all our new families joining us. We also wish all our school leavers all the best on starting their new adventure at 'big' school. You all will be missed by everyone here. We are looking forward to hearing all the updates.

We will start the term by celebrating Autumn, exploring the changing season around us with the children. We will be collecting natural resources for them to use in their play and craft activities, look at hibernating animals, explore bugs and make bird feeders for the children to hang up outside the setting. We will also be touching on farming and harvest; the children will help with planting some vegetables to watch them grow, linking it to the life cycles of a plant. The children will help look after the vegetables and once grown use them to make some soup for everyone to try.

**September:** some spaces still available in our wrap around and preschool sessions (Government funding accepted).

**October** half term holiday club for children 2-11 years. Children outside the setting welcome.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am - 4pm,  
half days (9am-12.30pm or 12.30-4pm).

£39 per session or £19.50 half-day session

Please email [enquiries@nwps.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@nwps.org.uk) for more information.

## **FLOWER CLUB**

Wateringbury Flower Club has had a busy and enjoyable summer. Members took part in the Kent County Show, winning many prizes. We had a garden visit, and an inhouse workshop, split into a beginners group and another one incorporating the members' favourite vases.

We started our Autumn programme in earnest with our August demonstration by Vivien Withers, the current Chairman of Surrey Area, titled *My Floral Journey*. She gave us the story of her journey into the floral arranging world. Members were thrilled with her designs and rushed to buy tickets to win one of these great arrangements.

On **17<sup>th</sup> September** we will see our evening demonstration with Sheila Adby *A Piece of Cake*. She brings lots of samples for the audience to try! On **15<sup>th</sup> October** we have an inhouse workshop - *Autumn design in a basket*.

Please come along and join our friendly club and a good night out with like-minded people. Visitors (£7) are welcome to join in.

We meet at East Malling Institute Hall, Mill Street, East Malling 7pm for 7.30 pm start. Jean Schofield, President WFC

## **TESTON AND WATERINGBURY PRESCHOOL**

I am very much looking forward to welcoming our children back from their summer holidays and meeting our new little ones who are joining us this term.

We would like to wish our school leavers an exciting first day at their new schools and look forward to receiving the photos of them looking smart in their new uniforms.

This term we will be exploring one of the children's favourite books

'Harry and the bucketful of dinosaurs' by Ian Whybrow. This simple picture book is not only an introduction to dinosaurs; it is also about a character who self-initiates creative play and learning.

Each week, as we read a few pages to the children, we will follow Harry's discoveries about dinosaurs. The group will also create a model dinosaur habitat, exploring where dinosaurs may have slept and what they might have eaten.

During this term our lending library will be up and running where the children can choose their own book to take home to share with their family.

If you would like your child to be part of this amazing pre-school family, please contact: Tina Driver 07805796353 [testonpreschooladmissions@gmail.com](mailto:testonpreschooladmissions@gmail.com) Find us on Facebook too!

## **WATERINGBURY FOOTPATH GROUP**

Despite the first half of the month being almost entirely dry and warm (or hot), in July our two walks both managed to be preceded by heavy rain half an hour before setting off! So, we donned our waterproofs but actually the few people who braved the weather had a mainly dry walk. Our route took us down the very quiet, unmade track called Livesey Street (from the North Pole to Teston village) and back along the riverside path from Teston Country Park.

Our walks in August were up to the top of Yalding Hill, taking footpaths and lanes from Bow Bridge. We joined Smith's Hill at the end of Small Profits and turned towards West Farleigh. By the footpath at Shingle Barn there is a convenient picnic bench from which we admired the distant panorama across the river all the way from the Wrotham transmitter to Maidstone. From Shingle Barn we descended to the usual muddy patch as we went into Waregrave's Wood after Tutsham.

We will be leaving the village hall at:

- 10.00am on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September  
(repeat of Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August Walk)
- 2.30pm on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October

You are very welcome to join us, for more information, please contact me. I can also add you to the Wateringbury Village Walks WhatsApp group, which I use to keep the group up to date with our plans. Lisa Dean 077 5953 9032

**THE VILLAGE MARKET**  
**21 September 10.30am -1pm**

The Village Market goes from strength to strength with 40 sellers in the Group and at least 25 selling each month. We now have a separate Coffee & Chat room - so no pressure to buy from a fantastic selection of unique bespoke items! Just pop in for a drink and chat with neighbours - but we think you will be tempted to buy something from at least one stall!

Look forward to seeing you there and supporting your village community:

10.30am-1pm on **21 September, 19 October, 16 November, 21 December.**

Sue Collins

**WATERINGBURY CHURCH SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER**

*Benefice website*

*www.mwwwpchurches.org*

*A friendly welcome awaits you at all **Sunday Services which start at 10am and last for about an hour.***

*Each service has an easy to follow booklet.*

*Refreshments are served after these services please stay for a chat if you can.*

**Saturday 6th - 3-5pm - Messy Church** (for children and their carers) Bible Story, Action Songs, Prayer time, lots of crafts and ending with afternoon tea. All welcome

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> - 10am - Morning Praise - led by Barry Fisher**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> - Holy Communion with Rev Gary Townsend**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> - 10am - All Age Worship**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> - 10am - Benefice Communion with Rev Gary**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October - 3-5pm - Messy Church celebrates Harvest**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October - 10am - Harvest Praise with Barry Fisher**

**The Refresh Services of less formal worship return to Mereworth Church after their summer break on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 5pm. In future the Refresh Services will take place in Mereworth church on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month.**

**IN OUR SORROWS - From the Parish Registers**

**Funeral - (1 July) - Olive Marion Gosby**  
(21 July 1926 - 27 May 2025) Church Service followed by committal in Wateringbury Cemetery

**Thanksgiving for Life Service - (7 July)**  
**Laurence Michael Romeny Murton**  
(5 July 1995 - 13 April 2025)

**REV GARY WRITES**

*The Rectory, 72 The Street, Mereworth ME18 5NA*  
[gary.rev@outlook.com](mailto:gary.rev@outlook.com) ☎ 01622 813178

**Prayer, Praise and Discussion**

Our church buildings are first and foremost places for Christian worship – praying, preaching, singing and mutual encouragement in the Faith by the Christians gathered there. But they get used for other things such as weddings, funerals, concerts, exhibitions, school events etc. I'm a great believer in them being used in a variety of ways so long as what goes on is not contrary to or antagonistic to the aforementioned purposes. I think they are greatly underused as places for discussion about Christian belief and they should be used as venues where not only Christians but people from other faiths and none can come and share in discussion about the claims of Christianity. These days I suppose people who are seeking answers to what Christianity is all about are likely to go online and I've no doubt there are some excellent – as well as some very bad! – sites and platforms you could end up getting into. I think the great advantage of meeting in person is that it affords the opportunity to get to know the people whose beliefs you have come to find out about.

From this month onwards our Sunday evening REFRESH service in Mereworth church will be given over to prayer, praise and discussion. It will be held only on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month and each month there will be a topic that we hope will be of interest. We're going to start this month (28<sup>th</sup> of September) with *'Right and Wrong, as a Clue to the Meaning of the Universe*

*– C.S. Lewis' challenge to take seriously the existence of God.'* Any of you that have read Lewis' book 'Mere Christianity' will recall that this is the title of the first part of his book and the talk for the evening will be a presentation of Lewis' arguments. We'll start with some refreshments, a worship song and a prayer before having the talk. Then there will be the opportunity for discussion, and we'll end with some prayers, a worship song and more refreshments for those that want to stay. We start at 17:00 and finish at 18:00. Our church website will give the topics for each month so keep an eye on what's coming up. If something is of interest to you I hope you will join us and if you know someone who would be interested do bring them along.

*Rev Gary Townsend*  
*Rector of Mereworth, Wateringbury and West Peck*

**COFFEE BREAK – 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> September -  
10.30am-12.30pm**

Do come along to this friendly, informal group which meets in the church social area fortnightly to enjoy good company, cake and tea or coffee. Suggested donation £1. On 10<sup>th</sup> September something a little different as Rev Nicky Teverson, who lived in the village as a child, is coming along to tell us about the small charity she set up The House of Luhuvilo which has just built a small orphanage in Tanzania.

*Gillian Sessions 01622 813076*

## CHURCH THANKS

A big thank you to the **Voices Across the A20 singers** and multi-talented conductor Jonathan Overell for their amazing July concerts at SJB and Snodland. The singing was superb. The amount raised was £1918 which will be shared equally between the two churches. The singers invariably have an enjoyable time and a huge debt of thanks is owed to Jonathan for this and the the funds raised. Watch out for the next Snodbury Production. Their **Christmas Concert in Wateringbury will be on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm** - it is not to be missed.

**VE80 Talk on Secret Agent Yvonne Baseden** Sincere thanks go to Professor Juliette Pattinson for her fascinating and thought provoking talk on 12<sup>th</sup> July. Thank you to all who came along too. £370 was raised for church funds.

## LEST WE FORGET – VE/VJ COMMEMORATIONS

Rostrum remembers those commemorated on the village and school memorials

### **William William George King – Gunner 849796 95 Battery 48 Light Anti-aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery**

William was born in Wateringbury on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1915 and was baptised in Wateringbury church on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1915. He lived with his parents and family at the far end of Old Road. Before joining the army he was a Chauffeur/Gardener. He died aged 27, while a Prisoner of War in Japan. He died on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1942 aged 27 and is commemorated on the Jokohama Cremation Shrine which contains the ashes of 335 who died while Japanese POWs and locally on the Village and School memorials. His father died when he was only 6. He was the brother-in-law of Sidney Sloman who was also killed in WWII on 18<sup>th</sup> June 1942.

### **Oliver Womack – Lieutenant 210875**

#### **2 Field Company Royal Engineers.**

Oliver was born in Ceylon (Sri Lanka) the son of Oswald and Agnes Womack of Rose Bay, Sydney, Australia and was the nephew of Sir Reginald and Lady Stubbs who lived in The Red House (corner of Old Road and Tonbridge Road) He died Age 21 and is commemorated on the Rangoon Memorial, Myanmar and the village memorial. He is included on the village memorial as his mother was living as a guest of the Benfields at Brierley, 214 Tonbridge Road

## JULY PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

**Resignation of Councillor Edwards** who no longer lives in the village

**Allotments** – Companies have been invited to tender for strimming, clearing and rotavating overgrown allotments to prepare the plots for new Allotmenters. Residents interested the growing their own vegetables and spending time with nature to improve their wellbeing should contact the clerk for details of renting a plot.

**Bequest to Village** – Syd Thompsett, a long-time resident in the village, bequeathed £1,000 to the village. Councillors decided to use the funds to purchase 2 benches for the Cemetery (both Mr and Mrs Thompsett are buried there) and the Village Hall. The Village Hall Trustees are happy for the Parish Council to site a bench on the grass area; the fence will be removed from this area to aid access.

**Cemetery** - Topple Testing of all grave stones will be carried out by Set-in-Stone. Any stone which fails the safety test will need staking at a cost of £10 + VAT per stake. After 18 months the Company will return, if families have not addressed the repairs

needed Set-in-Stone will carry out the necessary repairs at an agreed daily rate for two members of staff.

**CCTV** - The Clerk is to hold site meetings with relevant providers to investigate the provision of Solar CCTV surveillance at the Allotments and Cemetery.

**Speed Watch** – due to adverse weather conditions the teams were only able to hold three sessions of one hour each. During this time 1409 vehicles passed the check points 80 of which were speeding, 6 letters have been sent to repeat offenders. One vehicle did not have a valid MOT and one had no road tax.

**Lorry Watch Scheme** – this is a volunteer led scheme which can be run by parish councils. Volunteers record lorries which are: using unsuitable roads, not sticking to the limits, ignoring restrictions. The information is then forwarded to a central administrator who will contact the company owning the vehicle to ask why their vehicle was not using the appropriate roads. A record of all transgressions is kept and trends can be monitored. The council is finding out more about this scheme.

**Traffic Matters**- Sarah Hudson continues to work with Highways addressing all local traffic issues.  
-TMBC have confirmed the Speed Indicator Device will be installed on the Tonbridge Road in the week of 4<sup>th</sup> July.

**Overgrown vegetation** - once the bird nesting period has ended all hedging along the A26 will be cut back.

**Parking Problems** – The request for Double Yellow Line markings at the top of Fields Lane is on the Traffic Parking Plan. PC Mayers/Kent Police will follow up any vehicle parked at the very top of Fields Lane. Photographs capturing the registration number are invited to be sent to the Parish Clerk for action. The Parish Clerk has organised Civil Enforcement Officers to visit Fields Lane and Glebe Meadow to address dangerous parking. Councillor Matt Boughton has spoken directly to SGN about the problem of motorcycles ignoring the signage for Bow Road closure and mounting pavements to gain access. Residents are asked to provide the Clerk with footage captured showing number plates of any motorcycles driving recklessly to avoid diversions.

**Public Open Sessions** - the Clerk will action a request from a resident to ascertain ownership of the grass land in front of the Premier Inn and the Wateringbury pub.  
- Sarah Hudson will clarify the length of the double yellow lines proposed for Fields Lane  
- Overgrown hedging on Bow Road and Glebe Meadow is proving difficult to pass. Clerk to investigate.

**Planning** - Councillors considered the following application:  
Reduction in height to 3m of a Silver Birch tree at 19 Upper Mill.

**Next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 7.30pm in the Village Hall upper room.** Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and will be given two opportunities to raise matters of local concern. Approved minutes of council meetings are published on the Parish Council website.

The Parish Council would like - each month - to recognise our unsung heroes, those who volunteer of their time freely and make the village a much cleaner, friendlier community.

This month our recognition goes to two people:

**John Anderson** who has worked tirelessly all summer maintaining the crossroads gardens, and keeping them alive in the heat.

**Michael Stone** who has helped transform the cemetery into an oasis of peace and contemplation, by working every week to remove weeds and help tidy the cemetery. Thank you both.