

VILLAGE DIARY

SEPTEMBER			
1	Footpaths Walk	Car Park	2.30pm
	Pantomime Read Through	Village Hall	6.30pm
3	Parish Council Meeting followed by Planning Comm	Village Hall	7.30pm
11	Crafters Coffee Break	Church	10.30am
12	Women's Institute "A Schoolgirl's War" – Mary Smith	Village Hall	2pm
15	Strawberry Tea Party	Manor Farm	2-5pm
18	History Society	Village Hall	7.40 for 8pm
25	Crafters Coffee Break	Church	10.30am
OCTOBER			
6	Footpaths Walk	Car Park	2.30pm
10	Women's Institute "50 Years of Collecting Autographs" – Geoffrey Green	Village Hall	2pm
16	History Society	Village Hall	7.40 for 8pm

There's still time to join the Wateringbury Players

Pantomime 2020!

+ + + + + + + + +

This year's will be

Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood

It will be performed on Friday 24th and Saturday 25th January 2020

We welcome new members for all roles, anything from principal acting roles to assisting backstage and production. Come and be part of a community tradition going back over 35 years

Children are welcome too, from the age of 7 to 16, but a family member or friend will have to sign up and agree to assist with some chaperone duties

Interested? Come to the Pantomime Readthrough on

Sunday 1st September at 6:30 pm in Wateringbury Village Hall

If you like to know more, please contact: wateringburyplayers@hotmail.co.uk

VILLAGE PEOPLE

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



Congratulations to Hannah and Ashley on the arrival of **Harry Edward** on 4 August 2019 (8lb 7oz) – a brother for Archie and new grandson for Karen and Adrian.

Congratulations to **Dr Bob Bowie** who has been made a Professor of Education at Canterbury Christ Church University for his work in religious and moral education.

Friends of Watlington - One of our team just happens to be Sarah Hudson. Sarah looks after the plants at the crossroads. She has just become the new Borough Councillor for Watlington. Regardless of your political persuasion it is so refreshing that on a monthly basis she is going to submit an article to the Rostrum keeping us, as villagers, in the loop as to what is going on at Tonbridge and Malling Council and how it impacts on the village. Well done Sarah for your enthusiasm and energy.

Michael Williams

AN EVENING OF SNOOKER WITH JIMMY WHITE

Saturday 23rd November 2019 at 7.30pm

at Watlington Village Hall

Tickets £25 each Paying bar Auction and Raffle

Would you like to play a frame of snooker with Jimmy?

We have 8 frames available at £200 each

All funds raised go towards the upkeep of the hall

If you would like to buy tickets, then please make cheques payable to

'Watlington Village Hall' and send to

Bookings, c/o 175 Tonbridge Road, Watlington ME18 5NU

Please include your name, address and contact details

FROM YOUR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

I thought it might be helpful to explain how your Borough Council receives funding, and where it is spent. Council Tax raises approximately £94 million in TMBC. 98.91% of this is collected, making TMBC the best authority in Kent in collecting it. 73% goes to Kent County Council, 11% goes to Kent Police, 4% goes to Kent Fire & Rescue, leaving just 12% for Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council.

There are also approximately 3,700 businesses paying business rates worth £60 million – again we are the best in Kent with a collection success rate of 99.42%. The majority gets sent to Central Government – we are just a collection agency.

So, income is effectively £10.7m from council tax, £10.2m from interest, fees and rent, £3.5m New homes Bonus, £3.4m from business rates, and £0.4m in government grants. The Council receives no funding from central government at all.

Where does it get spent? The biggest cost is refuse, recycling and street cleaning at £4.8m. Housing, housing benefit and council tax support is £3.6m, as is Leisure. Planning costs £3.3m, car parking £2.3m, and environmental health costs £1.3m. Contributions to reserves is £2.2m, corporate democracy (the cost of elections/electoral roll) £1.9m, the collection of taxes £0.9m. Leaving £4.3m for other costs.

As you can see – there is not a lot of wriggle room. Significant cost savings have been made over the last four or five years to the tune of over £4m. This is mainly due to the reduction in headcount, making the council more efficient, and the new recycling contract.

The new Fairer Funding initiative currently under discussion by Government is supposed to be being brought in later this year, but with other events taking place, this is probably going to be deferred further.

Sarah Hudson

LOST PROPERTY A fitness/health bracelet was found on the pavement near the church in mid July – if you are the owner please contact rostrum2@hotmail.com

WATERINGBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

During the last two months we have had a very interesting and informative talk by Stephen Harmer on Sissinghurst Castle and on a lovely sunny day in August we held our annual Garden Party, where we enjoyed delicious cakes made by our members accompanied by numerous cups of tea, followed by a Bring and Buy Sale, our thanks go to Diana for hosting the party.

In September our speaker is Mary Smith who will be telling us, during her talk 'A Schoolgirl's War', about how the pupils and teachers during WW2, at Maidstone Grammar School for Girl's, coped with air raids and rationing etc while still managing to keep and work to the school timetable. The monthly competition for September is an Old School Photo. Visitors welcome.

FOOTPATHS GROUP

Our August walk took us away from the village to Mereworth. Starting from the local school we crossed Seven-Mile Lane to take the path, through a coppice to Yokes Court Farm. Continuing along the valley towards the hamlet of Swanton we stopped to look over the spring fed pond that is the

source of the Wateringbury Stream that flows through Mereworth Castle grounds, into Upper Mill pond before entering the Medway near Bow Bridge. From Swanton we now entered Hurst Wood to Peckham Hurst for a little road walking to Stan Lane before walking through the woods near Beech Farm passing the newly planted vineyards at Yokes Court and back to the start. A walk enjoyed by all on a pleasant summer's day.

1 September a local walk - meet by the village Hall 2:30pm.

6 October - again meet village hall 2:30pm.

kevin.f.reynolds@btinternet.com

0771 3740 375

VILLAGE WARDEN REPORT – JULY 2019

I started my duties on the 17 June and I am delighted that the PC re-employed me to be the Wateringbury Village Warden.

Village Hall Car Park – No issues to report other than a Waitrose shopping trolley has been dumped inside the wall along the Tonbridge Road at side of the Village Hall and I have filled two large bin bags with litter and dumped clothing/shoes that were in the bushes along the back fence of the Car Park itself.

Glebe Meadow – All quiet in the Meadow. No litter issues or dog fouling to report. I have not seen anybody in or using the grassy area over the last two weeks.

QEII Playing Fields - I was pleasantly surprised as to how tidy the Playing Fields were. Hardly any litter and whilst there was dog fouling it appears to be a lot better than I remembered. I believe that the Guides & Scouts may have done a litter pick recently and I will do my best to keep the play areas as spic and span as they have left them. All Play Equipment is in good order and the only thing of any issue to report is the wicker fencing along the track to the Pavilion is leaning out into the track in a few places. I will see if I can straighten the fencing up as I think it only needs the large support posts to be better secured into ground. I will report back next month. I have had to speak to a few youngsters who were climbing and jumping on and across the two lock ups used by the football and cricket clubs. They were causing no harm but I did point out that the roof of the football shed is very flimsy and they are in danger of seriously hurting themselves.

I had one report of unsociable behaviour where some youngsters were making a nuisance of themselves, cycling across the front garden of 53 Phoenix Drive and also ringing the doorbell and running off. I caught the little angels in action last Tuesday afternoon and had a quiet word. They were very apologetic and I hope that is the end of that!

John Ibbs

Village Warden

WATERINGBURY GUIDES

As I write this we are preparing to go to camp at Paxwood which is near Hextable, Swanley for four days. The site is an official guide site with two camp fields and two brownie houses, one of which was where we took the brownies a couple of years ago, so it will be familiar to some of the girls.

It's a lovely wooded site with plenty of wildlife and we plan to set up rope bridges and ladders and hopefully make some other climbing gadgets for the girls to enjoy. Our camp is a 'back to basics' so we are planning to cook as much as possible on a wood fire, and re-learn the art of gadget making to keep our kit clean and dry while at camp.

Other things on the agenda include a water slide, a chariot race, rounders, a camp fire, and hopefully working on the new programme by gaining some of the new badges. For those keeping watch, we will hopefully be 21 girls when we start back in September but as always there is room for more to come and join the fun so do please email us at wateringburyguides@hotmail.com

Sheena, Emily and Hayleigh

FRAUDSTERS

There is an Organised Crime Group who are purporting to be police officers and targeting vulnerable people in relation to rogue traders and the victim owing VAT to the courts. The victim would have had some kind of building / roofing work undertaken at their property. Once the Vat is paid to the 'Courts' the next step is for the victim to pay into a fund for compensation. So far there have been 11 victims who have lost money totalling around £350k.

Wendy Stanley, PCSO

HISTORY SOCIETY

Our first meeting will be on 18 September with a talk entitled "Downton Revisited" by Katherine Collett. On 16 October Guy Bartlett will talk to us about the history of the Red Arrows and on 20 November Ian Porter will speak about "What happened after the Titanic sank". Membership for the year commencing September is £10 with visitors welcome at £3. Tea or coffee is served from 7.40 pm with the talk commencing at 8pm. We look forward to seeing you.

TESTON & WATERINGBURY PRESCHOOL

Welcome back to all our children and families to what will be a very exciting start to the new academic year. This term we will be exploring the space adventures of baby bear from the book Whatever Next by Jill Murphy.

In our craft activities we are making rockets, a space station, fruit skewer rocket snacks and galaxy playdough.

During the term the children will be taking part in a sponsored bounce-a-thon where we will be counting how many jumps the children can do on the trampoline in 1 minute. It's great to hear the children learning by counting their jumps.

Our annual general meeting will be on Tuesday 8th October at 8.00pm. All are welcome when we will be saying goodbye to our outgoing committee members and welcoming our new team of parents. I would like to take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to all who have contributed to our fundraising last year, without which we would not be able to offer the children the varied activities we have available.

To help with our fundraising, we have a 'bags to school' collection from Teston village hall on Friday 1st November. If you are having a clear out of clothes, handbags, shoes or belts please bag them up and bring them along to Teston village hall between Monday 28th October and Thursday 31st October 09.00 – 3.00pm. All monies raised will go towards craft material for the children.

This term we will not only be raising money for our preschool but the children will be making cookies and selling them to their families for Macmillan cancer 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.

Compaid It's Easy to Volunteer & Help us to Make a Difference

Opportunities for disabled people

Since 1986 Compaid has provided support to disabled, elderly and other vulnerable people in and around Kent, ensuring they can live their lives to the full. We are currently in need of volunteers to help us to deliver our services, so if you have a few spare hours a week, are good with people and want to make a difference to peoples' lives, join our friendly team. Become a driver of one of our accessible minibuses that provide a vital lifeline to our clients, enabling them to remain independent for longer. Support our clients to learn how to use IT equipment, helping them to take greater control of their lives, pursuing personal interests and accessing services that may otherwise not be available to them. All volunteers receive relevant training and reasonable local travel expenses.

If you would like to find out more please contact Judith Williams, H R Administrator
t: 01892 834539, e: judith.williams@compaid.org.uk
www.compaid.org.uk Unit 1 Eastlands, Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood TN12 6BU
Registered Charity No: 1064160

WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

A HUGE Thank You to the volunteers who gave up their precious time to help with our painting and gardening day during the summer holidays in preparation for the start of a new school year. Thanks to their efforts we managed to paint our largest classroom (ready for our new intake), weed and tidy our six kitchen garden containers, recoat our storage container and give the gates to the main entrance a lick of paint. Thank you to those who also gave donations, including generous sponsorship from Wateringbury businessman John Evans (builder/gardening services), which enabled us to buy paint, tools and refreshments. This sort of support helps us to save money but more importantly helps to build a special sense of community.

We are looking forward to welcoming back children and teachers when we return to school on Wednesday, 4th September. Our youngest pupils, who will join Reception Class on Wednesday, 11th September, enjoyed a Teddy Bears' Picnic at school at the end of the summer term as part of our familiarisation process. We are also excited to welcome Anneka Osborne as our new Deputy Headteacher/Year 6 teacher. As our summer leavers begin the next stage of their education at secondary school, we would also like to wish them all the very best in their new schools. Come back and visit us from time to time – we love hearing about all your secondary school experiences.

Our annual Wateringbury Walk takes place on Friday, 6th September when all pupils in Years 1-6 walk the river path down to Teston Bridge, dressed in their class colours. This is our way of 'walking in' a new academic year and setting the children up for plenty of outdoor learning in our beautiful environment.

We will hold Open Mornings on Tuesday, 1st October and Wednesday, 3rd October for those families with children due to start primary school in September 2020. These are followed by an Open Classroom on 8th October when children and parents spend time playing together in the classroom. We would like to encourage parents to attend one of our Open Mornings and our Open Classroom to learn about the school, understand our ethos and experience our Reception class environment. Please contact our school office on 01622 812199 to find out more.

Chasey Crawford Usher – Headteacher
www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk

JULY PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

The Chairman reminded attendees the next meeting would be in September due to the summer break.

Repairs to the overhang on the building at the corner of Tonbridge Road and Red Hill have been held up due to arranging traffic management during the work.

Since taking up her recent appointment as Borough Councillor, Sarah Hudson had attended a training course which covered the finances of Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council. The collection rate of Council Tax is generally good in the borough. TMBC keeps 12% of this income and some £4.8m is used for refuse and street cleaning. Central Government no longer provides any funding to the Borough Council. Cllr Hudson advised there has been a good uptake of the brown bin/garden waste scheme and information about the new system will be distributed to homes and businesses in forthcoming weeks. It had been brought to her attention that overhanging hedges were obliterating a speed sign along Old Road and she would contact Kent Highways. She had learned during meetings that TMBC buys property to provide homes for victims of abuse and homelessness and discussed the impact of refugees on the area. Homeless people from Maidstone Borough Council are being housed in Pelican Court. The Borough Councillor is seeking support from the Parish Council for the installation of a 20mph zone near to the school. It was suggested that a flashing sign may be appropriate which will alert oncoming traffic before and after school hours. An application will be made to Highways. A member of the Parish Council asked Cllr Hudson if she had any knowledge of the proposed use of the old Maidstone Autos site on Bow Road. Existing planning permission allows retail use and there is a rumour that a Co-operative store may take over the premises.

The Crime Report for June reported two crimes of note: graffiti on gates in Old Road and the wooded area and a public order offence in the School. There were three anti-social behaviour/other incidents: suspicious people seen in a resident's garden in The Orpines, fly tipping reported in Manor Farm, Old Road and in Red Hill Farm. Parish Councillors agreed that it would be useful to have updates of previous reported issues.

The Watlingbury Community Speedwatch Group had carried out 9 sessions over 9 hours during June. This month the group had added a new spot for observing traffic in the Church layby. The most problematic locations this time seemed to be up and down Red Hill with 16.97% and 17.92% of vehicles passing by exceeding the speed limit. Traffic travelling westbound along the A26 is still a problem with 144 out of 1,216 offending. Three untaxed vehicles would be reported to the DVLA.

Councillors had met with contractors to discuss the repairs to the track to the Playing Fields. Two types of quotations had been sought: to scrape, infill and compact materials into potholes; and to undertake more extensive tarmac repair to certain areas. A review will be made at the next meeting when all quotations should be available.

The Parish Council will attend a meeting with the architect dealing with the proposed plans for a new pavilion in the Playing Fields at the end of July.

A complaint had been made by some residents that ambulances were sounding their alarms when travelling through the village at 5am. This matter has been raised in the past and it is suggested that, if possible, the registration number of the vehicle, date and time are obtained so that the incident can be investigated further.

An inspection is due to be carried out in the allotments in September. The tap has been fixed in the cemetery.

During the public session the following matters were brought to the attention of the Council: overgrown hedging on the boundary of Watlingbury Hotel and the pavement on Fields Lane; weed control along the cut-through footpath between The Brucks and grassed area of Cobbs Close; litter problem along the footpath parallel to Bow Road opposite the shops; overflowing dog waste bin near the Mill Pond; and a used needle had been found in the bushes in the play area between Leney Road and The Brucks.

Planning Committee:

TM/169/01359/FL, Cromar Nursery 39 Livesey Street

Redevelopment of existing commercial nursery and garden centre with 3 detached residential units with associated alterations to existing accesses and extension and conversion of existing barn into car parking barn. *Comment: the present nursery is only open to the public one day a week. The applicant has submitted a design and access statement which recites the reduction of movement by the change from existing commercial use of the access, but this is not supported by any measurement. Can figures be obtained to show that the change does not generate extra traffic on to the roads particularly the dangerous junction with Red Hill?*

The public are welcome to attend the **next meeting** of the Parish Council on **Tuesday, 3 September at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall (upper meeting room).

Approved minutes of the July meeting will appear on the Parish Council website www.watlingburypc.kentparishes.gov.uk in due course.

A VIEW FROM THE PEWS

Gone Walking

We met a naked rambler on the Greensands' Way the other week. We (three men and a faithful route-finder dog) were on the last leg of our charity walkathon, a 26-mile hike up onto the north downs, round by Leeds Castle and then back along the Greensands' Way. The sun was low in the West as we were finishing the last couple of miles to our final destination. At a particularly narrow point, with a fence on one side and hedge on the other, we encountered this unexpected, unclothed wayfarer. He quickly utilised his (somewhat see-through) head muslin for modesty and stood to one side to allow us to pass; the path that was a little too narrow. Of our party, only the dog was comfortable with public nudity and even he was 'wearing' his coat.

That encounter came at the end of a great Kentish summer day. We met many folk on the route. There was a band of DEO girls with heavy packs, keenly finding their way. We passed mountain biking blokes enjoying the bridleways on the top of the ridge. There were the occasional 'couple walkers' and of course, the cluster of locals at each of the pubs we visited.

However, the first person we encountered on the path was different: a world-weary looking fellow with a rough pack. He had been walking a week from Winchester en route to Canterbury, following the 'pilgrim's way'. He looked lost from the world. Despite our best efforts, we couldn't persuade him to share some of our breakfast. I

hope this pilgrim, the naked Rambler and all wayfarers find their way to wherever it is they need to go. Maybe we are all mysterious wanderers on the road.

My thanks to Dave, Steve and Otto for a most excellent walk that day, and to all those who supported our endeavour for Macmillan Cancer Support. Fancy a hike and need an excuse? Saturday 14th September is the Charity Friends of Kent Churches Ride and Stride day when many churches are open (and most have refreshments) for cyclists and walkers. For information, see <http://friendsofkentchurches.co.uk/ride-and-stride/> Funds raised support Kent's historical and local Churches. Contact the Wardens at St John the Baptist if you would like to get involved. There is also a friendly Ramblers group in the village which advertises walks in these pages.

Bob

NEW BENEFICE FOR ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, WATERINGBURY

As most of you will already know, the proposal to dissolve the Benefice of East Malling, Wateringbury and Teston was approved, together with the formation of the new Benefice of Mereworth, Wateringbury and West Peckham. The new Benefice came into being on 1st August.

The Rector of Mereworth and West Peckham, Rev'd Pat Dickin, has accepted a new post in South Gillingham, which in turn means we currently have no Vicar or Rector.

We now begin the search for a new incumbent, along with our neighbouring parishes. Whilst we are sorry to part company with our friends in East Malling and Teston, we welcome the chance to forge new friendships. The process of appointing a new incumbent is not swift, but we will keep you up to date with developments. In the meantime please be reassured that your village church will continue to function as before, and a warm welcome awaits all our visitors, regular or otherwise.

Peter Bond and Liz Gummer

Churchwardens

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Paddock Wood Choral Society (www.paddockwood-choral.org.uk) would like to recruit new members (no audition required). They rehearse in term-time from 7.45-9.30pm at St Andrews Church, Paddock Wood. Their repertoire covers a wide range of musical styles and eras, from classical works to musicals and film scores. For more information contact Adrienne Bishop 01892 833232 or email secretary@paddockwood-choral.org.uk

WATERINGBURY CHURCH SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

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

**Sunday 1 September - 10am – Eucharist
led by Canon Brian Stevenson**

A Communion service based on the Church of England Common

Worship Service Book. Sundays Cool (for all children) meets in the Vestry during the service.

Saturday 7 September – 3-5pm - Messy Church

You are invited to come along and enjoy crafts, a bible story, prayers, songs and afternoon tea. The worship is designed for families with young children.

Sunday 8 September – 10am – Matins

A service led by our Reader, Barry Fisher. Secondary Division for those at Secondary School meets for discussion in the Vestry.

Sunday 15 September

8.30am – Book of Common Prayer, Holy Communion

10am – Family Service

An informal service led by the Sundays Cool team.

**Sunday 22 September – 10am – Eucharist
led by Canon Liz Walker**

A Communion service based on the Church of England Common Worship Service Book. Sundays Cool meets in the Vestry.

**Sunday 29 September 10am – Eucharist
led by Canon Liz Walk**

This being the fifth Sunday in September, a Benefice Service will be held at our church when we join with neighbours from Mereworth and West Peckham in our worship.

We hope you will be able to join us. Refreshments are served after our 10am services so do stay for a chat if you can.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

We welcomed into our Church Family:

Charles Ethan BIGGS Baptism on 7 July

Piper Eloise POCOCK Baptism on 28 July

Gladys Una LAMB Baptism on 4 August

We extend our deepest sympathy to the loved ones of:

Levi Lenard LEE

Funeral on 16 August

CRAFTERS COFFEE BREAK

This month we will meet at the church on the mornings of Wednesday 11th and Wednesday 25th from 10.30am until 12.30pm. Come and join us for a chat, coffee/tea, cake and perhaps revive an interest in craft. For more information please contact Pauline (814673) or Gillian (813076).



Strawberry Tea Party

Sunday 15th September (2pm – 5pm)
Manor Farm, Wateringbury
FREE ENTRY



Enjoy award winning strawberries and cream, a glass or two of Pimm's and some coffee and cake in the wonderful **Manor Farm** gardens. Bring a chair and picnic blanket and catch-up with village friends. There will be a selection of classic and sports cars to view, a children and adults rounders match, the World Famous egg-throwing competition a raffle and various stalls. All proceeds go to Friends of Wateringbury Church (FOWC).

