

Welcome to the first issue of 2019

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All advertisers for their advertising support in our village magazine which enables each house in the village to have a free copy of Rostrum. When contacting advertisers please tell them that you saw their advert in Rostrum.

All distributors for their help in delivering Rostrum promptly round the village.

All who contribute articles we welcome editorial items for Rostrum – variety is the spice of life!

The children at our school for their delightful cover drawings.

Christine, Trudy and Ted

VILLAGE DIARY

FEBRUARY

2	Council Bulky Waste Freighter	Fields Lane	10.30am-11.30am
3	Footpaths Walk	Car Park	2pm
3	Watch Club for 10-18s	Hall	4-6pm
5	Parish Council Meeting followed by planning committee	Hall	7.30pm
13	Coffee, Craft & Chat	Church	10.30am
14	Adventure in Peru WI talk	Hall	2pm
16	Council Bulky Waste Freighter	Fields Lane	10.30am-11.30am
20	London's Rivers (History Soc talk)	Hall	7.40 for 8pm
23	Village Hall Quiz Night	Hall	7 for 7.30pm
27	Coffee, Craft & Chat	Church	10.30am

MARCH

2	Council Bulky Waste Freighter	Fields Lane	10.30am-11.30am
3	Footpaths Walk	Car Park	2pm
5	Parish Council Meeting followed by planning committee	Hall	7.30pm

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

New Arrival Congratulations Gill and Geoff Rogers are delighted to have joined the proud grandparents club! James and Georgia Rogers have a lovely baby called **Boaz Luke** Rogers who was born on in Edinburgh on Thursday 3rd January at 1.52am weighing in at 9lb 5oz.

Mark Pemble Owen English
22 April 1924 - 06 November 2018
Manor Farm, Watlingtonbury.

On behalf of Elizabeth English and the wider English family, I offer sincere thanks for the kindness and support shown by so many on the death of Mark English, d. 06 November 2018, aged 94. Born and brought up at Manor Farm, Watlingtonbury; he is now at rest in Watlingtonbury.
William English, CBE, Manor Farm Cottage, Watlingtonbury

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BROWNIES

Unusually, **Watlingtonbury Brownie packs have spaces available** - if you have a **daughter aged 7 to 9** that would like to become a Brownie, please get in touch. The packs meet on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, and do a wide range of activities in and outdoors, and its a great opportunity for girls to make new friends and have fun together. Please register on the Girlguiding website: www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter, or alternatively contact Carolyn Peal (01622 812109)

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**SHEENA'S JAMS AND MARMALADES AND
GORDON'S CHUTNEYS AND RELISHES**

Those of you who have purchased our produce will have noticed that the label includes the wording 'Supporting Watlingtonbury Church'. We are very pleased to say that we handed Richard, the church treasurer, a cheque for £239.65 just before Christmas which is our donation for 2018. It is thanks to all of you who buy our produce either direct from us or at the Post Office and we are very grateful for your support.
Gordon Self and Sheena Stewart

VILLAGE HALL QUIZ EVENING
Our annual quiz evening is to be held on.
SATURDAY 23rd FEBRUARY.
at WATERINGBURY VILLAGE HALL.
Doors Open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start.

Always a fun evening, All you need is a team of 6-8 people (or come on your own, we will match you up with others to make up a team). There will be a raffle...and prizes for the quiz winners...(and losers!) Please bring your own food and drinks. Tea and coffee will be available. The cost is £8 per person and proceeds will be used to help maintain and equip our splendid Village Hall. Please don't leave booking your place till the last minute; many were disappointed when we had to cancel the quiz planned for last October. If you cannot make it please spread the message about the evening to others.

**To book a table...or a place...please ring Mike Hoiles on
01622 813573 or e-mail mikejhoiles@aol.com.**

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LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Our speaker for the **20th February will be Tony Farnham** whose talk is entitled **London's Rivers through the Artist's Eyes** and our meeting, on **20th March , will be Don't Sneeze at the Microphone by Wilf Lower.**

Our Christmas meeting was something very different where we had to guess mystery artefacts brought in by Martin Crowther which was good fun. Our January speaker, Imogen Corrigan spoke to us about the Bayeux Tapestry, her very entertaining talk pointed out that of the 1500 people on the tapestry only 6 were women and not all of the horses had four legs. It was believed that the tapestry was designed for a banqueting hall and could have been made in Kent.

Our meetings are in the village hall at 7.40pm when tea and coffee is available with the speakers beginning at 8pm. Subscriptions are £10 for the year with visitors at £3 per meeting. We wish you all a happy New Year and look forward to welcoming you during 2019.

VILLAGE HALL CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Surely there's something for you?

Parish Council Meeting. First Tuesday of the Month. wateringburypc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Woman's Institute. Second Thursday of the month. thewi.org.uk 01622 813076

History Society Third Wednesday of the month. <https://www.sites.google.com/site/wateringburylocalhistory>

Annual panto plus. All ages welcome. wateringburyplayers@hotmail.co.uk

Wateringbury Players

Baby & Toddlers Wednesday and Friday mornings 10-12pm

Linda 01732 522437

Badminton Club Thursday 7.30-9.30pm

Rod Moodley rod moodley@tiscali.co.uk

CIM School of Dance. Thursday 5.30-7pm 5-12yrs.

Chrissy Marcelino www.CIMSCHOOLOFDANCE.co.uk

email.INFO@CIM-DANCE.COM

Happy Feet Dance Academy. Monday 4.45-8.30pm 3-16yrs.

Stacey Fell 07979655075

Kent Acting Studios Saturday morning Tudor Price www.kentactingstudio.co.uk 07899982392

Latin & Ballroom Dancing. Fridays 7-8pm Adults

Denise Sharp 07747712413

Lyengar Yoga. Monday 1-2pm.

Wendy Newell 079176633883

Phonics Time Monday 11-12pm - 3-4yrs

Rebecca Trowell 07793768205

Pilates Monday and Thursday mornings

Nicola Wignall 01622 813686

Rampage Bootcamp Wednesday 6:45-8pm

Gary Emery. 07802320520

Tai Chi Thursday 11am-Noon - No Vacancies

Watch Club. Youth Club Fortnightly Sundays 4-6pm. 10-18 yrs.

Lisa Glascote lisatalman@yahoo.co.uk

Zumba Tuesday 7-9pm

Tanya Shepelev. www.tanyashepelev.zumba.com

If none of the above is for you what about joining us in looking after our splendid village hall. Contact Mike Hoiles mikejhoiles@aol.com 07956396985.

DECEMBER PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

CCTV work to upgrade the system at the Playing Fields is due to be completed before Christmas. T&MBC is to be contacted for advice about the proposed cameras in the car park.

Crime Report A written report from our PCSO Wendy Stanley was read by the chairman. Between 5 November and 5 December the following crimes were recorded: An insecure van containing parcels was stolen whilst making deliveries (this was later recovered in the village), a theft from a building site of tools, a robbery at the Post Office (an arrest has been made), a vehicle was damaged in Bow Road by a passing van. Incidents of note were: a motorist was approached by a male and told their fuel tank was leaking, the motorist carried on and there was nothing wrong with the fuel tank, a stray horse was reported running along Redhill, a patrol attended but were unable to locate the horse, a dog, running in the road was injured by a car, a road traffic incident involving 3 cars on the Tonbridge Road. The e-watch website recorded that overnight on 21/22 October a VW Polo parked in a driveway was broken into. A satnav, iPhone charger and a small leather purse were stolen.

Kent Association of Local Councils Councillors Wells and Stone had attended the 71st Annual General Meeting and outlined the proceedings.

Overflow Car Park Jenner, the contractors building at the Greensted site in The Orpines had written to the Council offering £30 per week for 2 years to use the Playing Fields overflow car park for use by those working at the site. Councillors considered the implications in depth and decided to reject the offer for many reasons. At the public discussion time it was suggested that the contractors take up their initial plan to rent part of the field adjacent to the site.

Repairs to Play equipment - it was unanimously agreed to repair the slide in the small play area. Damage to the child-proof locks on 3 gates was reported. The clerk was asked to investigate repair/replace alternatives.

Speed Watch In November during 16 hours of observations 4,197 vehicles passed by of which 341 were exceeding the speed limit. These generated 74 letters to repeat offenders and 11 to high end offenders 45+ in a 30 zone. Five vehicles were being driven without Road Tax and/or MOT. Two more people had expressed an interest in joining the team.

Village car park Councillors voted 5-1 in favour of notifying T & MBC, who own the car park, that they did not want it to become Pay and Display but wished it to remain free with the present restrictions.

Planning The Council had no objections to the application for a single storey extension at 1 Broomscroft Cottages, Canon Lane. The chairman reported concerns about proposals by Liberty which shows 40 of the 500 homes proposed would be at Heath Farm and accessed via Wateringbury Road. This would have an effect on Wateringbury, Teston & East Malling. The site is also included in a proposal by TMBC to extend the Green Belt.

Public Discussion Time The owner of 15a The Orpines told the council of his concerns about the structure of his house being caused by the vibrations of the pile drivers. He had recently returned after a week-end away to find the vibrations had caused his bathroom cabinet to crash to the floor.

Grave concern was raised about the structure of 186 Tonbridge Road (the former shop at the junction with Red Hill). The clerk was asked to report the matter to TMBC.

JANUARY PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Budget Councillors discussed the draft budget for 2019/20 and made additional provision for a Village Warden, repairs to the track at the playing fields and for a speed sign.

Crime reports PCSO Wendy Stanley attended the meeting and reported the following crimes between 4 December and 7 January: a car in The Brucks had the front tyres slashed; a Christmas reindeer decoration in a garden was damaged and thrown at the house front door; in early December 2 sheds were broken into at the School and gardening equipment stolen; a dog-walker was bitten by another dog-walker's dog. Councillors were concerned about the way the official Kent Police website reports crimes. The latest statistics available on this site were several months in arrears and gave very little detail. The site in January showed October figures of 12 crimes reported in Wateringbury, 6 'violent' crime, 3 'burglary', 2 'vehicle', 1 'criminal damage' and 1 'other'. Councillors expressed disquiet about there being 6 violent crimes, since they felt this did not reflect the village they knew. They asked the PCSO for more details; she was unable to give specifics but said domestic incidents could fall into this category. The Council will pursue the matter with the police, as in recent months there had been a dramatic rise in such crimes in the police statistics. They felt more categories were needed especially where crimes were listed as violent ie a category for domestic incidents.

Joint Parish Councils Transport Consultative Group Councillors Wells and Stones had attended the meeting. Matters discussed which had an impact on Wateringbury were: Brexit preparations for lorry parking, the impact of the approximate 1000 lorries which park illegally each night, proposed Lower Thames Crossing, M20 and M26 upgrading work causing delays, housing developments in arrears with poor air quality; Phase III Kings Hill housing development proposals as many of the houses were outside the area plan bounds.

Resignation Margaret Daly had resigned from the council due to changes in her employment.

Speedwatch The good news is that there are now 8 volunteers. During December the team had carried out 15 sessions during which 4484 vehicles had passed of which 389 were speeding and 6 vehicles were being driven without Road Tax and/or MOT. The police had asked the team to consider monitoring from a site near Glenleigh Road which would slow traffic approaching Bow Road from the south. As this site is in Nettlestead Parish both councils would need to give their consent to this monitoring point being used.

The Kent Association of Parish Councils was in discussions with Kent Police to give further training to Speed Watch teams and/or CPSOs so that the evidence Speedwatch recorded could be accepted as evidence to fine those caught speeding in villages.

Trees The clerk was asked to find out the requirements of the parish's insurers in respect of risk assessments and maintenance of trees on land owned by the parish council.

During the public discussion session the following matters were raised: pollution in the village was raised. The dangerous overhang on the building on the corner of Red Hill, potholes at the traffic lights, Woodland Trust offering free trees. The possibility of Matthew Scott, Kent Crime Commissioner, coming to the village to give a talk. The problems of the overflowing sewer at the entrance to Boormans Mews.

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 5 February**.

WATERINGBURY FLOWER CLUB

February 20th will be our AGM and the officers in the club will change - it is sure to be good year for the club, as it is our 50th anniversary, there will be celebrations for this later in the year.

Our National Nafas association is 60 years old this year and they are marking their Diamond anniversary with a huge show at the Design Centre in Islington. The club hope to arrange a trip there to support all the Kent members who will be taking part in this huge event. *Jean Schofield for WFC*



Our theme for term 3 is all about 'people who help us' like the police who help to keep our community safe. We will be learning how to cross the road with our school crossing patrol officer (for us older generation, yes the ones with the lollipop). We will also be making boats and talking about how the coastguard patrol along our coastline saving lives. As part of this 'people who help us' theme we will be pleased to welcome our local dentist Madeline to our preschool who will be talking to the children about the importance of looking after their teeth. As part of our vet week we will also be joined by our veterinary nurse Claire who will share with us how to care for sick and injured pets and animals.

We look forward to Chinese New Year on Tuesday 5th February (year of the pig) and to celebrate this we will be decorating our village hall, eating Chinese food and learning to write our names in Chinese.

During this term our older children have been continuing with their phonics groups that we started in September, and our parents have the opportunity to come in and discuss their children's progress throughout the term. We will also have parent consultations for all children this term which gives parents the opportunity to see how their child is progressing.

Finally I am pleased to announce a new member of staff joined us this term. Hilary Fisher from Teston is a qualified teaching assistant from Wateringbury School and joins us with a wealth of knowledge and experience. We welcome Hilary back after working for us many years ago! If you are interested in joining our preschool please contact Tina Driver on 07805 796353 and come along for a taster session.

WATCH CLUB SUNDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 4-6pm

The Club only meets once in February and they are dressing up in onesies/pjs and will have a breakfast together, their "Winter Feast". The group is for young people 10-18 and meets in the village hall.

BULK HOUSEHOLD WASTE

Many new Wateringbury residents and I suspect a number of long time villagers may not be aware that Tonbridge and Malling Council provide a bulk refuse collection.

1. Twice a month, on the first and third Saturday a large refuse freighter comes to Fields Lane (adjacent to the Wateringbury Hotel) between the hours of 10.30am and 11.30am. Any excess waste can be disposed of in this freighter. Also, large domestic items e.g. fridges, washing machines and furniture. This service is free of charge

2. Tonbridge and Malling Council also provide a bulk refuse collection service direct from your home. The cost of this is £52 for up to 6 items. From 6 to 12 items is £104. This particular service may be booked on 01732 876147. Details on www.tmhc.gov.uk

Mike Williams Friends of Wateringbury

COFFEE BREAK CRAFT AND CHAT

10.30-12.30 - Wednesdays 13 & 27 February & March

We are a friendly, informal group who meet on alternate Wednesday mornings in the social area of the church for coffee, cake, friendship. Some have been enjoying reviving their knitting and crochet skills making a variety of items for various local and national charities. If you would like to learn to knit or crochet- come along - we have simple patterns, needles/hooks and wool and people who will be delighted to help you learn these ancient and therapeutic skills. *Pauline and Gillian*

NETTLESTEAD AND WATERINGBURY

PRESCHOOL (NWPS) AND OUT OF SCHOOLS' CLUB

Welcome back to all our families; we have only been back a couple of weeks but already we have had visits from '**Amazing Animal Encounters.**' The children encountered a giant snail, hissing cockroaches, guinea pig, a very young giant tortoise, skunk and a miniature sheep. 'Squirt' the skunk was so cuddly and friendly and helps soothe away the stresses of the everyday life! The setting endeavours to meet the childcare needs of all our parents. As such we are able to offer '**half-term holiday club**' from **18th – 22nd February 2019**; if you are interested please do give the setting a call.

NWPS Toddler Group Our toddler group has also started up again in the Nettlestead Village Hall, Thursday morning 9.30-11.30 (term-time); come for a coffee and natter whilst the littlies play with the lovely toys and socialise with other children.

For Childcare, Education and Out of School Club, including holiday club, enquiries: 01622 813120, enquiries@nwps.uk

WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our school term started hard on the heels of New Year's celebrations and the children have quickly settled into the new year and their new goals and resolutions. Happy New Year from all of us at Wateringbury!

Our Christmas charitable donations reached a generous total of £330. This money was split between Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal and the UK's homelessness charity, Shelter. Our Christmas events were a terrific success with three special events: our traditional weekend Fayre; the Crafts Afternoon and Tea with Father Christmas; and our evening Stories Round the Christmas Tree. We are grateful to our parent organisation, FOWPS, for their tireless support and commitment to hosting events which create a real sense of community and purpose.

We are delighted to welcome Lizzy Kirk-Smith as class teacher in Year 2. Mrs Kirk-Smith had her first career with the NHS and later trained as a teacher to fit in with the growing demands of a young family. Mrs Kirk-Smith is a keen oarswoman, enjoys sewing and craft-making and gardening, and is a musician.

Safer Internet Day will be marked in early February with an assembly by our Digital Leaders followed by class activities for all children. Online safety and respectful behaviour is part of our day-to-day language and learning and the day itself gives us a chance to reinforce that message.

Our children are out and about this term. Our school choir heads up to the O2 to take part in the Young Voices concert where they'll join 7,000 other schoolchildren to stage an extraordinary massed voices concert. Children will be participating in the RSPB's annual Birdwatch, helping to count the number and variety of birds around the school grounds. Finally, Year 5 will be transporting us to the magical woods of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* which they'll perform for the school and parents just before the end of term. The amount of fun this year group has as they make the play theirs, ensures that every child leaves Wateringbury with a love of Shakespeare.

Term 3 ends on Friday, 15th February and we return to school on Monday, 25th February.

Chasey Crawford Usher – Headteacher

www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk

THANK YOU POPPY (Year 5) for our delightful cover picture.

WATERINGBURY WI

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 14th February** at 2pm in the Village Hall. The speaker will be Susan Shaw on **An Adventure in Peru**. At our January meeting we welcomed Kathryn from Castle Farm Shoreham. The farm was acquired by the Alexander family in the 1800's and run as a mixed farm which has diversified over the years. When the market for English hops for beer declined in the 1980s the farm began to grow decorative hops and then the lavender for which it is now world famous. It is run as a co operative and is the biggest grower of lavender in the UK. The lavender oil produced is used in a range of lovely products for personal and culinary use.

The meeting on Thursday 14th March is Competition Day:

Hickman Cup: Decorated Wooden Spoon.

Flower Cup: Small Plate Spring Flower Garden.

Freda Robbins Plate: Six Cookies (any recipe.)

Margaret Malsher.

FOOTPATHS GROUP

Next Walks - Dogs welcome

3 February Meet village hall 2pm for local walk

3 March Meet village hall 2pm for local walk

The 2nd December walk was, due to recent rain, taken over paths that we expected to be good under-foot. We took the Gransden path towards Canon Lane and followed the golf course round to Wistaria Cottage, then Old Road back to the start passing the Wardens.

Boxing Day was an excellent walk out to East Peckham Old church. We went via the Millpond and Rock farm to Nettlestead Church along the river to Yalding, to join the Greensand Way up to the church, checking out both the farmed Deer and a couple of wild ones along the way. After a break and a look, around the church we returned to the Village along Park Road, Pizien Well and Old Road. A little more than the 7-mile estimate, 8.5!

New Year's Day; again, taking the path by Gransden to Redhill Farm crossing onto the new woodland path through Livesey Street, and passing by Teston Church returning along the river to the village. Was sad to see the old Oak by the river succumbed to recent high water levels. *Kevin Reynolds* 07713 40375

A VIEW FROM THE PEWS

Candlemas (Saturday 2nd February) marks the presentation of Jesus at the Temple. Traditionally a time to bless Church candles, it is a festival of light at the mid-point of winter, between the shortest day and spring equinox.

I remember one Candlemas visiting a retreat house at Stanbrook Abbey in the Malvern Hills. We joined the nuns of the Abbey for the special service and later climbed Great Malvern. But our hopes for beautiful views were dashed. A thick carpet of cloud lay over the land. We could hardly see the person in front, let alone the vistas. Approaching the conical hilltop, a circle of blue sky opened above. We walked out above the cloud line into warm sunshine. The world was covered by a beautiful ocean of white cloud beneath a brilliant blue sky - just the odd hilltop nudged out. It was as if we stood on top of the world and looked down on some great earth covering flood, like Noah from his ark.

The memory remains vivid these many years later, and it carries messages. We walked out of the cloud and into the clear. From misty confusion to brilliant sight. It retains a profoundly spiritual character. Researchers say many people experience things that take on important spiritual significance, especially in youth. It's almost as if we are more closely connected to some bigger picture in earlier stages of life, before we sink into routine and mundane things. Those that work in the outside, with animals and on the land often continue to feel strongly a connection to something more, as do those who express themselves in art and dance. It can happen at any moment. Yet we do not speak much about these times. It is a quality of connection that I think far exceeds the connection experience of technology.

Christians hold it is possible to connect to God in memory and at any moment of life. Being in the moment is a vital part of this connection. Perhaps it is good to nurture, and maybe share such significant experiences that we have had, that have spoken to us in powerful ways; to friends, children and loved ones. Lent is the coming season of the Christian calendar. It is traditionally a time for stepping 'back' from the immediacy of life, for listening and sharing, and also a time for stepping 'out' to see the world anew - to reconnect with self and maybe a greater reality that envelops us. Not a bad thing to do, while the winter clings on a little longer, as we wait for break of spring.

Bob Bowie

WATERINGBURY CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

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

Church Face Book Page: fb.me/wateringburychurch

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

Saturday 2 February – 3-5pm - Messy Church (for families and the young at heart)

There will be craft activities, a short bible story and prayer times and ours will always end with afternoon tea. This month Christingles will be made.

Sunday 3 February - 10am - Eucharist led by Rev Nick Williams

A Communion service based on the Church of England Common Worship Service Book. Rev Nick Williams always prepares a service sheet so it's easy to follow. Sundays Cool (for all children) meets in the Vestry during the service.

Sunday 10 February – 10am - Morning Praise - Led by our readers

An informal, yet structured, service with well known hymns and an address by one of our readers. Secondary Division, for young people, meet for a second breakfast, worship and discussion during the service in the vestry.

Sunday 17 February

8.30pm Prayer Book Said Communion

