

Welcome to the February edition of the village magazine, the first one in 2021.

A very warm **welcome** to all newcomers and our prospective readers who have recently moved to the village, including the new residents of Green Meadow Court in The Orpines. Please read and enjoy what Rostrum has to offer.

VILLAGE DIARY

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| February | |
| 2nd 7.30pm | Parish Council Meeting followed by Planning Committee via Zoom – contact parish clerk for access details clerk@watingburypc.org.uk |
| March | |
| 2nd 7.30pm | Parish Council Meeting followed by Planning Committee via Zoom – contact parish clerk for access details clerk@watingburypc.org.uk |
| Please see the Footpaths Group Walks paragraph for full details on walks during the pandemic restrictions | |

Covid-19 testing

A symptom free testing is available at Larkfield Library, Martin Square, and The Hop Farm open daily from 9am to 7pm.

To book a test, go to

<https://kcc.healthit.org.uk/covbook/home>

For those that do have symptoms book a PCR test on

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus.test>

Please think of pedestrians.

Our village pavements are narrow making it difficult to walk safely if bins block them or overhanging vegetation make it difficult to walk under the greenery. All householders are asked to place their bins at the boundaries of their land, not on the pavement and to take them in as soon as possible.

Those with overhanging vegetation are asked to cut this back as soon as possible, and before March when birds start to nest.

VILLAGE PEOPLE

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

REST IN PEACE

Barry Cann (13 05 1947 – 08 12 2020)

Barry and Linda Cann moved to Watingbury in September 1979 with their two small daughters; their son was born in 1982. They bought Camden House (previously the Rectory in the village) where the family lived happily for fourteen years before moving to The Orpines. Barry was a Chartered Quantity Surveyor and Project Manager. He loved his profession and was proud to be the founder of the Gardner Cann Partnership which was based in the City for many years.

Barry had great enthusiasm for life; he belonged to the Medway Yacht Club where he sailed competitively and socially;

he loved all sports, especially rugby, and enjoyed every opportunity for travel and new experiences. For many years Barry was the village 'Santa', touring the village with the Sunday School to collect money for the Children's Society. He was one of the early members of the Wateringbury Players and especially enjoyed singing. Perhaps the role he enjoyed most was in the production of 'The Promise' in 1994 where he played God, singing heartily from the organ loft!

Barry played an important role in the building of the new Wateringbury Village Hall as the Project Manager and he was immensely proud of the outcome. Following retirement Barry sang with the West Malling Community Choir and the Medway Skylarks; he continued to sail with Linda in the yacht they took to the Greek islands. Although Barry was unwell with Parkinson's for several years he never lost his vitality, sense of humour and pleasure in friendship. He was loved by many people and will be greatly missed.

Linda, Rosie, Sophie and Oliver truly appreciate the love and support they have received.

John Hoaen

John died in early January in a care home in Cirencester where he was being cared for in the final stages of dementia. Until his move 5 years ago John was a cheerful deliverer of Rostrum. His kindness and good humour were boundless and he and Judith were missed by his neighbours in Hillside Court and many others when they moved to be nearer to family members.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Richard and Rebecca Lamb** and big sister Gladys on the arrival on 29th December of **David Valentine**. David was born at their new home in Winchester and weighed 9lbs.

Belated 90th **Birthday greetings to Edna Craig** who celebrated 90 glorious years on 16th January

WATERINGBURY VILLAGE FETE 2021

As many of you are aware the planned village fete did not take place last summer due to the pandemic and sadly, after discussion amongst the village fete committee, we have concluded that it will not be possible to hold it in 2021. We felt that not knowing what COVID restrictions may be in place in June 2021, means planning the event is imprudent and doing so could lead to financial implications which we would very much wish to avoid.

We sincerely hope we will be able to come together again as a community in 2022.
Chair of Wateringbury Village Fete Committee

GARDENERS FEBRUARY CALENDAR

January was a wet month for us in the garden, and the frosts and cold temperatures kept us indoors. Now is a good opportunity to plan what you want to achieve in the garden this year.

Make a list of sowings, new plantings and changes under headings "must do" "would like to do" and "in an ideal world" and use it as an aide-memoire.

Jobs to do:

Last chance to plant bare root roses.
Sow sweet peas, if not done in the autumn.
Cut back ivy and prune wisteria and vines.
Sow peas, cauliflowers and summer cabbage.
Sprout potatoes in a cool light position.
Spread compost on the kitchen garden in good weather.
Prune greenhouse climbing plants.
Cut autumn fruiting raspberries back to ground level.

These are just a few things this month but no doubt you will have others. Make sure you feed the birds and provide water for them in this cold weather.

Happy Gardening *Jean Schofield*

FIRST WATERINGBURY BROWNIES

Despite all of the challenges of the present time, the Brownies are continuing to enjoy lots of fun activities via Zoom including a pets evening and a Christmas party at the end of last term. Brownies via Zoom has been a learning experience for everyone, but the girls have responded well to meeting online and completing a variety of fun activities towards their Skills Builder Badges and Theme Awards. We are very pleased that some girls have also gained Interest Badges, working at home on these during lockdown.

We have also said "goodbye" to five Brownies who have made the step up to Guides, and we wish them well in the next stage of their Girlguiding journey - we hope we can see them all at activities later in the year.

The Brownie Unit now has spaces available to girls (ages 7 to 10 years) - should you have a daughter who wishes to join us, please register your interest via the Girlguiding Website:
www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter or alternatively get in touch with us via email: 1stwateringburybrownies@gmail.com
Carolyn Peal and Jane Bennion

WATERINGBURY FLOWER CLUB

Happy New Year and welcome to our update on our Flower Club

With restrictions in place for a further national lockdown, our flower club continues to meet by Zoom. Kent Area have kept us entertained with quizzes and YouTube video demonstrations. Our own club continues to do the same. In January we had an evening with Pat White who gave us a design on a heart shaped frame for Valentine's Day, how to

construct and how to decorate it, a great evening just catching up with friends who we have not seen for some time now.

February is our club AGM and we will have business first by Zoom as usual and then afterwards we will have a short demonstration via Zoom by Jean Schofield - 2 designs for Spring - one a craft item to make and decorate and a second one to inspire the incoming Spring.

It had been a difficult year for everyone, but hopefully better times are ahead, stay safe everyone. *Jean Schofield*

FOOTPATHS GROUP

Once again, we are not permitted to have group walks. At the time of writing, we are back to either walking with members of our household bubble, or one person walking with just one person from another household. Nevertheless, despite the restrictions, the short days and the cold and wet weather, I see quite a few people getting out for a walk. Try it if you can, the fresh air and exercise are good for your mood and your health. *There's no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing* (Alfred Wainwright, a famous walker from the Lake District). So wrap up warm, pop on a waterproof, find some comfy footwear and get outside, even if it's only round the block for ten minutes.

Whilst out, keep your eyes open for the early signs that spring will be with us before too long. On 6 January I found some small clumps of primroses behind the old St Michael's Church, which is on Park Road behind Mereworth Castle. If you go along Park Road (which is very narrow and steep) also look out for the amazing folly Triumphal Arch (built 1725), close to the road and visible now the trees don't have their leaves.

I will re-start group walks when they are permitted. Please let me know if you're interested and I'll be in touch when I can organise Footpath Group walks again. *Lisa Dean 077 5953 9032*

HISTORY SOCIETY

Happy New Year to all our members present and past.

Unfortunately, as mentioned in November, there are no immediate plans for any meetings in the village hall due to current restrictions. As a result of previously mentioning the Society's web site, a recommendation has been received regarding "The Wateringbury Witch" and "Shenanigans in the Pelicans". If this has whetted your appetite, in both instances, if you type "witch" and "shenanigans" in the search box, you will be able to read the articles. Hopefully it won't be too long now before we can meet up.

Gill Smith

WATERINGBURY GUIDES

As we enter the New Year, at least for now, we know what Guides' options are, so have planned the first half of the term with a variety of activities and challenges on Zoom. Cooking on Zoom has its bonuses as we, the leaders, don't have a lot of clearing up to do and the tea towels to wash, but on the other hand, it's much harder to help the girls and stop them before something goes wrong!

The first week back instead of tie dye we tried tie bleach! It was easier to get a coloured t-shirt and tie the string to make the patterns and then bleach the colour out rather than try and dye it into a white t-shirt. Then we made a bag out of an old t-shirt. Finally *River's Rodents and Reptiles* joined our Zoom meeting to introduce us to his animals including a blue tongued skink and a corn snake. He has promised, when our meetings return to 'normal', to come and meet us in person and bring his animals with him.

We are going to try making profiteroles and rocky road bites, have a virtual sleepover, panto and make chocolate haggis! Pancake Day also comes in this part of the term and we are going to try salt dough candleholders too.

We have welcomed eight new brownies from Wateringbury and Kings Hill and now have a unit of 30 guides on paper. Unfortunately Zoom doesn't appeal to all girls and so there are a few we haven't seen since the summer when we were able, briefly, to have outdoor meetings. Hopefully we will see them all again when we can once again meet face to face.

In other areas the New Year has started as last year finished – yet more camps and holidays being cancelled or postponed. We had a canal boat trip booked for mid-May but it seems very unlikely that this will go ahead and so we are currently looking at our options for rebooking.
Sheena, Emily and Hayleigh 1st Wateringbury Guides

A VIEW FROM THE PEW

Midwinter

I am not good at midwinter in the best of times and 2021 is not the best by a long shot. I empathise deeply with Monty Don and all those who have a seasonal challenge dealing with short days, long nights and generally low temperatures. So grabbing moments in the sun is all the more important and I move the furniture in the sitting room to track the sun and get every last drop of those beams of gold. This is a preoccupation for a homemaker, as I now am. The children are back at home too and only my wife gets the treat of going out each day to work, where she teaches maths before a camera which transmits the lesson to her home bound pupils. The classrooms are empty!

We have reverted to deliveries to reduce contact at shops and now dream of trips to cafes for a cake and some tea. Such riches are unimaginable so I make do by extending my new baking skills with a successful triple chocolate birthday cake for one lucky girl. My first cake! Of course we are lucky to have our gang of four (plus cats) and the technology to manage, a luxury that some folk just don't have.

We have been watching as the big development at the east of the village has opened its doors to new residents and 21 of the new flats are already occupied. We see them in their windows but Covid makes it difficult to meet and greet. So it's the odd wave and smile and that will have to do for the moment.

Church is back online as we try to keep everyone safe and try to allow time for the NHS to vaccinate as many as possible. We are all looking forward to the time when the younger generations are no longer the threat they currently are to the oldies. Our new 'Rev Gary' has moved in with his family to the Rectory in Mereworth - we are now in a Benefice

family with the Church there and the one in West Peckham so there at least is some novelty about the place. You will start to hear his voice on the online worship and keep an eye on the Church Facebook page to see when he will be actually leading live physical services. Not before long I hope.

Of course there are the greater challenges that we know are out there and the tremendous commitment of so many critical workers baring enormous challenges which are the most vivid signs of collective response to the pandemic. My prayers of thanks are for them. But I think we all need prayers now as we feel the ongoing strain of this time of trial. Hold fast, and look after each other with kind words and deeds. I look forward to the extension of vaccination to as many in our communities as possible, as soon as possible. May that be the gift of the Holy Spirit that breaks through this winter, bringing all of us back to life.

Bob Bowie

WATERINGBURY CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

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

www.achurchnearyou.com/wateringbury

Church Face Book Page: fb.me/wateringburychurch

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

Short on-line worship is available every week at

<http://tiny.cc/krymmz>

Our weekly service lasts for approximately 20 minutes and consists of opening and closing hymns played on our church organ, a bible reading, prayers and a reflection.

Do listen if you are able.

We look forward to our new vicar Rev Gary Townsend participating in these services in the near future.

The church wardens issued the following statement on 23rd December 2020.

Suspension of Church Christmas and Sunday Services

"Given the uncontrolled spread of the variant Covid virus and the Tier 4 regulations the Parochial Church Council has very reluctantly decided to suspend services in church. The position will be kept under constant review until we are confident that we can keep everyone safe.

*Services on line will continue at <http://tiny.cc/krymmz>
St John the Baptist Parochial Church Council "*

We know this is deeply disappointing, but since the statement was issued the nation has been placed in its third lockdown. We will keep the situation under review and open the church for services as soon it is safe to do so. For up to date information please contact our newly appointed benefice administrator Clare Garvey email

secretary@stgabrielskingshill.org.uk (This address is likely to change and a contact phone number is being organised) *Peter Bond and Liz Gummer*

Installation Service - Rev'd Gary Townsend

Bishop James has decided that under the present circumstances the installation service planned for 30th January in Mereworth Church should be postponed to a date when it is safe to hold it. Gary will be licensed online to enable him to start his ministry in the Benefice as soon as possible. Whilst we are disappointed that we cannot welcome Gary in person, this is clearly the right decision, and we look forward to "meeting" him virtually, and extending the customary warm Wateringbury welcome to him and his family in the very near future. *Liz Gummer and Peter Bond Church Wardens*

WATERINGBURY'S FORGOTTEN PAST

Why are there a set of gates in the wall of Wateringbury Place opposite Lodge Cottage, just west of Lodge Close?

What is Wateringbury's connection with the founder of Methodism?

The disused gates which access only the field surrounding Wateringbury Place were once the entrance to a drive which led to a highly regarded small boarding school for boys. Walking along the Tonbridge Road in 1901, Historian George Newman recollected the school, which was next door to his family home. In Newman's time it was run by Rev Robert Earle (*see note on following page*). George recorded:

The next house was a large, old-fashioned one, since pulled down, and the grounds included in the gardens of Wateringbury Place. Its owner, or tenant, was the Rev. Robert Earle, a tall, strong man, a native of Cumberland, who lived to the age of nearly a century. He was chaplain to Town Malling Union, (the workhouse) and kept a school for young gentlemen, in which many of the sons of the leading county families were educated. Mr. Earle was a type of the strict, old-fashioned schoolmaster. His kitchen garden was separated from ours by a whitethorn hedge, through which I have often watched him on a Saturday afternoon, as he marched round it with military step, rehearsing aloud his sermon for the following day. Through this thorn hedge my brother and I used often to chat with the boys, and on one occasion we noticed one of them very busy padding the back of another boy's waistcoat and pants with cabbage leaves. On being asked why he did it, he said: "Oh, he has been promised a caning when we go in, and I am padding him to make it lighter for him. All he has to do now is to shout well, as if it hurt him very much, and then he will get off easy." Mr. Earle's was the last house on this side of the road, as our "old home" stands some distance back, and the gardens extend to the churchyard, just before reaching which is a pretty glimpse, through the iron fence, of an ornamental fish-pond and the greenhouses beyond.

Dail Whiting notes: Robert Earl's first wife Eliza Cooper, (born Wateringbury 1793, died Wateringbury 1828) was the daughter of Rev^d Miles Cooper, a former master of the school. It was during Miles Cooper's time that Charles Wesley (later, the Rev^d Charles Wesley D.D.) was a boarder at the school. The Rev^d Charles Wesley D.D. was born in Ridge near St. Albans on 25th September, 1793. He was the son of the organist and composer Samuel Wesley and Charlotte Louisa Martin, grandson of the Methodist leader and hymn writer Rev^d Charles Wesley, and great nephew of John Wesley, the founding father of the Methodist movement.

Though Charles had several younger siblings, he was the only surviving child beyond infancy until 1810 when his half-brother Samuel Sebastian Wesley, the organist and composer, was born. In his early years, Charles had the advantage of careful instruction from his father until about ten years old when he was sent to school in Wateringbury.

Several of his early letters from school are preserved. The excellence of the writing amply proves the great care bestowed upon that branch of his education. The first letter he sent from school was to his grandmother. The following is a copy from the original:

Maidstone, April 4th, 1804.

Dear Grandmother, – I received your kind letter this morning, and hasten to answer it accordingly. I am in very good health, and like school as much as ever. Mr. Cooper has been well enough to attend it these three weeks. I hope my father is in better

health than when I had the pleasure of hearing from him. You will not fail to present my best love to him, and at the same time inform him that, according with his wish, I read geography with the higher class. I remain, dear grandmother, your affectionate grandson, Chas. Wesley.

From Wateringbury Grammar school, Charles moved to St. Paul's School in London until 1818, when he entered as a student in Christ College, Cambridge. Having chosen the duties of a clergyman, he was ordained Priest in 1821 at Salisbury Cathedral by Doctor John Fisher, Bishop of the diocese.

Charles Wesley D.D. Married Eliza Skelton in Fulham in 1824, and subsequently fathered four children, although only two survived infancy. Following his many achievements and a variety of appointments within the church, the Rev^d Charles Wesley eventually became Sub-dean of the Chapel Royal at St. James Palace, London and in 1847, Chaplain-in-Ordinary to Queen Victoria. He was officially connected with ecclesiastical duties at St. James's Palace for nearly thirty years and was present at the confirmation, coronation and marriage of Queen Victoria. Charles died on 14th September, 1859, aged 66.

Notes **George Newman**, born in 1835, was a son of the Head Gardener of Wateringbury Place and grew up in the gardener's cottage, now known as Halls Croft, near the church. In 1901 George returned to the village for a short holiday and jotted down his memories of people and places he knew so well in his early years. These formed a series of popular articles later published in The Kent Messenger which local historian Dail Whiting used, greatly expanding on them with her own essays and original research, and published in her book 'In the Steps Of George Newman and Beyond'. Copies (priced £10) are available by contacting her husband Mike at mike.whiting@btinternet.com

Rostrum thanks Dail for allowing us to publish the Newman quotes from her book and for the information about Charles Wesley which is material for a future book.

TESTON AND WATERINGBURY PRESCHOOL

This term began by exploring the book *Polar Bear, Polar Bear, what do you hear?* by Bill Martin Jr and Eric Carle. What do you hear when you read this book to a pre-school child? Lots of noise! Which is exactly what we have ... Apologies to our neighbours if they hear lots of animal noises coming from the village hall! We have been making the sounds the animals make and using our imaginations pretending to be the animals featured in this book. Our children's listening skills have also been tested as we ask them to identify the animal sounds. We have been chanting the rhythmic words in this book and identifying the colours of the animals.

We look forward to Chinese New Year on Friday 12th February (year of the ox) and to celebrate this we will be decorating our village hall 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. Unfortunately, during normal circumstances, we would be inviting our parents into the setting to discuss their child's development but due to Government guidelines this will not be possible. We are therefore busy writing reports that will be emailed to all parents.

If you are interested in joining our pre-school, please contact *Tina Driver* on 07805 796353 tandwngroup@gmail.com.

NETTLESTEAD AND WATERINGBURY PRESCHOOL (NWPS) AND OUT OF SCHOOLS' CLUB

We are sad that some of our children have not yet been able to return to us after Christmas, but we help them to keep in touch with the staff and friends by sharing photographs and ideas to support their development via our Parents Facebook page.

Back at the setting, it is business as usual. We continue with our range of indoor and outdoor activities despite the very wet weather we have been having. We are lucky enough to have a large covered outdoor area for the children, so they can have outdoor play, all day, every day.

This week we have been exploring 'winter' and next week we will be looking at our bodies and what contributes to our health and wellbeing – very apt, I'm sure you will agree.

If you are interested in any of the services the setting offers, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Childcare, Education and Out of School Clubs, including holiday club

01622 813120, enquiries@nwps.uk,
<https://nwpreschool.org.uk/>

NEWS FROM OUR MP TOM TUGENDHAT

Holly at Christmas is a reminder that spring is coming. The evergreen leaves are winter's promise of new life and a reminder that better times are ahead. The restrictions we're now living through make winter tougher for all of us, but the vaccine now beginning to be shared to so many is a hope of spring to come.

I hate the restrictions we're now under. Families across our country are separated and suffering from the stress of enclosure, loss of work and education and fear for the future. But the situation we have seen in our county is worrying. Hospitals and clinics are seeing the incidence of infection rise to levels that put healthcare for everyone at risk. As a community, and as a country, we needed to act.

For many of us the uncertainty has been adding to the stress, so I welcome the assurances that we've got that the government has decided to review this decision in mid-February. We already know that the support from the Treasury will continue into April. Along with the new, Oxford-developed AstraZeneca vaccine now being rolled out, we do at least have some hope on the horizon and can see the path to the other side. A daily target of 2 million doses per week will get us there. I have spoken to our doctors and have been assured that they are on top of this programme and will deliver for all of us.

Kent County Council have also been hard at work. Our local councillor Sarah Hudson has worked with the borough and the Government to bring non-symptomatic testing for all of us in Kent. Please get tested and isolate if you need to. We can help keep each other safe. If you can, please go further and help. You can volunteer to support the NHS at this time of emergency by going here: <https://nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk/i-want-to-volunteer/volunteer-roles>

In Kent, we're among the first in the world to get the vaccine and that's fantastic, but we need to do more than just share protection, we need to share hope. The restrictions will end, and we will come back together, but in the meantime, let's remember what makes our villages and parishes-it is not the buildings but the people. We can look out for each other, help each other and protect each other. I will do my best to help everyone and I know many others will too.

WATERINGBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Although there is no idea of when meetings might restart, all members are wished a Happy New Year. Meanwhile stay safe and look forward to happier times.

Margaret Malsher

NEWS FROM OUR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR SARAH HUDSON

As I write this report, we are once again in the middle of Lockdown 3. Meetings continue at the Borough Council via Teams, as we discuss the budget for the next financial year. Just as with everyone else, TMBC has seen a significant reduction in income, and some tough choices are having to be made to ensure we balance the books.

Following extensive lobbying, funding is being sought by KCC to provide some traffic calming measures at the western edge of the village. The results on whether that funding is granted should be known before the end of January. If we are successful, then there will be a period of consultation with village residents. One of the proposals is an additional pedestrian crossing near the entrance to Old Road, which will be of significant help to pedestrians including school children catching the bus, and church users.

The Community Fridge was very busy over the Christmas period, with over 75 families benefitting from some fantastic choices of fresh food, fruit and vegetables. We also offer fresh bread from Teston Bakery. We run every Friday from 11.15am at Wateringbury Village Hall. In order to help with complying with social distancing guidelines, all users need to book an appointment before coming to the Hall. This can be done by text on 07740 664843. Please provide your name for our schedule, or by joining our Facebook group – Wateringbury Community Fridge, which is the preferred method.

Talking of Facebook - were you aware of the many village groups that are operational? There is the Wateringbury Traffic Group, Wateringbury Village and Wateringbury & Nettlestead Residents Community Chat to name three. These are getting used more and more often, as the quickest way of communicating important information, and I would truly recommend joining them to ensure you get the latest news on traffic, vaccines and other things such as village activities.

It looks very likely that the elections in May 2021 will take place, despite Covid-19. The elections this year are for the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, and for Kent County Council. I am very pleased to be standing in these elections for Malling Rural East, which includes our lovely village as well as Kings Hill, East and West Peckham, Hadlow, Golden Green and Mereworth. Stay safe and well, *Sarah*.

Village Hall Hamper Draw at Christmas

Lisa Dean was the winner of the Christmas hamper. Her Christmas plans changed and she asked Sarah Hudson to donate the prize to others. So Sarah gave it to the next to Lisa's raffle ticket number. Just so happened it was Margaret Fyfe. Lisa was pleased to pass on her prize and to share the excitement of winning.

DECEMBER PARISH COUNCIL (PC) NOTES

Borough Cllr Sarah Hudson attended Communities and Housing Advisory Board meeting on a 3 month scheme to guarantee payment of rent arrears of housing benefit tenants to private landlords. The changes in the universal credit payments mean that rent money is now received by the tenant, rather than the landlord, causing a reluctance of private landlords to rent to housing benefit tenants.

To reduce **homelessness** in the borough, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council (TMBC) bought a building in Tonbridge for temporary accommodation.

At the Parish Partnership Panel meeting, as reported by Sarah, the issues addressed were TMBC's response to the Covid-19, an update of the local plan and change to Section 106 protocol (agreements between local authorities and developers).

Refuse collection. Waste and recycling quantity increased considerably in all categories, particularly cardboard, due to home working in lockdown. The waste services coped well with the increased workload. Sarah will raise the issue of recycling of household batteries which should be placed in a bag on the top of green lidded bin.

Community Fridge received a grant of £2,000 from the Co-op through Kent Community Fund to buy fruit and vegetables to supplement the existing supplies needed.

Local transport plan - various road improvement schemes for the village are being considered for bidding.

Rubbish and vegetation **in Bow Road**. Clarion Housing will be requested to tidy behind the bus shelter. Wateringbury Friends are planning to clear some of the Bow Road area. Rusting railings of Pear Orchard need to be replaced but there are no funds available.

There were two **thefts** in the village in November, one of various plants from outside of property in Lodge Close which were later replaced thanks to local donations, the other of a Yamaha motorbike, reg EN16***from Bow Road.

Speedwatch had to stop on 5th November due to lockdown.

Planning Applications

141 Bow Road; The PC objected to the erection of 2 dwellings on the grounds of design, overdevelopment and non-compliance with the conservation area.

Land to the south of Teston Road; construction of 5 stables with amenities for keeping and training horses for personal recreation. There is a concern that it might be a commercial development generating more traffic, waste and noise in the part of the site in WPC's area.

238 Tonbridge Road; replacement of sash windows with double glazed units at the front of property referred to listed building officer

Coppice Court, 70 Teston Road; The PC objected to installation of external light to indoor dog training building earlier applied for in Feb 2020.

3 Mill Lane: a proposed 20% reduction of yew tree referred to the Tree Officer

9 Warden, Mill Close: no objection to demolition of existing store to side elevation and construction of single storey side extension. Permission had been refused to Lower Green Barn, Danns Lane application to change the use of agricultural building to industrial one on the grounds of noise and disturbance.

JANUARY PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

At the start of the meeting Chairman Michael Wells announced that he wished to stand down as chair of the council and that Councillor Richard Tripp was willing to assume this role if councillors agreed. A vote was taken. One councillor abstained. All others voted in favour. Councillor Tripp said that since he did not have the unanimous support of Council he withdrew his offer to act as Chairman. Michael Wells then agreed to continue in his role until a new Chairman is elected.

Traffic calming proposals The chairman read out a list of possible traffic calming measures which may be considered by KCC if funding can be obtained. These included: speed limit from Danns Lane to Cemetery to be reduced to 50mph, traffic island by cemetery, possible crossing near Old Road, possible traffic island at church *possibly* using part of church lay-by, change of camber on parts of the road.

Speed Watch report During December 14 one hour observations had taken place, 2584 vehicles passing the check points. 290 were speeding which generated 50 letters for repeat offenders and 10 letters to high offenders (travelling in excess of 45mph in a 30 area). The volunteers were thanked for their efforts to make the village roads safer for us all.

Public Open Forum a larger than usual number of parishioners attended the zoom meeting. Several commenting on the traffic calming proposals saying how unsafe the A26 had become. Excess speed was thought to be the main factor, particularly by commercial traffic. 30 signs on lamp-posts and speed cameras were suggested. A request was made for traffic wardens to visit the village as many vehicles are parking frequently for long periods on double yellow lines. Dustbins left permanently on the pavement were also a problem as were bins placed out for collection blocking narrow pavements. The danger of over-hanging ivy, etc. which made narrow pavements difficult to navigate was a cause for concern. The Christmas tree and lights at the Cross Roads were commended

Planning The council had no objection to the following applications:

30 Allington Gardens dropped kerb for driveway access

20 Leney Road variations of condition 3 (windows) for TM/20/01379/FL

rebuilding of extension.

10 The Orpines and 4 Lodge Close proposed side and rear extensions.

Councillors agreed to leave T & M planning officials to use their expertise and knowledge re: 153 Pizien Well Road change of use of agricultural land used as garden in excess of 10 years and

3 Warden Mill Close application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed larger home extension pursuant to Schedule 2, Part 1, Class A of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended)

A Draft of the Minutes to be approved will be on the website www.wateringbury.pc.org.uk The public are welcome to attend the **next meeting** of the Parish Council on **Tuesday 2nd February at 7.30pm via Zoom.** Email the parish clerk clerk@wateringburypc.org.uk to gain access details.
