## **VILLAGE DIARY**

MAY			
2	Election for Borough Councillor	Village Hall	7am-10pm
5	Footpaths Walk	Car Park	2.30pm
8	Crafters Coffee Break	Church	10.30-12.30
9	Women's Institute	Village Hall	2pm
14 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting followed by Planning Comm <b>Note change of date</b>	Village Hall	7.30pm
17	Talk "Carve Their Names with Pride" (FOWC)	Church	7.30pm
21	Annual Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
22	Crafters Coffee Break	Church	10.30-12.30
25	Churchyard Plant Sale	Church	TBA
JUNE			
2	Footpaths Walk	Car Park	2.30pm
4	Parish Council Meeting followed by Planning Comm	Village Hall	7.30pm

# Friends of Wateringbury Church (FOWC) Friday 17 May, 7.30pm (doors open 7pm)

St John the Baptist Church, Wateringbury

"Carve Their Names with Pride: Female secret agents in the Second World War"
A fascinating illustrated talk by Dr Juliette Pattinson

Head of the School of History, the University of Kent Tickets £6 on the door Refreshments available Please come and join us

ANNUAL PLANT SALE Saturday 25 May 10am and 4pm in the Churchyard

An ideal opportunity to purchase plants for your flower beds, pots and vegetable gardens

(All proceeds to help with the upkeep of our village church)

**VILLAGE PEOPLE** Please let us have your news and tributes by 17 May for the June magazine. Entries are free.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS TO**

**Grandparents Jane and Trevor Hambly** on the arrival of **Matilda Beatrice Ann Spicer** who was born on 21 February 2019 at Pembury Hospital weighing 7lbs 2ozs. A daughter to Gemma and Ralph and a little sister for Jack.

**THANK YOU to The Friends of Wateringbury** for their hard work around the village picking up litter, leaves, etc

#### **TRIBUTES**

# PHILIP DUNCAN REX 21ST March 1935 - 24th February 2019

Philip was born in Banstead, Surrey and a few hours later his twin sister Sophie made her surprise entrance into the world. Public Transport was his life-long passion and from an early age he enjoyed studying anything bus related. Aged about 10 he described the gift of bus timetables from all over the country as his best ever Christmas present. After boarding at Highgate school, Phil did his National Service with the Royal Army Service Corp and was based in London responsible for managing vehicles. On demob in 1955 he joined London Transport where he worked until his retirement. In nearly 40 years he did not miss a single day. He studied at evening classes and gained his Chartered Institute of Transport qualifications. He met his wife Anne, whom he married in 1966 when she joined London Transport and they set up home in Maidstone. They had two sons, Anthony and Stephen and in 1984 the family moved to Wateringbury.

In retirement Phil dedicated his energies to supporting his family and village life. He joined the Wateringbury Players at first serving refreshments, and then he stepped in at the last minute and played the wolf in Red Riding Hood. He was hooked - he wrote and acted in the annual pantomime for the next 12 years. He was an avid reader and read The Times every day from cover to cover and enjoyed collecting questions for the Annual Quiz he and Anne organised to help raise funds for our village hall.

Phil will be remembered as a justifiably proud husband, father and grandfather to Hugo, India and Xanthe, who live in Buckinghamshire. He was an honourable, witty and kind man who loved life and whose many friends feel privileged to have known.

### **JEAN HOLMES 1923-2019**

Born Jean MClure she was encouraged to play golf by her father and won many prestigious competitions, and became British Ladies Open Champion at Hunstanton in 1946 at the age of 23. She also married that year to become Mrs G W Hetheringon. Many golfing honours followed. Three successive Notinghamshire County Championships, Semi final of British Open Championships at Hunstanton and Essex titles. Finalist of the English Championships at Hayling Island.

In 1959 Jean re-married to Rupert Holmes and Robert was born. Rupert died in 1971 and in 1974 she came to Wateringbury. In her 90s, together with her son Robert, moved to Jerez in Spain. There she was tenderly cared for by Robert in a lovely warm climate.

Jean joined Wrotham Heath Golf Club and was a well loved member and always took time to coach and encourage other players. Playing against younger opponents kept her competitive and in her 70s she represented the British Seniors in Spain, Portugal, Belgium and Sweden. In her mid 80s she still had a handicap of 12!

Jean became a committed Christian while living in Wateringbury, led bible studies, prayer groups and in particular Praying for Isreal. Within the Lord's Hands Jean rests secure.

Jean's children Nigel, Lesley and Robert and grandchildren Susi (dec'd) Emily, Stuart and Lucy and great grandchildren Issac, Mia, Grace and Emma all recount happy memories and thank all who have sent messages of comfort. Lesey Machin

# TONY GOSBY 6<sup>TH</sup> October 1928 – 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Tony was born in London, but his family moved to East Malling shortly afterwards. On leaving Maidstone Grammar School he was called up and did his National Service in the Army gaining permission to leave after 18 months to study architecture. On qualifying he worked for Kent County Council, then joined and later became a partner with Jenkins and Gosby architects firm in Maidstone. They later moved to Pelican House in Wateringbury. He is remembered as a skilled architect, a perfectionist. Tony was an active member of the Malling Rotary Club, the Masons Lodge in Maidstone and the Lutyens Trust with whom he shared his skills. He was a talented artist and for many years provided the cover illustrations for Rostrum. Tony will long be remembered for his enthusiasm for life and his infectious sense of humour which brought smiles and laughter to his friends and family

#### **FOOTPATHS GROUP**

## Sundays 5 May and 2 June meet at village hall at 2:30pm.

All are welcome to join us on our informal walks around the village. Just meet at the village hall to leave promptly at 2.30pm

The local bluebells should be spectacular on our May walk so come along and enjoy them in good company.

Our April walk looked like it was going to be a bit damp, at 2 o'clock it started to rain, but by the start time rain stopped and good weather was with us all the way. From the village hall we walked down to the river along the north bank to Teston Country Park. Crossing the bridge, we went towards Smiths Hall near the Tickled Trout, here a little road walking before passing by the horse paddocks and on to Tutsham Farm. Passing more horses grazing we entered Waregrave's Wood, ransoms (wild garlic), wood anemones and lesser celandine carpeted the ground and Bluebells were just starting to show. We returned through the water-meadows back to the start. A good walk enjoyed by all. *Kevin Reynolds* 0771 3740 375

#### **APRIL PARISH COUNCIL NOTES**

**Cemetery** Councillors discussed the marking of the grave of Tom Smith who died as a result of service in WWI and is buried in Wateringbury Cemetery.

**Crime report** Councillors were dismayed to learn that the police crime reports site had not been updated since October 2018. There were therefore no up-to-date crime figures to report.

**Speed Indicator Device** Councillors decided to ask for a meeting with the KCC report writer so that clarification of statements made about the sites within the village suitable for the portable device and the battery life, given the volume of traffic on village roads, could be discussed.

**Speedwatch** The co-ordinator felt that 70-80% of the lorries speeding through the village were connected with construction work locally. Members of the public are requested to take a note of the numbers of any lorries speeding and to pass these on to the parish clerk. During March the volunteers had spent 12.5 hours monitoring traffic speeds. 3,022 vehicles had been observed of which 325 were speeding.

Village Hall it was reported that the Upper Room and staircase had been redecorated.

**During the public discussion** session concern was raised about the frequency the new contractors were emptying the Dog poo bins since several were observed to be overflowing. Councillors were thanked for their work for the parish over the last 4 years. As only 6 people have put their names forward to serve on the Parish Council there will be no need for an election. The election on 2 May will be for the T & M Borough Councillor. :

**Planning** Councillors commented on recent planning applications:

TM/19/00481/FL Coppice Court, 70 Teston Road

Increase in ridge height of proposal granted under TM/18/02150/FL by 0.5m and replacement of Nissen hut with single storey domestic garage

Comment: The Parish Council asks the LPA to take on board their concerns that this proposal makes the building much bigger than the original permitted development.

## TM/18/02996/FL Home Farm, Red Hill

Siting of caravans to be occupied by seasonal workers and storage of those caravans on the land outside season, construction of a porta cabin to provide recreation room and the provision of parking space for workers at Home Farm

Comment: The Parish Council feels the Revised Design Access and Planning Statement does not make any changes and therefore the Parish Council's original comments stand.

## TM/19/00587/FL The Red House Cottage, 29 Old Road

Demolition of a section of boundary wall, up to 2.2metres high, required under sections 77 and 78 of The Buildings Act 1984

Comment: If the Conservation Officer is satisfied the Parish Council has no objection, but would have preferred the section to be replaced with a brick wall.

The public are welcome to attend the **next meetings** of the Parish Council on **Tuesday 14 May at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall (upper meeting room). Please note change of date due to Council Elections. On **Tuesday 21 May at 7.30pm** in the hall the Annual Meeting of the Council takes place. This is an opportunity to discuss matters of local interest with councillors in an informal

# WATERINGBURY PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMANS REPORT FOR 2018/19

My year as Chairman started 1st May 2018 at the Annual Parish Council meeting - a dive into the deep end in more ways than one but once over the initial shock of what a responsible position it is being Chairman, and with Sue Cockburn our Clerk helping to make the job start going easier things started to even out a bit.

During the summer of 2018 our street lighting contract was renewed. We chose Streetlights of Meopham: they did a survey, gave us a price to get them all up and running, very competitive, in a couple of weeks we had a full set of street lights. We agreed a contract with them in May 2018 and the contract has a clause of a night owl visit once a month to look for lamps not working.

Also, in June the lower play area seats had been damaged quite badly and were replaced, and a new swing that could be used by disabled youngsters was purchased and installed. Council has learnt from residents that it has been a great success

During 2018 Council had a visit from residents reporting they thought drugs were being supplied by persons unknown to local persons by the pavilion, had taken vehicle registrations and reported it to the police on more than one occasion but had yet to see a police car arrive.

In late summer we had a message that the welcome to Wateringbury signs were in a bad state and in need of painting

Council ask Maidstone Signs to come out and inspect them.

The outcome was that they all needed replacing. We got in three quotes, chose Maidstone Signs, and had the signs replaced in early October.

About the same time we had complaints of vehicles speeding along the track down to the playing fields and have now added three new 5mph signs to the track.

We also had four 'no dogs allowed' signs in the play area placed on the outside of all four gates. Council ask Chroma Vision to inspect the pavilion CCTV system and found that it was all out of date and would be impossible to get spare parts. A decision was made by Council to replace the aged system with a new one, this was done in December 2018.

Work started in January at The Orpines with demolition of the care home and has another 22 predicted months to run before completion, we hope it goes well for the residents who have set up a resident's group to deal direct with the developers Jenner's and the owners Rapport.

The proposed cross roads project has ground to a halt because of disputes with the utility companies over costs and KCC Highways says the project is still on but no date for the public consultation has yet been set, so we wait.

Council has for some time felt that the Village Warden position was required and has now asked for adverts to be placed in Rostrum on the Council website and on notice boards hopefully interview will be held during early April.

During the year we have said goodbye to three councillors and hello to one: Jessica Roe joined Council in November we wish her well. Jessica is Highways Committee chair. My thanks also go to:

Lin Simons Vice Chair, Councillor Frances Fielding who sits on the Joint Flood Group, Councillor David Marks who sits on our Planning Committee, David has a vast knowledge of building development, Councillor Richard Tripp who also sits on our Planning Committee, Councillor Dennis Stones who is councils rep on the WRSA committee and highways. A special thanks to Dennis who is retiring from council after years of service to our community.

Council's thanks go:

To Mike Williams and the Friends of Wateringbury for their tireless work in keeping the village looking pristine and a nice place to live.

To David Merry and the Speedwatch team who go out in all weathers to catch these people who do not want to keep to the speed limits; the team is going from strength to strength, well done to you all.

To Mathew Balfour our KCC Councillor for your help.

To our Ladies of the Rostrum for your support.

To Wendy our PCSO for being there for us.

And last, but not least, is Mrs Sue Cockburn our Clerk.

Without whom this council would not be run as efficiently as it is.

Sue reminds me of the picture of the swan calm above water but feet paddling like mad underneath. Nothing seems to faze her, Sue please accept Council's thanks for your entire efforts through 2018/19.

Michael A Wells.

Chairman Wateringbury Parish Council for 2018/19

#### **HISTORY SOCIETY**

The next meeting, **Wednesday 15 May**, is our wine and buffet evening, to be held at Manor Farm, Old Road, Wateringbury, 7.30 - 9 pm £9.00 for members and £11.00 for guests.

Our **summer outing** will be on **Wednesday 24 July** to the **Weald and Downland Museum**. The cost will be **£45** per person, and includes a guided tour. **non members welcome**. Coach pick up points will be the Wateringbury Hotel and Upper Mill bus stop. You can see more than 50 buildings, spanning more than 950 years, from sites across southern England. The collection includes workers' cottages, shops, farmhouses, barns, a watermill, smithy and even a church. Most are open for you to go inside, explore and get a real feel for what it was like to live and work in them. Some have gardens to enjoy relating to the style and period of the houses. For further information please contact Eddie Scarlin 01622 812148.

Our March speaker was Wilf Lower who delivered an entertaining talk, Don't sneeze at the Microphone, about his work at the BBC.

Our AGM on the **19th June** will be followed by a talk entitled **Life of Andrew Pitcairn Knowles**, photo journalist 1850 - 1912, to be given by Richard Pitcairn Knowles. This meeting at the village hall is 7.40pm for refreshments with the talk commencing at 8pm. Visitors welcome £3.

#### WATERINGBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At our April meeting Bat enthusiast Shirley Thompson gave an interesting and informative talk on The World of Bats. These small creatures are remarkable for their use of echolocation in their search for food. They are also the only mammals who truly fly using their long fingered hands as wings. Sadly bat colonies are in decline as insect populations are decreasing. Bat habitats are also threatened. More info on bats can be found at www.bats.org.uk or www.kentbatsgroup.org.uk

The **meeting in May is the AGM** followed by a cream tea. This meeting will be for members only.

#### **WATERINGBURY GUIDES**

Well we are delighted to say that at the end of our first term in charge, our numbers have risen from 9 to 16 when we start back after Easter. During the second half of last term we had a Welsh evening, celebrated International Women's Day, had a treasure hunt around the village, and made lovely chocolate Easter eggs. We also gave mums a Mother's Day meal at the HQ and were delighted that almost all of the mums were able to join us for a meal and natter.

While next term is very much in the planning phase, a day of sailing at Heysden Lake is planned, canoeing, rowing and rafting at Tonbridge, a river ramble, our weekend away on a canal boat, a sleepover, a weekend camp and a day trip out at the end of term.

We are delighted that our numbers are back up to 16 but we still have spaces for more so if you know of anyone who would like to join us please email wateringburyguides@hotmail.com Sheena, Emily and Hayleigh.

### **TESTON & WATERINGBURY PRE SCHOOL**

A big warm welcome to those children and families joining us this term where our theme will be based around the book Anna Hibiscus' song by Atinuke and Lauren Tobia. This book explores what makes us happy and the different ways we express our feelings.

We will be talking about our extended family, pounding yams and cooking them to try. Making African animals with junk modelling and listening to African music. Outside we will be building a theatre using African fabric and making puppets of the characters in the book for a puppet theatre show.

Our role play area will be a travel agents where we will be looking at the globe together, deciding where to go on our holidays and how to get there. And finally this term we will be checking on Boris the huge spider who has taken residence in our bug hotel, will he have any more visitors? Will they be staying for dinner? Or are they dinner!

If you are interested in joining our preschool please contact Tina Driver on 07805 796353 and come along for a taster session.

#### WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Summer term always arrives far too quickly with much still to achieve and complete. A major milestone this term has been the appointment of our new deputy headteacher Anneka Osborne.

Mrs Osborne joins us from Darenth Primary School where she was Assistant Principal. She brings a strong track record as a teacher and leader on inclusion, EAL (English as an Additional Language), looked-after children and Religious Education. She is also a keen runner and currently training for her first marathon! We are delighted to welcome her to our school and community from September.

Summer term is busy with national assessments: our Year 1 pupils will be taking the phonics screening test; our Year 2 pupils will be demonstrating their proficiency in maths, reading and writing; and our Year 6 pupils will be sitting their national examinations. These tests measure one aspect of school life; what the tests don't measure are the things we notice and celebrate about our children: their determination and resilience; their acts of kindness and generosity; their talent for sport and music, art and drama; their capacity to work within a team; their spirit for outdoor adventure.

Our zest for the outdoors will be highlighted on 24<sup>th</sup> May when we hold our Bikes & Scooters Day and open the field to every type of wheeled vehicle (except motorised ones). Year 5 children will be out and about the village during our Bikeability weeks in June when the students learn safe cycling on the roads.

Wateringbury's annual Spring Concert is always a highlight of the summer term, with many children performing from right across the school. Music continues to grow here at school and our orchestra, string club and brass ensembles enrich both our school and our pupils' lives. Many pupils also study instruments privately with both school and outside teachers.

We opened our return to school after the Easter holidays with our annual St George's Day flagpole assembly with uniformed groups proudly on parade and our favourite poems and legend read aloud.

Term 5 ends on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May and our final term of the year commences on 3<sup>rd</sup> June - when our Year 6 class will embark on their week-long residential trip to the Isle of Wight.

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

#### A VIEW FROM THE PEWS

## Rise, and murderous cats

My cat doesn't contemplate her frailty, failings and mortality. She eats and hunts without remorse (especially in spring). For us things are more complicated. Human beings are more reflective. We worry about who we are. Psychologically speaking, Genesis was spot on when it depicted us in a naked state of the knowledge of self awareness.

We search for happiness: for ourselves, our young and (on good days) for others too. But I suspect magazine front covers and happy TV laughing faces are lying! The Book of Wisdom says life is short and sorrowful. For most folk, life is a condition where either you yourself, or someone close to you, suffers from some sort of serious illness, condition or situation. Times when this is not the case are rare. So expecting long periods of healthy happiness is doomed to disappointment (before we even start on 'fabulous successful relationships' and 'great rewarding jobs'). Despite this, people get by. They get up and get on.

There are daily miracles in many human lives as people somehow cope, often with the friendship of others in equally challenging conditions. Objectively speaking these tiny acts of resilience against the onslaught of troubles are inspiring.

The Bible does not end with terrific parties, stories of success and achievement. Often things go badly wrong, one way or another - things may be going to be better in future but ... not quite yet! The loving, healing message of Jesus crashes into the hell of the cross. Yet Jesus' friends do not end in collapse. They experience the inexplicable - an encounter with a risen Jesus in their lives. Through that, they pick up and continue. They rise too. Maybe we all rely on finding some resurrection encounter to breathe new life in our broken selves. Keep watch and notice it when it encounters you. It might be just enough to help you hang on, and maybe even more than that.

#### **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 12-18 MAY 2019**

New volunteers are always welcome to join the team and take part in the UK's longest-running fundraising week. call Bob and Becky on 813396 or email **bob.bowie@gmail.com** if you would like to join our friendly team. Christian Aid have more than 70 years' experience of working in partnership to support communities to thrive. They tackle the root causes of poverty so that women, men and children the world over are strengthened against future knocks. And if disasters happen, they get people the help they need straight away.

#### FAREWELL SANDRA

The Benefice hard-working part-time Benefice Administrator Sandra is leaving on 4th May. We thank her most sincerely for all she has done for the Benefice over the past six years and wish her an enjoyable, restful summer with her family and new puppy and for her future career path.

#### **QUARTER PEAL OF BELLS**

I was recently informed of the death of Bob Maytum who was a local bell ringer and Tower Captain for 10 years in the 1980s. A current ringer accurately described Bob as "a real character, a truly nice guy without an ounce of malice in him". To mark his passing a Quarter Peal was rung on the church bells at Wateringbury on Wednesday morning, 20 March. *Justin Southwell Tower Captain* 

#### **REFLECTING ON FILM**

I am hoping to form and lead a 'home group' study course called 'Reflecting on Film.' At the moment I anticipate this will be a monthly course that will look at particular films (some older than others) and invite participants broadly to reflect on what we can learn about our faith and its place in the world. The course will meet in the evening on a day and at a venue yet to be decided. If you want to develop your faith through discussion and reflection with others, then this may be a group for you. If you are interested then please contact me and if there is enough interest we'll go ahead. Rev Nick Williams email father.nick@btinternet.com phone 01732 843282

## **CALLING ON-LINE SHOPPERS**

We need your help! If you shop online, please could you sign up to easyfundraising to support Wateringbury Church? It's a really easy way to raise money for us – you just use the easyfundraising site to shop online with more than 3,600 well known online stores like Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com, eBay, Boden, and M&S and when you make a purchase, the retailer sends us a free donation, at no extra cost to you.

We want to raise as much as possible, so please visit our new easyfundraising page at: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/wateringburychurch/ and click 'support us'.

# **COFFEE BREAK CRAFT AND CHAT**

## Wednesdays 8, 22 May 5 and 19 June 10.30-12.30

If you feel a bit of a chat and some delicious home-made cake is just what you need then do come along to our Coffee Breakers Group. We are a friendly bunch many of whom have revived their interests in knitting, crochet, needlepoint and rug making. Others just simply admire the skills of others and enjoy the coffee and cake. If you would like to learn to knit we have needles, wool and simple easy to follow patterns to get you started and there are people with time and patience to help you learn this ancient skill which many find therapeutic. *Pauline* (01622 814673) and Gillian

## **NEW BENEFICE OF MEREWORTH AND WATERINGBURY WITH WEST PECKHAM**

A brief update. The Tonbridge Archdeaconry Mission and Pastoral Group has approved the reorganisation and has submitted the proposal to Bishop James who will now seek the approval of the Church Commissioners who will carry out their own consultation before making their decision on the scheme. The timescale is currently indeterminate. Barry Fisher - Vice-Chairman PCC

# **NEW CHILDRENS' SOCIETY REPS**

Gillian Sessions and Cathy Miller have volunteered to be our new reps. So if you have a Home Box please continue to fill it with your loose change and they will process them as usual at the end of the year and send the funds to the Society to further its important work with children and families in crisis.

#### SIMPLY SOUP LUNCHES

Thank you to all who came along to our 3 simple lunches in Lent and whose generosity raised £251.26 for our chosen charities - Marie Curie Cancer Care, Heart of Kent Hospice and Send a Cow.

#### WATERINGBURY CHURCH SERVICES IN MAY

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

# Saturday 4th - 3-5pm - Messy Church

There will be craft activities, a short Bible story and prayer times and ours will always end with afternoon tea.

# Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May - 10am - Communion - Rev Nick Williams

A 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 12th May - .10am - Matins - led by our Reader Alastair Byron

This month the service is Matins which is taken from the traditional Prayer Book. Secondary Division for young people at Secondary School is held in the Vestry where they enjoy a second breakfast and a discussion.

# Sunday 19th May

# 8.30pm Prayer Book Said Communion

A quiet service using the beautiful words written by Cranmer in 1662. Rev Nick also gives a short address.

# 10am Family Service

This informal service will be led by the Sundays Cool team.

# Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May - 10am - Communion - Canon Liz Walker

Canon Liz will be taking our fourth Sunday service for the next few months. Well-known hymns are sung led by our choir. 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

# SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE Every Thursday 9am in East Malling Church - Communion

## FROM THE REGISTERS

**Funerals** 

We extend our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of:

Betty Mills (26 February)

Dennis (Tony) Gosby (2 April)

Brenda Epps (11 April)