

VILLAGE DIARY

NOVEMBER			
2 & 3	Carpet of Poppies	Church	11am-4pm
2	Bonfire Night	School	5.30-7pm
4	Carpet of Poppies	Church	2-4pm
	Footpath Group Walk	V Hall Car Park	2pm
6	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
8	Women's Institute	Village Hall	2pm
11	Annual Parish Act of Remembrance	Church	10am
14	Coffee Break	Church	10.30am
17	Christmas Craft Bazaar	Church	11am-3pm
21	History Society	Village Hall	7.40pm
24	Elvis Night	Village hall	7.30pm
28	Coffee Break	Church	10.30am
DECEMBER			
2	Footpath Group Walk	V Hall Car Park	2pm
8	Cribs & Angels	Church	10.30am-4pm
12	Exhibition - Crossroads Alterations	Village Hall	4-8pm
19	Exhibition - Crossroads Alterations	Village Hall	4-7pm
21	Coffee – Tom Tugendhat MP	V Hall	9.30-11.30am

PROPOSED CROSSROADS ALTERATIONS

There will be an exhibition, **open to the public**, on the proposed plans to be held in the **Village Hall on Wednesday 12th December 4pm - 8pm** and on **Wednesday 19th December 4pm - 7pm**. Kent County Council staff will be on hand to answer questions.

WWI CENTENARY POPPIES AROUND THE VILLAGE

Do take a stroll around the village to see the poppies which commemorate the 249 men connected with our school who fought in the war. They are placed mostly near where their families lived: Danns Lane, Pizien Well, Old Road, Canon Lane, Red Hill, The North Pole, The Orpines, Tonbridge Road and Bow Road. The poppies were made by the children at our school assisted by members of the Wednesday Morning Coffee and Crafters group. They will be in place from 1st November to link with the Carpet of Poppies and History Displays at the church on 2, 3 and 4 November. The Village School Memorial Board, on which the men are all named, eventually found its way to the church for safe-keeping and now hangs in the vestry.

VILLAGE PEOPLE

Please let us have your news and tributes by 17 November for our December/ January magazine. Entries are free.

John Blest (16 October 1924 – 19 September 2018)

Although he was born at The Cedars in Pizien Well, a house which was later demolished after a fire, John was the fifth generation to live in Wateringbury and grew up at Broomscroft, Canon Lane.

After graduating from Reading University where he read Agriculture and met his future wife, Elisabeth, he joined his father, Frank, in probably the biggest single hop growing business at that time, with farms at Brede, Goudhurst, Benenden, Mereworth and Wateringbury. Later he reduced the number of farms to Brewers Hall, Mereworth and Home Farm and Canon Farm in Wateringbury and then also added Hill Farm, Yalding. He grew apples, pears, cherries and a small quantity of soft fruit, but his main interest was hops. He served as both Vice-Chairman and then Chairman of the Hops Marketing Board. Having spent his entire working life farming, he finally retired in 1987, the year of the hurricane.

John was a Parish Councillor and also Chairman of the Parish Council for many years. He was also Chairman of AMG (Hanbury Close was built on its site after it closed). He started married life with Elisabeth at Canon Court in 1948 where his sons Peter and Anthony were both born. He then moved back to Broomscroft in 1967 with his family, after Frank had retired to live in Salcombe. After Elisabeth's death in March 1996, John moved to Blandford Forum, Dorset and then spent his last few years, living independently to the end, near Anthony in Thorley, Isle of Wight.

He was an unfailingly supportive Father and a kind, generous Grandfather of seven and Great Grandfather of three. Members of his family still live in Canon Lane. John's funeral was held in the Isle of Wight on 8th October 2018.

Church of St John the Baptist Tonbridge Road Wateringbury

1918 - 2018

Carpet of Poppies

Knitted by Wednesday Morning Coffee and Craft Group

Friday 2 November - 11am-4pm Saturday 3 November - 11am-4pm Sunday 4 November - 2-4pm

Ploughmans Lunches Cream Teas Poppy Brooches

History Displays

Books We Will Remember Them Wateringbury and WWI £5 Rolls of Honour Short biographies of the fallen on School and Parish Memorials £3 each

NHS GP PRACTICE APPOINTMENTS

From 1 October an improved access initiative has been launched in west Kent. This is part of a national drive to improve access to GP services and to give people the opportunity to see a doctor, nurse or health professional at a time that suits them. Extra appointments are now available in your area during the evening and at the weekend. To book an appointment contact your GP practice. For more information, visit nhs.uk/GPaccess

OCTOBER PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Announcements An arrest had been made regarding the supply of drugs. KCC and Parish Councillors will meet on 10th October to discuss Cross Road plans.

KCC Councillor Matthew Balfour reported that as soon as KCC have finalised plans for suggested improvements at the Cross Roads there will be public consultations including a public meeting. The objective is to make the Cross Roads function as efficiently as possible. Members of the public at the meeting expressed severe doubts as to the soundness of the plan to create two filter lanes, fearing this would only increase pollution levels and cause problems in other parts of the village.

Matthew reported he had been appointed to the KCC select committee on Isolation and Loneliness which was a topic high on the agenda of National Government.

CCTV After discussion about the problems experienced with the CCTV equipment at both the village hall and the pavilion, it was agreed the Clerk would get an engineer to look at both systems and give a quote.

Crime Report No crimes appeared on the police official crime reports site. On ewatch there was a report of damage to a vehicle parked in Old Road on 18 September.

Playing Fields The council is currently obtaining quotes for the maintenance of the Playing Fields and grass cutting at other sites in the village. At the public participation time a member of the public asked the council not simply to accept the cheapest quote but to look at the quality of the service being offered. He felt the present contractor did an outstanding job and visiting cricket teams often commented on the superb condition of our playing fields.

Mill Pond in response to a request TMBC had been asked for a litter bin to be provided in the area of the mill pond. Members of the public at the meeting expressed concerns that heavy lorries delivering building supplies to building projects would cause damage to the pipes carrying water from the Mill Pond.

Signal Box The good news is that the box will remain staffed after the automatic barriers have been installed. The signal to operate the barrier will be triggered inside the box. It is estimated that this will save about 30 seconds and be much safer for railway staff. Each day the crossing is used by about 1200 vehicles. The children at our village school will be given rail safety talks. The present gates were installed in the 1920s.

Joint Parish Council Transport Consultative Group Chairman Mike Wells reported on the recent meeting of the Group which had been attended by our MP Tom Tugendhat. Among topics discussed were plans to develop Ryarsh Quarry, Operation Stack when there were delays at Dover Docks and problems with school transport.

Village Warden the council will consider the employment of a warden and draw up a new job description.

Planning Committee Councillors considered the following applications:

Single storey front side and rear extension and two storey rear extension at Millmeadow House, 22 Mill Lane

Proposed first floor side extension at 7 Phoenix Drive

Demolition of existing stables with extant consent for residential conversion and erection of replacement dwelling at Coppice Court, 70 Teston Road

Public Question Time The main topics raised were traffic related.

The speed of traffic travelling through the village and measures which could be taken to encourage motorists to drive within the speed limit.

Alternatives to the creating of additional lanes at the Cross Roads including re-timing of the traffic lights, creating a marked turn right lane on the road, creation of a living wall of CO2 absorbing plants

To slow traffic down entering the village it was suggested a traffic island could be created near Canon Lane.

*The next meeting is on **Tuesday 6 November at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall (upper meeting room).*

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

WATERINGBURY BABY & TODDLER GROUP

We began the term with some new children joining us. This term is very busy with our harvest and firework craft, and we are already planning our Christmas Party, when we will have an entertainer, Father Christmas followed by lunch. We have lots of toys and there is always a craft and singing session. The cost is £2 for the first child and £1 for any others, this includes tea/coffee for the adults and snacks and drinks for the children. We are a very friendly group so why not come along and see what we do. We meet every Wednesday and Friday 10.00am to 12 noon. For further information call Linda on 01732 522 437.

Grand Christmas Craft Bazaar

11am to 3pm - Saturday 17 November

at Wateringbury Church



**A wonderful array of gifts and items for Christmas, with some new stalls and of course the old favourites -
cake stall, raffle, tombola, cake raffle and refreshments and many more! Entry is Free.**

ELVIS

at Wateringbury Village Hall Saturday 24 November, 7.30pm

Tickets £10 each available from the Post Office and the Handy Store

Our Elvis will be Mark Goddard, who has been voted "Great Britain's Best Elvis".

We will be leaving room for dancing. There will be a pay bar.

All proceeds will go to the village hall. Numbers are limited so don't delay getting you tickets. Let us know if you are coming as group so that we can organise your seating. For this and any questions you can contact Mike Hoiles 07956396985 or Sarah Hudson 07740664843.



Dear Fellow Residents,

Many of you may be wondering about noise and banging and heavy vehicle movements on the eastern side of our village (Tonbridge Road towards Teston). Now that the Abbeyfield nursing home has been demolished construction has commenced on 50 plus homes (for over 55 year olds). This entails a lot of drilling and disposal of rubble, etc.

The start date was the 3rd September with the contract period of 102 weeks and planned completion date being August 2020. Piling work commenced on the 24th September with the ground work taking approximately 30 weeks in total. All access to and from the site will be via The Orpines and working hours will be 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday and possibly 8am to 1pm on Saturdays, with no working on Sunday or Bank Holidays. The wheels on the lorries will be hosed off to reduce soil spillage on the surrounding roads and a road cleaner vehicle will operate once a week. It is hoped these construction activities will not inconvenience the residences of Wateringbury especially the residents of the Orpines who have got to endure this disruption.

Mike Williams---Friends of Wateringbury,

WAR NEWS, NOVEMBER 1918

November 3: Armistice with Austria. German fleet mutinies at Kiel.

9: Kaiser abdicates.

11: Canadian forces retake Mons.

Armistice with Germany comes into force at 11.00 a.m.

Fred Martin died, aged 21, on 11th November, the last day of the war. He had come to Wateringbury from London as a toddler with his family, first living in Pizienwell and later near the bottom of Bow Road, opposite where the school is now. He attended Wateringbury School and joined the Wateringbury scouts. He is the last of the 5 Wateringbury scouts to die in the war. His father worked in one of the Wateringbury breweries and Fred followed his father, working at a brewery as a labourer. He had joined up by January 1917 when he is on the vicar's list of those serving, along with his brothers, Alec and Thomas.

He was a Prisoner of War (POW) held in Cologne, Germany where he is buried in one of the 2,500 Commonwealth POW graves. More soldiers were captured during a period of movement, rather than when static trench warfare dominated, so it is possible Fred, along with a number of other Wateringbury men, was captured during the final 100 day advance. Over 3,000 British POWs died after the Armistice, before they could be released as required by its terms. Conditions for POWs at the end were terrible and disease, particularly flu, was the major killer.

George Burrluck, a POW in the Middle East, had died in captivity in 1916. Other Wateringbury POWs who survived include Herbert King (wounded and captured in September 1918, held in Germany and who visited the school in February 1919), J. Bamden (captured October 1918) and James Randall.

The Armistice on 11th November was immediately celebrated in the village. The Boys School log records:

Received news of the signing of the Armistice about 11.30. Therefore arranged with Girls and Infant staff that all children should march to the street cross-roads at 12 o'clock to sing the National Anthem. This was done & the Chairman of the Managers (Canon Livett) gave permission for the schools to close for the afternoon

WAR NEWS, NOVEMBER 1918

Postscript

Although Fred Martin died on the last day of the war he was not the last man to be commemorated on the War Memorial: **Walter Neeves** died in December 1918 and **Tom Smith** (buried in Wateringbury cemetery) in June 1920.

As would be expected there were, following the signing of the Versailles Peace Treaty in June 1919, multiple celebrations in the village: a Peace Celebration in July; a Peace Pageant in August and a Peace Dinner in December (held with Nettlestead and attended by 186 former members of the armed forces).

There were also multiple events of commemoration: May 1919 a church service for the 5 Wateringbury Scouts killed; November 1919 the first 2 minutes silence; but the main commemoration was in April 1921 with the dedication of the memorial cross (originally at the Crossroads) and memorial shrine.

This is the last War News. Thank you to all who have helped me write them and to anyone who has read part or all of them.

Terry Bird

For more details see the web-site of Wateringbury Local History Society

(<https://www.sites.google.com/site/wateringburylocalhistory/>)

WATERINGBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

On 8th November Derek March is coming along to tell us about 'Furniture Restoration', and the competition is for a 'Wooden Object', which can be small or large, old or new. Ladies why not come along and spend the afternoon with us and enjoy a cup of tea and cake during the social time.

In December we will be holding our annual Christmas Lunch more details will be available next month.

Delia Taylor came along in October to tell us about the 'Roaring Twenties'. During her talk Delia told us how the music and fashions created during the twenties and thirties and the independence gained by women during WW1 had greatly influenced and changed everyday life. Women not only let their hair down they had it cut off into the new 'bob' style, initially going to a barber's until lady hairdressers learned (from the barbers) how to cut and style ladies hair, and skirts were also shortened to go with their new look. We spent a very enjoyable and interesting afternoon listening to Delia who showed us both the serious and light sides of life between the two world wars.

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING



Come and meet and chat to your

MP Tom Tugendhat whilst enjoying coffee/tea, mince pies, a raffle and a festive catch-up!

ALL WELCOME.

Friday 21st December, 9.30am – 11.30am

At Wateringbury Village Hall.

HISTORY SOCIETY

For our next meeting on Wednesday 21st November 2018, we are very fortunate to have Melanie Gibson Barton returning to deliver her talk entitled "Wandering in Flanders Fields". On the 19th December 2018 Martin Crowther will bring along mystery artefacts for us to guess what they are. As this is our Christmas meeting wine and mince pies will be available. Our first meeting of 2019 will be on the 16th January entitled "The Bayeux Tapestry" by Imogen Corrigan.

Our September meeting was a very informative talk by Stephen Harmer on the History of Sissinghurst Castle where we learnt that the tower was constructed to watch the hunt from and that Vita Sackville-West never got over the fact that she couldn't inherit Knole because she was female.

Our meetings in the village hall are at 7.40pm with the speakers beginning at 8pm. Subscriptions are £10.00 for the year with visitors at £3.00. We look forward to welcoming you."

FOOTPATH GROUP

A good turnout for the October walk, nice to see some new faces joining the regulars. From the start we went down to the river along to Nettlestead church where we stopped awhile to look inside, then taking the path beside Nettlestead Old Rectory to Gibbs Hill, across the meadow through Rock Farm to the path over the Wateringbury Stream, then up to Old Road passing Manor Farm down to the Millpond and back to the start, passing The Wardens. A good walk in the autumnal sun.

Next Walk 4th November - meet village hall at **2:00pm**

December 2nd - meet village hall **2:00pm**

KENWARD TRUST FIREWORKS - Thursday 8th November, opens at 4:30pm. Fireworks start at 7:30pm. Refreshments and rides on site.

Tickets <https://www.kenwardtrust.org.uk/content/kenward-firework-spectacular>

Adult £8, Child (under 12) £5, Family (2 adults, 2 children) £20

KENWARD'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR - Saturday 8th December, Starts at 10am till 4pm. Many different stalls available and can also buy beautifully crafted and handmade gifts made by our residents

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR AT DANDELION TIME on Sunday

2 December, 11-3 at Elmscroft, West Farleigh ME15 0NY.

Crafts, workshops, gifts, music and a Christmas Cafe. Free Christmas crafting for children. Workshops for adults including Wreath Making, bookable in advance. To book the workshops please visit www.dandeliontime.org.uk.

Suggested entrance donation £2. Free entrance for children.

WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Autumn has finally arrived, wet and windy. However, our annual Harvest Service on 8th October was held in the last of the warm sunshine. £140 was generously donated during the retiring collection for the British Red Cross Indonesia Earthquake and Tsunami crisis appeal. The children's contributions of food and produce were parcelled up and delivered to individual families in need as well as to local shelters and refuges. Another annual October event, the Macmillan Coffee Morning, raised an impressive £71.

We have held two Open Mornings and an Open Classroom for parents and children who will be joining Reception classes in September 2019. If you missed these, or would like another tour or visit, please contact the school office to arrange. Follow-up visits by parents (and children) are always welcome as families make this important decision.

We were pleased to welcome the St John the Baptist Church's Coffee and Craft group into school to help the children make 249 large poppies, one for each man who served during World War One. Of these, 213 came home and 36 died and their names on are on the school memorial board. Each poppy is named for a service man and they will be placed around the village, near to their homes or places of work where possible. Thank you to Christine Byron who has worked alongside the school to get this project off the ground and also to Rosemary Skinner's expert guidance and supervision. The school's Remembrance Service will take place in Church on Monday, 5th November – earlier than usual – to enable the children to see the carpet of poppies which will be in place from 2nd November.

We are holding our second annual Bonfire Night at school on Friday, 2nd November from 5:30pm-7:00pm. The evening will feature a roaring bonfire, 7 large guys (made by each class) and warming pies and hotdogs. All are welcome. Thank you to our parent organisation, FOWPS, for their commitment and time to make sure these wonderful family events take place.

On 7th November the entire school will be running a sponsored 'relay marathon' and hoping to break some of the top times by world-class athletes. Each of our 202 children will individually run at least 100m and this continuous run will be timed collectively. Thanks to Steve Wright, athletics coach, for this initiative. All money raised will go towards school sports equipment.

Chris Clark, Chair of the Governing Body for more than four years, has stepped down as Chair but will remain a governor. Chris has devoted hours to the school over more than eleven years and we are grateful for his experience, expertise and commitment. Gail Isted and Mark Warren step up as joint Co-Chairs and we are delighted to welcome them in their new roles.

Chasey Crawford Usher, Headteacher



A VIEW FROM THE PEWS

This year our village Remembrance service also marks an anniversary of the Great War. Many of our uniformed young people had a summer Scout trip to Belgium and France. They visited the locations of some of the 5 fallen Wateringbury Scouts and paid respects at the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing at Ypres. My Grandfather fought there, so I am glad our Scouts laid a wreath to remember all his fellows who did not come back.

At the village Remembrance service, the sight of large numbers of young people in uniform always brings an additional poignancy, but I feel some consolation to know that all the generations meet to remember together as one community.

Though the evenings draw in, the turn in the year brings out a few treasures. The Medway valley trees and shrubs are showing their shades of autumnal brilliance, and the shortening days have brought the night sky to view. Look to the east for a sight of Jupiter in Gemini (some way to the left of Orion) and the very early (pre-dawn) risers, there is a chance the sharp-eyed will get a view of the comet Ison as it traverses the sky in the east-southeast (if you're lucky).

All this reminds me about scientist Georges Lemaître, the astronomer and professor of physics who first proposed the theory that the universe was expanding before Edwin Hubble confirmed it. He was also a Belgium Catholic priest! Albert Einstein once said "look to stars and from them learn," and our ancient Muslim and Greek civilisations had scholars that did indeed do this. Astronomers are mentioned in the Bible and star gazing is encouraged in the Qur'an. In the ancient world was the connection between faith and science, as reason and revelation were considered complimentary sources in the tapestry of all learning.

I am beginning to clear up the remnants of the late summer crop, picking the last of our grapes and tomatoes, and am reminded of Gregor Mendel, the 19th-century founder of modern genetics, Franciscan friar and abbot. In his friary garden, he sowed peas of different varieties and discovered through experimental interbreeding the existence of recessive and dominant traits.

I give thanks to these scientists, and for all those who continue to search and study the universe, and feel blessed to live in such a pretty corner of Kent. For all those who are seasonally challenged and left downhearted in remembrance, I suggest you take up the opportunities to gather and enjoy fellowship with one another. And look out for bright days to enjoy the seasonal colours of our valley and clear nights to view the wonders of our created universe.

Bob Bowie

WATERINGBURY CHURCH SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

[SJB Church web site: www.wateringburychurch.org.uk](http://www.wateringburychurch.org.uk)

[Church Face Book Page: fb.me/wateringburychurch](https://fb.me/wateringburychurch)

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

parishofficeemwt@gmail.com [tel: 01732 843282](tel:01732843282)

Sundays 4 and 25 November – 10am - Eucharist

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.

Saturday 10 November – 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 11 November – 10am - Annual Parish Act of Remembrance

Always a poignant service. This year marks the Centenary of the Peace to end the Great War in 1918. The service begins in church and then the congregation gathers round the War Memorial in the churchyard for the laying of wreaths and the 2 minutes silence. There will also be a small area for the placing of wooden crosses dedicated to those we especially wish to remember who have died in the service of our country. The service will be led by our Readers Barry and Alastair.

Our Scouts, for their Summer Camp this year, visited WWI Battlefields and placed wooden crosses in remembrance of the five Wateringbury Scouts who died in the conflict. So, when they parade to church this year it will have special significance for them.

Sunday 18 November

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 Annual Toy Service

If you can please help children and mothers who will be spending time at local Women's Refuges enjoy the Christmas festivities by donating nearly new toys and gift vouchers for the children. Also, the mothers really do appreciate toiletry items, etc - if you wish make up a small gift box. This informal service will be led by the Sundays Cool team.

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

COFFEE BREAK CRAFT AND CHAT

Wednesdays 14 and 28 November 10.30am to 12.30pm

We have a really pleasant morning so do come along, it would be good to see you. We meet on alternate Wednesday mornings in the church for tea, coffee, cake and chat. Some have revived their interests in knitting and other crafts, there is usually someone who can give help and guidance if requested. Everyone is most welcome. Look out for our poppies and poppy gifts at the Carpet of Poppies in church at the beginning of November.

Pauline and Gillian

CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD AUTUMN CLEAN

Saturday 10 November 9.30am to Noon

Volunteers are much needed and will be much appreciated, to go along to help prepare the church and churchyard for the annual parish Act of Remembrance. Please go to the church at any time during the morning and take 'tools' suitable for the job which you would like to do. Tea and coffee will be provided.

IN OUR JOYS AND SORROWS - FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS



We extend our deepest sympathy to the loved ones of:

Michael James Edward Pursey on 12 October 2018

