

Welcome to the June issue of Wateringbury Village Magazine

VILLAGE DIARY

JUNE

- 4** **Footpaths walk** – meet outside Village Hall – 2.30pm
- 6** **Parish Council meeting** - Hall - 7.30pm followed by Planning Committee
- 8** **WI meeting** - The History of Dolls Village Hall – 2pm
- 9** **Footpaths walk** – meet outside Village Hall – 10 am
- 11** **Village Fete** – Playing Fields – 12.30-5pm
- 21** **Victorian Street Life - History Soc talk** – Village Hall – 8 pm
- 21** **Flower Club** - viewing and cream tea in Parsonage Oasts in Yalding. Members and friends only

JULY

- 2** **Footpaths walk** – meet outside Village Hall – 2.30pm
- 4** **Parish Council meeting** - Hall - 7.30pm followed by Planning
- 19** **History Society** - outing to Bateman's, the home of Rudyard Kipling

Wateringbury's annual Summer Fete is on this month!

**Sunday 11th June from 12.30pm to 5pm
at the playing fields, Fields Lane, Wateringbury
(on-site parking available).**

Live music! Not too serious dog show (incl. doggy fancy dress class)! Circus workshop for all! BBQ! Bouncy castle!

Face painting! Beer tent! Wine bar! Pizza van!
£150 raffle first prize! Beat the goalie! Coconut shy!
Teas and coffees!

Bring the family, bring some cash and enjoy a fun, local day out!

Kindly sponsored and supported by:

Rostrum
John Bennett Billiards
The Pawsome Parlour
Diamond Kite Electrical
CIP Puppy Training
Wateringbury Parish Council
Redhill Estates
Pyramid Building Services
Three Counties Contracting
Any queries please contact
Wateringburyfetecommittee@gmail.com
Nicola Plane - Chair Wateringbury Fete Committee

VILLAGE PEOPLE *Please let us have your news and tributes by 17th June for our July/August magazine. Entries are free*
Email rostrum2@hotmail.com

Congratulations and best wishes to Alastair Byron who celebrates his **80th birthday** on 12th June

Happy 50th Birthday to Donna of Kent Hair for 19th June

Congratulations to Sandra and Carl Farrin who celebrate their **60th Wedding Anniversary** on 1st June.

WATERINGBURY FLOWER CLUB

At our May meeting we welcomed to our club the fabulous Graham King from London and overseas area with a workshop entitled *Wacky Collars*

Graham presented to members how to make frames to go over containers with large coloured structures made from wire and fabric and lots of little delicate beads etc. He then arranged a flower display to show us the transformation of an ordinary container into an extraordinary container!!

A wonderful time was had by all and although many were missing on the evening due to holidays, the rest of us made up for them with fun and laughter - Friendship through Flowers.

I have just returned from the Nafas National Show in Gloucester Cathedral where 4 members from Kent Area were taking part. We gained a 2nd place and a Highly Commended and a Commended award. Our own Sue Shaw from Maidstone Club was speaking on *The Tailor of Gloucester* by Beatrix Potter. The Cathedral is just along the road from the Beatrix Potter Museum which is based on this character. It was well worth the visit by many members of Kent Area and also a chance to meet up with friends from other areas.

On 21st June the club members are visiting Parsonage Oasts in Yalding - an NGS garden for a private viewing and cream tea - this is open to members and friends £7 per head.
Jean Schofield Secretary WFC

Mill Pond new tree Thank you to Rostrum for the grant and thank you very much to Bijou Nurseries for their help.

I will also be 'planting' a time capsule with a copy of the Rostrum and some articles about the coronation. So maybe this will be discovered by the next pond owner in years to come!
Maxine Jarvis

W.I. Inspiring women

Our May meeting was our AGM. After reports on the events of the year there was a discussion and vote on this year's National Resolution which calls on action to promote the health and cleanliness of rivers. Thanks were given to retiring members and a new committee was elected. We then had tea and cream scones.

Our W.I. which meets on the second Thursday afternoon of the month in the Village Hall is a friendly group and we would welcome new members to join us. We have an interesting list of speakers arranged for the next year as well as other activities. Please come along as a guest if you are interested in meeting us. You will be very welcome.

At our June meeting we will welcome member Miranda Cookson to talk on *The history of Dolls*. Miranda will display some of her large collection of dolls and will talk about their history and how dolls were made. The competition will be an object connected to childhood which may or may not be a doll.
Thank you.
Margaret Malsher.

FOOTPATH GROUP

In early May we had two walks to see the bluebells at their best. We found plenty in hedgerows and dappled shade between the Tonbridge Road at Pizien Well and Kings Hill. There was one particularly attractive spot by the footpath in Cattering Wood close to Kings Hill where the woodcutters

coppiced the chestnut trees last winter. This spring it looked like a field full of bluebells. In the good weather there were other lovely spring flowers to enjoy including orchids.

The countryside and gardens were looking beautiful and it all added to the pleasure of walking and chatting. On one of our walks we were invited to visit a special garden, which we greatly enjoyed. Thank you to the villager who saw us as we were walking past. A lot of hard work has made a beautiful area, much of which can be seen from the lane and public footpath.

Our next walks will be leaving the village hall at:

2.30pm on Sunday 4th June
10.00am on Friday 9th June
2.30pm on Sunday 2nd July

Everyone is always welcome! Please contact me if you want more information.

Lisa Dean 077 5953 9032

FROM OUR COUNCILLOR SARAH HUDSON

Matt and I would like to thank everyone for their support in electing us to represent you all in our new ward of East & West Peckham, Mereworth and Wateringbury. We are immensely grateful for all the kind words and good wishes from many of you.

We will be attending as many parish council meetings as we can, as well as local events, and will be starting up a regular surgery so that you can come along and discuss issues that you may have, and when you may need to see us face to face.

We are always here to help, and please do get in touch with either/both of us on matt.boughton@tmbc.gov.uk or sarah.hudson@tmbc.gov.uk

Sarah Hudson

KCC Member for Malling Rural East

Representing the villages of Wateringbury, Mereworth, East Peckham, West Peckham, Golden Green, Kings Hill and Hadlow.

TESTON AND WATERINGBURY PRESCHOOL

We have been very busy learning about minibeasts this month. This links to our topic book 'Twist & Hop Minibeast Bop' written by Tony Mitton. The minibeasts are gathering to dance the night away! But who is missing from the fun ...will the snail make it?

We have made symmetrical patterns for our butterfly pictures and used sponge stamps and black paint to create Ants. We have also used our fine motor skills to thread pipe cleaner legs into an Ant template; making sure that we have given our Ant the correct number of legs! We have played 'hunt the spider' in our tuff tray.

We have been using magnifying glasses and microscopes to look for mini beasts in our garden. It is very important to care for the natural world and we have encouraged our children to get involved by creating a wormery; the children were able to bring in worms from home. We also talked about the importance of bees for our planet; we made honey sandwiches which all the children enjoyed. We are also caring for caterpillars; Stitch, Colin, Munchy and Connie (named by the children). We have watched them munch, turn into pupas and now they have turned into butterflies which we will set free. The children have been really interested checking their progress every day. We have a large garden and as the weather is improving, we are spending more and more time outside. We have had a soft play 'obstacle' course. We have made a track for our trikes using road signs and a construction site using diggers, 'cement mixer' and blocks. Sand play, mini beast hunts and musical instruments. The fun and learning go on and on. We are looking forward to the weather getting warmer so we can have our lunch under our cherry tree in the garden.

If you would like your child to be part of this amazing preschool 'family' we have limited places left for September. Please be quick to avoid disappointment. Book your visit as soon as possible, details below:
testonpreschooladmissions@gmail.com tandwngroup@gmail.com
Tina Driver 07805796353

WATERINGBURY PARISH COUNCIL - ORIGINS

The Church (particularly church wardens) had been given, from the 16th century onwards, many secular tasks to carry out on behalf of the central government. The Local Government Act, 1894 mandated the creation of elected councils for all parishes with a population over 300. County councils had been created under an Act six years earlier.

Nationally the hope was that the creation of parish councils, as one MP stated, would *go to the very root of national life*. In Wateringbury this hope was reflected in the fact that for the 9 councillor positions there were 17 valid nominations, so an election was held. One Wateringbury councillor put a notice of thanks for his election in the South Eastern Gazette.

All the nominations were for men. Women who owned property were entitled to vote and stand in local elections, whereas they had to wait until after World War I to get the vote in parliamentary elections. In Wateringbury the first woman to become a parish councillor was Mrs Lemmens in 1919.

Parish property and charities had to be divided between the new secular council and the church. The village lock-up went to the new secular council, whereas the equally secular *Dumb Borsholder* was pragmatically kept by the church where it still hangs today.

Meetings of the parish council were held in the Girls' School, then located on Red Hill. An early topic on the council's agenda was the politically challenging task of objecting to Viscount Falmouth's enclosure of heath land at the top of Canon Lane, which would impinge on a public right of way.

The vicar of the time, Greville Livett, was clearly annoyed by the legislation creating the parish council. He felt that the need to hold an election was a needless expense and noted that Wateringbury's parish council *accurately reflected the wishes of the parish by a policy of inactivity!*

Terry Bird

HISTORY SOCIETY

On 21st June our monthly meeting will start at 8pm with the AGM which usually takes about ten minutes. The scheduled talk on Victorian London Street Life presented by the popular Delia Taylor will begin at 8.15.

The committee are looking for volunteers to help in the coming year.

The last event before the summer break in August is an outing on 19th July to Bateman's, the home of Rudyard Kipling.

David Barrow

GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE

I saw my first bats of the season in early May, swooping and swerving up Mill Lane. These were likely to be pipistrelle bats as they are our most common species, emerging at sunset to chase down tiny insects.

To attract bats into your garden you'll need to attract the insects that they feed on by incorporating into your planting light coloured and/or night scented flowers: night scented stocks, evening primroses, nicotiana, honeysuckle, and oxeye daisies.

The flowers that attract night flying insects also work for our day time visitors and if you can add: verbena, lavender, cosmos, scabious, campanula for example, you will be rewarded with butterflies, bees and a range of other beneficial insects.

One of my favourite pastimes at this time of the year is watching the solitary bees gathering around my bee boxes. The most common visitors at present are mason bees but they should be followed in the summer by a range of others including leaf cutter bees and solitary wasps (none of these sting!) which act as a natural pest control, collecting flies, small caterpillars and aphids.

You can buy or make bee homes (details on KWT website) and then position them in full sun, at least a metre off the ground and somewhere that you can sit comfortably and watch them.

Pauline Knutton

FIRST WATERINGBURY GUIDES

We are well into our summer term programme and had a very successful outdoor cooking evening at Mereworth. The girls chose their menus and cooked at least two courses using only skewers, tin foil and either an empty tin can or a tin foil dish. Among the offerings were garlic bread, soup, jacket potatoes, pasta, sausages, burgers, chicken skewers, halloumi, fruit skewers, chocolate brownies, sponge cake and of course summores! Thanks to the extra adults who came to help. They and the daylight made it much easier.

We had a Coronation Party run by Tiffany where the girls brought in things they had made for their Confectionary badge. There were some beautiful creations which the girls should be very proud of. As a complete contrast, the following week we went to Mote Park Water Sports and did dragon boat racing and kayaking. Sadly, there wasn't sufficient room in the dragon boats for the leaders who were all kitted up with nowhere to go!

Our next meeting is a wide game and then before you blink, we're already at half term. Time flies when you're having so much fun! We hope to be at Wateringbury village fete offering nail painting and making mocktails. Do come and find us and say hello and see what we are about.

You can contact me on 01622 815416 or email to

wateringburyguides@hotmail.com

Sheena Stewart and team.

1st Wateringbury Guides

WATERINGBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Like the rest of the country, we have been enjoying the celebrations and the history around the Coronation. The children have been learning about our new monarch and what it means to be king. They have had some very inventive ideas about what they would do if they were king! We have got some wildflower seeds from the Eden project and some trees from the Woodland Trust to develop our outside space to create a Coronation Copse and a No Mow Meadow.

We celebrated the event with our very own street party on Friday afternoon (and the rain stayed away). Our children paraded onto the playground (led by King Charles and Queen Camilla (aka Anna and Rhys in Year 6). They then sang beautifully, shared delicious party food and played games with each other and their families. The playground looked very patriotic with everyone dressed in red, white and blue; singing the national anthem and raising the union flag.

We are very excited to welcome our new families to our school this term for stay and play sessions and teddy bears' picnic. Please contact us if you would like to join our school either as a new starter or as an in-year admission.

Whilst our new children and their families are being made very welcome – we were so thrilled to have some ducklings visit our school from an ethical farm. Once they had hatched, they were supposed to go back to the farm but our school community have fallen in love with these fluffy, feathered beauties (grown ups and children

alike) so they are staying with us! Anyone who is a duck expert or has any equipment they would like to donate, please contact us.

If you would like to find out more about our school or help out in a volunteering role, please contact the school office. We would love to welcome you to our school. Debbie Johnson
(Headteacher).

Website: www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk Phone: 01622 812199

WATERINGBURY & NETTLESTEAD PRE-SCHOOL AND OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB

Another busy term full of adventures with our lovely little pre-schoolers! The term started with us receiving our little hungry caterpillars. The children observed them growing steadily, turning into chrysalis and then into beautiful Painted Lady butterflies which they helped release in the fields, watching them fly high into the sky.

With the warmer weather the children have enjoyed helping plant seeds. We have lots of cress, carrots and spring onions growing. We also planted some basil, coriander, mint and even tried some strawberries! The children took part in a bean experiment, placing a bean in different places to see which environment it liked the best. The children have planted their very own sunflower seeds to look after at home. We have had some pictures sent in showing how well they are doing!

The children also enjoyed a library trip going up by train this term, sharing their favourite books with their friends.

We went up to the local school to visit their little ducklings that had recently hatched with some of our older children that are going to school in September. The children did very well listening and following instructions on how to handle the little ducklings carefully. On the way back we sang '5 little ducklings.'

The setting with the children took part in Coronation activities leading up to the Coronation. The children helped make tea, using lots of sensory skills, making sandwiches, cutting/sticking portraits and writing letters to the King!

Nisha Reed 01622 813120 manager@nwps.org.uk

NEWS FROM WATERINGBURY SURGERY

A Neighbourhood Care Centre (NCC)

A NCC staffed by paramedics with prescribing authority, has been set up at Larkfield Health Centre, Martin Square in Larkfield, covering Wateringbury and other local surgeries. Its aim is to see on the same day patients with acute medical issues, such as new coughs, sore throats, ear pains, abdominal pains etc. that would traditionally have been seen at Wateringbury surgery. It will free up the surgery to see patients with complex and chronic health issues who need more support. When you contact Wateringbury surgery seeking an appointment, if your condition is suitable, then your appointment will be made with the NCC.

Klinik, the new triage system

The practice has switched off the Accurx triage system in preparation for the introduction of a new triage system called Klinik. It uses artificial intelligence, making for a much safer system.

Klinik is currently being set up and it is hoped to be completed within 4 to 6 weeks. More information will follow.

In the meantime to book an urgent or routine appointment, please call the surgery from 8.30am. If your request is for medication, medical certificates or other administrative enquiries, please email: gp.G82200@nhs.net. This email will only be open on a temporary basis until Klinik is live.

'Wellbeing Space' at Wateringbury surgery.

Following our patients' suggestions, we are working on setting up the garden/space with herb garden, a book nook and plants to encourage bees and butterflies.

I hope to have more news soon regarding recruiting volunteers and construction of the garden.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.
Nikki Howe—Assistant Practice Manager
Telephone 01622 814466 Email: GP.G82200@nhs.net
Website address: www.wateringburysurgery.co.uk

Gravesham Choral Society performance of
Carmina Burana by Carl Orff
in St George's Church Gravesend DJ11 0DJ
on Saturday June 24th 2023 at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £12 for adults and £5 for 15s and under and full time students (£13 and £6 on the door) Please visit our website for more information about the concert and to book tickets. www.graveshamcs.co.uk.

WATERINGBURY FOOTBALL CLUB - Football Festival

On Saturday 13th May, the village junior football club held our 5th annual football festival. The day was a huge success and was attended by over 800 playing children and approximately 1800 excited watching parents, grandparents, friends and Wateringbury residents. We think it is the biggest gathering to have taken place in Wateringbury since the 2007 Tour de France.

It is certainly no small feat to lay on such an event and weeks of hard work by the WFC committee were rewarded with a fun and fantastic day, that the football club are incredibly proud of. The sun was shining and faces were smiling. We have received so many messages of thanks and support from the visiting teams, saying how wonderful the day was and congratulating us on the success.

The Wateringbury teams had mixed fortunes. There were victories for the under 14 boys and the under 18 boys in the consolation (plate) competition. A fantastic performance came from the under 16 boys, who won the main cup competition, beating Pembury 2-0 in the final. Well done to all 3 sides.

But undoubtedly the success of the day (and you could probably hear the roars and cheers in Maidstone) was for the under 8 girls who spectacularly won their event and lifted the main trophy in their age group. They beat Langton Green 3-2 in a pulsating and very nervous final. Congratulations go to Cybil Wilkin, Holly Bell, Mia Davis, Ava Dawson, Peighton Crofts, Phoebe Groves, Scarlett Waterton and Emily Cunningham who did the club and the village proud. As you can imagine there were many proud mums and dads and they were seen celebrating in the beer tent deep into the afternoon (the parents that is, not the children!). The coaches of the under 16 boys, John Collett and the under 8 girls Nicola Whalley and Jonelle Wilkin are still smiling at their achievements.

The committee would like to thank everyone who helped organise, set up, worked on the day and cleared up at the Festival. We couldn't hold the event without the numerous volunteers and the club are extremely grateful to every person. A very special thanks goes to Anna Packham, who very kindly lent the club her field for the day. We had about 700 cars descend on the village and without the parking facility, it would have been impossible. Also our thanks go to Kayte Kershaw who so very kindly worked from dawn 'til dusk and donated her profits to the club. They are truly the finest candy flosses in town!! And also to Steph's Ices who also, very generously donated a chunk of their profits to the club.

The Wateringbury coaches are now taking a well-deserved rest for the summer. Any girl or boy interested in joining the football club for next season should contact tony.garrett@tapestry.co.uk

Paddock Wood Choral Society's concert A Choral Cornucopia

Saturday 17th June 2023 7:30pm St Andrew's Church,
Paddock Wood

Box Office: 01892 834814 Email: tickets@paddockwood-choral.org.uk

Or on website: [https:// www.ticketsource.co.uk/paddockwood](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/paddockwood).

Tickets £12.50, under 19's free

REV GARY WRITES

The Rectory, 72 The Street, Mereworth ME18 5NA
gary.rev@outlook.com ☎ 01622 813178

[Benefice website](http://www.mwwwpchurches.org) www.mwwwpchurches.org

Questions

Last month I was listening to Bishop Simon, the Bishop of Tonbridge, and he was reflecting that during the Covid pandemic thousands of people were dying and, understandably, many questions were being asked and discussions had about end-of-life care. But there was precious little discussion about after-death care – and, important as it is, he didn't mean the care of the bereaved. Bishop Simon was touching on, what I certainly perceive to be a fact, that because a question such as 'Is there life after death?' cannot be answered with certainty there is a tendency to avoid thinking about it and having any discussion at all. Perhaps people feel unsafe about engaging in such discussions, frightened that their ideas and questions will just be put down. That is a great shame because a question like that is clearly very important.

And there are other big questions that for centuries have been asked but these days seem to be swept under the carpet: Who am I, why am I here, does God exist, etc.? They really are very big and very important questions and

I think it is right to discuss them. And so, I think it is right that the local church does what it can to create a safe, friendly, and welcoming place in which those who have such questions can come for discussion. To that end we are running an *Alpha Course* in West Peckham Village Hall beginning on the 7th of June. It runs for eight weeks from 7PM to 9PM on Wednesdays and each evening includes a light meal followed by a video presentation and then an opportunity to talk. The topics include: 'Is there more to life than this?' 'Who is Jesus?' 'Why did Jesus die?' 'How can I have faith?' 'Why and how should I pray?' 'Why and how should I read the Bible?' and 'Who is the Holy Spirit?' There are 8 sessions in all, it is free and it's OK to give it a go but then stop if you realise it's not for you. Clearly, it's looking at the big questions from a Christian point of view but for many, who have had Christian teaching as children, that's not a bad place to start. And those with a different faith and non-faith upbringing may be curious about what Christianity is all about. So, if



you've ever found yourself asking some of life's big questions or are just curious to find out more about what Christians believe then the *Alpha Course* is for you. If you are interested, please book a place by emailing Mr. Terry Shephard at terryshephard79@icloud.com or pick up a 'Stay Curious' leaflet at one of our churches.

*Rev Gary Townsend
Rector of Mereworth, Wateringbury and West Peckham*

LOOK AFTER YOURSELF – WELLBEING HINTS AND TIPS

'Ambient Focus'

Sometimes I find myself trying to concentrate on one thing, whilst my mind wanders off and fills itself with all sorts of other things, usually worries of one kind or another. Other times there is something I can faintly hear in the background which bothers me, like rumbling traffic. When this happens I use ambient background music and soundscapes to help me focus. There are some good free examples of this on BBC Sounds with 'Ambient Focus.' You can find it on the BBC Sounds website - search for it in the search box. Ambient focus is a collection of slow and calming soundscapes and music especially chosen to aid focus. I find it good with my headphones on but that's up to you. The idea is that this background soundscape makes it easier to stay focussed on what you want to do, and less distracted. When the jitters strike and my head races away a spot of 'Ambient Focus' helps me to reset and re-focus. Why not give it a try? *Bob Bowie*

COFFEE BREAK 14th and 28th June and 12th July

Do come along to the church and enjoy home-made cake, coffee or tea and a chance to meet new people. If you would like, you can also bring some knitting, sewing, or any other craft with you, but that is entirely optional! This is a friendly, informal group which welcomes new faces.

MESSY CHURCH Saturday 3rd June 3-5pm

Weather permitting, we will have tea and activities outside.

CREAM TEAS IN MEREWORTH CHURCHYARD Every Sunday afternoon in July

Do make a note in your diary to go along and enjoy delicious cream teas, cakes and savouries in the beautiful churchyard setting.

CORONATION THANKS

Sincere thanks to Symon and Caroline Chalk for facilitating the big screen live presentation of the Coronation of King Charles III. It was great for the

village to have the opportunity to watch this historic event in the company of others.

CHURCH AUDIO VISUAL UPDATE

We are pleased to report that we are currently scheduled for installation of our new equipment between 23rd and 28th July. We are extremely grateful to Rostrum for granting us the sum of £750 from their community fund, to help with the funding. We have also had one other success in securing external funding, but also one rejection; we have two other potential sources that are yet to declare.

Otherwise, financial assistance is continuing to trickle in, and we are very grateful for all contributions, big or small, and there are still 4 opportunities for people to sponsor 'big ticket' items, to be dedicated in memory of a loved one; these range in value from £1,000 to £2,000.

One thing is certain, the visual side of the installation will take place, but whether or not the much needed audio upgrade is effected simultaneously depends on securing additional funding. Needless to say, we are extremely grateful for all donations made to date, and look forward to the many possibilities that this work will open up.

WATERINGBURY CHURCH - SERVICES IN JUNE 2023

Benefice website www.mwwwpchurches.org

Church Face Book Page: fb.me/wateringburychurch

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

All Sunday morning services in Wateringbury start at 10am and have easy to follow printed service booklets. We hope you will be able to join us. Refreshments are served after our 10am services so do stay if you can.

Saturday 3rd June – 3-5pm - Messy Church

There will be craft activities, a short bible story and prayer times plus Rev Gary with his guitar. At about 4.30pm we enjoy afternoon tea together.

Sunday 4th June – Morning Praise led by Barry Fisher

Sunday 11th June - 10am - Holy Communion led by Rev Gary Townsend

Messy Church on Sunday (for all children) meets in the Vestry during the service.

Sunday 18th June - All Age Worship

A less formal service led by Becky, Ruth and Kate.

Sunday 25th June - Holy Communion Service
led by Rev Jim Brown We will be celebrating
our Patronal Festival (24th June)

REFRESH Benefice Services
every Sunday at 5pm
in Mereworth Church for those who enjoy
less formal worship

Benefice Mid-week Communion Services
10.30am in Mereworth Church 7th, 14th,
21st June

Do stay for coffee and a chat after the service
if you can.