ROSRUM MARCH 2019 VILLAGE DIARY

MARC	Н		
1	Meet the Police & Crime Commissioner for Kent	Village Hall	10-11.30am
3	Footpaths Walk	Car Park	2pm
5	Parish Council Meeting Followed by Planning Comm	Village Hall	7.30pm
13	Crafters/Coffee Morning	Church	10.30am
	Simply Soup Lunches	Church	12.15-1.30pm
14	Women's Institute	Village Hall	2pm
20	History Society	Village Hall	7.40 for 8pm
22	Race Night (FOWPS)	School	7pm
27	Crafters/Coffee Morning	Church	10.30am
	Simply Soup Lunches	Church	12.15-1.30pm
APRIL	-		
7	Footpaths Walk	Car Park	2.30pm
10	Simply Soup Lunches	Church	12.15-1.30pm
MAY			
17	Talk: "Carve Their Names With Pride" (FOWC)	Church	7 for 7.30pm

MEET THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR KENT

All village residents are warmly invited to a coffee morning on **Friday 1st March**, from **10-11.30am**, in the **upstairs room** at the **village hall** where you can meet Kent's Police & Crime Commissioner, Matthew Scott, to discuss any concerns you have regarding local policing and other crime related matters. Speeding and other issues will also be discussed.

VACANCY - VILLAGE WARDEN

The Parish Council is looking to employ a part time Village Warden for 12 hours per week. This will involve patrolling areas owned by the parish particularly the playing fields. If anyone is interested and would like further information on the duties etc, please contact the Parish Council Clerk, preferably by email, on clerk@wateringburypc.org.uk or call 01622 817068. Closing date 1st April 2019.

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

New arrival congratulations to **Steve and Daryl Jessop** on the arrival of their second granddaughter **April** on Tuesday, 22nd January. April weighed in at 7lb 2oz. Congratulations too, to parents **Laura and Paul** and big sister **Bea**.

Congratulations to **Becky and Jamie Fannon** on the arrival on 3rd February of **Amelia Lily** who weighed in at 8lb 8oz in Pembury Hospital. Special congratulations to first time great grandparents **Alan and Janet Coltham.**

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS - 2 MAY 2019

There are 9 seats up for election. Nomination papers are available on the Electoral Commission website: www.electoralcommission.org.uk - nomination papers for Parish Councils. Completed papers must be taken by hand and by appointment to Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council Electoral Services (01732 876022) at Kings Hill between 10.00am and 4.00pm Monday to Friday between 19th March and 3rd April. For more information please contact the Parish Council Clerk clerk@wateringburypc.org.uk or 01622 817068.

Thirty-four years ago, after living in London, Middlesex, Surrey and two other villages in Kent we decided to come to live in Wateringbury. We were immediately impressed with the community spirit we found here. The local residents were very friendly and we were spoiled with all the village activities.

I am pleased to report that this community spirit is still very alive and vibrant. This week whilst visiting one of the wards in Maidstone Hospital, I happened to come across a long-term resident of Wateringbury. As he has difficulty in walking, he had had a bad fall at home. Not having enough strength to get up off the floor, he pressed his lifeline watch and neighbours were soon on the scene and he was transferred to hospital.

He told me that his neighbours are very good as he lives on his own and they will often visit. One neighbour will do some shopping for him and another neighbour looks after his garden. What a heart-warming story to hear after all the horror stories we hear around the country. *Mike Williams*

FEBRUARY PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Pizien Well Road will be closed on 14 February to allow the cutting back of trees overhanging power cables.

There have been reports of van break-ins locally and the theft of work tools.

County Councillor, Matthew Balfour, advised that the KCC is under financial pressure to make further cuts in services in order to fund the growing demand for care of the elderly and special needs children.

Questions from members of the public to the Councillor included a request for an update on the proposed traffic flow improvement scheme at the crossroads – his response was that the costs submitted by utility companies are too high and it is hoped they will be reduced.

A reply is awaited from Tom Tugendhat MP about the replacement of the speed sign at the junction of Canon Lane/Tonbridge Road before a decision is made to proceed with the acquisition of portable speed sign equipment.

The 40mph speed signs displayed at the bend of the Tonbridge Road on the west side of the village are obscured by vegetation and a request will be made to Highways to make them visible.

During the month to 5 February there were two crimes of note: a public order offence when an abusive passenger on a bus was being threatening; a resident's car was scratched across the bonnet. Other noted incidents: the abusive behaviour of a male moped driver who had been challenged about driving along the pavement; congestion along Pizien Well Road during the time when the diversion around Bow Road was in place; and a road traffic collision when a van hit a wall on the Tonbridge Road.

The Speedwatch Group spent 21.25 hours during January observing traffic and counted that 5,147 vehicles passed by in that time; 494 of those vehicles were seen exceeding the speed limit. The group co-ordinator has asked Kent Police to consider additional sites for observation in Bow Road. Two new members have joined the group. Further volunteers are always welcome.

The job description for the Village Warden was amended and agreed. The vacancy will be advertised in due course.

A visual inspection of potentially hazardous trees had been undertaken and problem areas identified. The Council will contact TMBC for advice on how to proceed.

A quotation for work to be done cutting back trees near the play area in the Playing Field was accepted. Pot holes along the track to the Playing Field will be repaired and quotes for the work will be sought.

At the Highways meeting the following matters were discussed. Pot holes at the crossroads had been filled. A request had been made to TMBC to clear mud and leaves on the footpath between the Working Men's Club and flats next to the post office. A report will be sent about the broken street light along the Tonbridge Road by the wall of Wateringbury Place. Vehicles had been seen using the track which joins Bow Road to Love Lane during the period Bow Road was closed to traffic. Parking issues in Fields Lane caused by site workers on the Jenners site. The committee has asked for a further meeting on the proposed changes for the crossroads and have asked that their own ideas are put forward before other plans are drawn up.

During the open discussion the following items from members of the public included:

A request for the Council to inspect all the trees in the Playing Field as untrimmed lower branches could cause injury to cricket players.

The overflow car park provided by Jenners for site workers is not being used and drivers continue to cause parking and rubbish issues in Fields Lane. The Council was unable to answer who had applied double yellow lines in the Orpines.

A member of the Village Hall Committee posed the question of responsibility of the CCTV equipment in the car park/hall. A suggestion was made that the Council publicise tenders for jobs (which are outside of existing contracts) in Rostrum.

At the Planning Meeting the following applications were considered.

36 Mill Lane: retrospective replacement shed with new shed – no objection.

Home Farm: request for caravans out of season parking/storage used for seasonal workers and the erection of a Portacabin for communal use. Car parking area for 10 vehicles. The Council has concerns about this development as it is in the Green Belt.

Heath Farm: Outline planning permission for 40 dwellings. The Council had held meetings with East Malling, Larkfield and Teston Parish Councils to discuss local concerns. Development of the area would contravene Green Belt policy and cause increased traffic and pollution.

The public are very welcome to attend the **next meeting** of the Parish Council on **Tuesday 5 March at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall (upper meeting room).

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

HISTORY SOCIETY

Our speaker for the next meeting on the 20th March will be Wilf Lower with his talk entitled "Don't Sneeze at the Microphone". On 17th April, Dennis Chambers will deliver a talk entitled "Ghosts - Fact or Fiction?"

Our meetings are in Wateringbury village hall at 7.40pm when tea and coffee is available with the speakers beginning at 8 pm. Subscriptions are ± 10 for the year with visitors at ± 3 per meeting.

MOTHER GOOSE – WATERINGBURY PLAYERS PANTOMIME

Once again the Players Panto was an excellent production which was entertaining and fun. The young players and dancers were superb and a delight to watch. Scenery, costumes, sound and lighting, first-rate singing and acting all combined to produce a triumph! We look forward to next year's production.

WATERINGBURY FLOWER CLUB

February is our AGM and social evening with fun for members - this year we have a change of officers. At the March meeting we will welcome Gaenor Circus with her subject title "Ancient and Modern". Come along and join us for a fun filled evening and meet new friends. For more information contact jean.e.schofield @btinternet.com

Jean Schofield

WATERINGBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At the February meeting Susan Shaw gave us an interesting talk about her trip to Peru. She went there as part of a small group of bird watchers. However, as the visit progressed she became fascinated by not only the many types of bird but by the number and variety of mammals and amphibians as well as the many plants both decorative and edible. She admired the resilience and cheerfulness of the people she met and enjoyed seeing their architecture and decorative arts. The next meeting will be on Thursday14th March. This will be Competition Day. The entries are as follows: a decorated wooden spoon; a Spring flower garden on a tea plate; six cookies any recipe.

WATERINGBURY CRICKET CLUB

Wateringbury Cricket Club will start the new season in April and we hope it will be as good as the last. We have had a change of captain, Alan Skilton has once again taken on the role. If you would like to join the club or play in a match then contact him on 0780 8741 993. We only play friendly matches and all abilities are welcome.

We have our first nets session on Tuesday 5th February which take place at Mapleston Noakes School, 8-9pm. They last for 10 weeks up until Easter and anyone can join at any time. If you would like to know more then please call Alan.

These are our first three matches of the season. Home is Fields Lane and you are always welcome to come and watch or to chat. We hope we will see you in our 33rd season.

Saturday 27th April, Home against Tonbridge Saturday 4th May, Home against Town Malling Saturday 11th May, Away against Teston

FOOTPATHS GROUP

Due to the recent bad weather, our February walk was hoped to be on local footpaths that were not so muddy...wrong!

We started walking along the Wardens Path via Upper Mill pond to Old Road, passing The Dukes Head where we crossed the A26, passed Wisteria Cottage and up to the golf course to Canon Lane. Here we took the snow-covered slippery path skirting the edge of Kings Hill to Teston Road rather than the muddy way through Cattering Wood. When we entered the wood, we came across a quagmire! We continued along to Gransden and back to the start. Not a bad walk considering the conditions.

Next walk: Sunday 3 March, meet 2pm at the village hall for a local walk. Sunday 7 April, meet 2:30pm at the village hall for a river and woods walk.

Kevin Reynolds – 0771 3740 375

OTHER EVENTS IN OUR AREA

DANDELION TIME QUIZ NIGHT 2019 - Friday 15 March, 7pm

Our highly popular Quiz Night will take place this year at Coxheath Village Hall. Hosted by Quizmasters from Fidelity, it's a great, entertaining evening for all. £15 p.p. which includes a superb two course supper from Cook. Bar available on the evening. To book contact us: fundraising@dandeliontime.org.uk

KETTLE BRIDGE CLOGS - Annual Quiz Night - Saturday 23 March,

7.15pm for 7.30pm start, St Nicholas Church Hall, Poplar Grove, Allington ME16 0DE. 6/8 people per table. £6.00 per person. (Bring your own food and drink).

To book email: quiz@kettlebridgeclogs.org or call 07876 194375

MAIDSTONE MENCAP JUMBLE & NEARLY NEW SALE

Saturday 9 March 2.30pm, Cobtree Hall, School Lane, off Willington St, Maidstone ME15 8EB Bargains Galore! Quality second-hand clothes, books, bric-a-brac, toys and so much more. Want to donate? Want to help on the day? Contact Suzannah - s.constant@btinternet.com

Paddock Wood Choral Society invites you to join us for "Hope and Light in Harmony" our spring concert featuring the ethereal music of Fauré's "Requiem" and "Lux Aeterna" by Morten Lauridsen. On **Saturday 23rd March**, 7.30pm, at St Andrew's Church, Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood. Tickets: £12.50 (under 19s free) online from our website www.paddockwood-choral.org.uk or from Box Office: 01892 836250

Email: tickets@paddockwood-choral.org.uk

Teston's Jumble Sale will take place on **Saturday 2nd March 2019** from 2.30pm in Teston Village Hall. If you would like to donate any items (anything & everything accepted!) contact Dawn on 812691. Come along on the day - you may find a bargain or two! Proceeds to Children's Church.

Teston's amateur dramatics group, "Testonites" will be performing their next show on Thursday to Saturday **14th, 15th and 16th March** at 7.30pm, when they invite you to come "All Aboard". Tickets are £10 adult £5 Student and include a Theatre Supper. Contact Dawn on 812691.

FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL will be hosting a **RACE NIGHT** with Curry on **Friday 22nd March** at Wateringbury School. £10 per person. Doors open at 7pm. Bring your friends and family. Bets on the night starting at £1 as well as extra games and fun. No experience needed. A fun, informal evening. Don't forget to bring your own drinks.

This event will help raise important funds for our school.

For bookings and enquiries please email <u>fowpschairman@qmail.com</u>

Many thanks and we look forward to seeing you there.

Nettlestead and Wateringbury Preschool (NWPS) and Out of Schools' Club Graded as Outstanding by Ofsted

The preschool children took part in the **RSPB Bird Watch 2019**. We made bird feeders with the children, hung them in the tree just outside our setting. The children settled down outside on the bench, with their coats, hats, gloves and blankets to watch the birds feed. However, it wasn't birds that appeared, but this cheeky little fellow. Him and his little friends kept us amused with their acrobatics. Eventually, they made off with the bird feeders completely!

The setting is lucky enough to be situated next to a field with a children's play park, woodland, railway and river. The children see lots of wildlife, including squirrels, rabbits, birds such as woodpeckers, ducks and swans and an array of various insects and spiders throughout the year.

For Childcare, Education and Out of School Clubs, including holiday club, 01622 813120, enquiries@nwps.uk , https://nwpreschool.org.uk/

WATERINGBURY GUIDES

Guides restarted after Christmas with new leaders, a new programme and renewed vigour. We have built a molecule to prevent a mad scientist from ruling the world, given the parents homemade decorated cakes, had a sleepover, been to a special guiding screening of Mary Poppins Returns, and been to see Mother Goose at the village panto and that's all in the first month!

In February we had a photo challenge where the girls had to use their imagination to conjure up pictures of many strange or challenging things including yoga positions, a picture of china and a picture of the Queen from within the confines of the HQ. The following week we celebrated the International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2019 with a range of activities including making our own ice cream. Just before half term we became Galactic Guides and were asked to imagine what guides may be like in the future and give our ideas on how guides should be run, what uniform, if any, should look like, and the type of badges and awards girls could work towards.

We have booked a canal boat holiday for the end of May and we are working on a 'back to basics' camp planned for August. We are delighted that our numbers are back up to 15 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

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council has appointed Urbaser to take over its recycling, waste collection and street cleaning services from 1 March 2019. Urbaser is one of the largest resource and cleaning management companies in Europe and the new contract will provide residents with a greatly improved recycling service, as well as street cleaning services.

Your collection days will stay the same for now, although as from 1 March collections will be made on all bank holidays (except Christmas Day and New Year's Day). Over Easter 2019 there will be collections on both Good Friday and Easter Monday for the first time.

As from 30 September 2019 T&MBC and Urbaser will be introducing service improvements including separate weekly food waste collections; fortnightly dry mixed recycling collections including plastics, glass and cartons; recycling collections of textiles, household batteries and small appliances.

More information about the new services will be released over the coming months.

WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

As the days grow warmer, school life turns to the outdoors. Our children took part in the RSPB's Big Schools' Birdwatch 2019. The variety of birds they logged was impressive. The outdoors continues to be a focus in our curriculum as we begin to think about planting our kitchen garden boxes and returning to a drier field for our daily mile.

Unfortunately, on the coldest week of the term we suffered a catastrophic boiler failure and we were faced with plummeting temperatures and no heat. We had no alternative but to close for three days as we made emergency contingency plans. Classes were held in the village hall and temporary electric heaters were installed in classrooms. We now have a new boiler, but the financial impact on our school is serious.

CAN YOU HELP US? As well as having to use existing school funds to help cover some of the costs, we have also had to divert a funding bid for urgent roof repairs to the boiler project instead. Our voluntary parent body (FOWPS) has been approached for fundraising support and we're also working with our surveyor/contractor and the Rochester Diocese to see how we can cover all the remaining costs. Parents will also be encouraged to contribute further to a Voluntary School Fund next term.

Our ageing school is under immense financial pressure and we are very grateful for any support that our school community, local businesses and wider community can now provide during this challenging financial time. If any business owners are in a position to help the school, either with funding towards our boiler costs or future high priority maintenance projects, please email our Co-chairs of Governors Gail Isted and Mark Warren at **governors@wateringbury.kent.sch.uk** or call me at school on 01622 812199. We appreciate anything our local community can do to help us, and we are very happy to publicly acknowledge any donations. Thank you.

Our school closure did not, however, dim the theatre lights on our Year 5 production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and it went ahead as planned – and to great acclaim by parents and children alike. The play is something of a rite of passage at Wateringbury as each child takes Shakespeare to his or her heart. The class weaves original lines with their own to make a joyously unique production which Shakespeare himself would have loved! The study of the play begins with a visit to The Globe Theatre in London.

World Book Day was celebrated with a whole school performance of *The Robot and the Bluebird* by David Lucas. Each class composed a short piece of music to a section of the story book. The story was then read aloud with musical interludes to accompany. **Chasey Crawford Usher – Headteacher** www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk

The total for the box collection for the **Children's Society** this year was £443.37 and the total from the candles was £49.97. Thank you for your continued support. This was my last year as box co-ordinator. If anyone is interested in taking over this role, please email the Rostrum team on <u>rostrum2@hotmail.com</u> and your details will be passed on to me. Thank you. *Maria White*

A VIEW FROM THE PEWS

The thing about March in Kent, is that you really have no idea what the weather is going to be like (you can probably say that any month but never mind). Will it be spring-like or snow-filled? A gloomy extension of February or an early launch into the joys of spring blossom?

It is Lent so there is the question for some of fasting. I suspect for many that the British Lent has become dry January (by the time you hit Lent folk are back on the booze) but there is still some traditional Lentish elements in

popular culture. After all, the chocolate overeating at Easter needs to be 'paid' for with some restraint, right? At least that's the sense in my family.

Fasting is trickier than it used to be. It's supposed to be a pious spiritual act of doing without, but if basically you are dieting for your beach body maybe you're missing the mark.

In some cultures the Lenten fast means going vegan - quite a change for non-vegans. The Muslim tradition embraces fasting during daylight hours and for some that means no food, no water, no smoking. I suppose basically it's about choosing a bit of a struggle or practising some self-restraint. Of course, for many folk life is already a bit of a struggle and they don't need a 'cultural denial practice' in the same way as the wealthy as they just don't ever have enough. Maybe doing something different and good for others is a better way to go if you're seeking a period of purification and personal discipline.

There is also a Lenten tradition around some self-reflection - taking time out to have a good look at yourself, making an effort to rediscover your spiritual life, putting things right with God. I once spent a week in silence (hard for my family members and friends to believe, I know). It was an extraordinary experience and I recommend it if you ever get a chance. Loads of retreat houses make space available for folk seeking a time of silence, even for just a day. I had a profound sense of noticing the world differently. You kind of step out of life and out of yourself and see both in a new way. But be warned - if you do decide to step out of the flow and take a good look at yourself and your life in the mirror, you might find something you want to change. Maybe that's closer to what Lent is really about.

Bob Bowie

TESTON & WATERINGBURY PRESCHOOL

Firstly, may I just say a huge thank you to all at the Crown City Chinese restaurant for their help in decorating our hall for our Chinese New Year celebrations. The hall looked amazing and the children enjoyed their lucky gold chocolate coins.

Our theme for term 4 is 'Spring is in the Air' and we will be planting and measuring runner beans, and keeping a close eye on our bug hotel in the garden to see which creatures are paying us a visit in early spring.

We will also be celebrating world book day on 7th March when children will be dressing up as their favourite book character and reading about 'rabbits spring adventures'!

This term we will be celebrating St Patrick's Day when the children will be learning about the country of Ireland, making a shamrock display and wearing the traditional colour of green. Mother's Day is also celebrated during this term when the children will be

making cards and presents for loved ones. Pancake Day will also be celebrated on (Shrove Tuesday) the 5th March when the children will be enjoying making and eating pancakes. I have warned the cleaners!

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

Simply Soup Lunches in Lent in Church on Wednesdays 13 & 27 March and 10 April from 12.15 to 1.30pm

For three Wednesdays in Lent go along to the Church and enjoy simple home-made soup lunches. There is no charge; donations are invited for three charities Marie Curie Cancer Care, Heart of Kent Hospice and Send a Cow

The Mike Pursey Memorial Fund The fund has reached a wonderful total of **£2,186** (two thousand, one hundred and eighty-six pounds) and the family are extremely grateful to those who gave so generously in Mike's memory, and also to Richard Dunn, Church Treasurer, for all the work he put in administering the fund. The money will be spent following discussion between Rev Nick, the PCC and the Churchwardens.

Twelfth Night Quiz The amazing total of **£191** has been raised for church funds from the latest quiz. Jan thanks all those who sold and participated. We thank Jan for devising the quiz which many of us look forward to doing with our visitors over Christmas each year.

Friends of Wateringbury Church (FOWC)

Friday 17th 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"

An 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 – all are welcome

WATERINGBURY CHURCH SERVICES IN MARCH

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

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

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

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

Wednesday 6 March – 10am – Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday 10 March – 10am - Matins

A traditional service from the 1662 Prayer Book with hymns led by our Readers. Secondary Division for those at Secondary School meets for discussion (and a second breakfast) in the Vestry.

Sunday 17 March - 8.30am - Prayer Book Said Communion

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

Sunday 17 March - 10am - Family Service

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

Sunday 24 March - 10am - Communion Service led by

Canon Liz Walker

For the next few months Canon Walker will lead our service on the fourth Sunday of the month. The choir leads our singing of hymns which are usually lively and easy to sing. Sundays Cool meets in the Vestry.

Sunday 31 March - 10am - Mothering Sunday Service

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

Friday 1 March 10am in East Malling Church – World Day of Prayer

IN OUR JOYS AND SORROWS - FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

We welcomed into the family of the church:

Baptism Connie Marie (20 January)

We extend our deepest sympathy to the loved ones of:

FuneralJohn Harold Roy Hazelwood (12 February)

Burial of Ashes Iris Dorothy Dean (14 February)