

VILLAGE DIARY

SEPT

3	Footpath Walk	V/ Hall Car Park	2.30pm
5	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
6	Coffee, Craft & Chat	Church	10.30am
9	Heritage Day	See details below	Starts 10.30am
10	Strawberry Tea Party	Manor Farm	2-5pm
14	Women's Institute	Village Hall	2pm
20	Coffee, Craft & Chat	Church	10.30am
20	History Society	Village Hall	7.40pm
29	MacMillan Coffee Morning	Crossroads Care	11am-2pm

OCT

1	Footpath Walk	V/Hall Car Park	2pm
31	Shining Bright Party	Church	5-7pm

WATERINGBURY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

HERITAGE DAY

Saturday 9 September

Wateringbury is to have 7 Blue Plaques to mark those with Wateringbury Connections who have enhanced our world. A blue plaque guided walk will visit each property when the plaque will be unveiled by invited guests with connections to the plaque people. Meet at the entrance gates to Wateringbury Place on the Tonbridge Road opposite Love Lane to leave at 10.30am

The walk will end near the church at about noon where Ploughman's Lunches will be available. From noon to 4pm the church will host displays about the Blue Plaque people and properties and other items from the History Society Archive. Publications of local interest will be on sale. Refreshments and Cream Teas will be available for you to enjoy.

JULY PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The unveiling of the History Society's blue plaques will take place on Saturday, 9 September. All are invited to the celebrations. There will be an exhibition in the church on the same day.

Kent County Councillor Matthew Balfour advised:

- The Ofsted report on children's services was good.
- There are the usual finance and budget constraints.
- Local bus services continue to be an on-going problem over which the KCC has no control.
- Issues with the Wateringbury crossroads are continuing and protracted, although financial support for improvements are positive

Discussions on pollution levels at Watringbury crossroads have been held between the Parish Councillors and Borough Councillor. Watringbury crossroads is the worst in the Tonbridge & Malling area. Councillors are keen to support the installation of equipment to measure nitrous oxide levels and other data. There is only one set of pollution monitoring equipment in the Borough which at present is in Tunbridge Wells

The possibility of carrying out a traffic survey on main roads through the village were discussed. Recording strips could be placed on roads to measure weight, speed and number of vehicles using our road system and provide useful information to back up observations on congestion. Further investigation is needed to establish costs.

Pizien Well Road is being used as a cut-through by an increased number of vehicles in an attempt to avoid congestion at the Watringbury crossroads. The Clerk is to contact Highways to say the Parish Council would support traffic calming measures in this area.

Crime reports during April 2017 : on/near The Orpines - 1 Criminal Damage, 1 Violent Crime; on/near Bow Terrace - 1 Burglary; on/near Tonbridge Road - 1 Burglary; on/near Danns Lane - 1 Violent Crime. In June the number plate of a vehicle was stolen from a parked vehicle on a residential drive way.

The old and damaged iron fencing on Bow Road has been attended to with regard to the dangerous aspect. Further work is required.

The pruning of overgrown trees near to the village hall will go ahead.

The Council would like to obtain any information on unmapped village culverts. It was suggested that perhaps KCC or Southern Water may have records.

Terms of Reference, timings of meetings and agendas are to be sought to allow Parish Councillors the opportunity how they can best add their experience to cover representation on outside bodies.

An application has been received from a Watringbury resident who is willing to take over the running of Speedwatch. A formal response will be sent to this offer. More volunteers are required (please see separate article in Rostrum

During the public session the following matters were raised:

- Overgrown brambles obscuring the village lock-up.
- The former Speedwatch Co-ordinator advised that he still has equipment belonging to the Parish Council.
- A request was made for the Council to write to a letter of thanks on behalf of the parish to the former Speedwatch Co-ordinator.
- The Parish Council was asked why it has taken so long to repair the village signs. Quotations for work are being sought.
- The Council was asked who is responsible for the removal of out of date planning notices. These should be dealt with by an official of the Borough Council.

The following planning applications were received:

- Alterations to elevations and change of cladding material at 10 Upper Mill - no objection.
- Part single/part two storey rear extension and internal alterations; proposed replacement garage at Gladia, 609 Tonbridge Road - no objection.

To read the full minutes of the meeting, go to: www.watringburypc.kentparishes.gov.uk/agenda-and-minutes

Next meeting: Tuesday 5 September at 7.30pm in the Village Hall (upstairs room).

VILLAGE PEOPLE Please let us have your news and tributes by 17 September for our October magazine. Entries are free.

Congratulations to:

Karen and Adrian on becoming first-time grandparents. A son, Archie Alfred, r Hannah and Ashley.

Sophie and Yemi in Sydney on the arrival of their twin girls, Coco Rose and Cleo Eve.

Our thanks to Tessa Fyson who delivered copies of Rostrum to her neighbours in Phoenix Drive for many years. We are grateful to Avril Cavender for her offer to continue the distribution of the magazine in that area. Also, thanks to those other people who responded to our request for help.

Christine & Trudy

WATERINGBURY FOOTPATH GROUP

During the July walk we were blessed with good weather despite rain being forecast. Leaving the village hall, we walked along the Gransden path to Red Hill Farm then on to the new path bordering the edge of Oakenwood to Livesey Street. Returning via Teston Church and back to the start alongside the river. The August walk was out to the top of Gibbs Hill via Millpond and Mill Lane to Rock Farm then passing Nettlestead Quarry to Pizien Well over the Wateringbury stream to Old Road. It was nice to see some old faces out and about with us.

3 September - meet village hall at 2:30pm for local walk.

1 October - again meet at village at 2pm (please note earlier start) for a local walk, probably out to Tutsham via Small Profits.

Kevin Reynolds - 01622 813763

HISTORY SOCIETY

Our speaker for 21st June was the excellent Melanie Gibson-Barton on the life and times of Edith Cavell and we learnt that her surname rhymes with travel, she was an accomplished and talented water colour painter, she began her nursing career at the age of 30 and wished to be remembered as a nurse who tried to do her duty.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 20th September 2017 and is entitled "History from the Air" by Rod le Gear and on the 18th October 2017 Christop Bull will be talking to us about "The Life of Pocahontas". Meetings are at Wateringbury Village Hall 7.40 pm for 8 pm talk, refreshments available. Visitors welcome - £3.00 per person.

WATERINGBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At our meeting on 14 September, our speaker will be Alison Elman-Brown who is coming along to give her talk "What You Don't Know About Buttons". The meeting will commence at 2 o'clock with a short session of WI business and will be followed by Alison's talk, our competition for September is a 'Favourite Button'. We will end the meeting with tea and cake, a raffle, and there will also be time for you to browse the Trading Table. Visitors very welcome.

Our October speaker is Wilf Lower who will be telling us about "Lost Empires – the Last Days of Music Hall and Variety". For enquiries please contact Janet, on 01622 817833.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH – LOOKING OUT FOR YOU

Speedwatch is a community group, acting for the Parish Council, but in partnership with Kent Police.

What do we do? We sit at the side of the road, in selected locations that have been identified and risk assessed by the police, and we record the details of any vehicles travelling at excessive speed through the village.

Statistics to ponder –

- Cars have been seen passing Lodge Close doing in excess of 60mph!
- One Saturday afternoon during a one hour session, on Red Hill, 63 vehicles passed doing 35mph or over!
- In 2016, Watlingbury returned the 3rd highest number of speeding motorists in Kent, with a total of 3,912 observations. The total for Kent that year was 34,669.

This initiative is all about education; we have no teeth, but all of our session reports are submitted to Kent police, and they then determine any action. Happily, many first time offenders do not appear on the lists again, and whilst there is quite a list of second time offenders, the number drops dramatically for third time offenders.

The more that we highlight there is a problem, the more likely we will receive a visit from one of the police camera vans, and they have all the teeth that are required.

Many of our members have been doing this for over ten years, but our number is small, and we cannot cover as many hours in a week as we would like to. It doesn't take a lot; if ten people could each offer one hour a week, we could double our cover. You don't have to be any particular age; just think about it, one hour a week (or more) of peace and tranquillity and all you have to be able to do is read half a number plate.

There is a small amount of basic training, which is done on-line and Kent police provides insurance cover for all participants whilst on duty.

If you can spare one hour a week (or more), at a time and on a day that suits you, then please get in touch by e-mailing me at speedwatchdm@gmail.com. If you would like to hear more about what is involved, I will be pleased to have an informal chat 07484200764. You can also find out more about the scheme by visiting www.communityspeedwatch.co.uk

WAR NEWS, SEPTEMBER 1917

September 2: First night time air raid on Britain
10: Kerensky takes control in Russia
20: Battle of Menin Road in 3rd Ypres campaign (Passchendale)
26: Battle of Polygon Wood, near Ypres

Despite the heavy casualties of the “successes” in the 3rd Ypres campaign (Passchendale), at Menin Road and Polygon Wood, Watlingbury suffered no fatalities in this, or any other sector of the war, in September.

On the home front the first night time air raid on Britain took place at the beginning of September, soon followed by one on London. In previous months we have seen the impact that fear of air raids had on the village, despite the fact it was not actually bombed in World War I. The September Leney Board meeting, decided that they should insure their extensive portfolio of pubs in the Chatham area against air raids.

Food concerns remain evident. They affected all, including the top echelons of society, but in a different way. The Viscount Falmouth lived in Mereworth but owned, as now, land in Watlingbury. The record of Mallings Petty Sessions shows that, despite pleading not guilty, he was fined 4 guineas (£4.20 or about £400 in today's value) for breaching the Horses (Rationing) Order 1917. Possibly he was not personally affected by the food shortages, but his horses certainly were!

School had finished for the (hopping) holidays and a report was made in the village magazine on the progress of the school dinner canteen to the end of term. Unsurprisingly, given the vicar had been the driving force behind it, the report concluded that it had “so far proved a distinct success. Both parents and children appreciate it, and it has helped save literally hundreds of loaves of bread.” The accounts of the canteen are published showing that over 10 weeks payments (at 2d. per meal) raised over £41, implying an average of 100 meals a day being served. Nearly £9 in subscriptions (and there were the voluntary contributions of time) had been received, with the result that the canteen had generated a surplus over expenses of £9.

A village fete in the grounds of the vicarage (The White House, near the village hall) had been held at the end of August, featuring May pole dancing and various parades, including one on war work, "baby competitions" and a scouts display. The competitions were judged by wounded soldiers from the hospital at Barham Court, Teston, who attended along with their nurses.

The church organ had been professionally cleaned and repaired, at a cost of £21, and the Church itself, including the high beams, had received a thorough spring clean from volunteers of the congregation. "For the most part seat-holders scrubbed and polished their own pews." The result was that the Church was cleaner than it had been for many years with "an atmosphere that is really sweet to breathe (unless, as occasionally happens there is an escape of gas)"!

Terry Bird

The Macmillan Crossroads Care Kent & Medway Volunteer Service are hosting a **Macmillan Coffee Morning** at the Crossroads Care Kent office at The Oast, Orwell Place, 170 Tonbridge Road, Watlingbury ME18 5NS on **Friday 29 September 2017 from 11am to 2pm.** You are invited to call in and enjoy a slice of cake or a delicious cookie with a cup of tea or coffee or join us to play one of our games: guess the height of the cake tower or play a round of cake bingo.

Every cake and cuppa helps Macmillan make a huge difference to people facing cancer, so please join us to help us raise funds for Macmillan. And while you're here you can find out more about your local Macmillan Crossroads Volunteer Service which is hosted across Kent & Medway by Crossroads Care Kent. We are looking for volunteers to join the Macmillan Crossroads Team to provide companionship, emotional and practical support to people diagnosed with cancer and their carers. We also support carers caring for a loved one with a long term health condition. So if you would like to find out more please contact Jen Lane, Volunteer Coordinator on 01622 817 114 or email enquiries.macmillan@crossroadskent.org Thank you.

WATERINGBURY BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Our next meeting is on 6 September. Come along and join us. We meet every Wednesday and Friday 10am to 12 noon at Watlingbury Village Hall. The cost is £2 for the first child and £1 for any others. This includes tea/coffee for the adults and snacks for the children. For further information please contact Linda on 01732 522 437.

Kettle Bridge Clogs welcomes you to our "Have a go Evening" on Tuesday 19 September 2017. North West Morris Dancing is a great way to exercise in a local friendly group with no gym membership needed. Come and meet us at 8pm St Nicholas Church Hall, Poplar Grove, Allington ME16 0DE. Full tuition given - no experience necessary. Wear comfortable clothing and appropriate footwear such as trainers. For more information on who we are and what we get up to throughout the year see our website www.kettlebridgeclogs.org.uk or phone Val on 07876 194375.

TESTON & WATERINGBURY PRESCHOOL

Welcome back to all our children and families to what will be a very exciting start to the new academic year when we will be learning all about ourselves, where we live and the different cultures around the world. In our craft activities we are making gingerbread biscuits, pet puppets, and creating hand print trees for our display board. We are also talking about our family and will be bringing in our baby photos, including the staff, (some of these will be in black and white!!).

Our annual general meeting will be on Wednesday 18 October at 8.00pm. All are welcome when we will be saying goodbye to our outgoing committee members and welcoming our new team of parents. I would like to take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to all who have contributed to our fundraising last year, without which we would not be able to give the children the varied activities we have available.

We would like to thank the Teston Village hall committee for redecorating the hall during the summer holidays and cutting the grass and hedge in the garden which will help to make it a brighter play area for the children.

We were also very fortunate to have Leo's grandad build us a very large bug hotel for our garden which looks amazing. From all the children who will have endless hours of fun and all the staff, thank you.

And finally we would also like to thank Bella Jordan for working really hard over the summer holidays and building us a new website. Take a look at www.testonandwateringburypreschool.co.uk

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

Our summer term ended with a week of celebratory activities including the annual Year 6 production and prizegiving, our Leavers' Service at St John the Baptist Church and a farewell water fight and inflatable fun on the field for our Year 6 pupils. Good luck to all children who will be starting new adventures at secondary school. We are looking forward to welcoming back children and teachers when we return to school on Wednesday, 6th September. Our youngest pupils in Reception start on Wednesday, 13th September with home visits taking place the week prior. We are excited to welcome new faces to school this year: Florence Saunders joins us in Year 1 with a special interest in musical theatre and singing. Gaye Brierley will be teaching Year 3 with expertise in geography and English. Jenny Moffat, long-time classroom volunteer, is formally joining the team to assist with special needs in our Year 1 classroom and long-time parent and sports coach Suzanne Parr will be working part-time with us to develop our PE programme and extra-curricular sports.

We hope to see many of you at an exhibition in Church as part of the village's Heritage Day and blue plaques unveiling walk on Saturday 9th September. During the afternoon we will be handing out flyers about our quest to find former Wateringbury Primary School pupils as we look to strengthen our links with the local community even further.

Our traditional 'Wateringbury Walk' takes place on Friday afternoon, 8th September when all pupils in Years 1-6 walk the river path down to Teston Bridge, dressed in their class colours. This is our way of 'walking in' the new academic year!

***Chasey Crawford Usher, Headteacher** – www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk*

PART-TIME CARETAKER

Wateringbury CE Primary School

has a vacancy for a **Part-Time Caretaker**

Thursdays and Fridays 7am-9.30am and 3pm-6pm

Please contact Headteacher, Mrs Chasey Crawford Usher for details

Email: headteacher@wateringbury.kent.sch.uk or telephone: 01622 812199

SATURDAY 9 SEPTEMBER

HERITAGE DAY

Wateringbury Local History Society

invites you to: 10.30am Blue Plaque Unveiling Walk

A walk of about 1 mile which starts at entrance gates to Wateringbury Place on Tonbridge Road (opposite Love Lane)

Noon to 4pm Displays in Church

Displays about the blue plaque people and properties

Items from History Society Archives - Publications for Sale

Ploughman's Lunches, Cream Teas

COFFEE, CRAFT & CHAT

Do come and join us at our fortnightly meetings for tea/coffee, homemade cake, conversation and optional handicrafts. We will be getting together on Wednesdays 6 and 20 September in the Church from 10.30am to 12.30pm. For further details call 814673.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Interment of Ashes : **Ivor Baker** on 7 July 2017

Wedding Blessing: **John & Jeanette Chamberlain** on 20 July 2017

PRIESTLY PONDERINGS

Rev Nick Williams

father.nick@btinternet.com

The Vicarage, 2 The Grange

parishofficeemwt@gmail.com

East Malling ☎ 01732 843282

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

The holidays season is in many walks of life seen as a bit of a 'quiet time.' Schools are closed for Summer holidays and many people with children take the opportunity to get away for a break. The roads seem quieter and the whole pace of life seems to slow down a little. In Church terms however it's still quite a busy time, one that is 'bookended' by two of the great seasons of the agricultural year. We have already celebrated Lammas Day at Teston as one of our Benefice services. As I'm sure many of you know this is the festival that marks the beginning of the harvest and which predates the Churches Harvest Festival, which we celebrate at the end of the Harvest season, by many years. It was a joy to see people from Wateringbury, Teston and East Malling gathered together at Teston Church, to use the freshly baked Lammas Loaf for Communion bread and to celebrate together God's goodness toward us.

Both Harvest Festival and Lammas day are great community events during which we give thanks to God for the produce of the land, the people who produce it and the people who work to maximise the yield of the land, something particularly relevant in a Benefice where we have so many farming families and East Malling research station is such a significant presence around us.

An important part of our thanksgiving is the gathering together of produce, fresh, dried and tinned which is later distributed to those who have less than many of the rest of us, an activity in which we are joined by the children of the two primary schools in our benefice. This produce is distributed to those in need with any suitable surplus being donated to the Pilsdon Community at West Malling as a gift from the bounty God has blessed each of us with.

The holiday season is also, perhaps unsurprisingly, a very popular time for Weddings and Christenings and most weeks see weddings on Fridays and Saturdays and Christenings on Sundays at one or other of our Churches. To see the sun shining, hear the bells ringing and to see happy families celebrating a new direction in their lives is another truly joyous gift to us all.

So enjoy your holiday if you are having one, try and find some time to relax if you aren't going away and above all remember that God walks with you and looks after you irrespective of who or where you may be.

Rev Nick Williams

Shining Bright Party

“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying “ Take it, this is my body ” then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they drank from it ” Mark 14:22

You are invited to a “ Mad Hatters Tea Party” at Shining Bright this year.... Are you curious...? School aged children are invited to come and follow the White Rabbit to Wateringbury Church on Tuesday October 31, 5-7pm and journey with us into Wonderland for Wonderland inspired crafts, games, dance, snacks and fun, including our outdoor treasure hunt. This event is free. For more information or to book a place at our non-scary alternative halloween party, please email lisaglasscote@gmail.com or pick up a booking form from East Malling, Wateringbury or Teston church.

STRAWBERRY TEA PARTY

SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2 - 5PM

MANOR FARM, OLD ROAD, WATERINGBURY

The Friends of Wateringbury Church (FOWC) invite you to come and join us in the beautiful gardens of Manor Farm (by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Mark English). Everyone is welcome to come along to enjoy a good old-fashioned English country house garden afternoon.

Glasses of Pimms will be on offer and there will also be an opportunity to buy tea/coffee and homemade cakes and delicious local strawberries and cream donated by Hugh Lowe Farms.

To complete the afternoon, a white elephant stall and raffle will be run while you relax and/or play garden games. Whilst some garden seating will be provided, you might like to bring along a rug/folding chairs.

Admission is free and pedestrian and car entry is via the farm entrance in Old Road.

Events at Pilson Community, West Malling this month:

9 September, 10am-4pm - Barn Chapel open as part of the Heritage Weekend

30 September, 11am - Music@Malling Concert (see their website for details).

BENEFICE SERVICES

Visit our website www.wateringburychurch.org.uk

SUNDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2017 8.30am BCP Holy Communion - East Malling 9.45am Family Service – East Malling 9.45am Family Service "Food for Thought" – Teston 10am Eucharist – Wateringbury 6pm Choral Evensong - East Malling
SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2017 9.45am Eucharist - East Malling 9.45am Come & Praise - Teston 10am Matins - Wateringbury 6.30pm Evensong - Teston
SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2017 8.30am BCP Holy Communion - Wateringbury 9.45am Eucharist - East Malling 9.45am Parish Communion/Sunday School - Teston 10am Family Service - Wateringbury
SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2017 8.30am BCP Holy Communion - East Malling 9.45am Morning Praise – East Malling 9.45am Come & Praise - Teston 10am Eucharist – Wateringbury 6.30pm Parish Communion - Teston
Every Monday – 2-3pm – Scout & Guide HQ, Glebe Meadow – Toddler Praise
Every Thursday - 9am in East Malling Church – Holy Communion
Pilsdon Community, 27 Water Lane, West Malling - Rev Viv Ashworth invites you to the Barn Chapel to join members of the community for a Eucharist Service every Wednesday at noon and 6pm on Sundays
For baptisms, weddings, funerals and other arrangements please contact the Vicar Rev Nick Williams on 01732 843282 or email father.nick@btinternet.com For all other enquiries, please contact the Administrator on

01622 815218 or email parishofficeemwt@gmail.com

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICES AT WATERINGBURY CHURCH:

Sunday 1 October - 10am

Monday 2 October - 9am - (Wateringbury Primary School)