

Welcome to the November edition of Rostrum

VILLAGE DIARY

November

- 2** **Footpaths Walk** – Hall – 2pm (earlier winter start time)
4 **Parish Council Meeting** - 7.30pm - Hall
9 **Annual Parish Act of Remembrance** – 10am –
Church
11 **Footpaths Walk** – Hall – 10am - Hall
12 **WI Christmas Crafting** - 7.30pm to 9.30pm – Village
Hall
18 **Parish Council Finance Committee Meeting** -
7.30pm - Hall
19 **The Disgraceful Sons of George III** - Talk - 8pm -
Hall
19 **Flower Club - A piece of Cake** - 7-9.30pm -
Nettlestead Hall
22 **Christmas Craft Bazaar** – 11am-3pm – Church

**November Village Market and Light Switch on
CANCELLED**

December

- 5** **Early Christmas Sing by Voices across the A20** –
7.30pm -Church
7 **Footpaths Walk** – Hall – 2pm
13 **Flower Club-Christmas Door Swag workshop** –
7- 9.30pm - Nettlestead Hall
18 **Carols by Candlelight** – 8pm - Church

**Do come along to the
MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING
WEDNESDAY 19th NOVEMBER
10.30am – Noon
in Wateringbury Church
Coffee, and Delicious Cakes
White Elephant Stall Raffle
All proceeds to aid the work of
Macmillan Cancer Support**

**Come along to Wateringbury Church and enjoy
A BIT OF AN EARLY CHRISTMAS SING
PRESENTED BY VOICES ACROSS THE A20
Friday 5th December at 7.30pm
Christmas Songs, Carols and Readings
No tickets needed suggested donation £7 children free
Refreshments available**

**CHRISTMAS CRAFT BAZAAR
SATURDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 11AM-3PM
WATERINGBURY CHURCH**

Entry free

Lots of local craft stalls plus raffle, cake stall, tombola, etc

**WATERINGBURY PARISH COUNCIL VOLUNTEER
RECOGNITION**

November Nominations

Wateringbury Players:

Hilary Fisher – Musical Director in 2008 and held the role
of prompt for over 40 years having very recently stepped down.

Barry Fisher – Performer – entertaining the community in every single performance held at the Wateringbury Village Hall for the Players.

Kay Williams – Treasurer of the Wateringbury Players – local Players thespian – runs the village Telephone box library, member of the Friends of Wateringbury.

Rostrum:

Terry Bird, our local historian writes books on the village history – leads history walks around the village – Hon Treasurer for Rostrum.

Christine Byron, joint editor and distributor of Rostrum, reports on every PC meeting – a member of the Friends of Wateringbury.

VILLAGE PEOPLE *Please let us have your news and tributes by 17th November for our next issue of Rostrum which includes both December 2025 and January 2026 so news should cover both months. Entries are free. Email: rostrum2@hotmail.com*

Grandchild Congratulations to Bob and Sandra Edmunds on the arrival on 6th October in Croydon Hospital of grandchild number six. Ralph Edmunds weighed in at 7lb 12 oz. Congratulations too to parents David and Ellen.

WATERINGBURY VILLAGE MARKET

Unfortunately, as I'm sure you've seen on posters around the village, there will be no market in November, due to circumstances beyond my control and a great disappointment to our sellers.

The next market will be held on **Sunday 21st December** - 10.30am-1pm.

Please support the Market and pop along for last minute Christmas items!

The Market will continue to take place throughout 2026 on the third Sunday of every month. Sue Collins

UKRAINE APPEAL

I am collecting again for war torn Ukraine. Please drop off to me any of the following: unwanted human and animal medication even partly used, walking aids, medical boots, wheelchairs, clothes, shoes, tools, clean quilts, towels, animal food and accessories. They will be transported directly to the most deprived areas. If not sure, please contact me - very little will be turned away.

Thank you for not forgetting Ukraine.

Sue Collins 07875 262659

1ST WATERINGBURY SCOUT GROUP

Can you make it possible for young people aged 6 to 14 years old to experience life changing adventure? Could you support them in making decisions, taking the lead and developing independence, confidence and skills?

Working as part of a team of adult volunteers, assist in the planning and delivery of outdoor activities, community projects, games, challenges, camps and international adventures.

We know that life can be busy, so we're all about flexibility: Whether you can spare one hour a week or a month, it's far easier to provide exciting activities at our meetings if we have your support. You may think that you have nothing to offer but you'd be surprised.

Give us just one hour (in a way that suits you), and you can help us provide scouting to even more young people. No previous experience of scouting is necessary. What's more important is your own skills and experience. It's great fun, rewarding and looks good on your CV!
Contact Jacqueline at GLV@wateringbury-scouts.org.uk

WI

Wateringbury WI meets Wednesday of every month at the Village Hall at 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

Our October meeting was all about the garden. Victoria Golding came along to advise how we can make our gardens eco and wildlife friendly. There is so much we can do to save money and increase the numbers of birds, bees and butterflies in our gardens which then helps with pollination and beautiful spaces to enjoy. We also went along to the Autumn Fair at Great Comp Gardens. The weather was good and we enjoyed a walk around the grounds, the amazing craft stalls, bought some fancy looking spring bulbs and visited the cafe for lunch.

This month we also start our winter workshops. We will be having a series of different crafts every month through the winter for our members to enjoy and maybe take up a new hobby. Small tasters of different crafts may spark big ideas for the future.

On **Wednesday 12th November** Annette Friend will do some simple Christmas Crafting (please bring glue). It's a great opportunity to sit together make a decoration, make a new friend and enjoy the company of others. Visitors £3, refreshments £1, raffle £1.

Email for more information: Wateringbury@wkwfi.org.uk
Sharon Goshawk. President

WATERINGBURY FLOWER CLUB

Starting from November our Club will return to Nettlestead Village Hall. Our monthly meetings are every third Wednesday from 7 till 9.30 pm. Visitors are always welcome. Why not try us out and see if it's for you? Visitors £7.

In October we had a club workshop *An autumn arrangement in a basket* hosted by our committee. This was aimed at all levels of expertise within the club, and as always, seasoned members were ready to help the less experienced.

November 19th (our first meeting back at NVH) the very talented Sheila Adby will present *A piece of Cake*.

Saturday 13th December - *Christmas Door Swag Workshop* at NVH – £39 everything included plus tea and coffee.
To book email wateringburyflowerclub@hotmail.com
Everyone welcome to create their own masterpiece.
Jean Schofield

1ST WATERINGBURY RAINBOWS

On 4th October Wateringbury Rainbows took part in the region's Guiding for Good challenge. Units across London and South East England were tasked with doing something good within their communities and to spread the word about Guiding. We hosted an evenings with Rainbows and invited some people from the village to join us for some fun, games and inter-generational friendship.

For more information about Rainbows, contact
WateringburyRainbows@outlook.com *Tiffany Alle*

HISTORY SOCIETY

On **Wednesday 19th November** at 8pm in Wateringbury Village Hall Janie Ramsay's talk is on The Disgraceful Sons of George III. There is plenty to choose from since they had 55 illegitimate children as well as illegal and fake marriages.

Members free, visitors very welcome £7. Free tea or coffee from 7.40pm. It's still worth considering becoming a member for the season to June 2026 there are 6 remaining talks and a December social evening all for £20. *Christine Byron*

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION INDUSTRIES

Rostrum's front cover this month is of a "Unknown Tommy" statue at the bottom of Canon Lane, one of several around the village, to recognise the centenary of WWI. Tommy statues are made nearby in Aylesford by Royal British Legion Industries (RBLI), a separate charity to the Royal British Legion, but which shares a similar ethos to support the Armed Forces community.

The RBLI was originally set up just after WWI when it acquired the Preston Hall estate in Aylesford to provide support to the many suffering from tuberculosis (TB), a common, often fatal, disease among soldiers returning from the war. It became, at a time before the NHS, the leading national TB care centre. George Orwell, who had picked hops for a Wateringbury farmer, was a resident there for 6 months.

Nowadays there is an extensive range of accommodation on the site at Aylesford for veterans together with several factories across the UK, employing both veterans and disabled people. They make a wide range of products at prices from £4 for a lapel pin to £700 for a wooden bench, available at their online shop - search rbli.shop. Other products, such as signs, are made under contract for other parties. On the site there is also a Garden of Honour, a place for quiet reflection.

Wateringbury resident, Admiral Sir Henry Moore, was for many years on the village's management committee and was Patron until his death in 1978. Those readers who attended the recent WW2 exhibition in the church might have seen the photo of him in a wheelchair shaking hands with the Queen on the occasion in 1975 of her visit to the RBLI village. A road in the village is named after him. *Terry Bird*

THE OAST THEATRE, TONBRIDGE "THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE"

By Glyn Robbins, adapted from the book by C.S. Lewis
12th – 14th and 18th – 20th December 2025

This enchanting story is perfect for families and audiences of all ages.

Performances: 7pm, matinees at 2 pm on **13th, 14th and 20th December**

Tickets: £14 Students £10. Book online at www.oasttheatre.com Credit card bookings 0333 666 33 66 (booking fee applies).

VOLUNTEERS FOR CROSSROADS HUB CLUBS, THE OAST, WATERINGBURY

Hub Clubs provide weekly activities for individuals living with dementia, cognitive impairment and other health conditions. Crossroads are looking for volunteers to help with setting up and running activities and serving lunch and refreshments on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. For further details, please call 03450 956701 or email enquiries@crossroadskent.org

SARAH HUDSON - BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT

Securing a Local Plan is the single most important step Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council will make this decade to safeguard the future of our borough. It's a decision we want to make jointly with everyone who cares about Tonbridge and Malling.

The plan's central objective is to deliver approximately 19,000 new homes over the next 18 years - a target set by the government. But that's not all. We must do this while minimising impact on greenfield areas, delivering environmental improvement

and preserving the character of our towns and villages.

Delivering a Local Plan is the only way to meet these multiple challenges. Without a plan, we face a free-for-all in which developers can submit applications to build almost anywhere. Even when we refuse planning permission, applicants may well win on appeal because no Local Plan is in place to steer development towards areas where it can be accommodated and is sustainable.

With a plan, we can take control of how our borough develops. We can ensure that the provision of new homes is managed to protect heritage areas and green spaces. A key element of the plan also deals with providing the infrastructure needed to ensure local transport links and services are in place to support a growing population.

Elected Borough Councillors will decide whether to adopt the Local Plan prior to it being considered by government inspectors. Many will face the conflicting pressures of meeting their obligation to deliver a plan while also facing pressure from those opposed to development. However, saying no to development in general or pursuing parochial interests will weaken rather than strengthen our control. It's likely to simply stall the Local Plan process, leaving the door open to more speculative applications which harm our communities. Delivering a viable plan will require tough decisions in the interests of our whole borough and collective effort to find the best solution to the challenge we've been set. This is not the final version of the plan, it's the start of a conversation about the future of our towns and villages. We fully expect it to evolve in light of further work to identify additional sites and the public comments we receive.

As a council, we understand that the prospect of development will arouse strong feelings in areas affected. That's why we are consulting widely and will be listening closely to the feedback you provide.

*Sarah Hudson TMBC Borough Councillor for
East and West Peckham, Mereworth and Wateringbury*

NETTLESTEAD AND WATERINGBURY PRE-SCHOOL

In Term 2 we started to explore Autumn further, taking the children on walks so they could take in and talk about the season changes. On the walks the children enjoyed collecting natural resources like sticks, pinecones, conkers and some lovely colourful leaves to bring back to the setting to use for crafts or in their play in our outdoor mud kitchen area.

With the natural resources the children have been creative and made their own version of autumn trees, wreaths, leaf printing and little bird's nests for our outdoor bug hut, exploring what hibernation means for some of the animals. Some children have even used the sticks to create stick families using maths language to describe the sticks they collected. With the children we have made our own bird feeders for the birds to enjoy as the weather gets colder.

If you would like to join our preschool (government funding accepted for 2, 3 and 4 year olds) or wrap around care please email enquiries@no.org.uk

TESTON & WATERINGBURY PRE-SCHOOL

As the leaves continue to fall from the trees and the evenings become darker we have begun to think about Christmas and what that means to everyone around us, whether they celebrate it or not. Christmas is a time for kindness, and we have chosen a picture book *Dream Snow* by Eric Carle which embraces the magic of Christmas and the value of giving and sharing.

Throughout this term our older children will join our weekly phonics groups in preparation for school next year. Our library is now fully operational, and the children are always eager to visit it.

They are also engaging with our regular yoga sessions with Jo, our fully qualified children's yoga instructor.

To help with our fundraising, we have a 'bags to school' collection from Teston village hall at 9am on Wednesday **5th November**. If you are having a clear out of clothes, handbags, shoes, belts bed linen and towels please bag them up and bring them along to Teston village hall any day that week. All monies raised will go towards craft material for the children. *A big thank you to Teston Church who donated some bags from their last fundraising event.*

If you would like your child to be part of this amazing pre-school family please contact Tina Driver: 07805 796353 testonpreschooladmissions@gmail.com Find us on Facebook too!

THE WATERINGBURY PLAYERS

Thank you for supporting our last panto *Puss in Boots* which was a roaring success and enabled us to give donations to Wateringbury Church and Wateringbury Primary School.

Preparations are underway for our 2025/26 panto. This season we will be doing - *Peter Pan* - which is very exciting. We are now fully cast and rehearsals have begun. We will be performing *Peter Pan* on **Friday 6th March** and **Saturday 7th March 2026**. Please keep an eye on the Rostrum for more information. *The Wateringbury Players*

TONBRIDGE & MALLING RAMBLERS NOVEMBER WALKS

For full details of the walks see www.tonbridgeandmallingsramblers.org.uk

GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE

We're lucky in Wateringbury to have some special wildlife species in our area and my thanks go to the neighbours that have drawn my attention to them.

The first is the large, white, heron-looking bird that has been seen by a number of us standing in the Mill Pond in recent weeks, waiting to spear its prey with its dagger-like beak. This is a great egret and whilst it used to be considered a rare visitor, its numbers are increasing and it has been known to breed here successfully.

The second, also seen on the Mill Pond recently, is the kingfisher. This shy but beautiful bird will dive from a perch in pursuit of small fish which it then beats against a branch, turns around and swallows headfirst!

Many of us have noticed an influx of ladybirds recently. There are over 20 different species of this beetle in this country but none are dangerous and all are beneficial to gardeners as adults and larvae feed on aphids and scale insects. Their numbers are larger than usual this year as it's been such a warm Summer. They are now looking for a warm safe space to hibernate in and won't emerge again until the Spring. If they have found a cozy place inside your house, you could leave them until then or gently brush them into a container and release them outside in a sheltered spot.
Pauline Knutton

WATERINGBURY FOOTPATHS GROUP

In October we had lovely walks along the footpaths and lanes between the river and Old Road. From Bow Bridge we followed the river upstream, turning up the footpath that goes steeply over the railway to Nettlestead church. This route is often very muddy and difficult, but was fine after this year's dry summer. After crossing the main road we went up Gibbs Hill and took the footpath towards Rock Farm, turning uphill after a short distance. We continued on footpaths across fields and on to Pizien Well Road, where we turned left. At the top of the hill we took the scenic path steeply down to the stream and on to Manor Farm. The leaves

were beginning to turn and there was a lot of nuts, fruits and berries on the trees. Apparently this year is a Mast Year, with many plants producing an abundance of seeds.

You are very welcome to join us, we are a friendly group.

Our next walks will be leaving the village hall at:

2pm on **Sunday 2nd November** 10am on **Tuesday 11th November**

2pm on **Sunday 7th December**

For more information please contact me. I can also add you to the Wateringbury Village Walks WhatsApp group, where I keep the group up to date about our plans. *Lisa Dean*
07759 539032

WATERINGBURY GUIDES

We started back in September with a Compendium of Games evening with everything from *Uno* to *Hungry Hippos*, *Giant Connect 4* and *Giant Jenga*. The girls had great fun and lots of laughter was heard. On another evening, down in the orchard at dusk we challenged the girls to move water using broom poles, string and cups from one vessel to another, as well as playing traditional wide games once it was dark.

Tudor, aka *Kent Acting Studio*, came to run an evening of activities and the girls were very loud indeed but had a brilliant time. It was lovely to hear one guide who is normally so quiet, speaking confidently at one end of the hall and being heard at the other end.

We entered two teams into Challenge Invicta – an incident hike where the girls plot their route on a map, follow the course, and tackle six random challenges on route earning points for a kit check, their presentation at the challenge, organisation and teamwork undertaking the challenge, and even how their lunch was packaged with evidence of good recycling. We're delighted to say that one of our teams came second out of 40 teams in the Mid Kent area so a brilliant result.

We've just booked our Christmas event at the ice-skating rink at Gillingham by popular request and we will be at the village Remembrance Service at Wateringbury Church.

There are now spaces in rainbows (aged 4-7), brownies (aged 7-10), and guides (aged 10-15) in Wateringbury so please register your daughter on

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/>

Sheena Stewart and team.

1ST WATERINGBURY BROWNIES

Brownies meet weekly during term and currently we have spaces available for an immediate start. You may get in touch with leaders via email: 1stwateringburybrownies@gmail.com or register via the [Girlguiding](https://www.girlguiding.org.uk) website.

This term the unit has started by working towards the 'Safety' badge with a walk around the village to identify hazards whilst out and about followed by a session on safety at home - both have heightened the Brownies awareness of staying safe and how to minimise risks for themselves and others. We have followed that with the girls working towards another new badge, 'Imagination' which has been planned and run by one of our young leaders.

We are looking forward to lots of fun activities this coming term with a visit to Maidstone fire station, a trip to the cinema, Christmas craft and a Christmas party!

Next year, we shall be participating in a sleepover event at Lower Grange Farm in February and plans are underway for a Brownie holiday in May, 2026 is going to be an exciting year! *Carolyn (Tawny Owl) and Jane (Snowy Owl)*

REV GARY WRITES

The Rectory, 72 The Street, Mereworth ME18 5NA

gary.rev@outlook.com

☎ 01622 813178

Call and Conflict

November holds two very important events for me. The first is the honouring of all our service men and women both past and present. On Remembrance Sunday, which falls on the 9th this year, there will be a service for Watringbury held at St John the Baptist Church beginning at 10am.

Then there will be an Armistice Day (11th) observance beginning at 10:50am at the War Memorial at St Lawrence's, Mereworth. Everyone is welcome at any of these and I am proud that the churches and young people from the uniformed organisations take such a prominent role in leading these occasions which are important to us all. Those we honour at this time are all people who have answered a call to make sacrifices and they and their selflessness and bravery are quite rightly remembered with grateful appreciation.

And that leads me to the second important event in November – St Andrew's Day (30th November). Some Christians mark the end of November with a reflection on St Andrew who answered Christ's call to leave all he had and follow Him. To turn to Christ and follow Him is a call to obedient and sacrificial service in His Name. There is an old prayer that some of us say on St Andrew's Day:

Almighty God, who didst give such grace unto thy holy Apostle Saint Andrew, that he readily obeyed the calling of thy Son Jesus Christ and followed Him without delay: Grant unto us all, that we, being called by thy holy word, may forthwith give up ourselves obediently to fulfil thy holy commandments; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The sacrifice made by those in the two great wars in particular and those who still lay their lives on the line to keep our nation safe have maintained the liberty we enjoy in this land. But I think our nation is still subject to internal conflict: 'spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care' as Timothy Dudley-Smith put it in the hymn: *Lord for the Years*. We need to see that problems in a nation come down to problems within the people that make up that nation. Christ came to save us from our sins and there's no dealing with the wrongness that is within each of us without sacrifice – without Christ's we couldn't even make a start and without our own there is no genuine response to His call. Each of us must take up the cross and follow Him. God grant to us the grace to do it.

Rev Gary Townsend

Rector of Mereworth, Watringbury and West Peckham

WATERINGBURY CHURCH SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

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

*A friendly welcome awaits you at all **Sunday Services which start at 10am and last for about an hour.***

Each service has an easy to follow booklet.

Refreshments are served after these services please stay for a chat if you can.

Saturday 1st – 3-5pm – Messy Church (for children and their carers) Bible Story, Action Songs, Prayer time, lots of crafts and ending with afternoon tea. All welcome

Sunday 2nd - 10am – Matins led by Barry Fisher

Sunday 9th – 10am – Annual Parish Act of Remembrance led by Rev Gary Townsend

Tuesday 11th November – 10.50am short Act of Remembrance at Mereworth War Memorial

Sunday 16th - 10am - All Age Worship

Sunday 23rd

10am – Benefice Communion with Rev Gary

5pm – Refresh in Mereworth Church

Topic for November is: 'What is God Like? A presentation of C.S. Lewis' 'The Rival Conceptions of God' from Mere Christianity'

Sunday 30th Advent Sunday

10am – Benefice Communion Service in Mereworth church

As this is the 5th Sunday in the month the three churches in the benefice take the opportunity to worship together. This month the only service of the day will be in Mereworth church

Thursday 18th December at 8pm CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Well-known carols and readings to enjoy

COFFEE BREAK

This month is a little different. On 19th November members are organising a Macmillian Coffee Morning so do come along and enjoy coffee and cake and good company. The usual informal meetings will be on 5th November and 3rd December between 10.30am and 12.30pm in the church social area. Suggested donation £1. If you would like a change of scenery and the opportunity to meet 'village neighbours' don't be shy - just come along. If you would like more information please phone Gillian on 01622 813076

CHURCHYARD TIDY – SATURDAY 8th – 9.30am-Noon

Please come along for an hour or so on 8th November to help prepare the churchyard for the Annual Parish Act of Remembrance the following morning. Help much appreciated. Please bring your own rake/pruners, etc.

IN OUR JOYS AND SORROWS – From the Parish Registers Thanksgiving Service

25th September – **Georgina Gordon Hearne** (1928-2025)

OCTOBER PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Borough Councillor Matt Boughton thanked all who had commented to T & M Planning about the proposed development of 66 houses on green belt land at the junction of Fields Lane and Tonbridge Road. The target date for the decision to be made is early December but this could change.

T & M are currently working to formulate the Local Development Plan which will set out the proposed development until 2040. At present T & M build about 400 new homes a year. Central Government have set a target of 1060 a year. These 19,960 houses will have to be built somewhere in the borough. The Development Plan will locate and set out these sites. Knowing where the developments will be in the future will help with forward planning for support infrastructure and defend against speculative sites being put forward by developers. Councillor Boughton apologised that he was unable to stay for the remainder of the meeting as he had another one to attend.

KCC matters Councillor Sarah Hudson reported that KCC had an overspent of £40 million on Adult Social Care. She sat on the Regulation Committee and had attended further training on the subject. Illegal dumping was a growing problem and required a multi-agency approach to attempt to curb highly organised dumping on a massive scale as seen in Sheppy. Seven Mile Lane and Knowle Farm had been affected by incidents in the past.

Cemetery New guidelines have been drawn up and implemented so relatives of those buried and those residents who are considering booking plots for future use are fully aware of the conditions which will apply. For instance on memorial stones lettering will be permitted on the front and the only lettering on the back should be the plot number. Procedures for the placing of memorial benches have also been implemented. An inspection of all grave stones has been carried out and notices placed on those which need to be stabilised. Councillor Bob Edmunds and resident Cliff Hickmot were thanked for their help in erecting a new storage shed. Councillors agreed to expenditure to remove tree stumps and waste soil.

Kent Association of Local Councils. It was unanimously agreed to participate in the Community Awards Scheme.

Road related matters Pot holes at the top of Mill Lane and the unstable manhole cover in Bow Road are scheduled to be repaired in October. Salt bins will be re-stocked in preparation for winter use. Sand bags may be issued for certain properties on Tonbridge Road. There were drainage issues in Love Lane.

In Post U The Council are investigating the possibility of a group of lockers being placed outside the village hall to allow for safe delivery of parcels within the village.

Allotments The clerk has produced an Application Form for new tenants which can be accessed via the parish website. There are at present five vacant pots for the coming year

Anti-Social Behaviour The T& M team have been active in the village over past weeks.

Bonfires Residents are asked to report any problems with bonfire nuisance to the parish clerk. Details of bonfire regulations are on the council website.

Christmas Lights with a new Clerk and new Councillors being in place for less than 6 months it has not been possible to organise a community event to switch on the Christmas lights. The contractor will simply arrange for the lights to start working on 15th November. The three year contract for the Christmas Lights ends this year. A new contract will be negotiated and include lights in Red Hill near to the junction with Tonbridge Road.

Lorry Watch Scheme Clipboards and equipment have been purchased. There are a few more details to be finalised

before the Freight Team can start to monitor and report lorries ignoring the restrictions on Bow Road.

Playing Fields – necessary repairs will be carried out to play equipment. Day Tree Fellers will carry out some tree work including the removal of lower branches on some trees to raise the canopy.

Village Car Park The necessary formalities have now been completed to allow Wateringbury Parish Council to lease the Village Car Park and keep its use free. CCTV to monitor the hall and car park can now be installed.

Planning Councillors considered the following applications:

- * Single storey rear extension, partial conversion of garage to habitable room. Internal alterations and raised patio area at 8 Redhouse Gardens
- * Tree work at The Lodge 245 Tonbridge Road
- * Listed Building Application for retrospective works: Replacement of roof tiles and leadwork, repointing of chimneys and internal timber repairs at 248 Red Hill
- * Erection of 66 new homes (including affordable homes) together with associated open space, landscaping, success and parking at land north of Drayhorse Medow, Fields Lane.

There are two meetings of the Council in November. The usual monthly general meeting on **Tuesday 4th** and on **Tuesday 18th November** when the Finance Committee (all councillors) will meet to discuss next year's budget expenditure. Both meetings are in the Village Hall Upper Room and start at 7.30pm.

Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings. Approved minutes of council meetings are published on the Parish Council website, Wateringburypc.org.uk . The website has been updated and is well worth a look.