

VILLAGE DIARY

OCTOBER

- 2 Footpaths Walk – Wateringbury Station car park – 2.30pm for local walk
- 4 Parish Council – Hall - 7.30pm followed immediately by a meeting of the Planning Committee
- 8 Harvest Coffee Morning – Church – 10.30-12.30
- 13 Queen Victoria's Dreadful Uncles – Sheila Boyd – WI – Hall - 2.30pm
- 15 Wendy local vocalist – Wateringbury WM Club – evening
- 16 Harvest Family Service – Church – 10am
- 19 Hist Soc – Barbara Stevens – Darwin Family of Downe – Hall - 7.450pm
- 20 Flower Club Event with National Demonstrator – N'stead Hall – 7pm
- 31 Shining Bright Party for 4-13 year olds – Church – 5-7pm

NOVEMBER

- 1 Parish Council – Hall - 7.30pm followed immediately by a meeting of the Planning Committee
- 10 Story of RAF Biggin Hill & Ghosts by Bob Ogle - WI – Hall – 2.30pm
- 16 History Society – Air Commodore Bill Croydon – A History of Early Flight on Sheppey – Village Hall - 7.40 for 8.00 pm
- 17 Parish Council Finance & General Purposes Committee – Hall - 7.30pm
- 18 Total Jam Tribute Band – Wateringbury WM Club
- 19 Christmas Craft Fayre – Church – 11am-3pm
- 26 School Christmas Fayre - School

PUBS OF WATERINGBURY The Duke Without a Head

The pub was sited on the edge of the village at the junction of Tonbridge Road and Pizien Well Road. It was purpose built on a large site, in 1940 when the brewery decided to close The Duke's Head in Old Road after the building of the 'new' road. The brewery wrote to the authorities for permission to transfer the licence to the new pub. The magistrate's order to transfer the licence stated "Permission is given to remove the Duke's Head" – and so the new pub got its unusual name. The pub was popular with day trippers on their way to the coast, hop pickers and RAF personnel from the West Malling Air station (now Kings Hill). Whitbread's closed the pub in about 1990 and it was refurbished to become a Mulligan fish bar (also part of the Whitbread chain). However this venture was short-lived and the building was demolished in August 1995 to make way for four large detached houses. The original Duke's Head in Old Road is now a private house.

COPY DEADLINE

Rostrum welcomes contributions to the magazine. Please note the copy deadline has been slightly amended to midnight on the 17th of the month. Items should be about 250 words long to fill half an A5 page in Ariel 10 font.

MY NOVEL EXPERIENCE – THE HAUNTING OF HARRIET BY JENNIFER BUTTON

My longsuffering husband Alan and I and our many dachshunds have lived in the same house, the oldest in Wateringbury, for over thirty years. It was this beautiful house and how we found it that provided much of the initial inspiration for my novel. The rest is pure fiction!

I have always written, many of you will have seen my plays brilliantly performed by the Wateringbury Players, but to venture into the realm of real books is scary. I have been writing THE HAUNTING OF HARRIET for nearly three years and to see it finished as an actual book is fantastic. (Okay, so I cheated a bit and self published, but the world out there is tough. Unless your name is Jordan or your book is full of raunchy sex, blood and guts or wizards it is really hard to get a publisher to take it.)

My book is the story of Harriet, an enigmatic spinster who has lived most of her life alone. When she meets a vibrant young family and they move in with her, life changes dramatically. Haunted by a tragic past and burdened with guilt she has grown old and tired; only the overwhelming belief that she has to redeem herself and fulfil her destiny makes her cling to life. It takes all her cunning and guile to convince her new family of the crucial part she knows she has to play in their lives. I hope that by weaving these intricate themes throughout the book I have created a mysterious tale of love, trust and forgiveness; things that we all need at times.

PS. It is on sale at Waterstones and Watlington Post office priced £6.99. I hope you enjoy it. Jennifer Button

PARISH BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Our Remembrance Book will be taken to be updated in November. If you wish to remember a loved one with an entry in the book, please contact Joy Searle on 01622 814443 by 31 October. You can see from the existing entries in the book that you can incorporate images of all kinds in your entry, or simply words that express your feelings. Joy will be happy to help you put together an entry if you wish.

AUCTION SATURDAY 15 OCTOBER IN NETTLESTEAD VILLAGE HALL

Goods accepted from 9.30am. Viewing from 11.30am. **AUCTION STARTS AT 1.30pm.**

Home cooked lunches available between 11.30am and 1.30pm - Wine available, Tea/coffee available with lunch. **Free Entry RAFFLE, CAKES & BRIC-A-BRAC**

We will gratefully receive any goods, but no jumble, large pieces of furniture, items with foam padding, or electrical goods thank you. All proceeds from this event to Nettlestead Church funds.. For further information contact 01622 871272 or 01622 812016.

VILLAGE PEOPLE

Congratulations to **Emily and Christian McKay** on the arrival of Maximilian Sydney on 20 August

Sandra and Bob Edmunds are pleased to announce the arrival of their first grandchild, **Freya Violet**, born on 15 July 2011 at Chertsey Hospital to proud parents **Louise and Stuart Edmunds**.

Belated Ruby Wedding congratulations to **Gillian and Ray Sessions** who celebrated 40 years of marriage last month.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II FIELDS CHALLENGE - YOU CAN HELP!

This Challenge is a 2012 Legacy Project led by Prince William in honour of HM the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. This campaign is to safeguard outdoor spaces for sport, play and recreation in the UK. Local authorities have been invited to nominate outdoor spaces in their areas which if granted QE11 Status will secure permanent protection of recreational spaces for the future.

The Parish Council nominated Watlington Playing Fields which, after fulfilling certain criteria, has been accepted and we now await the outcome. You can view the nomination by going to www.qe2fields.com and enter ME18 5NQ in the post code box. Watlington will come up at the top of the list. **You will be able to support this nomination by voting online for 'Save a Space for me', from 18th October for one month only.** So if you wish to secure the future of our playing fields for future generations please go to the website address above, use the same postcode and follow the instructions to vote. Thank you!

ADVERTISING IN ROSTRUM IN 2012

We will shortly be inviting advertising support for the magazine for 2012. Any prospective new advertisers please contact us at www.rostrum2@hotmail.com or on 01622 812023.

**CASH IN THE ATTIC? Turn unwanted items into cash
50/50 Auction in Yalding Village Hall on Saturday 1 October**

organised by The Friends of Yalding Surgery

Take any items you wish to sell (sorry no toys, clothes or electrical items) to Yalding Village Hall between 9am and noon. 50% of sale price to you 50% to the Surgery

Auction between 2-4pm so go along for a bargain

THE EPICUREANS – A SOCIAL GROUP FOR SINGLES

Originally conceived by three semi-retired people who felt that there was a need for a local social group for mature single adults, "The Epicureans" are currently celebrating their 15th anniversary. Every Wednesday evening for 15 years we have met at "The Chequers", Laddingford, but that is just the "tip of the iceberg". As all activities are suggested, organised and hosted by members, the monthly programme reveals a wide variety of interests. A small monthly membership fee is charged and the costs of all activities are borne by participating members. There are no age limits but most of our members are retired. We are definitely not a dating agency!

Regular activities include lunches and dinners (usually at local pubs); visits to local theatres, symphony concerts and the Tunbridge Wells Jazz Club; visits to museums and art galleries; stately homes and gardens; country walking, followed by a pub lunch; wine-tasting; film and games nights at members' homes; summer garden parties and barbeques; arts & crafts workshop. You can find some of us at "The Chequers", Laddingford every Wednesday from about 8.15 onwards. On the first Wednesday of each month a meal for those members interested precedes the regular get-together. For more information you can call Pauline (01662 812417) or Peter (01732 851452). Or you can find more about us, including our latest monthly programme, on our website: www.epicureans-se.co.uk

TESTON CLUB www.testonclub.co.uk

We are a small, friendly, social club set in the heart of Teston. We hold regular events for the entertainment of our members and their guests and to boost our funds. The next few events are –

Sat 8th Oct – Games Night, starts 8pm. An evening of board and table games - shove ha'penny, draughts, snakes and ladders, snap, chess, dominoes, shut the box and many more!! Something for everyone! Complimentary food and raffle.

Sat 29th Oct – Halloween Disco and Fancy Dress. Starts 8pm. Complimentary food and a raffle

Sat 5th Nov – Children's Bonfire Night 5 – 7pm. Hot dogs and burgers. Sparklers for children with a responsible adult! Guy Fawkes Night picture competition.

October Wednesday Afternoons, 2 – 4pm

5th – Beetle Drive - 12th – Quiz - 19th – Film footage of the Pig Farm and the Cricket and Hockey Ball Factory 26th – Lisa's East End Knees-Up

We really do look forward to seeing you soon! If you are not already a member, why not call in and ask for an application form from the bar staff.

WATERINGBURY W.M. CLUB

Your local Club with full size snooker table, pool table, bar billiards and darts area. Two new large screen SKY/ESPN TVs

Choice of beers and lagers,
wines and all popular spirits.

Saturday, 15 October – WENDY –

Well-known local vocalist

Non members welcome



WATERINGBURY FLOWER CLUB – SEPTEMBER MEETING

Guest Jackie Watson - Dancing with Flowers also members competition

This is a first time visit for Jackie to our club, and we were not disappointed, Jackie enthralled us with an evening filled with colourful designs and funny anecdotes on her interpretation of dancing on and off the dance floor with flowers! One design after another was more colourful than the last and the audience was thrilled with every single design, I can honestly say there was a run on raffle tickets in the break! Jackie was delighted to judge our members competition of the same title and thank you to all our members who gave us lots of really fabulous interpretation of the titles, and well done to the winners in all the classes, also a first for the club - our new Photography trophy -what a talented lot you are!

October is our **OPEN EVENING** and all visitors are very welcome. On **Thursday 20 October** we throw our doors open to members and guests of other clubs in Kent - this is our main fundraiser for the year and never disappoints. We have Alan Smith who is wonderful and very well known in the arranging world, but a first for us, we have jams and chutneys for the cold winter evening, we have handbags and gifts ,jewellery, Christmas flower arranging sundries, phoenix cards, wood cottage nursery plants, a charity raffle with lovely items and a raffle for all the floral displays done on the evening, where better to come and be entertained and shop for gifts with tea and coffee on hand all for £6, and all under one roof! I do hope you can join us and help celebrate another great open evening. For more information please contact Jean Schofield.

Coming soon a Photography workshop, more details soon - open to members and non members.
Jean Schofield, Chairman, Wateringbury Flower Club

FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL (FOWPS)

It's been a great start to the new school year at Wateringbury. Our new tyre park has been installed and Waitrose shoppers at the Paddock Wood store voted for us to receive £325 from the Community Matters scheme.

A Family Quiz was due to take place at school on Saturday 24 September, followed by our AGM on 27 September and the school's annual Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 30 September. Term 1 will end on Friday 21 October with School Discos for the Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children.

Planning is also under way for the Christmas Fayre on 26 November and for the London 2012 Olympic theme which will be running throughout the curriculum and fundraising efforts next year.

STOP PRESS: We need your urgent help please

We've launched an ambitious bid for funding from the NatWest Community Force Fund to buy a popcorn making machine and a candy floss making machine which could then be hired out to other community groups. Funding will be determined by a public vote. To stand any chance of receiving the necessary funding **we need as many people as possible** throughout the local area to vote for our project when the public vote opens on 26 September. And when you've voted for us, please tell your friends and family about our bid and ask them to vote too please. Please vote for us at www.natwest.com/communityforce - Friends of Wateringbury Primary School – from 26 September. We'll update our website at www.fowps.org.uk with any news about the scheme. Thank you!

Gail Isted, Chairman, FOWPS, Tel 01622 813716

WATERINGBURY WEATHER WATCH

This summer has certainly been a disappointment. After a fine dry spring when we were frightened we might be in for a water shortage the weather took a turn for the worst in June and apart from one or two short fine spells it has been wet and windy, although here in the south east we escaped some of the worst rain and wind that most of the country suffered.

The pattern of one low pressure after another seems to be continuing, however if this is the case the westerly winds will stop the temperatures from falling too far. Although after the snows which fell before Christmas last year I make no promises! WWW

POPPY APPEAL AND GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

Remembrance Sunday this year will be 13th November, with Poppy Day 12th. House to house collections in the village will take place from Saturday 29th October onwards.

The final figure for last years collection has not yet been received from The Royal British Legion, but will be in excess of £2,600. Many thanks and congratulations to all who gave so generously; to the businesses who had collecting boxes; the school, Scouts and Guides; to those who donated for wreaths and crosses, and to all those individuals who so kindly gave their time and effort to collect, open and count the contents of the boxes.

As in previous years a small garden of remembrance will be laid out adjacent to the war memorial in the churchyard in early November. Wooden crosses may be planted in memory of loved ones who died on active service. These will be available from the church or post office. Wreaths for laying on the war memorial may be ordered from me. Badges of all regiments, corps, squadrons, ships and most organisations are available for the centres of wreaths.

Please, once again be generous with your donations. The Poppy Appeal is the largest contributor to the Royal British Legion's benevolent fund, which helps all serving members and veterans of the armed forces. This year alone the Legion will spend more than £72 million providing assistance to over 160,000 serving and ex-serving armed forces personnel and their families. Are you able to help as a collector this year? More volunteers are urgently required. A couple of hours to collect in your home area, would be greatly appreciated, and would ease the work and time of other volunteers.

I have recently been appointed Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser for the village, as Tony Morgan is moving away.

Larry Collins, Telephone 01732 872302 or email larrycol@tiscali.co.uk

Reflexology - Have you ever considered a treatment?

A relaxing experience promoting self healing for the whole body including back pain, headaches & migraines, fertility, sleep disorders, injuries, digestive problems, sinus problems, hormonal imbalances, stress related conditions and many more.

For appointments call Anita Hanley on 01622 812579 or 0797 1101496

NETTLESTEAD AND WATERINGBURY PRE-SCHOOL AND OUT OF SCHOOL CLUBS (Charity No. 1062792)

What a lovely start to the new school year and as usual things never turn out how you expect them to! The Group has been supporting the school with their new intake's transition from pre-school to reception class. We all anticipated it might be difficult for a variety of reasons, but none of us had fully understood the benefits for these children. Firstly, everyone thought 2 hours was not long enough to settle in; the opposite has been true for our children. They and their teachers have benefited immeasurably from the smaller groups and both children and adults have been able to REALLY get to know one another and understand the class routines. For those children who have been attending the pre-school it has provided continuity and structure to their day.

Secondly, the cross over period when the children meet up at the pre-school for lunch has been a brilliant way for new friendships to be made and for children to catch up with existing mates. Finally, for those children who started school in January 2011 they are able to enjoy a stable environment whilst making new friends in small groups rather than en masse.

For the first time since we have opened in our new building we were able to offer holiday clubs on the staff development days; this is something we will continue to offer throughout the year and would recommend that if you are interested you ring and book your child onto the waiting list as soon as possible as places are going fast. Our breakfast and afterschool clubs are proving popular too and we are now full on 2 of the days.

I would like to welcome our new families and say what a delightful bunch all the newbies are and how well they are settling into their new surroundings. Thank you to parents for your kind words about our service. Here are just a few comments from our lovely families. "It's a God send, I don't know what we would do without you" "You are a lifesaver I would have really struggled without you" "This has come at just the right time" We are proud that we have been able to support almost half of the families in Watringbury's Reception class.

If you would like to read our Ofsted report and see where we are OUTSTANDING then go to our website and click on the link. If you would like to visit please feel free to come at any time OR you can ring for more information on 01622 813120. You can visit our website at www.nettlesteadandwatingburypreschool.org.uk OR email us at nettlesteadandwatingbury@yahoo.com

WATERINGBURY BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Hip hip hooray! Boing boing bounce! What fun the children have had on our trampoline now that we have some safety mats to use with it. A big, huge THANK YOU to Teston & Watringbury Nursery Group for providing these for us. We are big advocates of recycling!

We've been very busy this term already, with lots of craft activities reminding us of our summer adventures, like making butterflies and boats to float on the water. The MacMillan Coffee Mornings at the end of September were a big hit, with all proceeds and entrance fees that week going to this fabulous charity. Green was the colour that week, with the children decorating biscuits in green and there were green cakes on sale for the adults to buy (and the children to eat!) in aid of the charity. We have also introduced a rhyme time after the children have had their snack with lots of actions, puppets and singing which is proving very popular with children of all ages.

During half term, we have arranged for a photographer to visit during our usual session times on Wednesday 26th and Friday 28th October. It's a great opportunity to get some professional photos of your children together or maybe all the family. Should you wish to book a slot please contact Tina on the number below. We will not be running our usual toddler group sessions on these days.

If there are any parents/guardians wishing to join our friendly group, our sessions are held on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 10am to 12 noon at the Watringbury Village Hall. There is a small charge of £2 for the first child and £1 each for subsequent children over 12 months old. Adults continue to be free. We also hire out our tables/chairs and toys in the hall; ideal for birthday parties, Christening celebrations etc. If you are interested please contact Tina on our new number - 07506 735137.

WI

Mr Phillip Pretty was our speaker last month and an enjoyable time was had by all. Rather than just sitting and listening to Phillip, he set us the task of doing a quiz, with tables set out with items which we had to try and identify. We surprised ourselves at how much we all knew about the nature around us.

Next month in October we have Mrs Sheila Boyd talking to us about Queen Victoria's Dreadful Uncles. Sounds interesting! As always, visitors are very welcome. Kathy Coates 01622 814618

TESTON & WATERINGBURY NURSERY GROUP (Registered charity 1044257)

www.testonandwateringburynursery.co.uk

Admissions and all enquiries: Amanda Vidler 07805 796353

After what seems like a very short summer break, it's back to business. Having lost so many of our little ones at the end of last term (well, we didn't actually lose them – we know exactly where they are...) we were happy to see lots of new faces, and to help them settle in to their new routines. We started the new term with a fruit & veg theme, so we've been looking at pictures of different types of fruit & veg –have you ever seen Jabotacaba? Me neither, but apparently, the fruit grows on the branches of the tree, rather than stems...maybe I should go back to Nursery! The children have also been painting with vegetable stencils, talking about their favourite fruit & veg and taking cuddly vegetables home to look after – I wonder what they eat? The veg, that is, not the children. There's been cooking, there's been tasting, and there's even been some planting...anyone remember the mashed potato from last year? Hopes are high!

As it's Harvest time of year we've been collecting for the Festival and we even had a tombola stall at the Friends of Wateringbury Church Harvest Fayre. The Fayre was a great success, so well done to 'FOWC', and thanks too as we raised yet more funds for the Nursery Group. Another thank you to the volunteers who manned the stall, and yet again, didn't let us down.

Our AGM was 15th September, so news of that next month...This term ends Friday 21st October and the new term starts Monday 31st October.

HISTORY SOCIETY

Our new programme has now started, and subscriptions of £9 are now due. We have arranged an interesting programme, and the subscription also includes access to our library. At our meeting on 19th October, Barbara Stevens will be talking on the "Darwin Family of Downe" Barbara has lived in Downe village for 48 years, and can see the roof of Darwin's house from her home. For further information visit the History Society web site on <https://sites.google.com/site/wateringburylocalhistory/>

FOOTPATH GROUP

On Sunday 2 October, a local walk of three to four miles is planned, starting from Wateringbury Station car park at 2.30 pm sharp. We are a friendly unofficial group who just like to walk; we do not have anyone to lead walks regularly and would welcome volunteers willing to undertake this task for us occasionally. For more information please call 01622 812338. ST.



WATERINGBURY SCOUT GROUP – JOIN THE ADVENTURE!

We may not have been highly visible in Rostrum recently, but Scouting in Wateringbury is still very much alive and kicking. All three Group sections (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts) are fully subscribed, and enjoying fun and adventurous activities based on our Scouting values. We have all, from 6yr old Beaver to 14year old Scout, enjoyed a residential experience of some sort in recent months – Beavers with a hike and sleepover, Cubs on a 4-day camp at Hamlet Wood, and Scouts revisiting the home of the very first Scout camp on Brownsea Island. All our young people come back from these with new insights into themselves and the world around them. Here's an example from the Scouts:-

This year's Scout Summer camp was on Brownsea Island, the site of the first ever Scout Camp over 100 years ago. Our adventure started with the journey, as we travelled by foot, rail and boat to the campsite carrying our kit on our backs. We all slept in tents, and our activities included archery, fishing, hiking, and (blessed by good weather) swimming too. Each of the three patrols took turns with the various chores including cooking, washing up, collecting water, putting equipment away and so on. We learned more about the first ever Scout Camp and visited the actual site of this camp where a flag and commemorative stone has been laid. We all thoroughly enjoyed the camp and are so proud to have camped at such a great place with great history. We arrived back home, tired from a very long journey, hampered by train delays and cancellations, but already looking forward to our next camp which will be very different - a survival camp at the end of September.

Scouts Don't Just Wear Green...We are Green!

Even we at Wateringbury Scouts have been hit by the rising cost of fuel! On most camps we cook with gas nowadays. With the cost of gas forever rising, we decided to see if there was a more "green" way to generate heat, using old materials. After a few hours "Googling" we found the perfect answer - fuel blocks made from shredded paper!

We all shred our old bank statements and personal data these days and then we throw them in the bin. Or, we could go green! We shove all these shredded bits into a bucket of water (like papier-mache, only less sticky), then put this soggy mess into a "brick-maker", which is basically a compactor. After a few squeezes of the machine it spits out this odd looking brick that is useless for building ... but great for fires!! They are slow burning, give off loads of heat, and what better way to ensure your personal documents are securely disposed of than by burning them?!! The best thing about our fire bricks is that they recycle waste paper, are environmentally friendly, and totally free - to a charity like Scouts that's got to be a winner!

Scouting makes life an adventure again!

Join us!

We now also have an Explorer Unit attached to the Wateringbury Group. This is for young people aged 14 to 18yrs, and is an invaluable opportunity for young people in these potentially difficult adolescent years to meet socially and enjoy adventurous activities with their peers in a safe environment. So if you're aged between 6 and 18 (girl or boy), and want to add more adventure to your life, then do come and join us. We are also always very glad to hear from "young at heart" folk over the age of 18yrs who are willing to give a little of their time and skills to help our young people achieve their dreams. Contact: Joanna 01622 814980 A

SEPTEMBER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The planning committee would appreciate the opinions of parishioners in relation to planning applications prior to its meeting to help formulate the response to T & M. Please send comments to the Parish Clerk Redhill Cottage, Redhill or e-mail wateringburypc@hotmail.co.uk. Alternatively come along to the planning subcommittee meeting which is held directly after the monthly parish council meeting in the village hall on the first Tuesday of each month..

Allotments – The council agreed to terminate the tenancy agreement on one of the allotments. The condition of the allotment had been monitored over a period of almost 5 months and its condition fell below and required standard.

Financial matters - A new signatories' mandate was signed for the Natwest bank. Councillors agreed the renewal of the council's insurance policy with Zurich, and the renewal of a 1 year contract with EDF to cover the street lighting

Playing Fields - New rabbit-proof fencing was installed at the playing fields on the 8 August.

Proposed new Bridleway - For the safety of horses and riders Council discussed a request from a resident to upgrade the footpath that runs between The Brucks and Leney Road to a bridleway. Following discussion it was agreed the Council could not support this without the residents being consulted.

Speedwatch - Council was shown a letter from Jon Kirby District Chief Inspector of Police for Tonbridge & Malling in which Wateringbury's Speedwatch team was commended on their record of recording 2131 incidents of people speeding in excess of 37mph. As a result 215 letters had been sent by the police to registered keepers who have exceeded the limit twice or more in a 12 month period. Some fixed penalty notices were also issued. The Chairman congratulated the Speedwatch team, on behalf of the Council

This and that - The village hall was being re-painted inside. There was no crime report. A new salt bin had been placed at the entrance to Phoenix Drive.

Planning Committee - there were no outstanding planning applications.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Tuesday 4 October at 7.30pm** in the village hall meeting room. The planning committee will meet directly after the main meeting closes. Members of the public are welcome

THOUGHTS FROM THE VICARAGE

2 The Grange, East Malling ME19 6AH

e-mail jamesbrown.brown21@gmail.com - Benefice office ☎ 01732 843282

Our children's Harvest

He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. (Mark 10:14)

"We reap what we sow" may be a good start for our harvest thoughts this year. But I am keen for us to think about harvest this year by focussing more on humanity than the crops that we grow, important as that clearly is. The manner in which we invest in our children may be proving to be of greater importance than the methods of farming we adopt. According to a recent report by UNICEF, parents are plying their children with expensive toys, gadgets and designer clothes to compensate for the lack of time spent together. It found that British families often "co-exist" under the same roof rather than share time and space together, with the children hidden away in their "media bedsits" where they have their own TV, computers, games and phones. Interestingly, all children interviewed (in three different countries) stated they liked spending time with family and friends, taking part in creative activity or sport and being outdoors. Families from all backgrounds struggle to find time to spend with their children which they clearly wanted as part of their daily life.

I've just bumped in to a mother and sobbing child in the the street. The child was absolutely heartbroken and amongst the sobbing could be heard "I thought you didn't love me anymore, Mummy". It transpired that this was the first day that she had been left at school for the whole day and she became confused when Mummy didn't pick her up at lunchtime. We often forget that our children can be sensitive individuals with emotions and a spirituality that can equal us adults. They need our time, our love, our listening ears which cannot be found in a Nintendo Ds or a Wi.

John Ruskin famously said "There is no wealth but life". I'm sure he had children in mind when he wrote about how we ought to value life and it's many blessings. He had no idea what the future held for our gadget-driven children of today but he certainly got it right by recognising what they really do need, life in all its abundance! Those are the seeds we should be sowing. Perhaps there are greater benefits reaped by children from a good book, or a bracing walk or banter across the dinner table.

So let the children come this harvest, don't hinder them, for God wants them to know that they are a valued part of his Kingdom. It belongs to them!

God Bless – Rev Jim Brown

FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY CHURCH - HARVEST FAYRE

10 September 2011, Wateringbury Primary School

The Friends of Wateringbury Church would like to thank everyone who helped to make the Harvest Fayre such a success! More than 200 people attended, some coming as far afield as London and France. Together we raised over £1000 which will go towards the fund aimed at supporting the building and churchyard of St John the Baptist. In a time of computers and the digital age, the Friends Committee sought to produce a signature event that was aligned with the season, a time of celebration at the end of the harvest before the onset of winter. Community has been at the core of the Friends thinking, and this set the theme for the old-style country fayre with traditional stands and activities. The four hour event was compared by the Chairman in a bowler hat, while beer and Pimms - kindly donated by The North Pole Pub - was served by tenders in boaters and blazers accompanied by a Hog Roast, strawberries were also donated by Huge Lowe Farms (locally famous for production of Wimbledon strawberries).

The President, Chairman and Friends Committee would like to offer their sincere thanks to everyone, young and old, including our associated local businesses, and of course Wateringbury Church of England Primary School, for their continuing support and generosity. As a village, since April 2011 we have raised over £4000 to use for the church in support of our small charity aim. This is a phenomenal achievement in a time of financial constraint.

The Committee would be delighted to hear from anyone in the village who has any suggestion on how to improve this event should we decide to run it again in future years. Please contact our Secretary Frances English on 812471 or friends@fowc.org.uk with any comments you may have.
 FOWC Chairman - William English www.fowc.org.uk

PRAY FOR SCHOOLS is a nationwide initiative, encouraging Christians from all backgrounds and churches, to hold events that will increase prayer for schools in their area. Here in Wateringbury, we have a group that meets regularly to support Wateringbury School through prayer. This group is in its third year and is open to parents, carers, staff and those with an interest in the young people of our village. The next meetings are **19 October** and **23 November at 10am**, at Grace Cottage, 100 Bow Road, Wateringbury. A warm welcome awaits you along with a cup of tea and cake! For more information about the PRAY FOR SCHOOLS initiative have a look at the website, www.schoolsprayernetwork.org.uk.

Jenny Derry; 01622 815514 or jennyderry@googlemail.com

Becky Bowie; 01622 813396

BENEFICE CHURCH SERVICES

Visit our website for full details www.wateringburychurch.org.uk

Sunday 2 October 8am Holy Communion – Teston 10am Morning Praise – Wateringbury 9.45am Family Service – East Malling 9.45am Family Service - Teston	Sunday 9 October 8am Holy Communion – East Malling 10am Holy Communion - Wateringbury 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling 6.30pm Evening Prayer - Teston
Sunday 16 October 8am Holy Communion – Wateringbury 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling 10 am Harvest Family Service – Wateringbury 6.30pm Eucharist - Teston	Sunday 23 October 8am Holy Communion – East Malling 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling 11.15am Eucharist - Teston 10am Holy Communion – Wateringbury 6.30pm Evening Praise - Teston
Benefice Service - Sunday 30 October – 3pm in Teston Church – Confirmation Service with Bishop James of Rochester-	
Every Monday – 2-3pm – Scout & Guide HQ, Glebe Meadow – Toddler Praise	
Tuesdays (not 1 st in month) – 7.30pm in Wateringbury Church – Evening Service	
Every Thursday - 9am in East Malling Church – Holy Communion	

Harvest Celebrations – Change of Date now 10 am on 16 October

Please note the change of date to the third Sunday in October. Do come along to our Family Service and give thanks to God for the food we enjoy.

Quiet Hour Wednesdays 12 October and 9 November at 8pm – time for personal prayer and meditation - come and go as you please.

Benefice Services of Healing and Wholeness – 8pm . The next services will be **Tuesday 4 October** – a Taize service in Teston and **Tuesday 1 November** a Eucharist in Wateringbury.

Sundays Cool during the service on **9 October** children are invited to leave the church service and go to the vestry for stories, prayer time and crafts.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Holy Baptism

7 August` Niamh Claire Humphrey

21 August` Edward Craig Barber

Holy Matrimony

13 August Joanna Brewster and Alan Black

17 September Katie Susan Rackley and Peter Connop

**You Are Invited to a Harvest Coffee Morning
On Saturday 8 October from 10.30 -12.30
in Watringbury.Church
Cakes, Preserves, St John's Crafts,
Nearly New Books and Toys, Bric-a-Brac
Raffle, Refreshments
Everyone Welcome**

All proceeds in aid of the Farmers in South West Bangladesh who
in 2009 were hit by Cyclone Aila which caused huge tidal surges
covering the area in sea water and leaving salt everywhere. The farmers are now cultivating saline resistant seeds which adapt in this environment, enabling them to continue growing rice to support
themselves and their communities

For further information please contact 01622 813032

SHINING BRIGHT PARTY - 31 OCTOBER 31ST - 5-7PM

Come and join us in your brightest clothes at St John the Baptist Church, Watringbury and let your light shine in our

Watringbury's Got Talent Show

enjoy a Churchyard treasure hunt and more.

Food and refreshments will be provided.

This party will not be scary,
but will be hairy... come and find out why!

This party is for school aged children, 4-13 years.

If you would like to know more or would like a booking form
please contact Lisa Glasscote on 01622 812661
or collect a form from the Church.



**Christmas Craft Bazaar
on Saturday November 19th from 11 to 3
at Watringbury Church**

An eclectic mix of Crafts, Plants & Accessories Gifts for all ages.

A chance for you to spend your money on something totally unique for Christmas, along with Homemade Cakes,

Raffles, Tombola & Refreshments
Support your Local Craftspeople!
Entry Free - Father Christmas hopes to call in, as well