

## VILLAGE DIARY

### JULY

- 4 **School Summer Fete** - School - starting at 11.45am  
5 **Footpaths Group Walk** - meet Village Hall - 2.30pm  
7 **Parish Council Meeting** - Hall - 7.30pm followed by Planning Committee Meeting  
7 to 11 **Village Open Garden** - 11am to 4pm - tickets 01622 812471  
15 **Friends of Wateringbury Church AGM** - Church - 8pm

### AUGUST

- 2 **Footpaths Group Walk** - meet Mereworth School Lay-by - 2.30pm

### SEPTEMBER

- 1 **Parish Council Meeting** - Hall - 7.30pm followed by Planning Committee Meeting  
16 **Bob & Fern Ogle** – “Poetry of the Great War” History Society - Village Hall - 7.40pm

**FOWC invites you to spend time in the  
beautiful Italian garden of  
David and Yvonne Marks,**  
nestled in the heart of Wateringbury.  
The garden is open from  
**Tuesday 7 to Saturday 11 July  
from 11am - 4pm.**

Admission by ticket - £4.50 to include  
tea, coffee and cake.

Please contact Frances English for tickets:  
(01622) 812471 friends@fowc.org.uk.

**VILLAGE PEOPLE** *Please share your good news and tributes and let us have your copy by 17 August for our September issue. There is no charge.*

**Wedding Congratulations** to **Simon Cayzer and Fiona Hargreaves** who are tying the knot on Friday 10 July in Whittlebury Village nr Towcester.

**Thank you.** - **Diane Hayes** would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, gifts, visits and support during her prolonged stay in Pembury Hospital, having been admitted on 17 April 2015. Diane is making steady progress and hopes to be home soon. Special thanks to Janet, Kim, Edna and Linda. Alan Hayes, Teston.

**'Happy Retirement' and Many Thanks to Janet Coltham** who is 'retiring' from the Rostrum team after many years of faithful service helping to produce our magazine each month. Best wishes go to Janet and Alan (who also helped with magazine deliveries) as they prepare to make a down-sizing move from the village. We will miss you both. Thank you for all you have done for the village.

**Welcome Back to Trudy Bailey** who is rejoining the Rostum team which she first joined 21 years ago.

**Our black cat** was run over and killed on the A26 outside the plant nursery on 4 June 2015. We would like to send our thanks to the kind lady and others who stopped to help, and put our cat in a box with a blanket. It was really appreciated. We believe the lady is local and we would like to return the items. If you are the lady who helped out on that day, please get in touch with us Alex and Amalia Gasson, 07719 832774, 64 Old Road

**Missing puzzle piece.** If you bought a wooden counting puzzle at the fete from the WATCH stall you've discovered that the Number One picture is missing. Give us a call on 812507 and we can return it to you. Liz and Rod.

### **REDHILL FARM CASUAL & TEMPORARY WORK OPPORTUNITIES**

We are looking for help in the vineyard. It can be casual, flexible or full time and for anyone aged 17+. We are also partnering with Hadlow College to offer **paid apprenticeships in production horticulture** for 18-24 year olds. The work is quite active but rewarding - English bubbly is now beating the French Champagne and is a growing industry. if you interested email the@redhillestate.com or Tweet us @ME185LB.

If you are also interested in our little project follow us on twitter. Also we will have charity weekend tasks such as picking during October. If you are interested in these either to organise or volunteer please email the@redhillestate.com with the subject 'Charity'.

We've also been experimenting with our brewing, distilling and winemaking so regularly have a surplus of 'refreshments' for good causes and village events. If anyone local has a valid need, you know where we are!

Henry Boorman@me185lb 07917117928 hb@redhillestate.com

### **PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2013/14**

The past year has been pretty busy for the Council. On 2 June 2013 we had a very successful fete to celebrate the granting of Queen Elizabeth Fields Trust status for our playing fields. This took a great deal of organising and Susan Cockburn - our clerk - expended masses of time and effort on the arrangements along with Mike Witts and others. Our thanks go to those who donated raffle prizes and the volunteers who helped out on the day especially members of the Sports and Recreation Association and the Cricket Club. The Fields in Trust plaque was unveiled by the Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling.

Drayhorse Meadow consumed many hours of councillors' time; whenever we thought the site was ready to be leased some other problem would raise its head. Now Drayhorse has been leased for a three year period. With planning approval and fencing erected, the PC retained an area for car parking. This area needs to have matting laid which will be done when the council considers it can spare the funds. The lower half of this land has been planted with various trees to screen the view of the area from the other side of the river. We thank the Scouts for their help with the planting.

Much work has been undertaken by members of the Sports and Recreation Association in continuing to improve the fields for which we are very grateful. However, it would seem that some members of the community do not respect the 'keep clear' notices when work is in progress; also some dog owners do not respect the fact that children play in the area and fail to pick up any faeces. The council is prepared to take action on any reported incidents. In addition you will see that the fence has been renewed adjacent to the track and new fencing has been placed around the play equipment.

The new village stocks were jointly funded by the Watlington History Society and the Rostrum Village Amenities Fund. These were officially handed over to the Parish Council in September. The project has won the Thurnham Heritage Award and Ted Bates from the History Society and Cllr David Marks accepted the award at a presentation on 19 May.

Thanks must go to Charles Stroud and his team of volunteers for all their efforts expended carrying out Speedwatch duties in all weathers, and for attending transport meetings on behalf of the council.

Currently there are two vacancies on the Council. It would be greatly appreciated if more, perhaps younger, local residents took an interest in the running of our village. We need representatives for Tonbridge Road and Old Road as these areas are not currently represented. Please note that the council is independent and has no political ties.

Last, but not least, it should be noted that the council has managed to make a small reduction in this year's precept rate.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for all their support, along with thanks to our Borough and County Councillors and our KM reporter Christine Byron. Michael Cayzer. May 2015

## **FOOTPATHS GROUP**

Everyone welcome to enjoy our next walks - just turn up at the start

**5 July** - a local walk of approximately 4 miles passing Kings Hill golf course and Teston Road. Meet at the Village Hall at 2:30pm.

**2 August** the walk is from Mereworth School along the Swanton Valley and Mereworth Woods. Meet at Mereworth School lay-by at 2.30pm.

The June walk was a good one through Cattering and Flite Woods and returning via Old Road and the Millpond and ending by enjoying a few hours at the village fete. For further details contact 01622 812338. Kevin Reynolds

## **JUNE PARISH COUNCIL REPORT**

**Greensted Planning Application** The Chairman (who declared an interest) referred to the proposals put forward by Abbeyfield Kent (a not for profit organisation) for the redevelopment of Greensted. The proposal is to close the present care home, demolish the buildings and redevelop the site with a complex of 55 one and two bedroomed apartments. The extra care centre would cater for those aged over 55 who have housing and health needs. Invitations to residents to view the proposals at The Railway Tavern, Nettlestead were received late. A meeting had been arranged for Councillors to meet with the directors of Abbeyfield on Tuesday 9 June at 8 The Orpines. Members of the public expressed concerns over a number of issues including the size of the development, parking and the general effect on the village.

**Cemetery Car Park Hedge** Permission had been received to reduce the height of the hedge.

**Cllr Simon Jessel** agreed to submit regular reports in Rostrum magazine. Cllr Jessel also said he would ask Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council if they had any prior information regarding the redevelopment of Greensted.

**John Ibbs, Village Warden**, reported that things had been relatively quiet. He was happy for residents to call him to discuss village related problems; any he could not resolve he would pass on to the relevant authority.

**Site meetings** had been arranged for contractors to look at improving the track that leads down to the pavilion at the playing fields. and to create hard standing in the overflow car park at Drayhorse Meadow.

**Speedwatch** - during May the Speedwatch team had recorded 288 vehicles travelling over the speed limit in the village. 65 letters were sent out by police. Volunteers were still needed to keep the team running.

**The Annual Return** for 2014/15 was agreed by Council.

**Village Defibrillator** A request to site a defibrillator in the hall was discussed, It was felt that as the hall was not open to the public and therefore locked much of the time, and a key holder would need to be contacted it would not be suitable to site the equipment in the hall. A suggestion was made to site it in the reception of the Premier Inn.

**The Council's Next Meetings** will be at **7.30pm** in the village hall on **Tuesdays 7 July and 1 September**. Members of the public are welcome at the meetings.

**Gravesham Choral Society presents**

**Kodály: Missa Brevis and Elgar Anthems**

**St George's Church, Gravesend**

**Saturday 4 July at 7.30pm**

Tickets £12 (£5 fulltime students) Call 01474 812726 [www.graveshamcs.co.uk](http://www.graveshamcs.co.uk)

## VE CELEBRATIONS 70 YEARS AGO

World War II in Europe ended on 8 May 1945, after 6 long years. The war in the East ended on 14 August, when following the dropping of 2 nuclear bombs, Japan finally surrendered. To celebrate VE a grand village celebration was held. A report of the event appeared in the September 1945 issue of the Forerunner Youth Club Magazine.

"On Saturday 4th August, Wateringbury held its grand VE celebrations in the grounds of Wateringbury Place. The weather was rather showery but spirits were certainly not damped. The first event was a Fancy Dress Parade, and most children had managed to contrive praiseworthy fancy dresses in spite of war-time restrictions. The wearers of the best six costumes received prizes, and it must have been difficult to award them. After this children's sports were run in age groups, three winners in each race receiving money prizes. This filled up the afternoon until 4 o'clock when a very satisfying and scrumptious tea was provided in the large marquee. The ceremony over, everyone waited expectantly for the Rodeo. This took the form of a very accurate shooting display and trick riding. At times we held our breath in suspense as the cowboy thundered past, hanging upside down from his horse or lying parallel with it against its side.

"Before the Rodeo came the ceremony of unfurling the Union Jack which was hoisted inside the gate. The vicar gave a short talk and then, accompanied by the Brass Band, everyone sang the National Anthem while the flag was unfurled, with two Scouts standing as escorts.

"The last event was the crowning glory, for many children had never seen fireworks before and others had not seen them for so long that they had forgotten what they were like. By the time the first rocket was sent up it was quite dark, and so we really had a brilliant display. I thought at the time that I would rather see these rockets go up than hear another type come down. Many children were frightened by the loud bangs, and showers of falling stars. I confess that I had a shiver run up and down my spine, but I think I would rather put it down to excitement. By the time the firework display was finished it was very dark and real stars were twinkling overhead, so, tired but happy, we all went home."

*(Article taken from Lest We Forget - 5th edition)*

**Lest We Forget** - tells of village life in WW II and of village celebrations to mark the 50th and 60th Anniversaries of VE. The revised 5th edition is now on sale to mark the 70th anniversary of peace.

**Wateringbury in the 1950s** gives details of village life in the first decade of the Queen's reign.

Both are on sale at the Post Office and would make easy holiday reading (£5 each). All proceeds to church funds.

## HISTORY SOCIETY

Our July outing to 'Strawberry Hill' is now fully booked. We do not hold a meeting in August but on 16 September Bob Ogley is returning, accompanied by his wife Fern, to tell us about "Poetry of the Great War".

In May we held our annual Buffet and Wine evening in the village hall, where the committee had again prepared a luxurious spread for us, led very ably by Sandra Farrin, and our thanks go to Sandra and her 'helpers' for all their time and effort spent to ensure the evening went well. At very short notice Joanna Fyson came along to tell us about her 'Kilimanjaro Challenge'. Joanna told us about the highs and lows that occurred during her 'challenge', and the marvellous comradeship she experienced whilst attempting to reach the top of Kilimanjaro. During her trip to Africa, Joanna also went on Safari and stayed and helped at a 'Light in Africa Children's Home', where one of the items she purchased was a pair of flip-flops made from re-cycled car tyres, which are very comfortable to wear apparently.

In June the History Society had a stall at the village fete, which proved very successful in promoting the society and in the sale of our publications. We displayed local maps and pictures of Wateringbury, and also information about WWI casualties. Our thanks go to the members of our committee who worked hard to ensure that we had an enjoyable and profitable day, and we look forward to seeing again everyone who came to the stall and expressed a wish to join the society.

## **FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY SCHOOL**

As I write this, we are now halfway through June and are busily preparing for the **Summer Fayre on 4 July**. This will start at 11.45 with an opening ceremony and something special involving those leaving in year 6. We are currently looking for sponsorship of the fete, so if anyone would like to be involved with this then please let me know. Additionally if anyone would like a stall then please also advise. We will be looking for donations and volunteers nearer the time and will keep the website updated with the latest news which can be found at <http://www.fowps.org.uk/>

We held our 4th Golf Day on 12 June and not only was the weather kind to us but we raised the highest profit £1,810 ever seen for this event. A huge thank you to the organisers, Fraser Nicol and Andrew Riedl and to our sponsors and participants. The school disco was enjoyed by the children on the last day of term and raised the sum of £677. These events have helped us reach the target required to replace the IT equipment at the school. Thank you all for your continued support.

Craig Lighthouse FOWPS Chairman

### **EAST MALLING SINGERS**

**SUMMER CONCERT** A feast of glorious romantic and sacred music

**Saturday 11 July at 7.30pm at St James the Great, East Malling**

**TICKETS:** £12; £10 concessions; school children FREE Available from members of EMS or on the door (subject to availability)

To reserve tickets, phone 01622 750943

## **WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Ofsted's Chief Inspector, Sir Michael Wilshaw recently praised Wateringbury CE Primary School for its "ambition and strong leadership" alongside a "determined drive...to improve teaching and achievement". In a personal letter, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector also observed that the attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers is closing. Sir Michael noted the many extra-curricular opportunities afforded to the children, including the large number of lunchtime and after school clubs. Participation in our clubs has more than trebled over the last two years in a wide variety of sports, arts and musical clubs.

And on that note, we are proud to announce that our Rugby A team was crowned Kent Fair Play Champions at the Finals held at Aylesford Bulls RFC. Two teams from the school qualified for the Kent Fair Play Finals and both teams played high quality rugby. Wateringbury School has a long tradition of tag rugby. The club, which is available to children from year 1 upwards, has been running for many years now and membership boasts almost a quarter of the school. Over recent years, teams have regularly qualified for the Kent Schools Games finals. Head coach Mark Cornford commented, "Rugby is a game for all shapes and sizes; there is always a place on the field for any player. Our club is built round the core rugby values of teamwork, respect, enjoyment, discipline and sportsmanship which support the school's ethos."

As our year draws to a close, we have important farewells. **Mr Jonathan Overell** has taught at Wateringbury for 28 years and is taking early retirement to pursue other interests in gardening, drama and music. Mr Overell's commitment to our school and its pupils over the years is extraordinary. He has inspired a generation of students with his love of literature and poetry. His exacting standards in maths and science are highly regarded by students and teachers. He has never wavered from his determination to impart his wide-ranging knowledge to the young people in his classroom regardless of government or educational 'initiatives' and fads that can distract less experienced teachers from remaining true to their craft. Whilst we are sad to see Mr Overell

go - and will miss him hugely - we are delighted that he will be able to pursue his lifelong interests in the arts and outdoors. Many of our children will continue to work with him on the drama productions at St John's Church. I am sure all children, staff, governors and parents join me in wishing Mr Overell all the very best for the future.

Finally, farewell and good luck to all the Year 6s about to leave Wateringbury to begin a new adventure at secondary school. We wish you and your families well at this exciting time and hope you'll all pop back and see us occasionally.

Chasey Crawford Usher, Headteacher [www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk](http://www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk)

## **VILLAGE FETE**

A huge thank you to all who attended the 3rd Wateringbury Village Fete on Sunday 7 June. It was the most successful thus far, with visitor numbers greater than they have ever been. The sun shone down, the dogs wagged their tails, the kiddies had their Wacky Races, and the Village came together over delicious burgers, provided by the cricket club, refreshing beverages provided by the North Pole Pub and the Friends of Wateringbury Church; scored penalties to their hearts content and won coconuts at the shy like they were going out of fashion!

There was a great array of stalls, predominately representing clubs, associations and groups from the Village, interspersed with some genuinely brilliant stands, such as Gary the Clown and Owl about Art! It was lovely to see the Scouts & Guides demonstrating their skills and budding young cricketers playing in the Kwik Cricket competition. Bad luck for poor DJ Les Blackburn who sadly lost his voice on the morning of the Fete, but massive thanks to him for supplying background music and his two pals who kept us all entertained!!!

I would like to thank all the Programme Sponsors, raffle prize donators, those on the organising committee for all the hard work they put in, I won't mention names, to save embarrassment, but you know who you are. Also thanks to volunteers and helpers who helped on the day, organising parking, running the dog show and kiddies races, even covering the tea and coffee stall, whilst my good lady wife was getting overrun!

On that note, WRSA will be organising next year's Fete but will be putting an appeal out in the Rostrum, later this year, asking for helpers and volunteers, so watch this space and don't be shy coming forward. It is hard work but great fun. Thank you for the kind comments on the day and meeting people around the Village since, it was definitely worth all the effort  
Regards John Ibbs Chairman - Sports & Recreation Association

## **NETTLESTEAD AND WATERINGBURY PRE-SCHOOL & CLUBS**

In the playroom our 'Fledglings' group is thriving, confidence is being built with a range of activities from dressing themselves to exploring the woods and bringing back "treasures". They are very excited about going to school and we have a local teacher coming in soon to meet a large group of them.

The children have recently planted some beans in a portable trough which are growing beyond expectation thanks to their attentive care. We are all off to the Hop Farm in a few weeks for our big end of year party and then we have Sport's Day the week after. Thanks for all of the Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers; we'll have some lovely new equipment for the events. Looking forward to seeing how many parents are up to the challenge of taking part in a race themselves!

If you wish to come along and join our fun then please Ring: 01622 813120 email: [nettlesteadandwateringbury@yahoo.com](mailto:nettlesteadandwateringbury@yahoo.com)

## **TESTON & WATERINGBURY GROUP**

We had a surprise visitor on Friday 5 June when Sarah our local Ofsted inspector paid us a visit. We are very pleased to say that in the three areas we were awarded Outstanding in 'Meeting the needs of all children' a strong good in the 'Children's involvement' and a strong Good in Leadership and Management. You may or may not be aware that the Nursery will be 50 years old next year, and although a small setting we have always had positive results and feedback from Ofsted. Our latest result continues this trend and with this in mind I would like to offer my thanks to all the staff and parents for their continued support in helping us to achieve this.

We are continuing with our 'sports' theme this term talking to the children about the different types of sports they enjoy, and how to keep fit. In our craft activities we are making bread shaped balls, sports medals and clappers for our sports day. This will be held on the Teston Village Green on Friday 17 July. All parents/carers and families are welcome but beware there is always a mums' race followed by a dads' race, which seems to get more competitive each year! After the races there will be a picnic, raffle and of course our popular ice cream man will be paying us a visit.

We would like to thank Teston Farm shop for their continued support in supplying all our fresh fruit for our children's cafe every day free of charge. Their continued support is very much appreciated. And finally we would like to say a big farewell to all of our children and families moving on to big school. We will miss you and wish you all the best of luck in your new schools. Have a lovely summer break. If you are interested in joining our preschool please contact Tina Driver on 07805 796353 and come along for a taster session.

### **WATERINGBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE THE WI - INSPIRING WOMEN**

It's been a busy few weeks for the WI as we celebrate our Centenary. You may have seen the Queen attending our Annual Meeting at the Royal Albert Hall, along with Princess Anne, The Princess Royal and Sophie, Countess of Wessex. Most press coverage seemed to focus on Her Majesty's cutting of the cake but she also gave a speech, presented awards and showed great interest in the celebrations which were 'streamed' from clubs, hotels, pubs etc across the country. A Buckingham Palace Garden Party with the Duchess of Cornwall added to the excitement. Tickets were balloted, and our lucky member Janet Chittenden enjoyed a memorable day along with 8,000 other WI representatives. Imagine all those hats!

More locally, at our Club meeting Bob Ede, Wateringbury-based Community First Responder with Kent Ambulance Service gave an informative and reassuring talk on his work. First Responders work to keep people alive until paramedic crews arrive and can start treatment. Bob demonstrated the equipment in his backpack and also a defibrillator. We were relieved to learn that he travels up to 5 miles, so Teston is also one of the villages he covers.

If you would like to come along as a guest you will be very welcome. For enquiries please call Elizabeth on 01622 812018 or email [elizabetha@aol.com](mailto:elizabetha@aol.com).

### **WAR NEWS, JUNE 1915**

June	4: on Gallipoli, third battle of Krithia sees Allies again fail to advance.
	12: on Eastern Front, Austrian and German forces break through Russian lines.
	18: on Western front, Second Battle of Artois peters out; Vimy Ridge captured and lost again.
	23: on Italian front, Italians fail to break through Austrian lines at First Battle of Isonzo.

The June 1915 parish magazine lists the five Wateringbury men killed to date in the war and those 126 (10% of the population at the 1911 census) serving in the armed forces. With 28 men in the navy and 98 men in the army the June 1915 list is considerably longer than the list published in October 1914, which showed 24 in the navy and 58 in the army. It gets longer later in the war after the introduction of conscription. It includes not only Wateringbury parishioners but also the sons and sons-in-law of parishioners.



So far, Wateringbury's five war fatalities had been of professional military men who had enlisted before 1914. Their average age was 32 years and three of them were married. All were "other ranks", the term used for those who were not officers. Two died at Gallipoli, one on the Western Front and two at sea. Three had attended Wateringbury School.

The navy contingent of 28 (one officer, 27 other ranks) included many, like Henry Hook, in the Grand Fleet at Scapa Flow "waiting patiently for the German High Sea fleet to come out of their shell". Five were on ships then supporting the Gallipoli operations. Two men were in the Royal Navy Air Service. They were also mainly men who had joined up before the war. The ships they were serving on in June 1915 are shown against their name in the magazine and vary from HMS Iron Duke, a 25,000 tonne modern battleship, the flagship of Admiral Jellicoe, Commander in Chief of the Grand Fleet, down to small torpedo boats.

The army contingent of 98 (seven officers, 91 other ranks) included 24 in various battalions of the Royal West Kent regiment, but as battalions operated separately there was no concentration in any Wateringbury "Pals battalion". Another 24 were in the Army Service Corps, not a well-known or glamorous part of the army, but which performed the essential logistical tasks on which an army depends. There were 13 in various prestigious guards and cavalry regiments (Hussars, Coldstream, Grenadiers, Dragoons and Lancers). There were 12 in various artillery regiments (Royal Field, Royal Horse and Royal Garrison Artillery); seven in the Royal Army Medical Corps; three in the Royal Engineers; and five in a variety of other regiments.

Some families had multiple members serving: Pellatt, Waghorn, Mace, Latter, King and Hook had four or five members serving; 24 families had two or three.

Terry Bird

For more details see <https://www.sites.google.com/site/wateringburylocalhistory/> (or google *Wateringbury Local History Society*) and enter *updated army and navy list* in the search box at the top right of any page.

### **This Summer, come and sail the seas at the 'Adventure Cruise' Holiday Club**

**(and its FREE)**

**On Tuesday 18, Wednesday 19 and Thursday**

**20 August. 10am-12pm at Wateringbury Primary School.**

We will be playing lots of outdoor games and sports, making many different crafts each day, having singing , dancing , face painting, refreshments and more...

The Holiday Club is open to all primary school aged children. Pre-school children are most welcome if a parent or carer stays and joins in the fun too. These days will be led by experienced 'children and youth workers' from different local Churches. Last year we had a number of secondary school children who made the most fantastic Young Leaders, we would love that help again if any young person is interested.

### **WEATHER VANE REINSTATED**

Next time you are passing the church do look up and admire the weather vane on top of the church spire. It was damaged in a storm in October 2013 and after negotiations with insurers and repairers has finally been repaired and re-gilded. It was re-installed by steeplejacks on 8 May 2015 who also took the opportunity to replace a few of the wooden shingles which had succumbed to the passage of time and the attention of woodpeckers.

## **VILLAGE FETE THANK YOUS**

Wow what a great village summer fete. Sincere thanks to everybody who supported the church stalls, it was great to meet so many people. The Friends of the Church Pimms Tent did a terrific trade and after expenses raised £520 which will be used for maintenance and improvement of the building. The book stall raised £52 which will go to help with day to day running costs; The Coffee Breakers knitted items raised £100 which will be donated to charity projects supported by the group; The WATCH Youth Club raised £113.28 from their toys and books and this will help with running cost. Sundays Cool raised £64 and Ros sold Fair Trade goods to the value of £89.

Special thanks to Mike Witts, John Ibbs and their team who worked hard behind the scenes to organise such a splendid community event and to the Parish Council for their sponsorship.

**PRIESTLY PONDERINGS** [parishofficeemwt@gmail.com](mailto:parishofficeemwt@gmail.com)

## **THANK GOODNESS FOR THE MAGNA CARTA**

The Magna Carta went on to change the world, as we were reminded recently at the ceremony in Surrey marking the 800th anniversary of the document that heralded modern democracy. The commemorative event at Runnymede, where King John sealed the original accord in 1215, was attended by the Queen and other royals plus Government and Church leaders. The charter first protected the rights and freedoms of society and established that the king was subject to the law. Today the focus is more on the past, celebrating Magna Carta, which is revered and has had influence in America and at the United Nations and which is considered by many to represent the foundation of democracy.

At its heart is the idea that the law is not simply the whim of the king, or the government. It reminds us that we are all equal under the law, and all can be held to account. In those parts of the world where power is exercised without the rule of law this can lead to human suffering of terrible proportions. Nothing can illustrate this more so than the radicalisation of some members of the Muslim Community. This is at a time when families have moved in to war-torn countries and young boys, from towns such as High Wycombe and Dewsbury, have been recruited by various groups of fighting Muslims, ISIS and Al-Shabaab for example.

So often the young people who succumb to radicalisation are described as victims but we should not forget the true victims, the many thousands who are often killed by their bombing activities. It is for this reason that we need to make more effort to prevent this activity. Some commentators will blame the more moderate Muslim Leadership's failure to address the problem and for allowing anything from 500-1,000 British born Muslims to enter Syria and fight for IS.

Where is God in all of this? Why doesn't God intervene and prevent such evil? It is my view that God is in all of us and, therefore, it is for us to re-examine the theology which leads to conflict in the first instance. All areas of our society need to work towards the elimination of such radicalisation, the police, social services, schools, church and religious groups and, most importantly, the security services of the government.

I do not know the answer but I am so grateful for the Magna Carta!

Revd Jim Brown

**THE FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY CHURCH**

(Registered Charity No 1151983)

**Annual General Meeting**

**Wednesday 15 July 2015 at 8pm**

The Friends of Wateringbury Church's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Wednesday 15 July 2015 at St John the Baptist Church, Wateringbury at 8pm. Members and public are all welcome.

The AGM will review the Financial Statements for the period to 31 March 2015 and, if considered fit, approve and elect/re-elect trustees to the Board. If you are interested in becoming a trustee, please submit your name to the Secretary with a proposer and seconder by midnight on Wednesday 08 July 2015. At the AGM, only members of FOWC will be eligible to vote, so please bring along your membership card/identification. As the AGM is the FOWC's formal annual public meeting, members are encouraged to submit written questions in advance by midnight on Wednesday 08 July. However, questions will be taken on the night. Frances English – Secretary - 01622 812471  
friends@fowc.org.uk www.friends@fowc.org.uk

**SUNDAYS COOL**

Sunday school continues throughout the summer, including the summer holidays (**26 July, 9 and 23 August**). There will be no scheduled Sunday school on 12 July, as we will be away on our annual summer day out.

Several families from Wateringbury plan to attend the Diocesan Big Day Out at Leybourne Castle on 19 July (1-7pm; only £1 entrance) which promises to be a fun afternoon out with many children's activities. Anyone is welcome to join us, please contact Becky Bowie on 01622 813396 for details.

Sunday School ran a fun stall of children's pocket money games at the Village Fete which proved very popular and raised £64.

**PLANT SALE THANKS**

The annual plant sale in May raised £950 for Church Funds. Organisers Jan and Mike Pursey thank all who donated plants especially the Skinner family from Bijou Nursery and Martin and Debbie Cronk from Cromar Nursery for their generous donations of quality plants and, of course, to all helpers and customers.

## BENEFICE SERVICES FOR JULY AND AUGUST

Visit our website [www.wateringburychurch.org.uk](http://www.wateringburychurch.org.uk)

<b>First Sunday in month</b> 8am Communion - East Malling 9.45am Family Service – East Malling 9.45am Family Service – Teston <b>10am Wateringbury</b> July - Morning Praise August - Matins	<b>Second Sunday in month</b> 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling <b>10am Holy Communion Wateringbury</b> 6.30pm Evensong - Teston
<b>Third Sunday in month</b> <b>8am Communion – Wateringbury</b> 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling <b>10 am Family Service Wateringbury</b> 6.30pm Eucharist - Teston	<b>Fourth Sunday in month</b> 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling <b>10am Holy Communion Wateringbury</b> 6.30pm Eucharist - Teston
Mondays – 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 Pam Rink 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 and other arrangements with the vicar please attend the Parish Office at the Vicarage on Wednesdays 6.30-7.15pm	

## SPECIAL SERVICES

**Evensong with the choir** - Wateringbury Church at 7.30pm on Tuesday **28 July**  
**Benefice Service for Healing and Wholeness** at 8pm in Wateringbury on **Tuesday 4 August**.

## IN OUR JOYS - FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

**Baptism** - We welcomed into the family of the Church on 24 May  
Noah Arthur Westgate

**Marriage** - We wish joy and happiness to Nicholas Moor and Natalie Price (20 June)

**DIOCESAN BIG DAY OUT SUNDAY 19 JULY**  
**1-7 PM AT LEYBOURNE CASTLE Entrance £1**  
BBQ, picnic and worship for all

There will be a wide range of children's activities including rock traversing, BMX, survival skills, inflatable fun, circus skills workshop and much more