

March 2014 web format

MARCH 2014

VILLAGE DIARY

MARCH

- 1** East Peckham Silver Band Concert – Church – 7.30pm
 - 1** N'stead & W'bury Pre School Jumble Sale - N'stead Hall – 10-1pm
 - 2** Footpaths Group Walk – Village Hall - 2.30pm sharp
 - 4** Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall – 7.30pm. Followed by Planning
 - 13** WI Social Afternoon – Village Hall – 2.30pm
 - 15** Village Hall Quiz Night - Village Hall - 7 for 7.30pm
 - 19** Young Dickens –History Society talk by Ian Porter – Hall – 7.40pm
 - 20** Flower Club Demonstration – N'stead Hall – 7.30pm
 - 29** Friends of Wateringbury Church Coffees – Church – 10am
 - 30** Sports Relief Mile – Watch Club – Playing Fields – 4pm
- Watch Club Sports Relief Cafe – Village Hall – 4.30-5.30pm

APRIL

- 1** Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall – 7.30pm. Followed by Planning
- 6** Footpaths Group Walk – Village Hall - 2.30pm sharp
- 8** Nursery Group Easter Fun Day – Teston Hall - 10am-12.30pm
- 16** Ten Brave Men and True talk by Richard Snow – Village Hall - 7.40pm

LIGHT LUNCHEES FOR LENT AT YOUR VILLAGE CHURCH

WEDNESDAYS 12, 19, 26 MARCH 2, 9 APRIL 12.30 - 2PM

COPY FOR ROSTRUM

*We are always delighted to receive items of news, views and events which bring variety to our village magazine. We also try to give details of out of village events which readers may enjoy. **Our space is limited so please limit your copy to about 150 words, that is half an A5 page using Arial size 10 print.***

BOOKING SLOTS AVAILABLE AT THE VILLAGE HALL.

Unfortunately we have lost a couple of what have been regular day time bookings at the hall. This means that we have slots available in the two meeting rooms and the main hall. So please spread the message to any groups you are involved with who could be looking for a meetings or activity venue. Or perhaps you have been thinking about starting something yourself. To find out more contact Dennis Stones, email : dennisstones@hotmail.com, Tel 075 3532 0552. Mike Hoiles [Chairman]

VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL FUND RAISING QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 15 March 7 for 7.30pm start. Tables of 6-8 - £6 per person

As usual, a raffle...and prizes for the quiz winners.. Bring your own food and drinks. Tea and coffee will be available. To book (01622 814483

VILLAGE PEOPLE News and tributes please by 17 March for our April issue

PETER AMBROSE HEARNE

With the death on 24th January 2014 of long-term Wateringbury resident Peter Hearne, Britain has lost not only one of her most experience Aeronautical Engineers, but also a great character in the Industry. Interested in flying from his youth, Peter joined the Air Defence Cadet Corps (forerunner of the ATC) while at school. He spent many happy hours during the holidays at RAF Ulsworth, helping push Hurricanes around - including one memorable day. August 15th 1940, during the Battle of Britain.

Peter studied aeronautical engineering at Loughborough College, and learned to glide and then to fly while still a student. He gained his MSc at the College of Aeronautics, Cranfield, flying the College's test-bed Anson while researching for his thesis. In 1949 he joined the Development Unit at British Overseas Airways. While at BOAC he met his wife Georgina, and their honeymoon in 1952 was interrupted to watch the first commercial flight of the Comet, the world's first jet propelled airliner, with which both Peter and Georgina had been involved. In 1954 Peter was promoted to run

the British European Airways helicopter group where he was tasked to develop techniques for flying in cloud, fog, and at night.

In 1959 Peter joined Elliott Brothers at Borehamwood which was hard at work on a new autopilot and navigation system for the next generation of aircraft.. He also helped to develop an on-board digital computer. In 1964 Elliotts concentrated their aeronautical work at Rochester, and Peter moved there with the development team, which became part of the GEC Marconi Group. The team achieved many world success with the autopilot for Concorde, as well as for Harriers, Tornados , Typhoons as well as for the new fly-by-wire Boeing 777. Peter was involved in Head-up displays which project instrument readings and other critical information on the windscreen in front of the pilot. A colleague from this time recently said of Peter, "He was not always the easiest of people to work with, though the work was always challenging and great fun".

In 1986 Peter was appointed Assistant Managing Director of GEC Marconi, to oversee all of the aviation operations of the company, including the Rochester factory, which by now with over 6000 employees was the largest industrial employer in Kent. Peter's penultimate appointment was in the USA, and Peter and Georgina moved to Washington DC. Peter proved to be adept in obtaining business from America to keep the Rochester factory in production. GEC became the largest single group within BAE Systems, so that when Peter retired in 1994 as Chairman of GEC Avionics he could look back on a lifetime of involvement with aviation in the company of a highly creative team.

Peter served as President of the Royal Aeronautical Society, and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering. Throughout his career, Peter managed to maintain his flying skills, and he particularly enjoyed flying his glider in the French Alps. He found himself a Vice President of the British Gliding Association, continuing his fight against over-regulation by the nanny-state', writing a number of letters to The Times with his trenchant views. He died not inappropriately, at the Lasham Gliding Club at Basingstoke, from where he had flown over very many years. Peter's Memorial Service at the Church of St. John the Baptist on 20th February was taken by Reverend David Commander, a fellow graduate of Cranfield University and a former Wateringbury resident, who had been involved with Peter and other local residents in saving the Pear Orchard from development. Peter leaves behind his widow Georgina, and three sons Patrick, Mark and Charles, to whom the whole village of Wateringbury extends its condolences EFB

MAIREAD ATKINS 1944 – 2014

Mention Maireads's name in passing and I bet you'll meet with the reply, "Not Mairead Atkins? I know Mairead." It would seem everyone knew Mairead. Everyone loved Mairead. She was one of life's doers. Always busy, always willing to help, always prepared to get stuck in. I have wielded paint brushes and pickaxes with her, buttered a thousand slices of bread, washed as many plates, been both her patient and her nurse, as indeed has half this village. Mairead never drank (apart from tea or flat lemonade), she never smoked (unless Graham lit the barbecue), she never swore and she never blasphemed. Yet in spite of that we became and remained close friends – family – for almost 40 years. Mairead shared everything: her family, her home, her love and her life with her natural, unsurpassed, Irish generosity.

Mairead died on Sunday 2 February, at peace and surrounded by those she loved most. This village, this world, will miss her. So, I am writing this on behalf of her many friends, to thank her for touching and enriching our lives. Until we meet again, let's raise a glass to Mairead and say, "Slàinte." Jenny Button

ROSTRUM DELIVERY THANKS Frank and Rita Brooks of Red Hill have volunteered to deliver Rostrums to the lower part of Red Hill and Pelican Farm to enable Syd Thompsett to take 'early retirement' . Our thanks to all three.

HISTORY SOCIETY

Our speaker on 19 March is Ian Porter who will be telling us about 'Young Dickens', which covers his life before he became famous and about London as it was when Charles Dickens first arrived there as a boy in the early 19th century. Ian will also be telling us about places still in London today used by Dickens when setting scenes in his novels.

In January our speaker was Tim Tawney, whose talk was entitled 'The War Underground'. Tim explained that during the First World War the military of both sides employed large numbers of specialist miners to dig tunnels, mainly under the ground that separated the two opposing armies on the Western Front, known as 'No Man's Land', in order to place and detonate mines under the enemy's trenches. As stealth was essential the tunnels had to be dug by hand; the miners laid on their backs on a shaped wooden board and used a special spade they could push with their feet. Occasionally miners accidentally dug into the side of an enemy's tunnel, and often hand to hand fighting took place using knives and bayonets. Tim told us of many instances where mines had been used, but finished by telling us that the British had successfully laid 20 mines under the German lines at Messines, using a total of 600 tons of explosives, after digging for almost a year. On the 7 June 1917 at 03.10 hours simultaneous explosions killed an estimated 10,000 enemy soldiers and the blast was heard as far away as London. Tim's talk gave us a real insight into the war fought underground.

POOEY BUSINESS

I have been a resident of Wateringbury for 9 years. I am proud to live here and feel lucky to be part of a community that cares about its inhabitants and environment. Over the past month along a certain stretch of road there has been an increasing problem with dogs fouling the pavement. The 'business' has lined the pavements both sides of the zebra crossing that children use to get to school. Today there was so much of it we had to tiptoe down the road on the school run, and it was not tulips we were trying to avoid! Apart from it being the law that the owner or person in charge of the dog picks up the mess and places it in a public bin; when left it is a public health risk. Pooches' poo can contain a whole raft of viruses, bacteria and bugs. Children are most at risk of becoming ill and the most severe cases of infection by toxocara worm (toxocariasis) can lead to eye damage or blindness. The sooner faeces are removed the less of a risk they become as the eggs of this nasty

worm take time to develop. Training dogs to poo in copses and overgrown areas in playing fields (or disposing of poo there!) is not good enough. Children should be encouraged to explore and explore they will. Symptoms of being exposed to the bacteria, viruses or other nasties can include vomiting, diarrhoea and dizziness, it can also induce asthma attacks and fits in those most vulnerable.

Whilst I know that there are many responsible and informed dog owners out there the problem is growing. So this is a plea to those of you who have that little devil sitting on your shoulder saying 'no-one saw, it'll be fine to leave it', or 'chuck it in the bushes no-one goes there'. We are all so very lucky to live here but it will only stay a lovely place to live if we all care about it and look after it. Right now I am off with my bucket of hot water and broom to clear the latest squadron of poo from the pavement. Corinne Mulcahy, Old Hoy Cottages

WATERINGBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE The WI - Inspiring Women

This month we welcomed two visitors from Kings Hill and heard about "The Dark Side" of the history of the City of London from our speaker, Stuart Robinson. At times it was indeed very dark but fascinating nevertheless. Most membership fees have now been collected, a gentle reminder to anyone wishing to renew for another year. If you're thinking about joining us for the first time now would be an excellent month to take full advantage of membership. We're currently signing up for two events which are free to members, including a talk by a forensic scientist, and also for other opportunities made available through our district.

At our next meeting on 13 March we will have our annual competitions in place of a speaker, as well as a chat over tea and cakes. We're looking forward to admiring entries for the mini Huxley Cup, which will be a bride's bouquet. This can be any size and in any medium and doesn't have to include fresh flowers. The Hickman Cup will be awarded to the most popular decorated empty ring pull can. Our own Club's choir, social and scrabble afternoon and lunch meetings will take place as usual. We have postponed our gentle walks until hopefully the weather improves. We're known as a friendly group who meet in Wateringbury Village Hall at 2.30pm on the second Thursday of each month. Visitors are very welcome.

For enquiries please call 01622 812018 or 07977125000. elizabethastrid@aol.com

FOOTPATHS GROUP

Our next walk will be on **Sunday 2 March** walkers should meet at the Village Hall car park to leave sharp at 2.30pm. We will attempt the Livesey Street -Teston Walk, but if still unfit an alternative will be found. New walkers always welcome. More information from 01622 812338.

Our February walk was changed owing to some impassable footpaths, so an alternative walk was taken. Nineteen villagers met on a rare day of sunshine, and with no rain forecast, we set out along the path to the Mill Pond, on to Old Road then, taking the rarely use path near Manor Farm, crossed to the cemetery, a little road walking now to Wisteria Cottage. We next headed to the Kings Hill Golf

course through Hermitage Farm on a permissive path skirting the boundary of the golf course to the top of Canon Lane. A walk that many said they have not walked before, although it was very muddy in places, was enjoyed by all. It will be done again when better under foot. KFR

FOWPS SPRINGS INTO ACTION

Spring promises to be another busy period for the Friends of Wateringbury Primary School. Mum's the word in March when we open a special Mother's Day Gift Shop for the children during school time on 27 and 28 March. We are also cracking on with egg-citing plans for an Easter Egg Hunt on 4 April.

A big thank you to Kent County Council for helping to fund a new school sports kit. Councillor Matthew Balfour attended a special assembly to formally hand over the kit which will be worn with pride by our tag rugby, cross-country and football teams.

Our third annual Golf Day will tee off at Poulton Wood Golf Centre in Tonbridge during the afternoon of Friday 13 June. If you would like to take part please check out the details on our website at www.fowps.org.uk or email Gail Isted at chairman@fowps.org.uk. Places cost £40 per person which includes a bacon sandwich/coffee on arrival, 18 holes of golf, a one-course meal, prize-giving and competitions.

Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers: We are now collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers. If you have any spare vouchers please drop them into the school or to 25 Phoenix Drive, Wateringbury. Thank you. ..Gail Isted, FOWPS Chairman www.fowps.org.uk

DANDELION TIME QUIZ

Come and join us for our annual Quiz Night on **Friday 7 March at 7.30pm** at the Old School Hall, East Farleigh, for a great evening of entertainment, along with the wonderful Dandelion Time cuisine. To book a place (£12 a ticket or £90 for a table of 8, and includes dinner) please contact us on 01622 814001 or email the team fundraising@dandeliontime.org

100 YEARS AGO - WATERINGBURY IN MARCH 1914

From the pages of the parish magazine

"The Wateringbury Library is open at the Church Rooms every Monday from 4-5pm. Books may be had for a fortnight for 1d each. Thirty two books had been received from London for this quarter."

The books are listed and numbered 500 to 531 from which one can assume that this was the number of books available. *"Among the titles received were: Weighed and Wanting by Geo Macdonald, Under the Wolf's Fell by D Moore, Child of Storm by Rider Haggard, God and the King by Marjorie Bowen, 4 titles by Mrs Henry Wood, Her Mother's Darling by Mrs Riddell, The Third Man by Silas K Hocking and We and Our Neighbours by Mrs Beecher Stowe."*

Various Church Accounts for the year ended 31 December 1913 were published in this issue of the magazine. The Sick and Poor Fund shows the following payments: Provision Tickets £35.1s 6d, Money Gifts £6. 4s. Convalescent to Bexhill £5.5s. Many of the church collections were taken for specific purposes the largest being £8. 11s.3d for the Agricultural Benevolent Institution and £6. 1s. 5d. for the Senghenydd Colliery Disaster Fund. (*On the morning of 14 October 1913 an explosion ripped through the heart of the Welsh mine. 436 miners were killed in the blast. Of the 436 who died, only 72 bodies were recovered. On that day 205 women were made widows and 542 children were left fatherless. The pit closed in 1928*). The smallest donations of 10s (50p) each went to The Diocesan Board of Missions, The Diocesan Society for Befriending Women and Girls and the Diocesan Church Reading Union.

WATERINGBURY FLOWER CLUB

February meeting The AGM The club held its 44th AGM and after business was concluded and prizes awarded, members welcomed the club's new officers. Jean Schofield stepped down after her 3 year term as Chairman and handed over the reigns to Susan Gransden and wished her every success in her new role. The photography competition had a lot of entries, and as usual they were judged by the members for their favourite. Business over, the members enjoyed a social evening with cheese and wine.

The March meeting is an evening with Patricia Ellis, Area Demonstrator with her title I like it like that. The meeting is in Nettlestead Hall on **Thursday 20 March** at 7.30pm For more details on further meetings please see the website www.wateringburyflowerclub.co.uk Retiring chairman Jean Schofield

EAST FARLEIGH GARDENING CLUB - WINTER MEETING 2014

Thursday 6 March 7.45pm for 8pm In the Old School Hall

The Work of the Loose Valley Conservation Society

An illustrated talk by the Chairman of the Society, Bryn Cornwell

(The talk will be followed later in the year by a guided walk in the valley)

Tea and Cakes Raffle Question Time - Admission £1 members £3 non-members

TESTON & WATERINGBURY NURSERY GROUP

Following a wet and windy February, Term 4 goes "upbeat" with the children proving good "sports" and learning about Music & Movement. The children, as always, will be hands on making musical

instruments to take home, (sorry parents!), sports pictures and biscuits, as well as competing in a sponsored "jumpathon". The end of the month provides an opportunity for Mums to come in and celebrate "Mother's Day" with their children, with an afternoon dedicated to basket and flower arranging.

EASTER FUN DAY – Tuesday 8 April. 10am until 12.30pm at the Teston and Wateringbury Nursery. Activities to include an Easter Egg Hunt, Animal Petting, Name the Bunny, Biscuit Decoration, Easter Egg Tombola, cake and toy stalls, and refreshments. All are Welcome. If you would like to find out more about events or our Nursery Group please visit us at www.testonandwateringburynursery.co.uk

NETTLESTEAD AND WATERINGBURY PRE-SCHOOL & CLUBS (Charity No. 1144343)

Commiserations to all our families, friends and neighbours who have been affected by the incessant rain and strong winds, we are thinking of you all and hope the end is in sight. "Never mind the weather, never mind the rain now that we're together" ... let's go up the woods again! The catch phrase at the moment is "there is no such thing as bad weather, just the wrong gear" and how true that is. Undeterred we have been donning our salopettes, ski jackets, wellies, hats and gloves and have taken full advantage of the mud and puddles. The children have taken great pleasure in jumping in puddles, negotiating and balancing through slippery mud and transporting leaves and sticks backwards and forwards in their wheelbarrows. We are extremely lucky that we are able to offer free flow play from the playroom out into the field and back into the playroom again, not so sure the cleaner thinks so! This free flow has ensured our children can gather the necessary bits and pieces they need to use in the mud kitchen for their mixing, cooking and general enjoyment.

Finally, fundraising is in the air once again. Please come along to our Jumble Sale on 1 March, Easter Fun on 19 April, Adult Fashion Show 19 June and Dolly Parton tribute on Sat 20 September. For more details about any of the above, or if you wish to come along and join our fun then please Ring: 01622 813120 email: nettlesteadandwateringbury@yahoo.com or www.nettlesteadandwateringbury.co.uk

CAN YOU AFFORD NOT TO ... ?

Are you a new job seeker, or someone returning to work after a period of absence? Could you do with something eye-catching to put on your CV? Or are you looking for a new interest to fill a few hours a month? Would you perhaps like to give a little something back to your community? If the answer to any of those is 'Yes', then read on – perhaps we can help each other.

Do you enjoy, or have a talent for, summarising meetings? Being organised? Writing the odd letter? Socialising? We're looking for someone to help with the secretarial duties that any club or organisation has to deal with. You don't need to know anything about Scouting, or have a child in

Scouts; just plenty of enthusiasm, and a willingness to muck in and do what's required.

If you think you fit the bill, we'd be delighted to hear from you. We ***promise*** we won't ask you to do more than you're willing to do; we will tailor the role to fit your commitments – it could be as little as a couple of hours a month. Employers look very favourably on those who have volunteered with Scouting ... so can you afford not to? Give me a ring, or send me an email – go on, give it a chance! Join the Adventure! Scouting is for everyone.

Joanna, Wateringbury Group Scout Leader

Tel: 01622 814980

email: joanna@wateringbury-scouts.org.uk

KENWARD GARDEN AND CRAFT SHOP

At the Kenward Trust we have opened a new Garden Enterprise scheme which includes a Garden and Craft Shop. At the moment it is open Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm and will open on Saturdays from the beginning of May. We sell a beautiful range of woodcraft made on site by our Volunteers and Service Users and also potted bulbs for sale including Crocus, Anemones, Tulips, Hyacinths, Russian Snowdrops, Grape Hyacinths and Narcissi. Many types of birds and solitary bees start nesting now and also a variety of other insects need shelter so if you love your wildlife please visit us to see our new 'Woodcraft for Wildlife' range. We have a very popular range of bee and bird boxes and also other options such as hedgehog houses can be ordered too! The shop is based at the Kenward Trust. Kenward Road between Wateringbury and Yalding. Please see our website for further details at www.kenwardtrust.org.uk

RAIN FAILS TO DAMPEN SPIRITS AT WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

There has been lots happening at Wateringbury CE Primary School this term, not least the number of wet playtimes! However, the rain hasn't dampened the children's spirits and we feel very grateful that our school is dry and warm. A Year 3 child wrote this prayer for our morning worship: *Dear Lord, Please can you keep the animals safe and healthy during the floods. And make sure they stay warm and safe. Amen.* We will also remember in our prayers all the people who are struggling with some of the worst flooding conditions in decades.

Our library is in the hub of the school and it is used regularly by children, teachers and parents. However, the non-fiction books were showing signs of fatigue (some of them 20-30 years old and certainly not child-friendly in this day and age). Thanks to our Year 4/5 teacher Mrs Fraser, our parent librarian Mrs Webster, and a dedicated team of Year 6 librarians, the old books were winnowed out, leaving the shelves ready for new stock and the new national curriculum. But what to do with, literally, hundreds of old books? Wateringbury held its first-ever Book Grab! The books were laid out across tables and parents and children were invited to browse and take away any that appealed to them. Who would have thought, in this hi-tech age, that the excitement over old books would be so huge? Children left with armfuls of books that caught their imaginations; parents picked up old thesauruses and dictionaries. Not a single book was left and everyone left with huge smiles on their faces. Future plans include monthly book swaps for pupils and parents alike.

Wateringbury shone at the recent UKMT Primary Mathematics Challenge held at Invicta Grammar School for Girls. We entered a team of four pupils in Year 6 and they swept to first place in the heat, well ahead of the other seven schools represented. The girls will go on to represent the school at the final in June. We wish them every success and our warmest congratulations to Millie, Freya, Poppy and Rachel!

Finally, I was formally appointed headteacher of Wateringbury at the end of January. It was the commitment to our school from all members of our community that inspired me to want to be a permanent part of this special place. I would like to thank everyone for having the confidence in me to lead our school. It is a position of great privilege and I am fortunate to lead a team of teachers and staff who are wholly committed to the care, nurture and education of each and every child.

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

CRICKET CLUB NEWS

Nets began on Sunday 23 February and will last for 10 weeks at Larkfield Leisure Centre. between 6-7pm Cost £5 per adult. The centre charges £2 entrance for non-members. If you would like to come and you are not a member of the club or you are a colt then please contact the club captain, Steve, on 07775816418. It would be great to see you. If you would like to become part of the team then contact the captain, Steve. The fixture list will be out soon and you will find copies in the Village Hall and in Rostrum.

FEBRUARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

Allotments – All those on the waiting list have now been allocated a plot.

Crime Report – The chairman reported that the police had not recorded any crimes in the village in January.

Drayhorse Meadow - The lease for a term of 3 years on a full repairing and insuring basis was signed by the Chairman on behalf of the council. It was hoped that the exchange of leases would take place in the near future.

Flooding - The village hall chairman had received a phone call at midnight recently from the KCC Emergencies staff who urgently needed the hall so that 50 people from Little Venice in Yalding could be evacuated. This was the first time in the 7 years the hall had been open that it had been used for such a purpose. Nettlestead Village Hall had been used in December 2013 when evacuations had taken place. Many of those evacuated were found beds in Wateringbury's Premier Inn.

A letter had been received from our MP Sir John Stanley asking for the Parish Council's thoughts on flood prevention in the village. After discussion the council intend to respond that it supported all

efforts to eliminate flooding but that no steps to prevent flooding of towns should be taken to the detriment of our village and those in isolated properties.

January Speed Watch - The Speed Watch team were again active during January but due to bad weather and other factors some sessions were cancelled. During the month there were 109 observations of vehicles passing at speeds at or above 35mph and relevant information was passed to Kent Police. When added to the Police's County data base for Speed Watch it was identified that 26 of the vehicles had previously been observed speeding across the county of which 17 offended for a second time, 6 for a third time and 1 for a fourth time. Also, two vehicles were travelling at excessive speeds i.e. 45mph or above in a 30mph limit restriction. Appropriate warning letters were sent by the Police to the registered owners of the vehicles concerned. The warning letters are accompanied by Speed Awareness advice.. .

Kent Association of Local Councils – Councillor Chris Talbert reported on a meeting he had attended. Among the items discussed was the provision of a roundabout at the Wrotham Heath junction of Seven Mile Lane but space is limited. Borough Green Parish Council proposed that representatives of parish councils be granted a statutory right to speak to the Borough Council Planning Committee about planning applications of local interest. At present parish council reps can speak only at the discretion of the authorities.

Sports and Recreation Association – Nineteen organisations had registered an interest in having a stall at this year's Fields in Trust celebration fete proposed for Sunday 1 June. Further possibilities for fencing the play area are being investigated. The Council are considering putting up a private STOP sign for the exit from the fields on to Fields Lane.

Station Signal Box – Councillor David Marks reported on a meeting he had had with Network Rail's Project Manager. The options were: 1 to find a non contentious use because of the difficulty of access, 2 to relocate the signal box but this would require planning permission as the box is a listed building and the new owner would need to meet the costs of dismantling and rebuilding which would be quite considerable, 3 to secure the box and leave it in its present position. The council have formally registered an interest and Network Rail will let the council know of its plans by May 2014.

Street Lighting – KCC are arranging for the street lighting which it controls in the village to be turned off at midnight. After discussion councillors agreed that the lighting which it controls in the village will remain on all night.

Village Warden's Report - things were quiet at the Playing Fields. Due to waterlogged pitches very few football matches had been played since December. Many more dog walkers have been using the fields as the river bank footpaths were flooded. Dog owners were generally acting responsibly.

Borough Councillor **Simon Jessel** was at the meeting and updated the council on various local interest topics.

The next meeting of the Parish Council takes place on **Tuesday 4 March at 7.30pm** in the village hall,

local residents are welcome to attend.

W.O.W ! (WORSHIP OUR WAY) YOUTH SERVICE

On Shrove Tuesday, **4 March 6:03pm – 7:03pm** !!! (*yes that's the correct time*) at Teston Church. This will be a lively time of worship for school years 6 and above, with a live Youth Band and lots of Pancakes. Please come along and join in the fun.

For more information contact Lisa on 07950 852899.

WATCH CLUB YOUTH GROUP

We will be meeting in the Village hall on **Sunday 9 March** 5:30-7:30. This is open to school years 6 upwards. We play Badminton, Table Tennis, Pool, play games, have an arts and crafts table, eat Pizza and cake and learn more about our faith in Jesus.

On **Sunday 30 March WATCH CLUB ARE GALLOPING THE SPORT RELIEF MILE IN FANCY DRESS around Wateringbury Playing Fields from 4.pm**, so please come along and support us and donate to this worthy cause. At the same time we will also be holding a **cafe in the Village hall from 4.30-5.30pm** in aid of Sport Relief. So you could come and cheer us on and then go and warm up with a lovely cup of tea and homemade cakes.... or just go for the cake !!! but it would be great to see you. For more information please contact Lisa on 07950 852899.

FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY CHURCH (FOWC)

SATURDAY 29 MARCH

COFFEE AT ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, 1000 HOURS

Everyone is invited come and join us for coffee and refreshments at the Church to celebrate the beginning of the fourth year of the Friends of Wateringbury Church. So far, we have raised a magnificent £10K through individual donations, business donations and fundraising events. All monies go directly to the maintenance, improvement and preservation of the church and churchyard to promote public interest in the church, its history and its work. Please come and celebrate the beginning of a new membership year with us. **Everyone is welcome.**

Frances English – Secretary FOWC www.friends@fowc.org.uk

BENEFICE MOTHERS' UNION

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 6 March** at 1pm in Wateringbury Church when Rev Linda Shuker (BART Group) will give a talk entitled 'An alien in a foreign land'. All welcome.

PRIESTLY PONDERINGS

WATER! more **WATER!** and yet more **WATER!**

I am writing in the midst of the floods that we have been suffering more or less continuously since Christmas. By the time that you read this, I would like to think that the worse is over but I am not too confident about that. People that we know in our parishes have been flooded out and we especially hold them in our thoughts and prayers as well as the practical help given freely by families, neighbours and friends.

We know that there are local areas such as Yalding in which people have suffered more than us, as well in the wider country. Efforts continue tirelessly to save people, their homes, crops and animals by the emergency services, volunteers, the Army. It is often in these difficult situations that people reach out in unexpected ways to help, with food, with transport, with shelter, with care.

And yet in the midst of our concerns, worries and complaints that we are utterly fed up with non-stop water, we may well find ourselves complaining in non-stop sunshine when we come to July. If there is one thing that all human beings cannot do without it is water, we need it to live. We need water to drink, for food, to feed animals, to feed the crops, and the vines. We need to wash ourselves, our clothes, and for cleaning.

All too frequently we learn of appeals in parts of the world where there is no clean water, and where children have to carry buckets of water from wells miles from their village.

Throughout the bible, there are many hundreds of references to water. They begin in the second verse of the bible and occur in four verses from the end of the bible. Perhaps the most well-known is Noah and the Ark and it certainly feels that we need an Ark right now! We know about Jonah and the whale. In our churches we baptise, as Jesus himself was baptised; in his case in the River Jordan. Jesus walked on water, he changed water to wine. The apostles Simon, Andrew, James and John were all fishermen who left their families and followed Jesus. When Jesus was dying on the cross he cried out "I am thirsty".

We are a resilient people and despite the difficulty and distress created by nature at this time we trust and pray that all will be well.

There is no getting away from WATER, we simply would not exist without it.

Email - alanmansfieldsearle@gmail.com

AN EVENING WITH EAST PECKHAM SILVER BAND

At the Church on Saturday 1 March at 7.30pm. Toe tapping music for the entire family to enjoy.

Tickets: £10. Accompanied school children and students: £3 available on the door.

LUNCHES FOR LENT AT YOUR VILLAGE CHURCH

WEDNESDAYS 12, 19, 26 MARCH 2, 9 APRIL 12.30 - 2PM

Why not pop in for a chat over soup and bread, or cheese, tomato and bread? Sandwiches available for children and tea, coffee, squash and small cakes will also be on the menu. Everyone welcome. Transport available if needed locally. Voluntary donations invited for either:

J The Blood Runners (SERV), riders who give up their free time to transport emergency blood between hospitals. The charity is run entirely by volunteers who receive no compensation for their time or expenses and receives no Government funding.

J Community Responder Scheme. To equip trained volunteers with a defibrillator to give fast lifesaving treatment in advance of emergency ambulance arrival. Further Information: 01622 812032

FLOWER FESTIVAL AND PLANT SALE

'DREAMS OF CHELSEA'

At the Church Saturday 24 and Monday 26 May 10.30am – 5pm

Sunday 25 May 2pm – 5pm

Lunches, Homemade Cakes, Clotted Cream Teas

Entry: Free Further Information: 01622 813076

LENT COURSE

The Benefice Lent Course this year will be based on the York course called Build on the Rock, Faith, Doubt and Jesus. The first session considers faith and doubt and the other sessions look at Jesus, our teacher, Saviour, conqueror of death and finally Lord and brother. Each session is an individual unit so if you can't come to them all just come along when you can.

There will be 2 opportunities to consider the week's topic both held in Wateringbury Church.

Monday evenings (10, 17, 24, 31 March and 7 April) 7.30pm for coffee with the discussion from 8-9pm and on Wednesdays between 1.30-2.30pm so those who wish can enjoy a Lent Lunch then join the Lent Course session **(12, 19, 26 March, 2 and 9 April)**.

BENEFICE CHURCH SERVICES

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

Sunday 2 March

8am Holy Communion – Teston

9.45am Family Service – East Malling

9.45am Family Service – Teston

10am Matins – Wateringbury

Sunday 9 March First in Lent

8am Holy Communion – East Malling

9.45am Eucharist – East Malling

10am Holy Communion - Wateringbury

6.30pm Evening Prayer - Teston

Sunday 16 March

8am Holy Communion – Wateringbury

9.45am Eucharist – East Malling

10 am Family Service – Wateringbury

6.30pm Eucharist - Teston

Sunday 23 March

8am Holy Communion – East Malling

9.45am Eucharist – East Malling

10am Holy Communion – Wateringbury

6.30pm Holy Communion - Teston

Sunday 30 March – Mothering Sunday

8am Holy Communion – East Malling

9.45am Mothering Sunday Service – East Malling

10am Mothering Sunday Service – Wateringbury

3.30pm Mothering Sunday Service - Teston

Every Monday – 2-3pm – Scout & Guide HQ, Glebe Meadow – Toddler Praise

Tuesdays (not 1st in month) – 7.30pm Short Service in Wateringbury Church

Every Thursday - 9am in East Malling Church – Holy Communion

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 in March

Shrove Tuesday 4 March WOW Youth Service with live band followed by pancakes 6.03-7.03pm in Teston Church

Ash Wednesday 5 March – Service of Ashing – 8pm - Wateringbury

Service of Healing and Wholeness. Tuesday 4 March This month the service will be at **8pm in Wateringbury Church.**

Quiet Hour Wednesday 12 March 8-9pm The village church will be open for quiet personal prayer and reflection. Come and go as you please.

As is our custom at the service at 10am on **Mothering Sunday 30 March** the ladies in the congregation will be given flower posies. Thanks to Rosemary Skinner of Bijou Nursery who makes these for us.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms 16 February – Hollie Elizabeth Barber

Funerals 28 January – Avril Mitchell

18 February – Mairead Atkins

19 February – Peter Hearne