

ROSTRUM JUNE 2014

SUMMER ISSUE AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2014

Please note that our joint summer issue of Rostrum will cover the months of August and September. So news of events in either of these months needs to be with the editors by 17 July.

VILLAGE DIARY

JUNE

- 1 Village Fete – Playing Fields** - from 12.30
- 3 Parish Council Meeting** – Village Hall – 7.30pm followed immediately by the Planning Committee Meeting
- 8 Footpaths Walk** – meet Shipbourne Common – 2.30pm
- 18 History Society AGM then talk Jane Austen’s Kent Connections** - Clare Graham – Village Hall - 7.40pm
- 19 BINGO** – Wateringbury Working Men’s Club – 8.00 pm
- 19 LADIES FASHION SHOW** – Wateringbury School – 7.30 pm – Nettlestead&Wateringbury Pre school
- 21 A Loving Tribute and Teas** – Church – 2-5pm
- 21 Lee Highwood Band** – Wateringbury Working Mens’ Club

JULY

- 1 Parish Council Meeting** – Village Hall – 7.30pm followed immediately by the Planning Committee Meeting
- 5 School Fete** – School – 11.45 to 3pm
- 17 History Society Annual outing** to Rochester with guided tours around Restoration House and Rochester Cathedral

**A great village occasion, do go along and join the fun
VILLAGE FETE – SUNDAY 1 JUNE 2014 – 12.30-4.30**

26 stall/activities for our **'HAVE A FIELD DAY'**. Live music by **Les Blackburn, Cricket Club BBQ, Mark's Ices,**

**Alcoholic refreshment courtesy of the North Pole Pub,
Friends of Wateringbury Church Pimms Tent, Tea and Coffee,
a Raffle with great prizes, and much more.**

**KWIK CRICKET TOURNAMENT first games at 12.30.
RACES FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS.**

At 2.30pmEnter your dog in our **'NOT TOO SERIOUS DOG SHOW'**
Test your footballing skills in our **PENALTY SHOOT OUT.**

VILLAGE PEOPLE

Good Luck to Charles Mackenzie who, with a group of friends, is setting off on 15 June to **cycle from Lands End to John O’Groats**. Charles plans to cycle about 70 miles each day and should arrive at the world famous sign post at John O’Groats on 30 June.

Wedding Congratulations to Rev Pam and Dennis Rink on the marriage of their son **Matt to Mary Mellett**. The wedding will take place at The Quakers Meeting House, Bridport on 7 June.

TrudaBish who died on Good Friday was very proud of her Welsh heritage and of sharing her birthday (21 April 1926) with the Queen. She inherited the Welsh love of music, had a fine alto voice, and played the violin and organ. Shortly before, and after, her husband Donald was appointed Rector of Wateringbury, Teston and West Farleigh in 1979 Truda underwent surgery for two benign brain tumours. While the surgery was successful it left

her with some disability. Truda did not let this prevent her from supporting Donald in his parish work. She also used her musical talents to play the organ for services in Teston Church and her needlework skills to make items for the Benefice churches. On Donald's retirement they moved to Allington where they quickly became involved with life at St Nicholas Church.

Cheap **tutoring service for 11+** students! Just **£10 per hour!**

Tutoring in: **verbal reasoning** and **English**.

University student studying English, achieved 3 A*s at A-Level with **100%** in English A-Level.

Experience of both tutoring and working with children.

References on request. Contact Alice on 07891965452.

PLASTICS RECYCLING SERVICE

It's good news – from 1 May more of our plastics can be recycled. So we can take along to the T & M recycling points all types of **plastic bottles as well as yoghurt pots and margarine tubs – if the container has a number 1, 2, 4 or 5 it can now be recycled.** More information online at www.tmbc.gov.uk/waste.

MAY PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

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 susan_jc@btinternet.com 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..

Chairman At the start of the meeting Michael Cayzer was unanimously elected to continue as Chairman of the Council for the coming year.

Borough Councillor Simon Jessel reported that the flooding on the pavement and road opposite the Thatched House had now been resolved. He was aware of the problems experienced in Canon Lane recently in relation to activities prior to the construction of homes in the F1 area of Kings Hill and the concerns about the proposed buffer zone. He was carefully monitoring the situation.

Cemetery The fallen conifer tree had been dealt with but a large root remains.

Crime The chairman read out the April crime figures: a vehicle had driven away from the Shell garage without paying for the fuel; a house had been burgled during the day in Canon Lane; an outbuilding had been broken into and garden machinery stolen in Red Hill; criminal damage had taken place at Bow Bridge Marina and cannabis had been located in a vehicle parked in Red Hill and charges made.

KCC Councillor Mathew Balfour reported that KCC were continuing with the review of services with the aim of becoming a commissioning service in a bid to maintain services more efficiently. The planning issues with Maidstone Borough Council regarding the proposed housing developments in Hermitage Lane and other areas were ongoing.

Planning Councillor David Marks reported on a meeting he had attended with T & M planners about the development of the F1 area of Kings Hill. Two Canon Lane residents also attended the meeting and their concerns were the use of the Lane by traffic connected with the development of the land and the proposed buffer zone between the Kings Hill houses and Wateringbury parish. At the moment the plans show some of the houses will have little or no garden and will be built very close to the buffer zone boundary. The depth of the buffer zone or how it will be landscaped were not clear on the plans. Wateringbury Parish Council had written to the planners to formalise its concerns.

Speed Watch The speed watch team was again active during April making a total of 167 observations of vehicles passing through the village at or above 35 mph and the relevant information was passed to Kent Police. When added to the Kent Police's Speed Watch County database they identified that 29 vehicles had previously been observed speeding in various parts of the county of which 17 had offended for a second time and 1 for a third time. Also 11 vehicles were travelling at excessive speeds ie at 45 mph or above. Appropriate warning letters will have been sent to the registered owners of the vehicles concerned accompanied by Speed Awareness advice.

Sports and Recreation Association The fencing had been erected around the play equipment area. While generally satisfied with the work the council have concerns about compliance with the specifications agreed at a

site meeting and will contact the contractor to resolve these issues. It was agreed to order 2 waste bins and 3 No Dogs signs.

A detailed and lengthy discussion took place regarding the grass mowing at the fields. With immediate effect Councillors agreed to appoint another contractor to cut the two fields managed on its behalf by the Sports and Recreation Association.

Next Meeting The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Tuesday 3 June at 7.30pm in the village hall. Residents are welcome to attend the meeting and raise matters of local concern

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 5TH MAY 2014

2013/14 has been pretty busy for the council, On the 2nd June 2013 we had a very successful fete to celebrate the granting of the Queen Elizabeth Fields Trust for our playing fields. This took a lot of organising and Susan Cockburn - our clerk - spent a lot of time and effort on the arrangements along with help from Mike Witts and others. Also our thanks go to those who contributed raffle prizes and helping 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.

The Parish Council spent a lot of time with Drayhorse Meadow, 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 area has been planted with various trees to screen from the other side of the river and we thank the Scouts for their help in this matter.

Much work has been undertaken by members of the Sports & 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. Also 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, which have replaced the original that had been absent for a long time, were jointly funded by the Wateringbury History Society and the Rostrum Village Amenities Fund. These were officially handed over to the Parish Council in September last year. The project has won the Thurnham Heritage Award and there will be a presentation sometime in June or July.

Thanks must also go to Charles Stroud and his team of volunteers for all their efforts expended carrying out Speedwatch duties in all weathers, though receiving little help from our police; and for attending transport meetings on behalf of the council.

To close, I feel it would be greatly appreciated if more, perhaps younger local residents took an interest in the running of our village and join the currently depleted ranks of the council. We need representatives for Tonbridge Road & Old Road as these areas aren't currently represented. Currently two posts are vacant. It should be noted that the council is independent and has no political ties.

Members of Sports and Recreational Association are currently busy with arranging another Fete on 1st June and the council wishes them every success. We know the village residents gives this their full support. Last but not least, it should also 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.

WATERINGBURY WORKING MENS' CLUB

The Club held its A.G.M. in April, and the meeting was well attended. An enthusiastic committee has been elected, there is a feeling of optimism, and membership is increasing. New members are welcome, also past members who have drifted away.

We have a full programme of entertainment arranged:-

21st June – An evening of Music – Lee Highwood Band – 7.00 pm

12th July – Evening with Ron Ash, 7.00 pm.

19th June and 17th July Bingo evenings – commencing 8.00 pm

EAST FARLEIGH VILLAGE FETE will be held on Saturday 28th June from 2-5pm on the recreation ground. The Fete will have a strong musical theme this year with the Blues Brothers Little Brother returning after their success in 2012. There will also be traditional maypole dancing and a performance by the recently formed Old School Samba Band, which will get your toes tapping and hands clapping!!

As usual we will be offering both a W I Tea tent and a Beer/Pimms/soft drinks tent to cater for all ages and preferences. Delicious bacon rolls and tasty hot dogs from locally bred Gloucester Old Spot pigs will served by 'Spot On Produce' from Hunton. There will be a wide variety of other stalls and games, plus Pony rides organised by The Horseshoes Riding School. If you would like to book a stall for £15 please call Sue Morris on 01622 726164.

WATERINGBURY IN MAY 1944 Memories of D Day

To mark the 70th anniversary of D Day 6 June 1944 we reprint part of an article originally published in 2004

The invasion was launched from sea ports west of Poole in Dorset and so you might well ask what has this got to do with Wateringbury. Well the answer is quite a lot. I was 16 years old at the time and in the Army Cadet Force. The village was packed with troops and their transport from a succession of regiments: the Shropshire, Hampshire, 42 and 44 Signal Corps and finally the Canadians. The troops were billeted in neighbouring villages as well and beyond as far as Lenham towards the wartime restricted zones of Folkestone and Dover where you needed a special pass to get in.

The vehicles were kept openly on the streets and the troops spent their time preparing them for action: waxing all the electrical components and painting on the "circle and star" sign which would enable their recognition by allied aircraft. The succession of troops passing through was part of a complex deception exercise to make the Germans believe that the invasion of Europe would take place on the northern shores of France. Fake signals traffic was also set up in the Folkestone/Dover area to give the listening German military intelligence units the impression that the invading army was being assembled in this part of Kent. After D-Day itself, of course, they all disappeared.

What of its impact on the village? The former Blest Farm oast house by the Working Men's Club was the cook-house for the troops in the village and quite a few growing lads used to hang about its door in case there was any surplus sausage, egg and beans! When the Canadians were here the occasional tin of butter or cheese would find its way home; riches indeed for a family compared to the meagre ration book allowances. The oast house was also used for ENSA entertainment concerts for the troops and if you were careful you could creep in unnoticed.

The troops medical orderly, a Corporal named "Tiny" (needless to say he was 6 foot 9 inches tall), lived in The Red House where there was a clinic for the troops. I can recall my mother inviting him for tea one day and to impress us children he decided to fire (quite illegally) his rifle into the wall at the bottom of the garden. The neighbours weren't exactly pleased. The main medical centre was at Barming where the Medical Officer cured my mother's leg ulcer with Gentian Violet. Father (the village barber) had died in 1942 and mother gave up the large front bedroom to Officers and their wives to stay in before they were sent overseas. What they made of the "privy" down the garden I don't know.

The deception plan worked because key German military units were retained in the Pas de Calais in expectation of an invasion which was not to come at that point. These would otherwise have been used to devastating effect against the actual D-Day landings which took place on the Normandy beaches. Wateringbury played its part then in this master plan by hosting the troops and vehicles of these various regiments and corps. (*Geoff Turk whose father was the village barber who ran his business from the family home in 1 Vicarage Cottages, Tonbridge Road*)

FOOTPATHS WALK

Over 20 villagers including a couple of new faces, turned out for the Annual May Bluebell walk. Surprisingly many were still in full bloom after the start of a very early flowering this year, in some places four weeks early I'm told.

Just before entering Cattering Wood we were treated to the sight of a Buzzard soaring on the thermals above the newly planted apple orchard near Red hill farm.

Among the flora in the woods we found Wood Anemone, Dog Violet, Lesser Celandine, Yellow Pimpernel, Primrose and Early Purple Orchid all in flower, unusual to see all out together, nature is wonderful.

Our June walk is on the 8th June, the second Sunday of the month, a week later owing to the Wateringbury Fair on the 1st. Meet at 2:30 on Shipbourne Common Opposite "The Chaser" P H for a 3½ mile walk through the estates of Ightham Mote & Fairlawn.

Please note later start date.

CRICKET CLUB FIXTURES FOR JUNE

If you would like to join the club then please call Steve Smith on 01622 812309 or you can just come to Fields Lane and watch a match. We hope to see you soon.

Sat 7 June Town Malling 2.00pm

Sat 21 June Bredger 2.00pm

NETTLESTEAD AND WATERINGBURY PRE-SCHOOL & CLUBS

(Charity No. 1144343)

Thank you so much to everyone who came along and supported the Easter Fayre.hall. There were lots of lovely raffle prizes, gifts and cakes. Thank you to McColl's in Paddock Wood for their generous discount on the Easter Eggs for the Easter egg hunt, every single clue was found! Best time was 5 minutes.

We had a great time on the mobile library bus the children really enjoyed choosing their books We are going to have a library visit in Term 6 to continue the theme.

We have 15 children moving onto 'Big School 'in September and have had a great response from the 7 schools they will be attending. We have already been lucky enough to have visits from some of the reception class teachers. Afterschool Club have been making the most of the good weather with picnics in the park

During Term 6 we will be getting ready for Father's Day, and our end of Term sports day For further information :Ring: 01622 813120

HISTORY SOCIETY

In June, following the AGM, Clare Graham will be telling us about 'Jane Austen's Kent Connections'.

Our Annual Outing on Thursday 17thJuly, will be to Rochester where we will be having guided tours around Restoration House in the morning and the Cathedral in the afternoon. Tickets are £25, which cover the coach (with pick-ups at Barming, Teston and Wateringbury), refreshments on arrival at Restoration House and the guided tours.

VISITORS very welcome. For more information please call Terry on 01622 812566 or Janet on 01622 817833.

Our speaker in April was Richard Snow whose talk entitled "10 Brave Men and True" was about ten men, who had connections with Tunbridge Wells and who were holders of the Victoria Cross Medal. Richard told us about the extreme bravery and courage of these men, and about their life and families before and after they were awarded the VC. The design was chosen by Queen Victoria, and cost 6 shillings to cast, be-ribbon and engrave Each medal is numbered on the back and entered into a book to ensure no fakes are produced, Richard told us a medal sold recently for £100,000. During his reign Edward VII made it possible to win a VC posthumously.Rear Admiral Charles Davis Lucas, was the first to receive the medal. Charles Lucas and his family's history is well documented, including an article in a History Society Publication "About Wateringbury". When he died in 1914, aged 80 years, he was buried in Mereworth Churchyard where his grave can still be seen.Also commemorated locally in Paddock Wood, is Captain John Brunt who not only won his VC in 1944, whilst serving with The

Sherwood Foresters in Italy, also won other medals including an MC. In Paddock Wood there is a pub called the John Brunt VC.

WATERINGBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE - The WI - Inspiring Women

May is our Annual Meeting month and we welcomed Wendy Keast, WI Advisor. We discussed this year's resolution from the National Federation of Women's Institutes, which was **Increasing Organ Donation**

The WI notes that three people die every day whilst waiting for an organ transplant. We call on every member of the WI to make their wishes known in respect of organ donation, and to encourage their families and friends, and members of their local communities to do likewise'. The matter was discussed at length – Information can be obtained from NHS Choices. To register NHS Donor Line 0300123 23 23

A new Committee for our own WI was appointed and we thanked Diana Burbridge who stood down from the post of Secretary and also Margaret Andrew who has been our tea monitor for many years. Elizabeth Astridge was re-elected as President for a third year. Tea and cakes, a ballot for two bursaries for courses and a silent auction with time for fellowship ensured that the afternoon ended on a lighter note.

Next month's meeting is at 2.30 on Thursday 12th June in Wateringbury Village Hall when Barbara Stevens will be speaking on 'Extra Virgin Olive Oil'. For enquiries contact Elizabeth 01622 812028 or 07977125000 elizabethastrid@aol.com

Term 6 at **TESTON & WATERINGBURY NURSERY GROUP** is one of our busiest and best. The Term is packed full of activities and events for both the children and their parents and will centre on the theme of 'Transport'. The children will be designing and building various modes of transport from items they have brought in, including Papier-mâché hot air balloons, shoebox buses, trains, plastic bottle rockets, and boat sandwiches! There is also the opportunity this month for our Dad's to get involved at the nursery building kites with their little ones to celebrate Father's Day. If all that wasn't strenuous enough, June sees our annual pedal push event with the children taking to their bikes & scooters and learning all about road safety, and then towards the end of the term, one of the children's (and parents) favourites, the annual sports day. And finally, for all those budding Einstein's, Friday June 27th is our **QUIZ NIGHT**. This will be at Teston Village Hall from 7.30PM. Cost is £6 and includes cheese board/snacks. All are welcome. For further information on booking & Tickets contact Tina Driver on 07805 796353. www.testonandwateringburynursery.co.uk

FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL (FOWPS)

Registered charity 1038836

Our third annual **Charity Golf Day** takes place at Poulton Wood Golf Centre on Friday 13 June. We are expecting a record number of participants and would like to thank Wateringbury-based builder John Evans for his sponsorship of this popular fundraising event.

The children will be choosing surprises in our Father's Day Shop, which also takes place in school on 13 June. FOWPS has funded the purchase of two light boxes for art lessons and a new playhouse for our youngest children in Reception Class in the last month. Two school discos in May raised a record £900 towards priority projects.

COULD YOUR BUSINESS SPONSOR A STALL? We are looking for local businesses to sponsor our Coconut Shy, Tuck Shop and BBQ at our Summer Fete on 5 July. Sponsorship costs £50 - £100 and guarantees your business lots of positive publicity in return. Please email chairman@fowps.org.uk if your company can help us. Thank you. Gail Isted, FOWPS Chairman – www.fowps.org.uk

MAIDSTONE MENCAP

Grand Summer Fayre

Cobtree Hall, Mote Park, School Lane (off Willington St) ME15 8EB

Saturday 14 June

Opened by Mayor of Maidstone at 1.00pm

Arena Events, Side Shows, Real Ale Tent and BBQ, Children's Games, Mega Prize Raffles, Win a Morgan for a day!,

New for 2014: Try an Oset Electric Bike thanks to No Limits Trials Academy

Plus lots more fun of the Fayre for all the family!

Contact: Margaret Leeds 07903 196333

NEWS FROM WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

At this time in the school year our thoughts are firmly fixed on next year and what shape it will take. I am delighted to announce the appointment of a permanent Deputy Headteacher, Miss Claire Ward, an outstanding teacher who comes to us with a strong track record in school improvement. We are delighted to welcome her into our team.

Staff change in school is both exciting and poignant. My second announcement falls into the latter for us and the former for Miss Jupp. She will be leaving us in September 2014 to explore a new career path. After giving the best part of her 20s to the demands of teaching – and 9.5 years at Wateringbury – her next decade is a chance to take on new challenges and interests. Miss Jupp is pursuing a new career path that we will watch with interest. She has devoted herself to her classroom and school role over the years and we have benefited from her commitment and talents. I am pleased to say that we are not letting her go entirely, however, as she will continue as the school's Special Educational Needs Coordinator for one day each week.

Our Reception Class has two important farewells at the end of this school year. Miss Rosser will be taking up a teaching position elsewhere – and we hope not too far away! She has had a wonderful year with us and has completed her training with our highest regard. Also departing is Ms Fassnidge who is pursuing her dream of becoming a qualified teacher. We wish her all the best for next year as she tackles the demands of School Direct training at a school in Sittingbourne.

Four of our Year 6 girls will be representing Wateringbury in the Invicta Primary Maths Challenge towards the end of June. They performed exceptionally well in the qualifying round, placing first. Year 6 enjoyed a well-deserved residential week at the Swattenden Centre following a full week of SATs examinations while our youngest pupils in Reception Class enjoyed their first full day's outing to Kent Life. They are ready for Year 1! Our sports teams have been playing at area matches in recent weeks. We were delighted that the Tag Rugby Team played very well at the Tonbridge & Malling Tournament and won the Fair Player award.

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

BENEFACTIVE MOTHERS' UNION

This is a joint group comprising East Malling, Wateringbury and Teston Churches. We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 1pm in one of the three churches for fellowship, refreshments, fund raising and prayer. You do not need to be a woman or a mother to come along and, for those who are unable to attend church on a Sunday, it's a great way to be part of the family of the church. There is always lots of networking with like-minded Christian people and mutual help and support for each other both morally and practically. Our shared vision is of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful flourishing friendships and relationships. Have fun together whilst growing in faith. Why not come along! Babies and toddlers are welcome! Contact Frances Selman on 07913 866095