

VILLAGE DIARY

March

- 3 Footpaths Group – Village Hall – 2.00 pm
- 5 P.C. Meeting – 7.30 pm followed immediately by meeting of the Planning Committee
- 6,13,20 Lunches for Lent – Church – 12.30 – 2.00 pm
- 14 W.I. – Craft and Flower Cup Competitions - 2.30 Village Hall
- 16 Art for Enjoyment Group First Exhibition – Hall – 10.30 – 4 pm
- 20 History Society – Dennis Chambers – Haunted Pluckley – 7.40 Village Hall

April

- 2 P.C. meeting – 7.30 Village Hall followed immediately by a meeting of the Planning Committee
- 7 FOOTPATHS WALK – Mereworth School – 2.30 pm
- 11 W.I. – 2.30 Village Hall
- 17 HISTORY SOCIETY – Nick Fulcher – The Medieval Queens of Leeds Castle – 7.40pm Village Hall

PROBLEM PARKING

There are certain parts of the village that are affected by vehicles parking around the playing fields on match days, which causes problems for residents. With this in mind the Parish Council are looking at ways to alleviate this problem. One idea is to utilise a small part of the 6 ½ acre land recently purchased. An area of approximately 112 acre would be fenced off and a suitable surface put down. This would not affect the letting potential for the remaining land. The Council has consulted with Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council as planning permission maybe required. They have advised that the Council should first consult with local residents on this proposal before proceeding.

The Parish Council ask residents to please let them know if they support this idea or are against it. Please let the Clerk have your comments in writing by letter or email as soon as possible. ..Letters to 173 Red Hill Watringbury ME18 5LA email: susan_jc@btinternet.com

ORCHARD TO WOODLAND

In 1995 a small group of Watringbury residents bought at auction 10 acres of orchard land in the centre of the village, comprising pears and apples. The 14 households formed a limited company, Watringbury Pear Orchards Ltd, comprising 28 shareholders whose main objective was and continues to be to maintain the land for agricultural use in perpetuity. Neither shareholders nor directors receive remuneration or dividends. Tenant managers have been engaged in the meantime to tend the orchards. Activities to encourage and support wildlife are a priority.

5 acres of the total orchard comprised pear trees (about 800) planted in the early years of the War by a local farmer, Colonel John Sterndale Bennett, MBE, JP, (1879-1962) but by year 2012 having reached the end of their commercial life they had to be grubbed and the land prepared for the planting of English native trees. Planting in conjunction with the Woodland Trust of a total of 1,600 trees of 15 different species was completed early in 2013.

One acre of this plot is a Site of Special Scientific Interest owing to the occurrence below the surface of rock known as TUFFA. Owing to its rarity the planting of woodland trees was not permitted so it will be dedicated to the formation of a wildflower meadow, with the new trees adjoining it.

An underground oil pipeline passes beneath one area of this site, so a 6 metre wayleave above the path of the pipe will become a mowed pathway.

The chosen name for the wood is "Sterndale Wood", a dedication to John Sterndale Bennett to perpetuate his memory.

Mike Pursey, Chairman, Wateringbury Pear Orchards Ltd.

THE WATERINGBURY PLAYERS

Following on from our two successful winter productions, A Dickensian Evening at Christmas and Cinderella, we are now planning something for the summer. The Players, together with children from Wateringbury Primary School, will perform **The Wind in the Willows** by Alan Bennett on Thursday 11th, Friday 12th and Saturday 13th July, 2013 at St John the Baptist Church.

If you are an adult or of senior school age and would like to take part in the production please let us know by email to the address below. New members, both onstage and off, are very welcome. The first meeting and read through will take place on **Sunday 24th March at 7:30 pm** at The Church. Rehearsals will take place on Sundays after Easter.

Celia Pocock wateringburyplayers@hotmail.co.uk

WATERINGBURY WEATHER WATCH

January was a fairly uneventful month. It was a bit cooler than last year and the rainfall was slightly less than average. The 8cm (3") of snow did not stay too long or cause too much disruption and it made a change to have a more or less average month.

The first half of February was also unremarkable, but strong winds, heavy showers and periods of rain interspersed with short cold snaps are likely for the spring months.

CINDERELLA

This year the Wateringbury Players celebrated 30 years with their production of Cinderella which was the first pantomime they presented all those years ago. How do the cast and production team manage to maintain such a high standard year after year?

I will not pick out individual performances as everybody was superb and I have run out of superlatives. It is good to see new faces each year along with the stalwarts and to see the youngsters of yesteryear taking leading parts as adults. So thank you for another superb panto, thank you for entertaining the village for the past 30 years and for raising over £30,000 pounds for various charities including the local church.

WATERINGBURY SPORTS & RECREATION ASSOCIATION WORKFORCE WEEKEND 6TH & 7TH APRIL 2013

With the QE2 celebration day fast approaching the Committee of the WRSA are planning a Workforce weekend on the 6th & 7th of April to give the playing fields, pavilion and play parks a thorough Spring Clean. We would be very grateful for as much help as possible from local residents, societies & clubs to make it a really enjoyable community and family weekend. Works to be carried out include:

- * Litter picking
- * Painting of the pavilion and lock ups
- * Feeding of the playing surfaces
- * Any running repairs to play park areas
- * Tree & hedge trimming
- * Grass cutting

We will be obtaining equipment for litter picking from Tonbridge & Malling as done in previous years and all activities will be supervised by a suitable Committee Member.

Teas, coffees and refreshments will be made available on the day by the WRSA so please make the effort to help spruce up the best asset of this community and have fun whilst you are doing so. All ages welcome and even if you can only spare 15 minutes it will make a difference.

Previous Workforce days have been great fun so please contact John Ibbs on 07717 484 186 or email jibber63@hotmail.co.uk if you are able to help.



QE2 CELEBRATION DAY – 2ND JUNE 2013 - KWIK CRICKET TOURNAMENT

You should all be aware by now that the Playing Fields have been awarded Queen Elizabeth II status and as part of the celebrations to be held on the 2nd June the Village Cricket Club are organising a Kwik Cricket Tournament to run throughout the celebration.

This is a simple, safe version of the traditional village past time and all shapes, sizes, ages and fitness levels can have fun taking part. Each game consists of 20 balls per innings with each member of the fielding side bowling a minimum of two balls. The maximum any player can bowl is 4 balls. The players can bowl either over arm or under arm. The bats are plastic and bright blue and the ball is soft and bright orange. There is no need to wear pads, helmets, or any other protective apparell! The batting side score runs in the normal way, but if you hit a six the runs count but you are out! With regard to batsmen being dismissed all the normal laws of cricket apply but at the discretion of the umpire(s)!

The whole emphasis of each match is on enjoyment!!! We are looking for teams of people from the same roads or families in Wateringbury to enter a team of six players of which at least two must be female. There is no age or ability limit and the emphasis is on good, healthy & active FUN!!! We may be limited on the number of teams so if you are interested in entering a team please contact John Ibbs on 07717 484186 or email jibber63@hotmail.co.uk.

NETTLESTEAD AND WATERINGBURY PRE-SCHOOL AND OUT OF SCHOOLS CLUB (charity No. 1144343) Tel: 01622 813120

We have had a busy start to the New Year and it doesn't look like things are going to slow down anytime soon! Nettlestead and Wateringbury pre-school are holding more fundraising community events during the coming term. **8th March Quiz Night** at Wateringbury School from 7.30 till 10pm tickets are just £5 each, bring your own Drinks and Nibbles - Tables of 8 to 10. Don't worry if you can't make up the numbers we will make up teams on the night for smaller groups. Treat this as a great chance to make new friends!

JUMBLE AND BOOT FAIR 23rd March 11am till 2pm DONT throw out that 'trash' in your spring clean out, because it is someone else's 'treasure'. Entrance is 20p. Pitches cost £10 a car and £15 a van. Please call 01622 813120 for details and to book your space.

WATERINGBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE - The WI - Inspiring Women

Our presentation this month was from the Probation Service, entitled 'So you want to be a Judge'. This was an interactive session where, in addition to hearing a lot of new information about the Service, we followed a suspect through the legal process, deciding which questions to ask at each stage, and what sentence we would have handed out ourselves (our judgement was a little harsher than what was actually decided!).

Next month we are going to be beavering away making items for our Cup competitions. We will be using our considerable crafting and floristry expertise to produce a miniature fresh spring flower arrangement, in any type of container. Also decorating a toilet roll inner in any way, to disguise its humble origins. We are hoping to have a decorated pincushion competition, any shape or materials, from which one will be selected for the regional Celebration of 95 years of the WI to take place at Aylesford Priory in May.

We are collecting subscriptions for the coming year. At £33 per year including WI News magazine, this is excellent value. Now would be an excellent time to come along to a meeting as a guest to see if you would like to join us. We are a friendly group who meet on the second Thursday of each month at 2.30 in Wateringbury village hall. We also have a games/social afternoon, a walk and a lunch. Our members come from Wateringbury and the surrounding villages.

For all enquiries please contact 01622 812018, elizabethastrid@aol.com

WATERINGBURY FLOWER CLUB

The March meeting is our first proper demonstration of the year, please see our website for further details, the new programme is currently being printed. Our meetings are the third Thursday in the month and start at 7-45 sharp with a raffle for the flowers by the demonstrator, this year we hope to achieve as much or even more than last year with the first Kent clubs competition at JDSE day at Ditton with the title Wedding Banquet. Please come along and join us for a pleasant evening amongst friends. Jean Schofield Chairman WFC.

THE MOST IMPORTANT MEAL OF THE DAY WATERINGBURY RAILWAY PUB CAFÉ

is now open for

Traditional English Breakfast from as little as £3.50
or give their Healthier Option a Try, starts at £2.70.

Opening times for breakfast Monday to Saturday
6.00 am to 12.00 noon

THE FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY CHURCH

Have coffee with Friends

On Saturday 6th April at 10 a.m., we are organising a short event to publicise the work of the Friends and to ask people in the village to become members or renew their subscriptions for the coming year. Everyone in Wateringbury is invited to come along for free refreshments at the church. Afterwards, we will be delivering leaflets around the village, to encourage more people to become a Friend. Around 100 Wateringbury households have now become Friends and we have raised more than £6,200 in our first two years. **If you are willing to help distribute a few leaflets around the village, please get in touch with the Secretary, or just turn up on the morning of the 6th April.**

Thanks to Frederick and Oliver

In December, two local schoolboys, Frederick English and Oliver Mumford, gave an impressive presentation in the church, describing their adventures during an expedition earlier in the year along

the North Downs Way. They have kindly donated £100 to the Friends from the proceeds of the evening. We were really impressed by their achievement and are truly grateful for their generosity.

New door for the church

The Friends have agreed to donate around £6,000 to the Church of St John the Baptist to install a new glass door in the porch and to level the uneven steps, so that access into the church will be easier. This is the first project that the Friends have been able to support and the new door will be dedicated on Palm Sunday 24th March. Once this project is complete, the Friends will start collecting funds to work towards the next one.

Frances English, Secretary – 01622 812471 friends@fowc.org.uk

WATERINGBURY CRICKET CLUB

The Club's Annual Quiz takes place in the village hall on 9 March. If you would like to come then please contact Cliff Hickmott on 01622 812164. It is £5 per head, maximum 8 per team. There will be a bar and for all those techies out there don't bring your smart phones for answers.

We have started the new indoor competition again and have entered two teams as we did last year. We did well then and we expecting the same this time.

Nets will be starting in the next few weeks at Maidstone YMCA. If you would like to come along and see what happens, meet a few people or just want to join the club then contact either the press secretary (07773 681677) or the club secretary.

Cakesy and Bakesy

Handmade Custom
Wedding and Celebration

Cake Designers

Based in Watringbury

07968 700302

www.cakesyandbakesy.co.uk

Friend us on **Facebook**

Follow us on **Twitter**

HISTORY SOCIETY

In March Dennis Chambers is coming along to tell us about 'Haunted Pluckley'. Pluckley is believed to be the most haunted village in Kent and in the 1970's Dennis created a Ghost Tour of the county ensuring that Pluckley was always one of the villages visited. Dennis has researched into the world of "matters physic" for many years, and has had articles published on the subject and appeared on both the TV and radio.

Douglas Chapman came and spoke to us in February about 'Dode Church', which has been described as being "in an almost forgotten valley between Luddesdown and Holly Hill, astride the North Downs, the small Norman Church of Dode stands sentinel over the site of its former village".

Douglas told us that the church was built 900 years ago and although it had stood empty and unused for over 650 years when the Black Death devastated the area, the building had remained intact with only the roof being changed from thatch to Peg Tile. The church was bought by Douglas at auction, a spur of the moment decision, and one he has not regretted, unfortunately at that time it had suffered from vandalism and although structurally sound was in a poor state inside.

For further information, visit the history society site on

<https://sites.google.com/site/watringburylocalhistory/>,

TESTON & WATERINGBURY NURSERY GROUP (Registered charity 1044257)

www.testonandwateringburynursery.co.uk

Admissions and all enquiries: Amanda Vidler 07805 796353

Despite the huge variation in the weather of late, we've managed to play outside most days...well, I say 'play', but given all the toys the children have at their disposal, what do they want to do? Clear away the leaves! Far be it for me to complain but if you wander past & see the children working away, it's their choice...really! Our Nursery Rhyme theme has kept us very entertained: marching with instruments (the Grand Old Duke was rather envious, I hear); making delicious jam tarts (without the help of any Queens); sowing seeds (we're still watching for Mary & Mary), yet, oddly enough, Humpty Dumpty wasn't available...I think someone beat us to it.

In amongst all that we've celebrated the Year of the Snake with very special gifts & writing our names in Chinese...speaking them was a different matter altogether, but memorable, shall we say.

This term we'll be welcoming yet more new faces, who'll be wowed immediately with our hands-on Mother's Day activity (who wouldn't be?) on Wednesday 6th March, followed shortly after by our Easter Fun Day on Wednesday 3rd April.

Clare Stevens from Wateringbury is our latest 100 Club winner – congratulations to you.

FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL (FOWPS)

Registered charity 1038836

Spring promises to be another busy period for our school and the Friends of Wateringbury Primary School. FOWPS will run a Mother's Day Gift Shop for the children during school time on Thursday 7 March and Friday 8 March and the school's musicians will entertain parents at a Musical Evening on 26 March. Plans are progressing for an Easter Egg Hunt on the last day of Term 4, Thursday 28 March. The children will also attend an Easter Service at St John the Baptist Church on this day.

Golf Day: Our second annual Golf Day will take place at Poult Wood Golf Centre in Tonbridge during the afternoon of Friday 14 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.

Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers: We are 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

PALM SUNDAY PARADE 24 MARCH TONBRIDGE ROAD CLOSED

Please note that Tonbridge Road will be closed for about 30 minutes from the traffic lights to the church between 9.30 and 10am on Sunday 24 March while the Annual Palm Sunday parade processes from the Car Park to the Church. This means that traffic from side roads ie Love Lane, Upper Mill, Mill Lane and Lodge Close, will not be able to turn into Tonbridge Road. Church Wardens Eddie and Joanna apologise for any inconvenience caused and hope that as many residents as possible will be able to enjoy the parade.

PSYCHIC NIGHT WATERINGBURY HOTEL will be holding a Psychic Night on Wednesday 20th March from 7.30 onwards. Consultations £20 for 20 minutes.

More details from 01622 812632

WATERINGBURY FOOTPATH GROUP

The walk on Sunday 3rd March will start at the village hall car park at 2.00 pm sharp. Weather permitting it is hoped to include Darnold Woods where there will be some early spring flowering

plants, we hope you will be able to join us at that time. For more information please call Syd on 812338

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

Every 6 years a new Roll has to be prepared and this is that year. Those on the present Roll will be informed so that they can re-apply. To qualify for entry, lay persons must be aged 16 or over, have been baptised and generally are communicants of the Church of England, and usually resident in the parish. There are exceptions to this summary. Our Church Electoral Roll Officer is Hilary Fisher who will remind all existing electors, but at the same time any qualified person wishing to be included on the Roll should complete a form (to be found at the back of the Church) to hand to Hilary or to one of our churchwardens. The closing date for receipt of forms is 1 April 2013.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING is to be held at Wateringbury Church at 7.30pm on Wednesday 24 April 2013.

GUILD OF CHURCH FLOWER ARRANGERS

The Maidstone Guild meet on Monday 4 March at 7.45pm in East Farleigh Parish Church, Lower Road, when Susan Oaten will arrange flowers on the theme New Beginnings. Visitors welcome.

FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT

25 FEBRUARY – 10 MARCH

Look for the Fair Trade logo and choose not only be buying a quality, reasonably also know that the growers and Fair Trade also works to improve the child labour, general working conditions Individual consumers have huge powers choices made when shopping.



these products. You will priced, product you will producers get fair prices. situation of women, against and the environment. and influence in the

BENEFICE MOTHERS' UNION

The next meeting is at 1pm on Thursday 7 March in Wateringbury Church when there will be a talk on The Children of Chernobyl. Then on Thursday 4 April members meet from 1-4pm at the Pilsdon Community in Water Lane, West Malling for a Quiet Afternoon. Don't be put off by the name the meetings are for everyone and there are several male members.

THOUGHTS FROM THE VICARAGE

2 The Grange, East Malling ME19 6AH

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

WHO AM I?

With Easter on the way we are moving towards Easter Eggs and Fluffy Chicks! But when we look towards Easter we are likely to think in terms of a story which speaks of resurrection, new life and new beginnings. But the story of Easter is much greater and more complex than just a story with a couple of messages of Redemption and Salvation running through it. It is a story of Love, Sacrifice, Forgiveness, Betrayal, Politics, Violence, Relationship, Hope and many other themes too. One big part of Easter for me is that it provides an opportunity to reflect on myself, especially during Lent, because all of the Easter themes refer to our relationship with God. "Who am I" to God?

There is now a film version of Les Misérables and it is being shown "at a cinema near you"! The film, more so than the stage version, is overtly Christian. It comprises 31 references to God, many in the context of prayers, six references to Jesus, eight mentions of Heaven and of prayer and explicit allusions to the road to Calvary (the carrying of the cross), the passion of Christ, the blood of the martyrs, the way of the Lord, sacrifice, salvation and sainthood. Les Misérables is a powerful expression of the Christian message of sacrificial love. Indeed, few works of art better express the central Christian message of the redemptive power of forgiveness and sacrificial love. The central character, Jean Valjean, a convict on parole, is forgiven by the saintly Bishop of Digne for repaying his hospitality by stealing the church silver. It is the bishop's act of utterly unwarranted pardon which sets Valjean on his transformative journey from desperate criminal filled with hate for humanity to sacrificial hero fired by his unselfish concern for others. He questions his own relationship with God during a conversation, which is in the form of a song "Who am I". The musical ends with the recitation of part of the Lord's Prayer and the profound theological observation: "To love another person is to see the face of God."

The release of Les Misérables is a cause for celebration among all, of whatever faith, who believe in the healing power of forgiveness and selfless love. It is a dark film but the final scene is a joyful occasion in heaven and that is surely the great celebration that is the message for us all this Easter. I do hope and Pray that you experience something yourselves this Easter which will change you too. Perhaps even enabling you to ask that same, all important, question of yourself "Who am I?".

Happy Easter to you all and go and see the film! Revd Jim Brown

WATCH CLUB YOUTH GROUP - COMIC RELIEF CAFÉ

On **Sunday 10 March from 5-7pm**, our Youth will be running a Café in aid of Comic Relief at St John the Baptist Church, Wateringbury. They will be serving teas, coffees, squash and cakes in their own unique way! It would be great if you could come along and support our lovely young people to raise money for this fantastic cause. Any donations of cakes would be gratefully received. Please contact Lisa 07939 490787 for info.

LUNCHES FOR LENT

A warm welcome awaits you at the Church of St John the Baptist, on

Wednesdays 6, 13, and 20 of March 12.30 - 2pm. Why not pop in for a chat over soup and bread or cheese, tomato and bread with tea, coffee or squash small cake or biscuit. Cheese sandwiches and small cakes available for children. Invited voluntary donations will support the following charities:

Maidstone Christian Care Day Centre – providing a comfortable day centre which caters for the basic needs and comforts with help, guidance and assistance for homeless and vulnerable people

Kenward Trust Yalding – providing residential accommodation and transforming the lives of vulnerable people who want to address their substance misuse problems and helping them lead non-dependent lives.

The Rainbow Trust for Children – providing emotional and practical support for families who have a child with a life threatening or terminal illness. The support lasts from diagnosis throughout treatment to bereavement or recovery and beyond.

The last Lent Lunch will be part of **Christian Aid Super Soup Lunch**. Everyone welcome. Transport available locally if needed. Further information contact 01622 813032

QUIET HOUR WEDNESDAY 15 MARCH – 8-9pm in the church, come and go as you please. A time for personal prayer and reflection.

SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS. This month the service will be Taize format in East Malling Church at 8pm **on Tuesday 5 March.**

LENT COURSE

It's still not too late to come along to one of our discussion groups as each session is individual. We meet in the church on Mondays 4, 11 and 18 March 8pm-9pm (coffee from 7.30pm), and/or Wednesdays 6, 13 and 20 March 1pm-2pm (light lunches from 12.30pm).

BENEFICE CHURCH SERVICES

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

<p>Sunday 3 March</p> <p>8am Holy Communion – Teston</p> <p>9.45am Family Service – East Malling</p> <p>9.45am Family Service – Teston</p> <p>10am Matins – Wateringbury</p> <p>7pm Taize Service - Wateringbury - led by Bob & Becky Bowie</p>	<p>Mothering Sunday – 10 March</p> <p>8am Holy Communion – East Malling</p> <p>9.45am Mothering Sunday Service – East Malling</p> <p>10am Family Communion - Wateringbury</p> <p>3.30pm Mothering Sunday Service - Teston</p> <p>6pm Choral Evensong – East Malling</p>
<p>Sunday 17 March</p> <p>8am Holy Communion – Wateringbury</p> <p>9.45am Eucharist – East Malling</p> <p>10 am Family Service – Wateringbury</p> <p>6.30pm Eucharist - Teston</p>	<p>Palm Sunday - 24 March</p> <p>8am Holy Communion – East Malling</p> <p>9.45am Eucharist – East Malling</p> <p>9.45am – Palm Sunday Praise - Teston</p> <p>10am Holy Communion – Wateringbury</p> <p>(parade leaves car park at 9.30am)</p> <p>6 pm Olivet to Calvery sung by combined Benefice Choirs – East Malling</p>
<p>EASTER SUNDAY 31 MARCH</p> <p>8am Holy Communion – East Malling 9.45 Sung Eucharist – East Malling</p> <p>9.45am Holy Communion – Teston</p> <p>10am Holy Communion - Wateringbury</p>	
<p>Every Monday – 2-3pm – Scout & Guide HQ, Glebe Meadow – Toddler Praise</p>	
<p>Tuesdays (not 1st in month) – 7.30pm in Wateringbury Church – Holy Communion</p>	

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

PALM SUNDAY PARADE We hope to have a donkey to lead our parade this year which leaves the village car park at 9.30am to arrive at Wateringbury church in time for the 10am service.

SPECIAL SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK 25-30 MARCH

Monday	8pm - East Malling - Agapé Meal	
Tuesday	8pm - Wateringbury – Meditation through Art	
Wednesday	8pm - Teston – Drama of the Cross	
Maundy Thursday	9am – Wateringbury – School End of Term Service	
	8pm - East Malling – Holy Communion followed by	Feet
	Washing and Vigil until midnight	
Good Friday	9am - East Malling - Good Friday Project for children	
	10.30am - Teston – At the Foot of the Cross	
	2pm - Wateringbury An hour at the Foot of the Cross	
	2pm - East Malling - Solemn Liturgy	
Easter Saturday	9am – Wateringbury – Easter Project for children	
	7.30pm – Pilsdon Chapel West Malling – Easter Vigil	

FEBRUARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Drayhorse Meadow - the council have appointed Lambert & Foster to help find a tenant to lease the stables and land, this will require the removal of a legal clause preventing sub-letting by the owner being removed and Lamberts will be engaged to negotiate the change with the planning authority. The question of using a small part of the Meadow for car parking and possible alternative sites for a car park on the existing Playing fields was discussed and several options are being further investigated.

Jubilee Fields Village Celebration Day - 2 June Plans are progressing well and further details can be found in this month's magazine.

Fields Association - Mike Witts reported that plans were well in hand for a Workforce Weekend in April when it is hoped that many volunteers will come along and help enhance the environment by picking up litter, generally tidying up, painting the pavilion, etc so that the grounds are looking great for the 2 June celebrations. The Fields Association hoped to organise some fun activities for the enjoyment of all ages.

Village Hall - Dennis Stones reported that the hall was very busy with lots of bookings. The Police had asked for sight of CCTV footage to help them investigate a local crime.

Kent Community Rail Partnership - Chris Talbert reported on a meeting he had attended. Over the next 3 years the railways plan to mechanise all level crossings in the area. The signal boxes would then become redundant and it was hoped they could be relocated close to their present locations. Since Wateringbury's Signal Box is listed it is not yet clear if it will remain in its present location.

KCC National Health Overview Committee - it was reported that between now 2118 it was planned to spend £20 million on refurbishing Maidstone District Hospital. This will include creating smaller wards, single rooms and replacing baths with showers.

Crime Report - The chairman reported that in January there had been 3 motor related crimes (vehicle taken from a lay-by and two thefts from vehicles in the car park, one had wheel trims stolen and another a window). There were 2 attempted thefts from houses. At the public open discussion a member of the public questioned these figures since the school had been disrupted in January by theft and this crime did not appear in these figures.

She also said that she had gone on to the new www.police.uk website which she had understood was the police's chosen method of keeping the public up-to-date with local crime. On 18 January the site was reporting our area's November figures, no mention of December, and there was no report of the problems at the school. It was requested that the Parish Council write to the new Police Commissioner questioning the effectiveness of this website.

Planning – The council considered the following planning applications:

TM/12/03615/FL erection of detached garage to rear of property, driveway and extension of dropped kerb off to Leney Drive, amended drawings received showing 'minor reposition of proposed garage' at 65 Bow Road – No objections

TM/12/034466/LB Listed Building Application 1970's single garage brick built with flat roof to be replaced with double garage of oak construction with pitch roof of reclaimed clay tiles on the same but extended footprint. The White Cottage, 171 Tonbridge Road. Copy of site plan showing tree locations for information only.

TM/12/03704/FL Change of use to allow for retailing of light commercial vehicles and all valeting and preparation required prior to the selling of such vehicles. 165 Bow Road (The Old Goods Shed at the Station). A member of the public came to the meeting to bring before the council her concerns:

- the safety implications of such a commercial concern since the area was very crowded as the school had an agreement to use the station car park for parents to deliver and collect their children from school.
- the road traffic often backed-up when the level crossing rail barriers were down, causing more congestion.
- the station and signal box are Listed and in a Conservation Area and the planners should seriously consider whether the selling of commercial vehicles (application is for 20) which will be parked outside is suitable for such a special area.

The Council were of the opinion that a Traffic Survey was needed before the planning application could proceed further.

The next meeting of the Parish Council, to which the public are very welcome, is on Tuesday 5 March at 7.30pm in the village hall meeting room.

DEMELZA HOUSE A big thank you for everyone who contributed to the Demelza House collections in Church over Christmas, as a village, we managed to raise a fantastic £224.60 which will make a wonderful difference to this charity that supports over 800 children with life limiting and life threatening condition in the South East. Many Thanks Lisa Glasscote