

Contributors are reminded that our next issue will cover the months of July and August, copy deadline 17 June.

VILLAGE DIARY

June

- 5** Village Fete - Playing Fields - 12.30-5pm
- 5** Footpath Walk - Hall - 2.30pm
- 8** Coffee Break - Church - 10.30am-12.30pm
- 9** WI Meeting - Hall - 2pm
- 11** Coffee Morning - Church 10.30am-Noon
- 14-18** Open "Italian" Garden - 11am-4pm
- 15** History Society - Hall - 7.40pm - AGM/Talk
- 22** Coffee Break - Church - 10.30am-12.30pm
- 24** FOWPS - Golf Day

July

- 2** School Fete - 12-3pm
- 3** Footpath Walk - Hall - 2.30pm
- 7-9** Godspell - Church - 7pm for 7.30pm
- 13** History Society - Annual outing to Syon Park
- 23** T&W Nursery Group Celebration Day - Teston V Green - 11am-2pm

WATERINGBURY FOOTPATH GROUP

Our annual bluebell walk into Catering Wood was much better than expected. I was walking in the woods the previous week and noted many bluebells had gone over, also the woodmen had been very busy coppicing the sweet chestnut. Luckily, on the day of our walk there were still plenty to see as well as wood anemone, violets, primrose and cranesbill amongst the other flora. On a visit to the Forest of Dean a few days before, the bluebells were not even in flower!

Our next walk is on Sunday 5 June, meet by village hall at 2:30pm for a local short walk finishing at the village fête. On 3 July we will be walking approx 3½miles along the river to Teston Bridge through Waregrave's Wood

Kevin Reynolds

FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

As this goes to print we are in the final stages of our School Disco preparations. Other forthcoming events include a Fathers' Day Shop and of course our annual Summer Fete. The Summer Fete will be sponsored again by local builder John Evans (07743 380458) and is on Saturday 2 July 2016 12-3pm. If you are interested in having a stall at this busy and popular event or can donate a raffle prize please contact us.

The 5th Annual FOWPS Golf Day is planned for Friday 24 June 2016. For further information or to book a place please contact either Andrew Riedl (andrew.riedl@btinternet.com) or Fraser Nicol (fraser_nicol@btinternet.com)

Next Parish Council meeting The public are very welcome to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council at **7.30pm in the village hall on Tues 7 June 2016.**

VILLAGE PEOPLE *Please let us have your news and tributes by 17 June for our July/August magazine. Entries are free*

Congratulations to Sue and Mike Witts on the arrival of their first grandchild.

Leonardo Thomas (Leo) who arrived on 19 April weighing in at 7lb 10oz in Kingston hospital. Congratulations too to **parents Alan and Dominique**

Diamond Wedding Congratulations to Jane and Ted Bates who will be celebrating 60 years of marriage on **2 June.**

Milestone Birthday wishes to Ruth Dunn for 13 June...

90th Birthday greetings to Doreen Vincent who celebrates on **8 June.**

Announcing the arrival of **Jack Edward Spicer** (8lb 6oz) on 7 May. Congratulations to proud parents **Gemma and Ralph**; grandparents **Jane and Trevor Hambly**; and to aunt **Alice Hambly**.

Thank You to Matthew Balfour our KCC Councillor and the Parish Council for funding the **refurbishment of our village war memorial**. The stone has been cleaned and the lettering repainted. The memorial was originally sited at the village cross roads, and moved to the churchyard in the 1970s when the road junction was widened.

The Healthy Living Team at Tonbridge and Malling BC will be running a **weight management programme** at Watringbury Surgery from Wednesday 22 June at 10:00 - 11:30 am. It is the first time this is being offered in Watringbury. It is an 11 week programme that looks at helping people lose 5-10% of their body weight and keep it off. Subjects covered are shopping habits, The Eatwell Plate and food nutrition, eating behaviours and exercise. Every other week there will be a healthy walk from the surgery. It is essentially a free programme although a refundable £15 deposit is required. The only criteria is a BMI of over 28 and that can be worked out for anybody who is interested. For more information or to reserve a place on this beneficial course please call **01732 876347**.

Hadlow Bowls Club Did you know that Hadlow has a lawn bowling green? Have you ever thought about playing? Hadlow Bowls Club is a small, friendly club in School Lane, near the Old School Hall. We play mixed, friendly matches and have teams in the Sevenoaks and Weald Leagues. We practise on Thursday afternoons from 2.00pm and you are welcome to come and try it out. Anyone can do it and it is an enjoyable way of getting some gentle exercise. We will be very pleased to see you. For more information, please phone Dave Isted (Chairman) 01732 852138, or Mike Gladwin (Secretary) 01622 812905.

WATERINGBURY VILLAGE FETE
SUNDAY 5 JUNE 2016 - 12.30-5PM
AT THE PLAYING FIELDS OFF FIELDS LANE
Entry Free and Free Car Park
a fantastic afternoon - something for everyone

Over 18s Tug Of War Knock Out Competition

Teams of 6 players (separate contests for Ladies and Men)
Get together with your neighbours and make up a team - £1 per person

Children's Fun Races for all ages

Not too Serious Dog Show

Obedience, .Obedience (puppy), Wagiest tail, Best trick,
Cutest dog (subject to sufficient time).

Live Music by our local star Les Blackburn

Owl about Art -

Come along and meet Haru the Asian Wood Owl

John the Baker

Make a bread dough animal and take it home to bake

Penalty Shoot Out Coconut Shy Wellie Wanging

Ellinor's Ices Cricket Club BBQ
Alcoholic Refreshments by North Pole Pub
Pimms Tent by Friends of Wateringbury Church
Tea, Coffee, Soft Drinks
Great variety of stalls

GRAND RAFFLE WITH SUPER PRIZES

to be drawn at about 4.30pm

The Fete Committee sincerely thank all donors for their generous support for the Fete Raffle

Family Ticket to Kent County Show (Show Society) **Trip for 2 to Sussex Curios** (Teston Tours) **Dinner for 4 plus bottle of wine** (The Wateringbury) **Overnight Stay for 2 plus dinner and breakfast** (Premier Inn) **6 Bottles of Wine** (Philip Thrower) **MOT Voucher** (Maidstone Auto Centre) **Bottle of Champagne** (Jill Turner Tucker Solicitors) **Cream Tea for 2** (Where Memories Meet) **£30 Voucher** (Hair Traditional) **£20 John Lewis Voucher** (DW Kitchens) **£25 voucher + Bottle Champagne** (A resident) **Bottle of Champagne** (Bluebell Estates) **Soft Toy** (Wateringbury Post Office) **Wine/Chocolates** (Handy Stores) **Cream Tea for 2** (Tea at Hilltop) **Bottle of Wine** (North Pole Pub) **Bottle of Champagne** (Jackson Civil Engineering) **Veg & Fruit Box** (Farmers Farm Shop) **Prizes also from Bijou Nursery, Cromar Nursery and others**

HISTORY SOCIETY

Our June meeting starts with our AGM, which this year will be followed by a talk by Pat Mortlock entitled "Intrigue, Ambition and Respectability", which is about Ightham Mote. Visitors Welcome.

The Society is organising its annual summer outing, which this year will be to Syon House on 13 July. The cost is £35 which includes coach - coffee on arrival, admission to the house, gardens & great conservatory and a guided tour of the house. The tour takes in the principal floor, bedrooms and confectioner's kitchen. Non members are welcome - please ring Janet on 01622 817833 or 01622 766220.

Ian Porter came to the History Society in April to tell us about 'Women and the Home Front in WWI'. Work for women, especially for those not married, had mainly been in domestic service to the 'gentry' in large houses both in the country and towns before the war. With men away fighting for their country, women filled the jobs they had left behind, although unskilled they worked in munition factories, filling shells with TNT which turned their skin yellow and so were called 'canaries'. They varnished aircraft, joined the fire service and police force and became known as 'Copperets', together with numerous other jobs previously performed by men. Unfortunately because they were unskilled, where a man had been paid £3 per week they often only earned 12s 6d, working 12 hour days and a 7 day week, to maintain production.

Ian told us that in 1916 an extra hour's 'summer time' was started to enable women to work on allotments, and to purchase food when they finished work, on one occasion 3,000 queued for margarine with 1,000 being turned away when the margarine sold out. A Land Army girl's main job was to plough and prepare fields for potato, cereal and sugar beet crops to help feed everybody. Everything was rationed including bread which was the mainstay of most working families so Sylvia Pankhurst produced 623 National Kitchens, where nutritious meals were made and sold for 2d, far cheaper than housewives could make themselves, especially as coal was also rationed.

Ian ended his talk by saying that women during WWI although busy still found time to enjoy themselves. Cinemas brought a boost to moral and it was during WWI that the National Anthem began to be played at the end of the evening's performance, and continued until the 1960s. Theatres and Music Halls provided entertainment together with gramophone records, the most popular song being "If you were the only girl in the world". Women's Football became very popular and raised much needed funds for charities. Ian gave us an entertaining and enjoyable evening whilst reminding us of a very challenging period of our history.

GODSPELL

Conceived and Originally Directed by JOHN-MICHAEL TEBELAK
Music and New Lyrics by STEPHEN SCHWARTZ
Originally Produced on the New York Stage by
EDGAR LANSBURY/STUART DUNCAN/JOSEPH BERUH

**Performed by The Watringbury Players
supported by Watringbury Primary School
at St John the Baptist Church, Watringbury**

This amateur production of Godspell is presented by
Special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD.

**Thursday 7, Friday 8 and Saturday 9 July
Doors open 7 pm show start 7.30 pm**

**Tickets: Price £10 (with concessions for children on Thursday evening only at £6)
On sale now at the Post Office and The Handy Stores**

ARE YOU A GREAT ORGANISER?

Do you have some time to spare to take on a much needed support role for **our village Scout and Guide groups**? We are searching for a **QUARTERMASTER**, to manage and oversee our stores and camping equipment. This would be a fantastic project for anyone who would like to be involved with local organisations that gives so much to the younger members of our community.

The role would involve

- * supporting our explorer unit in the final stages of cataloguing the equipment
- * checking back in equipment after camps and reporting anything that needs replacing
- * managing the stores.

It would not need a great deal of time commitment although there are busier times of year (camping season!). There will be some climbing of ladders involved and it would be helpful if you were able to be contacted via e-mail. In return we can offer you friendship, and purposeful involvement in key community organisations. Don't be shy! Please contact Corinne Mulcahy (Secretary) corinne@watingbury-scouts.org.uk 07976 287173 if you are interested or to ask any questions.

Thank you very much in advance, from Watringbury Guide and Scout Executive Committee

PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, UNCLES, VILLAGE PEOPLE, EVERYONE, WE NEED YOU.

The Watringbury Scouts and Guide sections are looking for **enthusiastic volunteers** with a love of empowering young people to step up as leaders or helpers in all sections. The Guides in particular need volunteers to come forward as two are stepping back from a permanent commitment to return to full time education after giving years of dedicated service.

It is easy to take for granted such amazing organisations whose volunteers give so much to our village and the wider community. At present they are relying on leaders travelling from outside the local area to run existing sections. Unless new volunteers come forward we really do run the risk of losing an extremely valuable commodity.

If you think you may be interested in helping, particularly if your children have benefitted from the opportunities that they have given them now or in the past, please do contact either Carolyn Peal (Guides) or Nick Keates (Scouts). Their contact details are on the back of the Rostrum. There is no need to commit, you can be as involved as you want to be, and full support with many adventures awaits anyone who feels they can spare some time. Go on, take this opportunity to live life to the full and give a little back.

More details can be found here for Scouting sections:

<https://members.scouts.org.uk/cms.php?pageid=1813>

And here for Girl Guides:

http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/about_us/what_do_adults_in_guiding_do.aspx

Corinne Mulcahy (Secretary)

On behalf of Watringbury Guide and Scout Executive Committee

WATERINGBURY BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Last month we had our 'teddy bears picnic' and despite the weather not being kind to us (with the rain) we still had a good time. The children brought their teddy bears dressed in fancy dress. They made teddy bear hats, followed by a bear hunt where we found four bears eating their picnic. After our singing time, we sat on the mats to enjoy our picnic.

If this sounds fun, why don't you come along and join us. We meet every Wednesday and Friday 10am to noon. The cost being £2 for the first child and £1 for any others. The price includes tea/coffee for the adults and snacks for the children. For more information please contact Linda on 01732 522 437

SCHOOL LAUNCHES 40TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN

As part of its celebrations to mark 40 years on the Bow Road site later this year, Watringbury Primary School has launched an anniversary capital fundraising campaign to replace the library roof. Donations and support are now being sought from local businesses, individuals and community organisations to help the school to raise the £50,000 needed to replace the roof and windows and to install adequate heating, ventilation and furniture as well as new books and resources. It already has £15,000 in the pot for the project.

Headteacher Mrs Chasey Crawford Usher said: "Although the 40th anniversary is cause for celebration, it is also an opportunity to shape the next 40 years for our school. The library sits at the very heart of our school and we want to ensure that it remains fit for purpose to inspire and excite generations to come. After years of trying to patch the leaking roof, it now requires urgent replacement and since our capital budget has decreased from £46,000 to just under £6,500 over the last six years, we can only achieve this vision with the help of our wonderful community. All donations, big or small, will be warmly welcomed."

Any individuals or local businesses wishing to make a donation can find out more at www.watringbury.kent.sch.uk or donations may be sent to the school (cheques payable to Watringbury CE Primary School) at Watringbury CE Primary School, 40th Anniversary Campaign, 147 Bow Road, Watringbury ME18 5EA.

TESTON & WATERINGBURY NURSERY GROUP

This term is our busiest time of year when we invite teachers of the local schools that we are feeding into to come in and meet the children and their keyworkers. We will also be having consultations with all our parents on their child's progress and development over the last year. It is lovely to see them grow in confidence and leave us prepared and ready for their next challenge BIG school!

Our theme for term 6 is 'Sports', where we will be talking to the children about all the different types of sports they enjoy, leading up to our sports day where the children will be putting their sporting skills into action. I've heard that there may also be a mum's race an event not to be missed! As part of our fundraising we are now collecting Sainsburys vouchers which you will receive as part of your till receipt. We benefit hugely from these vouchers by buying sports equipment for the children and would welcome any donations.

And finally a shout for help, we will be celebrating our 50 year anniversary this summer! Yes the Nursery was first opened in 1966 in Teston, and we would like to have a display of any photos from previous years that we can display as part of our celebration day on Saturday 23 July on Teston Village Green. 11.00am – 2.00pm. All are welcome for this fun event, we will start off with our children's sports day followed by cream teas, fresh strawberries, ice-cream, coconut shy, marble game, tombola, raffle prizes and much more.

If you are interested in joining our preschool please contact Tina Driver on 07805 796353 and come along for a taster session.

War News, June 1916

June 4: Russian Brusilov offensive starts.

5: Arab revolt against Turks starts

6: Lord Kitchener drowned at sea.

24: British artillery bombardment along Somme front starts.

On 16th June 1916 a long letter from the vicar of Wateringbury, Greville Livett, a highly intelligent man of broad interests, was published in The Times. The letter was quite technical musically, about a blackbird that sang in the vicarage grounds in "the diatonic scale of F" using "three or four phrases oft repeated".

The English clergy were exempt from conscription, but the rest of the village was probably more concerned with conscription than the technicalities of blackbird songs. Conscription had been introduced in January 1916 by the Military Service Act, which provided a number of categories for exemption, including for people "doing work of national importance". Local panels were set up to decide who should obtain this exemption; they contained a military representative, who could counter-appeal any ruling against conscription, and the rural panels contained an agricultural representative. Employers were often the advocate for their employees at the panel hearings. The panels dealt with matters of potential life or death significance for the individual in a few minutes. Their proceedings were open and so reported in the press. Deferment of conscription for a short time was a frequent outcome.

Wateringbury came under the Malling Rural panel which had met in late May judging 50 cases, including 6 from Wateringbury. In late June the panel heard 58 cases, including 10 from Wateringbury: Owen English appealed on behalf of 5 agricultural workers on Manor Farm, having already lost 12 men to the army; and Richard Tapply, the general manager of Leney's Phoenix Brewery, on behalf of 5 workers.

Frederick Leney and Sons Ltd were not just concerned with the Phoenix Brewery but generated and distributed gas to the village. They also supplied domestic gas appliances. The gas works were at the bottom of Bow Road, at the back of what is now The Railway pub. The Leney board had approved further investment in the gas works, enabling them to recover more of the by-products which could be sold for use in the manufacture of explosives. The company put out a circular in June announcing a reduction in the price of gas from 6s. to 4s. 9d. per thousand feet and emphasising the efficiency of gas for domestic heating and cooking compared to coal.

It was a very cold June with fires being lit many days at the school. June was also the soft fruit season. So, recognising the importance of the agricultural cycle, the school granted a week's holiday from 23rd June, rather than at the traditional Whitsuntide, to enable the children to participate in fruit-picking.

Terry Bird

For more details see the web-site of Wateringbury Local History Society. (<https://www.sites.google.com/site/wateringburylocalhistory/>). Put into search box at top right of any page "Notes of songbirds", "Conscription appeal" or "Wateringbury gas prices reduced" to read more on any of these topics.

WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our school moved from its original site on Red Hill to Bow Road in September 1976 and we will be celebrating this 40th anniversary on Saturday, 24th September. The afternoon will begin at 2:00pm with a rededication of the building by the Bishop of Rochester. There will also be historical displays, staff and children's performances, school tours, displays of children's work past and present, a 1970s 'high tea' and much more. Visitors are warmly welcome. Find out more on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/wateringburyCOEPrimaryschool/>

Whilst we are celebrating the life of our building, we are really honouring the many people who have passed through its doors: past pupils, teachers and headteachers; former vicars; parents and grandparents who have watched their children and children's children grow up here. It is a place that deserves to be celebrated by its community. On the day itself, we will also be giving more details about a Capital Campaign to raise much-needed funds for our library, that space which illuminates – literally and figuratively – the heart of our school. The roof and windows need replacing – which gives us a golden opportunity to re-think the entire space and how we can upgrade it to make it a library fit for the next 40 years.

We have marked another important anniversary – the 10 years of service by our Chair of Governors, Chris Clark. Chris joined the governing body on 6.6.06 and we were delighted to present him with a 10-year bottle of tawny port in recognition of his dedication to our school. Chris leads the governing body with integrity, good humour and calm expertise. We are lucky to have him!

And yet another milestone anniversary to celebrate is the Queen's 90th birthday. We are holding a whole school picnic in honour of her on 7th June; classes will design their own healthy lunch which the children and teachers will prepare together before enjoying a picnic on the field. Classes are also researching the six decades that Elizabeth II has been queen to gain an understanding of the many events which have occurred during her reign.

Our Year 6 children completed their SATs exams on 12th May and were impressively focused and disciplined. We are proud of what they've achieved to prepare for the exams and even prouder of who they are and what they bring to our school.

Highlights of the final summer term are, of course, Sports Day on 28th June and the Summer Fayre on 2nd July. All are welcome! Our final term begins Monday, 6th June.

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

KENT CURIOSITIES - THE CASCADE, SWAN STREET, WEST MALLING

The Cascade ("waterfall") comes from a spring behind St Leonard's Tower then through a lake and into the grounds of West Malling Abbey. It crosses under the roadway, down Frog Lane and Banky Meadows to the A20 London Road and through Leybourne to the lake formed by the excavations to make a gravel pit at Ham Hill and enters the River Medway at Snodland.

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL REPORT (3 MAY 2016)

- Election of Chairman - Following 32 years of service, Michael Cayzer stepped down as Chairman. He expressed his thanks to the Committee and especially to Susan Cockburn for her support over this time. Richard Tripp was duly elected as the new Chairman. It was agreed that a Vice Chairman should also be appointed and this will be added to next month's agenda.
- Cllr Matt Balfour (KCC) attended the meeting and reported that the Environment Agency would be holding a number of public events in coming months about the flood barrier. There is no news on the Lower Thames crossing or Operation Stack proposals. The KCC opposed the proposed government legislation to turn schools into academies. The subject of young person's bus passes was discussed.
- PCSO Callum Harkness was able to attend the meeting and talk through his report on crime statistics. There had been 4 reports of anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note during April. Follow-ups on 3 previously reported crimes resulted in one arrest and a confirmation of theft. The Council sought clarification on how incidents were analysed and suggested that in future all items relevant to the community should be reported. A request for a further report in the summer on speed checks after rush hour was also suggested.
- WW2 Defence Pill Box on the Tonbridge Road - It was agreed that a member of the Council would approach the owner(s) of the property to discuss the possible preservation of this building.
- A request was made by the Leaseholders of the Pear Orchard for funding to cover the costs of weedkiller, grass cutting and trimming around the newly planted trees. The Chairman asked for a budget for the full year before consideration from the Parish Council. This would be added to the agenda of next month's meeting, allowing time for further inspection of the lease document.
- The possibility of using the Community Payback Scheme for help in the village with projects such as the above or the collection of rubbish from through traffic was discussed. Issues of risk assessment, equipment and training need investigation.
- The Volunteer Support Warden is currently being trained.
- A member of the public suggested that notices be placed in prominent positions throughout the village, eg the Handy Stores and Post Office, to raise awareness amongst residents about any forthcoming Extraordinary Parish Council meetings.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT (3 MAY 2016)

Demolition of Conservatory and Porch at 246 Tonbridge Road, Wateringbury - no objections against this application.

Demolition of the existing Greensted Residential Care Home and the erection of 51 older person's extra care units (C2 use class) with associated communal facilities, landscaping & parking

Time was allowed for members of the public to air their opinions about this proposal. Approximately 200 comments had been posted to Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council regarding this application. Many concerns were raised which included the following: the aesthetics of the proposal; parking issues including access to the site by large and emergency vehicles; overlooking existing properties; air quality from passing traffic; worries about setting a precedent for future development in the village; no social housing element. It was felt that the change of use had been driven by a change of KCC policy. Cllr Simon Jessel suggested that these concerns be consolidated and presented at the T&MBC Planning Committee on 25 May.

Parish Councillors voted on the application - 3 in favour and 5 against.

WATERINGBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE - The WI - Inspiring Women

Our May meeting followed the traditional form of Resolutions and the Annual meeting. We welcomed a WI Advisor, Wendy Keast, who was a wise and helpful presence. To this formality we added extra activities which imparted an air of fun to the proceedings. All helped along by tea and lovely cakes.

Our resolutions set the WI apart from other women's organisations in the country, and enable us to campaign and lobby the government and other national bodies. **Resolution 1 - Avoid food waste, address food poverty.** The WI calls on all supermarkets to sign up to a voluntary agreement to avoid food waste, thereby passing surplus food on to charities thus helping to address the issue of increasing food poverty in the UK. **Resolution 2 - Care in hospitals for people with dementia.** We call upon HM Government and the NHS to provide facilities to enable carers to stay with people with Alzheimer's disease and dementia that have been admitted into hospital. Both resolutions were passionately debated, and each was carried, the first by a narrow majority.

Annual Meeting - Reports and addresses were given. We thanked many inside and outside our membership who have helped our WI this year. Especially we expressed our gratitude to Janet Coltham, who stood down as Treasurer after many years of faithful service. Elizabeth Astridge was re-elected as Preident for a final year.

We then enjoyed tea, cake and chatter. We were kept very busy with the Trading Table, competition for The Most Interesting Object, Silent Auction and signing up for opportunities from WI for course, trips and residential studies at Denman College, the 'jewel in the crown.'

Our next meeting is on 9 June at 2pm in the Village Hall when Anna Astin will present "It's your duty to be Beautiful" (about women in WWII). The competition will be a photo of a family member during WWII. Visitors welcome.

Elizabeth 01622 812018 elizabethastrid@aol.com

Fr Derek writes

parishofficeemwt@gmail.com

Canon Derek Carpenter is a retired priest living in East Malling who is assisting in the Benefice

Although the EU referendum is the topic which will engage our minds in the coming weeks, as it has since the date was first announced, the subject which will touch the hearts of most people in the month of June is the commemoration of the Queen's 90th birthday. Although the actual date of her birth was 21 April it has long been the tradition to celebrate her birthday in the summer – and over the weekend of 11 and 12 June the nation, and many parishes within the country, will be doing just that. There will be a national Service of Thanksgiving in St Paul's Cathedral on 10 June (which, incidentally, will be Prince Philip's 95th birthday, though he has said that he wants no recognition of that) and the Trooping of the Colour on Horse Guard's Parade will take place on the following day. I had the good fortune to be in Windsor in the middle of May when a Concert over four nights was held in Home Park, and televised on the Sunday, and the shops had certainly 'gone to town' with their window displays.

An attractive book has been produced jointly by the Bible Society, HOPE, and the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity entitled 'The Servant Queen and the King she serves' and East Malling gave copies of the book to all who visited their parish church on St George's Day: it gives extensive quotations from her Christmas speeches to the nation which indicate the role that her Christian faith plays in her life. In a Foreword to it, the Queen writes: 'in the last 90 years the extent and pace of change has been truly remarkable. We have witnessed triumphs and tragedies. Our world has enjoyed great advances in science and technology, but it has also endured war, conflict and terrible suffering on an unprecedented scale. In my first Christmas Broadcast in 1952 I asked the people of the Commonwealth and Empire to pray for me as I prepared to dedicate myself to their service at my Coronation. I have been – and remain – very grateful to you for your prayers and to God for His steadfast love. I have indeed seen His faithfulness.'

As the longest-reigning monarch in our country's history, hers has indeed been a remarkable life of service which has undoubtedly been underpinned by a strong Christian faith, and we give thanks for it and for the privilege of having witnessed it. The Church of England has written a prayer for the occasion which perhaps each one of us could make our own:

Heavenly Father, as we celebrate the ninetieth birthday of Her Majesty the Queen, receive our heartfelt thanks for all that you have given her in these ninety years and for all that she has given to her people. Continue, we pray, your loving purposes in her, and as you gather us together in celebration, unite us also in love and service to one another; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



JOIN THE PYRAMID ROCK HOLIDAY CLUB

GO BACK IN TIME TO ANCIENT EGYPT

Mon 15, Tues 16 and Wed 17 August

10am to Noon at the School

Meet Joseph, Moses, and join the

Its FREE Enrolment Forms from the school or

The Holiday Club is open to all primary school aged children. Pre-school children are most welcome if a parent or carer stays and joins in the fun too. These days will be led by experienced 'children and youth workers' from different local Churches.



Exodus to find the Promised Land

Lisa 07950 852899.

WATERINGBURY CHURCH SPIRE

The church spire is clad with wooden shingles which have unfortunately come to the end of their useful life. In order to prevent water ingress and damage, the Parochial Church Council has decided to go ahead with their replacement. The projected total cost is £70,000.

The Friends of Wateringbury Church (FOWC) have agreed to support this important project with a minimum of £10,000 (made up from £8,500 already raised plus £1,500 to be raised before the end of 2016), and by running a "Sponsor a Shingle" campaign. If funds can be raised quickly work could start this summer, but if not Spring 2017 is the target starting date. FOWC will be publishing how they will be running the sponsorship drive shortly.

Your first opportunity to contribute will be at the Village Fete on 5 June, and we would really like the people of the village to come together to support the maintenance of this important landmark.



FOWC invites you to spend time in the beautiful Italian white garden of David and Yvonne Marks, nestled in the heart of Wateringbury

The garden is open from Tuesday 14 June to Saturday 18 June, 11am - 4pm

£4.50 to include tea, coffee and cake. Tickets on the door.

Crowmarsh House, 8 Boormans Mews, Wateringbury, ME18 5DU

Any further information please telephone Yvonne (01622) 434897 or email friends@fowc.org

We would like to thank Yvonne for kindly offering us her garden - it is a beautiful and tranquil oasis in the heart of the village - we are extremely grateful.

COFFEE MORNING - SATURDAY 11 JUNE - 10.30-Noon

Do come along to our regular monthly coffee morning. This month the special stall will be jewellery and cards.

COFFEE BREAK - Wednesdays 8 and 22 June - 10.30-12.30

The mornings offer an opportunity to have a chat, enjoy coffee/tea and cake and knit or crochet if you wish - there are always willing helpers if your skills are rusty. We have a pleasant morning so do come along, it would be good to see you. *Pauline and Gillian*

BENEFICE SERVICES

Visit our website www.wateringburychurch.org.uk

| | |
|--|--|
| Sunday 5 June 8am Communion - East Malling 9.45am Family Service – East Malling 9.45am Family Service – Teston 10am Matins – Wateringbury | Sunday 12 June 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling 10am Holy Communion - Wateringbury 6.30pm Evensong - Teston |
| Sunday 19 June 8am Communion – Wateringbury 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling 10 am Family Service – Wateringbury 6.30pm Eucharist - Teston | Sunday 26 June 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling 10am Holy Communion – Wateringbury 6.30pm Eucharist - Teston |
| Every Monday – 2-3pm – Scout & Guide HQ, Glebe Meadow – Toddler Praise | |
| Every Thursday - 9am in East Malling Church – Holy Communion | |
| Pilsdon Community, 27 Water Lane, West Malling - Rev Viv Ashwoth invites you to the Barn Chapel to join members of the community for a Eucharist Service every Wednesday at noon and 6pm on Sundays | |
| While we are awaiting a new vicar the parish office will still be operational. To arrange for baptisms, weddings or other services please visit the parish office at 2 The Grange, East Malling on Wednesdays between 6.30pm-7.15pm phone 01732 843282 email parishofficeemwt@gmail.com | |

Service of Healing and Wholeness. The next service will be a Meditation Service in East Malling at 8pm on **Tuesday 7 June**

28 June - 7.30pm Evensong - Wateringbury

Visiting Priests in June

12 - 10am Communion - **Rev Lindsay Llewellyn-Macduff, Bishop's Chaplain**

19 - 8am Communion - **Archdeacon Clive Mansell**

26 - 10am Communion - **Canon Brian Stevenson**

WATCH CLUB The club meets in the village hall 5-7pm and is for young people aged 10 and over. On **12 June** we have an **EcoArt** session, an artist is coming in to help us create artistic pieces from recycled and natural materials. On **26 June** a retired Chef from the village, will be teaching us an easy, economical recipe for us to make. (particularly useful for the youth who will be leaving us this year for Uni). More details from Lisa 07950 852899 or just go along to the meetings.

BENEFICE MOTHERS' UNION The next meeting will be on Thursday **2 June** when a visit to the Tudor Barn and Gardens at Eltham is planned. All welcome, for further details, or to arrange a lift, phone 01732 848176