

VILLAGE DIARY

July

- 6 Parish Council Highways & Transportation committee – hall - 6.15pm
- 6 Parish Council meeting – Hall – 7.30pm then Planning sub committee
- 8 WI 'A Fortune in Your Attic' by Mrs Pauline Dewick – Hall - 2.30pm
- 15 Flower Club demo by Brenda Evers - N'stead Hall – 7.30pm
- 17 Cricket Club Charity Fun Day - Playing Fields
- 21 History Society outing to Goodnestone Park
- 24 Police Surgery – Wateringbury Hotel - 11am - noon

August

- 26 Police Surgery – Wateringbury Hotel - 11am - noon

September

- 7 Parish Council meeting – Hall – 7.30pm then Planning sub committee
- 15 History Society talk by John Vigar – Hall – 8pm

Cream Teas and Home-made Cakes

Why not pop in for a chat and visit our beautiful village church
A warm welcome await you on

Thursdays 5, 12, 19 and 26 August between 2-4pm

HISTORY SOCIETY outing to Goodnestone Park on Wednesday, 21 July, 9.30 am from Wateringbury Church.

Price £21 to include coach, tip for driver, coffee, entry to the garden and tour of the house. Non members very welcome to join us

Tickets from Janet 814974 or Christine 816728

HELP REQUIRED

Lively elderly couple living in modern house on edge of village require assistance to cope with the problems of old age for several days a week.

Clean driving licence and excellent references required.

Telephone 01622 812294 for a chat if you are interested.

ROAD CLOSURE

Please note that the A228 will be closed between Kent Street and the A26 Roundabout (road to Kings Hill) for a gas main to be laid for 6 weeks from Sunday 25 July.

VILLAGE PEOPLE

Belated Ruby Wedding congratulations to **Ian and Norma Betts** for June 20

Geoff Dunstall and Alice Scarlin are marrying in Wateringbury Church at **2.30pm on Saturday 7 August**. They invite village friends and neighbours to join them in church for the service.

Chris and Sue Blade just want to let everyone know that they are moving to Devon. Sue has been appointed as Team Rector for the Sampford Peverell Team Ministry. Naturally they are both delighted about this new ministry but sad to be leaving so many friends in Wateringbury, which has been home for 20 years. They would like to thank everyone for their love, support and prayers throughout the years. Since her ordination Sue has worked as Chaplain for Maidstone Hospital and latterly at Canterbury Christ Church University. Her Licensing Service will be in Devon on Thursday 30 September at 7.30pm

BASH THE TRASH.

Thank you so much to all those who helped tidy up the playing fields on Saturday 12 June. Many hands made light work of it and with over 30 volunteers we were finished in just over an hour so had plenty of time for coffee and biscuits. We filled an industrial sized wheelie bin with an interesting assortment of objects! The sun was shining and the many children surprised themselves by enjoying the challenge. Thanks again Kate Averill

REV JIM TO THE RESCUE

On the May Bank holiday weekend, while the flower arranging team were in church preparing for the Carpet of Flowers festival, a swarm of bees fixed themselves to the church bell tower. Rev Jim Brown was alerted by the churchwarden and he put on his bee keeping gear and quickly came to the church. One of the flower arrangers is an apprentice bee keeper who, having taken a training course, had an empty hive at home waiting for some bees. So Rev Jim transported the bees to the new hive. We all hope the bees will like their new home and get to work to make some honey.

YOUR COMMENTS INVITED

The prospective owner of 1 Red Hill, the former R & M A Stewart offices at the traffic lights, is contemplating a planning application for change of use in order to allow him to trade as a cafe/gallery (with the cafe or perhaps a tea room on the ground floor and a gallery to the basement). The ground floor is approximately 400 sq ft and the basement approximately 800 sq ft but with hardly any natural light. He is also willing to consider any other ideas regarding what residents would like to see in terms of a shop in the village. Please e-mail to fx2452@yahoo.com

WATERINGBURY BABY & TODDLER GROUP

We have all been very busy having lots of fun since our last update in Rostrum. We have been learning about animals by making pictures of sheep using cotton wool, butterfly painting and wriggly caterpillars from plastic milk carton tops. We have decorated cakes (and eaten them!) and made daffodils from egg boxes. We also had a company called Renaissance Crafts join us once more just before Father's Day. The children could imprint their hands and feet onto mugs and plates with the inscription "I hugged this mug for Daddy" or "I stomped on this plate for Granddad". These were very popular as presents for the "men who have everything"!

If there are any parents/guardians wishing to join our friendly group, our sessions are held on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 10am to 12 noon at the Wateringbury Village Hall. There is a small charge of £2 per family per session. We also hire out our tables/chairs and toys for birthday parties etc. If you are interested please contact Tina on 07530 457541.

THE COMMITTEE

WATERINGBURY CRICKET CLUB

Well what a start to the season we have had. During the last May Bank Holiday we went to Norfolk for our tour which had moments to remember such as the winning draw in a 20:20 match, and some we would rather forget but the images are burnt onto our brains. The main one that comes to mind is the Vice Captain coming to breakfast every morning wearing a lime green man-kini. Believe me when I say, nothing can prepare you for such a sight first thing in the morning. We have also beaten our club record and scored a very impressive 284 runs for 9 wickets in 40 overs. The opposition did not come close and although I'm sure I will get fined for being smug about this, I think this match proved that friendly cricket is not boring.

The President's Charity Day is coming up on **Saturday 17 July** so look out for the posters in the village. It will be our normal thing of everyone getting a chance to play some cricket whilst eating and drinking and generally enjoying themselves whilst raising money for charity.

Don't forget to look at our website which is updated regularly at www.wateringbury.com. You can get up to date news, fixture changes and contact details from the website. Don't forget that this is your club which has been going for 25 years and needs your support. Please come and watch and then if you wish come and play.

WATERINGBURY WEATHER

After the incursion of a few low pressure systems the high pressure came back, but again it was in the Atlantic bringing cold northerly winds. This has saved us from scorching heat which can come at this time of year if the anticyclones stick in the North Sea. The May rainfall was just below average as were the minimum temperatures. However the maximums were about average. WWW

FLOWER CLUB

June's meeting was an evening of surprises as our booked demonstrator had to cancel, and we managed to get Sophie Beanie at short notice. We have never had her demonstrate to us before, but it was a super evening and well worth all the headaches involved, thank you to everyone who came along. At this time of year we had a fabulous plant stall, lots of bargains for members. Next month on the 15 July - we have Brenda Evers Area demonstrator with her demonstration entitled Midsummer Madness, this is also a club competition for members.

On a further note, we would like to congratulate three of our members who did the carpet of flowers at Wateringbury Church for the feast of Corpus Christie, Gillian, Cathy and Gwyneth and their helpers; it was fantastic, well done girls it was a work of art. This item has gone to the Nafas Kent Area News magazine to let other clubs see their wonderful work.

JEAN SCHOFIELD

WATERINGBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our June meeting was most interesting with a talk about fire hazards in the home by Mr Robert Irwin from the Kent Fire Brigade Risk Response team. The talk gave us all a lot of valuable information, and was accompanied by a short film which showed how in just 3 minutes a small fire started on a sofa could destroy a room. Scary stuff.

We have planned a tour of Downterry Lavender Farm at Hadlow, including a visit to their lavender distillery which should prove very aromatic! We wish a warm welcome to new member Rita Bourvet. Our next social lunch at the Riverside Restaurant, Wateringbury will be on 16 July. The speaker at our meeting on 8 July will be Mrs Pauline Dewick, on the subject of 'A Fortune in Your Attic'.

Due to the recent arrival of several new members, we have outgrown the small meeting room in the village hall. Future meetings will be held in the main hall. Visitors welcome.

KATHY COATES

THE MAIDSTONE HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF FRIENDS CHARITY NO 286240

The League needs New Volunteers and offers new challenges and opportunities, a chance to meet new people and learn new skills, to take part in charity events and get involved in a worthwhile cause to support your local hospital.

If you are interested in volunteering and would like to help in the League of Friends shop, the Oast Cafe or the Tea Bar at Maidstone Hospital they would love to hear from you. For more information please contact Roger Mitchell on 01622 224781.

HISTORY SOCIETY

This year our Cheese and Wine Evening in May was held at the Village Hall, where we were entertained by The Wealden Ramblers who consist of Bob Kenward playing guitar and harmonica, and Roger Resch on piano accordion. We enjoyed excellent food supplied by committee members, and special mention should be made of Norma Betts and Christine Thomas our Chairman, who both ensured the evening ran smoothly. Bob and Roger entertained us throughout the evening with a medley of songs, many based on Kent and written by Bob, and the invitation to join in was accepted by our members. Apart from thanking the committee for all their hard work in arranging the evening, we would also like to thank their "other halves" for without their help, given both freely and willingly, the evening would not have been the success it was.

The June meeting started with our AGM. Following the resignation of two of our committee members we were very pleased to welcome aboard a new member, who will join us in September, the remaining current committee were re-elected. The yearly membership fee has been increased to £8 and the next season's programme is now available which includes both new and familiar speakers.

Following the AGM, we spent a very enjoyable hour learning more about past Kings and Queens and in particular King William IV and his mistress Dora Jordan. William did not become King until 1830 when he was 58. He joined the Navy when he was 13, and whilst in the West Indies served under Nelson, with whom he set up a lasting friendship. On leaving the Navy, he became the Duke of Clarence, on a salary of £12,000 per annum and it was at this time that he became enamoured with Dora. She was born in 1831, the illegitimate daughter from an Irish family, her father died when she was 20 and it was then that she went on the stage, where she became a very talented actress and soon came to the notice of the idle rich. When she left Ireland and came to London she was already the mother of 3 daughters and it was not long before she and William met and set up home together. They had 10 children, but Dora continued to work on the stage throughout each pregnancy in order to support her family and pay the ever increasing debts incurred by William through gambling, etc. She appeared regularly at the Theatre Royal at Margate where she was paid £50 per performance, a very large sum of money in the 18th century. When Dora was 50, William left her and the four youngest children in order to find a more suitable wife to be his Queen. Dora continued to work in theatres for the next five years and then moved to France where she died in 1816.

Sheila has researched the descendants of William and Dora and found amongst them Oliver Reed and David Cameron. There is very little evidence of Dora's association with William IV other than a statue of her with two of her children, commissioned by King William five days after his coronation. Its final resting place is in the grand gallery of Buckingham Palace, so although never Queen, Dora now has a place amongst royalty. JH

ANNUAL REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR MRS FRANCES ENGLISH 2009-2010

Three years have passed since the Borough Council Elections, with one more to go until the local elections in May 2011. I would like to take this opportunity to give you an overview of the past year. The Committees/Boards on which I sit are:

- Full Council
- Area 2 Planning Committee
- Scrutiny Committee
- Licensing and Appeals Committee/sitting as a Panel
- Older Persons' Issues Advisory Board (Chairman)
- Leisure and Arts Advisory Board
- Rural Affairs Advisory Board
- Representative of TMBC for Actions with Communities in Rural Kent

On average, I attend 1-2 evening meetings a week at TMBC. In addition to this, during the working day I undertake work on the Older Persons' Issues Advisory Board of which I am Chairman, attend Planning Committee site inspections, external meetings for which I represent TMBC and address Borough-related issues within Watlingbury. I continuously liaise with the Parish Council, fellow Borough Councillors, Kent County Council and the Police, addressing local and wider issues.

2009-2010 – Front line services remain in situ despite a dramatic fall in revenue and investments as the effects of the recession continue to take effect. This has been achieved by past prudence in maintaining strong reserves and establishing a robust Financial Strategy. This year's increase for TMBC's share of the Council Tax was 2.94%. Despite the financial challenges, non-statutory services such as the Summer Playscheme, Activate and play areas were retained. TMBC's leisure facilities, Larkfield, Tonbridge Swimming Pool and the Angel Centre have been officially rated as the three top leisure centres in Kent, with Larkfield Leisure Centre judged to be the fourth best leisure facility in the whole of the UK!

Planning: Two applications have been brought to Committee at TMBC:

- Land at Drayhorse Meadow – change of use to residential, stationing of one mobile home and four touring caravans – permission refused.
- 64 Phoenix Drive – new garage and conversion of existing garage – permission granted with conditions.

One Planning Inquiry:

- Land at Drayhorse Meadow – appeal against planning refusal. Appeal dismissed. Enforcement Notice upheld – extended to 6 months.

Parking: TMBC is continuing to monitor various locations in Wateringbury where parking has presented problems, most of which have occurred in Allington Gardens and Glebe Meadow. This year TMBC has put down:

- Keep Clear sign in turning circle of Allington Gardens
- Double Yellow Lines on the corner of A26 and Love Lane
- Keep Clear sign outside the entrance to Bow Terrace/The Handy Stores – put in situ over concerns about congestion and blocking of emergency access to Bow Terrace.

Should further parking issues arise, please contact either myself or directly to transport.services@tmbc.gov.uk.

Highways: I have been working alongside the Parish Council's Highways and Transportation Committee, chaired by Cllr Bev Evans, which has been sitting over the last year tackling issues including:

- Potential upgrading of Zebra Crossing outside the Wateringbury Hotel to ensure maximum safety for pedestrians.
- Potential siting of crossing at the top of Upper Mill.
- Surveying of kerbs needing dropping to facilitate wheelchairs and buggies.
- Speeding and Speed Watch. Volunteers are required to give approximately 2 hours a month. Please contact the Parish Council for further information.
- Reduction of the speed limit on A26 Tonbridge Road – Danns Lane/Pizien Well area.

On a more general note, last year saw residents cleaning up the **Mill Pond**, planting bulbs etc. TMBC agreed to move a dead willow tree beside the pond and provided a replacement willow tree, planted alongside the bank. This continues to be a pretty and quiet area to walk around and admire in a relatively unknown part of Wateringbury.

'Bash the Trash' has recently taken place at the Playing Fields. This was a community clean-up, organised by the Parish Council and TMBC, the latter providing the equipment and taking away the rubbish.

2010-2011 looks to be an interesting year with a new Government in place and we look with interest and enthusiasm as to what impact this will have on local government.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to those with whom I have worked over the last year including Wateringbury Parish Council and Cllr Richard Long (KCC).

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any Borough-related issues, then please don't hesitate to contact me. I can also be contacted each month at the Parish Council meeting where I give my monthly Borough Council Report – a synopsis of which can be read in Rostrum.

Cllr Mrs Frances English

(01622) 812471 – frances.english@tmbc.gov.uk

TMBC – (01732) 844522 – www.tmbc.gov.uk

Here and Now Magazine; this TMBC newspaper, full of the latest Borough news and general Borough Council information is delivered to every household four times a year (also available to view online).

KIDDLIWINKS PRE-SCHOOL (REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 106279)

We are now into our final Term leading up to the Summer break. The adults thought the children would like to investigate travel through the medium of a book called 'My cat likes to hide in boxes', HOWEVER the children had other ideas! From one brief visit into the woods at the back of the playing field they have now created a whole new adventure involving bears, tents and magic gates. Every day they take us on a bear hunt gathering sticks for fires and fending off the bears. They take books to read and even have their snack in the woods and under the fantastic beech and chestnut trees at the back of the field. For some of the children almost all of every day is spent outside in the fresh air and sunshine exploring. We hope to have a visit from Goldilocks and to round off the term with a teddy bears' picnic.

All the Team at Kiddliwinks would like to wish the school leavers much happiness as they move onto 'Big School' in September. They will all be missed but are more than ready for the next stage of their Big Adventure. The last day of term is Wednesday 21 July and will be celebrated in the traditional way with a noisy sports day – we apologise now to the residents of Nettlestead for the cheering and shouting between 11 am – 12 pm! If you would like to make an appointment to view our friendly and lively pre-school please contact Sarah Scott on 07950 965255 or email kiddliwinks@fsmail.net

MIKE'S MONEY SAVING TIPS

Savings on water charges

If there are fewer than 4 persons in your household, you can save on your water bill by having a water meter fitted (telephone South East Water on 0845 8506060). Also, there will be the added saving on waste water charges from Southern Water. If you wish to revert back to rateable value charges, this is not a problem. For a 2 person household the saving could be £40-£50.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF JUMBLE SALE

The Guide and Scout Group are holding a Jumble Sale for group funds on Saturday 9 October in the village hall. Please make a note of the date and start saving your jumble for us. Thank You.

FOOTPATHS GROUP

We are taking a summer break so our next walk will be on Sunday 5 September when we have arranged a local walk of about 3 ½ miles leaving the village car park at 2.30pm sharp. All welcome phone 01622 812338 for more details.

PAINTING FOUND

A few weeks ago a small oil painting of a seascape was found on the Tonbridge Road close to Pizien Well. It looks like the work of a young artist, the name Moore is on the back. The finder would like to trace the owner. Contact 01622 817062

POPPY APPEAL AND GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

I'm pleased to report that the collection in the village last year totalled £2627.13, which as far as I'm aware, is an all time record collection. To this is to be added the refund of income tax from The Inland Revenue for donations made by Gift Aid, which has not yet been received. Many congratulations and thanks to all who gave so generously; to the businesses who had collecting boxes; the school, Scouts and Guides; to those who donated for wreaths and crosses, and to all those individuals who so kindly gave of their time and effort to collect and open and count the contents of the boxes.

Remembrance Sunday this year is 14 November. House-to-House and static point collections will take place from Saturday 30 October and trays of poppies will be sited in business premises from that date. Wreaths which may be laid on the war memorial may be ordered through me. Badges of all regiments, corps, squadrons, ships and most organisations are available for the centre of wreaths. Please, once again, be generous with your donations. The Poppy Appeal is the largest contributor to The Royal British Legion's benevolent fund, which helps all serving members and veterans of the armed services and their families who may be in need. .

A small Garden of Remembrance will be laid out in the churchyard adjacent to the war memorial in early November. Wooden crosses may be planted in memory of loved ones who died on active service. These will be available in the church, from the post office, or from me. Volunteer collectors are again urgently required, particularly in the Nettlestead area, Canon Lane, Tonbridge Road, Bow Road, Mill Lane and the area of The North Pole Inn. Can YOU spare a couple of hours to collect? I believe you will find it a very rewarding experience and everyone will be most grateful to you. Please contact me - Tony Morgan, Hon. Poppy Appeal Organiser, 3, Lodge Close, Tel; 01622 814075

SCHOOL NEWS

July is finally here, and soon we say farewell to our Year 6, who move on to secondary schools. We wish them well for the future. Before the end of term - July 23rd - we have our Sports Day, which is on the afternoon of Tuesday 13th July, as long as the weather is fine. We also wish Mrs Sara Kempe, one of our Year 6 teachers, all the best. - she will be missed. We hope you all have a nice, relaxing Summer holiday, and look forward to seeing you all in September.

<p>The school is looking for a part-time cleaner. The hours are from 6-8.30pm, 5 evenings a week, during term time, at an hourly rate of £6.70. Please contact the school if you are interested.</p>
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PILATES CLASSES

Starting in September in the Village Hall on Wednesdays at 1pm and 2.15pm. Call Lisa 07512 932415 or email lisa@healthyworld.uk.com for more information.

TESTON & WATERINGBURY NURSERY GROUP

15 hours of FREE pre-school learning from September From September all three and four year olds will be entitled to 15 hours of free early education for 38 weeks of the year, an increase from the current 12.5 hours. To facilitate this increase Teston and Wateringbury Nursery Group (based at Teston Village Hall) will open for an extra full day session (9.30am – 2.45pm) on a Wednesday from September, in addition to our existing full day sessions on Monday and Thursday. We also have places available for two year olds and we offer 9.30am to 12 noon sessions each weekday too. To register your child for September or for a place in 2011, please call our Admissions Secretary Jo Jordan on 01622 814908 or e-mail enquiries@testonandwateringburynursery.co.uk.

In our final term of this year the children are learning all about Music and Movement. They are trying different instruments from around the world, participating in Write Dance sessions, making their own instruments and practising for Sports Day on 16 July. Term finishes on Friday 23 July and this summer we will be saying goodbye to 11 children who are about to embark on a new exciting adventure at primary school. We'll miss you all but know you'll have lots of fun at 'big school'. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us this year in any way, including through the recent donations of Sainsbury's and Tesco vouchers, and hope you all have a wonderful summer. We'll be back at pre-school on Thursday 2 September. GAIL ISTED

1ST WATERINGBURY RAINBOWS

The Rainbows have taken advantage of the lighter evenings this term with lots of outdoor activities - we have focused on the countryside and the area in which we live - activities have included a walk in the woods to see the bluebells and identify leaves, a nature trail at Leybourne Country Park, a visit to Leeds Castle, a visit to Hop Garden Farm Animal Rescue Centre, sports day and finishing the term with a teddy bears' picnic at the playing fields in Wateringbury - a very busy term and a great time had by all! We have several new Rainbows as the older girls have moved up to Brownies recently - it has been a sad farewell to these girls, some of whom have been in the unit since we started our leadership. Our thanks go to all the leaders and parents that have assisted us this year to make our activities varied and exciting for the Rainbows. Both us have enjoyed our second year running the unit and look forward to the start of the new term in September. Rainbows is for girls age 5-7 years. We do operate a waiting list and for any enquiries, please contact Carolyn on 01622 812109. Carolyn & Karen (Kingfisher and Starling)

BULKY REFUSE FREIGHTER

Fields Lane 11am to noon Saturdays 3 and 17 July, 7 and 21 August and 4 and 18 September. Please note that due to the success of the green bins which take cardboard and garden waste T & M are withdrawing the cardboard recycling skips from their refuse recycling points. Residents are asked to put cardboard in their green bins and to place any large items beside the bins for pick-up on the fortnightly collection.

THE CINNAMON TRUST – WHO ARE THEY?

The Cinnamon Trust is a national charity founded especially to help with any problem or worry besetting elderly or ill pet owners. It has an established national network of over 15,000 registered volunteers, all tasked from the Cornwall headquarters. Help is available in ways that are most appropriate to the pet owner concerned. Teams can take turns visiting the housebound owner, to take dogs for daily walks or any other pet need; pets can be fostered if the owner is hospitalised; they can take pets to the Vet; they go and buy cat food or clean the budgie's cage out. Basically they can tackle any problem posed in day to day care of pets. The Trust keeps a national register of nursing homes, residential homes and sheltered housing schemes for the elderly that will accept residents and their pets. "What if I die?" The Trust has established two unique sanctuaries for bereaved pets, which do not consist of kennels and cages. They do consist of large warm sitting rooms with chairs, sofas, beanbags, rugs on the floors and TV – comforting, comfortable and familiar.

Pet age is no barrier and the emphasis in the sanctuaries is love and care, letting the pets live the life they want to live, cats having "play gardens" and dogs enjoying regular walks.

Younger animals that are bereaved are often placed in life-long foster homes. These can be with volunteers who were fostering them when the owner died in hospital, with other older folk whose own pet has died, or with families coming to the Trust for a pet. In these cases all veterinary bills are paid by the Trust, who maintain ultimate responsibility for all of them; they keep in regular touch, honouring promises they make to the owners. In the event of a situation occurring where you know the Trust could help, contact them direct in one of the following ways:- Email: admin@cinnamon.org.uk Tel 01736 757900 Fax: 01736 757010 or write to:- 10 Market Square, Hayle, Cornwall, TR27 4HE *Submitted by a local registered volunteer*

MIKE'S MONEY SAVING TIPS

Shopping in Maidstone?--Need a break?--On a tight budget?--Look no further than the Society Rooms (Wetherspoons), opposite St Francis Catholic Church at the top end of Week Street. Here in pleasant surroundings, you can have a coffee for 99p, full breakfast for £2.79, or in the afternoon from 2-5pm fish, chips and peas for £2.99 or tea or coffee and 2 tea-cakes for £1.49. They also offer an extensive range of very good value meals. If it's just a beer you are looking for, they have a good selection starting at £1.65 a pint.

THE TESTON CLUB

The last month has seen the club enjoy an encouraging number of visitors, with many joining the club, who we look forward to seeing in the club! Up-coming events are SATURDAY 24 JULY - Race Night - SUNDAY 22 AUGUST - DJ Karaoke + BBQ - SATURDAY 18 SEPTEMBER - Live Music GREAT MATES Of course we will be showing the World Cup Football on our Televisions, with special events planned for England games. We will continue televising all major sporting events throughout the year, so please join us for a drink and support your favourite team! We look forward to seeing you in the Club soon.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT JUNE

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 wateringburypc@hotmail.co.uk

A Bash the Trash morning was being organised for 12 June at the playing fields to tidy up the area. If successful the scheme may be widened to other areas in the village. The council are continuing to research litter bins to ensure that the best design is purchased for the fields.

Poly tunnels The council had written to T & M Borough Council requesting them to set out guidelines on planning applications for poly tunnels.

Potholes in Glebe Meadow are to be repaired using the 'jet patch' method.

Dropped Kerbs The Transportation and Highways sub-committee are continuing to consider the provision of dropped kerbs in the village and the priority to be given to different locations.

Local Crime The local police attended the meeting and reported 5 offences in the village last month. A public order offence involving 2 females outside the Wateringbury, 1 arrest had been made; a case of shoplifting at the Handy Stores by 2 males. There were 2 offences of making off from the petrol station without paying. One incident was linked to the theft of a motor vehicle in Maidstone and the offender has been caught. The last offence concerned the theft of Charity Clothes bags, these had been found in Essex.

Planning Applications The follow planning applications were discussed at the planning sub-committee which met directly after the main council meeting: Internal alterations including a new staircase between first and second floor levels and insulation to second floor being a revision to the scheme approved under ref TM/09/00558/LB at The Thatched House, 1 Mill Lane; Proposed two storey rear extension at 70 Phoenix Drive; Conversion of garage and extension of garage for ground floor facilities for a disabled person at 34 Phoenix Drive and Conservatory to rear at 12 The Brucks

Members of the public are very welcome to attend the Parish Council Meetings, and the planning-sub committee meetings which follow. The next meetings will be held in the village hall at 7.30pm on Tuesdays 6 July and 7 September. The Highways and Transportation sub committee will meet on Tuesday 6 July at 6.15pm in the hall prior to the main council meeting.

THOUGHTS FROM THE VICARAGE

2 The Grange, East Malling ME19 6AH

e-mail jamesbrown2@tinyworld.co.uk Benefice office ☎ 01732 843282

CRUNCH TIME!

Well, we've had the "Credit Crunch" and now it is "Crunch Time". David Cameron warns us of huge budget cuts that lie ahead. No part of our society will remain unaffected. The British way of life will have to change. It may mean decades before we return to normal, whatever that means.

Yes, economic cuts will bring misery to some, perhaps to many. There will be jobs lost, houses repossessed, and marriages may break up under the strain. For all that, however, there well may be some kind of liberation. It may well be that we can break away from this consumerist society and begin to focus on what really matters in our life. The problem is we have made ourselves believe that we need more "things" to make us happy and have acquired all this on tick, borrowing vast amounts of money. And now we need to pay back.

But all this 'paying back' is only miserable if we make too strong a connection between having things and being fulfilled. Indeed, we can easily become the slaves of our appetites, chasing more and more fancy stuff as if the accumulation of possessions is what really makes us happy. On one level, we all probably know the truth of this, but we have an economy that needs us to need things. It's driven, therefore, by our desire.

Study after study has demonstrated the things that make us happy. They are, as it were, simple gifts: family, community, health, freedom. And yes, to an extent, money too - but we need considerably less of this than we think. Over the last 50 years, this country has seen huge economic growth. But when asked, we say we're no happier. Jesus told us not to worry about such things, "Look at the birds in the air and the lilies of the field, they do not worry". It is a simple fact that walking around the beauty of our Parish here in Watlingbury can make us feel so good, it was a magnificent spring! It makes us feel better than when we drive the new BMW or play around on our ipads. All of this may be enforced on us as we experience the effect of the cuts. Perhaps, as Jesus reminds us, there is no need to be concerned.

A bit less wealth may be no bad thing for many of us! Revd Jim Brown

FETE AND FLOWER FESTIVAL

The Friends of St. James the Great Church East Malling are having a Summer Fayre and Flower Festival on Saturday 24 July in the Church and in The Institute (behind the King and Queen pub) 10am - 4 pm Many very unusual and interesting stalls. Teas etc and lunches served during the day. On Sunday 25 July the Flower Festival continues in Church 11am - 4.30pm with teas served 2 - 4 pm. The Flower Displays will depict the patron saints of many local Churches Entry free on both days.

JUST CHILDREN FOUNDATION 10 JULY

A sponsored walk to Rochester from various places in Kent culminating in a service in the cathedral at 5.30pm takes place on Saturday 10 July. One of the walks starts in Yalding and passes through Watlingbury. Please join if you can or go to

the Cathedral for the Service. Details from 01622 814621 or www.justchildren.org.uk This is a small charity which works with street children in Zimbabwe.

MILLIONS AND BILLIONS

To help understand the size of the National Debt readers might find the following comparison helpful
1 million seconds equals 8 hours 1 billion seconds equals 32 years

ADVERTISING

If you would like to advertise in the Harvest issue of the East Malling magazine In Touch the deadline for copy is 1 August. Please email clivespinks@aol.com or huntersem@blueyonder.co.uk for details.

EAST MALLING SINGERS CONCERT 'Our English Tradition'

On Saturday 17 July in East Malling Church the Singers present a variety of music - organ, piano and choral from across the ages. Music both sacred and secular, tickets £10, concessions £8 school children free ☎ 01622 750943.

GRAVE THANKS

A special thank you to the cubs who are looking after some of the ancient graves in the churchyard. Nicola Plane has taken over the job this year and due to her encouragement and enthusiasm the cubs have bought and planted plants to produce beautiful small grave gardens. The church is really appreciative of this initiative which has enhanced the churchyard and wish to express their thanks to Nicola, the cubs and their families

BELL RINGING IN WATERINGBURY – SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED

How many bells are there at Wateringbury?

There are 6 bells. The highest and lightest bell (the treble) is tuned to a G and weighs 25 stone (156kg) The lowest and heaviest bell (the tenor) is tuned to a B flat and weighs 59 stone (374kg)

Do bell ringers have to be able to read music?

No, ringers use Methods to ring, rather than music. These are rows of numbers where each number represents a particular bell, and all the bells must sound before moving on to the next line, though each row follows on immediately in a continuous stream. The position in the line denotes which order that bell is rung. Each bell can change place with the bell on either side of it by being rung slightly faster or slightly slower. The most simple method is called Plain Hunting and is shown below.

12345
21435
24153
42513
45231
54321
53412
35142
31524
13254
12345

Try drawing a line through the number 1 bell all the way down, see how the bell snakes its way from being rung first of the 5 bells to last and then back to the front again. Now try this with another bell. All the bells make the same pattern just with different starting places. The ringer remembers the pattern that the bell makes as it changes position up and down the line of bells.

How many Methods are there?

There are probably hundreds of Methods altogether. The Methods rung at Wateringbury are called Minimus Methods (rung on 4 bells), Doubles Methods (rung on 5) and Minor Methods (rung on 6). But there are also Methods for 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and even 12 bells!

Is bell ringing dangerous?

Bells are a little like dogs – you have to learn to treat them correctly. So while non-ringers and beginners should never touch bell ropes without being supervised, once you have learnt to control the bells they start to behave as you want them to!

Is bell ringing difficult to learn?

A beginner can learn to ring a bell by themselves in 1 or 2 sessions; ringing in time with the other ringers takes a little longer, though it can take a life-time to master all the different methods!

How old do you have to be to learn?

The minimum age is 12 years, while for the more mature learner there's the knowledge that ringing helps keep you healthy both physically and mentally.

How often do the bell ringers meet.

We meet for practise every fortnight on a Tuesday evening and of course ring before each Sunday Morning service.

Do bell ringers have to go to church?

No! None of the current ringers attend church - we simply leave quietly via the back door when the service begins!

I'm quite interested in bell ringing, could I try it out to see if it's for me?

Just contact Glynne on 749940 to find out when our next Tuesday evening session is and come along and have a go!

BENEFICE CHURCH SERVICES

<p>First Sunday in month 8am Holy Communion – Teston 10am Matins/Morning Praise – Wateringbury 9.45am Family Service – East Malling 9.45am Family Service - Teston</p>	<p>Second Sunday in month 8am Holy Communion – East Malling 10am Holy Communion - Wateringbury 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling 6.30pm Evening Prayer - Teston</p>
<p>Third Sunday in month 8am Holy Communion – Wateringbury 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling 10 am Family Service – Wateringbury 6.30pm Eucharist - Teston</p>	<p>Fourth Sunday in month 8am Holy Communion – East Malling 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling 11.15am Eucharist - Teston 10am Holy Communion – Wateringbury 6.30pm Evening Praise - Teston</p>
<p>Sunday 29 August – Benefice Service – 10am in East Malling Church</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>	
<p>Every Thursday - 9am in East Malling Church – Holy Communion</p>	

SUNDAY 25 JULY 10AM – FAREWELL SERVICE AND RECEPTION FOR DAVID AND HELEN COMMANDER who are moving to Tunbridge Wells where David will be a curate at St James Church. He will be ordained on 4 September at 3pm in Rochester Cathedral.

Quiet Hour Wednesdays 14 July and 11 August at 8pm - a chance for quiet personal prayer and contemplation.

Service of Healing and Wholeness at 8pm

The July service will be on 6th in Teston church and will be a Eucharist.

The August service will be on 3rd in Wateringbury church and will be a Praise service..

“**THE OLD GIRL**” (Hilary Fisher – church organist) thanks everyone for their kind thoughts, prayers and cards while she was taking her ‘holiday’ at the Queen Victoria Hospital in East Grinstead. Barry joins her in thanking those who offered help during his reversion to bachelorhood. Hilary is now home and the instruction from the bride is “steady as she goes!”

CARPET OF FLOWERS THANKS

Our very grateful thanks and much appreciation to those who sponsored the flowers and to the many helpers, cooks who baked the delicious cakes and scones and to everyone who supported this event which raised £1,500 for Church funds. We hope the Carpet of Flowers gave much pleasure to our visitors who came from far and wide to see it.