

MARCH 2011

VILLAGE DIARY

March

- 1 Parish Council - 7.30pm followed by Planning Committee - Hall
- 4 World Day of Prayer Service – 10.30am - Church
- 10 WI Social Afternoon – Hall – 2.30pm
- 16 History Society Talk on Agincourt by Keith Ford – 8pm – Hall
- 17 Flower Club - Patricia Dibbens "Floral Profusion - 7.30pm – N'sted Hall
- 19 Cricket Club Quiz – 7 for 7.30pm - Hall
- 26 Launch of Friends of Wateringbury Church – 9.30am – Church
- 26/ 27 Operation Groundforce - School
- 30 Police informal surgery – noon – 1pm – Wateringbury Hotel

April

- 2 Quiz Night – Wateringbury Club – 8pm
- 5 Parish Highways & Transportation Committee – Hall – 6.15pm
- 5 Parish Council - 7.30pm followed by Planning Committee - Hall
- 9 Bash the Trash, join the fun! – Playing Fields – 10am
- 14 WI – More Fun with Maths talk by Norman Evans – Hall – 2.30pm
- 20 History Society – Andrew Clarke – Maidstone's Fires and Floods – Hall - 7.45pm
- 30 Annual Plant Sale – Churchyard – 10am-4pm

NEW WEEKLY KEEP FIT CLASS WITH FREE CRECHE

A keep-fit class for parents with young children has recently started in Wateringbury Village Hall on Wednesday afternoons 1-2pm. The cost is a modest £1 per adult with a free crèche in the hall. The class has been organised by Becky Nixon, the Community Involvement Worker for the Hadlow and East Peckham Children's Centre which also covers Wateringbury and Mereworth. The children's centre focuses on families who have children aged 0-5 years and it's quite a new, rural service so they are just now setting up some activities for families in Wateringbury. Just go along to the hall or for more details contact Becky Nixon on 01732 850122

PUBS OF WATERINGBURY

The Queen's Head, Tonbridge Road, now a private home – Nightingale House. It was probably built around 1860 next to the site of an earlier beer shop. It was purchased by local brewer John Beal Jude in May 1867. The pub closed its doors on 4 November 1977. It had many landlords including Mr Martin who was very well known. Mr and Mrs Bills were there from 1931-55 and they had a very busy time especially during hop-picking and it was also used a lot by the United States Air Force when they were at West Malling Airfield (now Kingshill). Many noisy parties took place and much fun was had. Next to the pub were two shops, a shoemakers and a butchers shop and these were demolished in the early 1930s. *(information taken from Wateringbury as Remembered 1930-1980 by Charles Benfield, and About Wateringbury both available from the History Society).*

VILLAGE PEOPLE

Congratulations to Roy and Shirley Jepson on the arrival of their granddaughter Sarah Zoe Jepson-Potter who was born on 21 January weighing in at 6lbs 7oz - and to proud parents Angela and Andrew of Surrey.

SYLVIA GRACE CURD – 6 January 1916 – 22 December 2011

Sylvia was born in Wistaria Cottage on the Tonbridge Road where she lived until she made the hard decision to move to Greensted. She was finding life increasingly difficult even with the help of her dedicated carers. She adapted well in the home, the staff soon becoming her friends. Sadly after five weeks she got her wish and entered her heavenly home.

Sylvia always said she had many blessings during her life. Three special blessings were her brothers whom she adored. After her father sadly passed away in 1922 her eldest brother Leslie 20 took over her father's role, helped by Dick 18 and Howard 14.

Sylvia attended Wateringbury School where she was crowned May Queen. She went on to Tonbridge Grammar School and then to college for teacher training. Her first teaching post was 1937-1942 at Collier Street. In 1942 she moved to Mereworth where she became Deputy Head, and remained there until she retired in 1976. Old pupils still kept in contact with her.

William Curd, Sylvia's father, founded the Wateringbury company of The Boys' Brigade in the late 1800s and Sylvia followed in his footsteps being one of the founder members of the Wateringbury Guides.

She enjoyed travelling, visiting many different countries during school holidays. Soon after retiring Sylvia took a trip on Concorde. She had a wide circle of friends especially the elderly, visiting the sick and taking them gifts. Sylvia was devoted to her mother and cared for her Aunt Sylv (who also lived at Wistaria Cottage) for many years. Her mother became her great companion after losing her father and they often went on day trips together.

During her driving days Sylvia would often take her friends on little outings and have morning coffee or afternoon tea. She never forgot a birthday, often phoning her good wishes.

Sylvia was an active member of the Church. She befriended, and remained in contact with, each vicarage family, working tirelessly in her modest fashion to help them in their parish work and personally. For many years Sylvia said the Immortal Words on Remembrance Sunday and when she read the lesson during church services she learnt and rendered the passage with drama bringing the stories alive.

Sylvia thought the world of her five nieces: Margaret, her only goddaughter, Daphne, Audrey, Pamela and Brenda. Living locally Margaret and Daphne visited weekly to help her with her needs. Sylvia found it hard having to accept help not being able to thank us enough. We were only in some small way repaying her for the kindness she had given us over the years. This is only a short account of Sylvia's happy life. She would say "Don't be sad when I'm gone, remember me how I was I have lived a good life with no regrets."
Margaret and Daphne

FEBRUARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The planning committee would appreciate the opinions of parishioners in relation to planning applications prior to its meeting to help formulate the response to T & M. Please send comments to the Parish Clerk, Redhill Cottage, Redhill or e-mail susan_jc@btinternet.com. Alternatively come along to the planning subcommittee meeting which is held directly after the monthly parish council meeting in the village hall on the first Tuesday of each month.

At the start of the meeting it was announced that Kate Averill had resigned from the council. Vice-chair Maureen Allen therefore takes over the role of Chair until the May elections. Maureen thanked Kate for all her hard work for the village during her time on the council.

Kent Police reported that there were no reported crimes in the village last month.

The Fields Association and Wateringbury Cricket Club gave a joint presentation to the meeting on the activities carried out at the playing fields. John Ibbs said that the association was a voluntary group whose role is to organise the hire of cricket and football pitches, monitor and upkeep pitches and the sports pavilion. Simple maintenance is funded from the hire fees.

Recently the pavilion had been upgraded, the main focus being the shower area. Grants had been obtained, most of the work being done by volunteers. The parish council had helped to fund the much needed improvements to the entire grass areas which had been decimated by settlement and rabbits. A rolling maintenance plan had been prepared. The committee were still in negotiation with the rail authorities over the steps needed to keep the rabbits, whose burrows are on the rail land, from entering the playing fields. Over the weekend of 8-10 April, in conjunction with the cricket club, there are plans to participate in the national Nat West Cricket Force initiative to enhance the facilities. The Treasurer, Richard Dickety, reported that the annual turnover was approximately £3000, mainly from hire of pitches. This was spent on maintenance of pitches, marking of pitches, electricity, water and cleaning. Pitch fees for out of village teams were more than village teams. Grants were successfully gained from various sporting bodies.

The Junior Football teams are thriving with 95 boys and girls registered and 9 teams playing regularly. More youngsters will be very welcome. All coaches are FA registered and qualified.

The Annual General Meeting will be held shortly; it is hoped that more members of the community will come along and support the work being done.

Mike Witts reported on the work of the village cricket club formed in 1985. Over the years the Cricket Club has contributed funds and an enormous amount of hard work into building the Pavilion which was opened in June 1992. The club has continually strived to improve the facilities. The Cricket Club spend approximately £1200-£1500 each year to maintain the cricket square, excluding the cost of hundreds of man hours which members spend to ensure the pitches are first class. An English Cricket Board Inspector took samples from the cricket square in November 2010. The results rated the pitches as good quality and the bounce rating was "County standard". A just reward for

all the hard work club members have done over the last 25 years. The cricket square is used by the village cricket club, church, village, school and visiting side Court Cavaliers for matches during the season.

Mike Witts has liaised with the school and last year ran Kwik Cricket classes on the cricket square during school time. This year he has been invited back to run an after-school cricket club and also to introduce cricket to the top years. The club will be taking possession of a mobile cricket practice net in March purchased with the help of grants obtained from KCC, Councillor Richard Long and the Lord's Taverners. The facility will be erected as part of the Workforce weekend on 8-10 April. Club members must continually work to improve the facilities in such a great setting, and not take them for granted.

Borough Councillor Frances English reported that T & M are to receive 28% less funding from central government over the next 2 years. It is proposed that T & M and Gravesham will share a Chief Executive for 2 years, when the position will be reviewed.

The council agreed to install new gates and posts at the car park entrance of the cemetery.

Councillor Chris Talbert reported on the Kent Community Rail Partnership meeting held on 25 January. Planning permission was being sought for the installation at the station of the mural made by children from the school. Four more planters will be provided for the platforms.

New bus stops and timetables will be coming soon.

Councillor Bev Evans reported on the Highways and Transportation sub-committee meeting which had preceded the general meeting.

* Speedwatch teams continue to operate within the village. On average the numbers of 20+ vehicles travelling at over 37 mph are passed to the police.

* PCSO Dave Gillham is working with the school to develop a road sign to slow traffic in the school vicinity. Councillors voted to support the project financially with £70 to cover the production of the sign.

* More salt monitor volunteers are needed to distribute road salt in their immediate neighbourhoods in icy weather. Thanks to all those who helped in December's snow.

At the Planning sub-committee, directly after the close of the general meeting. The council's comments on the following planning applications can be seen at T & M Offices, Kingshill:

* Erection of agricultural poly tunnels covered with clear plastic sheeting to include rotational tunnels and successive tunnels with no more than 165 ha (30%) of the landholding covered with tunnels in any one calendar year. Additional information addendum Barons Place Farm Mereworth.

* Listed Building Application – new rear entrance canopy Wateringbury Place.

* Proposed front entrance gates/piers, proposed patio/hard standing, retention of windows and velux rooflights of size and position on building as constructed alternate to those approved under permission TM/10/00044/FL at Woodlands Edge 59 Teston Road.

The next meeting of the council is on Tuesday 1 March at 7.30 in the village hall

PRAY FOR SCHOOLS

A regular prayer group supporting Wateringbury School through prayer is held at **Grace Cottage, 100 Bow Road, Wateringbury**. This is open to parents, carers and those with an interest in the young people of our village. We ask the school for relevant prayer topics each month. The next meeting is on **23rd March 2011 at 10am**. If the idea of praying about issues at school is something new to you, or it would be difficult for you to come along, we are happy to pray on your behalf, just let us know. For more information about the PRAY FOR SCHOOLS initiative have a look at the website, www.prayforschools.org.uk.

Jenny Derry; 01622 815514 or jennyderry@googlemail.com Becky Bowie; 01622 813396

SCHOOL'S NEW MURAL

The school has a wonderful mural in the main hall to aid its morning worship. It was made by children and volunteer adults and shows bible scenes including Noah's Ark, Moses, the Village Church with the nativity scene in the porch, behind which is the green hill with the crucifixion then Jesus' Baptism by John the Baptist, the parable of the loaves and fishes and doves to symbolise the gift of the Holy Spirit. A dedication assembly was held on Friday 28 January led by Rev Alan Searle and

the Gravesend Salvation Army Band including ex- headmaster Richard Arnold. In the afternoon there was an opportunity for members of the community to enjoy a cup of tea and view the mural.

WANT TO GET FIT FOR SUMMER?

Then join Tanya for Total Toning every Tuesday 7pm at Wateringbury Village Hall. Come along on the night or call 07531 839159 for more information.

WATERINGBURY WEATHER WATCH

Firstly an apology; thank you to those who pointed out that last month I referred to the Jet Stream as going from East to West. This was a senior moment, it does, of course, go from West to East. After the trauma of November and December, January and February reverted to the warm and damp weather I had expected. The Jet Stream is still messing about so let's hope it settles down soon.

January was rather wet with 96.5mm (3.8") of rain, a good 30mm above average. The average minimum temperature was 3.76°C (38.77°F) and the average maximum 7.36 °C (45.25°F) against norms of 2.4°C and 7. The first half of February was slightly low on rainfall with well above average temperatures. So far this year the air temperature has dropped below zero °C on only 2 occasions with ground frost about 8 times. WWW

DICK WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT

The annual village pantomime can always be relied on to lift one's spirits at the end of a dreary January and this year Dick Whittington did not disappoint. Phil Rex's script was first class and Frances Barlow (musical director) and Taigh Giles and Becky Reardon (choreography) worked miracles to bring the singing and dancing to such a high standard.

As for the actors, there were no weak links and Gregory Pocock made a glamorous Dame. From the first entrance of the Evil Queen Rat (superbly played by Elaine Walklett) to the last scene when Dick (the elegant Esther Clark) and Alice (the delightful Taigh Giles) finally got together the audience were captivated by many stirring performances by such old stalwarts as Barry Fisher and Ian Betts, and some not so old staggers Ben Bryant and Alison Wheedon (Idle Jack and Smart Alec), Becky Reardon (Fairy Sunbeam) and the clever Tommy the cat (Esther Ollis). As always the lighting by John and Alex Pocock was superb and the sound by Mike Barlow was better than ever.

A final mention for the back stage crew and especially the scenery painters whose artistry brought each scene to life and of course the producers Anne Rex and Chris Chaplin whose vision and determination made the whole thing gel. Thank You All. AB

BASH THE TRASH

Following the success of last year there will be another Bash the Trash Day on **Saturday 9 April** at the playing fields. All volunteers, young and old, are welcome to come along and help! All equipment will be provided. We will be meeting at 10am at the pavilion and coffee and biscuits will be served afterwards. For further information please contact Kate at kate-ed.averill@virgin.net the parish Clerk or John Ibbs

WATERINGBURY CRICKET CLUB

Wateringbury Cricket Club have started the nets training which means that the season is not far off and therefore we would love your support. Come to the ground, bring a picnic and enjoy a summer's afternoon. The new fixture list will be out soon and we will put it in here. If you wish to join the club or speak to someone about it then you can call me, Abbi on 01622 202857 or look at our website www.wateringbury.co.uk

Events

Annual Quiz 19th March at 7.30pm max 8 per team £5 per head

Bar, bring own food if wanted

To book a table call Cliff Hickmott or e-mail him at bigreddog@talktalk.net

We also have a Summer Ball this year so watch this space.

Thank you for all your support.

HOSPICE NEWS

The Heart of Kent Hospice invites you to have fun and help raise funds to support the day-to-day running costs of our local hospice.

19th March 2011 - Skydive - Headcorn Aerodrome Experience a once-in-a-lifetime challenge! Skydive whilst harnessed to a professional instructor. Various dates available. For more information visit www.headcornparachuteclub.co.uk

26th March 2011 - Gig Night with "Miles from Next Door"- East Malling Village Hall. Rock Until You Drop with this fabulous 5 piece band! Tickets only £12 each. Bring your own drink

10th April 2011 - Brighton Marathon – Brighton A fun packed day for all the family. For more information please visit www.brightonmarathon.co.uk.

1st May 2011- Bluebell Walk – Harrietsham In its 24th year, an 8 1/2 miles sponsored family walk through beautiful private woodland. Registration fees are £8 for an adult, £3 for a child, and £20 for a family of two adults and two children. Pre-registration is advisable due to the number of walkers on the day.

For more information or to book any of the events above, please visit www.hokh.org or call Fundraising and Marketing on 01622 790195."

CALLING BEE KEEPERS

Those interested in bee-keeping are invited to join a new local club, Yalding and District Bee Keepers Association, meets at The Chequers, Laddingford, monthly at 7.30pm. For further information, details etc contact the secretary Jean Schofield on 01622 814264 or jeanschofield@nhs.net

WATERINGBURY CRICKET CLUB

The Club are still looking for players for their **U13 Junior Team**. The team will compete in the Mid Kent Youth League. Players must be under 13 on midnight 1st September 2010.(i.e.School year 8 or below). The Cricket Club have commenced their indoor winter nets at Maplesden Noakes School in Maidstone on Sundays from 12.00 to 1.00 pm to which all junior players are invited. Cricket coaching is provided at each session by ECB qualified coaches.If you would like to play please contact Mike Witts on 01622-812027.

BULKY REFUSE CONTAINER

Sorry for the wrong dates for February visits printed in last month's magazine and for any inconvenience caused. The dates for March are Saturdays 5 and 19 between 11am and noon in Fields Lane.

HISTORY SOCIETY

16 March at 7.40 for 8pm in the hall – Keith Ford – "Agincourt"

Our speaker in March is Keith Ford who will be telling us about the Battle of Agincourt as seen through the eyes of a soldier. He will be wearing period costume and bringing along replica weapons and many visual aids, all of which should help to bring this very memorable battle to life for our members. We welcome visitors to our talks at the modest charge of £2.

Angela Mutana – Neolithic Maidstone in the Medway Valley

At our January meeting Angela shared with us her passion for all things she had discovered in and around the Medway Valley connected with the Neolithic Age, including how the term Neolithic – meaning new Stone Age - was coined by Sir John Lubbock, who lived in High Elms nr Downe and was once an MP for Maidstone. Kits Coty was probably the most recognisable megalith under which had been found bones and skulls that may have had some ritual significance. Angela's talk was accompanied by slides, and artefacts, that she had found whilst walking near to the local sites that she had talked about.

Correction – In our tribute to Molly Pilcher it was stated that she was the first lady chairman of the History Society. Yvonne Shadbolt, Pat Worrell and Susan Islot have also chaired the Society.

WATERINGBURY FLOWER CLUB

February Meeting - AGM and supper

Last month's meeting was the AGM and this saw the changeover of officers and new members being voted on to the committee. This month also saw the introduction of our photographic competition, the title was "Nature's Splendour" - we were not sure how well it would be received by members, but we were not disappointed. We were delighted to have 55 entries, each member could enter up to 3 photographs. The standard of the work was terrific; we are hoping this will be a regular feature within the club. The results may be making an appearance later in the year at our mini show/exhibition.

March meeting is on the 17th with National Demonstrator Patricia Dibbens and her title is "Floral Profusion". Pat has been a few times now to our club and is always a very welcome visitor, especially at this time of year, when we need something to raise the spirits! We look forward to welcoming you to the club. Jean Schofield

PADDOCK WOOD CHORAL SOCIETY

The next Concert will be on Saturday 26 March at 7.30pm in St. Andrew's Church, Paddock Wood with a varied programme of music on the theme of War and Peace. Tickets, priced £10 (£2 under 19), for this not-to-be-missed event are available by phoning the Box Office: 01892 822448, by email: spring11@paddockwood-choral.org.uk or from choir members.

TESTON & WATERINGBURY NURSERY GROUP

Although February may be the shortest and (arguably) the coldest month, who says we can't have fun? We've continued with our shapes theme, making round pizzas, triangle warning signs and rectangular pasta picture frames (try saying that with a mouth full of round pizza!). We've celebrated the Chinese New Year in style, by making a Chinese dragon...well a picture of one at least...Chinese lanterns and having all the children's names written in Chinese. We're all excited to see our bulbs growing in the garden and the children continue to try out new snacks in our café. This term ends Friday 18th March.

The new term begins Monday 28th February, and as our theme will be flowers, we'll be inviting mummies, grannies, auntys, and all, for another Mothering Sunday activity, arranging flowers. As last year was such a success we know this will be even better! We'll be celebrating St David's & St Patrick's Days (a big hello to ALL Davids and Patricks), and with Easter in mind, we're planning to make sweets, watch our caterpillars change into butterflies and do lots of planting. We are currently allocating places for September, so if you think your child may enjoy doing the things that we all like doing, why not give us a call 01622 817307?

CALLING SHADOWS FANS

The Friends of St James are holding a Spring Dance on Saturday 2 April at 7.30pm in East Malling Village Hall with The Runaways, a Shadows tribute band – all the Shadows hits and more besides, tickets £12.50p (including supper- bring your own drinks / glasses.) Tickets in advance only (book before 26 March) from Pat Gill 01732 522355

WATERINGBURY WORKING MEN'S CLUB

The Club now has a new wide screen HD TV up and running, showing all Sports and interest programmes on SKY/ESPN.

A Quiz Night has been arranged for Saturday, 2nd April, starting at 8.0 pm. £5 per person, including a Buffet. Prizes for the winning team. Book a table at the Club, or ring Mike on 815623 or Alan 814974.

On Saturday, 9th April, Maxine, the well known vocalist, will entertain.

Don't forget the Club opens at 4.00 on Friday afternoons, and remains open until 11.00 pm, with Bingo in the evening. Usual meat raffle on Sunday afternoon. AC

MAIDSTONE GUILD OF CHURCH FLOWER ARRANGERS

Those interested in flowers are invited to the next meeting of the Guild at All Saints' Church, Maidstone on Monday 7 March at 7.45pm when the demonstrator will be Graham Harmer. Visitors are welcome at a modest charge of £3.

WATERINGBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Mr Andrew Clark gave us all an insight into some old Maidstone firms - some being long gone and, sadly, sometimes forgotten. We were also told about brewers, such as Fremlins, Leneys and many others which used to make beer in Maidstone. It was both interesting and educational to see old photos of Maidstone, and some of the wonderful old architecture which has now gone forever. The WI walk in February visited Hadlow College for a stroll amongst their national collection of Hellebores.

Our meeting on 10 March will be a WI social afternoon, where judging will take place for the flower and Hickman craft cups. As always, visitors and new members are welcome. Kathy Coates.

NETTLESTEAD AND WATERINGBURY PRE-SCHOOL AND OUT OF SCHOOL CLUBS,

Charity No 1062792

We are almost at the close of our first term in our purpose built premises and haven't we had a lovely time. The outside tap has proved particularly popular as no matter how old you are playing with water never loses its appeal! It is really no problem getting children, particularly the boys, to write when they can use a paint brush and a bucket of water to mark on the outside walls. There is plenty of room to roll out large runs of paper for the wonderful designs that need to be recorded. One of our young engineers spent the best part of his morning designing, recording and finally making a complete postal system. The final product was fantastic - a bright shiny red post bag with plenty of addressed letters to be delivered.

Next term will see us continuing with our gardening; some of our bulbs are popping their heads up already and we have started a compost bin which enables children from a very young age to sort rubbish appropriately – never let it be said we aren't doing our bit for the environment! We are also having a visit from the Discovery Bus the theme being the Environment.

Please feel free to come and visit our friendly and lively pre-school at anytime OR you can ring for more information on 01622 869916 or if no one is there to take your call try 07908 612887. Please visit our website at www.wateringburyandnettlesteadpreschool.org.uk OR email us at nettlesteadandwateringbury@yahoo.com Don't forget we also offer breakfast clubs, walking bus & after school clubs.

TESTON CHILDREN'S CHURCH JUMBLE SALE

A fund-raising Jumble Sale will be held in Teston Village Hall at 2.30pm on Saturday 5 March. Always a great place for bargains.

FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL (Registered charity 1038836)

It's been a record-breaking time for Wateringbury Primary School and that's official! The children all made history on 9 February when they broke the world record for the most people using British Sign Language to sing and sign at the same time, along with more than 102,000 other children around the country - www.sign2sing.org.uk.

We've also been inspected by Ofsted and received an RE and Worship Inspection too. Thank you to all those who came to the unveiling of our new mural in the school hall on 28 January and to those who made cakes and served refreshments. We return for a very busy Term 4 on Monday 28 February. Our next Friends' committee meeting will be held on Thursday 3 March and we hope to launch our new website at www.fowps.org.uk very soon.

Parents will be springing into action at our Operation Ground Force weekend (26/27 March) to clear our pond and wildlife areas ready for spring. A big thank you to Haffenden Skip Hire (www.haffendenskiphire.co.uk) for providing us with a skip for the weekend. The Ground Force event will be preceded by a Curry and Quiz Night on Friday 25 March. The children will be choosing gifts from our Mother's Day Shop at the end of the month and then enjoying a school disco on 1 April.

How local businesses can help us...

£50: We have five advertising spaces left to fill on a new noticeboard planned for our main playground. **£100:** Every ticket we sell for our Summer Grand Draw could have your company name on it. Please contact Chairman Gail Isted (Tel 01622 813716, e-mail gail.isted@eagle-eyePR.com) if you'd like to offer your support.

BADMINTON

Would you like to join a friendly group of people who play badminton for fun? If so, then come along to the Village Hall from 7.30pm Thursday evenings, meet the group, play a game or two.... For more information, contact Anne on 812597.

MAIDSTONE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra, Conductor Brian Wright, will perform its 'CENTENARY CONCERT' on Saturday 26 March 2011 commencing at 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park, Maidstone. The programme consists of four works → Walton – Overture, Portsmouth Point. → Brahms – Piano Concerto No.1. Soloist John Lill. → John McCabe – Portraits from Arthur (world premiere/MSO commission) → Britten – Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra. Concert tickets £14, £18 and £22, students with a Student card £5, Tickets for Children 18 and under are free available from 01622 736392 online at www.mso.org.uk using the booking form on the 'Performance' page or from the Mote Hall Booking office.

ABOUT YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Councils are the first tier of local Government and as such come under a Code of Conduct the same as Central Government. A Parish Council may also have a set of Standing Orders.

A Parish Council has overall responsibility for the wellbeing of the local community. They represent the local community, deliver services to meet local needs and strive to improve quality of life in the parish. Wateringbury Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of the allotments, the cemetery, playing fields, bus shelters, some street lighting and some village signs. They work with the local Borough Council and Kent Highways by reporting issues that need attention but are outside their remit. Amongst their powers they can contribute financially to crime prevention and traffic calming measures. The Council works closely with the Borough and Kent County Council elected Councillors and the police.

How do they raise the money to provide these services? Each year a sum of money call the 'precept' is collected through your council tax. This amount is determined each year at an open meeting to form the budget for the following financial year. Wateringbury Parish Council may have a maximum of 9 Councillors. Each member is unpaid and is summoned to attend 11 meetings a year held on the first Tuesday of each month in the village hall. There are two part-time employees of the Council; they are the Clerk and the Village Warden. Meetings are well attended by the public who can raise issues with the Council during public discussion time at a meeting.

There is a Highways & Transportation Committee and a Planning Committee, both of which are open meetings held on the same evening as a Parish Council meeting. Some Councillors represent the Council on outside bodies.

If you are over 18, a British subject or a citizen of the Commonwealth or the European Union and an elector, you qualify to be a Parish Councillor if you have lived in the parish, or within 3 miles of it, for longer than twelve months, are owner or tenant of land or premises or it is your principal or only place of work. If being a part of the 'team' interests you there are Parish Council elections this May and you should obtain Nomination Papers as soon as possible by calling Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council on 01732 844522 Electoral Services. Completed papers must be with Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council between 10.00am and 4.00pm from Tuesday 29th March 2011 and the close which is noon on Monday 4th April 2011. You could make a difference!

SUPPORT FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 28 February to 13 March

What is Fairtrade? For producers in the developing world it means many things, A fair wage, good working conditions, healthcare, saving schemes, food for the family and money for education. Your practical every day action by buying Fairtrade goods has a real impact on fighting poverty through trade which can really help to make a difference.



CALLING ALL WATERINGBURY RESIDENTS!

**COME ALONG AND HELP LAUNCH YOUR NEW
VILLAGE COMMUNITY PROJECT**

THE FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY CHURCH

9:30 am 26 March 2011 in St John the Baptist Church

Wateringbury

The **Friends of Wateringbury Church**, introduced in last month's Rostrum, will be launching on Saturday 26th March 2011. A small, growing army of volunteers will deliver a leaflet to every household in the village, explaining what the Friends are, what they aim to achieve and how you can become involved in this new community project.

The 'Friends' goal is to raise funds for the maintenance of, improvements to, and preservation of the Church building and churchyard of the Church of St John the Baptist, Wateringbury, in order to enable the Church to maintain and develop its work in the community. This is a legacy project, one that will ensure our village church building is there for us and for our children.

The launch begins at **9.30 am** and will be attended by The Bishop of Rochester, the Rt Rev James Langstaff, and the Mayor of Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Cllr Sue Murray.

- ❖ Why not become a 'Friend' by making an annual contribution of just £10 per household?
- ❖ By becoming a 'Friend', you will have access to many local businesses who have agreed to support the 'Friends'. These businesses may be prepared to offer discounts to 'Friends' who use their services.

The 'Friends' Chairman, William English and the Committee would like to invite residents and the wider community to join them at the launch at 9.30 am 26th March 2011 in the church for coffee (provided by the Church Events Committee), followed by the grand opening at 10 am. Even better, if you are able to assist the 'Friends' with a little local leaflet distribution for a few minutes on your way home, it would be greatly appreciated. Please call the Committee Secretary, Frances English on tel: 812471 giving your name and road so that we can try to arrange your 'leaflet drop' to be near to your home.

This project has been a year in the making so please give it your support. All are welcome! Look us up on our new website www.fowc.org.uk.

MOTHERS' UNION

The Benefice Mothers' Union meets on Thursday 3 March at 1pm in East Malling Church for a talk by Rev Peter Doodes on the Chaplaincy at Beachy Head. Visitors most welcome.

THOUGHTS FROM THE VICARAGE

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We have just managed to survive a thoroughly cold winter and we are now watching the weather shift in to "Spring" mode over the next few weeks. I was disappointed to learn that the Met Office were giving up on long range 'headline' forecasting after predicting a barbeque summer in 2009 and a mild winter in 2010. It's true that as a nation we're obsessed with the weather. Someone rightly commented that we complain if we have any kind of the same weather for more than two weeks regardless of what it is! With that in mind I share this story with you -I hope you enjoy it!

The Blackfeet tribe of Indians asked their Chief in autumn if the winter was going to be cold or not. Not really knowing the answer, the Chief replies that the winter was going to be cold and that the members of the village were to collect wood to be prepared. Being a good leader, he then went to the nearest phone booth and called the National Weather Service and asked, "Is this winter to be cold?" The man on the phone responded, "This winter was going to be quite cold indeed." So the Chief went back to speed up his people to collect even more wood to be prepared. A week later he called the National Weather Service again, "Is it going to be a very cold winter?"

"Yes," the man replied, "it's going to be a very cold winter." So the Chief went back to his people and ordered them to go and find every scrap of wood they could find. Two weeks later he called the National Weather Service again and asked "Are you absolutely sure, that the winter is going to be very cold?" "Absolutely" the man replied, "the Blackfeet are collecting wood like crazy!"

If the joke tells us anything then it reminds us about how easy it is to just 'follow the crowd' without finding out the facts for ourselves and making an informed judgement. Often we do this with our faith. We believe what others would tell us about God and Jesus without taking the time to explore this vital area of life for ourselves. I often urge the people I meet to become more active in the search for the trust of God. Again I compel you all, during this approaching season of Lent, to think anew and afresh about the astonishing hope we have in the resurrected Jesus and what that means for our lives today.

Don't just rely on me, pop along to our church and find out for yourself. You may even feel that you wish to join one of our forthcoming Lent groups where we can all seize the opportunity to find out together! Don't simply leave it as something for the future, like the weather forecasts; it never turns out the way you expect!

God Bless Revd Jim Brown

FUND RAISING EVENTS NEWS

A belated, but sincere, thank you to all who supported the Church Christmas Craft Bazaar which raised £1,401.85 for funds.

Sincere apologies to those who had bought tickets for the Innominata Concert which, due to the terrible weather conditions, had to be cancelled at the beginning of December. It was not possible to re-book for January and all ticket monies were refunded.

FUN WITH FAITH

On Saturday 19 March the Club invites children of Primary School age to go along to the Village Hall between 11.30am and 1.30pm to enjoy crafts, songs, and a bible story. The cost is £2 per child and covers lunch and the cost of craft materials. Further details from 01622 817098.

SUNDAYS COOL

Meets in the Church Vestry during the morning service at 10am on Sundays 13 and 27 March All children welcome, under 4s should bring an adult along.

DEMELZA HOUSE CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS

The total amount raised from the collection box in the Handy Stores and the church collection at the December Navivity Service is £201.13. Thank you to everyone who contributed. Hopefully next year the weather will not prevent us having our carol singing party to raise funds for this very worthwhile charity. Lisa Glasscote

Lunches for Lent

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

Wednesdays 16, 23 & 30 March & 6 & 13 April - 12.30-2pm

Why not pop in for a chat over soup and bread or cheese, tomato and bread with tea, coffee or squash.

Cheese sandwiches and cake available for children.

Everyone welcome, voluntary donations invited for charity.

Transport available if needed locally. Further information 01622 813032

BENEFICE SERVICES – MARCH 2011

Sunday 6 March 8am Holy Communion – Teston 9.45am Family Service – East Malling 9.45am Family Service - Teston 10am Mattins – Wateringbury	Sunday 13 March – First in Lent 8am Holy Communion – East Malling 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling 10am Eucharist - Wateringbury 6.30pm Evensong - Teston
Sunday 20 March- Second in Lent 8am Holy Communion – Wateringbury 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling 10am Family Service – Wateringbury 6.30pm Eucharist - Teston	Sunday 27 March- Third in Lent 8am Holy Communion – East Malling 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling 10am Eucharist – Wateringbury 6.30pm Eucharist - Teston
Every Monday – 2-3pm – Scout & Guide HQ, Glebe Meadow – Toddler Praise	
Tuesday Communions in Wateringbury – 7.30pm on 22 and 29 March	
Thursday Communions in East Malling - 9am on 3 and 10 March Noon (before Lent Course) on 17, 24 and 31 March	

Special Services

World Day of Prayer – Friday 4 March at 10.30am This year the inter-denominational event will be held in Wateringbury Church. The theme is “How Many Loaves Have You?” and has been prepared by Christians in Chile. Do come along if you can.

Ash Wednesday 9 March . There will be services of Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes at 9am in East Malling Church and 8pm at Teston Church. If you need a lift please contact Eddie or Patricia, our churchwardens.

Quiet Hour Wednesday 9 March – 8-9pm

Service of Healing and Wholeness. The next services will be at 8pm on

Tuesday 1 March a Taize service in East Malling and **Tuesday April 5** a Praise service in Teston.

BENEFICE LENT COURSE

Our Lent Course this year will follow the York Lent Course “Rich Inheritance – Jesus’ legacy of love.” There are 5 sessions which start in the week of 14 March. You can choose from a number of venues, changing weekly if you wish.

Wateringbury Mondays - 8pm various venues please phone 814443

Wednesdays - 1.15 to 2.15pm in the Church Vestry

East Malling Wednesdays - 8pm 6 Reeves Court Bradbourne

Thursdays 12.30-1.30pm in the church preceded by Holy Communion at noon

Teston Mondays – 8pm various venues please phone 812691