

NOVEMBER 2010

ADVERTISING IN ROSTRUM IN 2011

All current advertisers should have been contacted by 1 November about renewing their adverts in Rostrum. In early November those who have expressed an interest in advertising in the magazine will be contacted. Advertisers and prospective advertisers who have not been contacted by 15 November should contact Rostrum without delay. Rostrum greatly appreciates the support of our advertisers who enable the magazine to be distributed free of charge to all homes in the village.

VILLAGE DIARY

November

- 1 Older Persons' Meeting - T & M Offices Kingshill - 11.30am-12.30
- 2 Parish Council Meeting then Planning Meeting – Hall – 7.30pm
- 11 W.I. – Village Hall – 2.30 pm – Mrs. Barbara Stevens – Stories from my year in Journalism.
- 17 History Society –Village Hall - 7.40 pm – David Lettington – Pilgrims Way
- 16 Parish Council Finance & General Purposes –Hall – 7.30pm
- 20 Church Christmas Craft Bazaar – Church 11am-3pm
- 27 Christmas Craft Fayre - School

December

- 3 Innominata Music for Christmas – Church – 8pm
- 7 Parish Council Meeting then Planning Meeting – Hall – 7.30pm
- 8 W.I. -
- 15 History Society – Sounds and Songs of W.W.2

Village Annual Act of Remembrance

Sunday 14 November in Wateringbury Church at 10am

(not at time shown in last month's Rostrum)

GRAND CHRISTMAS CRAFT BAZAAR
SATURDAY 20 NOVEMBER - 11 AM - 3 PM
IN WATERINGBURY CHURCH

Many stalls with original unique hand crafted gifts
Raffle, Tombola, Cake Stall, Refreshments, Mulled Wine
Guest appearance of Father Christmas and much more

Further information 01622 814324



VILLAGE PEOPLE

Best Wishes to **Dr Mike and Amanda Rushton** who have moved to Laddingford after 25+ years in Warden Mill Close

Congratulations to Gail Isted and Alison Nicol who were elected to the posts of Chair and Secretary of Wateringbury School P.T.A

JUMBLE SALE THANKS

Thank you to everyone who supported the Wateringbury Guide & Scout Group jumble sale. We made a profit of £669.69 towards our Group funds. This money will be used to support the activities and opportunities offered to the young people involved in all sections of the Guiding and Scouting community in Wateringbury.

Anyone wishing to help out with any of the sections, either as occasional volunteers or as regular leaders, would be most welcome. Please contact me on 01622 817718. Pam Durrant, Group Secretary

WATERINGBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Mrs Lee Ault gave us an insight into garments worn back in the 1920's for the talk at our October meeting. The garments included cocktail dresses heavy with thousands of glass beads sewn onto them. It was a real eye opener to see how fashions have changed over the last 90 years. The speaker at our meeting on 11 November is Ms Barbara Stevens, with a talk entitled "My Year in Journalism".

The number 90 is very significant for the Wateringbury WI at the moment, as our branch was formed 90 years ago this year. We are all thrilled to have achieved this milestone, and with new members currently joining us at a steady rate let's hope that the branch will still be going in 90 years' time! Also one of our members, Mrs Joan Redpath, has just celebrated her 90th birthday - congratulations Joan.

We will be holding two parties to mark our 90th year, one in November at the Riverside Restaurant and our Christmas party in the Wateringbury village hall, at which Mr Tony Western will be entertaining us with "Magic is Full of Surprises".

As always, visitors and new members are welcome at the November meeting. Kathy Coates.

WATERINGBURY CRICKET CLUB

Another season has finished and what a season it has been. We won more than 50% of our matches, with the other fixtures ending in cancellations, due to rain or the opposition not being able to get a team (they were frightened of us). We had about 10 losses and 2 draws. The most noticeable loss was the 'Ashes' match whereby the urn was returned to it's home at East Sutton Cricket Club for the first time in a few years. Some of the wins have been nail biting with only a few runs in it. One memorable match was against Detling in September and was interesting, not for the result but because the pitch resembling a mud slide. Most kits turned a nasty shade of green and brown, and were so wet that the players looked like they had showered in them.

The AGM took place last week and all of the officers have remained the same. The Captaincy has fallen to Alan Skilton with the Vice Captains being Matt Rye and Richard Benjamin. Further information will be released when the minutes have been published to the club.

As always we are looking for new players for the new season. Phone numbers can be found on our web site, www.wateringbury.com This has not been updated recently due to the press officers becoming parents so we are very sorry and will get on top of it soon. Thank you for your support this season and we hope to see you in the next one.

The Club are delighted to announce that they intend to run an **Under 13 Junior Team** in 2011. 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)

If you are interested please contact Mike Witts on 01622 812027

THE TESTON CLUB

Last month's Race Night was a great success, with many members attending and a good time had by all. We look forward to another great night on Saturday 30th October with the Halloween Disco (fancy dress optional), and after that, is the much anticipated Jim's Quiz Night – have your knowledge tested on a multitude of subjects, with the usual raffle and food to finish the night off!

Keep an eye on our advertising boards for our special evening events and as usual, we will continue televising all major sporting events throughout the year, so please join us for a drink! Club Secretary

**A POEM FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY
"THE INQUISITIVE MIND OF A CHILD"**

Why are they selling poppies, Mummy?
Selling poppies in town today.
The poppies, child, are flowers of love.
For the men who marched away.
But why have they chosen a poppy, Mummy?
Why not a beautiful rose?
Because my child, men fought and died
In the fields where the poppies grow.
But why are the poppies so red, Mummy?
Why are the poppies so red?
Red is the colour of blood, my child.
The blood that our soldiers shed.
The heart of the poppy is black, Mummy.
have to be black?
is the symbol of grief.
who never came back.
But why, Mummy are you crying so?
Your tears are giving you pain.
My tears are my fears for you my child.
For the world is forgetting again.



Why does it
Black, my child,
For the men

Author Unknown

VILLAGE ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

The annual Remembrance Day service takes place on Sunday 14 November in the Church. The Service starts at 10am and the congregation will move to the War Memorial in the churchyard for the laying of wreathes and the 2 minutes Silence. There will be a small memorial garden for the placing of small wooden crosses for the remembrance of individuals. These crosses are available at the Post Office, the church and from your house-to-house poppy volunteer.

Please be as generous as you can when buying your poppy, the demands to help ex servicemen sadly grows and grows. Please help the Royal British Legion to help those who have suffered for our sake. There is still a need for more volunteers to collect house-to-house in the village. If you can help please contact without delay Tony Morgan, Hon Poppy Appeal Organiser 01622 814075

MIKE'S MONEY SAVING TIPS

1. For those adults in our community who wish to keep fit or lose weight but cannot afford the membership for a gym, the answer is on your doorstep. Take a power walk or a bike ride to King George's playing field, Nettlestead (go down Bow Road Wateringbury, through Nettlestead, past the Village Hall on the left, 150 yards on the right next to School Villas). In this recreational ground there are eleven pieces of fresh air fitness training equipment. This includes a wonderful 40 foot zip line slide. You cannot be too old to enjoy this facility and it's free. Check it out.

2. You might remember that in a previous issue it was suggested that if there were less than three people in your home it might be advantageous to have a water meter fitted rather than have your fresh water charged at rateable value. As a consequence of fitting a meter your measured waste water will also cost less. For those, with or without a water meter, savings can also be achieved. If your roof or ground water is running into a soak-away rather than going straight into the main sewer you are entitled to a waste water charge rebate and you should contact Southern water on 0845 2720845. Also, for those in our area who are lucky enough to have a swimming pool or very large pond which is subject to evaporation, an allowance to cover this high water usage can be obtained from Southern Water. MW

WATERINGBURY SPORTS AND RECRATION ASSOCIATION

The first phase of the maintenance work on the playing field was completed on Saturday, 2nd October. Many thanks to John Ibbs, David Burbridge and Mike Witts for spreading the 28 bags of fertiliser over the whole area.

The second phase of the works takes place on Saturday 20th November. On that date we have booked an equipment trailer from the Kent Cricket Board to enable us to aerate the whole area.

A 4 x 4 is required to bring the trailer from Addington Cricket Club to the playing field. A small tractor (36 H.P. minimum) with a power take off is required to enable us to use the equipment.

PLEASE CAN YOU HELP? - If you can, please phone Mike Witts (01622 812027) or John Ibbs (01622 813101) as soon as possible.

WATERINGBURY WORKING MEN'S CLUB

Could your brain cells enjoy a workout? Well, here's your chance – Wateringbury Working Men's Club are holding a Quiz night on Saturday, 13th November, at 8 pm. You will need a team of 4 – 6 people. The cost is £10 per person, which includes a fish and chip supper. There will be prizes for the winners. This is open to non-members and members alike. To book your place, please ring the Secretary, Michael Hudson, 01622 815623, or buy your tickets at the club.

Early opening at 4pm on Fridays has proved popular, and we are now holding a "Happy House" from 4pm to 6.0pm every Friday, when draught beers are from £2 per pint.

Bingo – with cash prizes – is on every Friday evening at 8pm.

We are holding a Race Night on Saturday, 20th November, at 7.30pm. There will also be a raffle. All moneys raised will go to the Help the Heroes charity.

With Sky Sports now in both bars, come down to watch the footie – Liverpool v Chelsea on Sunday 7th November at 4pm and Arsenal v Tottenham at lunchtime on Saturday 20th November – just two of the highlights this month.

Come along and support **your** village club. With membership at £10 per year, £5 for Senior Citizens, with a one-off joining fee of £20 – good value for money entertainment.

Planning Applications, Building Regulations, Interior Design

Mark Golding – Architectural & Interior Designer
Over 20 years of Experience, now freelance and based in Wateringbury
Call Mark for a free consultation on **07956 133310**
Or visit www.goldenmeandesigns.com

KIDDLIWINKS PRE-SCHOOL (REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 106279)

Continuing our theme of construction we have been keeping a very close eye on our new Preschool building at the back of Nettlestead Village Hall. It has been great to see how trenches are dug and the pipes get laid, how quickly the walls go up and then change from a shell to rooms. The builders have worked very closely with the children donating spare bits of pipes, bricks and wood. All of which the children have put to good use. We added straw to the collection and made houses for the 3 pigs,

a bonfire for Guy Fawkes and then a windmill to grind the straw to make flour! I think we can feel a trip to a windmill coming on! Expanding on this we have been busy getting to know our village and local surroundings. We have looked at the types of houses we live in, the numbers we live at and we have had a lovely walk to the local post box to post letters we have written to home.

Our visit to Nettlestead Church for Harvest was a super morning out and thank you once again to Anthony and his Team. Linking to Harvest we spent another wonderful morning at the allotments. Children and carers walked from Nettlestead Village Hall to the allotments and back again. We did lots of digging and harvesting bringing back the fruits of our labours to turn into soup. Most of us had a chilled afternoon and relaxed after all the exercise.

Lastly, we are on schedule to transfer Kiddliwinks into its new premises from January 2011. We will offer a breakfast club from 7.30 am with a 'walking bus' to Wateringbury school. Pre-school sessions will run from 9.00 am – 12.00 pm & 12.00 pm – 3.00 pm Monday to Friday during term time.

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 or just come down for a sticky beak!

FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL (Registered charity 1038836)

Exciting plans for the school's Christmas Fayre on 27 November (12-3pm) are taking shape.

There will be a special Christmas Café serving everything from hot turkey rolls, pizza and hot dogs to mince pies, hot chocolate and mulled wine. There will also be a Santa's grotto with a difference, stalls, crafts and festive music as well as a raffle and mini auction. Bids will be invited for a Christmas tree kindly donated by Bijou Nurseries, a family ticket to Santa's Magical Kingdom at the Hop Farm and a priceless opportunity to drive on a police skidpan with two friends. This is one of our major annual fundraisers so please come along and support the school.

We are also looking for local businesses and individuals who would like to get more involved with our school by sponsoring events, stalls at events or other initiatives, including new playground noticeboards, in return for some great local publicity. If you would like to discuss this further please call Chairman Gail Isted on 01622 813716 or e-mail gail.isted@eagle-eyePR.com

MAIDSTONE MENCAP Christmas Bazaar - Saturday 20 November
Cobtree Hall Mote Park (School Lane entrance off Willington St)
2 - 4.30pm - Admission 30p
Santa and his elves, Christmas cards, Bumper Christmas Raffle
Tombola, Cakes, Face Painting, Refreshments

MAIDSTONE MENCAP'S Christmas Concert with The Detling Singers
Saturday 4 December – Cobtree Hall Mote Park (School Lane entrance off Willington St) 7.30 pm
Entertainment, mulled wine and mince pies - Tickets: Adults £5, members and children £3 - Contact for both: Cathy Handley 07956 332975

RECYCLE YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS HERE FREE

If you have items which you do not want - use Rostrum to find new homes

Motor Mower - Hayter Quantum XM 35 with Briggs Stratton motor. Working but needs attention
Bib and Brace Door 28" x 71" (74 x 88)

Both items free of charge - Phone 01622 812023

WATERINGBURY FLOWER CLUB

Guest Demonstrator Nick Grounds –Flotsam and Jetsam

Nick enthralled us with his fabulous programme of designs, joking and reading poems and telling stories of all his exploits from other demonstrations this year. Nick got married this Summer so he was telling us in detail all the highs and lows of the day and what flowers his wife had in her bouquet, if he had anyone other than his team to do the flowers it would have cost a fortune, it must have been magnificent to see.

Nick did one arrangement in his trademark container, an old toilet bowl, this is always his finale and always goes down well, at first I think people were a bit bemused, but now they are disappointed if he doesn't bring it with him.

Members and visitors packed the hall and spent lots of money on our various stalls; we had handbags and jewellery, cards, Christmas decorations and sundries, plants from Wood Cottage Nursery, and we sold tea and cakes in aid of Demelza House. The raffle for Nick's flower arrangements was so popular it raised a record amount of almost £200! not bad for a £1 ticket winning an arrangement of that calibre.

I think we were very lucky to have such a good turnout, and of course we couldn't manage without all the hard work of the committee organising things, a very big thank you to the caretaker Paul for setting up chairs and tables and helping with the parking for nearly 100 people.

On another note our club member Chris Jenkins entered the Kent Area Show at Gravesend and won third place, it was a fabulous entry and members who went along and saw it remarked that it should have been placed higher, very well done Chris, a big thank you from all the club.

Next month's meeting - 18th November is our guest Bunty Stannard a well loved and respected demonstrator who will give us a wonderful evening, please come along and join us - a warm welcome awaits you.

Jean Schofield - Vice Chairman

WE HAVE A RARE VACANCY

For an enthusiastic, part time

PRE-SCHOOL ASSISTANT to work part time in a busy village hall based pre-school. Must hold at least a relevant level 2 qualification and Either be working towards or willing to work towards level 3.

CRB checks will be required.

For further information please call **Amanda on 07805796353**

TESTON & WATERINGBURY NURSERY GROUP (Registered charity 1044257)

www.testonandwateringburynursery.co.uk

Admissions and all enquiries: Amanda Vidler 07805 796353

Our AGM was a great success, with many more attendees than we were expecting - the more the merrier! We said a very fond farewell to Gail Isted, who stepped down as chairman after five years, and whilst she'll be greatly missed, we welcomed our new chairman, Sarah Sewell with open arms – go Sarah!! We elected a new committee, and will be holding our first meeting on Thursday 21 October. A huge thank you to the outgoing committee members for all their hard work & support.

Term 2 starts on Monday 1 November, with the theme 'Winter Celebration'. We'll start with having our photographs taken and celebrating divali by making diva candles.

The Kent Discovery Bus visits on 8 November, providing a session of play and exploration through the buses Eco theme.

In November we'll be making and serving our families lots of lovely things in our children's café and enjoying an autumn session, spending the whole preschool day at Teston Park, participating in lots of craft, nature and (rather messy) outdoor activities!

We'll be looking at lots of winter things and making our own winter scenes.

Nearer to Christmas we'll visit Reverend Jim at Teston Church, singing some of our favourite songs. The term ends with our Christmas concert and hopefully a special visitor!

WATERINGBURY WEATHER WATCH

At the moment our weather does not appear to be doing anything spectacular and although September 2010 was not as warm as last year the temperature was very close to the 19 year average. The rainfall was well above that of last year; however it was still slightly below average.

The cold North winds we experienced from the first half of October will come and go from time to time but at the moment I see no reason to change my prediction of a fairly warm, windy and wet winter.

The September figures were: rainfall 53.6mm (2.1"); average minimum temperature 11.2C (52F); average maximum temperature 18.9C (66F) WWW

CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD AUTUMN CLEAN – SATURDAY 13 NOVEMBER

Please come along to the church to help prepare the church and churchyard for the annual parish Act of Remembrance. Church wardens Eddie and Patricia will be appreciative of any help you can give; just pop along for an hour or so between 9.30am and noon and bring your own tools for the task you would like to help with. Tea and coffee will be provided.

BENEFICE MOTHERS UNION

The November meeting will be in Wateringbury Church at 1pm on Thursday 4 November when the speaker will be Rev Pam Rink. All welcome, bring your own sandwiches, tea and coffee provided.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation for this year's benefice candidates will be at St James the Great, East Malling on Sunday 12 December at 3pm by Bishop James. This will be his first confirmation and engagement in the Diocese following his installation at Rochester Cathedral on Saturday 11 December.

MAIDSTONE CHRISTIAN CARE

We are planning to help with the work MCC does for homeless people in Maidstone as in the past we will be collecting tins of food and delivering them before Christmas. Last year we also collected sleeping bags, waterproof clothing, socks, gloves and fleeces. These items are much needed again this year. Please bring whatever you can spare to the church before the 20 December so that we can deliver them before Christmas. Thank you Gillian Sessions 01622 813076

HARVEST LUNCH AND TALK

The Harvest lunch with talk on Pakistan by Liz Yates at the church on October 2 was a super event with an informative and fun talk and great food. Thanks to generous donations £636 was raised to be sent to the Pakistan flood disaster appeal.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funeral – 7 October – Christopher "John" Semark

THOUGHTS FROM THE VICARAGE

2 The Grange, East Malling ME19 6AH

Telephone/Fax 01732 843282 e-mail jamesbrown2@tinyworld.co.uk

“LOS 33” - NOT WHY BUT HOW?

There are some really interesting, albeit simple, questions in life, the answers to which are often not understood


- ❖ Why do doctors and lawyers call what they do ‘practice’?
- ❖ Why is abbreviation such a long word?
- ❖ Why is it that when you’re driving and looking for an address, you turn down the volume on your car radio?
- ❖ Why is a boxing ring square?
- ❖ What was the best thing before sliced bread?

These questions represent a light hearted humorous reminder that there are indeed a lot of things in this life that we just really don't understand

Actually there are so many things in this life that we just don't understand and that we just can't comprehend. For example, why did 33 miners get trapped in a mine in San Jose, Chile? But perhaps this is the wrong question. We should think about asking “How?” rather than “Why?”. If we spend our time asking “Why?” it could be that we get stuck and do not move on and therefore do not achieve anything. At the Chilean mine, Camp Hope was built on prayer that asked the question “How?”. How can we get our loved ones rescued? A prayer took place both above and below the surface of the Atacama desert and God was there in the midst of their tragedy.

When “Los 33” were brought to the surface the prayers turned into celebration and thanksgiving and the Chilean Prime Minister welcomed each of the miners with an embrace and said “Welcome back to life”. It seems to me that this was a most amazing resurrection story. A resurrection that would not have taken place without the question “How?” being asked by all concerned - families and rescuers.

The handwritten message with which Chile’s trapped miners told the world they were alive, the capsule that delivered them to freedom, and the rescue shaft itself, are to be preserved as reminders of one of that country’s greatest moments in its history. However, the Chilean people will never forget that their prayers of “How?” were answered. They didn’t spend their time asking “Why?” because this would have led to the death of those 33. Through their prayers they were given hope and confidence and this led to “Los 33” being given back their lives that, for some reason we cannot comprehend, was so tragically taken from them. We may not understand why but we saw how! Revd Jim Brown



INNOMINATA FOR CHRISTMAS
Friday 3 December 8pm in the Church
A concert will be given by this popular choral group
Tickets £6, accompanied children free
Available from Watlington Post Office or 01622 813032

POSADA

From Advent Sunday 28 November until Christmas Eve the wooden figures of Mary and Joseph will travel to homes in the village to stay for one or two nights. Posada is the Spanish word for Inn and encourages households to give a home to the Mary and Joseph figures from the Posada crib which will be in the church from Christmas Eve. If you would like the figures to visit your home please phone Gillian on 01622 813076. This year the figures will start their journey round the village at the 10am Advent Sunday service. For the first time this year children who go to Toddlers Praise on Mondays will be given the opportunity to have a cuddly lamb and donkey to visit their homes.

FUN WITH FAITH

The club is for children of Primary School age and usually meets in the village hall on the third Saturday in each month. There will be a change for the November meeting as this is the day of the Church Craft Fayre and Fun with Faith will be having a stall and selling some of the craft items they have made. The December meeting will be final rehearsals for the Nativity Play which will form part of the Family Service in Church at 10am on 19 December. If your children wish to take part in the Nativity please let Sally know as soon as possible. New members are always welcome just go along to the hall at 11.30am until 1.30pm. The cost is £2 per morning and includes lunch and craft activities. To learn more phone Sally on 01622 817098.

CHRISTMAS DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

5 December at 10am – Christingle Service
16 December at 8pm - Lessons and Carols by Candlelight
19 December at 10am - Children's Nativity
24 December at 5pm - Crib Service at 11.30pm Midnight Communion
25 December at 10.30am - Family Communion

BENEFICE CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 7 November

8am Holy Communion – Teston
10am **Morning Praise – Wateringbury**
9.45am Family Service – East Malling
9.45am Family Toy & Gift Service - Teston

Sunday 14 November Remembrance

8am Holy Communion – East Malling
10am Annual Parish Act of Remembrance - Wateringbury
10.00 am Remembrance – East Malling
10.50am Remembrance - Teston
4.30pm Choral Evensong – East Malling

Sunday 21 November

8am Holy Communion – Wateringbury
9.45am Eucharist – East Malling
10 am Family Toy Service – Wateringbury
4pm Annual Thanksgiving and Remembrance Service
6.30pm Thanksgiving & Remembrance - Teston

Advent Sunday 28 November

8am Holy Communion – East Malling
9.45am Eucharist – East Malling
10am Holy Communion and Posada – Wateringbury
6.30pm Advent Carols - Teston

Every Monday – 2-3pm – Scout & Guide HQ, Glebe Meadow – Toddler Praise
Tuesdays (not 1st in month) – 7.30pm in Wateringbury Church – Holy Communion
Every Thursday - 9am in East Malling Church – Holy Communion

SPECIAL SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

Thanksgiving and Remembrance Services

To enable everyone to pray and give thanks for those we love but who have departed this life, there will be Services of Thanksgiving and Remembrance in all 3 churches. A special invitation is extended to those recently bereaved, but everyone is most welcome to attend
Wateringbury Church – Sunday 21 November 4pm
East Malling Church – Sunday 7 November 2pm or 4pm
Teston Church – Sunday 21 November 6.30pm

Quiet Hour Wednesday 10 November 8-9pm – an opportunity to spend time in quiet prayer and to light a votive candle. Come and go as you please

Service of Healing and Wholeness – 2 November This month the service will be a Eucharist in Wateringbury at 8pm.

Annual Toy and Shoe Box Service – 21 November 2010 – 10am

Please help children and mothers who will be spending time at local Women's Refuges enjoy the Christmas festivities by donating nearly new toys and gift vouchers for the children. The mothers really do appreciate the shoe boxes which have been donated in recent years. Suggested items for the boxes are toiletry items and other small items which a mother who has left most of her possessions to flee a violent situation would appreciate

OCTOBER PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

At the start of the meeting Dennis Stones was unanimously co-opted to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council.

The Chairman announced that Mike Pursey had agreed to read the Roll of Honour on behalf of the parish council at this year's Remembrance Service.

Crime There had been only one crime last month in the village when EDF electricity cable was stolen from the Tonbridge Road Area. The theft of such cable is an ongoing national problem.

Cemetery A letter had been received drawing the council's attention to the placing of fencing round some graves which the writer said convened agreements for plots in the cemetery. The matter was deferred until the November meeting to allow all councillors to visit and assess the situation.

Allotments The allotments had been visited. A letter had been sent to all plot holders commending the majority who keep their allotments in good condition and reminding a small number (4) that they need to improve their plots. There were 6 people on the waiting list with 3 plots becoming available very shortly.

Playing Fields The council agreed to pay for the fertiliser needed to improve the playing fields (£390). This work had been done by volunteers. The use of a 4 x 4 vehicle and a mini tractor were urgently needed to complete the work. The Sports and Recreation Association had agreed to let the council have details of its anticipated expenditure for the next 2 years in time for the November meeting when the council prepares its budgets.

The council agreed to write to the railway authority in support of the need for a rabbit proof fence to be placed along the boundary of the fields and the railway land as the rabbits were seriously damaging the fields.

Minimal damage had occurred to a piece of play equipment which was being repaired. The dog bin had been resited away from the play area.

Highways Positive feedback had been received about the village Speedwatch. The police had sent 2 letters to persistent speeding offenders.

Planning Provided the T & M Tree Officer was in agreement the council had no objection to the application to remove overgrown beech hedge, yew and holly tree and plant new fruit trees at 191 Tonbridge Road

Kent Community Rail Partnership Councillor Talbert had attended a recent meeting where it was suggested that Parish Councils provide links on village web sites to rail and bus timetables. Councillors agreed that these would be useful links and agreed to adjust our website

Borough Councillor Frances English reported on matters of local interest including: **Drayhorse Meadow** an application had been made to transfer the proceedings from Leeds to London. **Older Persons' Forum** An open meeting is being arranged for Monday 1 November from 11.30am for

about an hour. Speakers will outline the aims of the organisation (which Frances chairs). The venue is the T & M council offices at Kings Hill. For more information contact Frances 01622 812471.

County Councillor Richard Long asked the council if its bid for Road Salt Bins had progressed. On learning that no response had been received he agreed to follow the matter up with KCC.

Public Discussion

Sarah Hudson reported that 2012 was the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and to mark the occasion an extra day's bank holiday is being granted in June. It is also the year of the London Olympics which open on 27 July. She thought it would be great if the village celebrate these events with community activities along the lines of the Tour de France celebrations which she had arranged. She offered to spearhead such festivities if the council wished to hold such an event. Sarah was thanked for her suggestion which councillors supported wholeheartedly. It was agreed that Sarah would prepare costings for the November budget meeting.

T & M were congratulated on the excellent work which had been recently carried out to widen the footpath along the A26 from Canon Lane to Danns Lane. Borough Councillor English said she would pass this on to the appropriate department.

Finance and General Purposes Committee The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 16 November** and will discuss various budget options.

Next council meetings Tuesdays 2 November and 7 December

All meetings are held in the village hall and start at 7.30pm. The public are very welcome to these meetings as the Council value the views of local residents.