

Parish News

Great Waltham Ford End Howe Street Littley Green North End

FEBRUARY 2020

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

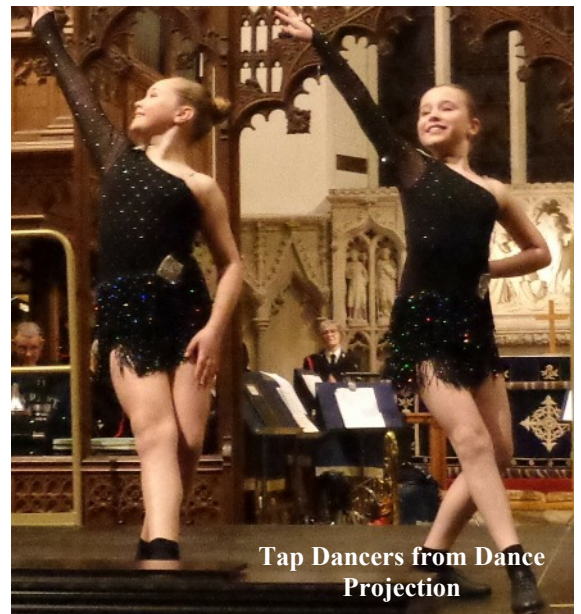
The 12th Christmas Tree Festival featured 15 trees imaginatively decorated by local clubs, businesses, the school and preschool on the theme of "A Decade." The winning tree was the Community Network's 1960s tree, see below, closely followed by the Village Choir's Roaring Twenties tree, see page 6.

On Saturday there was the usual bustling market and fair and in the evening, we were entertained by the Essex Police Band with the support of the village choir, the school choir and ballet and tap dancers from Dance Projection. On Sunday the Parish Council tree lights at Banbury Square were switched on by Sandra Brown of Ford End, and then Father Christmas arrived in a most amazing car and led the way along the candlelit path back to the church for an enchanting Christingle.

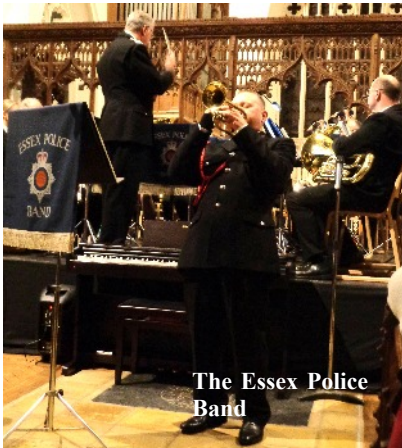
The event was jointly organised by the PCC and the Community Network and with the help of many kind friends. Thanks to everyone who took part and who came along.



Ballet Dancers from
Dance Projection



Tap Dancers from Dance
Projection



The Essex Police
Band

Some of the photos
from the Christmas
Tree Festival
Others are on page 6

The Community
Networks winning
1960's Christmas
Tree



The Essex Police Band photo by Barry Teader

Treasure found in Great Waltham village!

'Wow!!!' wrote Tanya, a recent visitor to our Church. She said the tour had made her 'appreciate the jewel in the centre of the village. For too long I have passed by and taken it for granted - a big mistake on my part - I will show it more respect in future'.

These words made me think hard. Now as some of you know I am the historian of this Church and I absolutely with no conditions love it! I just want to share its story with anyone that has an interest in history.

For more than 900 years it has stood imposingly over the centre of the village. Its history was central to the life of the individual and community and it is their story which is recorded in the fabric of our Church. This is demonstrated by its wonderful artefacts and its many stories which unfolded over the centuries. There are parents and their children who visit during the day, sometimes at the request of the children! Sometimes 'Pete from the Church' is asked to meet them and pass on some of the stories of the Church - I often get them to hold the 'sluggard waker' or 'dog-whipper' stick and demonstrate how it was used. Or get them to hold the ancient sanctuary ring set in the fourteenth century door and tell them why it's there.

But it is not a museum it's a living building where its history is even now being made in both the spiritual and the secular. But more than anything, irrespective of your religion or lack of religion, it is an oasis of tranquillity in a frenetic world. In company with many others, past and present, I have sat alone on the 600 year old pews bathed in a world of silence - occasionally you may hear the chirping of birds. It is a sublime place to slow down, maybe to think through whatever is bugging you at this time and find peace. Please take Tanya's advice, don't miss out on this treasure in the heart of your village. Peter Wells



Church of England Services February 2020

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sunday 2nd | 9.30am 11.00am | Communion Communion | Ford End Great Waltham |
| Wednesday 5th | 9.00am | Coffee with Christ | The Castle Great Leighs |
| Sunday 9th | 9.30am 11.00am | Communion Communion | Ford End Great Waltham |
| Sunday 16th | 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am | Communion Communion Communion | Ford End Great Waltham Chignals |
| Sunday 23rd | 9.30 am 11.00am | Celtic Service Communion | Ford End Great Waltham |
| Wednesday 26th | 7.30pm | Ash Wednesday | Little Leighs |

Contact: Alison Bates Parish Administrator
Tel: 07957 228467 admin@littleandgreat.org.uk

Services and Events at Blackchapel, North End February 2020

| | | | |
|------|---|--------------|---------|
| 2nd | Family Worship | Rev C Taylor | 3.00 pm |
| 9th | Holy Communion (bcp) | Rev C Taylor | 3.00 pm |
| 16th | Holy Communion (cw) | Rev C Taylor | 3.00 pm |
| 23rd | Away Week-end with Holy Cross Church (No service at Blackchapel) | | |

bcp = Book of Common Prayer; cw = Common Worship
Services start at 3pm unless otherwise stated
Enquiries: contact P Hamilton on 01371 820095

Services and Events at Lt Waltham United Reform Church February 2020

Contact Rev Hans Stein 01371 875654
Services each Sunday at 10.30

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Sunday 2nd | 10.30 Rev Hans Stein |
| Sunday 9th | 10.30 Rev Hans Stein Bring & Share Lunch |
| Sunday 16th | 10.30 Ian Chamberlain |
| Sunday 23rd | 10.30 Rev Geoffrey Griggs |

Thursday 6th Gossip and a Guzzle 11.00-1.0
Saturday 15th Coffee Morning 10am - 11am

Coffee Morning
Blackchapel, North End
10.30 - 12.00
Last Wednesday in every month
Proceeds to North End Defibrillator

Ford End Garden Club

For many years now, Tony Bugden used to give every member 3 hyacinth bulbs to plant in a pot, with instructions how to grow them and have them ready for show at the January meeting. Everyone was instructed to bring them back regardless of how good, bad or indifferent they were.

They were all judged by Tony and the winner was given a small prize. Sad to say, Tony died last year and as a memorial to him we decided to keep the competition going so the winner now receives a trowel that Tony used in his work which has been mounted and will be awarded every year. **This years winner is Sheila Sheldrake seen here being presented with the trowel by Alan Adcock.**



This years winner is Sheila Sheldrake seen here being presented with the trowel by Alan Adcock.

On the **10th February** Caitlin Willis will be talking about her work at Rothamsted, the oldest agricultural research organisation in the UK. Caitlin is a PhD student working on the insect damage to oil seed rape.

The meeting will be held in the Ford End village hall and will start at 7.30. Everyone is welcome.

Great Waltham Parish Community Care Group

The aim of the group is to provide short term and ongoing help to meet the needs of elderly local residents for whom there is no statutory provision. Predominately this will involve providing transport to doctor or hospital appointments.

If you require the services of the group, please call our

co-ordinators who are:

Sheila Gillies Tel. 01245 360570

Wendy Proctor Tel. 01245 360483

John Lattimore, Chairman Tel. 01245 363818

Ford End Senior Tea

The next tea will be held at 3pm on Monday, 17th February at Woodstock, Church Lane, Ford End. Anyone interested or who has not been before, please ring Sheila Bearman on 01245 237335 or 07977 077945

Ford End Dancing

The club will meet at 7pm in Ford End Village Hall Wednesday 5th and 19th February. For more information, contact Sheila Bearman on 01245 237335 or 07977 077945

WALTHAMBURY WOMEN'S



Our President opened the January meeting wishing members a happy and healthy New Year. She then introduced Deborah Hart who talked "All about Willow"

explaining the many different types of willow and weaving techniques. In the course of her talk she made us a woven garden obelisk which we raffled. What an amazing talk Deborah gave and we hope to invite her again.

Our next meeting is **Tuesday 11th February at 7.15 for 7.30** at the British Legion Hall. New members welcome.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER MARCH 6th 2020



**2pm Great Leighs
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Great Leighs, Chelmsford Essex

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Cuppa with a Copper



Join us at the Great Waltham Parish Council office **3pm on Saturday 8th Feb**, to meet your local PCSO to discuss any police related concerns you may have. This is your opportunity to raise them with the police and ask any other questions you may have. This could be to raise an issue affecting you or the community or just to seek some general advice.

Members of the Parish Council will also be present so a great opportunity to raise issues affecting you in your community.

Any queries regarding this, please contact the Parish Council or speak to Jan Bloomfield



Three Christmas Trees on display, photograph by Barry Teader



The Runner Up Roaring 20's Christmas Tree by the Village Choir



Three Christmas Trees on display, photograph by Barry Teader

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News from Great Waltham C of E VC Primary School

We start 2020 being able to reflect on a lovely school 'Christmas' with the Peter Pan Pantomime at the Civic Theatre, our Carol Service, Hat Making, EYFS/KS1 Play (The Inn Crowd) and a delicious Christmas dinner. Thanks to all the staff and volunteers who helped make Christmas such fun.

The children have settled back into their routines as the calendar year begins.

The KS2 children have started learning about WW2. Many of the first lessons started with 'What do you already know'. That varied from child to child but the knowledge bank is quite large. So important that the children remember their past. It is easy to forget how long ago 1945 feels nowadays. Class North America have written some lovely poems on the topic.

KS1 have started learning about the Great Fire of London, always an exciting topic to share with the children. They will be able to discuss the terrible events in Australia too and make the link between the difficulties and dangers associated with fires. We have the local fire brigade booked for some visits later in the school year to talk to children about fire, home and online safety. So far, they have looked at timelines and studied the differences between London in the 1600s and today.

The Parish Council have met to discuss community plans for the 75th anniversary of VE Day. They very much want the school to be involved. We will keep you updated of course; we may have a family picnic on the school field on Saturday 9th May.

Our Lifelong Value for this half term is Perseverance - we acted out the story of Moses and the Red Sea in Collective Worship and discusses how important in life it is not to give up.



The steel drum workshop

Essex Music Services have loaned the school some steel drums for the spring term, children in KS2 enjoyed a music workshop and we now have an after-school club too. They are fun to play and very noisy! Y6 children enjoyed competing at Melbourn in an indoor athletics



Indoor athletics at Melbourn

event. This involved many running, jumping and throwing events and lots of team races. They came 6th on the day.

The school PTA have been busy looking at ways to invest the funds they have worked so hard to raise. In the next few months they are planning school discos, mothers and fathers' day events, summer fayre and helping with the outdoor areas.

THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY www.hundredparishes.org.uk

It is easy to take for granted the helpful signposts to be found at many of our road junctions, yet they are part of our culture and heritage. Early road signs were erected by cycling and then motoring organisations as ordinary people began to enjoy the freedom afforded by ownership of a bicycle or motor car. Standards for signage on main roads were redefined in the 1960s to satisfy faster traffic and night visibility. Fingerposts that indicate direction and distance from rural junctions are frequently much older and can merit further investigation.



Fingerposts, with arms pointing in several directions, are white with black lettering, and generally made of wood or iron. Many local examples, some almost 100 years old, were made of iron in Essex at Maldon Iron Works. The manufacturer's name is now usually obscured by many layers of paint.



Personal favourites include the fingerpost at Matching Green indicating the mileage to London – precisely 26¼ - and one north of High Roding that points to Takeley Station which closed 60 years ago. On the B1039 between Chrishall and Great Chishill, a finger points to a non-existent GREAT CHISHALL. A Henham sign shows the way to the pub, Ugley Chequers. This and all other signposts were removed for the duration of WWII lest they should aid the enemy.

Some signs at T-junctions have information on the back, albeit hidden from view. Usually this is the same as

the visible side, but not always: the southerly finger of one on the B1051 in Broxted points to Broxted and Bps Stortford, but the back reveals that it has been recycled and once pointed to Wimbish Green. As you travel along the lanes, please take time for a second look at our humble, ancient fingerposts.

Ken McDonald, Secretary



Great Waltham Parish Council

Clerk, W Adshead-Grant, Great Waltham Village Hall, South Street, Great Waltham, Essex CM3 1DF

Tel 07880 717329 clerk@greatwalthamparishcouncil.co.uk

The following is a summary extract (by Mike Steel – Chair) of the Parish Council Meetings of 18th November and 16th December 2019. The full and approved minutes are published on the Parish Council Notice boards and at the Parish Website <https://www.essexinfo.net/great-waltham-parish/>

It was agreed to continue the car parking arrangement with GWVH beyond the 6 month trial period at a cost of £1,250 pa for the 9 public spaces.

GWPC agreed to lead the 8th May 2020 75th VE anniversary and the formation of a parish organising committee. A meeting is planned in January to create a committee facilitated by the Parish Council. The proposed precept for 2010/21 was agreed at £49,898.

Removal of the 2G mast see article below.

GWPC will need to move to a new website (currently managed by Cllr Steel and the Clerk) as Essexinfo.net ceases in March 2020. However, we have received a note from EALC saying that something similar would continue on a national basis under Voice which is an easy-to-use website builder available free of charge to all community, not-for-profit, and voluntary groups in the UK. The technology is the same as EssexInfo.net and Voice offer a free transfer service. Cllr Steel will pursue the transfer.

The negotiations with CHP, for taking over the 14 space car park in Blossom Way, has re-started. See below

It was agreed to continue “Cuppa with a Coppa” with Cllr Bloomfield leading on it. Next meeting will be 8th Feb 2020.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held **19:45 Monday 20th January 2020**, at **Ford End Village Hall**. The Public and Press are welcome to attend. The agenda will be published on the Parish website and notice boards before the meeting.

(Note – the Parish Office has moved to GW Village Hall. Telephone number for the Clerk is now 07880 717329)

The Empty Space

Back in 2002, Orange submitted a planning application for a 2G mast at the Southern end of Cherry Garden Road. After much debate, including a hearing in the Village Hall, we ended up with an innocuous 8m mobile plastic phone mast pretending to be a telegraph pole (no wires!) and a cabinet. Not a bad outcome and we got a reasonable mobile phone coverage and there was a condition that the mast and cabinet had to be removed if no longer needed. Fast forward to 2013 and my phone stopped working because the mast had been switched off – no longer needed. I then started an initiative to get it removed, little knowing how important this could be. In 2018 the local residents had a letter that a 30m mast was going to be installed in its place and there was no argument against it as it was permitted development, to replace an existing mast with a new bigger one! Now, 30m in the middle of a rural village is quite a size! An argument that that the current 8m mast wasn't active resulted in a withdrawal by the Telecoms company but did increase my resolve to get the current mast removed. Ownership of the land wasn't clear, ownership of the mast also wasn't clear (Orange was sold to EE who were bought by BT), so with lots of help from ECC Cllr Aldridge, we were able to establish such ownership and get it removed, thus removing any future threat of someone turning up and sticking in

something totally out of context, without any planning process. You probably haven't noticed its disappearance – see photo of empty space (apart from the retained Speed Indicator Device mast)! Now, I am not a technophobe, and have 40 years' experience in electronic comms and technology with



Marconi and BT, but we need balanced solutions. And my 5G BT Smartphone seems to work quite well!

Cllr Mike Steel

Car Parking in Great Waltham

Great Waltham Village Hall trustees and Great Waltham Parish Council are delighted to announce they have agreed to continue



the two hour maximum public car parking between 8.30am and 5.30pm Monday to Friday in nine allocated bays in the Village Hall car park – the

four blue edged bays fronting South Street in the main car park and the five blue edged bays (including one accessible bay) to the right of the village hall. All other parking spaces are for Village Hall users only as are the blue bays outside the designated times. The viability of the Village Hall is dependent on the provision of adequate parking for its users and we would ask that members of the public respect this so as not to jeopardise future Village Hall bookings. Where possible, the Village Hall trustees are willing to consider any requests for special arrangements to use the car park for events providing it does not impact Village Hall usage, but this needs to be arranged in advance – please contact

greatwalthamvillagehall@gmail.com

Cllr Mike Steel

Thank you for all of the contributions to this edition of 'Parish News'. Please send your contributions for the next issue by email to: articles@parish-news.co.uk. Enquiries and advertising requests should be sent by e-mail to:

articles@parish-news.co.uk The last date for inclusion in the **MARCH** issue is **FEBRUARY 20th**