

Parish News

Great Waltham Ford End Howe Street Littley Green North End

August 2017

Ford End Scarecrow Festival and Open Gardens

Life always gets quite interesting when putting together a fundraiser, and one day towards the end of June I found myself glueing hair to a bald bridesmaid, dressing an invisible man, spray painting old pillowcases to turn into pirate trousers, and clambering right up to the top of the church tower, balancing on a couple of beams, and hauling spider man up the outside wall.... all in the name of charity!

Ford End held another very successful Scarecrow Festival and Open Gardens, with about 50 locations in the village either displaying the most wonderful scarecrows, and/or opening some very lovely gardens!



We had an amazing variety of scarecrows, from Snow White to the Blues Brothers, pirates to Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, and also the biggest scarecrow I have ever seen. Worzel Gummidge was running amok, looking for Aunt Sally, and our judges of the scarecrow competition, Enid and Alan, had a really tough time making decisions on the winners whilst being chauffeured around the village in a vintage car. The children were given a scarecrow trail to follow, with sweets being handed out if they got the right answer to a riddle.

We had some super feedback, with lots of people commenting on the feel good factor and friendly atmosphere, which I thought was lovely. With an estimated 500 visitors on the day, we raised a very healthy profit of £2,100, which is being split equally between the church and the village hall.

I always think the amount of help and community spirit on show from the people of Ford End is fantastic, but this time, and together with extra help from other people from around the parish, I feel we did an absolutely awesome job! So I would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU to all you wonderful people, whether you were brave enough to open your garden, or help with the organisation, spend time making scarecrows or helping out in some way, your time and efforts were hugely appreciated! I am also so very grateful you all get behind village events and support them in any way you can – it's great to see the community spirit alive and kicking! Rev Sandra Sykes.

To see more, visit You Tube at "Worzel's Video Diary: Ford End Scarecrow Festival 2017".

OPEN INVITATION

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Great Waltham and Ford End Churches Trust takes place at 7.30 pm on Monday 21st August in St. John's church, Ford End. The meeting is open to everyone. The trustees are keen to welcome non-members who are looking to find out what the Friends' objectives are, the funding that has been provided to the churches over the past year and the fund raising events that have taken place and those planned in the coming months. The AGM is immediately followed by cheese and wine which is a good opportunity to meet the trustees and to find out more about the trust's work.

From the vicarage

The Good the Bad and the Ugly!

Some of you will know I'm a fan of Facebook. I love communicating and social media is the place to do that! After all, God saw it wasn't good for Adam to be on his own didn't he? So sharing stuff, talking together, it's all good. Or is it?

I stumbled across a Wordle app which created a picture with words I use frequently on Facebook, such as hear, love, waiting, lost, praying and peace.

It reminded me that words are incredibly powerful. They can be agents for love, laughter, wisdom, empathy, building up and healing. Alternatively, they can be weapons which wound, tear down, belittle or spread falsehoods and gossip.

Similarly, social media has the potential to be both a blessing and a curse. It can be used to bully and provoke or be a meeting place for a community to share information and encouragement. In this increasingly mobile world it has become a modern day virtual 'corner shop'. We lean over the ethereal garden fence to chat about what's going on or simply swop amusing photos of kittens. Once words are spoken they take on a life of their own and grow like Topsy. It's always hard to retract words spoken in haste; even harder to wipe out the written word. We've all heard of False News and posts designed to scare or inflame on social media spread with incredible speed. Thankfully, sites like 'Snopes' tell us whether some are true or false.

It's hardly surprising then, that we think of God speaking the world into being through his very breath; "And God said, 'Let there be light, and there was light'." Breath so powerful he can't speak without creating something. I guess you could say that all Creation is God's Wordle picture!

If you were at a Christmas service you may remember the beautiful reading from St John's gospel starting with the words "In the beginning was the Word...In him was life, and that life was the light of men." Here, Jesus is described as The Word, because he is the way God communicates his message of good news and love to us. Social media may not be as perfect a messenger, but it is a way we can meet and interact with each other. I think I will keep reminding myself that each time I post on Facebook I am re-creating my Wordle picture- and I don't want it to get ugly. Find me on Fbook!
Rev Sandra Sykes (Associate Priest)

Great Waltham and Ford End Church Services in August

During August we are having a joint service across all 6 churches and we do not have any family services during school holidays. Come and join us!

Sunday 6th August 10.30am Joint Morning Service Space & Communion
Little Leighs

Sunday 13th August 10.30am Joint Communion Little Waltham

Sunday 20th August 10.30am Joint Communion St Nicholas Chignal Smealy
with Dr Ruth Husler — inspiring speaker from Tanzania

Sunday 27th August 10.30am Café Church with brief Communion Ford End

Sunday 3rd September 9.30am Communion Ford End

11.00 Communion Great Waltham

Sunday 10th September 8.00pm Holy Communion Great Waltham

9.30am Communion Ford End

11.00am Pet Service Gt Waltham - Pets can bring well behaved owners!

Events: Oh I do like to be beside the seaside! Join in the fun on 1st August - 10am-8pmish. We're going to Bradwell-on-Sea for a picnic, fun and games, building sandcastles, finishing with fish and chips. A chance to relax and spend time together, suitable for all ages and all welcome. Bring a picnic lunch and something to sit on. Hopefully the weather will be kind, but it can be windy. Jean Sly is co-ordinating 01245 361489 or cjs1934@btinternet.com

Flower Festival "Once Upon a Time" St Martin's Church Little Waltham
9th & 10th September Sat: 11am - 5pm Sun: 2pm - 5pm

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

Services and Events at Blackchapel, North End August

Sun. 6 th	Family Worship	P Hamilton	
Sun. 13 th	Holy Communion (bcp)	Rev S Bazlinton	
Wed. 16 th	Prayer Meeting	Schoolroom	8.00 pm
Sun. 20 th	Holy Communion (cw)	Rev Canon C Sly	
Sun. 27 th	Morning Worship	John Turton	

bcp = Book of Common Prayer; cw = Common Worship
Services start at 10.00 unless otherwise stated
Enquiries: contact P Hamilton on 01371 820095

Services & Events at Lt Waltham United Reformed Church August 2017

Contact: Rev Geoffrey Griggs 01245 471990
Services 10.30am each Sunday – Sunday School during Morning worship

Aug 6th	Rev Geoffrey Griggs
Aug 13th	Favourite Hymns & Why
Aug 20th	Rev Mark Meatcher
Aug 27th	Rev Geoffrey Griggs & Rev Mark Meatcher
	Joint Chelmsford Churches HC

Thursday Aug 3rd Gossip & Guzzle 11am – 1.0pm

Sat 19th Aug Coffee Morning in Schoolroom 10.am

Sat 26th Aug Rambling Group meet in Church Car Park 10.30am

Howe Street residents enjoy another Big Picnic success

The residents of Howe Street gathered on Sunday, 9 July in the Parsonage Lane playing field for their 4th annual 'Big Picnic' event.

The sun shone all afternoon and the majority of village families turned out for a day of competitive games, fun and laughter.

Proceedings began with the annual children's decoration of their bikes. The theme this year was 'sport', and in a very close call, the competition winner was James Bradford, although all entrants should be very proud of their efforts.

As the afternoon wore on, both children and adults enjoyed a number of fun races, culminating in the water balloon game. Very welcome on such a hot day!

For the first time at the picnic, there was a tug-of-war with children and adults taking part in their respective contests, and such was the popularity that this will be included again next year. The raffle raised over £130 and the proceeds were presented to John Bell for his late wife Pat's legacy, the donation will go to support Great Waltham Churchyard. Pat loved the annual Big Picnic event and she was sadly missed by all.

The raffle prize was won by John and Louise Taylor who receive a Sunday lunch courtesy of our local pub The Green Man and thanks go to them for their generous offer. Last but not least, thanks also to all the helpers and families who turned out for this very special occasion and we look forward to 2018.



Bowled over

The annual Old Codgers Cricket Match was held on Sunday 16 July at Great Waltham Cricket Ground. As usual, the gathered combatants, with an age range spanning 26 to 73 years, were selected into two teams, the Old Codgers and the Young Pretenders, with the dividing age being 52 years. Batting first, the Young Pretenders set about their task of trying to



demolish the Old Codger's bowling attack. Initially, this proved a problem as the opening Old Codgers bowlers found it extremely difficult to bowl the ball anywhere near where the batsmen were standing! However, runs steadily accumulated as the number of 'wides' added singles to the total. Things did however improve, possibly as the effects of a good lunch wore off and the Young Pretenders amassed a reasonable total of 116 with Captain Peter Lacey top scoring with 19 runs.

The tea-break ensued with large amounts of cake consumed courtesy of the ladies of the Village Hall Committee and thanks also to Janet and John Warn for manning the Cricket Club Bar.

Dave Carrol top scored for the Old Codgers with a dashing 11 runs whilst Paul Church was not far behind with a steady 10. So the Young Pretenders retained the prestigious 'Old Codgers Cup' and an excellent afternoon was enjoyed by players and spectators alike. The Community Network would like to thank Gt Waltham Cricket Club for allowing villagers to use their ground which as usual was a picture and a credit to Gt. Waltham. Andrew Tinsley

Sing out loud

Great Waltham Village Choir held its end of term Showcase in front of friends and supporters on 6 July in the school hall. A delightful evening was had by all and the weather stayed fine. Many thanks to Kath, Matt and the Explorers for their expertise with the BBQ which ensured a ready supply of hot burgers and sausages. The Village Choir is now well established as it enters its third year. We have 36 members and are always ready to welcome newcomers to our sessions. If you feel like a sing-song on a Thursday evening then Great Waltham Village School is the place to be at 7pm. We sing a wide variety of music, for example in the last year some of our favourite pieces have included California Dreaming, Scarborough Fair, Love is all around, Moon River amongst others. The first session for new members is always free in order for you to see if it's your kind of music and then it's £5 per week. We start the new term on 7 September at 7pm. A warm welcome awaits, and you don't have to audition or read music, just come along and sing and see how good it is for your well being.

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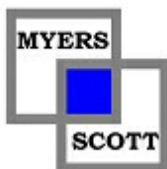
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Celebrations all around the parish

On Saturday 15th July, friends and neighbours from North End and the surrounding area gathered in the grounds of Blackchapel for a lovely summer event. Neighbours chatted over tea and coffee and, although billed as a 'coffee morning', the event boasted a variety of stalls including coconut shies, Guess the Baby competition as well as the more usual Tombola, book stall, and cakes plus a raffle with excellent prizes donated by local businesses and individuals. Inside the church, there was an exhibition of paintings by North End artists, plus an opportunity to see the findings of the North End Local History Project, that was researched by Heather Morecombe when she lived in the village. The total raised was £375.80, to be split between Air Ambulance, Chelmsford Street Pastors and the Scripture group

- the charities supported by Blackchapel this year.

The organisers would like to thank the following for providing such lovely raffle prizes: Linda Luckin Pottery, Katherine Alice Hairdressing, Wood Cottage Tea Room and Patisserie, The Blue Egg, Knead Food/Café, The Compasses Pub, Lindsells of Felsted, The Butchers Arms Pub, Kay Cole (artist), Colin and Lezley McRae, Sogra Newman.

Thank you

Sheila Bearman says thank you to everyone who helped make the Fund Raising Lunch for Great Waltham with Ford End Church Funds a great success. Thirty-six happy diners had a lovely meal at the Butchers Arms, North End, and with a raffle made £379.00 towards Church funds. Thanks to the Butchers Arms who hosted the lunch and donated a £30 voucher for the raffle. Also Emma from Shine at Warners Farm donated a free blow dry. Thanks to everyone else who donated prizes and all who supported the event. There was a celebration for Barbara Johnson to mark her 90th Birthday. It was a great way to have a good time and raise some money.

Walthamby WI

The evening of our July meeting was very wet, so we were unable to venture into the garden of our hostess at Hartford End. Although we were indoors, we still had a most enjoyable evening, with a quiz and delicious food provided by members. It was a shame that we had to view the beautiful garden from indoors but hopefully we will have another opportunity to visit.

We have two theatre trips planned; one to see The Kite Runner and the other to see An American in Paris.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 12 September starting at 8.00pm in the Legion Hall, Great Waltham, and the speaker will be Dr Tim Wreghitt who will be discussing medicinal plants. Visitors are always welcome.

Friends together

Members of Great Waltham Friendship Club spent a wonderful afternoon (right), not just celebrating the Queen's 65 years on the throne, but the Club itself, which has been in existence for 65 years!

There were photos of members past and present and a delicious cake for the occasion, after a most enjoyable cream tea and a singing consisting of very patriotic songs.

Betty Croot, a founder member of the Club all those years ago, cut the cake.

So, here's to some more enjoyable years for Great Waltham Friendship Club.



Ford End Gardening Club

On 11th July members and friends of Ford End Gardening Club enjoyed a wonderful BBQ and yummy desserts in Sheila and Peter's garden. Our next meeting is Monday 11th September at 7.30pm in the Village Hall at Ford End, John Mead will be talking about Autumn hanging baskets and containers and giving a demonstration.

Up, Up and Away playgroup



This last term at Preschool has been extremely busy. Our topics have been people who help us, how things work and transport/travel. To link with our topics the children have enjoyed visits from a local police lady, fireman, nurse, black cab and a couple of different cars. We took part in the midsummer music festival by organising and family disco and bar-b-q. It was lovely to see our families coming together to enjoy this event, it turned out to be a big success. The last couple of weeks have seen us very busy preparing for our leavers, the children have had visits to big school and enjoyed performing their chosen songs to the parents at their leavers performance. After the parents left the children had party food and a disco with face painting and games. To celebrate the end of term we are having a teddy bears picnic (weather permitting) in our garden. We hope to see as many preschool families as possibly join us on this day.

Little Waltham Gardening Club

The July outing was held at Marion & Peter Lawson's lovely garden in Chatham Green. Family and friends were invited and thoroughly enjoyed strolling around the lawns, into the Asian garden and through the orchard. The children took great delight in scooting up into the tree house and running after the chickens. The afternoon was rounded off with tea and cakes and of course a raffle. We all thoroughly enjoyed our time at Marion & Peter's and they should be very proud of their beautiful garden. Certainly, our grandson declared 'it was the best garden ever'. This of course could be partially down to the fact that he won 2 raffle prizes !

News from Great Waltham C of E VC Primary School

The school year has drawn to a close; so much to celebrate. The end of year assessment results are very pleasing and reflect the hard work of the children, the staff and the support they receive at home. In EYFS, 82% of the children attained a 'Good Level of Development' – an age expected standard. This is likely to be more than the national average. 81% of our children have passed the Y1 phonics test. In KS1, our children have acquired key skills in English and Maths, with 74% of the children having the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined. In KS2 all our scores are higher than the national averages for 2016 in three out of four areas. We scored 86% reading (NA 66%), Writing 73% (NA 74%), Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling 82% (NA 72%) and Maths 77% (NA 70%). The combined score for Y6 was a very healthy 73%, last year's NA was 53%. Well done all the children and adults for working so hard.



Our EYFS children can be very proud of their first year – the academic success was clear and the incredible enthusiasm that ensures they learn so well will continue to be nurtured at school and at home. They will return as Y1s very much ready for the next stage of their education.

Our Y6 children have said goodbye. They have been a credit to their families and our school. They have certainly enjoyed a great last half-term with the KS2 Production, Activity Day, a brilliant party organised by their parents and of course their Leavers' Church Service. They certainly enjoyed their Activity Day at Skreens Park; this included climbing, archery, sensory trail, kayaking and raft building, although for some it was more a case of watching others! A great time was had by all and it was good to see children overcome some 'fears' when climbing, being blindfolded and being in the water. They were very supportive of one another when taking turns, something especially important on the climbing wall. The summer performance of Pirates of the Curry Bean was led brilliantly by our Y5/6 children and all three performances were superb – well done to all the cast and the adults who prepared them so well .

Good luck to all our Leavers' and thanks to all whom helped them in their time at Great Waltham C of E Primary School. Thank you for being such good buddies to YR this year too.

We have three staff members retiring: Mrs Robertshaw has worked at GWPS for 15 years, as PPA teacher, computer technician and sports coach. Her commitment to all three will be missed and in cross country and athletics we have some big shoes to fill.

Mrs Teal has been part of the team as an LSA and office staff member for 23 years. The engine room of the school is in good hands but may seem different for a long while to come.

Mrs Tinsley has been a class teacher for 38 years at GWPS, a truly remarkable feat. A skilled and experienced teacher she always had a calming influence on children and taught them real pride and determination. The school wishes all three of them the very best in retirement, we hope to see some of them again soon as helpers at the school, where they will be very welcome.

From all at GWPS have a great summer - Alex Burden (headteacher)

Apology

Apologies to all those whose copy of the July issue was late in arriving.



Enter Great Waltham's Flower & Produce Show

The countdown is on to Great Waltham Horticultural Society's 2017 Annual Flower & Produce Show, on Saturday, 16th September.

There are dozens of classes to choose from, so whether your carrots and chrysanthemums are bidding for glory; or you're a dab hand with a Victoria sandwich cake, this is the place to be.

Children are also included, with categories for under eights, and eight to 15-year-olds, including a Lego challenge and vegetable monster.

The Show takes place at the Village Hall and the school from 2pm to 4pm.

Preceding it will be the popular 'Not Very Serious' Dog Show, starting at 1.30pm outside the Village Hall. Entry is by donation and all proceeds go to Essex Lowland Search & Rescue.

The Society's Year Book and Show Schedule is currently being delivered to members and is also available for £2 from Walthambury Stores.

Great Waltham Parish Council

Clerk, W Adshead-Grant, Old Fire Station, Great Waltham, Essex CM3 1DF

Tel 01245 362638 clerk@greatwalthamparishcouncil.co.uk

The following is a summary extract (by Mike Steel) of the Parish Council meeting of 19th June 2017. The full and approved minutes are published on the Parish Council Notice boards and the Parish website www.greatwaltham.org.uk.

The PC considered a letter of complaint from a resident at Dannatts, about the level of noise from the British Legion (BL). Representatives of the BL were in attendance and stated that they had had discussions with the resident before and that they had made attempts to control the music levels at the Summer Festival by bringing the last band indoors. The BL were meeting the terms and times of their licence. The resident will be informed that the PC has talked to the BL.

The PC considered the request from a newly formed Great Waltham United football team for use of the Rec Ground. The PC to confirm if it is just for one season.

There was a long discussion about how to interpret the summary tables from SID, and a conclusion to arrange the data to be presented to show statistics of 30, 34, and 40 and above (or 40, 46, 50 for the 40mph setting).

It was noted that the TP ICAP L'Etape London (an event for serious amateur cyclists emulating a day of the Tour de France) will be coming through Great Waltham on the 24th Sept. The Clerk to check if this involves road closures.

It was reported that the Clerk and RFO had achieved "Satisfactory" performance at their annual appraisals.

Cllr Steel informed the meeting that he and Joanna Steel had turned the GW phone box into a Tourist Information site, including a leaflet stack. Cllrs Johnson and Huggins confirmed that they would paint the box in the next 4 weeks.

The PC decided to look at options to clean the war memorial.

It was noted that an enforcement order was issued on the owner of the land next to the Green Man to clear the filled in ditch. The order concludes on the 11th July 2017 and if the work has not been done, CCC have stated that they will undertake the work and bill the owner. It was also noted that the Landowner has not kept the area clear of weeds as promised, and he would be reminded.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at the PC Office, **Monday 21st August** commencing at 7.45pm; the Public and Press are welcome to attend. The agenda will be published on the Parish website and notice boards before the meeting.

Great Waltham British Legion

Events in August & September



Adults Bingo

Saturday 19th August - 7.30pm. Adult's bingo with cash prizes. Come on down for good fun game of Bingo. Make sure you come with the 'bingo lingo' - quack quack, wobble wobble!!



Kids Bingo

Friday 8th September - 6.00pm
£3 per child. This Bingo evening is designed specifically for the KIDS! With 4 games of Bingo there are plenty of prizes to be won. Don't forget to grab your free hot dog and unlimited squash.



Live Music - Wannabe Shadows

Saturday 16th September - 7.30pm
£3 members / £4 non-members. After their success at LegionStock the Wannabe Shadows return for a solo gig! This swinging rock group bring all the favourites from Cliff Richard's backing band. Tickets on door only

Check out our Website and follow us on Facebook for updates on all future events and activities. The club is also available to hire for private functions. Pop in to the club for details.



Gt. Waltham Royal British Legion



greatwalthamlegion@gmail.com

Driving Force

Congratulations to Ford End's Steven Chandler who, at just 15, has become the RTS (Rolling Thunder Show)

English champion after racing in his junior hot rod car in the championship finals.

Steven currently races the Vauxhall Corsa that he and his father built and, as a family run team they spend a great deal of time and effort, so his success is well deserved.



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