

Parish News

Great Waltham Ford End Howe Street Littley Green North End

March 2021

Spring-like sunshine follows the snow



Thanks to Chris Whittle from Ford End for this superb shot of the snow-covered village in February. See page 3 for more snow photos. Meanwhile, the warmer weather has seen wild primroses signalling the arrival of Spring.

Captain Sir Tom Moore



There was a touching tribute to the late Captain Sir Tom Moore on Great Waltham Royal British Legion's noticeboard, after the Army veteran who raised almost £33 million for NHS charities died in early February.

Meanwhile, the Legion's Poppy Appeal collection for 2020 in the Parish amounted to £2,424.69. This includes £974.48 collected in Pleshey. The sum

was made up from static point collections, sale of wreaths and donations. The total is less than last year as, due to the pandemic, there were no house-to-house collections.

However, considering the difficult times, it is felt that this is an excellent result. The Branch Committee would like to thank everyone who helped them to achieve it.

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:

Gill Mitchell 01245 362215

Wendy Proctor Tel. 01245 360483

John Lattimore, Chairman
Tel. 01245 363818

See the back page for details of the Great Waltham Coronavirus Support Group.

Message from Roger Bearman - chair Great Waltham & Ford End Parochial Church Council

LENT IS UPON US

This Lent poem was posted on Facebook and I thought it is a good one to share.
In the words of Pope Francis:

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

Fast from hurting words and say kind words
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude
Fast from anger and be filled with patience
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope
Fast from worries and have trust in God
Fast from complaints: contemplate simplicity
Fast from pressures and be prayerful
Fast from bitterness: fill your hearts with joy
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate
Fast from grudges and be reconciled
Fast from words: be silent and listen

On 14th March it is Mothering Sunday which is the next special event we can all look forward to, and we are praying that we shall be able to safely open our Churches sometime soon so that we can welcome back our communities.

Continuing my monthly update on the interregnum, the churchwardens are in discussion with the North Chelmsford Mission and Ministry Partnership (NCMMP) exploring ways that they can assist us both pastorally and with church services. I hope to expand on the details next month.

Keep well and God Bless
Roger Bearman – Chair GW & FE PCC

The World Day of Prayer Vanuatu 2021

This year, the arranged day for The World Day of Prayer was to have been 5th March 2021.

This service was going to be broadcast and has been written from the voices of women from Vanuatu but has sadly been postponed due the pandemic.

Locally this year the Chelmsford villages would have come together in Ford End Church joining other churches from all over the world.

The hope is that we may be able to hold this service now in the summer so please keep looking out for more information.

If you wish to know more about this special day of Prayer, and Vanuatu, in the South Pacific Ocean, where the service will be coming from, then please look on www.wdp.org.uk

Next year this special day of Prayer will be hosted in England.

Sheila Bearman

Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) for Great Waltham



The new MUGA has now been installed in the Great Waltham Recreation Ground, on the existing basketball area. It adds multiple "all weather" uses including basketball, cricket and football. Within minutes of it being installed, it was in use and has proven very popular.

Please observe current Covid regulations when using the facility.

Ford End Tea Afternoons

Probably we will still not be meeting this March, so here instead are two little poems to ponder on over a cuppa.

A Woman is like a teabag -
only in hot water do you realise how strong she is.

Life is a Cake,
We bake our intentions,
Ingredients we flavour with actions
Icing we pour over with love.

Let's keep in touch and look forward to eating those cakes.

Sheila





Barry Teader took these chilly-looking photos during the week Great Waltham was covered in snow.



Spot the teddy bear!



In late February, 35 local families enjoyed taking part in a Treasure Hunt to raise money for Up Up and Away Preschool.

Perhaps you saw some of the teddies around the village, helping to spell the word 'friendship'?

Important notice from Little Waltham and Great Notley Patients' Participation Group

The aims of the Patient Participation Group: "To work with their practice to provide practical support, to help patients take more responsibility for their own health and to provide strategic input and advice. PPGs are based on co-operation between the practice staff and patients."

Purpose of a PPG

- To give practice staff and patients the opportunity to discuss topics of mutual interest in their own practice.
- A forum for patients and staff to improve and develop services within the practice by co-production.
- To provide an opportunity for patients to make positive and constructive suggestions/ideas about the practice and specific medical conditions as an 'expert' or 'experienced patient'.
- To encourage health education activities within the practice.
- To involve further patients from the wider population.
- To involve patient participation in future commissioning of Health Provision.

Benefits for the patient:

- Patients will be more responsible for their own health.
- Patients will have a better understanding and knowledge of the practice and its staff.

This allows up-to-date information to be given to patients and will inform what decisions can be influenced and what cannot. It will also allow the practice staff to gain an understanding from the patient's perspective. It may also be useful for the chair to have meetings with the Practice Manager on a regular basis or attend management meetings of the practice. This ensures that two-way communications are achieved.

- Patients will have a forum to suggest positive ideas and voice concerns
- Patients will benefit from improved communications between patients and staff

If you are interested in joining this group, head over to the Surgery website where there is an online form and then a member of the committee will be in contact with you.

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Make That Call

This pandemic seems to be going on forever and many of us are experiencing a build-up of frustrations caused by the lockdown, with its restrictions on travel and the inability to meet with friends and relations. This is worse for those living alone.

Do you know someone living on their own, especially if they are elderly? Please give them a call. A conversation with them could give them a real boost and could lessen their feeling of isolation and help to dispel any feeling of depression they may be experiencing.

I'm sure we all know someone who would appreciate a call.

News from Great Waltham C of E VC Primary School

We are half-way through the school year and this past half-term has seen the vast majority of our pupils learning at home. Schools were already experienced in the implementation of 'Remote Education' as it was used during the first lockdown in March 2020. The main difference this time for most schools was the roll out of 'live' lessons. The Great Waltham Primary School teaching staff have quickly embraced this new way of teaching, even if they were a little camera shy to begin with!

Throughout January and February the children have received a mixture of live and pre-recorded lessons to supplement the daily learning assignments sent home via our digital platform 'The Google Classroom'. The children have enjoyed uploading their work, sending messages via the class stream and being able to see their classmates



on screen. Huge thanks to the parents/carers who have fulfilled the role of 'teacher' at home during this time and the staff at school for ensuring the children have appropriate tasks and have received feedback about their work.

The recent snow did cause some safe transport issues for school staff but, with pupil numbers in school being less 20% of the number on roll, we were able to ensure we stayed open for children of critical workers. I think we can all agree the snow was a welcome sight for our children, adding something fun to the days that have been challenging for all.



We are hoping to see all the children back in school in March and the subsequent return to 'normality'. We can then share some school events with the Parish News readers – we hope you are all keeping safe.

Latest Covid-19 data for Essex shows continued decline in rates

The latest Covid-19 data for Essex shows a continued decline in rates across all districts, although with the average case rate for the county currently 112.7 per 100,000, it remains high.

Covid-19 data for Essex (excluding Southend and Thurrock) is published online here: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/local-outbreak-control-plan>

Media outlets are encouraged to use this latest data to ensure the most up-to-date and complete figures are shared with Essex residents.

Cases and rates

- In the seven days up to 11 February 2021, there were 1,679 confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Essex. This is the latest date for which complete data is available.
- Up to 11 February 2021, the weekly case rate for Essex is 112.7. This is the latest date for which complete data is available.
- Up to 11 February 2021, the highest weekly case rates were in Harlow and Tendring, with rates of 153.8 and 182.8, respectively.
- Up to 11 February 2021, the area with the lowest weekly case rate is Brentwood, with a rate of 81.8.

Cllr John Spence, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Adults and Health, said: "A continued decline in case rates is of course welcome news, but the rates for Essex are still high. The worst thing we could do now is assume the pandemic is over and undermine all of the hard work it's taken to get us to this point.

"We recognise the impact that the pandemic has affected people in lots of different ways and that people are eager to get back to some kind of normality. The quickest way we will get there is by continuing to follow the guidance.

"I would also urge individuals who are not showing Covid-19 symptoms – especially those who are unable to work from home - to book a rapid test as soon as possible to prevent anyone from unknowingly spreading the virus. This is now easier than ever thanks to a new walk-in option for appointments at our rapid test centres."

The latest Covid-19 news and statements from Essex County Council are available here: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/latest-news>



GREAT WALTHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



GWHS Hut is now open

to members
(if you are not already a member, you can join for the sum of £4)

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Fleece by the metre, Weed control, String,
Rooting powder, Ties and labels,
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(All subject to availability)

Pamela Ofield

For those members of the local community who knew my mother, Pamela Ofield, who lived in Gt Waltham from about 1959 to 1990 and taught at Little Waltham Primary School from about 1956 to 1987, I would like to inform them that recently she passed away peacefully, with her family at her bedside on 26th December 2020 after a short illness (not Covid).

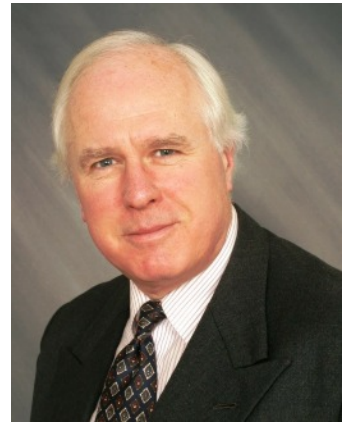
She had been in a care home in Chippenham, Wiltshire, for just over a year where the staff provided her with wonderful care and were very fond of her. While living there she enjoyed an active and better quality of life than she had done for the previous ten years after experiencing a minor stroke event, which caused some limitations in her ability to draw and study the plants she so enjoyed throughout all her life.

If anyone would like to make a donation in her memory then please can they give it to the Stroke Association at stroke.org.uk a charity that provides help to individuals, families and professionals in the NHS.

Catherine Gallacher (Ofield)

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

At the time of writing Essex, like the rest of the UK, remains in lockdown and even the most optimistic forecast suggests that there will be no change in this situation until sometime in March, at the earliest. This year and throughout the last, the County Council has sought to manage much of the impact that the pandemic has had on all our residents. This has meant direct involvement from sourcing PPE for care homes and hospitals to the provision of funding for food banks and the provision of meals (vouchers) for vulnerable children and families.



Council funding has been supplemented by £157million from Central Government to support care homes and care services as well

as businesses and bus services, including "home to school" transport. I am circulating weekly data updates to Parish Councils, City Councillors and other community organisations in the Broomfield & Writtle Division. However, if you wish to view this data and for more information relating to getting tested, support for residents and businesses and what rules apply for "staying at home" please see <https://www.essex.gov.uk/topic/coronavirus>

From early January, vaccination centres were set up in our area at Broomfield Hospital and Melbourne Medical Centre and more recently the City Racecourse was opened. The initial tranche of 15 million of the elderly, vulnerable and key workers have received their first vaccination and progress is being made to roll out the programme to the other vulnerable people and those over 60.

REMEMBER: -

- The NHS will contact you when it is your turn to have the vaccine, so please do not contact the NHS or your surgery beforehand.
- Please act on your invitation when it comes, and please do make sure you attend your appointment.

Whether you have been vaccinated or not, it remains important that every one of us should observe the "lockdown" rules and be safe to yourself and others by maintaining social distancing at all times, wearing a mask when with others whilst shopping or going to work and wash your hands as often as possible.

Laptops for Schools

In my last newsletter, I advised that the Council had introduced a scheme to provide students with laptops for home working online. To date, together with 2,000 funded by Central Government, 5,000 laptops have been delivered to schools across the County and 251 of these were in the Chelmsford area. You can still donate an old or unused laptop. All laptops will receive a thorough clean inside and out with all data and programmes removed securely before re-issue. No data on the device will be accessed during this process.

For further information relating to donating please email TSLaptop.Donations@essex.gov.uk

If you have any problems about these and any other County Council matters, please let me know on 01245 421524 or email cllr.john.aldridge@essex.gov.uk.

Walthambury Women's Institute

It was good to see so many members via zoom at our February meeting. We welcomed Toni Jean Baptiste and Nicola Brookes from Nat West talking on how to keep safe from scams and fraud, and how easy it is to be taken in.

Jenny Church and Pat Webb won the 2020 President's Challenge and have received Denman vouchers.

At our next meeting on Tuesday 9th March at 2.00pm, Bake Off contestant Howard Middleton is joining us via zoom. We look forward to as many members joining us.

County Council Elections ~ Applying for a Postal Vote



The current plan is that the Essex County Council elections will occur on 6th May 2021 (along with the election of the Police, Fire, and Crime Commissioner for Essex). You might want to consider casting your vote by post, given the Covid situation. To do so, you need to download a postal vote application form from the City Council website, fill it in sign it and then either scan and upload it, or post it to Electoral Services, Civic Centre, Duke Street, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1JE (by 19th April)

If anyone has difficulties downloading and printing, then contact me.
<https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/voting-and-elections/postal-and-proxy-votes/>

The same website states how to arrange a proxy vote.
Mike Steel – Chelmsford City Cllr
mike.2.steel@btinternet.com

Great Waltham Parish Council

Clerk, W Adshead-Grant, Great Waltham Village Hall, South Street, Great Waltham, Essex
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The following is a summary extract (by Mike Steel - Chair) of the Parish Council Meetings of 15th Feb 2021. The full and approved minutes are published on the Parish Council Notice boards and at the Parish Website <https://e-voice.org.uk/greatwalthamparish/>

The PC agreed to co-opt new member Cllr H Micklem and welcomed him. The ECC Cllr report included an update on the Army and Navy options (2-way flyover ruled out), 5,000 laptops given to schools, e-Scooter trial in Chelmsford, additional Locality fund grant to GWPC for pavilion refurbishment, and a positive GWPC meeting with Highways Cabinet member on the subject of FE Average Speed cameras proposal.

The planned litter picks for March to go ahead as normal in Howe Street, Ford End, North End. Great Waltham to investigate whether it might be appropriate to align with "Keep Britain Tidy" initiatives and also check with volunteers who go out monthly.

It was reported that, following a request by the City Cllr, the disused oil tank and building, in GW has been inspected and made safe. This included strengthening the boarding over the access and making sure any mains connections are safe.

The PC agreed allotment rates at £3.75 per rod plus a fixed service charge of £3.20 per plot pa (£3.75 plus £4.40 from Sept 2021). This still means subsidising the allotments, which was confirmed as a matter of policy.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held **7pm Monday 15th March 2021**, details on the agenda, which will be published on the Parish website and notice boards before the meeting.

Great Waltham Coronavirus Support Group

If you are self-isolating, live in Great Waltham, Broads Green or Howe Street, and have no one to do your shopping, fetch prescriptions or do any other errands, or if you would just like a chat, we have a group of reliable and trustworthy volunteers who will be happy to help.

We can also help with driving you to a vaccination centre if you haven't got your own transport.

Ring one of the group co-ordinators –

Joanna Steel 01245 360918 or Wendy Proctor 01245 360483 or Phil Lilley 01245 360615.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

We will abide by all recommended safety precautions.

Please do NOT share this list with anyone outside the area or post it on social media, due to privacy issues.

Howe Street Litter Pick ~ 13th March

The Spring litter pick will take place over the weekend of 13th March. As usual, the areas to be covered will be on the notice board outside 'Gimli' in Parsonage Lane ready for you to sign. Alternatively you can phone Peter Jackson on 01245 360067 or email vandp@btinternet.com to book your patch. The usual equipment will be available throughout the weekend.

Thank you for all of the contributions to this edition of Great Waltham Parish News. Please send your contributions for the next issue, together with any enquiries or advertising requests, by e-mail to: gwparishnews@gmail.com.

The last date for inclusion in the April issue is March 18.