

Parish News

Great Waltham Ford End Howe Street Littley Green North End

March 2022

Storm Eunice



As Storm Eunice blazed its trail across Essex on February 19, Great Waltham parish saw a number of trees come down, causing power cuts and road delays while the problems were dealt with. Fence panels and road signs were blown down, greenhouses and outhouses damaged, and debris strewn across roads and neighbouring gardens. Thanks to everyone who helped clear up, to delivery drivers and others who battled through and to the City Council binmen who still managed to do their rounds on the Friday.



ECC Budget News

What does Essex County Council spend your rates on? An update on next year's ECC budget from your County Cllr, Mike Steel:



I have been the Essex County Cllr for the Broomfield and Writtle division for almost a year. Judging by the contents of my in-box, you would think that the only service ECC delivers is related to Highways! Therefore, I thought I would reflect on *all* the services delivered by ECC, in the context of next year's budget.

ECC spends a total of £2.014Bn gross, which is partially funded by income (such as planning fees, road permits, etc) and by specific Government grants. This results in a net spend on services of £1.037Bn which has to be funded by the Council tax we all pay, non-domestic rates (business rates), and other Government grants. The rates have to be set so that a balanced budget is created – i.e., income and expenditure have to be equal. So, what is this £1,037Bn spent on? By far, the largest amount goes on Adult Social Care, followed by children's services. Quite right too – it is important that vulnerable residents receive the care they need, even though they form a minority of the population. Very likely that you know someone, or have relatives, who are the beneficiaries of this service. Or one day, you may need it.

Of course, Highway issues affect everyone which is why my in-box is full of them! But with £114M (11% of the budget) to cover potholes, bridges, car parks, Public Rights of Way, Road Safety, Footpaths, Gritting, Passenger Transport and Home to School transport, it is not surprising that everything doesn't get done as quickly as we like. The priority is to ensure that the roads are safe, so Highways employs a risk assessment process that puts safety maintenance first. Do keep reporting them at <https://www.essexhighways.org/>. I have lobbied for more funding, and I am pleased to say that £2M has been added to the existing budget for the coming year.

Cont'd on page 7

Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations

The village Jubilee Committee, under the auspices of the Parish Council, is making plans to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June (more details to follow). One of the things they are hoping to do (subject to approval) is to present all children within the parish, aged between 3-11, with a commemorative coin. The committee will be contacting local schools and pre-school. Would parents with children over three-years-old, who don't attend either of these, or who are educated outside the parish, please contact me via email at heatherlockwood59@btinternet.com so that they can be added to the list and don't miss out. There will be some extras available to purchase if you have older children or if you would like one for yourself or a relative.

Heather Lockwood - Chair of The Jubilee Committee



COUNTDOWN TO EASTER

Pancake Day, Lent and Holy Week are all part of the journey to Easter Day, the biggest Christian celebration of the year. It is a time when many people make time to think carefully about their life.

For Christians, this means trying to live God's way and remembering all that Jesus did.

Why we have Pancake Day

Pancake Day is also called Shrove Tuesday and is one last chance for a big party before Lent begins with Ash Wednesday the next day. Long ago, Christians traditionally used up all the eggs and fat they had in store by making pancakes and feasting on them. This was because when Lent came, they would eat less food, or even fast (to go without food sometimes) to help them focus on God and not the things they wanted. This tradition has been passed down the generations. Shrove Tuesday always falls 47 days before Easter, a date which changes every year. This year we will be eating our pancakes on Tuesday 1st March before Lent begins on Wednesday 2nd March. So, hopefully, in many homes in our Parish, children will be helping to mix the eggs, flour, milk and butter and, with Mum and Dads help, cook their pancakes.

Why is Lent important

Lent is a time for getting ready for Easter. When Jesus was just getting started with his work, he went into the desert for 40 days to be alone with God. He even went without food and prayed, and was tempted away from what God wanted him to do in all kinds of ways, but he resisted those temptations.

You can read this story in the Bible Matthew 4: 1 – 11.

During Lent, Christians often do something different too, like praying or reading the Bible every day.

This reminds us of Jesus' time in the desert to focus just on God and feel closer to him. The good news is that Sundays are still celebration days – so we can take a break from fasting! The last week of Lent is called Holy Week and during this time the church remembers Jesus' death on the cross. We can all take part in Lent. It may do us all good to give something up, perhaps something we really like every day for 40 days. What a test of our determination this will be.

Cont'd



Church of England Services March 2022

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Wednesday 2nd | 10.30am | Ash Wednesday | St Mary's Broomfield |
| | 7.00pm | Ash Wednesday | St John's Little Leighs |
| Friday 4th | 11.00am | World Day of Prayer | Great Waltham |
| Sunday 6th | 11.00am | Communion | Great Waltham |
| Sunday 13th | 9.30am | Communion | Ford End |
| Sunday 20th | 11.00am | Communion | Great Waltham |
| | 11.00am | Communion | Chignals with Mashbury |



Sunday 27th 9.30am
Mothering Sunday Ford End

Weekly Morning Prayer in the Parish

8.30am Morning Prayer every **Monday** with Rev'd Carolyn in Ford End Church at 8.30am

9.00am Morning Prayer every **Wednesday**, Revd Carolyn will be saying morning prayer in Great Waltham

Everyone is welcome.

If you would like to receive our monthly pew sheet please let Alison know your email address.

Parish administrator: Alison Bates admin@littleandgreat.org.uk
Tel: 07957 228467 www.greatwalthamchurch.org.uk

Cont'd

Our Church in Lent

Our Churches may look quite different during Lent. You may notice the colour purple is more prevalent or there may be fewer decorations or flowers. This is because it is a time to concentrate on God and remember how Jesus gave up his life on a cross to save all of us. Because Lent is a time to reflect, Church music and songs will tend to be more reflective and services won't include the word 'Alleluia' – a very joyful word to express praise for God. It's a big contrast when Easter Day arrives when the colourful decorations come out, there's lots of celebration, 'Alleluias' and joyful music. Why not go along to a Church Service during Lent and then go again at Easter to spot the difference. The people you will meet there will be the same and will give you a warm welcome.

God Bless and stay safe
Roger Bearman

Ford End Primary School

The Spring term is well under way and the children are enjoying their new topics. The staff are also very happy as our trust has installed the very latest SMART boards in every classroom. This month, some children from our Year 5 and 6 class attended a SMART board More Able workshop and they were filmed for the new SMART board advert which will be used in advertising at conferences and exhibitions around the country. The children loved the new technology and we are very proud of them.

We are pleased that we can work with other schools and meet again in real life. We have completed a Rangoli Art workshop with four of the other schools in the trust and completed a workshop in Athletics. These workshops help the children to make extra progress in areas of the curriculum that they enjoy.

We have also enjoyed a Bake Off competition this month and competed against the other schools in the trust. It was challenging to weight all the ingredients and bake to a high standard!

Our EYFS classroom has been refurbished and looks great. Come and visit us at any time by calling 01245 237209. We still have some places in some of our year groups.

Maire O'Regan Executive Headteacher



Walthamby Women's Institute

Last month, Dorothy O'Grady joined our meeting and inspired us with the many ways of making an ordinary wrapped present look very special.

Our speaker this month is Jackie Marshall-Ward. Her talk is entitled "My Gran used to have one of those", which sounds intriguing.

We are meeting at 7.30 in the British Legion Hall on Tuesday 8th March. We extend a warm welcome to guests and new members.

Services at Blackchapel, North End

Services are now held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays in each month.

There is no need to book your place.

March 6th (Holy Communion) at 3 pm

March 20th (Family worship) at 3 pm

URC Little Waltham March 2022

Contact Rev Hans Stein 01371 875654/07763169605
Rev Geoffrey Griggs 01245 471990

Services 10.30 am

March 6th. Rev Geoffrey Griggs

March 13th Charles de Lacy

March. 20th Ian Chamberlain

March. 27th. Rev Geoffrey Griggs

Thursday March 3rd Coffee and Cake 10am - 12 noon

Sat 19th March. Coffee Morning 10 - 11am



World Day of Prayer 2022

will be held on
Friday 4th March at 11am
at St Mary & St Lawrence,
Great Waltham

*'For I know the plans
I have for you'*

Each year, on this day,
Christians of many cultures,
traditions and races in over
170 countries around the world

2022 is a special year for World Day of Prayer as it has
been prepared by Christian women from England,
Wales
and Northern Ireland.

The overarching theme of the service is HOPE – very
appropriate for this time when the world is coming to
terms with the ongoing risks of a pandemic and the
looming climate crisis.

Please join us, everyone is welcome.



Church Matters

Peter Wells is re-starting his Great Waltham Church tours on Wednesdays 16th March & 30th March. Turn up at the Church Tower door at 10.30am and let Peter take you back in history. The fee is £ 3.00 for the tour plus an additional £ 1.00 to climb the Tower. All fees go towards church upkeep.

Also on 26th March we are have a community-led churchyard clear up at Great Waltham and Ford End church. Bring your own hand tools and safety gear. Meeting at 10 am until noon.

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Great Waltham Village Hall
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Good Easter Village Hall
• Friday 5.30pm

Contact Anna at anna.engwell@gmail.com
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News from Great Waltham C of E VC Primary School

A busy start to 2022. Thankfully, Covid 19 cases have reduced considerably and our attendance has started to increase. We are re-starting the 3PR safe parking initiative. 3PR stands for 3 Parking Rules (Care / Caution / Consideration). Year 6 children and members of staff will run a patrol once per week after half term.

Children will be given a token by the patrol volunteers if they are seen walking to school. Children who arrive by car (the majority) will also receive a token if they are seen walking the last part of their journey.



The last week before half we celebrated 'well-being week' culminating in a carousel of activities - each teacher planned a lesson based on well-being and delivered it to all 6 classes in a rotation - music / tree planting / growing together wall / art / support balloons / yoga – the children loved the variety of the day.

Children in KS1 participated in the Great Fire of London Day on the 1st February. Children had to dress up in costume as if they had travelled back to 1666. In the morning,

the children carried out practical activities such as making bread, newspapers and bookmarks as well as role playing putting out the fire, collecting rats and becoming soldiers. In the afternoon, children carried out an archaeological investigation of remains which had been left by the fire, discussing who the remains might have been left by and what job this person may have had. The children were all excellent and thoroughly enjoyed participating. Overall, a fantastic day! Huge thanks to the parent volunteers who gave up their time to help support the activities.

In March, the school is running a Science Fair Project – children will be able to research and build / display science information to showcase in school.

Schools Gotta Dance – 12 children in Y5 have signed up and are ready to start rehearsals in April. Children will learn and rehearse a dance and perform to a live audience at the Civic Theatre in Chelmsford in May. We have netball, rugby and football fixtures planned for after half-term.

Collective Worship themes this half term have covered fresh starts, perseverance, families, special family celebrations and our community. We have our Easter Service to look forward to on 31st March and we will welcome Rev. Carolyn to school to lead Collective Worship in March too.

Take care all. Mr Burden (Headteacher).



Ford End Garden Club

At our February meeting Mark Mason, a nurseryman of many years, gave a very informative and interesting talk on the biennial plant Foxgloves. Mark also supports the Sudbury in Bloom scheme and grows plants for them.

Foxgloves, a member of the plantain family, have been in existence since the end of the ice age about 12,000 years ago. This plant is a biennial which means it is sown in the Spring/Summer and will flower the following year. The seeds can be sprinkled over a tray of compost but not covered with any more compost. Seedlings should then be pricked out and planted into individual modules until they are large enough to plant directly outside in the garden or grouped in a large display pot. Foxgloves are very hardy and will survive frosts and, importantly, slugs will ignore them.

At our next meeting on 16 March, Chris Whiting will be giving a talk on his life in farming and dahlias.

The garden club's annual coffee morning and plant sale will be on Saturday 30th April. On Wednesday 18th May at 2.30 the club has arranged a visit to the garden of Peacocks in Margaretting. Further details of these events will be announced in later editions of the Parish News.

Ford End Senior Tea



We will be holding our next tea on Monday 14 March at 2pm at Woodstock, Ford End. We had a lovely Valentine's Day tea in February with my grandchildren here as well, who were delightfully entertained by you all. Thank you. They will remember it for a long time. Anyone interested or who has not been before, please ring Sheila Bearman 01245 237335 or 07977 077945.



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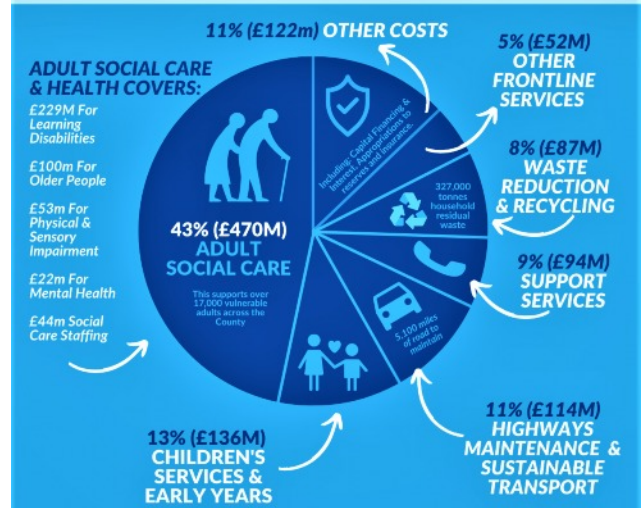
The Council tax rise for the coming year is 4.49%. Over 60% of this will go directly to Adult and Children's Social Care which has seen significant increase in demands over the last year. The rest will be dedicated to Climate Change measures, more school places and Home to School increased transport demands. We have a stark choice – either we propose an increase, or we face unacceptable decisions about reducing services. Ultimately, we

are not willing to compromise the level of service residents receive. We are committed to making sure that vulnerable residents receive the care they need, that the roads we travel on remain safe, that we invest in communities, and that our environment becomes greener, cleaner and healthier.

cllr.mike.steel@essex.gov.uk

WHAT IS THE BUDGET SPENT ON?

HOW ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL'S £1,083,000,000 IS SPENT (NET) ...



Brighten up your garden this summer
**GREAT WALTHAM HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY'S ANNUAL
PLANT SALE**



Saturday, May 14
10am-12noon
Great Waltham Village Hall

Plant donations welcome
Please drop off plants at 9am

SAVE THE DATES!

North End Forthcoming Events

Friday 4th March (and 1st Friday of each month)

Village Walk to a local pub for lunch, starting at Water Pump Green at 11.00. If you would like to come along, please email Angie on rechtern2@aol.com

Wednesday 30th March

Coffee Mornings will recommence at Black Chapel on the last Wednesday of each month, 10.30 – 12.00. Come and join your neighbours for a coffee and chat for **just £1**.



Saturday 30th April Plant Sale and Coffee Morning

to be held at Bennetts Cottages at 10.30. Please bring your spare plants and cuttings along.



Saturday 4th June

Jubilee Picnic in the gardens of Black Chapel at 2.30 p.m. Let's come together to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. Bring your own picnics. Tea and squash will be provided. More information to follow.



Felsted Choral Society

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British Legion Remembrance Day Poppy Appeal

Proceeds towards the 2021 Poppy Appeal amounted to £3,583.64. This includes £1,707.87 collected in Pleshey. This is made up from house-to-house collections, static point collections, sale of wreaths, church collections on Remembrance Sunday and donations. The Branch committee would like to thank everyone who helped us to achieve this excellent result.

Treasurer sought for GW Village Hall

Great Waltham Village Hall is looking for someone from the local community to join our friendly band of volunteers as village hall treasurer. The position involves oversight of internet banking, receipts and invoicing (alongside Hallmaster online booking), basic reconciliations and the preparation of one page annual accounts and the Charity Commission return. The position presently involves about an hour a week on average with a committee meeting every two months and annual general meeting on top. There will be a handover period with our retiring treasurer.

If you'd like to find out more about how you can help our wonderful community asset to continue please email:
greatwalthamvillagehall@gmail.com

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

The following is a summary extract by Peter Jackson (chair) of the Parish Council meeting of January 17th. The full and approved minutes are published on the Parish Council notice boards and at the parish website.

A vote of thanks was passed unanimously for the hard work and dedication, which Councillor Steel had maintained throughout his period as chair, which he relinquished after nearly 9 years.

County Councillor Steel reported on the county budget, emphasising the need to maintain services (i) to vulnerable residents, (ii) to road safety, (iii) to ensure that the environment becomes greener, cleaner and healthier. Almost 50% of the county budget is spent on social care.

City Councillor Steel reported on the revised plans for the Bloor Homes development, including the reduction of dwelling numbers from 550 to 512 and the link road through Pudding Wood.

New formats for PC policy documents have been devised and wording will be reviewed over the coming months.

A request from North End residents for power to be reinstated to their telephone box was received. BT to be asked to do this. (UK Power Networks estimate £1000 for work on the island and not for connecting to the mains which would be a separate charge and supplier).

There has been a 36% response to the Cherry Garden Road parking survey with a variety of ideas emerging. A working party of interested parties is to be set up.

Work on the pavilion continues with flooring, windows and doors to be installed in the next two months.

Warning signs for cyclists at Bury Lane ford have been erected, vandalised and re-erected several times over the last six months.

Play in the Park: two full day sessions booked for August 5th and 26th.

Annual Parish Assembly is scheduled for Tuesday May 17th, 2022 at 8pm at Ford End Village Hall. Come along and have your say.

GREAT WALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Litter Pick

Weekend of 12th – 13th March



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 17.

gwparishnews@gmail.com