

Parish News

Great Waltham Ford End Howe Street Littley Green North End

February 2023

Carols at Blackchapel, North End

On Sunday, 11th December, Blackchapel was filled to capacity, as the community came together for the Annual Carol Service. The church was beautifully decorated with evergreens for the service, which was conducted this year by James Wells, curate at Holy Cross Church, Felsted.

Afterwards, we were served mulled wine (alcoholic and non-alcoholic for drivers) and seasonal treats such as mince pies and sausage rolls.

Shortly afterwards, the Christmas scene was completed when it started to snow and Blackchapel looked picture perfect for the season.



40mph speed limit



Great Waltham Parish Council are pleased to report the recent installation of a 40mph speed limit at the Great Dunmow end of Ford End village. The new speed limit sees the completion of a long process to get 'buffer zones' at both ends of the village and is one successful outcome in a number of ongoing initiatives being pursued by the Parish Council to address traffic related concerns throughout the Parish. The Parish Council is grateful to ECC Cllr Mike Steel for his support throughout

Help Required

Great Waltham Village Hall is urgently seeking a volunteer to manage enquiries for hall bookings via email and the Hallmaster bookings system on the village hall website:

greatwalthamvillagehall.co.uk.

To find out more please speak to a committee member or email us at greatwalthamvillagehall@gmail.com.

Speedwatch

With the increase in traffic & speeding through Great Waltham we are restarting Speedwatch, but we need your help. If you would like to get involved & can spare an hour from time to time please contact Jim Jenkins at j.jenkins606@btinternet.com.

Training will be given."

Valentine Quiz

Sat 11th Feb, 7 for 7.30pm

Village Hall, Great Waltham,

Adult - £12 Child - £3



Bring family, friends, the kids.

Make up a table of 6 to 8, or if it's just you, we'll allocate you a table.

Email Joanna.2.steel@btinternet.com to tell us you are coming by **4th Feb.**



Poppy Appeal

Collections towards the 2022 Poppy Appeal in the Great Waltham district amounted to £2583.72. In addition £1291.75 was collected in Pleshey. This was achieved by house to house collections, static points, sale of wreaths, donations and church collections on Remembrance Sunday.

The Branch committee would like to thank everyone who helped us to achieve this excellent result.

John Andrews Branch Chairman

From the Vicarage



Hi All.

As I sit writing this there is frost on the windows in the afternoon. It's chilly. Winter will be here for a little longer. I long for summer days. Many of us live with one foot in the past and the other foot in the future which can be a precarious balancing act between regret and worry or

nostalgia and hope. Today I'm mindful that there is a time to be seized, to be made use of and it can be now! Emily Dickinson said, "Forever is composed of nows." What we decide to do with our "nows" is utterly transformative.

Each "now" is part of our life's story. Many days can be so absolutely full of drudgery, inanity and, for some of us, pain – either physical or emotional. Nevertheless I have found it helpful to use some of my "nows" to express thanksgiving. I daily try to thank God for many things big and small. My home, my family, shelter, the weather, food, drink, friendship, my neighbourhood, glimpses of nature, my breath and imagination, freedom of expression, no obvious threat on my life, gluten-free chocolate Hobnobs and good Wi-Fi!

So forage somewhere into the core of your being today and plant little seeds of gratitude. It's a discipline. A habit. Not an easy one. If we spend some of our "nows" in this way we find those little seeds will grow into fresh perspectives on the past and new life for the future. Peace. Rev'd Dan



Church of England Services February 2023

Sunday 5th	11am	Communion	Great Waltham
Sunday 12th	10am	Communion	Ford End
Sunday 19th	11am	Communion	Great Waltham
	11am	Communion	Chignals
Saturday 26th	10am	Community Worship	Ford End

Ash Wednesday 22nd February we will be joining other local churches:

10.30am St Mary's Broomfield
7.30pm St Andrew's Boreham

Please note Ford End Church will not be open for private prayer during February. If you need to have the church opened, please contact the Parish Administrator.

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



World Day of Prayer 2023

will be held on
Friday 3rd March at
11am
at Chignals URC



'I have heard about your faith'

Each year, on this day, Christians of many cultures, traditions and races in over 120 countries around the world unite in prayer.

Our sisters in Taiwan are sending us blessings with the service they have prepared for World Day of Prayer 2023.

Taiwan is an island rich in natural resources and culturally diverse. The women of Taiwan share the issues faced geographically, politically and socially and also their hopes for the future. Let us join with them as we give thanks for the beautiful island and people of Taiwan and encourage one another in our faith just as Apostle Paul did in his letters.

Please join us, everyone is welcome.

Services at Blackchapel, North End

All services start at 3 pm unless otherwise stated.

February

Sunday 5th Family Worship
Sunday 19th There will be no services at Blackchapel today because we will be attending the Church Away-week Conference in Northampton.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
contact Patrick Hamilton on 01371 820095

URC Little Waltham

Services and Activities.

Contact Rev Hans Stein 01371875654 / 07763169605
Rev Geoffrey Griggs 01245 471990

February 2023

All services at 10.30a.m.

5th -- Songs of Praise lead by Julie Warner and Moira Walker

12th – Rev. Hans Stein

19th – John Amos

26th – Rev. Hans Stein - Holy Communion.

Other events:

2nd February – Coffee/Tea and Cake 10a.m. -12 noon

18th February – Coffee morning 10a.m -11a.m.

Great Waltham Friendship Club

Members enjoyed a New Year meal on January 16th. Sadly, they learnt of the sad demise of popular member, Shirley Morris who lost her battle against cancer. The delicious meal of fish and chips was followed by a Confectionery Quiz and Elaine and Wendy were thanked for organising everything.

Ford End Senior Teas

For various reasons we are unable to meet for several weeks so our next meeting will be on the **27th March 2023 at 2.30pm**. We all look forward to meeting then and hoping for a lovely spring day.
Sheila



Saturday 11 March
2023
Great Waltham
Church 7.30pm

WALTHAM SINGERS CONCERT JAZZ, SONGS AND SONNETS

Bob Chilcott: Nidaros Jazz Mass
George Shearing: Songs and Sonnets
John Rutter: Birthday Madrigals
accompanied by
a jazz trio on piano, drums and double bass
Tickets £16.00 (under 16s £5)

This year is Waltham Singers' 50th anniversary. Our official 50th anniversary concert will be on June 24th. We are taking the opportunity here to sing music which is rather different from our usual repertoire. It is still challenging to perform, but it is fun to sing and I think you will find it is fun to listen to.

Tickets: £16 (under 16s £5)
Steve Readings (01245 440573); any choir member;
www.walthamsingers.org.uk; or at the door
(don't take a chance – book in advance!)

PARISH COUNCIL SUPERVISED Litter Pick

Weekend of 11th – 12th March



Ford End Garden Club

We were given a most entertaining evening at our January meeting by Jan Bloomfield who talked about 'Up-cycling your garden'. Jan had a variety of unusual containers she had used to grow plants in, like fancy cans, logs that had been drilled with holes and pretty crockery items. It wasn't just the audience that was in for a treat but the wildlife that she encourages in her garden. She had us making bird food out of suet and bird seed, then moulded into cups and fir cones that could then be hung in the garden.



The January meeting is always the time when we bring back the hyacinths for the competition, and what a variety there was! Considering everyone is given their bulbs at the same time they came back all shapes and sizes. Jan was given the job of judging the winner which she did very well by giving her reasons for choosing it. Manuel

Martins was the winner with the three hyacinths in full bloom and even height. (See above)
Our meeting on Wednesday 15th February will be 'Myths and mythology surrounding the Yew Tree' by Martin Lockwood. Meetings are held in Ford End village hall and start at 7.30pm. Whatever the weather, do come along and join the group for an interesting evening.



GREAT WALTHAM TWINNING VISIT - JULY 2023

Have you ever noticed the sign at the entrance to the village???? Great Waltham is twinned with the town of Ceyrat in France. Every year for a week at the end of July, French "twinners" come to stay with families in the village or nearby, or we go to stay with families in Ceyrat. This year, it is our turn to welcome French visitors here.....and it is your chance to get involved.

Our members are of all ages, but for youngsters learning French at school (even if they've only just started) it is a unique opportunity to hear it spoken in everyday situations.... "pass the toast please," "where are my shoes?" "do you like sausages?" etc etc..... But you don't need to speak French – we all muddle along! If you'd like to welcome a family into your home, or just one or two people, you will need to feed them for the week. Then the Twinning Association will organise free trips and activities for them, and two evening meals. If you'd like to come too, you will need to pay for your place.

INTERESTED?

If you are interested in getting involved, either as a host this July, or visiting France in 2024, or if you would just like further information, please email me on joanna.2.steel@btinternet.com. Or visit the twinning page on e-voice.org.uk/greatwalthamparish/. Or our facebook page - Great Waltham twinning.
Joanna Steel, chairperson

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Parish News
new editor required

The team at Great Waltham Parish News is looking for a new editor to join them. The 'two Alisons' have been at the helm since 2017 and now need an extra pair of hands. No design experience necessary (training will be provided) but must be computer literate and have an eye for detail.

There are just 11 issues a year and we're looking for someone who can help out for four or five editions – each issue takes about a day to collate articles and do the layout.

Please take an advert to support your Parish News

To find out more, email
gwparishnews@gmail.com

Walthambury WI



Walthambury WI hold monthly meetings at the British Legion Hall, on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. We have interesting talks, go on visits/walks etc and lots more but enjoy socialising too!

Guests and new members very welcome. Do come and join us..

Contact....walthamburywi@gmail.com

Future events

14th February Ian Grant 'Bees and Beekeeping'

14th March Sam Squier 'Wild and Rooted Farming'
Plus WI Federation Chair Jan Curtis & Treasurer Moira

11th April Vanessa Frake 'The Prison Governor'

9th May Speaker 'Lasting Power of Attorney made simple'

Followed by AGM

13th June Sam Scott 'More than Childs Play' (Author)

11th July Garden Visit at Humphreys Cottage.
Courtesy of Lynne Squier Members Only

12th Sept Philip McKinder 'The William Wallace Case'

10th Oct Ailsa Hitchins 'Ageing Gracefully'

4th Nov Deborah Hart Christmas DecorationsTalk plus Demonstration

12th Dec Christmas Party Members Only

Ford End Primary School

The New Year has started off well even though it has been very cold. The children had a great Christmas and we celebrated with a lovely nativity performed by the Key Stage 1 children. The Mayor of Chelmsford attended the performance and loved the singing and acting. We also held a lovely Christmas Service at our local Church.

The New Year has brought challenges with snow and icy conditions but we persevered and have been able to keep the school open. The children have settled in really well and have started new topics and are enjoying learning about Space and the Prehistoric World, to mention but a few.

We are delighted to welcome Rev Dan as our school vicar and look forward to seeing more of him in our school this term.

The LIFE Ambassadors work tirelessly to collect food for the Chelmsford Food Bank. They organised a Tin Tower Tournament, where the children brought tins of food into school and competed with each class to build the biggest tower. This term they have organised a, 'Break the Rules Day,' where the children can break rules in school (cautiously!) and bring in a



The LIFE ambassadors.

tin of food for the Food Bank. We are proud of the support we give the community.

Please visit our school by phoning 01245 237209 and making an appointment. We would love to show you around.

Great Waltham Cof E Primary School

Although the Autumn term now seems a distant memory, it was certainly one I'll never forget. The festive celebrations were a great way to end the term. We had good attendance at the end of term Carol Service and the KS1 and Reception children put on an

excellent show of 'Honky Tonky Donkey'. The final few days of the term saw Christmas parties, an Eco hat parade and the kitchen staff cooked up a delicious Christmas dinner for everyone.



It's been great to see all the children back with such positive attitudes at the start of a new year. We have lots of exciting things planned this term including yoga and finance sessions for all children and balance bike ability for the reception class. Last term we attended bowls, football and archery competitions. Well done to our KS1 Football Team for coming 1st place in a tournament at Great Baddow High School. They played excellently as a team and won all of their matches. This year we are looking forward to attending the cross country and superstars event.



14th CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



The winning Christmas Tree decorated by the WI

In December 2022, 14 local clubs, businesses, the school, preschool and church decorated trees on the theme of "A Country." During the Christmas Fair, visitors voted for their favourite tree and the runaway winner was the tree decorated by the WI in conjunction with some ladies from Ukraine who are staying in the village. The tree featured beautiful home-made paper decorations, some in blue and yellow. The Community Network was very pleased that they took part and hope they enjoyed this community event.

In the evening, we were entertained by the Essex Police Band with the support of the village choir and ballet and tap dancers from Dance Projection. (See photos)
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.



Great Waltham Parish Council (GWPC) would like to provide residents with an update on the future plans for the recreation ground at Ford End.

Firstly, a quick re-cap. On the 15th of March 2020, GWPC held a consultation session at Ford End village hall where we asked residents what changes or improvements, they would like to see at the village recreation ground over time. The results were summarised and accepted by GWPC as the vision for the recreation ground. There were some items that we were able to start working on as some budget and grants were available.

Following Consultation 1 and installation of the trees, play equipment and bench it was brought to GWPC's attention that a number of residents were now unhappy with the design. A petition was handed to GWPC on the 17th August 2021. Since then, any planning work has ceased as we were required to go back to the consultation phase for a second time. This second consultation was carried out during August 2022 and we received 38 responses. The questions posed were concerning picnic tables, additional seating, fencing, a new pathway and the choice between a multi-use games area (MUGA) or outdoor fitness equipment. Please note that most items are subject to future funding and no date has been set for the completion of the work. There was a clear decision made in each area by the majority of residents and once again the results were presented to the full GWPC for consideration at the December 2022 meeting. The results and future plans were accepted by GWPC and results can be found within the meeting minutes.



Little Waltham Gardening Club

The Down to Earth community Allotment Project

By
Carolyn Rogers from the Wilderness Foundation

**Wednesday
1st February
at 7.30pm**

President's Trophy - 1 stem of anything in bloom in the garden

Little Waltham Memorial Hall
Visitors & new members are Welcome

For more information, please contact Margaret Williams on 01245 360042 or
Check out our website www.littlewalthamgardeningclub.co.uk

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
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With long waiting lists elsewhere, GWPC is fortunate to be able to offer heavily subsidised plots to anyone living within the Parish.

There is a great community of growers so why not come and take a look ,get a plot ready for Spring.

So, if you fancy living the good life, forget the gym membership. Not only will you benefit from fresh home-grown vegetables and fruit for your family, but your improved mental and physical wellbeing will be positively blooming!

For further details and/or to arrange a tour- drop an email to

clerk@greatwalthamparishcouncil.co.uk
or cllrjop@gmail.com

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 Parish Council held monthly meetings on 21st November and 19th December. This is a short summary of some of our deliberations – full and approved minutes are available on Council noticeboards and the parish website (e-voice.org.uk/greatwalthamparish).

In November, we agreed that the results of the second Ford End Recreation Ground consultation should inform future decisions on the design and allocation of resources at the site. Thanks to everyone who responded to the survey. Helpfully there were absolute majority views on each of the questions we posed, so we now have a clear steer on what people in Ford End wish us to focus on. Also, we are continuing our engagement with Howe Street residents on improvements to the recreation ground there. Meanwhile, at the Great Waltham Recreation Ground we agreed to improve facilities and create more storage space by purchasing a small container to sit alongside the Pavilion, subject to all necessary approvals. However, during the December meeting we acknowledged representations from local residents concerning this decision and we will consider all aspects once we have a firm understanding of any planning requirements.

Also in November, we agreed the Council's budget and associated parish precept demand for 2023/24. In the context of a list of ongoing obligations and improvement aspirations, the Council too is faced with the familiar challenge of inflationary pressures, so managing our budget always remains at the forefront of our minds. Against a backdrop of double-digit headline inflation we believe our proposed precept increase of 13.6% is fair and reasonable, covering the cost of essentials but still allowing us to make progress on new local projects and improvements. The increase equates to an extra £1.00 per month for a Council Tax Band D property.

At the December meeting we received feedback on issues relating to the availability of some of the defibrillator units in the parish. Having decided to assume eventual responsibility for their provision/maintenance and to provide an additional unit for Broads Green, we further agreed to seek expert guidance by engaging with the Community Heartbeat Trust (having previously resolved at our October meeting to include funding in our 2023/24 budget to facilitate this type of service).

The Council is alert to possible initiatives supporting community events celebrating both the coronation of King Charles III next year and the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings in 2024, and we will monitor the opportunities to get involved.

We have also adopted two new policy documents: a revised Code of Conduct for Councillors (based on a recently introduced higher authorities' code) and an Investments and Reserves Policy. Both documents will be published on the parish website.

Our next monthly meetings are 20th February and 20th March 2023. As always, all parishioners are welcome to attend these public meetings. Steve Gilbert, Chair



Would you like to be happy in 2023?

What a silly question.

Well, we don't sing because we are happy – we are happy because we sing.

Singing gives a sense of togetherness, teamwork and achievement.

It can improve confidence and boost memory.

Singing in a choir supports your mental health and can help with all sorts of medical conditions.

Singing lowers stress levels, improves lung capacity. Why not give it a try with your Village Choir

in 2023? Starts 5 January 2023 with new songs for the new year. 7.00 pm Great Waltham Primary School, every Thursday. First evening free, £7 thereafter. Except 5th January.

Please contact either Malcolm G Ward 360149 or Clare Lyne 361996

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 March issue is February 15th.