

Parish News

Great Waltham Ford End Howe Street Littley Green North End

February 2024

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2023

For the 15th Christmas Tree Festival, 13 local clubs, businesses, church, school and preschool created amazingly imaginative decorations for trees on this year's theme, "A Nursery Rhyme." The winning tree depicting "Old MacDonald had a Farm," was decorated by the Village Choir. But many others were worthy of admiration, such as the Legion's "Polly Put the Kettle On," and the PC's "Oranges and Lemons."



"Old MacDonald" by the Village Choir



Oranges & Lemons



Polly Put the Kettle On



As well as admiring the trees, visitors enjoyed the usual bustling market and fair, the games and stalls, Father Christmas's grotto, local farm "Wild and Rooted's" turkey baps, and the PCC's famous home-made cakes.

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.

A special memory: Some of you may remember when Andy Tinsley kicked off the very first Christmas Tree Festival in 2008. Sadly, Andy died in 2023 but the festival is one of his most successful events and carries his memory onwards.



Essex Police Band Christmas Concert



The Christmas Concert in the Church was, again, a great success with an audience of around 200. The Essex Police Band produced another fine programme of Christmas tunes. Youngsters from Dance Projection provided some athletic dancing, a very accomplished tap-dancing duo and then a full stage of dancers performing together. There were charming renditions of readings of Christmas favourites from GW School children, and two turkey-related readings by adults. The Village Choir delivered two sessions and, with the Band, supported the singing of carols by everyone. The evening finished with a joyful rendition of 'White Christmas' plus unforgettable accompanying actions.



Church of England Services in February 2024

Sunday 4th	11am	Communion	Great Waltham
Sunday 11th	10am	Communion	Ford End
Wednesday 14th	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday	Chignals
Sunday 18th	11am	Communion	Great Waltham
	11am	Communion	Chignals
Saturday 26th	10.am	Family Service	Ford End

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

Services at Blackchapel North End February 2024

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

There is no need to book your place.

Sunday 4th Family service at 3pm

Sunday 18th Family service at 3pm

Little Waltham United Reformed Church Services Rev. Hans Stein 07763169605 February, 2024

All services begin at 10.30a.m.

4th - Rev. Geoffrey Griggs
11th - Rev. Hans Stein
18th - John Amos
25th - Rev. Hans Stein - Holy Communion
Other Events
Thursday 1st February – Coffee and Cake – 10a.m. – 12noon
Saturday 17th February – Coffee Morning 10 – 11a.m.

Coffee Morning Blackchapel North End

Come and join your neighbours
for a coffee and chat for just £1.



**Last Wednesday in the month
10.30 - 12.00**

THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

The Society's website has been updated although it retains the name www.hundredparishes.org.uk
The most significant change is the addition of a section called Articles. This section consists of about 80 pages and offers a window onto more aspects of the Hundred Parishes, complementing the existing introductory pages to parishes, walks, people, what's on, etc.

The Articles section comprises a series of short essays on a diverse range of subjects ranging alphabetically from Almshouses to Workhouses. Most of the articles started life as a submission to local parish magazines; most have been expanded. We have introductory articles about the Hundred Parishes Society's origins, aims and activities. Other topics include Aviation, many aspects of Churches, Landscape, Listings, Museums, Parish names, Pub names, Village halls and Village signs – and many more. This expansion of the website has provided an opportunity to include some 600 additional photos. The Articles section will grow over time, usually to incorporate new subjects that are submitted as monthly articles to parish magazines.

We like to receive feedback, whether that be to report a problem, expand our knowledge, or perhaps just to express an opinion on what the Society is doing or could do. We particularly rely on feedback to keep our What's On page up to date and the contact details current within our parish introductions. The details that require most frequent change usually relate to our pubs, either closing, re-opening or changing their contact details.

We hope residents will take a fresh look at the website. We hope they will find something to interest them and perhaps inspire them to investigate further, either online or better still on foot, following one of our suggested walk routes.
Ken McDonald, Secretary



Photos from the website of a Great Waltham
Weathervane and church window.

Cleaner required for Great Waltham Pavilion.

The Parish Council are looking for someone to clean the pavilion at least once a week which should take no more than one hour.

This may be required more frequently at times of heavy usage. Approximate earnings £800 p.a.

Please contact Jim Jenkins (email - j.jenkins606@btinternet.com)

Waltham Wanderers

A village walking Group, the Waltham Wanderers, was established in 1995 since which time it has undertaken a 5 or so mile walk on a Sunday once a month.

All are welcome, there's no fee, just a willingness to enjoy the company of others while walking at an even pace and to enjoy the local countryside. The next walks are planned for 11th February, 24th March and 28th April. If you're interested in joining us, contact Clare Lyne at clare.lyne11@googlemail.com

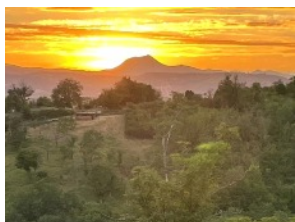


Walthambury Women's Institute

At our January meeting John Newman joined us to talk about his secondment as a 17 year old Police Cadet in 1965 to the Gilbert Ellis Islands, a tiny Pacific Coral Atoll, to help set up and run a youth club for local children. It was a fascinating insight into a very different world. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 13th February at 7.30 in the British Legion Hall when Mark Butterworth is speaking on "Making a bold move - start writing".

Guests and new members always welcome.

GREAT WALTHAM'S TURN TO VISIT TWINNED TOWN - late July 2024



Don't skip this article because you think it's not for you! Read on...

In late July after the schools have broken up (date to be confirmed) Great Waltham parish residents will head for our twinned town of Ceyrat for 5 to 6 days of trips, activities, French food, wine, relaxation, sunshine and beautiful surroundings.

We will be looked after by hosts in their homes. During the day, Ceyrat Twinning Association will organise trips and pay for everything. The only thing that we travellers will need to pay for is the coach and ferry (cost to be confirmed)*. We will go direct from Great Waltham to Ceyrat, stress-free and in comfort. Sounds good? **It is!** How about coming too?

What if you can't speak French? It doesn't matter – the French hosts like to practise their English. And if you have children at school who are learning French, this is a great opportunity for them to hear day-to-day French being spoken and have a go themselves.

Can anyone come? Yes. Our members include families with school children, couples, singles and older people. All you have to do is join the Twinning Association for £10 per person or £20 for a family. The organised activities will be suitable for all ages.

This year is your best opportunity to take this chance because it's our turn to go to France. So take a leap of faith and **give it a go!**

*(Some people prefer to travel to Ceyrat by plane or car and that is acceptable. But we will ask you for a small contribution to the coach cost.)

Email Joanna Steel on joanna.2.steel@btinternet.com, if you have any questions or would like me to keep you updated. See the Great Waltham Twinning page on the parish website at [Home - Great Waltham Parish](#) (e-voice.org.uk)



Dancing Projection performing at the Essex Police Band Concert



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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 WI holds 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

The Parish News relies entirely on advertising to pay its printing costs.

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For more information, email gwparishnews@gmail.com



GREAT WALTHAM
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

As part of their 150th Anniversary Celebrations the Horticultural Society held a Drinks and Nibbles evening in the Parish Council Pavilion for all those people who have supported the show by giving their time. It was a lovely way to celebrate just before Christmas and a chance to thank everyone. A toast was raised to 150 years of the Great Waltham Horticultural Annual Show, to all those who had helped and those unable to join in the celebration. Without everyone's continued support the Annual Show could not go on.



Parish Council Receives LCAS Accreditation



At its November monthly meeting the Parish Council was presented with its certificate confirming the award of Foundation status under the Local Council Award Scheme.

The Council's chair, Steve Gilbert (right) is seen here accepting the certificate from Mike Eldred, vice-chair of the Essex Association of Local Councils.

The Foundation award is for councils who meet a set of minimum standards to deliver effectively for their communities. The Council had to demonstrate that it has the required documentation and information in place for operating lawfully and according to standard practice. Also that the council has policies for training for its councillors and officers and so has the foundations for improvement and development in place. Steve says "the Foundation status provides the platform to now work towards LCAS's Quality and then Quality Gold statuses which would further demonstrate the Council's commitment to developing best practice and achieving excellence in governance, community leadership and council development".

War Memorial Refurbishment

In 2024 the Parish Council will be looking to carry out renovation work on the war memorial at Banbury Square, Great Waltham. While the memorial is a parish asset, the type and frequency of refurbishments is strictly supervised by the War Memorials Trust.

However, because some of the lettering on the memorial has weathered and become virtually illegible, the Council has obtained agreement from the Trust for the inscriptions to be re-engraved and rendered with black enamel paint. To demonstrate this type of enhancement, the photograph (right) is the memorial at Sible Hedingham after the completion of similar work. Given the restrictions under which it has to operate, the Council believes this is the best way to upgrade our memorial.

If you have any comments or observations on the proposed works, please let the Parish Clerk know either by post at The Parish Office, The Pavilion, South Street, Great Waltham, CM3 1DF, or alternatively by email at clerk@greatwalthamparishcouncil.co.uk



The Stondon Singers are delighted to be returning to Great Waltham church for a concert on Saturday 9th March, at 7.30 p.m. This event, entitled *Lifting the Veil: Revealing Remarkable Women of the Early Baroque*, celebrates women composers of the late 16th and early 17th centuries. Unusually, the music in the programme was all published during their composers' lifetimes yet they remain little known and seldom performed today. Composers include Chiara Cozzolani, Sulpita Cesis, Raffaella Aleotti and Leonora d'Este, among others. Joining the Stondon Singers and their conductor Hilary Punnett are period instrument specialists, playing replicas of early instruments including bass viol, chamber organ and theorbo (related to the lute).

Tickets for this special event are available for £13.50 (advance purchase), £15.00 at the door, and £6.00 for the under-16s. To book your tickets, please ring 0127786769 or email stondonsingers@gmail.com We hope to see you there!

To find out more about the Stondon Singers, please visit www.stondonsingers.org.uk You can also follow us on Facebook, at www.facebook.com/StondonSingers

Lifting the Veil



Revealing remarkable women of the early Baroque

7.30pm
Saturday
9 March
2024

Conductor:
Hilary Punnett

Bass viol:
Alison Kindor
Theorbo:
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Organ:
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Hilary Punnett, the Stondon Singers and acclaimed period instrumentalists present a programme of music celebrating brilliant but little known women composers of the late 16th and early 17th centuries, including Chiara Cozzolani, Sulpita Cesis, Claudia Rusca, Raffaella Aleotti, Isabella Leonardi, Leonora d'Este and Maria Clara.





Great Waltham C of E Primary School

It was lovely to welcome all the children back to school in January after their Christmas break. Revd Dan came into school and led collective worship. He talked to the children about our school vision **'Let all that you do be done in love'** (1 Cor 16:14) and the children (and adults) enjoyed singing along with him. Before the children returned to school the teachers had the pleasure of choosing some new books for our school library. We have updated all of our topic books as well as selecting new books on current topics that we hope the children find enjoyable and inspiring. We were able to do this thanks to a grant that we received from the School House Trust for which we are very grateful. Once all the books are cataloged correctly, we will share them with the children.



LITTLE WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB

Happy New Year from Little Waltham. The Club's First meeting of the year is WEDNESDAY 7th FEBRUARY, 7.30pm at Little Waltham Memorial Hall. The subject is: "THE CHANGING FACE OF GARDENING" by Ken Crowther, a gardener with 50 years' of gardening experience and one time broadcaster on BBC Essex. On Wednesday 6th March we hold our AGM and discuss how to stage exhibits in our SPRING FLOWER SHOW on Saturday 6th APRIL, again in the Memorial Hall. Anyone is eligible to enter our Show, provided that either myself or our Show Secretary is informed by Wednesday 3rd April. There will be a bumper plant stall on Show day. By mid February our show schedule can be found on our website, or a hard copy from me. Please feel free to enter, and entry is free too, the more the merrier! Visitors are very welcome to all of our meetings. There is plenty of parking at the rear of the Hall. Good gardening - when the weather warms up. Maggie Williams (Hon. Secretary) 01245 360042.

Ford End Gardening Club



Our speaker for January was Delyse Jackman, the manager of Old Park Farm Burial Ground, North End. Delyse explained the initial request from ECC and the setting up of the Green Burial Site at Park Farm. Her enthusiasm for the whole project shone through as she described the planting of thousands of trees, shrubs and bulbs with the help of many volunteers. The wild life has already moved in with the sighting of Heron, Kites and recently, Barn Owls. At the end of her talk Delyse was invited to judge our Hyacinth competition and awarded the

Trowel trophy to Angie Rechten. A thoroughly enjoyable evening. Our next speaker will be Martyn Lockwood who will be talking on the life of John Ray, an Essex born man and great naturalist. This will be an interesting local talk as there is a museum in Braintree dedicated to him. If you would like to hear more on this subject, please join us for our next meeting on 23rd February at 7.30pm in Ford End Village Hall.



Ford End C of E Primary School

We cannot believe that we are at the end of Autumn Term already! It has been jam-packed with fantastic learning and amazing enrichment activities (not to mention a visit from Ofsted!). In the run-up to Christmas we have held many events, some for the first time, and some old favourites have returned following Covid. We have had a Christmas decoration morning with the parents/grandparents and the pupils in Year 5/6 sang carols to Felsted Friendship Group at Leez Priory. Our EYFS and KS1 pupils put on a fabulous nativity, where the children sang their hearts out and performed with confidence. We also held a Reindeer Run to raise money for Farleigh Hospice, and we had a whole-school trip to the Civic Theatre to see Jack and The Beanstalk, thanks to our generous PTA. We wish you all a very merry Christmas and look forward to all that 2024 may bring.





Great Waltham Village Choir

The Village choir has around 30 active participants. However, new members are always welcome. So, if you enjoy singing then you fulfil the

qualification for joining the choir - no audition, no requirement to read music, no solos.

We meet during school term times on a Thursday evening in the Primary School Hall between 7.00 pm and 9.00 pm (with a coffee/biscuit break). The charge is £7 per session; the initial session is free. Come along and enjoy the singing and company.

Contacts – Malcolm 3601489 and Clare 361996

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

This is a summary of some of the items discussed at the November and December monthly meetings of the Parish Council. For more details, full and approved minutes of all Council meetings are available on our noticeboards and the parish website (e-voice.org.uk/greatwalthamparish).

In November, we were pleased to receive from Mike Eldred, vice-chair of the Essex Association of Local Councils, our certificate confirming Foundation status under the Local Council Award Scheme.

Also at the November meeting, having investigated the situation further, we decided not to take any further action in relation to street parking at Broad's Green. In addition, to reflect the increased use of the Pavilion, we agreed to improve facilities for hirers by installing additional white boards, and also to seek a contracted cleaner for the premises. We also resolved to replace a gatepost at the Great Waltham Recreation Ground to maintain security at the site.

In December we discussed the average speed camera scheme at Ford End – the update received forms the basis of another article below.

Also at the meeting we agreed to approach the landowner regarding possible improvements to the cobbled area adjacent to Walthambury Stores and The Beehive. We also agreed to rationalise the situation of having two closely adjacent noticeboards in Howe Street by removing one and monitoring the use of the other (in the bus shelter) to assess the need for a possible future upgrade.

Our next monthly meetings are on Tuesday 19th March 2024 at Ford End Village Hall and Monday 22nd April 2024 at The Pavilion, Great Waltham Recreation Ground. As always, all parishioners are welcome to attend our public meetings. Steve Gilbert, Chair

Valentine Quiz

This is no ordinary quiz - be prepared to get involved

Sat 10th Feb, 7.30pm

Village Hall, Great Waltham

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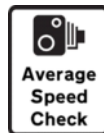
to tell us you are coming by **3rd Feb**

Ford Rnd Senior Tea



The next tea will be held on Monday 12th February at Woodstock, Church Lane, Ford end. Starting at 2pm.

Anyone interested or who has not been before, please ring Sheila Bearman on 01245 237335 or 07977 077945



Parish Council Update – Ford End Average Speed Camera (ASC) Scheme

This is a summary of a more detailed update available on the parish website (e-voice.org.uk/greatwalthamparish). We received 241 responses to our recent consultation.

66.0% of respondents were in favour of an increased precept to repay a loan needed to acquire an ASC system. We have agreed this gives us a mandate to seek a loan.

Match funding for the scheme was made available by Essex Highways four years ago, but this commitment lapsed two years later. The arrangement moved an agreement for match funding to be *considered* if the Council should show it had raised its half of the costs. However, Highways have recently indicated they believe the cost of the scheme has significantly increased since 2019, possibly doubling.

In addition, we have also received notification via our county councillor that the new Highways cabinet member is unable to reconfirm the previous commitment because, given the current financial pressures, funds are not available, and that furthermore, he is also not of a mind to overrule the Highways' view that Ford End does not meet the criteria for an ASC (that is, the speed of vehicles through the village is not considered sufficiently excessive), although he is open to reconsider this if a safety case can be made.

Both your county councillor and the Council have looked to further engage with the new cabinet member and the Highways design manager, but currently without success. We will be giving consideration to whether the Council can fund the scheme without ECC financial support, but to do so, we need further details on current costs. Steve Gilbert, Chair, Great Waltham Parish Council

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 16th.