

Parish News

Great Waltham Ford End Howe Street Littley Green North End

March 2024

Great Waltham Valentine Quiz - Another Fun Evening



David, Sam & Scott

The Valentine quiz played to a full audience of 60 people in the GW Village Hall. Those that have been to Mike's quizzes know that they aren't the usual knowledge based list of questions, rather a mix of audience participation and evening of entertainment. The popular Mr and Mrs round, asked one half of each couple a series of questions whilst the other half was taken out of earshot. Points were awarded to each team according to how well their answers matched and laughs all round for embarrassing answers! The interval provided time to eat the 2 course supper and to complete the cryptic picture love-songs quiz round, including an unusual scratch n' sniff challenge, and a special picture quiz round for the kids. A humorous First Dates sketch formed the observation round with David as Fred the host, and Sam and Scott as the mismatched punk and Lord couple (left) (to the surprise of their family who didn't know they were performing). The evening finished with



Mike Steel Quizmaster

the popular backwards love songs round, with the audience trying to recognise the song when played backwards. Congratulations to team "We don't know" who won (the team name they gave when asked!)

Did you know that Great Waltham is twinned with CEYRAT in France?

This year, it's our turn to visit Ceyrat from 24th July – 31st July for a week of organised trips and activities, French food, wine, sunshine and beautiful surroundings. We will stay with French families in their homes – they will provide food and a warm welcome. We will travel there by coach from Great Waltham, and ferry. Twinning is open to anyone of any age. If you'd like to be part of it and you live in GW parish or nearby (eg Little Waltham, Broomfield) or you'd like to know more, contact Joanna Steel on



joanna.2.steel@btinternet.com **immediately** – there are still some places left on the coach. And see our webpage on e-voice.org.uk/greatwalthamparish for information and loads of photos.

A FEW MYTH-BUSTERS...

Can't speak French? It doesn't matter. But if you have children who are learning French at school, this is great opportunity for them to mix with French youngsters and try out a few phrases.

Are twinning members just boring old fogeys? No!!! We are delighted to have primary and secondary school children as members and the rest of us aren't so boring either. The excursions and activities in France will be suitable for all ages.

Not brave enough? Just go for it! **This year** is your best opportunity because we are going to France. Don't miss it!
Joanna Steel Chair of Great Waltham Twinning Association



French youths at the Farewell Dinner last year



From the Vicerage

I am about to spend 3 months away from the parish on what's called extended study leave or sabbatical. Ministers get this after 10+ years. I'm looking forward to a bit of time away but also look forward to being back among things before too long. Before I go I'd like to leave you with a plea.

This plea is not about your money. It's about your time. Well let's be honest your money would be awesome too but the purpose of my message here is to ask if you (or anyone you know) would consider occasionally giving up a few hours to help at your local foodbank to bring hospitality, hope and perhaps a little happiness to those who have fallen on hard times.

Chelmsford Foodbank is a part of the Trussell Trust network and they have an outlet at Beaulieu Community Centre. It opens every Friday afternoon from 4-5:30 for customers. They really need more volunteers. All training is provided after a successful application process. It has been amazingly rewarding to be involved in.

There are various roles volunteers can sign up for. Some are physical and some rely more on people skills. Some volunteers work behind the scenes to pack parcels etc Other volunteers are involved in welcoming and engaging customers trying to signpost them to other support they may need in whatever circumstance they find themselves.

Please apply to be a volunteer by emailing volunteers@chelmsford.foodbank.org.uk

Food banks are facing their toughest ever winter. Please help ensure they can continue to be there for families facing hardship this winter.

Dan



Church of England Services in March 2024

Sunday	3rd	11am Communion	Great Waltham
Sunday	10th	10am Mothering Sunday Communion	Ford End
Sunday	17th	11am Communion	Great Waltham
		11am Communion	Chignals
Saturday	24th	10am Palm Sunday Family Service	Ford End
Thursday	28th	7pm Maundy Thursday Communion	Little Leighs
Friday	29th	2pm Good Friday Meditation	Ford End
Sunday	31st	11am Easter Day Communion	Great Waltham

Contact: Alison Bates Parish Administrator

Tel: 07957 228467

admin@littleandgreat.org.uk

Little Waltham United Reformed Church Services and other events

March, 2024

Rev. Hans Stein 07763169605

All services begin at 10.30a.m.

Sunday	3rd	- Rev. Geoffrey Griggs
Sunday	10th	- Charles De Lacy
Sunday	17th	- Marina Price
Sunday	24th	- Rev. Geoffrey Griggs - Palm Sunday
Friday	29th	- Rev. Geoffrey Griggs - Good Friday
Sunday	31st	- Rev. Hans Stein- Easter Day - Holy Communion.

Other Events

Thursday 7th - Coffee/Tea and Cake from 10a.m. until 12 noon

Saturday 16th - Coffee Morning from 10am until 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**

Services at Blackchapel, North End March 2024

Sunday	3 rd	Family service at 3pm
Sunday	17 th	Family service at 3pm
Sunday	31 st	Communion Service at 3pm

Gt Waltham with Ford End Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 17th March 2024
To be held at Great Waltham Church
immediately following the 11am service.



Ford End Gardening Club

Our March meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th when Simon Tarrant will be talking about orchids and their cultivation. You are welcome to join us in the Ford End Village Hall at 7.30pm.



Little Waltham Gardening Club

Ken Crowther was our first speaker of the year at the Little Waltham Gardening Club meeting in February. Ken spoke about the changing face of gardening over the years mentioning that he started as an apprentice with London Parks. Ken suggested that we should try and group colours together in our gardens to make more impact. The use of chemicals was discussed and he said how they used to get rid of moss on lawns with mercury. Ken advised us that he had been lucky to choose a career that he's enjoyed and is still enjoying to this day. He now has a show on City Sound radio in addition to a website for gardening advice www.worldradiogardening.com

The President's Trophy for February was Anything Blooming in your Garden. This was won by Lesley with a beautiful camelia. Our next meeting is the AGM on 6 March. Following this is the Spring Show on 6th April - please check our website www.littlewalthamgardeningclub.co.uk for more information.



Special Celebrations

Celebrations took place in Ford End Church on 28th January. Wendy Proctor and Robert Johnson were both 80 and after our family service that Sunday we celebrated with them and we all enjoyed cakes and prosecco.

Happy Birthday to Robert and Wendy and all who are and will be 80 this year. Wishes from everyone from Great Waltham and Ford End Churches, We hope you enjoy a Very Special 2024 Year.



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

GREAT WALTHAM FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The February meeting will be the first time members meet up after a great Christmas meal and cabaret at Hunters Meet in December.

The speaker in February was Graham Whicker telling members of his many trips to the Ukraine with much needed donations of dry and tinned food.

Little Waltham & Great Notley Surgeries Patient Participation Group

Spring Update:

The surgery has implemented a new phone system across both sites and now offer a call back service. The phone lines are still extremely busy, but we aim to have 3 receptionists at site, especially during the morning rush at 8am.

The surgery is pleased to announce that the E-consult booking system seems to be working well for making routine appointments. To access the E-consult system go to the surgery website - and click the online consultation button; fill out the form which will be sent automatically to the surgery. It will be triaged, and you will either receive a phone call or a booking link. The phone booking system is available for urgent cases that need to be seen on that day or for people unable to access the online service.

Work continues with the new design for the website making it clearer and simpler to use.

LW&GN PPG, other PPGs and representatives from local Parish Councils have met to discuss the level of local development alongside proposed healthcare provision and are collectively in contact with the Integrated Care Board to clarify the situation. We will keep you updated.

For any concerns, questions or suggestions on issues relating to the running of the surgeries then please contact the PPG on and we will get back to you.

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Ford End C of E Primary School

Wow, what a busy half-term we have had! It is incredible to look back and reflect on how much we have achieved over the last few weeks. Some of our children have taken part in sporting events with other schools, such as indoor tennis and Year 4 Superstars.

The children have also enjoyed their football coaching sessions at lunchtime, on our fabulous school grounds.

We recently celebrated Children's Mental Health Week. The children learnt all about the importance of sleep, limiting our screen-time, going outside in nature and daily exercise. They also tried some mindfulness, yoga and meditation to help them relax and stay calm. The children came to school wearing something that made them happy.

We also took part in "Walk and Talk" around the track with our friends and teachers!



Signs of Spring photos courtesy of Barry Teader



Year 5 Pupils become Mental Health First Aiders

Pupils at Ford End (part of LIFE Education Trust) are part of a new Trust-wide initiative to educate pupils about mental health and provide them with opportunities to take positions of responsibility to support younger students in mental health matters. Year 5 'LIFE Ambassadors' from eight Trust primary schools have recently undertaken mental health first aid training to learn; what affects our mental health, how to spot signs of being unwell and what can help. The children attended 6 hours of training over 3 sessions and have completed the course in time to lead activities for [National Children's Mental Health Week](#) in each of their schools from Monday 5th February.

To launch the week, all children and adults were asked to wear 'things that make them happy' on the first day, to help raise awareness of the importance of mental health in everyone. Following this, Ford End enjoyed a range of wellbeing activities during the week including 'going for a walk' to get some exercise and take in the world around them with their peers and 'a screen-free afternoon' to encourage good habits and highlight the mental health dangers of too much time spent on devices.

The Pupil First Aiders ongoing role in school will then see them become the 'go-to person' for anyone who is going through some form of mental health issue. They will be able to guide the student in distress to get the help that they need and also look out for or spot anyone in distress. Their role is not to fix the problem, but to support peers with self-help strategies or signposting them. They will also inform trusted adults in the school of any concerns.





Great Waltham C of E Primary School

We have had an incredibly busy half term at GWPS. Lucy and Charis, from year 4, joined 11 other schools from the Chelmsford Diocese in a summit celebrating identity, diversity and growing future leaders. The day, which was held at Chelmsford Cathedral was filled with hope, learning, listening, empowerment and music.



Lucy & Charis

We were so proud to be part of this.

This week, we welcomed parents and carers from Class Africa into school for lunch,

the roast chicken followed by apple crumble and custard went down very well, thank you to Mrs Mixture and the lunchtime team.

Our Year 4 children attended a Super Stars Festival, which is a fun multi skills event in Chelmsford. Miss Lovell said the children worked really well as a team and had a great time competing against other local schools.

As part of Children's Mental Health week each class took part in a 'Walk and Talk' session and the children also had their usual yoga lesson where everyone really appreciated the time out of their busy week.

As this half term draws to an end it is lovely to see the grounds of the school start to blossom which reminds us of the brighter days to come!



A few updates from your County Cllr – Mike Steel



DigiGo

DigiGo is extending the service beyond the pilot for an extra 2 years! DigiGo is a fully electric shared public transport service which offers on-demand or pre-bookable travel in parts of Essex. There is no fixed route or timetable, which puts you in control of your journey.

DigiGo is booked through the TravelEssex journey planning app. DigiGo covers much of my Broomfield and Writtle Division and extends into the northern part of Writtle. DigiGo operates 7 days a week, from 7am until 10pm. Fares are capped at £2 per journey, or concessionary passes apply. www.digigo.uk

DigiGo are also reaching out to parishes to introduce a series of in-person app support sessions called 'Enhance your Digital Confidence with DigiGo.'. The sessions specifically focus on providing digital support for those less digitally inclined, guiding them through the process of using the TravelEssex app and making DigiGo bookings via it. They envision hosting these sessions either in conjunction with existing parish meet-ups or coffee mornings or as standalone events at a parish or community building. Let me know if a group want me to set one up.

National Grid (NGET) – Pylons

ESO (separate to National Grid Electricity Transmission) have begun their study - which will analyse onshore and offshore options. The review, which will be part of the ongoing Norwich to Tilbury pylon proposals, will take around 3 months and more information on its scope can be found here:

<http://www.nationalgrideso.com/.../offs.../east-anglia-study>

Essex Highways crews tackle Storm Isha:

Highways crews worked throughout the night dealing with flooding, wind damage and fallen trees as Storm Isha arrived. They received 70 reports for weather-related incidents, including reports of flooding and fallen trees. Working with partners Essex Police and UK Power Networks, 20 serious issues were dealt with quickly by crews overnight to help get the roads across Essex moving again.

Army and Navy:

The Planning application for [Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package](#) have now been submitted and the drawings are live on the Essex County Council planning and development website





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
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This is a summary of some of the items discussed at the January meeting 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).

Members of the public told us about several incidents of criminal damage. Although the Chelmsford & Maldon Community Policing Team were unable to attend on the night, we hope to put the points made to them when they come to our February meeting, which I will report on next month. The Council itself has not been immune from acts of vandalism to its assets, and as I have mentioned previously, the costs for repairs and replacements ultimately come from our Council Tax payments.

We also received representations from a member of the public concerning our provision of allotment garden amenities, and we agreed to add an agenda item to a future meeting to discuss all the issues raised.

We agreed positioning statements in relation to the Ford End average speed camera scheme – these can be found on the parish website. We continue to look to engage with Essex Highways and again I will provide updates in my future meeting summaries. Despite Highways' being unable to support the scheme financially, we agreed that because in our view the weight, volume and speed of vehicles using the B1008 through Ford End village continues to present a risk to pedestrians and other road users, we will continue to lobby for road safety improvements.

We agreed that, in consultation with the Community Network, we would investigate the purchase of new Christmas tree white lights for the tree on Banbury Square. We also decided that, subject to conditions, an anti-pylons banner could be displayed on the green at Broad's Green.

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

Do you have stories from relatives who participated in D-Day?

On the 6th of June, this year, we commemorate 80 years since the Allied forces invaded Normandy in operation Overlord, which led to the liberation of France, and eventually the end of World War II.

It would be nice to acknowledge this event in one way or another and call for any suggestions as to what we could do.

Anyone with stories to share of relatives who participated on the D-Day operation, some of whom may not have Survived, please get in touch with me.

John Andrews

Gt. Waltham Royal British Legion

07740871170

stotlerstag@gmail.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 24th March and 28th April. If you're interested in joining us, contact Clare Lyne at clare.lyne11@googlemail.com

Ford Rnd Senior Tea

The next meeting is on 11th of March at 2pm 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

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

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 15th.