

# Parish News

Great Waltham Ford End Howe Street Littley Green North End

## September 2024



### Betty's Presentation

On a sunny afternoon in July the Gret Waltham Almshouse Trust held a Summer Gathering at Lodge Farm Barn attended by the residents of the almshouses and trustees past and present together with their guests.

The guest of honour was Betty Croot who had retired from the Trust earlier in the year having served as a trustee for some 47 years,

In presenting a bouquet of flowers and a gift Peter Bradley paid tribute to Betty's untiring

service as a trustee and as a staunch supporter of the community life in Great Waltham being associated with many of the local activities and serving on many committees associated with them. She has given immeasurable service to the trust and has added stability, advice and humour to the trust meetings and with the wellbeing of the residents at heart.

Great Waltham Horticultural Society

ANNUAL FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW

2-4:30pm  
Saturday 21st September  
2024

Great Waltham Village School

ENTRY:  
£1 adults  
50p children

### Mill Road is driveable again, with care!

For most of this year, Mill Road, which links North End to Felsted, has been flooded. As you can see in the photos, sometimes it was totally impassable except for tractors, sometimes driveable by large van or SUV. Even in August, the road has not been suitable for the average car. Unfortunately, the lane is a vital link for many people in North End, enabling them to get to their GP surgery, as well as the nearest shop and post office. The alternative route adds 8-10 miles to the journey.

The almost continual rain this year did not help, for water was constantly being washed off the fields onto the road and had nowhere to go because the drain to the river was blocked.

Inevitably, there were accidents caused by drivers underestimating the depth of the water and for a couple of weeks in the winter, we even had a car (abandoned by joyriders) 'floating' from side to side in the water.

More recently, major road closures in Felsted resulted in Mill Road becoming one of the suggested alternative routes, until signs appeared stating that it was 'not suitable for diversion' - and how!

The flood was reported to Essex Highways many times over the last six months, by many residents by all available means - online, phone calls and email. Mike Steele, as County Councillor, did his best to help but, despite everyone's efforts, nothing seemed to happen.

Then last week without warning, the road was closed for a day and the drains jetted out! HOORAY!! We can use Mill Road again..... but only if you drive carefully because the prolonged flood has left behind banks of silt, stones and asphalt across the road plus deep gullies at the sides where the surface has been washed away.

We are hoping fervently that Highways will come back soon and fix the remaining problem - wish us luck!



### From the vicarage

Autumn makes us think about letting go. When we become aware of the natural world, we see evidence of letting go everywhere – the trees shedding, the draining of colour from the landscape around us, migration, hibernation. But nature is simply preparing itself to go again. It sheds the old to make way for the new. Soon enough the days will lengthen and the vibrancy will return but for a while, for a season or two nature will regroup, she will let go.

I used to hate confession. I used to think it was about guilt. While guilt is a part of confession it's not the main feature. Guilt can be extremely unhealthy but let's not forget, there would be something quite psychopathic about us if we couldn't process feelings of guilt. There is an appropriate and useful dimension to sensing the wrong we have done. It can spur us into the kind of action that can begin to make things right or at least better. Confession, whether it be to someone we have hurt or to God alone, confession is a component of letting go allowing us once again to grow.

Each week in the words I read in church I say aloud "I believe in the forgiveness of sins." A reassurance for those of us who are in touch with the fact that we don't always get things right. I'm glad God forgives. I'm glad my wife forgives. I'm glad my children forgive. I'm glad for the forgiveness of strangers when I cut them up in my car or something equally unthinking. The interesting thing about having this sentence written into the service each week is that the writers must have felt we needed a particular reminder, to give us pause to ponder this declaration. "I believe in the forgiveness of sins." It is not just to remind me that I can be forgiven but that I too believe I can forgive.

Forgiveness is not to say nothing happened. Forgiveness is to acknowledge I have been wronged by someone and then choosing not to hold it against them. It's one of the hardest things we can do - to let go. In my experience this act - both being forgiven and forgiving others - has enabled me to regroup, to work through winter and to grow again.

Rev'd Dan Pierce



### Church of England Services September 2024

<b>Sunday 1st</b>	11.00am	Communion	Great Waltham
<b>Sunday 8th</b>	11.00am	Communion	Ford End
<b>Sunday 15th</b>	9.00am	Communion	Chignals
	11.00am	Communion	Great Waltham
<b>Sunday 22nd</b>	10.00am	Family Service	Ford End

**Contact: Alison Bates Parish Administrator**  
Tel: 07957 228467 [admin@littleandgreat.org.uk](mailto:admin@littleandgreat.org.uk)  
Please visit our website for further information: -  
<https://www.greatwalthamchurch.org.uk>

### Little Waltham United Reformed Church Services for September 2024

**All Services begin at 10.30 a.m.**

Minister: Rev. Hans Stein 07763 169605

<b>Sunday 1st</b>	-	John de Lacy
<b>Sunday 8th</b>	-	Rev. Geoffrey Griggs and Nigel Wood 90th birthday Celebration for the Organ
<b>Sunday 15th</b>	-	Marina Price
<b>Sunday 22nd</b>	-	Rev. Geoffrey Griggs - Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 29th</b>	-	Moira Walker and Julie Warner

#### Other Events

<b>Thursday 5th</b>	-	Coffee/Tea and Cake 10.00 until 12 noon
<b>Saturday 21st</b>	-	Coffee Morning 10.00 until 11a.m.

### Services at Blackchapel, North End September 2024

<b>Sunday 1st</b>	Family service at 3pm
<b>Sunday 15th</b>	Harvest Festival at 3pm

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Annabel Malton 01245 360240

### Essex Voices

return to Great Waltham Church on Saturday 12th October at 7.30pm for a concert of vocal music through the ages. From sixteenth century polyphony to music from more recent times, we explore the ancient elements of fire, air, water and earth through music. All proceeds will go towards the restoration of the church organ.

Tickets are £15 (£5 under 16s) and are available from the Essex Voices website <https://www.essexvoices.org/> or from Annabel Malton. [annabel@maltons.me.uk](mailto:annabel@maltons.me.uk) 01245 360240"

### Coffee Morning Blackchapel, North End



Come and join your neighbours for a coffee and chat

Last Wednesday in the month

10.30 - 12.00

### Ford End Senior Tea

The Ford End Senior Tea will be on Tuesday 24th September at 2.30

The change of day is just for this month. Hope to see you all and catch up for a good chat It will be at Woodstock, Church Lane, Ford End. Anyone interested or has not

been before please ring Sheila Bearman on 01245 237335 or 07977 077945



### Walthambury WI

Just after our July garden meeting at Black Chapel, around 20 members enjoyed a social evening and very nice meal at the Rose and Crown. This could become a regular event! During August, an outing took place to Tiptree Fruit Farms, where we enjoyed an insightful farm tour, followed by a delicious cream tea. Afterwards some members visited the interesting onsite museum and of course the well-stocked shop!

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September, 7 for 7.30pm at the Legion Hall and our speaker is Martyn Lockwood, on the topic of Essex Heroes and Villains. Martyn has a wealth of local historical knowledge, so this should be an appealing talk. This will be **open** to non-members, so anyone is welcome to join us (small fee payable on the door).

### Little Waltham Gardening Club

The Club is resuming its evening meetings in Little Waltham Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome, Visitors -£3.00 per evening, or annual subscription £10.00

**Wednesday 4th September** - 'New Ideas for Growing Flowers all the year round', by Maike Windhorst

**Wednesday 2nd October** - 'Gardening in the Future', by Nina Lewis  
For more information please phone Maggie Williams 01245 30042 or visit [www.littlewalthamgardeningclub.co.uk](http://www.littlewalthamgardeningclub.co.uk)

### THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

[www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk)

The Hundred Parishes has an exceptional depth of ancient buildings. More than 6,000 are "listed", meaning that they appear on the National Heritage List for England. Each property listing includes a description and many of these descriptions take their text from the guide books produced by one exceptional man, Nikolaus Pevsner.



Pevsner, an architectural historian, was born in 1902 in Leipzig, Germany, the son of a Russian-Jewish fur merchant. In 1933 he moved to England and settled in Hampshire. Following the outbreak of World War II, he was taken to an internment camp but was released three months later.

Work on his series of architectural guide books, The Buildings of England, began in 1945. The edition covering the whole of Hertfordshire was published in 1953; Essex and Cambridgeshire followed in 1954.

Most of the ancient architecture in The Hundred Parishes is mentioned by Pevsner in these three editions, either in general terms or in great detail. One example in Essex is



Manuden, which he describes as follows: "Manuden has a specially pretty, short village street with timber framed cottages with oversailing upper floors near the church and a small assortment of Georgian houses a little further west".

In Cambridgeshire, he described the Norman interior of Ickleton's parish church as having few equals in the country.

In Hertfordshire, the 17th-century almshouses in Buntingford were described by Pevsner as "the stateliest almshouses in the county".

Nikolaus Pevsner was granted British citizenship in 1946, appointed CBE in 1953 and knighted in 1969 "for services to art and



architecture". In total, he was responsible for 46 county-wide guides. He died in Hampstead, London in 1983.

The website [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk) has more than a hundred walk routes that can be freely downloaded. The route descriptions draw attention to some of the listed buildings that are passed. Ken McDonald, Secretary

### Little Waltham & Great Notley Surgeries Patient Participation Group

#### Autumn:

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 18.30 – 20.30 at Great Notley Surgery – This is an open forum workshop, with the Integrated Care Board, to address and discuss the concerns we all have about the provision of medical support in our growing community. Representatives from healthcare providers, Parish Council, PPGs, and any interested patients, are invited to attend. We hope that this opportunity will enable us to have a clearer understanding of our concerns, and hopefully discuss measures that could be available to address them.

The practice has appointed an additional prescribing Pharmacist, who will give on-call assistance to the on-call Doctors. A new Care Co-ordinator has recently joined the practice team.

The introduction of **NO WALK-INS** for appointments before 9am has enabled the receptionists to cope with the 150 or so early morning calls during our busy period, and the call back facility on the telephone has had good feedback. However, there has been an increase in patients' rudeness to receptionists, a situation the surgery will **not tolerate**; patients will be cautioned.

We are hoping to address the often-expressed frustration with the on-line consultations, accessed via the website, this is a nation wide scheme and out of the surgeries control. Efforts are being made to produce a step by step guide which we hope will be available for everyone soon.

Date for Autumn Covid and Flu clinics will be released soon, so please keep a watch out for them.

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. [www.littlewalthamsurgery.co.uk](http://www.littlewalthamsurgery.co.uk) - email: [lw.gnpatientgroup@gmail.com](mailto:lw.gnpatientgroup@gmail.com)

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## GREAT WALTHAM VISITS OUR TWINNED TOWN

On 24<sup>th</sup> July, 30 excited local residents set off by coach for our Twinned town of Ceyrat, France, to spend a week staying with French families and enjoying organised outings.

On our first day, members braved a walk up into the surrounding volcanoes along an ancient geological fault, La Faille de Limagne, where we enjoyed the views over Ceyrat and Clermont. This was followed by a refreshing visit to newly opened local brewery, "Iska," where we learned about the brewing process and sampled the beer. In the evening, we were welcomed to Ceyrat by the mayor, Anne-Marie Picard. A photo made it into the local La Montagne newspaper the next day.

One of our most popular visits was to La Forge de Luguet where skilled blacksmith, Emmanuel, explained all about his forge and gave us a demonstration of the art of forging. Using a furnace heated to 1,000 deg C, he made two huge iron nails in front of our eyes. After that we had a cooler, refreshing stroll to La Cascade, a wonderful waterfall in the mountains. Perhaps the most typically French visit was to a tiny mountain village to a Fete du Pain (bread festival), where the main attraction was freshly made bread from ovens in the woods. There was also a French bric-a-brac sale and a folklorique troupe of dancers.

Whilst up in the mountains, we visited the abbey of Megemont, built of volcanic rock from 1199, closed during the French Revolution, but bought by locals and restored from 1992. Inside, the choir, "Archipel," treated us to a concert of popular music.

On our last day we visited 12<sup>th</sup> century "Dauphin" (dolphin) castle at Pontgibaud, still a family home. And we saw the adjacent silver/lead mine museum and heard all about the mining and processing of the metals.

On our final evening, we had a grand farewell meal and dancing to a local band. We thanked Ceyrat Twinning for their warm welcome and presented them with a hamper of local produce and crafts of all sorts made by our members. We set off back home at the crack of a golden dawn the next day. A memorable and enjoyable visit.

### TWINNING BACKGROUND

Great Waltham has been twinned with Ceyrat since 1979. Ceyrat is a small town near the city of Clermont Ferrand in the Auvergne region in the centre of France. It is a region of impressive extinct volcanoes, mountains, lakes, wooded countryside and pretty villages. We have members of all ages and we are always happy to have more. Young families are particularly welcome and it is an ideal opportunity for children who are learning French at school to try out day-to-day French. But you don't need to know any French to join – we all get by somehow!

Contact [joanna.2.steel@btinternet.com](mailto:joanna.2.steel@btinternet.com) for more information.



Far Left The first Presentation on arrival. Left Iska Brewery



La Forge



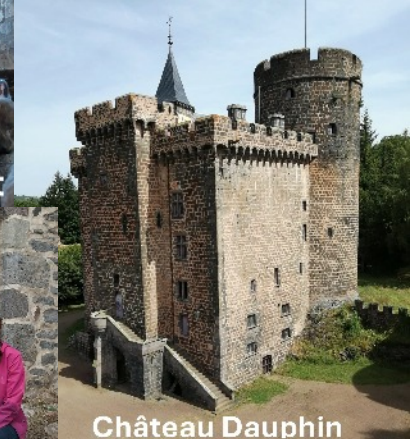
Ceyrat's 4 twinned towns



Local paper "La Montagne"



Archipel choir at Megemont



Château Dauphin



Going home



Fete du Pain oven

A few pictures from the Twinning visit to Ceyrat

## Guardians of the Sacred Fields

By Tyler Woollard (written August 2024)

In the fading light of Great Waltham's dusk,  
A dog walker strides through fields kissed by time,  
Where the whispers of history linger in the air,  
And the earth beneath his feet tells tales of yore.

The sky, a canvas of deepening hues,  
Embraces the land in a twilight glow,  
As harvesters flicker in the distance,  
Their lights a beacon of the toil that never ends.

The church bells toll, ancient and profound,  
Echoing through the meadows and quiet fields,  
Conjuring the ghosts of farmhands long gone,  
Who once bent their backs to sow and reap.

Their shadows dance upon the ripening corn,  
Worn hands guiding ploughs through fertile soil,  
Their laughter and laments carried on the breeze,  
A memory etched into the land's very bones.

But the present pulls him from the past,  
As the bright beams of the combine gleam,  
Bringing him back to the here and now,  
Where machines hum a song of modern might.

Yet his mind drifts, as minds often do,  
To thoughts of what the future holds,  
Where monolithic pylons might rise like giants,  
And march across these sacred fields.

Will they scar the land with iron and steel,  
Turn this pastoral scene into a battleground,  
Where urban sprawl devours what's left,  
Of England's green and pleasant land?

The dog at his side bounds with joy,  
Unaware of the changes yet to come,  
But the walker's heart feels the weight of time,  
The tension between progress and preservation.

He wonders if future eyes will gaze upon,  
Digital screens that capture this very walk,  
And imagine how these fields once were,  
Before the world moved on and left them behind.

Will they see the beauty in the setting sun,  
The golden glow of the harvest's end,  
Or will they mourn the loss of what was here,  
A landscape untouched, a heritage forgotten?

As the last light fades and the night takes hold,  
The dog walker pauses, breathes it in,  
This moment, fleeting, but forever etched,  
In the memory of a land that endures.

For now, the fields of Great Waltham sleep,  
Under the watchful eyes of stars above,  
And the dog walker continues on his path,  
Carrying with him the past, the present, and the future.



Harvest Time  
pictures courtesy  
of Barry Teader



### The Wicked Vicar of Waltham

Great Waltham Parish Productions (GWPP) now have nearly all the actors' parts filled and some volunteers for help with sound, scenery, backstage and front of house, but we can always do with more. If you are interested, contact [mike.2.steel@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.2.steel@btinternet.com). Rehearsals start in September. The play will be on the 22nd and 23rd November in Great Waltham Village Hall. Make a note in your diary.

Tickets will go on sale later in the year via our website <http://gwpproductions.byethost14.com>



The "Wicked Vicar of Waltham" is the true story of the eccentric Reverend George Somers Clarke who was denounced by his own father as 'cruel, wicked and undeserving of a curacy'. His life was a series of bizarre confrontations with college, Church, family, Great Waltham residents and the Six Bells Inn, leading to tragedy and thirteen years' incarceration in Chelmsford Gaol, where he died in 1837.

### Defibrillator for Broads Green



The latest defibrillator purchased by the Parish Council is now available for use and is located in the refurbished telephone kiosk beside The Walnut Tree public house in Broad's Green. The Council is very grateful to all the volunteers, and in particular to Steve Huggins who worked hard repainting the phone kiosk before the defibrillator was installed. The photo shows Tim, Heather and Becky from Broad's Green who have volunteered to carry out the weekly tests to ensure it is available in an emergency.



Felsted Choral Society

## Calling all singers Especially Altos & Bases



**Come and sing with us!**

Music Director: Thomas Duchan  
Rehearsals: **Thursday's from 8pm till 10pm**  
Felsted School Music School  
Sat Nav: CM7 6LL  
What3Words:///organic.happily.greed

felstedchoralsociety@gmail.com  
Facebook.com/felstedchoralsociety  
Publicity: Tony Baker 07799 413191

**Next Concert: Mozart Requiem, 23 November**

Celebrating our  
**50**  
Anniversary



**Great Waltham Horticultural Annual Show** schedule is available from the village shop in Great Waltham priced at £2 and online at:

[e-voicegreatwalthamparishcouncil/horticulturalsociety](http://e-voicegreatwalthamparishcouncil/horticulturalsociety)

including the entry forms and pictures for the colouring category for children. Details of entering is in the schedule.

There will be refreshments and childrens artistic work on show and a raffle. The dahlias are particularly beautiful, plus the homemade preserves, wines and produce. At the end of the show we auction off flowers and produce.

**Come and join in and have a go!**

### Waltham Wanderers

The next walks are planned for Sunday 15th September. All are welcome, no fee and enjoy walking about 5 or so miles. If you're interested in joining us, contact Clare Lyne at [clare.lyne11@googlemail.com](mailto:clare.lyne11@googlemail.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

### Great Waltham Parish Council

Clerk, W Adshead-Grant, The Pavilion, Great Waltham Recreation Ground, South Street, Great Waltham, CM2 1DF. Tel: 07880 717329. email: [clerk@greatwalthamparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@greatwalthamparishcouncil.co.uk)

This is a summary of some items discussed at the July monthly meeting of the Parish Council. For more details, see the full and approved minutes of all Council meetings, available on our noticeboards and the parish website ([e-voice.org.uk/greatwalthamparish](http://e-voice.org.uk/greatwalthamparish)).

Following a recent serious accident in Ford End, we heard from a number of local residents. They raised concerns over the volume and speed of traffic along the B1008 through the village. We noted the various traffic calming initiatives introduced over the years, including village gateway signs, 40mph buffer zones at both ends of the village, vehicle activated signs, raised footway kerbs at bus stops, and 20mph wig-wag signs past the school. We also recognised that because the road remains a PR1 priority route opportunities for further measures are limited. We agreed to commission a new automatic traffic count to obtain up-to-date quantitative data on current vehicle volumes, types, and speeds which can be compared with historical counts and may help to bolster the case when lobbying for further action.

On other matters, we noted:

- In relation to the village green (VG150) located at the southern end of Church Lane, Ford End, at its junction with the main road (B1008), that the process of the Council obtaining legal advice following the submission of the adverse possession claim continues.
- The work of Mike Steel, our ECC councillor, calling on Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) to engage more strategically and create better plans in relation to the roll out of additional healthcare provision when new housing developments are proposed.
- The commencement of the renovation work on the war memorial at Banbury Square.
- Volunteers have come forward so that we were able to agree to join the Parish Paths Partnership, an initiative where Essex Highways works with local councils and their parishioners to keep footpaths in good, serviceable condition.
- The initiation of the organising group for this year's Remembrance Sunday (10<sup>th</sup> November) events.  
Steve Gilbert, Chair

### Ford End Gardening Club



We are starting our meetings again on the 18 September at 7.30 pm in the Ford End village hall. Our speaker this evening will be Tony Rogers who is an RHS Vegetable Judge and will talk about his experiences and answer any of your questions. He will also be telling you about the Hardy Plant Society of which he is a member. We look forward to seeing you at this meeting.

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](mailto:gwparishnews@gmail.com).

**The last date for inclusion in the October issue is September 20th**