



# Parish News

Great Waltham Ford End Howe Street Littley Green North End

## February 2025

### PANCAKE RACES



**WHEN**  
Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March  
2pm Prompt

#### WHERE

Blossom Way (off Cherry Garden Rd)

#### HOW

-Register your interest and team name either to [joanna.2.steel@btinternet.com](mailto:joanna.2.steel@btinternet.com) of the Community Network, or inform your Scout Leader.

#### ON THE DAY

-Come at 2pm prompt to pay £ 1 per person (Adult of Child) and register your team.

-Teams of 4 – It can be friends from school or scouts, families, clubs, businesses - whatever you like, any age -Bring your own pan and pancake

#### REFRESHMENTS

Tea, coffee, cake and homemade sausage rolls

Contact: [joanna.2.steel@btinternet.com](mailto:joanna.2.steel@btinternet.com) or your Scout Leader

#### THERE WILL BE PRIZES

Organised by Great Waltham Community Network and Waltham Scouts



### Name a Star 2024



On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024, Old Park Meadow hosted their annual Name a Star memorial event where families and friends came together to remember their loved ones. The event was well attended, and there was a lovely atmosphere as everyone decorated their stars and took time to stop and reflect. Through money raised from the sale of refreshments, and a raffle, Old Park Meadow's Name a Star event raised £648.8 for Farleigh Hospice and St Clare Hospice.

Delyse Jackaman, manager of Old Park Meadow had this to say about the event. "We were delighted to see so many families, not only because it helped raise £648.80 for Farleigh Hospice and St Clare Hospice but also because they were able to talk with one another and share memories of their loved ones".

Old Park Meadow's charitable efforts do not stop there as they regularly raise money for several of their chosen charities: The Essex Wildlife Trust, Essex & Herts Air Ambulance and of course Farleigh Hospice and St Clare Hospice through donations raised from their Coffee morning's every Wednesday between 10am-12pm. Everyone is welcome to come along for a cuppa, a coffee or a bit of cake and a wander around the grounds.

To learn more about Old Park Meadow and how they can help you say goodbye to your loved one, please visit [oldparkmeadow.co.uk](http://oldparkmeadow.co.uk) or call 01245 806332.

### CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2024

For the 16th Christmas Tree Festival, local clubs, businesses, church, school and preschool created amazingly imaginative decorations for trees on this year's theme, "Disney." The winning tree depicting "The Little Mermaid" (below) was decorated by Walthambury WI. But all the others raised a smile and were worthy of admiration.

As well as viewing the trees, visitors enjoyed the bustling market and fair,



games and stalls, Father Christmas's grotto, Wild and Rooted's turkey baps, and the PCC's famous home-made cakes.

In the evening, we were entertained by the Essex Police Band and the Village Choir, who both included performances of Disney music, in keeping with the theme of the Christmas trees.



## From the Vicarage



What will be the best thing about 2025? I haven't made any New Year's resolutions other than to make sure I have things for which to look forward. Not necessarily big things. Just markers, little or large. Things that can keep my chin up and eyes ahead when sometimes world or family or local affairs can get us down. We are more likely to recognise good things if we're looking for them. It's part of the practice of gratitude - counting blessings. We don't have to pretend there's no bad stuff going on around us but keep our eyes and hearts open for the beautiful and good too. It can take practice but it's worthwhile.

God bless you in all your hopes for tomorrow.

Peace. Rev'd Dan



## Church of England Service February 2025

Sunday 2nd	11.00am	Joint Gracefields Service	Great Waltham
Sunday 9th	11.00am	Communion	Ford End
Sunday 16th	9.00am	Communion	Chignals
	11.00am	Communion	Great Waltham
Sunday 23rd	10.00am	Family Service	Ford End

Still Waters every Thursday Evening 6.00pm – 6.30pm  
held at

St Martin's Little Waltham

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Please join us.

Contact: Alison Bates Parish Administrator

Tel: 07957 228467

admin@littleandgreat.org.uk



## World Day of Prayer 2025

will be held on  
Friday 7th March at  
11am  
at St John's Church  
Little Leighs



*'I made you wonderful'*

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

This service has been prepared by the Christian Women in the Cook Islands. Based on the words of Psalm 139, and woven within the stories of three Christian women, this service invites us to recognise that God created each one of us with great attention and loving care. We are unique and special and should cherish all aspects of who we are and those around us. God created us. God knows us. God is with us. What a wonderful message to share!  
Please join us, everyone is welcome.

## Waltham Wanderers

The next walks are planned for Sunday February 23rd and Sunday March 16th. 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)



## Coffee Morning Blackchapel, North End



Come and join your neighbours for a coffee and chat

Last Wednesday in the month

10.30 - 12.00

## Services at Blackchapel, North End February 2025

All services at 3pm

Sunday 2nd Family Service and Memorial Service for  
Betty Cook

Sunday 16th Family Service

## Little Waltham United Reformed

February, 2025

All services begin at 10.30

Minister - Rev. Hans Stien - 07763 169605

Sunday 2nd	-	Rev. Hans Stein.
Sunday 9th	-	John Amos
Sunday 16th	-	John deLacy
Sunday 23rd	-	Rev. Hans Stein - Holy communion.

### Other Events

Coffee and Cake - 6th February - 10a.m. - 12 noon

Coffee Morning - 15th February - 10 - 11a.m.



## Mill Road, North End is dry(ish) again!!

Some weeks ago, the River Chelmer flooded back up the valley and the Mill Road, North End was under a few feet of water, again. After some days, the river went down, but not the water in the road – the drains were blocked again! Although a number of residents reported the problem to Highways, nothing happened. Fortunately, we also contacted Mike Steel and, thanks to his efforts, an Inspector visited the site, and the job was put out to contract. ....

Last Friday, two very nice chaps from Flowline came and jetted out the drain. Hooray! Once again, residents of North End can go to the doctors' surgery or village shop without making a 10-mile detour via Dunmow! Many thanks, Mike.

The same day, I understand that another contractor came to replace the lost tarmac in the sides of the road. Sadly, they had to abandon the work because the deep holes at the sides of the road were full of water! Last year, Highways placed bollards in these water-filled holes to warn motorists of the danger, but they floated away in the recent flood! The road is now passable, and the bollards in the deep holes have not only been replaced but have increased in number. All is fine so long as you can keep to the centre of the road; but don't venture



into the water at the sides! Hopefully, that water will soon dry up sufficiently for the tarmac work to be completed and Mill Road be returned to a safe condition after so long.

## Renovation of the Church Organ in Great Waltham Church.

After many decades, Great Waltham Church is in the process of renovating our Victorian organ. It requires substantial repair and cleaning to bring it back to the quality of music we need. The organ was built in 1878 by the organ builders, Bishop & Son of London, and we are indeed fortunate that it is being restored by the Ipswich branch of this company. It is expected to be finished in March. Funding for this work is still open, and donations are gratefully received. The Church Organ Fund account is: Great Waltham with Ford End Parochial Church (sort code 20-19-95 and account number 80936553). Many thanks.



Photos by courtesy of Bary Teader

## GREAT WALTHAM ALL AGLOW FOR CHRISTMAS !

On 8<sup>th</sup> December, Great Waltham was doubly lit up; firstly by the brand-new lights on the oak tree at Banbury Square; and secondly by the candlelight from the children's Christingles.

Rev'd Dan switched on the new lights on the oak tree, watched by an enthusiastic crowd. Thanks to everyone who made the new lights possible - GWPC for buying them; Garwoods Tree Surgeons, Willsher and Son, Steve Huggins and Mike Steel, for installing them. A heart-warming example of the community pulling together.



## LITTLE WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB

Happy New Year !

Our first meeting of the year will be held on WEDNESDAY 5th FEBRUARY, 7.30pm at Little Waltham Memorial Hall. (CM3 3LN). Everyone is welcome.

The subject of the meeting is ' SOIL and how we can manage it'. Ros and Ian Mercer, both expert geologists and enthusiastic gardeners will explain how soils are made, what they consist of and how we gardeners can help to maintain the fertility of this finite resource for future generations.

On WEDNESDAY 5th March we hold our AGM. We are still hoping that someone will come forward to take over the job of honorary secretary. Help and advice from the retiring secretary will be on hand for the first year if needed. We have a loyal and strong committee.

Please keep SATURDAY 5th APRIL free as Little Waltham Gardening Club will be holding its SPRING FLOWER SHOW. Classes for spring flowers, flower arranging, vegetables, cookery, craft and photography. Show Schedules will be in February available from M. Lawson ( 01245 361857) or Maggie Williams ( 01245 360042) or on line. [www.littlewalthamgardeningclub.co.uk](http://www.littlewalthamgardeningclub.co.uk) Maggie Williams

## Vacancy for One Parish Councilor

There is a vacancy on Great Waltham Parish Council.

Contact the Clerk to the Parish Council at The Pavilion, South Street, Great Waltham CM3 1DF or [clerk@greatwalthamparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@greatwalthamparishcouncil.co.uk).

This is a voluntary role with attendance at one evening meeting per month of around 2 hours and potentially sub-committee meetings once per quarter.



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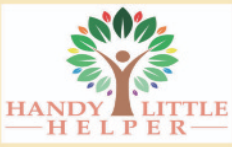
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**Walthambury WI**



Our Christmas meeting we were entertained by the Bardfield Chimes, a group of hand bell ringers, who played festive songs and carols. Audience participation was encouraged! A quiz and finger buffet completed a most enjoyable evening. We also had fun participating in the village Christmas Tree festival. Our theme was The Little Mermaid, so lots of handmade and bought items on a 'sea' theme were produced. We were delighted to be awarded the 'Best Decorated Tree for 2024'! Our speaker for January was Michael Benning, a retired police officer, on A Quiet Day at the Airport. We also discussed our four WI Resolutions. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 11th February, 7 for 7.30pm at the Legion Hall and our speaker is Beaurain on Mary's Meals



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**THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY**  
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Enjoying a winter stroll along any of the described walks within the Hundred Parishes provides an opportunity to view the landscape features visible from various vantage points. Many farmers have decided to cut back on growing oil seed rape, and they may choose to plant alternative niche crops such as sunflowers or borage once the weather is warmer. (Stansted Mountfitchit on the right)

These farmed landscapes have traditionally supported assorted wildlife including skylarks, rooks, ladybirds, bumble bees, butterflies, badgers and foxes. In addition, well-maintained soils contain not just beneficial fungi, but a variety of earthworms and beetles which in turn provide food for many other creatures. Sadly, other less-welcome creatures such as slugs and root-eating beetle or fly larvae are also present. Seeing a sizeable flock of birds following a plough demonstrates this plethora of food!

Recent concerns about the loss of insect life, especially pollinators or those that eat aphids, is encouraging farmers to find ways of enhancing habitats for insects by leaving marginal strips round fields for wildflowers, planting new hedges or creating beetle banks within their fields. These features may be visible from footpaths during the winter months so make a note of where they are and plan return visits during the summer to observe them full of flowers and other wildlife. **Tricia Moxey, Trustee.**





## Great Waltham Horticultural Society

On the evening of 20th Nov seven intrepid crafters met at the British Legion to make Christmas Decorations, the workshop being led by Di Dowsett. With festive music playing in the background crafting began. Excellent guidance was given and we all found ourselves

absorbed whilst learning new techniques and making festive items. Mince pies and stollen added to the Christmas ambience. We all returned home with several personally crafted items, now waiting to be on show in our homes at Christmas time.



## A new year, a new hobby



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## FORD END GARDEN CLUB



Our first meeting of the year was very well attended and we brought along our pots of hyacinths to be judged. This is an annual event and the bulbs were given to us in the autumn. Tony Rogers, who is an RHS judge, kindly came along to decide on the winner and this year the best hyacinths were grown by Gill Mitchell. We were pleased to see Tony again as he is a very entertaining speaker and he told us about his garden, how he became interested in horticulture and the Hardy Plant Society.

At our February meeting on the 19th of the month we are having a talk on bees but this will be one with a difference.

On 19th March at our meeting Maïke Windhorst will be coming along to talk about 'Flowers Throughout the Year'.

Why not come along to our meetings this year and improve your knowledge of gardening and nature and visit gardens with us? We are a friendly and informal club and welcome new visitors.

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month starting at 7.30pm in Ford End village hall.

## Great Waltham C of E Primary School



At Great Waltham Primary School, the Autumn term concluded with a flurry of festive activities that brought our school community together in celebration. Our Christmas service, iRock concert, and the delicious Christmas dinner were highlights. In the spirit of giving, our children participated in the 'Reindeer Run', supporting Farleigh Hospice – a testament to their compassion and community spirit.

Looking back over the entire Autumn term, I'm filled with immense pride at the achievements of our pupils. Their growth, both academically and personally, has been nothing short of remarkable. As we embark on the new term, excitement builds for the upcoming Young Voices concert at the O2 Arena. Our Year 5 and 6 pupils are eagerly anticipating the opportunity to perform on such a grand stage.





The Waltham Singers return to Great Waltham Church for their next concert which celebrates the work of two popular living English composers John Rutter and Bob Chilcott. They both celebrate special birthdays this year, Rutter 80<sup>th</sup> and Chilcott 60<sup>th</sup>. Both composers are probably best known for their religious works, and for mixing passionate themes with more meditative sections. The choir, with soloists and ensemble will perform:

Chilcott St. John Passion and Creation  
Song Rutter Psalmfest

**Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm**

Tickets £20 (Under 16s £5) via [www.walthamsingers.org.uk](http://www.walthamsingers.org.uk)

Sabine (07766655100) any choir member or at the door

### Ford End Senior Tea



The next tea will be on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm. 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



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TEAMS OF 6 - 8

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This is a fundraiser for GW Twinning Association so please make use of the bar

RESERVE YOUR TABLE BY 16<sup>TH</sup> FEB PLEASE

If you have fewer than 6, we can find a table with other people for you to join

Book by EMAIL [joanna.2.steel@btinternet.com](mailto:joanna.2.steel@btinternet.com)

ADULT - £10

CHILD (up to age 16) - £3

### Great Waltham Parish Council

The Pavilion, Great Waltham Recreation Ground, South Street, Great Waltham, CM3 1DF. Clerk, W J Adshead-Grant. Tel: 07880 717329. E Mail: [clerk@greatwalthamparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@greatwalthamparishcouncil.co.uk)

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

In November, our county councillor, Mike Steel, reported that at an ECC meeting the new national housing targets were discussed and a motion was passed that additional infrastructure is required to support increased targets. We also agreed, because no members of the public attended the latest Community Policing Team's 'Let's Talk' drop-in session arranged and advertised by the Council, that rather than continue to facilitate this type of event, we will instead invite the Team to the annual assembly to provide an update of police activities. In addition, we agreed the Council's budget for 2025/26. This will generate a marginally lower parish precept demand compared to 2024/25, which will be reflected in the element of the Council Tax paid to cover our activities.

At our December meeting, we noted the resignation of Cllr. Palmer and thanked her for work on the Council over a number of years. We also received further representations on, and provided an update concerning developments since the last meeting in relation to, VG150 (the village green in Ford End). The Council will continue to object to the adverse possession claim submitted to HM Land Registry. Separately, we understand Essex Highways are continuing with their enforcement action process for the removal of the unauthorised fence and planting on VG150.

Also in December, we noted the outcome of the recent automatic traffic count conducted on the B1008 close to Ford End school, and we agreed to post the data and a discussion paper prepared for the meeting on the parish website so that all parishioners can see the results. We also signed-off a revised agreement with Great Waltham Village Hall for the continued rental of public car parking spaces at the Hall. In addition, we agreed our response to a government consultation on "Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings" – we broadly support the notion of facilitating remote attendance in appropriate circumstances, but are firmly against the concept of proxy voting.

The next monthly meeting will be on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at the Pavilion, Great Waltham Recreation Ground, starting at 7.00pm. As always, all parishioners are welcome to attend these public meetings. Steve Gilbert Chair

### 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 and hospital appointments.

**If you require the services of the group, please call our co-ordinators who are**

Gill Mitchel 01245

Wendy Proctor 01245 360483

John Lattimore, Chairman 01245 363818

Thank you for all of the contributions to this edition of the Great Waltham Parish News. Please send your contributions for the next issue, together with any enquiries or advertising requests, by email to: [gwparishnews@gmail.com](mailto:gwparishnews@gmail.com). **The last date for inclusion in the March issue is February 20<sup>th</sup>**