

Parish News

Great Waltham Ford End Howe Street Littley Green North End

MARCH 2025

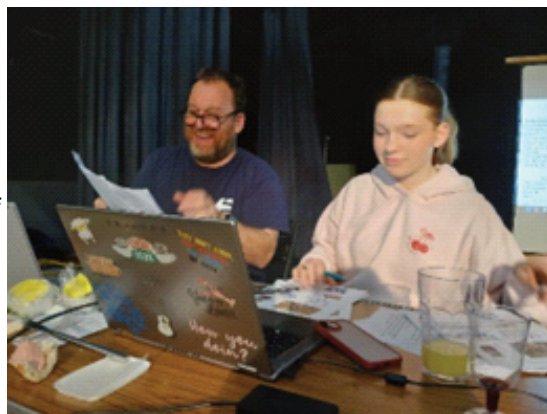
Inside - The Great Waltham
Parish Council – Annual
Update 2024/25

MEGA MUSIC QUIZ

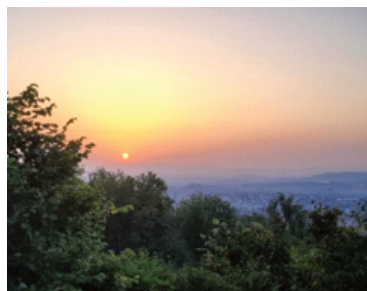
In February, the Twinning Association held a sell-out music quiz. It was devised and hosted by Kerry Bennion, ably assisted by daughter Alex and wife Liz. The fiendish questions got the contestants humming while they tried to work out the name of that pop hit from the 60s, what song those lyrics were from or what on earth was that song being played



backwards! Loads of people from the village joined Twinning members for a fun evening. The winners were Mike Stancevic's team, while the losers were, as usual, some



Twinning stalwarts and their friends who shall remain nameless! The profit will go towards the visit by our Twinning friends from Ceyrat to Great Waltham in July. We will take them to see some of the best sights of Essex. If anyone is interested go to our website on e-voice.org.uk/greatwalthamparish/great-waltham-twinning-associa/. See below.....



FRANCE IS COMING TO GREAT WALTHAM!

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

On the 24th July, 40 French people of all ages from children to senior citizens from our twinned town of Ceyrat will arrive in Great Waltham to stay for a week with local residents.

Could you host some French visitors? We are looking for new members to welcome our French guests into their homes for the week.

What if you can't speak French? It doesn't matter – the French 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.

What does a host have to do? Provide breakfast, packed lunches and dinner on 4 of the evenings, and a bed. Your guests will go off on a day trip every day, paid for by the Twinning, except for 2 free days at the weekend. That leaves you free to go to work or whatever you need to do. You can go on the trips too, if you like, but you will need to pay for yourself.



What's in it for me? Lots of fun, good company, and next year it will be our turn to go to France to enjoy their warm hospitality, delicious food, excellent wine, sunny weather and interesting trips and activities. The visit will be in late July after the schools break up.

For more details of the visit email joanna.2.steel@btinternet.com.

For general information, look at our webpage on e-voice.org.uk/greatwalthamparish/great-waltham-twinning-associa/. Or our facebook page - Great Waltham twinning.



Little Waltham United Reformed Church Services for March, 2025

All services begin at 10.30a.m.

Sunday 2nd - Colin Rackham
Sunday 9th - Marine Price
Sunday 16th - Martyn Payne
Sunday 23rd - Binny Jaichander
Sunday 30th - Charles de Lacy - H.C, Mothering Sunday

Other Events

Thursday 6th - Coffee and Cake - 10.00a.m until 12 noon

Thursday 15th - Coffee Morning - 10 until 11a.m.

Coffee Morning Blackchapel, North End



Come and join your neighbours for a coffee and chat

Last Wednesday in the month

10.30 - 12.00

Waltham Wanderers

The next walks are planned for 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

Church of England Services March 2025



Sunday 2nd 11.00am Joint Gracefields Service
Great Waltham
Weds 5th 7.30pm Ash Wednesday Service
Ford End
Sunday 9th 11.00am Communion Ford End
Sunday 16th 9.30am Communion Chignals
11.00am Communion Great Waltham
Sunday 23rd 10.00am Family Service Ford End
Sunday 30th 10.00am Mothering Sunday Service
Little Waltham
11.30am Communion Little Waltham

**Still Waters every Thursday Evening 6.00pm – 6.30pm
held at St Martin's Little Waltham**

"An oasis of calm in our otherwise busy lives". Please join us.

Contact: Alison Bates Parish Administrator

Tel: 07957 228467

admin@littleandgreat.org.uk

Blackchapel Services, North End March 2025

All services at 3pm

Sunday 2nd Family Service
Sunday 16th Family Service

Update on Flooding in Mill Road, North End



Last month, I chronicled how the flood in Mill Road, North End, had subsided after the drain had been jetted out. Although this solved the immediate problem, it did not address the underlying issues. Mike Steel assured that 'more was to come', so we waited.....

A few weeks later, a team came from Highways tasked with **finding the causes of the flooding and solving the problems**. They discovered additional drains and gullies to the river buried beneath accumulated soil and

vegetation which were dug out and jetted. The 'blind' ditch was found to end in a debris-filled grating that blocked a large pipe under the road to the river; this was cleared and jetted, so water no longer pours into the road.

Mill Road will necessarily flood when the Chelmer overflows its banks, but we now have more routes by which that water can run away once the river subsides.

In addition, the washed-away sides of the road were rebuilt so the gaping holes have disappeared under new tarmac. (I notice that the bollards are still sitting on the banks- just in case?) There remain issues for landowners on either side of clearing their gullies and field ditches, but at last we seem to be working towards a more permanent solution. Many thanks to Mike Steel for persisting with pressure on Highways and many thanks to the new Highways flood management team for their sterling work!



School Governor

Are you interested in playing an important part in the quality of education at Ford End Primary School?

To apply to be a Governor, please send a covering email & your CV, or for more information, please email: khady@lifeeducationtrust.com

We are looking for an individual who is passionate about ensuring the education we provide for our children is of the best quality.

Meetings are generally 6 times a year (term time evenings)





Ford End C of E Primary School

In February, we celebrated Children's Mental Health Week. The children came to school wearing clothes that made them happy. They took part in a range of activities designed to boost their mental and physical wellbeing, including singing, dancing, mediation, breathwork and relaxation using peppermint, lemon and lavender essential oils. They even had a sound bath session! The children also took part in "Walk and Talk" around the track with their friends and teachers. By the end of the week, we all felt positive and rejuvenated!



LITTLE WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB

At the February meeting geologists Ian and Ros Mercer gave an excellent and thought provoking presentation about how soil is made and the problems that lay before us concerning its conservation.

Soils are made from rocks that are broken down into small particles by abrasion, wind and weather and even by lower plants such as lichens. Just as on gravestones, lichens excrete an organic acid which dissolves the rock thus releasing the minerals that can be used by microbes and plants, which when they rot, form soil and humus. The fertility of soil is enhanced by microorganisms such as fungi, bacteria protozoa and invertebrates such as beetles, wood lice and worms. This is a greater incentive than ever to us gardeners to make their own garden compost which provides these soil organisms.

Next meeting - Wednesday 5th March AGM volunteer(s) are still being sought to undertake the secretarial work on behalf of the Club. 7.30pm, Little Waltham Memorial Hall (CM3 3 LN)

Please keep **SATURDAY 5th APRIL** free as Little Waltham Gardening Club will be holding its **SPRING FLOWER SHOW** in Little Waltham Memorial Hall. Classes for spring flowers, flower arranging, vegetables, cookery, craft and photography. Show schedules are now available from show secretary M. Lawson (01245 361857 or M Williams (01245 360042) or download on the Club's website littlewalthamgardeningclub.co.uk

7th MAY - 'Right Plant, Right Place', Presentation by Charlotte Power (Writtle College). 7.30pm. Little Waltham Memorial Hall. New members and visitors very welcome. For more information, please phone M.Williams 01245 360042

Introducing Hardy Plant Society Essex Group

With 200 members we have a varied programme of gardening and plant- talks given by experienced plant people. Members enjoy three newsletters a year, access to online talks every winter and, during the summer months, arranged nursery and garden visits, outings and holidays.

Our meetings take place monthly at 2.0 pm on Sunday afternoons at Wickham Bishops Village Hall which is a modern building between Maldon and Witham and is fully accessible. Facilities include free on-site parking, guest speaker, discount home grown plant sales, free seeds and garden sundries.

There is more information, including regular meeting dates, on our website Essex-hps.org. We are also on social media: Instagram Essex HPS@essexhardyplants X:@EssexHPS Facebook: Hardy Plant Society Essex Group



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Great Waltham Parish Council – Annual Update 2024/25

In 2024/25 the Council continued to deliver the services for which it is responsible and to progress new initiatives to improve the local community. Our largest current (indeed biggest ever) project is the revamp of the play area at Great Waltham Recreation Ground. Because many of the wooden items at the site will soon deteriorate beyond the point they can be safely used by the children much new equipment is needed. The last time significant work was done (2010) the cost of the scheme was £21,750, this time the projection is £160,000 plus VAT. The Council does not have sufficient reserves itself to fully finance a project on this scale, so we have chosen to seek grant funding and have engaged the services of an experienced consultant in this area to help with our bid submissions – the eventual scale and timing of the works will depend heavily on the success of our bids. At the time of writing we have held consultation events with children at Great Waltham school, the preschool and with the cubs, completed the tender process and are in the throes of seeking contributions from grant providers. Once we have secured funds, work can begin.



Also at the Recreation Ground the Council has delivered on its plans to expand the use of the refurbished Pavilion – the facilities are now hired out for most of the week by a variety of local interest groups and clubs. The three recreation grounds we maintain require considerable attention beyond just providing playground equipment – during the year we installed a new, kindly donated seat at Great Waltham and also a grant-funded one at Howe Street; funded and installed new goalposts and nets at Ford End and Howe Street and refurbished those at Great Waltham; realigned the pitch at Great Waltham to a 7-a-side format (to encourage greater

use by younger children); and organised working parties to blitz some of the upkeep work needed to complement the activities of both our handyman and the external contractors whose services we engage to complete the routine maintenance. In August, at Great Waltham, we hosted another successful Play in the Park event with the help of Chelmsford City Council.

During the year renovation works to the war memorial at Banbury Square were completed, and in good time for the 2024 Remembrance Sunday parade and service. The stonework was cleaned and all the inscriptions made legible. Also at the Square, the Council financed the new Christmas lights in the oak tree – we are grateful to all the volunteers who made sure they were successfully installed.



We organised the renovation of the telephone box at Broad's Green and installed a new defibrillator unit inside. This was part of our commitment, over time, to assume responsibility for and fund the upkeep of six publicly accessible defibrillators in the parish. Again, we are grateful to all the volunteers who have helped to make this happen and/or are members of the routine inspection teams for the units.

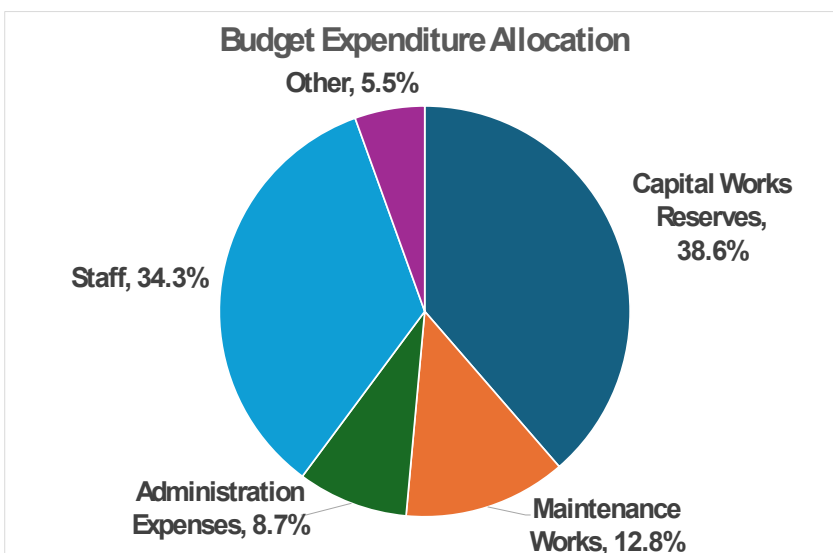
During the year work continued to encourage full occupancy of the allotment gardens provided by the Council. We negotiated an arrangement whereby residents from parishes adjoining Great Waltham are now able to hire plots when the take-up by parish residents is insufficient to fill any vacancies. In addition, a new inspection process was introduced to ensure all plots are well-maintained and to ensure our responsibilities for the condition of vacant plots and non-hireable areas were met. The computer tablets we bought to record the conditions of the plots are also used for our routine playground and asset assessment inspections – the results (include photographic records) are now stored digitally on our administration system.



An agreement which ensured that the provision of free public car parking spaces remain available at Great Waltham Village Hall was concluded – we fund the rental cost of 12 spaces. We also continued to receive and consider grant applications from parish organisations. Our grants are available to non-profit making groups for purposes which directly benefit the parish or some or all of its residents, but not for the sole benefit of an individual or private business.



All of the Council's work to maintain its assets, fund capital works and grants, and carry out its normal services come at a cost. 95% of our income comes from the parish precept (which is collected from households as part of the Council Tax) – we also have other income streams from the hire of the Pavilion and allotment plots. Our expenditure falls into the categories shown in the pie chart. We achieved a balanced budget for 2024/25 and have been able to reduce next year's budget slightly – this means the parish precept amount will be marginally lower this year. Over the last 2-3 years we have gradually achieved the level of annual income needed to better reflect not just our day-to-day expenditure, but also recognising the need to have accumulated reserves to help service capital works projects and to ensure we better comply with the recommended levels of solvency expected of a public body. In addition, we have sought to make sure our investment policy enables these reserves to generate interest income during the period we hold them, something we have not focussed (or been able to focus) on in the past. Some of the reserves are contingencies against external shocks or emerging issues, while others provide resource for expected, but as yet not clearly defined, costs for items such as legal fees or expert reports on issues which affect the parish's assets and interests.



This year we also initiated a process to begin our involvement with the Parish Paths Partnership, an ECC-funded community-based scheme that enables local volunteers to look after and/or promote their local Public Right of Way network – we are aware that without local initiatives some of the works previously carried out by higher authorities' agencies will not be addressed. And we also continued to engage with our local Community Policing Team and arranged 'Let's Talk' events with their officers for members of the public at the Pavilion – however, because these were not well attended, we have decided to suspend further sessions for the time being.





The Council also responded to a number of consultations. The most emotive has been the plans by National Grid to construct a network of pylons across East Anglia. We made clear in our consultation response that we strongly objected to the proposals. We said: *"The Council's position is that the placement of pylons anywhere in its parish is entirely unacceptable and will continue to be strongly opposed. This includes not only the route cited in the statutory consultation, but also any other future alternative route(s) which may come to be proposed. [...] The Council stands in solidarity with all residents and other*

county, city and parish councils who oppose the use of pylons anywhere in Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk under this scheme". By the time you read this update the outcome of the consultation may well have been published and potential impacts on the parish better understood.

We also responded to consultations on the revised City Council local plan (when we objected to a possible development in Back Lane, Ford End, but in principle supported another proposed site adjacent to Ford End school); the expansion of flights to and from Stansted (where we were against extending the existing flight times window); and on the consideration of remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings (here we said we favoured remote attendance in appropriate circumstances, but opposed any form of proxy voting). And during 2024, in our role as consultee, we submitted comments on 34 planning applications made for proposed works in the parish.



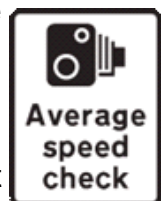
One activity the Council recognised it needed to improve was its community engagement. Beyond holding the public meetings for our own business (we will have called 23 such meetings by the end of April for 2024/25), we also organised a meeting to hear parishioners' thoughts on the National Grid pylons scheme (see above) and provided opportunities for residents to meet their Community Policing Team (also mentioned above). In addition, we were pleased to welcome non-councillors to our play area project working group after we appealed for volunteers.

And we changed our media engagement policy to help us to communicate more responsively when particular issues arise (in the past we have only been able to agree an approach at our monthly meetings). Now, especially given the immediate (albeit often ephemeral) nature of social media posts, we are able to make comments and clarify matters more quickly.



The Council has no powers to directly address highway issues, although our members have continued to report defects and lobby for improvements. There have been some successes – ECC member-led schemes has resulted in a significant number of pothole and footway defect repairs being completed in the parish, and the scheme to install a handrail at the junction of Barrack Lane and Cherry Garden Road, Great Waltham was finally completed in December (it began its journey through the validation and installation process in June 2020).

Elsewhere, there was less success. We reported the demise of the Ford End Average Speed Camera scheme in last year's update when we said a sudden, unexplained escalation of costs combined with the ECC's cabinet member's unwillingness to match fund our contribution and overrule policy advice meant the scheme could not proceed. Because the precept increase we included last year in anticipation of the scheme going ahead was not required we took this into account in the calculations used in the budget setting process for 2025/26 mentioned above. There remains a possibility that a similar traffic calming measure could be part of a new housing development scheme in Ford End village, but it is still too early to set any store on this.





In the meantime, the Council's own commissioned automatic traffic count report for the B1008 at Ford End conducted in November recorded a 35.9% increase in volumes since the last count in 2021, but also a reduction in the average speed of vehicles. Together these data indicate that overall the actual number of speeding vehicles has increased – they imply that each year 1.8 million drivers now exceed the 30mph limit when driving through the village. However, we understand that of itself the new information is unlikely to stimulate a material change in how the highway authority views the traffic situation in Ford End. Nevertheless, to discourage speedsters, the Council will next consider taking its own action by commissioning periodic speed checks in the parish, as part of a TruCam technology initiative operated by Maldon District Council which has powers to impose penalties on errant motorists. This will complement the important checks carried out by the volunteer Speed Watch teams in Great Waltham and Ford End.

During the year we also decided against pursuing the possibility of self-funding a traffic calming scheme through Ringtail Green. We concluded that the high project costs quoted (estimated at £15,000) for the installation of two signs and complementary road markings could not be reasonably justified.

So, in conclusion, last year we said we would remain focussed on delivery, and you can see the areas where we have been successful. However, there always remains more to do, so our commitment to enhancing our community as best we can with the resources and powers at our disposal will remain as strong as ever.

Your Council always welcomes your interest and involvement in its activities. This can range from you coming along to our meetings where you can raise issues or concerns and hear our discussions, to volunteering your time/expertise to help us achieve our goals. The parish website continues to provide useful information on current issues and likely future projects. If you need any further information and advice you can contact the Parish Clerk or any of your councillors, details available at: <https://e-voice.org.uk/greatwalthamparish/>

These are the contact details for the Parish Clerk and your parish councillors:

Contact	Email	Telephone No.
Will Adshead-Grant (Parish Clerk)	clerk@greatwalthamparishcouncil.co.uk	07880 717329
Cllr. Steve Gilbert (Chair)	stevewgilbert59@gmail.com	07767 362673
Cllr. Alan Martin (Vice Chair)	alanmartinpc@gmail.com	07917 037570
Cllr. Matthew Bradley	matthew.bradley12@outlook.com	07596 117417
Cllr. Peter Jackson	vandp@btinternet.com	01245 360067
Cllr. Jim Jenkins	j.jenkins606@yahoo.com	01245 362003
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Cllr. Oliver Micklem	omicklempc@gmail.com	07791 118853
Cllr. Mike Steel	mike.2.steel@btinternet.com	01245 360918
Cllr. Roger Stephenson	gwpc.rs@gmail.com	07803 140260
Cllr. Lee Taylor	leetaylorpc@gmail.com	07766 468126

Or you can write to us at: Great Waltham Parish Council, Parish Office, The Pavilion, Great Waltham Recreation Ground, South Street, Great Waltham, Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 1DF.

Your Chelmsford City Council councillors are:

Cllr. Nicola Bugbee	nicola.bugbee@chelmsford.gov.uk	01245 605896
Cllr. Mike Steel	mike.steel@chelmsford.gov.uk	01245 360918
		or 01245 605913
Cllr. Philip Wilson	philip.wilson@chelmsford.gov.uk	07748 624093
		or 01245 605926

Your Essex County Council councillor is:

Cllr. Mike Steel	cllr.mike.steel@essex.gov.uk	01245 360918
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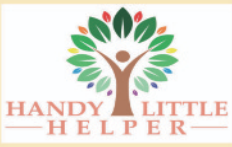
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Email info@gdculpin.co.uk gdculpin.co.uk

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.


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



Aqualife Gallery
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Call Keith: 07468 451416
 Email: keith@aqualifegallery.co.uk



GREAT WALTHAM FRIENDSHIP CLUB

A great turn-out on a cold but sunny day. Members enjoyed two romance-based quizzes in honour of St. Valentine's Day. The tables were decked out with red roses and Love Hearts and plans were made for the coming year. Next month: AGM and membership renewal.

Great Waltham Horticultural Society



Due to a lack of support for new committee members and the Annual Show (regular helpers excluded) from members and the poor response to membership being renewed we are seriously considering that the next Annual Show on September 20th will be the last.

We have attempted a few events over the years but sadly these have been poorly attended and this year we are proposing the Plant Sale on May 10th and a greatly reduced Annual Show.

Please come to our AGM on April 9th to show your support and join us in a glass of wine and some cheese.



Great Waltham C of E Primary School

This month's news article is written by Finley H, George, Thea and Jennae. (left)

On Tuesday 5th, a selection of children from the Great Waltham School went to the Chelmsford Cathedral and helped with the Windrush Child Project. They had to carry out activities such as writing information about themselves and their family on post cards, a quiz and create a poem to make friends. They also listened to the book called Windrush Child and tried a traditional dish called jerk chicken. We made many fabulous memories and great



friends. 'We were so grateful to the people who organised it and recommend it to other schools!

We are delighted to share our SIAMS report following the inspection that took place on the 22nd January. SIAMS stands for - Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools.

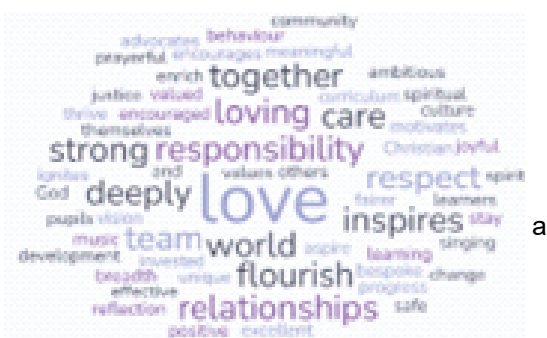
It is a lovely read and I am so proud of everything we have achieved as school community.

The word cloud above shows some key words from the report such as love, respect, flourish and joyful.

The full report is available on our school website.

www.greatwaltham.school

Mrs J Brooks Headteacher



FORD END GARDEN CLUB

Alison Shaw, a local bee keeper and speaker at our February meeting, spoke about the Yellow Legged Asian Hornet and its threat to all our pollinators and also on the life of the honeybee. The Asian hornet first arrived in Europe in 2004 with imported pottery from China and the bee population in France has now been so devastated by this predator that many French beekeepers are no longer keeping beehives. The Asian hornet and its nests have now been seen in the Channel Islands and the south east and south west of the UK. The advice is that if you think you have seen an Asian hornet to take a photo if possible (but not to kill it) and to report the sighting to the Asian hornet watch at bit.ly/asianhornetreport. The British beekeepers association also have information on their website bbka.org.uk. The Asian hornet can give a nasty sting and some people have an allergic reaction.

Alison then gave a talk on beekeeping that was very informative and we all realised how much work goes into keeping hives. The bee has three castes, the queen, the drone (male) and the worker (female). The queen bee is usually kept for two to three years and the drones die after mating. Brambles are the main forage for bees and flowers of the ivy are the main source of nectar towards the end of the year. After the honey has been collected Beekeepers need to keep 20 kilograms of honey in the hive for the bees over winter and in September the hives are treated for varroa to protect the bees during the following year.

The club's next meeting is on Wednesday 19 March at 7.30 and we have Maïke Windhorst speaking on Flowers Grown all Year Round. On Friday 15 April we have a self-drive visit to Ulting Wick to see the display of tulips.

Our plant sale and coffee morning will be held on Saturday 3 May in Ford End village hall between 10.0 and 12.0.

All our meetings (unless stated otherwise) are held in the Ford End village hall and start at 7.30 and everyone is more than welcome to come along and have an informative and fun evening.



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

One of the main crops of the rich agricultural area covered by The Hundred Parishes is barley, the main ingredient of traditional ales and beer. In the past, much of the barley was malted locally before being taken to a nearby brewery to be combined with water, hops and yeast for fermenting into beer.

Brewing was initially a domestic activity in the home for family consumption, on farms and estates for the landowner's family and workers, and in various institutions such as religious communities for those

who lived in and visited them. As the demand for beer grew (safer to drink than 'fresh' water at the time) so did the brewing industry: public houses having their own brewhouses, commercial brewers working out of stand-alone breweries, and then the development of industrial scale brewery complexes.

Evidence of all these different types of breweries is to be found within the Hundred Parishes in the form of place names such as Brewery Lane in Stansted, Brewery House in Little Hadham; Little Brewers, a cottage in Matching Green; Brewery Cottage in Swards End; and Brewers House in Dunmow.

There are also surviving examples of the breweries from each of the various phases of the development of the industry. At Audley End House the estate's brewhouse survives although the internal features have been lost. An example of a public house brewery survives as The Old Brewery in Radwinter, now a private house. In Hatfield Heath the former stand-alone brewhouse was converted to a corn mill before becoming commercial offices.



Felsted – former brewery at Hartford End - 2013

Three examples of brewhouses which were a part of industrial brewery complexes survive in Furneux Pelham, Wethersfield and Hartford End in Felsted. All three have been renovated and converted to private residential use. Ken McDonald, Secretary



Felsted - former brewery at Hartford End - 2022



WALTHAMBURY WI

At our February meeting Geraldine Beaurain informed us about Mary's Meals, a charity serving nutritious meals to children living in some of the world's poorest countries. The promise of a good meal attracts hungry children to the classroom, giving them the energy to learn and hope for a better future.

Nicholas Henderson will be speaking about The Tudor Queens - Powers behind the Dynasty, at our March meeting on 11th March, 7 for 7:30pm at the Legion Hall.

Pictured right - In January some members met at The Spotted Dog for lunch, brightening up a rather cold, damp day.



PARISH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY 2025

The Great Waltham Parish Annual Assembly will be held at Ford End

Village Hall on
Tuesday 4th March 2025 at 8.00pm.

This is an open meeting for all residents of the parish.

The Parish Council will report on its work over the last 12 months.

Clubs, Groups and Organisations are welcome to showcase themselves.

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

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

Our city and county councillor, Mike Steel, reported that county council elections scheduled for May 2025 would likely be postponed for at least a year so that the work to devise a unitary council model encompassing the current county and district/city levels can be worked through – the likely model would include having a mayor for Essex, similar to existing unitary authorities. The rationale for the postponement is to save costs as elections would be needed again when a new model is introduced.

We noted the City Council's new brown bins scheme will start in April 2025, and that charges are to be made for collection from those who opt in to the system. Therefore, if you want to continue to receive this service you need to be proactive – details of the new arrangements and costs can be found at: <https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/garden-waste-collections/>.

We discussed a grant application from Parish News for support in ensuring it can continue to be printed. We agreed the importance of having a parish magazine, and noting the revised financial management provisions being put into place, we agreed a £1,000 grant.

We considered a request for an additional dog waste bin at Howe Street as the general waste bin on the side of the bus shelter was being used for this purpose. We decided to place a notice on the general waste bin informing users that it is for litter only and providing dog owners with directions to the nearby existing dog waste bin.

The next monthly meeting will be on Tuesday 18th March 2025 at Fore End Village Hall, starting at 7.00pm. As always, all parishioners are welcome to attend these public meetings.
Steve Gilbert Chair

PANCAKE RACES



WHEN

Sunday 2nd March
2pm prompt

WHERE

Blossom Way (off
Cherry Garden Rd)

HOW

Send the following details to
joanna.2.steel@btinternet.com of the Community
Network, or, your Scout Leader:

Name of team and a contact email

Person 1...

Person 2...

Person 3...

Person 4...

Come to Blossom Way at **2pm Prompt** to pay and register
your team. We will schedule the races in age groups or
mixed groups.



ALL AGES EVENT

ENTRY

- £1 per person (Adult
or Child)
- Bring your own pan
and pancake

TAKING PART

Make up a team of 4

It can be friends from
school or scouts,
families, clubs,
businesses - whatever
you like

Teams can be children,
adults or mixed

Contact:
joanna.2.steel@btinternet.com
or your Scout Leader

PRIZES & REFRESHMENT

Organised by Great
Waltham Community
Network and Waltham
Scouts



Ford End Senior Tea

Please contact Sheila for the next tea in March.

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

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 362215

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. **The last date for inclusion in the April issue is March 20th**