



Parish News

Great Waltham Ford End Howe Street Little Green North End

September 2025

CEYRAT VISITS GREAT WALTHAM

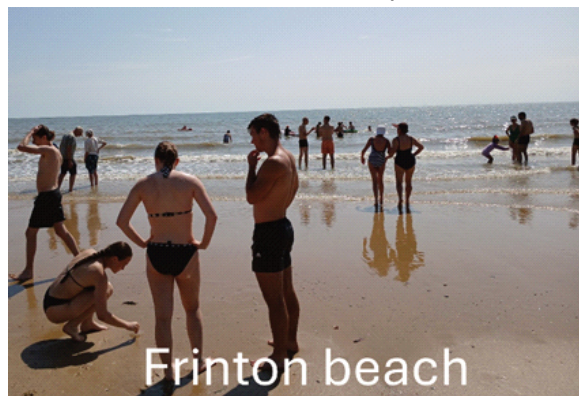
Forty people from our Twinned town of Ceyrat descended on Great Waltham for a week at the end of July! They were of all ages, but we were especially pleased to have 13 French youngsters and their families.

The Twinning Association was amazed and grateful that enough volunteers came forward to host them in their homes, and thrilled to bits to have some new, enthusiastic members.



Little Waltham Sports & Social Club

We organized trips and activities for everyone; London, as always; Little Waltham Social Club for an afternoon of rounders and scones; sunny Frinton with its sandy beach and pretty beach huts; Saffron Walden with its market, medieval architecture and impressive church, followed up with a picnic lunch in beautiful Bridge End Gardens and the chance to get lost in the huge maze.



At the end of the week, we treated them to a big Farewell Dinner and dance to a rock band at the village hall. Then they set off home at the crack of dawn next day, no doubt glad of a sleep on their coach!



Farewell Meal dancing to "Gotcha"



Thank you speech from the French youngsters

NEXT YEAR'S VISIT – JULY 2026

It will be our turn to visit Ceyrat at the end of July 2026 – hooray! If you are at all interested, watch out for information in the Parish News, or see our webpage in the Great Waltham Parish website [Home - Great Waltham Parish](#) which explains what we do. Or just drop me an email on joanna.2.steel@btinternet.com.

Inside this months Great Waltham Parish News

Local club updates, Howe Street picnic, village hall facilities, surgery update, parish council news, local events and more than **two pages of adverts for almost every need.**

The Great Waltham Playground Refresh

We've got some fantastic news to share! Subject to final checks, we've been awarded a £10,000 grant from the Rural England Prosperity Fund towards our brand-new playground. This is a huge boost to the project, with more grant applications already in the pipeline.

In addition, and thanks to many of you our fundraising has made a strong start with almost £2,000 already raised - but now we need a fresh push to keep the momentum going! Our target for the whole project is big, £160,000, so every pound brings us closer to creating a brilliant space for the whole community.

We also loved meeting so many families at the recent Play in the Park event - over 100 children attended, and lots of excited little faces stopped by to see our playground plans.

Now, we need your help more than ever!

- Spread the word
- Donate what you can
- Businesses - get involved and be part of something special

Together let's build a playground that the whole community can enjoy for years to come.

Get in touch: gtwalthamplayground@gmail.com

Donate/share: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/great-waltham-playground-refresh-2025>



FORD END GARDEN CLUB

Although the weather this spring and summer has been challenging weather wise with some poor vegetable produce, brown lawns and wilting flowers, the club enjoyed the sunny weather visiting gardens and also our annual barbecue. Many thanks to our members who kindly invited us back this year for our barbecue in their lovely garden with its productive vegetable area. Again we were blessed with a warm evening and our thanks go to the barbecue chefs and everyone who brought the delicious salads and desserts.

LITTLE WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB

In August, on a sunny but not intensely hot afternoon a number of members enjoyed an outing to RHS Hyde Hall gardens. The Club is affiliated to the RHS, hence we had a 'free be'. There have been new innovations in recent months and there was plenty of summer colour to enjoy despite the recent heatwaves. On Wednesday September 3rd we are resuming our monthly evening meetings. Clive de Bruyn a very experienced member of the Essex Beekeepers Association will be giving a presentation 'Encouraging Bees To Your Garden'.

On Wednesday October 1st Tony Dunn of Braintree Organic Gardening Club will be giving a presentation about 'Sustainable Living'. An increasingly important subject at the moment.

Our meetings take place at 7.30pm in Little Waltham Memorial Hall (CM3 3LN). Please come and join us, we are a small friendly Club and we always welcome new faces. Refreshments are available and we have a plant stall every month. No obligation to pay a subscription, just £3.00 for an evening.

For more information, please see our website www.littlewalthamgardeningclub.com.



Church of England Services September 2025

7th-	11.00am	Joint Gracefields Service	- Great Waltham
14th-	11.00am	Communion	- Ford End
21st	9am	Communion	- Chignals
	11.00am	Communion	- Great Waltham
28th	10.00am	Family Communion	- 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

Little Waltham United Reformed Church Services for September, 2025

Contact: Liz Hagon - 01245 36087

All services begin at 10.30am

7th - Rev Geoffrey Griggs

14th - Charles de Lacy

21st - Martyn Payne

28th - Ian Miller - Holy Communion

31st - Rev. Geoffrey Griggs

Other Events

4th - Coffee and Cake 10am -12pm

18th - Coffee Morning 10am -11a.m.

Services at Blackchapel, North End September 2025

All services at 3pm

Sunday 7th
Sunday 21st

Family Service
Family Service

Coffee Morning Blackchapel, North End



Come and join your neighbours for a coffee and chat

Last Wednesday in the month

10.30 - 12.00

Charity Boost at Howe Street Picnic

Howe Street's annual Big Picnic on July 13, raised more than £600 for two local charities.

Farleigh Hospice and Danaher Animal Home at Wethersfield both shared the kitty after a fun (and sun) filled afternoon which saw children's and adults' games – including a traditional egg and spoon race.

Generous raffle donations from local businesses, amongst them the Galvin Green Man, Tower Upholstery, Rose & Crown, The Stores and Wood Autos, all helped bring in the pennies and pounds and created plenty of excitement for families who joined in the fun on the day.

With thanks to all the organisers and volunteers, as well as those who donated prizes.



The adult egg and spoon race brought out participants' competitive spirit.



Great Waltham
Horticultural Society



ANNUAL FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW

2-4:30pm
Saturday 20th September
2025

Great Waltham Village
School

ENTRY:
£1 adults
50p children

The Great Waltham Horticultural Society will be holding their annual show on Saturday 20th September at GW school. The show schedule along with entry forms can be found online at e-voice.org.uk/greatwalthamparish click on GW Hort Soc, then click on Annual Flower & Produce Show or email greatwalthamhortsoc@gmail.com for an entry form. We look forward to seeing you and your entries in September!



A message from the Walthams Scouts Chairman – Mike Steel:

The 2025 Hort Soc Annual show will be on the 20th September. The organisation dates back to 1873 and the highlight of the calendar is the Annual Flower & Produce Show which includes flowers, vegetables, fruit, crafts, home-made drinks, baking delights, children's classes and many more fabulous classes (see <https://e-voice.org.uk/greatwalthamparish/> Hort Soc link). In order to support and promote this long established tradition, the Scout Group have gone overboard in entering for the different categories - junk model, choc chip cookies, Lego House, Pasta Neckace, Decorated Egg. The GW Community Network are assisting, and are running sessions on choc chip cookie baking and decorating eggs, and we have donated a lot of lego. This is a great example of GW organisations helping each other, and why GW is such a great community. Please do check out the website and consider if you can also make a contribution (I might even bake a Victoria Sandwich!)



GREAT WALTHAM VILLAGE HALL

www.greatwalthamvillagehall.co.uk

Did you know your Village Hall has THREE smaller rooms in addition to the Main Hall, to suit every need? These rooms can be hired from as little as £6.25ph* for Great Waltham parish residents.

The Village Hall is freshly decorated, bright and airy, and we'd love to see some new groups using these fabulous community spaces...

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Ad Hoc Office Spaces Meeting Rooms ...so many exciting opportunities!



...and did you know your Village is run entirely by volunteers?

With a huge variety of tasks to undertake, we would love to welcome more volunteers to help run the Village Hall.

If you would like to join our friendly group of volunteers, or start a community group, class or club, please check out our website or get in touch for more information -

Julie (Bookings Enquiries): gwwhbookings@gmail.com

Jo (Chair of Trustees): greatwalthamvillagehall@gmail.com

Mark (Trustee Secretary): gwwh.secretary@gmail.com

(*Based on a 4hr block booking, otherwise £10ph. Rates change for regular hirers)

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GREAT WALTHAM FRIENDSHIP CLUB

There wasn't a great turnout for our delicious cream tea due to holidays and ailments but we went ahead and those of us that attended enjoyed every bit of it (and ice cream) whilst solving Wendy's seaside quiz.

**Next Meeting : Monday
September 15th**

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Part of the Essex Wellbeing Service

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Please note you must have the person you are referring's permission. Lines open Monday to Friday 8am-7pm and Saturday 9am-12pm.



Essex
Wellbeing Service



Walthambury WI

Several members took part in an organised walk around High Easter. It was a pleasant morning to walk in the green lanes and enjoy the idyllic countryside. This was followed by lunch at the Snug. The croquet taster session at Hatfield Peverel was an informative and fun afternoon, thanks to the friendly volunteers from the bowls club. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 9th September, 7 for 7.30pm at the Legion Hall and our speaker is Ken Lodge, on the topic 'An Actor's Life for Me'. Ken is an entertaining speaker, 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).

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From your County Cllr Mike Steel - Hedges

I get many complaints about hedges overhanging pavements and causing pedestrians to walk on the road. Most of these are privately owned hedges and we (ECC) do not cut them. If they overhang the pavement, our obligation is to ask the private landowner to cut them back. We do this by sending a letter. Usually, we get no response, so we send another one. Eventually, our enforcement team send an S154 order requiring the landowner to cut back their hedge. Mostly, that gets ignored, so we follow up with our own team to do the cutting and then have to take the landowner to court to recover costs. This is all a long drawn out process and spends taxpayer's money unnecessarily. So, if you live adjacent to a road or pavement, do have a look to see if your hedge overhangs the pavement and is causing an obstruction – and please cut it back! Actually, you could be liable if your overhanging hedge causes a danger! The main hedge cutting season in the UK, to avoid disturbing nesting birds, is generally considered to be September to February. Cutting hedges between March 1st and August 31st is often restricted or prohibited due to bird nesting laws. This is to protect nesting birds, their nests, and eggs. However, if you confirm that there are no nests in the hedge, you can cut anytime.

Little Waltham & Great Notley Surgery Patient Participation Group.

We're excited to share a few important updates with you. The new booking system, Anima is now up and running and is proving successful in making it easier for patients to get appointments or guidance with appropriate clinicians. The system is being closely monitored for any shortcomings or inconsistencies and adjustments are being made. As we are sure you are aware the Surgery is heavily subscribed and in need of more space, but every effort is being made to ensure that the patient experience at all levels is a positive one.

As you can see the PPG has set up a Facebook page that will be used to post news updates and basic information which we hope will help to keep patients better informed on services available etc. It will not be used for sharing any personal information nor will patients be able to add comments. Little Waltham Surgery has been redecorated throughout to make it more cheerful and welcoming and Great Notley will be following suit.

The PPG has been involved in discussions concerning the new NHS 10-year strategy, which looks promising. The NHS has three main aims:

1. to improve levels of healthcare in the community to allow easier patient access and to reduce the load on hospitals.
2. to move away from analogue to digital processes.
3. to focus on proactive measure to prevent illness and promote healthy lifestyles. Within this there is a recognition that changes will need to be made within housing developments to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is in place from the beginning to meet needs.

The next meeting of the PPG is on Wednesday 17th September, 7pm at Little Waltham Surgery and all are welcome.

If you have any queries or concerns, then please email us on lw.gn.ppg@hotmail.com.



20mph Speed Limits on Residential Roads

Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP) brings together various including Essex Police, Essex Fire and Rescue Service, Essex County Council and others who work to eliminate deaths and serious injuries on the roads.

They recently contacted Great Waltham Parish Council via the local Community Speedwatch Co-ordinators seeking the views of our residents regarding 20mph speed limits where they live. Feedback is being sought from across the county in the form of a survey and one of the questions asks us if local consultation has taken place.

It must be stressed that this does not mean that anything will happen, or happen quickly. The SERP (which does not implement speed limits) is simply seeking to understand the level of community support for lower limits in residential areas/communities. In order to provide useful feedback we would like your responses to a few questions. Please follow either of the following links to access the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YPSP67F>

Please note that no personal information is requested in the survey.



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 of the items discussed at the July 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).

In his update to the meeting, Mike Steel, our city and county councillor, reported that local government reform and devolution for Essex has been discussed by both bodies. As things stand, the City Council leader has indicated a preference for a five new unitary authorities model for the county, while the County Council leader prefers three. The ultimate decision, based on the representations it receives, will be made by Central Government. While not directly affected organisationally, the Parish Council is keen to understand how local services will be affected and whether own its ability to engage with what will become, under either option, a larger (and potentially more remote) second tier authority, will be impacted.

Mike also indicated that the issuance of a DCO (Development Consent Order) is the next stage in the process National Grid is following in its proposals for a pylon transmission line through East Anglia. More locally, the current understanding is that National Grid is sticking with a proposal of lower, wider pylons, but unfortunately still at the locations they originally indicated for the higher versions, which seems to negate any benefit of less intrusiveness by virtue of size by their being positioned close to properties and the main road in/out of the village.

We discussed a request received from the Safer Essex Roads Partnerships (SERP) asking us to complete a survey designed to gauge the views on 20mph speed limits in residential areas. We felt we needed local input to provide a fully informed response, so our Highways & Transport Committee was delegated the task of organising our own online survey to understand the views of parishioners, and to then respond to the SERP survey accordingly.

The meeting also discussed and agreed resolutions in relation to the future maintenance and upkeep of VG150, the village green owned by the Council at the eastern end of Church Lane, Ford End where it joins the B1008. More widely, we also agreed to review byelaws across all the parish's green spaces, a task identified as part of the activities documented in our Strategic Plan.

The next monthly meeting will be on Monday 15th September at The Pavilion, Great Waltham Recreation Ground, starting at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend our public meetings.

Andy Tinsley Memorial Cricket Match
OLD CODGERS
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Ford End Senior Tea



The next tea will be on Monday 15th September 2.30pm at Woodstock, Church Lane, Ford End.

If you are new or thinking of coming do phone so I can decide how many cakes to provide. Hope to see you all and catch up for a good chat.

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

For any more information call Sheila 07977 077945

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 October issue is September 18th 2025**