

November 2025



Great Waltham Village Choir



At the beginning of the month the Chelmsford Male Voice Choir held their October concert at the Church with the Great Waltham Village Choir and the Selion Swing Band as guests. The Village Choir performed six numbers with the Swing Band performing swing and jazz to the delight of the audience including spontaneous dancing in the aisles. A great time was had by all.

The Village Choir continues to meet every term time Thursday for two hours at the school, starting at 7pm (enquires 01245 3601490).

Pumpkin Workshop



About 30 children and their parents attended a Pumpkin Workshop at Great Waltham Village Hall. There were two sessions lead by Lucy Johnson and refreshments. It was organised by Great Waltham Horticultural Society. Everyone had an enjoyable time and the results are scary!



Great Waltham Parish Survey 2025



The Parish Council is undertaking a survey to collect views on how it should best go about achieving its objectives. The survey asks questions on those services and facilities over which it has direct responsibility or control. That is, matters where it can make a difference locally.

To complete the survey (it should take no more than 10 minutes), please either go to this website: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/G6WLTMZ>, or use the QR code shown.

Please share your views so the Council can firmly focus on the issues which matter to you.

20mph Speed Survey

Thanks to everyone who completed this previous survey. The results are now available on the parish website at: <https://e-voice.org.uk/greatwalthamparish/noticeboard/> in the section Live Surveys, Notices,

Information. The Council has shared the results with the Safer Essex Roads Partnership for its consideration.



Inside this months Great Waltham Parish News

Local club updates, upcoming christmas activities, the 2025 parish survey, playground update, shoebox appeal, parish council news, church notices, local events and more than **two pages of adverts for almost every need.**



CHRISTMAS PUDDING WORKSHOP

Great Waltham Village Hall
Sunday 23rd November 2pm *Make your
own Christmas pudding!*

£14 per adult * *sorry – no children**

Includes refreshments.

Bring an apron, a mixing bowl, a wooden spoon and a carrier bag. We supply everything else!

Prize for best apron! Tickets **must** be bought in advance. To secure your place please contact - Joanna Steel at joanna.2.steel@btinternet.com or 01245 360918



Extraordinary General Meeting The Future of Great Waltham Horticultural Society



As the Chair, Treasurer/Membership Secretary and Show Secretary will all be standing down at the end of this financial year, December 2025 and none of the four remaining committee members want to stand for these posts we are forced to call an EGM.

If the Society is to continue in its current or a different form, new committee members are needed.

If no committee is formed, the current officers will initiate winding up the society, with immediate effect. To keep the Annual Show and Plant Sale, in particular, your support is needed. The EGM will take place at;

The Pavilion, Great Waltham Recreation Ground

Wednesday 26th November 19:00-20:15

Services at Blackchapel, North End November 2025 All services at 3pm

Sunday 2nd Family Service
Sunday 16th Family Service

Would you like to help Santa this coming Christmas



Graham Whicker (Alias Santa) has helped deliver over 1000 Christmas Shoe Boxes to 9 village schools, Elderly homes and orphanages and also a Ukrainian Centre in Moldova for the past two years and would appreciate your help in making some more boxes for delivery this Christmas. We also deliver blankets, sanitary items, toiletries and food parcels. Please contact Graham on 07770 930538 or alternatively WhatsApp him for more details about Shoe Box items etc.



See the TEECH www.teech.org (Charity No 1074765)



Church of England Services November 2025

Sunday 2nd 11.00am Communion Great Waltham
Sunday 9th 9.15am Remembrance Service Ford End
10.35am Remembrance Service Great Waltham
10.55am Remembrance Service Chignals
Sunday 16th 11.00am Harvest Communion Great Waltham
Sunday 23rd 10.00am Family Service Ford End
11am Communion Chignals
Sunday 30th 11.00am Communion St Martins Little Waltham
6.30pm Advent Service with Jesse Tree - Ford End

*please note change of timings - St Nicholas Chignal Smealy will be holding their monthly service at 11am on the fourth Sunday of every month

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

Little Waltham United Reformed Church Services for November, 2025

Contact: Liz Hagon - 01245 360874
All services begin at 10.30am

Sunday 2nd - Marina Price
Sunday 9th - Rev. Geoffrey Griggs
Sunday 16th - John Amos
Sunday 23rd - Charles de Lacy - Holy Communion
Sunday 30th - Frances Couch

Other Events

Thursday 6th - Coffee & Cake - 10am until 12pm.
Saturday 15th - Coffee Morning - 10am until 11am

From The Vicarage



Dear All. Chestnuts are not yet roasting and Santa may not have your wish list already but I do want to draw your attention to the Christmas tree festival on the weekend of the 7th and 8th December at Great Waltham church. The fair and market will be from 11-4 on the Saturday, then Essex Police band and our Village Choir entertain us in the evening (doors at 7). Then on Sunday the tree lighting takes place in Banbury Sq from 4:15 all before the Christingle service in church at 5! Heads up! Christmas is coming. Peace. Dan



LITTLE WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB.

OCTOBER MEETING - 'Sustainable Living' by Tony Dunn.

Sustainability is a word that we hear a lot about these days, but in 1990 before it became 'trendy', our speaker Tony Dunn, began work on his 2 acre site with the aim of making it an environmentally diverse area. Nothing that could not be replaced was used.

By means of a never ending supply of stable manure (locally sourced), together with lots of hard work, over time the claggy London clay was turned into a worm rich loam which in turn produced a year round supply of organically grown vegetables. By this time metres of fencing had defeated the plague of invading rabbits.

Tony took on the greatest challenge that living in Essex raises - the lack of water. All rainwater was collected and stored for garden use and 'mains' water went into the enlarged ponds where aquatic life began to thrive. The water was bought once and used twice.

The hedges provided nesting habitats for an increasing number of birds and small mammals added to the biodiversity.

To complete the aim of living sustainably, one of the first wind turbines in this area was erected in the garden to provide 6kw of electricity.

Careful planning and a great deal of hard work and skill resulted in a practical, environmentally beneficial way of living. A truly inspiring presentation.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th November when RHS silver guilt medal winner Marion Sidebottom MA will be giving a presentation on 'Plant Photography using a mobile phone or a Tablet. The meeting will begin at 7.30pm in The Memorial Hall, Little Waltham (CM3 3PB) All are welcome.

For more information please phone Maggie Williams 01245 360042 or see website littliewalthamgardeningclub.co.uk

Ford End Gardening Club

In October Sam Baines from Baines Botanicals gave a talk and demonstration on planting hanging baskets and containers for the different seasons. The medium for planting should be peat free compost and using a bark based one for summer as it holds moisture and a coir based one for winter which doesn't hold water so much. For winter grit should be added with gravel at the base of the container to aid drainage and for a summer display a feed such as Miracle grow can be added.

The plants to be used for impact are a thriller for the centre of the container, a spiller plant to trail over the edge and a filler to give fullness to the display. In winter



containers are best placed near the house where they can be seen and for warmth and protection. Any cheap tomato feed can be given to both summer and winter planting but not as much during winter as

the plants do not grow so much.

At our next meeting on the 19 November we have Bob Cowling coming to talk about projects on his land at Assington Mill. A group of us from the garden club had a most enjoyable visit to mill during the summer. We do have a meeting on the 17th December and we have a group of hand bell ringers coming to entertain us and there will also be a quiz.

Our meetings are held in the Ford End village hall and start at 7.30 pm and everyone is welcome to come and join us.

GREAT WALTHAM FRIENDSHIP CLUB

There were so many new faces at the meeting, curious to see what we get up to and maybe become members. The Garden Quiz and 'flowery' sing-song all made for a lovely afternoon with delicious refreshments. **Next Meeting:** November 17 - A Christmas Activity

Exciting Playground News!

We're thrilled to share some fantastic updates! Since our last newsletter, we've secured another boost for the playground project. Alongside the Rural England Prosperity Fund, we've been awarded the Tom Amos grant to help buy two new pieces of equipment: the "Snappy Springer" and the "Dennis SeeSaw."

This is a big step forward in making our playground a wonderful place for our children to enjoy.

Thanks to very generous support from local business WC Halls & Sons Walthambury Farm, and an anonymous donator of £200, our fundraising has now reached an amazing total of just under £3,000. Every donation, big or small, brings

us closer to our ambitious goal of £160,000 to create a fantastic space for our community. Meeting so many local families and children has been one of the best parts of this journey. Here are a couple of their thoughts about the playground:

"I love the playground, and my favourite part was the monkey bars. I miss them lots."

"I don't really like it because nothing is there."

These voices remind us why this project matters so much.

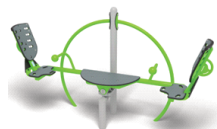
We still need your help to make it happen! Here's how you can support:

- Spread the word to friends and neighbours
- Donate what you can – every penny counts!
- Local businesses – join us! We're offering a place on our sponsorship board to any business that donates and helps build this special community space

Together, let's create a playground that brings joy for years to come.

Get in touch: gtwalthamplayground@gmail.com

Donate or share: [gofundme.com/f/great-waltham-playground-refresh-2025](https://www.gofundme.com/f/great-waltham-playground-refresh-2025)



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Ford End Litter Pick

Please join us at 9:30 on Saturday 8th November for the autumn litter pick. Litter pickers, bags and hi-vis jackets supplied, please bring your own gloves. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Meet in the Village Hall car park – hope you can join us!



Waltham Singers
 Director: Andrew Fardell

with
Brentwood and Ingatestone Choral Society
 Director: Art Wangcharoensab
 and
Covent Garden Chamber Orchestra
Saturday 22nd November 2025, 7.30pm
Chelmsford Cathedral

Felix Mendelssohn
St Paul Oratorio

Soprano: Natalka Pasiecznyk
 Alto: Sian Sulke
 Tenor: Simon Carter
 Bass: Alex Semple
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Walthambury WI

We had an enlightening and fun evening talking about Chocolate, given by Rob and Sonia Anthony of TEMPRD – needless to say we had a full house! Rob gave us a history of their journey into chocolate production and we were impressed by the ethos and values of this local family run business in Maldon. Samples were provided, much tasting was enjoyed and opportunities to buy their chocolate were seized!! Later this month we have lunch planned at Channels Brasserie and an organised walk around Pleshey. Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 11th November, 7 for 7.30pm** at the Legion Hall (decorated with poppies by us), with our speaker Anita Sackett on a Victorian Christmas. Guests are welcome (small donation requested on door).

The Parish News relies entirely on advertising to pay its printing costs. Please support the magazine by renewing your advert or taking out an advert to promote your business. Volunteers deliver to approximately 1000 households in the Parish.

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Great Waltham C of E Primary School Playtimes!



Our playtime has been completely transformed through the OPAL play initiative. We've introduced some brilliant new equipment that's making lunchtimes much more fun. Pupils are now creating amazing dens and enjoying really creative, collaborative play. One of our Year 4 pupils summed it up perfectly, saying playtime is "the best thing ever!"



Our recent Harvest Festival was a wonderful celebration of generosity. Huge thanks to Revd Dan, our fantastic pupils, and everyone who donated to the local foodbank.

We are currently welcoming parents interested in joining our school community for September 2026. If you would like to see what makes our school special, please see our website and book a tour.

The Ford End Village Hall ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held on

**Wednesday 12th November
at 7.30pm**

in the Village Hall.

We would welcome anyone along to the meeting with an interest in the village hall. Please do come along.

If you have any questions, or would like to get involved but cannot make the meeting, please contact Sandra Brown on (07736) 965286.



GINGERBREAD WORKSHOP

Great Waltham Village Hall

Sun 23rd November 10am - 12

For children age 5 -12, £10 per child

Must be accompanied by 1 adult

Cut out, bake and decorate your own gingerbread men
Put into a special box to take home

Bring an apron – prize for the best one!

Interval with hot chocolate

Free wooden tree ornament, lolly holder and lolly to take home

Tickets must be bought in advance. To secure your place contact -
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CHRISTMAS CONCERT ESSEX POLICE BAND

Sat 6th December

Great Waltham Church

with....

Great Waltham Village Choir

Doors open - 7pm

Tickets: Adult - £7, Child - £2

Phone J Steel on 01245 360918

or go to Walthamby Stores (cash only)

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Santa's Sleigh is coming your way



❄️ Santa's Sleigh is heading to North Springfield, Beaulieu and Channels, Ford End, Little Waltham, Broads Green, Great Waltham and Howe Street in December.

❄️ Chelmsford Mildmay Rotary will be assisting Santa's visits to as many boys and girls as possible, fundraising for local charities and bringing seasonal greetings and cheer to everyone.

November

29th Sat Beaulieu Community Centre Christmas Fayre 11.00am - 4.00pm

December: look out for Santa in your area between 5.30 pm and 8.00 pm

13th Sat Sainsbury's Superstore White Hart Lane 8.00am - 7.00pm

15th Mon Little Waltham - Broads Green - Great Waltham - Howe Street

20th Sat Morrisons Superstore, Regiment Business Park, Eagle Way 9.00am - 6.00pm

Routes may change depending on weather and other unforeseen circumstances so please check daily updates during December on our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/mildmayrotary/>

Further information on Santas route in the parish will be in the December/January issue



Hire An Allotment



We have vacancies at both sites situated in Great Waltham, varying from small starter plots to large plots. Prices vary depending on the size of the plot, please contact clerk@greatwalthamparishcouncil.co.uk for further information. Hirers are welcome from within the Parish and surrounding Parishes.

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 September 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 the public participation section, one member of the public representing a group of local residents proposed placing a Christmas tree on the village green at Broad's Green – it was agreed to discuss the proposition at our next Recreation Committee meeting. We also received update from members of the Great Waltham Horticultural Society regarding the future of its trading hut on the Brook Mead allotment site – here we also agreed to defer the item to the Committee for review following a site visit. In addition, we received a request to consider further management of the trees at the eastern end of the recreation ground at Great Waltham – this will be considered as part of the next imminent survey of trees on Council owned/administered areas of land.

In his written report to the meeting, Mike Steel, our city and county councillor, confirmed the planned opening of the new Beaulieu Park railway station on 26th October, and noted the opening of the new classroom at Great Waltham School, increasing its overall capacity to 210 pupils. In relation to signage for the public car parking spaces the Council rents at Great Waltham village hall, we agreed the wording of notices pointing users to the alternative Blossom Way facility when the village hall spaces are full. We noted that in general the public parking spaces at Blossom Way remain an underutilised amenity.

We agreed to conduct a parish survey and use parishioners' responses to help shape the way we achieve the objectives in our strategic plan (available for review on the parish website at e-voice.org.uk/greatwalthamparish/copy-of-parish-directory/policy-files/). Please take the time to complete the online survey when it goes live. We also noted the provisional results from our 20mph speed survey. These show strong support in the parish for 20mph speed limits in residential areas. Once the survey closes analyses of the final dataset will help inform our lobbying strategies for new or improved traffic calming measures.

The next monthly meeting will be on Tuesday 18th November at Ford End Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend our public meeting. **Steve Gilbert, Chair.**

Ford End Senior Tea



The next tea will be on Monday 10th November at the new Autumn time of 2pm 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.

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 School



We are now pleased to announce Ford End Primary School are holding an Open Evening to accommodate working parents on **26th November at 6pm.** We very much look forward to welcoming new families and children into our school. Please email admin@fordend.essex.sch.uk or call 01245 237209 to let us know if you can make it.

FORD END VILLAGE HALL invites you to our

INAUGURAL XMAS SOCIAL

Music, Darts,
Shuffleboard.

Pay Bar! bring
your nibbles and
come and meet
your neighbours.

All Welcome

Come join us for
a good old
fashioned Social
Evening

With special
appearance by a
certain man in
Red

SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER

7pm til Late
EventsFE@yahoo.com

Village Hall,
Main Road,
Ford End,
Chelmsford
CM3 1LQ

QUIZ

A celebration of TV Games and Quizzes

Sat 8th Nov, 7.00pm

Village hall, Great Waltham,

Adult - £10, Child - £2.50 including supper, bar, prizes

Quizmaster - Mike Steel



Tables of 6 to 8 of family, friends, the kids or we can add you to a table. Tel: 01245 360918 or email

joanna.2.steel@btinternet.com by **Saturday 3rd November**



**Great Waltham
Church of England
Primary School**



To book an appointment to view the school please contact us on 01245 360395 or visit greatwaltham.school

We look forward to welcoming you.

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 December/January issue is November 20th 2025**