

Parish News

Great Waltham Ford End Howe Street Littley Green North End



April 2026



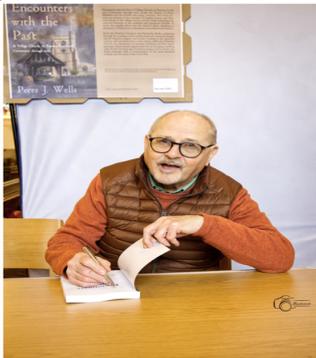
Wildflower Planting In Ford End

In early March the Parish Council were very pleased to welcome children from Ford End School to the Ford End recreation ground where they met with members of Chelmsford City Council's Parks Department to plant wildflower plugs. Seventeen children from years 1 and 2 (EYFS) helped to plant 550 wildflower plants including wild carrot, ox eye daisies, self heal, yarrow, field scabious, meadow vetchling, meadow cranesbill and musk mallow. The planting took place in the meadow strip between the path and woodland area at the far end of the recreation ground where lots of plants were previously planted by children from the school including primroses, teasels, ox eye daisies and wild carrot. The Parks Officers were keen to report how impressed they are with the whole area, that the young trees are thriving, wildflowers are becoming established and that it is quickly becoming a wild life haven.



Wildflower planting is part of the Parish Council's Strategic Plan which includes managing Council land on a sustainable basis. Other tasks include planting bulbs and hedges and installing bird boxes. If you have any suggestions for areas which could be considered as suitable please contact the clerk@gtwaltham-pc.gov.uk

Local Historian's Book Launch

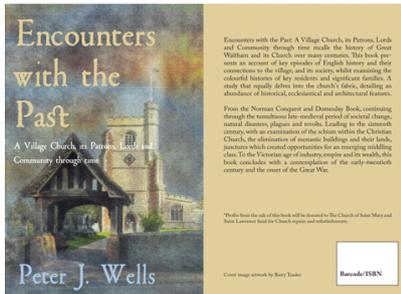


Peter Wells signing his Books 'Encounters with the Past' in Great Waltham Church. Photo by: Barry Teader

On Sunday, 1st March at Great Waltham Church, local historian Peter J. Wells launched his book *Encounters with the Past*. The book traces the history of Great Waltham: Its Village Church, Its Lords, Patrons and Community. It begins in 616 and continues through to the early-twentieth century, and the onset of the Great War.

Anyone requiring a copy of the book can arrange to order one with Peter on Monday afternoons at Great Waltham Church between 1.00 and 2.30 p.m.

Photos by Barry Teader.



Red Telephone Box Survey



The Parish Council owns and is responsible for six red telephone kiosks in the parish. None are operational, and although some are being put to other good purposes (to contain defibrillators or a mini library), three are currently unused. These are the ones in Great Waltham village, Ford End village and Littley Green. All of the boxes require maintenance and repair as necessary.

The Council is conducting a short survey to obtain parishioners' views on retaining the unused boxes (and if so, whether they should then be utilised for more functional roles), and also whether residents wish to get actively involved in their upkeep.

Please let the Council have your views by going to the survey either via the QR code shown or at this website address: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TRZV6J2>. If you are unable to access the survey digitally, please contact the Parish Clerk on 07880 717329 to request a paper copy to complete, and return it to this address: Great Waltham Parish Council, The Parish Office, The Pavilion, South Street, Great Waltham, CM3 1DF.



Inside this months Great Waltham Parish News

Local club updates, Church notices, Local events, Parish Council News & two pages of adverts for almost every need.

From The Vicarage



Easter arrives just as the world around us begins to brighten. Buds appear on branches, birds find their voice again, and the first colours of spring break through the grey. It's a gentle reminder that light has a way of returning.

For Christians, Easter is the great story of hope — that light is stronger than darkness, life is stronger than death, love is stronger than hate, and that new beginnings are always possible. And this message reaches beyond churchiness. It invites all of us to look for signs of renewal, to be generous with kindness, and to share light and life and love in our village and in our homes.

As we step into this new season, may Easter bring you peace, encouragement, and the quiet confidence that goodness is never far away

Wishing you a joyful and hope-filled Easter.

Rev'd Dan



Church of England Services April 2026

Thursday	2nd	6pm	Maundy Thursday	Little Waltham
Friday	3rd	2pm	Good Friday Meditation	Great Leighs
Sunday	5th	11am	Easter Day Communion	Great Waltham
Sunday	12th	11am	Communion	Ford End
Sunday	19th	11am	Communion	Great Waltham
Sunday	26th	10am	Family Service	Ford End
		11am	Communion	Chignals

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

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Contact: Alison Creighton Parish Administrator
Tel: 07957 228467
admin@littleandgreat.org.uk

You are invited to Small Steps for Big Change book launch

A Guide through overwhelm

Saturday 18 April 2026
6-7.30pm

Costa Coffee,
1 Eagle Way, Little Waltham, Chelmsford, CM3 3FY

This inspirational evening includes live music from local singer/songwriter Dan Pearce, as well as interviews with the author, Patrick Regan.

Please RSVP to:
hello@brighterdays.life

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Brighter Days

Services at Blackchapel, North End April 2026

Sunday 5th Easter Sunday communion Service at 3pm

Sunday 19th at 3pm



Walthambury W I

It has been a busy month! Several members enjoyed a delicious, sociable lunch at the Pig and Whistle. Also, some of us enjoyed an amazing performance of 'We Will Rock You' at the Chelmsford Theatre, performed by CAODS (Chelmsford Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society). It was such a professional show. At our March meeting we welcomed Ed Cannon, a locksmith to speak. He had some amusing & good tales to tell, with plenty of advice about different types of locks.

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 14th April, 7:00 for 7:30pm start** at the Legion Hall when we will hear from Yvonne Lawrence about the History of Chelmsford cinemas and theatres.

Little Waltham United Reformed Church Services for April 2026

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

Easter Sunday

Sunday 5th - Charles de Lacy - Holy Communion

Sunday 12th - Binny Jaichander

Sunday 15th - Marina Price

Sunday 26th - Rev. Geoffrey Griggs

Other Events

Coffee and Cake - Thursday 2nd at 10am until 12 noon

Coffee Morning - Saturday 18th at 10am until 11am

Little Waltham Gardening Club



The Club held its AGM in March. Offers of help towards some of the Secretary's responsibilities were gratefully accepted but there remains a couple of administrative jobs to be filled by March 2027. The current acting Secretary would gladly guide prospective volunteer(s) through the tasks and work in tandem with him/ her until 2027.

SPRING FLOWER SHOW - SATURDAY 11th APRIL.



This Show is open to non members and entrants do not have to live in Little Waltham. There are no entry fees and admission to view the Show from 2.00pm is FREE OF CHARGE.



There are classes for Spring flowers and vegetables, Flower Arranging, Cookery, Craft and Photography. Schedules can be downloaded from the Club's website: www.littlewalthamgardeningclub.co.uk Or from our Show Secretary M. Lawson arionandpeter@icloud.com

All entrants are asked to let Marion know which classes they intend to enter by **WEDNESDAY 8th APRIL please, STAGING OF ENTRIES 11th APRIL:** Flower Arrangements by 9.30am. All other entries by 10.15 am please. Please come to see us from 2,00pm - we'll have a BUMPER PLANT STALL and HOMEMADE TEAS.

WEDNESDAY 6th MAY, evening meeting . The subjects are 'FUCHSIAS AND PELARGONIUMS' by Nick Dobson. 7.30pm in LITTLE WALTHAM MEMORIAL HALL. Visitors and new members are very welcome. We have 4 afternoon outings planned during the summer, using our own cars.

For more information, please e mail maggiewilliams40@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01245 360042.



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Horses were once very important in everyday life. This changed quickly with the advent of tractors, trucks and the motor car.

Horses were used extensively in agriculture; they also hauled delivery carts and buses and everything in between. Some of us may remember the horse-drawn milk float or the coalman and rag-and-bone man. There were blacksmiths, smithies and forges in most towns and villages. We still have blacksmiths who work in metal, making gates, weather vanes(above at High Easter, Anvil House), tools and farm implements, as well as shoeing horses. A farrier is a specialist in equine hoof care. Whilst blacksmiths and farriers are quite rare today, there are reminders of this aspect of our heritage around The Hundred Parishes, for example in the names Forge Green at Hildersham, Anvil Cross in Great Hallingbury and Smith's End Lane in Barley. The area has five pubs called The Three Horseshoes – a name which probably came about because they had a nearby farrier, ready to deal with a customer who arrived with a horse that had lost a shoe. Today, dwellings with names like The Old Forge or Anvil House often reveal their earlier lives.

Much Hadham Forge is still in use, part of Much Hadham Forge Museum (right). The museum usually opens Friday to Sunday, April to December, 11am to 5pm. It is housed in a series of listed buildings, dating from the 15th to 19th centuries. The forge itself dates from the 17th century; today's blacksmith runs forge experience days. Ashdon once had three blacksmiths in the village. Now, one of Ashdon Museum's excellent displays is a representation of a blacksmith's shop with all the tools and equipment that he would have used. The museum is open April to October from 2pm to 5pm on Sundays and bank holidays and is well worth a visit. Ken McDonald



Rotary Baddow Races 2026



Whether you're a serious road runner, a family who need exercise, or just to attend an exciting afternoon out for all ages then the annual Rotary Baddow Races event on 17 May 2026 at Great Baddow Recreation Ground, Great Baddow, Chelmsford is the ideal location for you and the family. The chip-timed, BARR Gold Standard 10 Mile Road Race and alternative Family Fun Run give serious runners a great competitive race and children, their parents (and even the dog!) an opportunity to let off steam over the 2 mile short course. The organisers, Chelmsford Mildmay and Chelmsford Rivermead Rotary Clubs, stage the Races amid a fairground environment with a Hospital Radio Sound Stage and warm-up exercises, physio, food, refreshment and other market stalls accompanied by children's rides. A Races logo T-shirt is offered for both race events. All Races finishers will receive a race medal and there will be trophy presentations for every group winner. All proceeds will be donated to local charities. To find out more please go online to www.baddowraces.co.uk, to book your entry and to research all other details.

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Ford End Senior Tea

The next tea will be on **Monday 27th April 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.

Anyone interested or has not been before or for more information 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 local doctor and hospital appointments.

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

Gill Mitchel 01245 362215
 John Lattimore, Chairman 01245 363818



Great Waltham C of E Primary School

Our Year 5 children have been very busy!

Earlier this month, they had the exciting opportunity to take part in the Young Voices concert at the O2. Young Voices hosts the largest children's choir concerts in the world, and our pupils loved being part of a choir of 8,276 children from primary schools across the country. They sang beautifully, embraced every moment, and were wonderful ambassadors for our school. Their hard work learning the songs and actions in the lead-up to the concert really paid off, and we hope the memories stay with them for years to come.




Year 5 have also been fortunate to work with The Wilderness Foundation this term. They explored themes of nature, wellbeing, and caring for the environment. The children rounded off their work by delivering a wonderful, interactive assembly all about their experiences.

What an inspiring and memorable term it has been for our Year 5s!



It's April – Time To 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.



Essex Safer Speeds Strategy – Have Your Say

At its April meeting the Parish Council will be considering Essex County Council's recently issued consultation on its Essex Safer Speeds Strategy. However, in the meantime, because the consultation closes on 26th April you may wish to make your own individual response to the proposed vision of how to make the county's roads safer. Details of the Strategy and how to access the online consultation are available at:

<https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/essex-highways/essex-safer-speeds-strategy/>.

Could You Support Zinnia?

Hey, My name is Zinnia Quilter, I'm 15 and have lived in Ford End my entire life. I have played Ice hockey since I was about 4 and happen to be quite good at it. I've been named on the ENGLAND U16s Girls Ice hockey Squad and considered one of the top players within the English Ice Hockey Association's Elite Players programme, I have also been



scouted by the Elite British Select team (EBS) which is The Best of Britain. The England Squad will be travelling to Lithuania this May and the British Selects squad will have many tournaments overseas throughout the year

Please, if you are willing, can you support me getting there? Anything at all is helpful and I'm really grateful. A share, a like, a mention, a small donation. Anything is possible right? I will be baking chocolatey goods to raise funds also, so look out for them. Thank you for reading.

If there are any companies or businesses that would like to sponsor me, please contact my mum via: Zararedmond04@aol.com



FORD END GARDEN CLUB

At our March meeting we welcomed Nicola Munday a volunteer from the gardens of Copped Hall near Epping. Copped Hall is a Georgian mansion built between 1753-1783 but largely destroyed by fire in 1917 and currently being restored. The Walled Garden or Kitchen Garden is four acres and was quite overgrown when acquired by the Copped Hall Trust in 1999. The garden is now being restored by 30 volunteers and is organic with plants and produce being sold from the greenhouses which are also undergoing restoration. The Walled Garden was divided into four and had a dipping pond in each quarter but this plan was later changed to one central pond. There is an entrance gate in each wall of the garden and there is an original pear tree walk. On Sunday 7th June Nicola is giving the garden club a guided walk around the Walled Garden. This is a self drive visit. Copped Hall and Gardens are private and only open for advertised events.

The garden club has a number of future visits and events and they are:

Friday 10th April a visit to Feerinbury Manor gardens near Coggeshall. This is a self drive visit and we are meeting in Ford End car park at 12.0 (the garden closes at 4.0). As there are no refreshments available we are taking our own lunch/picnic.

Saturday 9th May. An important date for your diary. It is the Ford End Garden Club Plant Sale and Coffee Morning being held during the morning at Ford End village hall. Come along and be inspired to buy new plants for the coming spring and summer. Fill your tubs with colour and grow your own salad and vegetables. Also you can enjoy coffee and homemade cake and chat with other gardeners. There will be a raffle and secondhand books for sale.

July (a date will be announced later) is when we have our annual barbecue.

We look forward to seeing you.



GREAT WALTHAM FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Annual General meeting took place as planned with lots of new faces who brought some new ideas to the Club. A delicious cream tea was served once business was over and plans for the coming year were discussed. A lovely productive afternoon.



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 February 2026 meeting of the Parish Council. For full details, please check out the full and approved minutes of all Council meetings on the parish website (e-voice.org.uk/greatwalthamparish).

This month we had a number of planning matters to consider. Although the Council has no powers itself in relation to permitting (or not) new applications in the parish, we are a consultee, and therefore spend time considering each one and offering observations for the City Council planners. To help us appreciate all aspects of each application, we encourage anyone involved or affected to attend our meetings to provide their comments and to then hear our discussions.

Our city and county councillor, Mike Steel, reported on his presentation to the Planning Inspectorate regarding the National Grid pylons scheme. He also confirmed the current schedule for local government elections in Essex over the next three years. He then highlighted the ongoing winter maintenance and pothole repair work carried out by Essex Highways. Later in the meeting we agreed to submit repair/maintenance requests for the footways along the B1008 in Ford End, and also for the apparently collapsed drain and kerb damage in Church Lane, also in Ford End.

Following the decision to wind up Great Waltham Horticultural Society, and being unable to identify an alternative use if it came into the Council's ownership, we agreed to request that the Society removes its trading hut from the Brook Mead allotment site. However, we also resolved to continue to work closely with the Society to help facilitate the works.

We agreed to formalise our approach in relation to addressing overgrown hedges in the parish which interfere with traffic on the highway. Once a form of words has been agreed we will look to write to residents whose hedges are overgrown to remind them of their responsibilities.

The Council's next monthly meeting will be on Monday 20th April 2026 at The Pavilion, Great Waltham Recreation Ground, starting at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend our public meetings.

Steve Gilbert, Chair.

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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 May issue is 16th April 2026**