



Parish News

Great Waltham Ford End Howe Street Little Green North End

July 2026

ECHOES OF THE PAST – A VISUAL JOURNEY

A photo exhibition of our village and forebears in the last century

In May, the Community Network with Tim and Sheila Gillies held an exhibition of Tim's archive of over 70 photos of Great Waltham and surrounding villages. Many of the photos were over 100 years old. In addition, Deborah Poulton displayed her research and photos of all the men whose names appear on the war memorial.



Sheila and Tim Gillies (r)

The exhibition attracted about 250 people, mostly local, who recognised the houses, shops, pubs and even some of their ancestors. Many people came to see the records of their grandfathers, great grandfathers and great uncles, who had lost their lives in World War 1 and World War 2. Some people came from quite a distance, such as Oxford, Norwich and Cambridge, and made unexpected discoveries.

The collection on the door for Essex Air Ambulance took £429. The war memorial display generated donations for the Essex Regiment Museum. The WI

helped with the refreshments and some of their takings were passed to the primary school, the church and the Community Network.

Sadly, this is a one-off exhibition because the photographs will be going permanently to the Essex Record Office. But information about the soldiers can be seen on www.greatwalthamwarmemorial.co.uk.



Ernest Clark and family

A Community Network event



Scout Breakfast



As Chair of the Walthams Scout Group, I'd like to say thank you to all those that attended our Scout Breakfast on 31st May 2026, or made donations. The event was a huge success with around 80 breakfasts cooked by our young members and scout leaders. The net result was a contribution to our funds of £640.

This is an important annual fundraising event to help us cover costs for insurances, fire safety checks and utilities thus allowing us to maximise our membership fees to benefit the members.

It also acts as an important social event in the village, is a great advert for the local Scout Group and it's volunteers, and a learning experience for our young members. If you missed it and still want to make a donation? (<https://gofund.me/f5820050c>)([https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/...](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/))



Walthams Scout Chair – Mike Steel

Inside this month's 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

As the summer settles in - sun on our backs, long evenings, and the World Cup on in the background - I find myself doing what I always do at this time of year: reaching for music. There's something about June and July that asks for a soundtrack. Yes, I'm one of those tragic middle-aged dads with the windows down and music loud because of my failing hearing! So what are you listening to? I'd love to know what's on your playlist this summertime. If you see me around the village, stop me and tell me. I'm always curious. Left to my own devices I drift toward the plinky-plonk, noodly end of ambient soundtracks, but lately my alternative mix has included **Dope Lemon, Twisted Teens, Joshua Burnside, Kevin Morby, and Cardinals**. I'm wide open to suggestions — the brighter and sunnier the better I guess but anything goes. And if hymns or worship songs make your summer sing, I'll happily take those too. There's room on the playlist for everything from the obscure to the glorious.

What are your sunshine tracks? Dan



Church of England Services July 2026

Sunday 5th	11.00am	Communion	Great Waltham
Sunday 12th	11.00am	Communion	Ford End
Sunday 19th	11.00am	Communion	Chignals
Sunday 26th	11.00am	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".

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

Services at Blackchapel, North End July 2026

Sunday 5th Family Service 3pm

Little Waltham United Reformed Church Services for June 2026

All services begin at 10.30a.m.
Contact: Liz Hagon 01245 360874

Sunday 5th - Frances Couch
Sunday 12th - Charles de Lacy
Sunday 19th - John Amos
Sunday 26th - Rev. Geoffrey Griggs. Holy Communion

Other Events:

Thursday 2nd - Coffee and Cake 10a.m. - 12 noon
Saturday 18th - Coffee Morning 10 - 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

Ford End Senior Tea



We have just seen each other for a late June tea so we will have our summer break in July this year

Our next summer Tea will be August 17th at 2.30pm at Woodstock, Church Lane, Ford End. Let's hope the weather will be nice and we may be able to sit outside.

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



Walthambury W I

WI members and guests enjoyed an inspiring and enjoyable talk from Lucy Lewis on her experiences in the army at our June meeting. The stories she told were both entertaining and amusing. During the last month members have enjoyed a lunch at Channels and a trip to Chelmsford Theatre. Many of us also made cakes for the 'Echoes of the Past' event in the church. In the coming weeks we are looking forward to a walk at Ford End, a meal at 'The White Hart' Little Waltham and a trip to Feeringbury Manor. Our next meeting, on Tuesday 14th July, is a garden meeting at Pleshey at 2pm.



Tim and Sheila Gillies send a message of thanks to all those who gave their time and energy to making the recent exhibition of photos such a success. It was a great community effort and we are very grateful to you all.

Friends Reunited at Great Waltham School Fête

Former pupils of Great Waltham C of E Primary School are warmly invited to a special **Friends Reunited** gathering on **Saturday 27th June**, taking place alongside the school's annual summer fête.

The event is aimed at anyone who attended the school between **1940 and 1990** and offers a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with old friends, reminisce about school days, and share treasured memories from across the decades.

Whether you remember ink wells and slate boards, school plays, sports days, or simply the friendships made along the way, we would love to welcome you back to see how the school has evolved while celebrating its rich history.

Visitors will have the chance to meet fellow former pupils, browse photographs and memories, and enjoy the lively atmosphere of the school fête. Refreshments will be available to purchase throughout the afternoon.

We hope many former pupils will join us for what promises to be a nostalgic and enjoyable occasion. Please spread the word to family members, friends, and neighbours who may have attended Great Waltham School during these years.

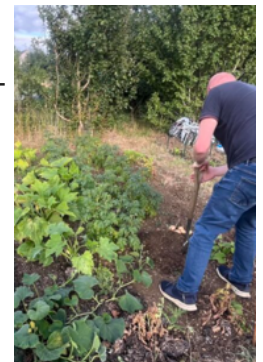
We look forward to welcoming you back and celebrating the generations of children who have passed through our school gates.



Grow your own fresh, organic produce and enjoy the outdoors!

Hire an allotment, it's the perfect opportunity to get active, connect with the local community and harvest your own fruit and vegetables. Enjoy fresh seasonal home-grown vegetables, herbs and flowers right from the soil. Fantastic for your health and wellbeing, a great way to de-stress, get fresh air and enjoy light outdoor exercise. Experience community spirit, meet fellow local gardeners and share growing tips with friends.

We currently have various plot sizes available located at Brook Mead (behind the shop) and Bury Lane (junction of Bury Lane and Barrack Lane), Great Waltham. We charge an affordable annual hiring fee based on plot size and a service charge, plus a returnable deposit. The sites feature an allotment champion who will offer help and advice and regular inspections take place to ensure the grounds are well-maintained for everyone. Whether you are a seasoned gardener or looking to start a rewarding new hobby, spaces are available to everyone within the parish and surrounding parishes. Please contact the Clerk to find out available plot sizes and costs, view available plots or hire your plot at clerk@gtwaltham-pc.gov.uk



Great Waltham Festival of Choirs 2026

Great Waltham Village Choir hosted their second Festival of Choirs on Friday 5th June at Great Waltham church.



Eight choirs took part in the festival with over 100 singers present. The festival included Braintree Male Voice Choir, Braintree Voices, Chelmsford Male Voice Choir, Great Waltham Primary School, Great Waltham Village Choir and three choirs from The Sandon School.

A most appreciative and enthusiastic audience of over one hundred listened to a varied programme of music ranging from popular songs to classical items. The items by the schools greeted with much applause and cheering from a delighted audience.

All involved including choirs and audience experienced a most enjoyable evening with many asking when the next festival would be.

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Little Waltham Gardening Club

Visit to Beth Chatto's Garden Colchester June 2026

On Wednesday 3rd June eleven intrepid explorers looked around the beautiful garden that once belonged to Beth Chatto. I say intrepid because we all braved the rain and the wind, but the weather didn't dampen our spirits!

The garden is in five sections - the famous dry gravel garden, a water garden, scree, reservoir and woodland garden. They are planning a sixth section, and at the moment they have 6 adorable Berkshire pigs (who we met!) clearing an area so that new woodland can be planted to block off a planned housing estate, some new stock beds for propagation and a wildflower area. The plan is to make the new area simpler gardening not high maintenance.

All of the sections were beautifully planted and everywhere there was an abundance of different species of flowers, trees and shrubs, offering a variety of colours and scents.

After the garden was explored we enjoyed a look around their plant nursery and a few purchases were made! The final stop was the tearoom to enjoy a sit down, a natter, and tea and cake. Our next outing is in July to Marks Hall Coggeshall and in August we plan to visit Ulting Wick.

The Club's evening meetings will resume on Wednesday 2nd September when Brian Carline will be giving a presentation on The Science of Plants at 7.30pm in Little Waltham Memorial Hall.

Visitors very welcome. For more information, please see www.littlewalthamgardeningclub.co.uk or phone Maggie Williams 01245 360042



SING WITH US!

Come and try a friendly open rehearsal — no audition, no charge, no commitment.

Open Rehearsal: Thursday 10th September 2026
7.30 pm
St Cedd's School, New London Rd, Chelmsford
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Car park off Upper Bridge Street

The Waltham Singers are a Chelmsford-based choral society performing regular concerts with professional musicians.

If you enjoy singing, we'd love to meet you. Vacancies in all voice parts; experienced singers and newcomers welcome.

No auditions, and open rehearsals are free for new members.

Come along and experience a welcoming choir under the dynamic direction of Andrew Fardell.

Next concert: Britten's *St Nicolas*
Chelmsford Cathedral — Saturday 7th November 2026

Find out more: www.walthamsingers.org.uk
Registered Charity No 1153550. Affiliated to Making Music.

After a delightful Summer Concert in Great Waltham Church we will now be on a summer break until our Open Rehearsal on 10th September.

Do consider putting the attached invitation in your diary. We always welcome new members to this very friendly and enjoyable Choir.

The next concert, Britten's *St Nicolas*, will be a very popular one and great to sing this in Chelmsford Cathedral. Do come to the Open Rehearsal and see how you enjoy the evening. Contact us for more info or just turn up on the evening.


OLD CODGERS CRICKET



Sunday 13th September
GW Cricket Ground.
Refreshments and bar

Save the date

If you'd like to play or want more info, email sarahjrads@gmail.com.
All welcome.



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GREAT WALTHAM VILLAGE CHOIR

SUMMER SOIREE

Relax and enjoy music for a summer's evening

9 JULY 2026 7.30 PM

Gt Waltham Primary School

TICKET £8 INCLUDES BBQ – GLASS OF WINE/FRUIT JUICE

Tickets available –Beehive Public House, Clare Lyne 361996, Malcolm Ward 360149

Tickets available from 15th June

A Community Network event, bringing the community together.





Great Waltham C of E Primary School

The summer term is now in full swing, and it has already been filled with many memorable experiences for our children.

A huge well done to all those who took part in the Great Waltham Festival of Chiors. Singing both as part of our school choir and within a larger adult choir was a very special experience, and the children represented the school beautifully with their enthusiasm and confidence.

Our Year 6 pupils have also recently returned from their residential visit. They had a fantastic time and embraced a wide range of activities, many of which challenged them to step outside their comfort zones and develop their



resilience. It was wonderful to see their teamwork, determination and positivity throughout the trip.

We are incredibly proud of all our pupils and look forward to an exciting and successful remainder of the term.



SEICENTO
Music from Seventeenth Century Italy



A Woman's World
A celebration of sacred and secular music written by and about women for voices and period instruments

Great Waltham Church CM3 1AR
Sunday July 26th at 5.00pm

Admission free
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Seicento returns to Great Waltham Church on Sunday July 26th at 5.00pm. A Woman's World: a celebration of sacred and secular music written by and about women is directed this year by Claire Williams, the musical director of Musica Secreta. The group of mixed voices and period instrumentalists perform music from C17th Italy by Cozzolani, Leonora, Strozzi, Monteverdi and Valentini. Admission to the hour long concert is free with a retiring collection. Do come and join us in this celebration of fabulous music. Further information: Annabel Malton 01245 360240 annabel@maltons.me.uk

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
Sara Arun: 07790214307
John Lattimore: Chairman 01245 363818

FORD END GARDEN CLUB

At our March meeting Nicola Munday came and gave us a talk on the Restoration of Copped Hall gardens so we



booked Nicola to take us on a guided tour of the gardens for our June meeting, which was on Sunday 7 June. Before the First World War, these gardens were meticulously tended by 31 gardeners. In the 1940s the gardens ceased to be maintained and became overgrown. In the 1950s they were stripped of all saleable items and the gardens became vandalised. We particularly liked the four acre mid-18th century walled garden which was used for growing vegetables, fruit and flowers. The glass houses are 19th century and there is an orchid house, an orchard house and a vine house. Most of the restoration work here has been carried out by volunteers. The Garden Club had their photo taken under the pear tree walk in the walled garden. We looked around the well stocked secondhand bookshop in the Hall and the afternoon was rounded off by having tea and home made cakes.

Copped Hall has a website which lists the opening dates

Great Waltham Parish Council
The Pavilion, Great Waltham Recreation Ground, South Street, Great Waltham, CM3 1DF.
Clerk, W J Adshead-Grant. Tel: 07880 717329.
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This is a summary of some items discussed at the AGM and May 2026 monthly meeting of the Parish Council. For full details, see the full and approved minutes of all Council meetings on the parish website (e-voice.org.uk/greatwalthamparish).

We conducted the annual election of our officers and completed the various governance protocols needed to continue our work for what will be the final year of the Council elected in 2023. We currently have one vacancy on the Council, so if you are interested in joining through the co-option process, please contact the Clerk for details. We also agreed our action plan of focussed activities for the next 12 months, based upon the 5-year strategic plan we implemented last year.

Mike Steel, our city and county councillor, reported that the recent county council elections has seen a change of administration, and one of its first actions has been to challenge the Government's choice of the future 5 unitary authorities model in Essex by instructing lawyers to prepare a pre-action protocol letter. (You will recall that in the consultation process the Parish Council indicated that 5-UA model was its preferred option). Mike also confirmed that the city council's local plan is now ready to be submitted for independent examination by a government appointed planning inspector – the examination will go on until late 2026 with the expectation that the plan will be adopted.

We noted that five diseased cherry trees were cut down by Chelmsford City Council (CCC) in Cherry Garden Road, Great Waltham and that a discussion has now taken place with CCC to both replace them towards the end of the year and plant additional ones. We also noted the outcome of the red telephone kiosk survey (see the separate update below in this edition).

We are aware that a number of village signs have fallen into various states of disrepair, and we agreed to contact Essex County Council to understand costings because, as things stand, it seems only if we agree to fund repairs are they likely to happen, even though they are assets owned by ECC.

The Council's next monthly meeting will be on Monday 20th July 2026 at the Pavilion, Great Waltham Recreation Ground, starting at 7.30pm.

Parking on Pavements: Concerns and Call for Consideration



The Parish Council receives complaints about pavement parking. While we recognise that not all households have access to driveways, vehicles obstructing pavements create serious hazards for pedestrians — particularly those using prams, buggies, mobility aids, or wheelchairs.

Across the parish, cars, vans, and lorries are frequently parked so far onto pavements that they cannot be used safely or properly. Pedestrians are often forced to step into the carriageway, placing them directly in the path of moving traffic.

Under the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, it is an offence to cause unnecessary obstruction of the highway — and pavements form part of the highway. The police have enforcement powers where a vehicle blocks wheelchair or pushchair access, forces pedestrians into the road, obstructs driveways or visibility, or blocks dropped kerbs. They may issue fixed penalty notices, warnings, or request that the vehicle be moved. Where double yellow lines or parking permits are in place, enforcement is carried out by Chelmsford City Council. Such restrictions apply to both the carriageway and the adjacent pavement. In many locations, pavement parking effectively reduces roads to single track use. In such cases, parking legally on the carriageway would not create any additional obstruction, as two vehicles cannot pass simultaneously regardless of whether one is partly on the pavement.

The Parish Council urges all drivers to show consideration for others by parking legally on the road and not on pavements, in line with the Highway Code. Residents are also reminded that vehicles must not be driven off the highway onto, or parked on, land adjacent to the highway without the landowner's permission.

Red Telephone Box Survey



Thank you to everyone who completed our recent survey regarding the three currently unused kiosks at Ford End, Great Waltham and Littley Green. The results were overwhelmingly in favour of retaining all three and in addition to receiving a range of ideas for their future uses we were also pleased to hear from a number of willing volunteers to initially help with their renovation and importantly their ongoing use and maintenance. The next steps will now be discussed by our Recreation Committee and we will keep you updated with our plans.

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: gwp parishnews@gmail.com. **The last date for inclusion in the August issue is 16th July 2026**