

Parish News

Great Waltham Ford End Howe Street Little Green North End



September 2026

GREAT WALTHAM'S VISIT TO CEYRAT

Town twinning began after the war, when building friendships across Europe was seen as a way to secure lasting peace. Today, the idea of spending 17 hours on a coach to stay with people you've never met in a village you've only seen on a sign might sound eccentric — yet 41 travellers aged 8 to 89 set off from Great Waltham at 4.30am on July 21st to do exactly that. Nearly half were first-timers; the rest were returning to see long-standing French friends.



The week combined social gatherings, civic events and visits. We explored Royat and La Bourboule's spa heritage, admired Art Deco tea rooms and the mineral creations shaped by volcanic rock. In Clermont-Ferrand we learned about Vercingetorix, the Gaul who briefly defeated Julius Caesar and later inspired the Asterix books.



Warm weather made the night-time visit to the volcanic site at Lemptégy especially memorable, with its spectacular light show. The traditional pétanque tournament rounded off the week, followed by a lively farewell meal with music and enthusiastic attempts at dancing.



Explaining the joy of twinning is difficult. The journey is long and sometimes tiring, but no one is left out. There are shared meals around crowded tables, laughter on the coach, and friendships that grow despite language barriers. We return home a little tired, a little emotional — and always changed for the better.



See <https://e-voice.org.uk/greatwalthamparish> for info on Great Waltham Twinning Association.



Inside this month's Great Waltham Parish News

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



From The Vicarage

September always feels like a gentle turning of the page. We are reminded that beginnings don't only happen in January, they happen whenever we choose to take the next small step.

As schools reopen and routines settle, may this month give you space to breathe, to hope, and to start again where you need to. As the heat of summer fades (presumably!) we start a new chapter. New academic year, new job, new season. Begin with simple values like love your neighbour. Supported by community, and the quiet assurance that tomorrow can be good, take a deep breath and go for it.

Wishing you encouragement, rest, and steady confidence for what's next. Dan

OPEN INVITATION

You are invited to attend

The Friends of Great Waltham & Ford End Churches Trust

Annual General Meeting.

**To be held at Great Waltham Church
on Tuesday 20th October 2026 at 7.00pm**

All are welcome!

Services at Blackchapel, North End September 2026

September 6th Family Service 3pm

Coffee Morning Blackchapel, North End



Come and join your neighbours for a coffee and chat

Last Wednesday in the month

10.30 - 12.00

R.I.P. Cliff Neale

Cliff Neale, former resident of Ford End and North End has died on Friday 3rd July after a long and debilitating illness. A private cremation followed on 29th July and a celebration of his life (and that of his wife Janette) is planned for the end of September.

For further information please contact rachelmellick@hotmail.com, or michael.t.proctor@outlook.com



Church of England Services September 2026

Sunday 6th 11.00am Communion - Great Waltham

Sunday 13th 11.00am Communion - Ford End

Sunday 20th 11.00am Communion - Great Waltham

Sunday 27th 10.00am Family Service - Ford End

11.00am Communion - Chignals

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

Little Waltham United Reformed Church Services for September 2026

All services begin at 10.30a.m.

Contact: Liz Hagon 01245 360874

Sunday 6th - Colin Rackham

Sunday 13th - Charles de Lacy

Sunday 20th - Frances Crouch

Sunday 27th - Rev. Geoffrey Griggs - Harvest Festival
Lunch - Holy Communion

Other Events:

Thursday 3rd - Coffee and cake - 10am until 12pm

Saturday 19th September - Coffee Morning 10am-11am

Ford End Senior Tea

Our September Senior Ford End Tea will be on Monday 14th September 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



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

Little Waltham Gardening Club

Recently Little Waltham Gardening Club members enjoyed their last garden visit for the season. We went to Ulting Wick, where despite endless sunshine, drought, high temperatures and hose pipe bans, we were welcomed into a colourful and exuberant garden. The borders were buzzing, attracting pollinators and the sub tropical beds were packed full of bright unusual plants intermingling with well known favourites. This garden is a testament to all the planning and hard work by the owner and head gardener. To round off the afternoon, we enjoyed tea and cakes in the cool of the barn. Restricted now to watering by hand, the garden continues to flourish and should not be missed. It is open to the public on 30th August.

The Club's evening meetings resume on **WEDNESDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER**, when Brian Carline will be giving an illustrated presentation on The Science of Plants. This will help us to understand our plants and better provide for their needs.

WEDNESDAY 7th OCTOBER - We have Lynne Moore of 'Moore and Moore Plants' advising on Plants for Shady areas, and bringing along plants for sale.

WEDNESDAY 4th NOVEMBER - we welcome Glyn Evans who will be giving his presentation on 'Encouraging Birds to your Garden'

All our evening meetings take place at 7.30pm in Little Waltham Memorial Hall CM3 3 LN where there is plenty of parking at the rear of the Hall.

VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS VERY WELCOME. Please see website www.littlewalthamgardeningclub.co.uk

Or phone Maggie Williams 01245 360042



Help Prevent Wildfires This Summer

With warmer, drier weather becoming more common, the risk of grass and wildfires across Essex is increasing. A single spark from a disposable barbecue, firework, cigarette end or garden bonfire can quickly spread and threaten wildlife, farmland, homes and lives.



We can all help reduce the risk by taking a few simple precautions:

- Never use disposable barbecues on dry grass or in open countryside.
- Don't use fireworks during very dry conditions.
- Do not drop cigarette ends or matches.
- Take litter home, especially glass bottles and other rubbish that can contribute to fire risks.
- Keep garden bonfires small and never leave them unattended.

For their part, Chelmsford City Council have ceased the use of fireworks at Hylands events.

It would be helpful if local farmers could produce temporary firebreaks near vulnerable residential areas - firebreaks are strips of land where vegetation has been removed or cultivated to help slow the spread of a fire. With the Parish Council, I am trying to contact such local farmers, and hopefully, they will see this article.

What to Do If You Spot a Fire

If you see a grass or wildfire:

1. Move to a safe location immediately.
2. Call **999** and ask for the Fire and Rescue Service.
3. Give the exact location using a postcode, What3Words reference or nearby landmark.
4. Do not attempt to tackle a large or fast-moving fire yourself.

Cllr Mike Steel

Photo by courtesy of Barry Teader

Community Speed Watch



The Parish Council often hears complaints about vehicles speeding through our communities, and indeed has initiated its own partnership arrangement which monitors traffic on the B1008 at Ford End. Additionally, in the past, Community Speed Watch (CSW) groups have been active in Great Waltham and Ford End. Operating independently of the Council, these teams of volunteers monitored the speed of passing vehicles with handheld devices which were recorded and passed to Essex Police to take further action, from warning letters to additional police

enforcement.

Unfortunately, both groups have disbanded and therefore the Council is considering whether to assume a coordinating role which would allow them (or perhaps just a single parish-wide group) to operate again. However, to do so there will need to be a new cohort of volunteers available and willing to get actively involved. If this is an issue which you are passionate about and want more information about what volunteering involves, you can visit the CSW website: <https://saferessexroads.org/communities/>.

From the Council's perspective, it needs some certainty that there is sufficient local interest and, more importantly, that a large enough group of volunteers is available to be able to operate a team or teams regularly on a long-term basis. Each session (typically an hour long) needs a group of at least three volunteers and it's envisaged that overall there will need to be a pool of 12-15 individuals to draw on. Therefore, if you are interested in volunteering (or indeed becoming a CSW Group Co-ordinator), please contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@gtwaltham-pc.gov.uk. Once the Council understands the levels of interest and future commitment in the parish it can take a view on how best to become involved.

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Our Sites:

- Brook Mead Site: Tucked away conveniently behind the village shop.
- Bury Lane Site: A peaceful, established growing location.

Why Join Us?

- Varying Sizes: Options available to suit both ambitious growers and beginners.
- Fresh Produce: Nothing beats the taste of fruit and veg you grew yourself.
- Health & Wellbeing: Enjoy gentle exercise and fresh air in a scenic setting.
- Community Spirit: Swap tips, seeds, and stories with fellow local residents.

Plots are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to parish residents and they are also available to residents of surrounding parishes.

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Great Waltham C of E Primary School

What a fantastic year it has been! Our pupils have truly lived out our ASPIRE values, demonstrating aspiration, strength, perseverance, integrity, responsibility and empathy in all that they

do.

A special mention must go to our Year 6 pupils, who achieved SATs results that were above the national average. Their hard work, determination and positive attitude have been rewarded, and they should be extremely proud of their achievements. Once the results have been officially finalised, we look forward to sharing them on our school website.



The summer holidays have also been a busy time for the school. We are delighted to have completed a new sensory area, which I am sure the children will enjoy exploring when they return in September.

Finally, we would like to wish our Year 6 leavers every success as they move on to the next stage of their education. You are an exceptional group of young people, and you have made us all immensely proud.

Protected Lanes – What are they?

You may have seen the term '**Protected Lane**' in some planning or other council documents – but what are they? The lane shown in the photograph is an example of a **Protected Lane**. These **Protected Lanes** are part of the historic road network in the Essex countryside, which dates back to at least the Medieval period; some roads and lanes probably existed in the Saxon period and possibly long before that.

This early network of lanes and track-ways existed to connect villages, hamlets, scattered farms and cottages and were also important for agriculture.

Typically, these historic lanes started life as track-ways with a soft surface between boundaries formed by hedgerows, ditches or banks. The width depended on the traffic using them and they tend to be very variable in width because ruts formed in wet weather forced traffic to move over to less rutted areas. Cattle, sheep and geese being driven through the countryside to market often grazed on these green verges. Lane boundaries were frequently defined by drainage ditches along one or both sides. Continuous use over the centuries caused lanes, especially on hillsides, to become sunken. Later metalling of the lane surface fixed the position and width of the lane and the verges were formed from the land between the field boundary and the metalled road.

Certain country lanes and byways are of historic and landscape value and make an important contribution to the rural character of nearby areas because they have sufficient preserved features, to attain **Protected Lane** status. This is defined by Essex County Council and Chelmsford City Council in the documents Chelmsford City Council Protected Lanes Study reports EB086, EB088 and as follows:



Blackchapel Lane, North End

- They provide historic information on the local community and its activities.
- They have a historic fabric which potentially contains archaeological evidence about past human activities.
- They provide insights into the development of the landscape and the relationship of features within it over historical time.
- They have considerable ecological value as habitats for plants and animals, also acting as corridors for movement and dispersal for some species and acting as vital connections between other habitats.

Essex County Council and Chelmsford City Council have complimentary policies to protect these lanes and byways by preserving, as far as possible, the trees and hedgerows, banks, ditches and verges which contribute to their character. The **Protected Lanes** within the Parish of Great Waltham are Humphrey's Farm Lane, Hoe Lane, Lark's Lane, Blackchapel Lane,

Little Green Road and Little Green Park Lane.

Unauthorized developments or resulting damage to the lane, verges, etc. should, in the first instance, be reported to Chelmsford City Council as a 'Possible Breach of Planning' using the website page: www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-enforcement/report-a-breach-of-planning-control/report-breach-of-planning-control/

Whilst acknowledging the need to adapt to modern transport needs, it should be possible to preserve the special features of our **Protected Lanes** as part of our heritage for future generations to enjoy.

FORD END GARDEN CLUB

The club had no meeting in August but our September meeting will be held on Wednesday 16th September at 7.30pm in the Ford End village hall. This will be the 25th anniversary of the founding of the club which was started by Alan Adcock who ran it for many years. Mary Venables who was the speaker at this meeting has been invited to come along this month to give a talk.

At our October meeting on the 21st and starting at 7.30pm Lynne Moore of Moore and Moore Nursery will be speaking about woodland plants and plants for shady places. Lynne will be bringing along a selection of plants from her nursery which will be for sale.

The garden club always welcomes visitors to our meetings to listen to the knowledgeable speakers and to have a chat with a friendly bunch of gardeners.



FORD END CHURCH - HELPING HANDS NEEDED

Do you have an hour to spare once every six weeks to support your community? Ford End Church is looking for two people to join the existing cleaning teams, to keep your church clean and welcoming for all.

Contact: Roger Bearman (7740 880247) or Gill Mitchell (07748 390335).

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Walthambury WI



Our next meeting is on Tuesday 8th September 7pm for 7:30 at the British Legion Hall. We look forward to a talk on Fraud Prevention by Tammy Blest.

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@gtwaltham-pc.gov.uk

This is a summary of some items discussed at the July 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).

Mike Steel, our city and county councillor, reported that individual ECC councillors no longer have the means to prioritise Highways defects and safety issues for their areas – instead, they must submit requests through a member enquiries portal, which has a 10-day response window. He also confirmed that he has been working with both the Rose & Crown and Green Man public houses to introduce extra off-road parking spaces, helping to reduce pavement parking. The City Council has reinstated a Highways Rangers service, replacing a scheme previously withdrawn by the County Council. This service allows parish councils to submit requests for minor environmental and maintenance works. We agreed to again utilise this service and supply details of the parish areas in most in need of attention.

Following a review of the parish survey responses regarding our unused red telephone kiosks, we approved the Recreation Committee's recommendation to give immediate priority to the refurbishment of the kiosk at Ford End. The City Council has offered to provide and regularly empty new recycling bins at Walthambury Stores. The Clerk will contact the landowner and the City Council to discuss this proposal further.

Following a recent road traffic collision on the downhill approach into Great Waltham village from Howe Street, we discussed potential improvements to local traffic management. We agreed to ask Essex Highways if the eroded rumble strips just before the 30mph zone can be reinstated.

The Council's next monthly meeting will be on Monday 21st September 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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and have a look at an amazing array of cars and help
raise money for young children fighting cancer!

For any further information or if you would like to bring a car, please contact Tom

TMFit 07947 427 489 www.tmfitt.co.uk info@tmfitt.co.uk

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 17th September 2026.**