



October 2026



Great Waltham C of E Primary School Summer Fete & Friends Reunited

We have had a fantastic start to the new term and were delighted to welcome our new Reception pupils to the school. On Saturday 12th September, we held our postponed Summer Fete. It was a



wonderful day, with face painting, bouncy castles, axe throwing and a DJ, to name just a few of the attractions on offer.

One of the special



events taking place during our Summer Fete was a wonderful

Friends Reunited Social, bringing together former pupils, friends and members of the school community from near and far.

We were delighted to welcome more than 30 attendees, with people travelling from all over the county — and even as far afield as New Zealand and Hawaii! It was a fantastic opportunity for old friends and schoolmates to reconnect, catch up and reminisce about their time at the school. A collection of old photographs (pupils from the 1970's pictured left), spanning generations, were available to look through, prompting plenty of memories, stories and laughter. Attendees enjoyed recognising familiar faces and sharing their own recollections of school days gone by. Guests were also able to tour the school, seeing how things have changed over the years while remembering the places, people and experiences that made their time here so special. It was a



truly lovely gathering and a great reminder of the lasting friendships and connections that the school has created over the generations. Mrs Diane Gibbs, a former pupil who came up with the idea for the Friends Reunited event, said: "It was a wonderful turnout and it was lovely to see so many former pupils come together and reminisce. I'm already looking forward to the next one!"

Please check the school website for details of our upcoming tours for prospective parents of children due to start Reception in September 2027. We look forward to welcoming families to see our school in action.

Inside this month's Great Waltham Parish News

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



From The Vicarage

As autumn settles over our villages they take on a gentler rhythm. The fields deepen in colour, the evenings draw in, and life seems to steady itself after summer. This season reminds us that change often comes quietly, leaf by leaf, day by day, and invites us to notice the small kindnesses that hold a community together. A shared meal, a helpful word, a moment of stillness on a walk: these simple things remind us that neighbourliness is built in the everyday. Whatever this autumn brings, may it offer warmth, steadiness, and the reassurance that you belong to a place that cares.

Rev'd Dan Pierce

OPEN INVITATION

You are invited to attend

The Friends of Great Waltham & Ford End Churches
Trust
Annual General Meeting.

To be held at Ford End Church
on Tuesday 20th October 2026 at 7.00pm
All are welcome!

Coffee Morning Blackchapel, North End



Come and join your neighbours for a coffee and chat
Last Wednesday in the month
10.30 - 12.00

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 Senior Tea

Our September Senior Ford End Tea will be on Monday 26th October at 2pm at Woodstock, Church Lane, Ford End.

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



Church of England Services October 2026

Sunday 4th 11am Communion - Great Waltham

Sunday 11th 11am Harvest Communion - Ford End

Sunday 18th 11am Harvest Communion - Great Waltham

Sunday 25th 10am Family Service - Ford End

11am Harvest 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 October 2026

All services begin at 10.30a.m.

Contact: Liz Hagon 01245 360874

Sunday 4th - Binny Jaichander

Sunday 11th - Charles de Lacy

Sunday 18th - Marina Price

Sunday 25th - Rev. Hans Stein

Other Events:

Thursday 1st - Coffee and cake - 10am until 12pm

Thursday 17th - Coffee Morning 10am-11am

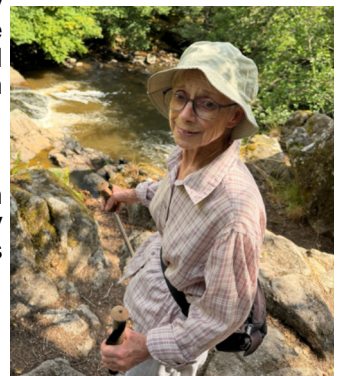
Viv Jackson

Peter and all the family would like to thank everyone who expressed kind thoughts after Viv's death in July.

We have been overwhelmed by so many cards and posts from friends and ex pupils.

Thank you

The Jackson family



Services at Blackchapel, North End October 2026

4th October Harvest Festival 3pm

Little Waltham Gardening Club



Little Waltham Gardening Club resumed its evening meetings in September when Brian Carline gave us a talk entitled 'The Science of Plants'. As a biology teacher for 40 years and with as many years as a gardener, Brian has a wealth of knowledge to draw on.

Brian began his talk about plants at their roots, the most important part of a plant. So obsessed with roots, Brian has been known to knock plants out of their pots in a garden centre prior to purchasing. Poor roots equals poor plant.

Most plants, when bought from a garden centre are growing in a compost that includes a slow release fertiliser (osmocote), that will feed the plant up to 6 weeks. Thereafter a supplementary food is required to maintain vigour. We were reminded that plants require nitrates (N) for leaf growth, Phosphate (P) for root growth and Potash (K) for flowers and fruit. Brian discussed a number of proprietary plant feeds that are widely available and reminded us to bear in mind the type of plant we are feeding. For example tomatoes require a high potash feed to induce flowers and fruit. Listed on the labels of plant feeds is information about the ratio between the main three elements N:P:K that a plant needs for growth. Tomatoes would give a good harvest if fed on a 4:3:8 feed and taste even better if some trace elements were present as in a sea weed feed. We were reminded to follow the dilution rate as advised on the packaging.

As a pelargonium and fuchsia grower, Brian was keen to demonstrate how to take cuttings, this being the optimum time of year.

This talk provoked numerous questions from the audience, and we all felt that even though we have been gardening for some years, we had learned something new.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 7th OCTOBER when the subject will be 'Plants that enjoy Shade', by Lynne Moore of 'Moore and Moore Plants'. In addition, Lynne will bring along plants for sale. On 4th NOVEMBER The subject, will be 'Encouraging Birds to your Garden' by Glyn Evans.

We meet at 7.30pm in Little Waltham Memorial Hall (CM3 3 LN) where there is plenty of parking. We are a small friendly group and we are happy to welcome visitors and new members.

For more information please phone Maggie on 01245 360042 Or visit. www.littlewalthamgardeningclub.co.uk

Great Waltham Remembrance Sunday Parade – 8th November 2026

Great Waltham Parish Council invites the community to join this year's Remembrance Parade and Service on Sunday 8th November.

The parade will follow its traditional route, starting from Duffries Close at 10.30am, led by the parade marshal, piper, and standards, with representatives of the armed forces, emergency services, and community organisations. It will march along Hatchfields, into Chelmsford Road to the War Memorial, arriving there at approximately 10.45am.

The necessary road closures orders have been secured and traffic will be re-routed to get the parade safely to the War Memorial for a short service. Chelmsford Road will be closed between the South Street and Hatchfields junctions for the duration of the service, with traffic diverted via Hatchfields and South Street. Members of the public may join the parade, but must do so at their own risk. We also welcome parade participants and the parish community to join the service. Wreaths will be laid and the last post will be sounded at 11.00am, followed by a two-minute silence. The parade will then move to the church for a service there, and afterwards it will reform in the church grounds and march back past the War Memorial for the salute when Chelmsford Road will be briefly re-closed. After the event, the Royal British Legion once again invites the church congregation to the RBL hall for refreshments.



Walthambury WI



Following the summer break, we all enjoyed getting back together again for our September meeting. Our speaker was Tammy Blest from Essex Police, on Fraud prevention. She gave lots of up-to-date practical advice on how we can stay alert, be vigilant and keep safe.

In response to the Annual WI day's celebration of 111 years, many members wore purple and shades of lilac. In the past month a group of members enjoyed lunch at the Chequers pub in Roxwell and another group went to the Chelmsford theatre. Our book group is continuing to do well. During the coming weeks a Pleshey walk has been arranged and a visit to Little Hall, Lavenham.

October's meeting will be held at the British Legion hall on Tuesday 13th October at 7:30. The speaker will be Rev'd Nicholas Henderson talking about Tudor Queens.



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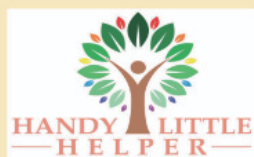
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This is a summary of some items discussed at the August monthly meeting of the Parish Council. For full details, see the full and approved minutes of all Council meetings on the parish website (e-voice.org.uk/greatwalthamparish).

Mike Steel, our city and county councillor, reported that higher-authority elections are scheduled for May 2027, but it is currently uncertain whether these will be for newly formed unitary authorities. However, Parish Council elections next year remain unaffected. We also noted the City Council's ban on fireworks and barbeques at its events due to the extreme dry weather – a state of affairs we may well have to get used to as the climate changes.

We discussed our involvement in repairing and maintaining assets owned by other authorities, specifically village and road signs. While we agree that weathered, untidy signs are unwelcoming to visitors, we have no allocated budget for these repairs. However, we also recognise that without our intervention, they may not be refurbished at all. We were reluctant to adopt a blanket policy that commits parish reserves to work that other authorities should provide, so instead we will review funding requests for sign maintenance on a case-by-case basis.

On a more positive note, we approved an exciting proposal from our renaturing working group. We will be partnering with the City Council's parks department to develop a dedicated wildflower and grasses area at Great Waltham Recreation Ground. Before work begins, we want to hear from you. We will consult with residents and ground users via social media, our website, and notices posted at the ground itself. We always value your feedback and look forward to hearing your thoughts on the plans.

The Council's next monthly meeting will be on Monday 19th October 2026 at the Pavilion, Great Waltham Recreation Ground, starting at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend our public meetings. Steve Gilbert - Chair

Great Waltham Village Hall

The Hulton Hall Charity Trust – Charity No. 301320

September Newsletter

An update from the Trustees: As we head into autumn, the hall continues to welcome community groups, clubs and private hirers. Thank you to everyone who has hired our facilities, donated funds or time, sponsored works, or otherwise supported this valued community space.

Trustees and volunteers – to get involved, contact gwvh.secretary@gmail.com.

Summer highlights included a [police](#) visit to the Preschool—with sirens and a police dog, as well as NHS lead paramedics when the children were able to go inside the ambulance. This year we also hosted the NHS adolescent immunisation sessions at the Hall.

We will share What's On updates and general news in these newsletters, so please let us know if you have an event at the Hall to include.

Dates, bookings and hall news

Save the dates

 **Church Harvest Festival** — 16 October, afternoon; further information to follow.

 **Charity Christmas Market** — Saturday 29 November.

Hall availability

Selected dates remain available for private parties, meetings and community events. Check our website for current pricing and availability.

Planned maintenance

We continually monitor the Hall and make improvements to keep it safe and enjoyable. Please report anything requiring attention through Facebook or gwvh.secretary@gmail.com.

- September - boiler servicing.
- October half-term, w/b 26/10 - ceiling works and annual floor scrub and resurface

Details of scheduled works, impacts and completion dates will be shared here and on the Hall noticeboards.

Clothing Banks

We now have larger banks, but if they are full, please let us know so we can request a collection. Donations continue to generate valuable income for the Hall.

Clubs and Classes

Carpet Bowls Club

New members welcome. Try a free session, then £3 weekly including refreshments. Wednesdays, 10am–12 noon.

Karate

 **Tokop Kai Karate Academy** classes are held Sundays, 5–6pm, led by Sensei Stephen Troy. <https://tokonkai-karate-academy.com>

Preschool

 **Up Up and Away** is a charity-run preschool providing a nurturing, stimulating environment where children can grow, learn and play. www.upupawaypreschool.co.uk

Shimmy 'n' Groove

Fun and fitness classes include groove aerobics and strength work. See Facebook for details. www.facebook.com/ShimmyAndGrooveFitness

Great Waltham Yoga and Meditation Club

Susan teaches Hatha, Yin and dynamic-flow yoga, focusing on balance, mobility and wellbeing. Mark teaches [healing meditation](#), for wellbeing, peace of mind and practical spirituality twice weekly. <https://marknicholls.org>

Starting a club, class or event?

Get in touch to explore how we can work together to bring even more to our community.

Village Hall links - Facebook:

and Website:

FORD END GARDEN CLUB

Ford End Gardening Club celebrated their 25th 'birthday' at September's meeting, with a re-reading of the notes Alan Adcock made of that first meeting 25 years ago, with a fascinating talk by Mary Venables (a retired Writtle College lecturer who spoke at that first meeting), with a new hollyhock competition and trophy, and, of course, with a cake! Mary's talked about leaves, and what a plant's leaves tell us about where it comes from and where it will thrive in our gardens; it was amazing and she was so passionate and entertaining. It was a very interactive evening, with a lovely buzz of conversation.



Our next meeting is on 21st October at 7.30 p.m. in Ford End Village Hall, when Lynne Moore of Moore and Moore Plants will be talking to us about Woodland and Shade-loving Plants and bringing some examples. Everybody is welcome to come to what promises to be a very interesting illustrated talk. Come and join us!

Grow Your Own – Plots Available Now!



Thinking of joining our thriving gardening community? There is no better time to take over a plot than autumn. Digging over a vacant site in the cooler weather prepares the perfect blank canvas to map out your layout

before spring arrives. Also, October is the prime window to plant autumn onion sets, shallots, and garlic bulbs directly into the ground for an effortless summer harvest next year. **We currently have vacant allotment plots at our two parish sites situated at Brook Mead (behind the shop) and at Bury Lane, both in Great Waltham.**

- **Eligibility:** Applicants must be residents of Great Waltham parish and surrounding parishes.

- **Setup:** New tenancies require a returnable £50 deposit.

- **Note:** The Parish Council provides the land and water supply, but not tools or equipment.

To apply for a vacant plot or ask any questions, please contact clerk@gtwaltham-pc.gov.uk

GREAT WALTHAM COMMUNITY NETWORK

WHO ARE WE?

A small group that puts on enjoyable, affordable community events in your village.

LIKE WHAT?

If you're local, you must have been to some of our Christmas events - the Christmas Tree Festival, Essex Police Band concert and the Christingle (with the church). Maybe you've made a Christmas Pudding or Gingerbread Men at our workshops. Or perhaps played in the Old Codgers Cricket match, run in the pancakes races or visited the exhibition of vintage village photos and the display about our WW1 and WW2 soldiers.

WHAT ELSE?

We assist local groups with their events or help them out with a grant.

WHY ARE WE TELLING YOU THIS?

We struggle along with the help of kind friends and family members.

It's our **20th ANNIVERSARY** next year and we need new people to join the committee, or maybe just volunteer to help out occasionally, because we want to keep on doing the brilliant events that keep our wonderful village together and thriving. We want to continue giving grants and help to village groups.

So please come along to see what we do at our

AGM Wed 14th October, 7.30pm at The Beehive.

(left hand entrance)

Everyone is welcome! And you might like to see how The Beehive is getting along under new management.

Any enquiries to joanna.2.steel@btinternet.com





Would YOU be able to help Father Christmas again this year by making up a Christmas Shoe Box for children in Ukraine and Moldova? Graham Whicker hopes to deliver them again through the charities UK-Aid (uk-aid.org) and TEECH (teech.org) and has all the details you require. Please WhatsApp or contact him on 07770 930538 or email gwhicker@btinternet.com if you can help.



TEECH



Christmas 2026

CHARITY SHOEBOX APPEAL

The charity TEECH will travel to Moldova during Christmas 2026, to visit schools & people in their own homes, taking gifts & food parcels, as well as blankets. TEECH provides aid & improves schools by creating indoor bathrooms. Please support us by completing a shoebox, which will be hand delivered by the team, to those who require a little help at Christmas time.

1. Find an empty shoebox, wrap the lid & box with wrapping paper

2. Decide if your box is to be for a boy or girl, what age group and put the label on the box, or if its a food parcel

3. Fill your box with gifts. See the list of ideas and the 'no thanks' list

4. Please make a donation of £2 per box towards transportation by visiting: www.teech.org and donating through Wonderful, or scan the QR code to donate.

Gifts Ideas for your shoebox:

Toys: Soft Toys, Football with small pump, Building Blocks, jigsaws, musical instruments, toy cars, dolls, jewellery, whoope cushion.

Educational Items: Pens, Pencils, rubber, ruler, colouring or puzzle books, notepads, pencil case, stickers etc.

Personal Items: toothbrush & paste, hairbrush/comb, deodorant, shampoo, shower gel, sanitary items, soap, flannel etc.

Other Items: Sweets, Gloves, Hats, Scarves or age suitable item of clothing (i.e. t-shirt, socks)



The QR code can be used to donate to TEECH through the Wonderful platform. Thank you

Please get in touch to be allocated age/gender for the boxes we are aiming to take.

No Thanks List:

Medicine / War Related Items / Fragile items like mirrors or glass containers / Dangerous items like scissors or any sharp objects / Nothing of a political nature

Please have your parcels with us early in November 2026.

Contact rob@teech.org or holly@teech.org for any further info or queries. Charity No 1074765



THE GREAT BRITISH MUSIC QUIZ

.....at Great Waltham!

FUN QUIZ FOR ALL THE FAMILY - COME ALONG
POP-PICKERS & TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Sat 10th Oct 7pm

GW village hall

(South St, Great Waltham, CM3 1DF)

TEAMS OF 6 - 8

SUPPER, LICENSED BAR, RAFFLE

This is a fundraiser for GW Twinning Association
so please make use of the bar

RESERVE YOUR TABLE BY 3rd OCTOBER

by emailing joanna.2.steel@btinternet.com

ADULT - £10 CHILD (up to age 16) - £3

If you have fewer than 6, we can find a table with other people for you to join



Parent Tours

JOIN US TO EXPLORE OUR SCHOOL

We warmly invite prospective parents and carers to visit our school and experience the welcoming atmosphere, our dedicated staff and the wonderful opportunities we offer our children.

Parent Tour Dates

Tuesday 22nd September
Monday 5th October
Wednesday 14th October
Monday 19th October
Wednesday 4th November
Tuesday 10th November

Wednesday 18th November
Wednesday 25th November
Friday 4th December
Tuesday 8th December

Tours commence at 9:30am

If you would like to book a place on one of our tours, please get in touch with the school office.



ASPIRE



Great Waltham C of E Primary School
South Street, Great Waltham, CM3 1DF

01245 360395
admin@greatwaltham.essex.sch.uk
www.greatwaltham.essex.sch.uk



World challenge 2026

This summer Leah and Ferne went to Eswatini and South Africa with world challenge. We would like to write about our experience and thank everyone for attending our bingo nights and other events we held in order to raise funds to help pay towards our expedition. During our time in Eswatini, we camped in a NCP (neighbourhood care point) and volunteered here for 5 days. This included playing with the children who came to the NCP during and after school, and travelling 2km everyday to their nearest water source to create a water supply for them. This work included digging a trench, carrying a pipe to the water source and putting it in the ground and recovering it. Our work will give them a clean and free water supply by November. For three days after visiting the NCP, we trekked 25km and climbed 3 mountains, whilst wild camping and cooking our own meals over an open fire. After this we visited a cultural village in Eswatini, learning their history and how they live their life. Once our time in Eswatini was finished, we travelled to Kruger and enjoyed a 2 day safari which was amazing. This trip was incredibly challenging for

us but overall was an incredible life experience. We would like to thank everyone again for your contributions towards our trip as we could have never done it without 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 November issue is 22nd October 2026.