

Little Waltham

PARISH

MAGAZINE



Issue 17- Autumn 2021



RURAL RAMBLE

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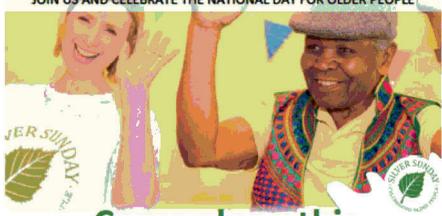
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Come along this Silver Sunday Monday!

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Monday 4th October 2021 / 10am – 4pm

Engaging Safety and Health & Wellbeing talks with free lunch, refreshments, and entertainment.

Location: Maldon Stadium, Park Drive Maldon CM9 5JQ

COST: £ FREE

Ticket booking details
Link: [Senior Safety and Silver Sunday Tickets](#)
Email: Community_Safety@chelmsford.gov.uk
Telephone: 01245 606662



Silver Sunday is supported by the Sir Simon Milton Foundation. © Sir Simon Milton Foundation, a charitable incorporated organisation registered in England and Wales. Registered Charity Number 1174605

Little Waltham PARISH MAGAZINE 'Hard to Recycle' Scheme



The Parish Council has recently been considering the issue of promoting recycling and the 'Hard to Recycle' scheme has been considered. The scheme provides for communities to have sites and boxes in order to recycle items that are otherwise difficult to recycle. Examples include water filters, bread packaging, sweet and crisp packaging and much more.

The Parish Council would welcome residents' views on which programme would be most useful to host in the Parish. Please take a look at the website below and refer to the items marked 'available locations available'

<https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/brigades>

Also, if you have an idea as to a location for the recycle bins, please do let us know. **To provide your views please contact the Clerk either by email clerk@littlewaltham.org.uk or by phone 01376 331251**



17. Autumn 2021

Little Waltham PARISH MAGAZINE

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Spring	1st March	End March
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Winter	30th November	End Dec

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Front cover photograph courtesy of Rebecca Walker

**Local articles of interest, residents views and comments are always
welcome and should be sent to the Clerk of the Council at
clerk@littlewaltham.org.uk**

**Little Waltham
PARISH MAGAZINE**

Whilst Little Waltham Parish Magazine is supported by the Little Waltham Parish Council, the views expressed within it are not necessarily those of the Council





Little Waltham Parish Council

Welcome to the autumn edition of the Little Waltham Parish Council magazine!

The Parish Council has reverted to physical meetings in the Tufnell Hall on the first Tuesday of each month (except August) and residents are always welcome to come along to have their say on issues. The hall is large so that there is plenty of room to spread out to enable those who attend to socially distance.

The Parish Council continues to make representations in relation to a variety of matters and has responded to consultations in relation to the proposed Solar Farm, the A12 widening scheme, the Parliamentary boundary review, the Essex County Council active travel review and the Army and Navy travel proposals as well as ongoing planning applications.

The order to install the yellow lines in the vicinity of the school was approved and came into effect in August and it is hoped that will assist with problems of congestion and dangerous parking in that area. In addition, do read the article in the magazine about the action being taken by the Parish Council to address traffic issues and how you as residents can help.

The Play in the Park event was held on 13th August 2021 and again proved popular. In addition, the Parish Council was very pleased to welcome the Mayor of Chelmsford Councillor Jude Deakin to the Parish to 'launch' the new table tennis table at the recreation grounds on 31 July and give out free bats and balls to residents. There are still a few left so if you contact me, I can arrange for you to collect your free bat and balls.



Thanks to those of you who contacted me to complete a declaration to assist with the application to register a right of way across Glebe Field which will enable the application to be made and to be progressed.

The Parish Council has received a number of representations about the use of byway

51 and in particular the river crossing by Croxton Mill. Byways are open to all traffic however the issue is currently in the hands of Essex County Council to decide on whether any restrictions on use will be imposed upon the byway particularly in relation to the river crossing and the Parish Council will provide an update in due course as to the progress of the issue.

Also, another issue of concern to residents has been the recent music events that were held at Wheeler's Farm and the impact upon residents. The events were licenced by Chelmsford City Council and the Parish Council has applied to the City Council for a review of the licence – again an update on the matter will be provided in due course.

As always if you have any issues for the Parish Council you are welcome to contact me.

Suzanne Walker

Parish Clerk

(01376 331251)

clerk@littlewaltham.org.uk



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The United Reformed Church

Sunday Services at 10.30 am

October

3rd - Rev. Hans Stein (Harvest)

10th - Charles DeLacy

17th - Rev. Geoffrey Griggs

24th - Rev. Hans Stein (HC)

31st - Joint service at Dunmow URC - Rev. Hans Stein

November

7th - Marina Price

14th - Rev. Hans Stein (Remembrance service at St. Martin's)

21st - Rev. Geoffrey Griggs

28th - Rev. Hans Stein (HC)

December

5th Charles DeLacy

12th - Moira Walker

19th - Rev. Hans Stein

24th - Rev. Hans Stein - Christmas Eve (Time TBA)

25th - Rev. Geoffrey Griggs - (Christmas Morning) 10.00am

26th - No service

On the 1st Thursday in the month we have Coffee and Cake from 10am to 12noon and, on the 3rd Saturday in the month, Coffee Morning from 10am to 11am.

Face masks required as appropriate.



Little Waltham Line Dancing

We are a friendly group of people that get together every Saturday morning between 10am and 11am at The Memorial Hall for an enjoyable hour of beginners line dancing. We also have time for a chat and a few laughs. If you fancy a go or want to pop in to take a look, all are welcome. We are social distance dancing at the moment and taking all safety precautions in line with Government Guidelines.

£5 per class - for any more information call Sue on 01245 361019



LITTLE WALTHAM DRAMA GROUP - September 2021

It is with great pleasure that the Little Waltham Drama Group has finally got back together to rehearse for our traditional annual pantomime which is due to be performed in January 2022. This year's panto is Aladdin and is packed full of songs, jokes and some very strange characters.



The drama group are always keen to welcome new members and would love to welcome people who are willing to work backstage in any capacity e.g. sound (very easy just clicking on a computer screen), props (we always need willing helpers), backstage (moving light scenery), make-up (the bolder the better), refreshments (even for just one of the shows). There is also time for those who like the idea of being on stage to join our Chorus for this pantomime. If anyone out there fancies joining our happy band who enjoy each others' company every Monday and Thursday 8.00 pm to 10.00 then either just pop in or **contact Vicky Weaver on [Victoria weavers@sparrowhawks.co.uk](mailto:Victoria.weavers@sparrowhawks.co.uk)**

In the meantime keep an eye out for further updates about Aladdin over the next few months including information about when tickets are released. We'd love to see you there supporting your village drama group.

Little Waltham Sports & Social Club

(Rear of Tufnell Hall)



The Street, Little Waltham, CM3 3NY 01245 360867 email: lwssc@hotmail.co.uk

- A chance to catch up with other local minded residents • Drinks at Club prices
- BINGO ON SATURDAY EVENINGS

We as a Club and many committees past and present have tried over the past 70 years and more to provide a centre where locals and their families to gather and enjoy themselves, we are open to new members and ideas!!

We also have a function Hall with fully licensed bar and Air Conditioning available to hire.

Call in for a drink and see what the Club has to offer.

Membership forms are available in the Club bar

Opening hours Wednesday, Friday 7.30-10.30pm – Saturday 7.30-11.30 Sunday 12.00-3.00pm



Little Waltham Sports & Social Club

Just an update from your local Social Club, for those of you that are not aware of our location it is in the centre of your village and situated at the rear of Tufnell Hall The Street, Little Waltham.

We have been established in the village since 1947 presently we have 2 football teams which play on a Saturday afternoon, and a Sunday morning. We have a Darts & Domino team that play Tuesday evenings during the winter months. We have facilities to play Darts, Crib, Dominoes. There are 3 Badminton teams that play in the Hall Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays and some of these are looking for new members. We have Bingo on a Saturday evening come along and join in and have a game.

New members are needed to keep the Club going it would be sad to see another village business close, that would leave us with only the White Hart.

We offer membership at a very reasonable rate which is £12 for adults £8 for Seniors and Juniors (12-17 years) and children under 12 are free. This entitles you to visit the Club when you like we have Beers. Lagers, Ciders, Spirits, Soft drinks all at very reasonable prices and all well below pub prices. We take card payments so no need to have to chase to a cash machine.

We have had a very quiet time what with the Coronavirus but have taken the time to refurbish our Club room which now has a more up to date feeling. There is a 65" all sing and dancing TV ideal for watching sorts etc. There are now 2 gazebos on our patio area which have heating and lights for your comfort. See photos on opposite page.

The Club has had a Pre-school – Montessori – Nursery on the premises since the 80's but this has sadly closed, which leaves our Hall empty, if there are any of you out there that can suggest events etc. that it could be used for all would be looked at, as well as the Hall we have full Kitchen facilities. We have thought of things like Mother and Toddler groups, Coffee Mornings, but all would need volunteers. The Hall can also be booked for all types of functions at a very reasonable cost, the Clubroom and Hall are also available for your family/friends Wakes

Are you a parent who has a child attending Little Waltham School. We have for the past 3 years offered parking at the rear of Tufnell Hall at a cost of £12 per year and not many parents have taken this offer up, some of you may not be aware it. Surely the safety of your children are worth this £12 and also helps to keep the roads clear. Anyone wishing to take up this off please email lwssc@hotmail.co.uk and we will arrange for someone to meet you on the premises and take payment and issue you with a pass.

Our opening times are Wednesday and Friday 7.30 – 10.30 Saturdays 7.30-11.00 Sundays 12.00-3.00 please come and support us.



Helping Hedgehogs – We can all be involved

Hedgehogs are one of the few wild mammals we encounter close up, whether in our gardens or on a late-night walk (these are free images and not ones I've taken myself; those are far less impressive!). Often voted as the UK's favourite animal, they have endeared themselves to us for many years.

However, it is not a good picture for our hedgehogs; since 2000 their populations have halved and are now listed as vulnerable to extinction. Traffic collisions, habitat fragmentation, poisoning and dwindling food sources are all contributing factors, but there is hope and you can play a part.

By making a few minor changes, we can help this lovely species, and what's good for hedgehogs is good for many other species:



- **Indirect poisoning** – pesticides and herbicides can poison other species and reduce food sources. **Avoid chemicals**, hedgehogs are natural predators of pests. Try wool pellets, salt, seaweed, broken egg shells or coffee grounds for slugs.
- **Injuries** – remove litter and check for hedgehogs before strimming rough areas and especially at bonfire night.
- **Ponds** – hedgehogs can swim but put in **wooden ramps** so they can easy leave.



- **Habitat loss** – in urban areas our enclosed gardens mean hedgehogs cannot access habitat or food. A solution is **Hedgehog Highways**. A 13x13cm gap in a fence will allow hedgehogs through without anything else. Talk to your neighbours and establish your own Highway.
- **Nesting and feeding** – hedgehogs need a variety of habitats to nest and forage in. **Shrubs, leaf and log piles, dead wood** are important so why not leave a slightly more wild area so they can thrive.



Check out the Hedgehog Preservation Society for more information and if you do spot one remembers to log it on the Big Hedgehog Map! <https://bighedgehogmap.org/>. With your help, together, we can bring these cute and important mammals back to being a common sight again. Hedgehogs are a biological indicator species, so if you have them, it shows your area is functioning well in its ecosystem.

Written by David Jackson – Sustainability AIEMA, working at University of Greenwich



eScooters – an update from Essex County Councillor Mike Steel

After potholes, overgrown footpaths and hedges, one of the main things people complain to me about are eScooters. There is much misunderstanding around eScooters, so here are a few facts :

- Small scale trials lasting a year are being done in 6 towns of Essex, one of which is Chelmsford. The trials will be evaluated before any expansion takes place across the county.
- The objective of eScooters is to reduce the number of short car journeys, so reducing congestion and pollution. Chelmsford roads, especially in the City, are operating at full capacity and car usage continues to grow. If someone uses an eScooter rather than a bus or bike, then it's not really achieved the objective. Of course, there are convenience factors associated with eScooters that might encourage people to use them regularly – like getting right to your destination, not worrying about locking it up!
- Only eScooters hired from SPIN (ECC's commercial partner) are legal on Essex roads. These are the bright orange ones. To hire one, you have to be 18 or over, and have at least a provisional license. The hire cost includes insurance. eScooters are classed as motor vehicles – the highway code and rules of the road apply, including penalty points or worse if you break the law (like using a mobile, being over the legal drink limit!) They have lights, reflectors, brakes, a bell. They are regularly sanitised in line with Public Health England guidelines.
- The SPIN eScooters are limited to 12.5mph and have in-built geo-barriers using GPS, so that they don't work outside the designated area (the closest they come to us is Broomfield Hospital). They can be ridden on roads within the trial area, cycle routes and shared use cycleways, but not on pavements – basically, the same places a bicycle can legally be ridden
- The hire process allows for an eScooter to be left at the end of its journey. There are some set areas, but they can be left in other places as long as they do not block the pavement. There are penalties to incentivise the hirer to comply with such good practice. Other riders can then start a journey from there, or the eScooters may get picked up by SPIN
- Cost of hire is 20p per minute or you can buy longer term passes from 1 hour (£5) up to 1 month (£60) with discounts for NHS staff.
- All other eScooters (usually black) are illegal except on private property, even though it is legal for such eScooters to be sold (on the basis of private use!). Enforcement is a police issue, whether illegal eScooter use or misuse of a legal eScooter (like it being used by anyone other than the registered user)

Lots more info on the Chelmsford trial at <https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/leisure-theatres-and-museums/visiting-chelmsford/chelmsford-e-scooter-trial/> including more about no-go zones, how to hire etc. You can give your views on the trial by emailing escootertrials@essex.gov.uk To report an incident or raise an issue with a Spin e-scooter please email: support@spin.pm or phone: [08000 488 155](tel:08000488155).

I hope that clears up some confusion and helps you form a view of whether they are a good thing or a bad thing. One of the most common statements I hear is that the legal ones are a good thing, but how do you control the illegal ones? ?

Essex County Cllr Mike Steel

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Tom Amos Charity



The Tom Amos Charity

As you walk down The Street from Ashtree Corner towards Winckford Bridge, you may have seen the Blue Plaque over 'The Old Bakery'. This is where Tom Amos lived and worked all his life.

In 1999 he set up The Tom Amos Charity, leaving it the bulk of his estate. He died in 2003, and since 2009, the Charity set up in his name, has distributed over £800,000.00 to local people and organisations. The objectives of The Charity are the provision of recreational facilities, advancement of education,



relief of poverty, advancement of religion and other charitable causes that are beneficial to the community, and covers Chelmsford City Council and the Districts of Uttlesford and Braintree. If you wish to apply for a Grant, the Application details can be found in the website as shown at the bottom of this article.

Tom is buried in St Martins Churchyard, where you can visit his grave. If you are interested in reading more about this fascinating man, and seeing photographs of Tom at work in The Bakery, go to

Tomamoscharity.org



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Traffic through the village By far the most common complaint to parish councillors concerns speeding, noisy vehicles and aggressive driving through the village by “rat-runners” (and, it has to be said, certain inconsiderate residents).

We know that the village is used as a rat-run because vehicle counts show that the number of vehicles using the village vastly exceeds the population.

We also know through speed surveys that 60% of vehicles exceed the speed limit – but apparently not by enough for anyone to do anything about it.

The problem is only going to get worse as new housing developments are completed.

In the past, discussions in the parish council about this issue have come to nothing, largely as a result of negativity from Essex County Council and Chelmsford City Council.

Recently however, the parish council decided to be much more proactive and has made applications to the Local Highway Panel as follows:

1. To reduce the speed limit in the village to 20mph where it is now 30mph
2. To reduce the speed limit of Back Lane from 60mph to 40mph from the junction with Essex Regiment Way to the 30mph sign at Back Lane
3. As a (less satisfactory) alternative to 2. Above, to have a buffer Zone of 40mph leading into the 30mph limit with entrance gates
4. To have stand out chicanes in Brook Hill and 'wig wags' outside the school
5. To make the village 'access only' supported by ANPR cameras

The chances of getting everything that we have asked for are low because of budgetary constraints but the parish council is investigating ways in which the imposition of the speed limits in 1. and 2. above could be achieved at minimal or no cost.

If we do not have a satisfactory outcome to our applications, we will have to fight for what we want. The parish council has formed a Traffic Steering Group to concentrate specifically on getting things done on the traffic issue.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT. If you are supportive of the measures above, please email your Essex County Council member Mike Steel cllr.mike.steel@essex.gov.uk and copy in clerk@littlewaltham.org.uk so that we have some measure of the support that exists.



Community Governance Review

Chelmsford City Council has launched a Community Governance Review which is considering the location of Parish boundaries and whether community governance arrangements across the district of Chelmsford are suitable. It will take account of areas of new or proposed housing developments, to ensure these remain fit for

purpose for the future.

The first round of consultation has been concluded and a report was presented by an officer from Chelmsford City Council to its Governance committee which proposed the following changes in relation to the Parish of Little Waltham –

1. That the Parish boundary is moved so that the entirety of the new development of houses at the bottom of Blasford Hill proposed by Bloor Homes should be in the Parish of Broomfield
2. That a new Parish Council should be set up for the existing Beulieu Park area and Channels and the new Chelmsford Garden Community which is yet to be built.
3. That the boundary for the new Parish should be Essex Regiment Way, which would mean that the existing houses in Channels that are in the Parish of Little Waltham will be removed from this Parish and also existing houses north of Essex Regiment Way including Pratts Farm Lane, Domsey Lane, Wheeler's Hill, Drakes Lane and Leighs Road would be removed from this Parish and put into the new Parish with the new Chelmsford Garden community development

The Parish Council made specific representations in relation to the land at the bottom of Blasford Hill and the fact that those new residents will be likely to use the facilities of Little Waltham such as the school and GP surgery and thus should be incorporated into this Parish. It was also pointed out that the nature of the existing housing north of Essex Regiment Way is very different to the proposed Garden Community development.

There is now due to be a second round of consultation and the voices of you the residents will be extremely important in the process as final decisions will refer to the wishes of the community. If you are not happy with the suggestions of the City Council then you need to make sure you respond with your views in the second round of consultation which is due to be launched shortly.

The Parish Council will put the link to the consultation on its Facebook page and website so do keep your eyes peeled and make sure you have your say!

In the meantime you can read more about the process at

www.chelmsford.gov.uk/cgr

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Public Rights of Way



The Parish Council has received a number of recent questions about rights of way and how they may be used. The Public Rights of Way network is managed by Essex County Council and you can find out more at this link –

<https://www.essexhighways.org/about-prow>

In summary when you are out and about in the Parish you may come across the following types of rights of way –

Footpaths - A footpath is a highway over which the public has a right of way on foot only. A footpath should be at least 1 metre wide across a field where crops are growing, and 1.5 metres wide where it passes around the edge of a field. Footpaths

are marked by a yellow arrow with a white surround

Bridleways - A bridleway is a highway over which the public has a right of way on foot, horseback and on all types of bicycle. There may also be a right to drive animals along a bridleway. Bridleways are marked by a blue arrow with a white surround.

Byways - A byway open to all traffic (BOAT) is a highway over which the public is entitled to travel on foot, horseback or pedal cycle and by motorised vehicle of all kinds, including horse-drawn vehicles. Most byways do not have a sealed surface and may not be suitable for certain vehicles. Vehicles that use a byway must be taxed, insured and have passed their MOT check just as they would be on the road. Users need to be aware that if you use these routes in any capacity, you are likely to come across these other users who have a legitimate right to be there. Byways are marked by a red arrow with a white surround.

Restricted Byway - A restricted byway allows right of way on foot, on horseback; leading a horse, riding a bicycle or using any other vehicle that is not mechanically propelled. Restricted byways are marked by a purple arrow with a white surround.

If you come across any issues whilst using a public right of way such as maintenance, vegetation, surface issues or obstructions you should report it to Essex County Council and you can use their online form to do so
<https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us/public-rights-of-way-issues>

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St Martin's Church



Services at St Martin's Church

St. Martin's Church is open for private prayer
on Sundays from 11.00am – 3.00pm.

At the moment our pattern of services is one communion service every month on the third Sunday (subject to Government guidelines).

Rev Sandra continues her online service at 10.30 every Sunday and a Soothe Your Soul Night Prayer every Wednesday at 8pm. You can find them on the “Little and Great Churches at Home” Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Little-Great-Churches-at-Home-110993963898881/>

or on our YouTube channel Lt and Gt Churches at Home.

For information updates and information on services in the Leighs and please see our notice board.

All are welcome at our services.



Important information for residents in relation to planning applications

The Parish Council has recently been advised by Chelmsford City Council that there will be a change as to how residents will be advised of planning applications close to their properties.

In the past letters were sent to residents in the near vicinity of a property where an application had been submitted but this will no longer happen. The City Council advises as follows –

Up until now we have been notifying neighbours of new planning applications by sending out letters in the post. This method of notification has become out of date following significant advances in technology and relies heavily on the postal service. Many people receive letters that they are simply not interested in and some people, who may be interested in a development but live further away, would not receive letters.

Following agreement from our Councillors we will no longer be sending out letters in the post to the people that live next to an application site. We will display yellow site notices close to application sites to inform local residents, and we are encouraging all residents who want to be notified automatically to use the Council's Public Access system to sign up for email notifications about applications they are interested in. This allows people to set their own criteria for applications they wish to be notified about using the saved search function.

Guidance on how to save searches and receive email notification is on our website <https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/view-or-comment-on-planning-applications/>



Your local U3A wants you!

By the time you read this, the Broomfield & District U3A will have had its first face-to-face social meeting in the Broomfield Village Hall since the beginning of the pandemic.

The September social meeting saw the welcome return of our popular books, puzzles and games tables, and there was also the opportunity to win a prize in our fund-raising raffle.

Leaders of special interest groups were at hand to provide information about their activities and answer questions from potential new members, as well as from anyone thinking of starting a new group.

Besides giving members the welcome opportunity to physically meet up again after such a long break, that meeting was also intended to help the Committee determine demand for more such meetings.

In the meantime, our forthcoming AGM is scheduled to take place via Zoom on Wednesday 13th October at the start of our monthly speaker meeting.

1st September also marked the start of the 2021-22 membership year and new



members are always welcome. If you're recently retired or no longer in full time work, don't delay – visit our welcome page at <https://u3asites.org.uk/broomfield/welcome> where you will find links to our membership forms, newsletters and other information.

One thing for certain: we'd love to have more members, and we'd also love to have some additional committee members to help us run our small but successful branch of this national organisation. The 2021-22 year marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of the U3A – so what a good time to join and start reaping the benefits, for the modest sum of £13 per year.

Little Waltham PARISH MAGAZINE Soroptimist International



Our 70th Anniversary Challenge - Soroptimist International, Chelmsford & District

First of all, what is a Soroptimist? Soroptimist International is a global women's organisation active in over 120 countries, working to improve the lives of women and girls through education, enablement and empowerment, and through our consultative status at the United Nations. Our members around the world work on grassroots projects that help women and girls achieve their individual and collective potential, realise aspirations and have an equal voice in communities worldwide. Founded 100 years ago this year, there are Soroptimist branches in every continent on the planet – that is, apart from Antarctica!

There is also a small but active branch in Chelmsford – very likely the nearest branch to readers of this magazine – and this year we celebrate our 70th anniversary. To help mark this milestone, SI Chelmsford & District developed a '700 for 700 Challenge'. The aim is for our members to walk, collectively, a minimum of 700 miles, ideally raising at least £700. Each £100 raised will enable a woman to be trained in driving pink tuk-tuks in Sri Lanka. Driving a pink tuk-tuk provides an income, allowing these women to improve their lives while also providing a safe mode of transport to work and school for women and girls. The training is provided by the Rosie May Foundation, and it includes driving tuition, maintenance, and business skills. You can find out more about this amazing UK-based children's charity at www.rosie-may.com

We began our '700 for 700' challenge on International Women's Day (8th March) and it will last until the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (25th November). To help support us, please visit our website at <https://sigbi.org/chelmsford/our-work/> where you will find a link to our JustGiving page, and further information about our activities.

We have continued meeting via Zoom throughout the pandemic, on the third Thursday evening of every month. At the time of writing we are looking forward to resuming our in-person meetings at St Mary's Church Hall, Church Green, Broomfield. We'd love to hear from you if you are interested in finding out more. Just email our Secretary at sichelmsford@gmail.com or alternatively use the contact form on our website.



Befriending service launches in mid-Essex



Farleigh Hospice is set to launch a volunteer-led service that offers friendship and a listening ear to anyone who needs it in mid-Essex.

Launching on the 13 September, Farleigh Helpers is an online and telephone befriending service. Run by Farleigh Hospice volunteers, the service will assist those who are ill, bereaved, feeling lonely, isolated or in need of someone to talk to.

Offering non-medical support, Farleigh Helpers will listen, converse with people, and signpost them to relevant information or professional services where appropriate.

Michelle Von Kimmelmann, Farleigh Hospice Volunteer and Corporate Administration Manager said:

“We're so pleased to be launching this new service. It has been in the pipeline for some time now, so it is great to see all of our planning come to fruition. We were aware that there are people in our community who need a friend or some advice and support, and, as a community focused charity, we wanted to be able to extend the care we offer to beyond our usual remit to bridge this gap. Farleigh Helpers is open to anyone locally, regardless of age or circumstances, who is in need of someone to talk to. Our helpers offer friendship, they're there to provide a listening ear and direct people to additional information and services that may be of use.”

The service will initially run from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday and will be extended to cover weekends dependant on demand. People wishing to speak with a Farleigh Helper can schedule a regular chat or simply get in touch as the need arises. To arrange a call back from a Farleigh Helper please call 01245 933800 or email farleigh.helpers@farleighhospice.org .

The hospice is also looking to expand its team of Farleigh Helpers. It is looking for kind, caring volunteers who are good listeners, IT savvy and who want to make a positive difference to people's lives in the local community. The roles are home-based, so if you would like to help from the comfort of your living room or home office, please visit www.farleighhospice.org/farleighhelpers for more information and to complete an application form.



It was such a pleasure to welcome all the children and families back to school last week after the much-needed summer break. We are also delighted to welcome a number of new families, all of whom have settled in really well.

The summer term was different to normal but we managed to celebrate the end of the academic year in different ways. Our year 6 pupils had an amazing time at Danbury Outdoors and were an absolute credit to themselves, their families and their school. We weren't able to attend the church for their bible service but were delighted to welcome Rev'd Sandra who presented their bibles to them during a service held outside in our new gazebo. They also had a celebratory lunch and their leavers' party on the school field. A sports event took place with the children competing in their class groups, they ran the races as they would have done in the past and had a fantastic time – great fun for them to take part in.

We also had a Maths activity day focussing on shape; a Speak Out Stay Safe assembly from the NSPCC, and our summer fund raising was the Summer Surprise Ticket event.

We have had the pleasure of seeing many butterflies around the school site, which the children enjoy. In addition, our vegetable planting had some success; although the long summer holiday has not helped our potato crop we do have some cherry tomatoes.

We are currently planning events for the Autumn Term with a very close eye to what is happening around us but are hopeful that we will be able to celebrate Harvest and Christmas with some semblance of normality. Whatever we do will be safe for all. The children have settled back to their learning with smiles and determination and enjoying greater freedoms; being able to play in slightly large groups and having worship and lunches in the hall. They have been truly amazing and a credit to everyone.

Please take a look at our Weekly News on the website <http://www.little-waltham-school.co.uk/weekly-news/>. This includes children's work, responses to 'The Big Question of the week' and our awards, it will give you a good sense of what happens in school every day.

Take care and stay safe.

Liz Maycock
Headteacher

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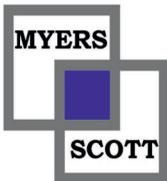
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LITTLE WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB

The Gardening Club met for the first time this year in August for an enjoyable afternoon gathering at Ulting Wick. Our hostess Philippa Borough made us very welcome, explaining how, over the years she had converted the original farm yard into a garden - and what a garden, full of colour and interest. Cake and tea were enjoyed in the sunshine. A swarm of bees added unexpected excitement to the afternoon, but after swirling alarmingly across the garden, they settled in a buzzing mass on a huge sunflower to be dealt with later by a qualified bee keeper.

In September, the Club held its first indoor meeting since March 2020. It was good to meet pre lockdown members again and to welcome a considerable number of new members and visitors. The audience was greeted with a floral feast of plants in season. Tim Carter of Long House Plants had brought along a great number of plants which are at their best this time of year. He not only gave us tips on cultivation, aspect and soil requirements, but also demonstrated how plants can be planted together to produce a greater impact. Many people went home proudly clutching a newly purchased plant treasure.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 6th October, 7.30 pm in Little Waltham Memorial Hall, when Sheila Dearn's will be giving a presentation on how Gardeners and Hedgehogs can help each other.

Visitors very welcome, £3.00 per evening visit, or subscription £8.00 expiring March 2022.

For more information, Visit website www.littlewalthamgardeningclub.co.uk or phone 01245 360042.

Maggie Williams (Hon. Secretary)

Michelle Dulieu
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Little Waltham Open Gardens

Thanks to everyone who organised and took part in the Little Waltham Open Gardens and Classic car event in support of Farleigh Hospice. It took place on Sunday 5 September on what turned out to be a hot and sunny day as you can see from the photos below.





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