

Little Waltham **PARISH MAGAZINE**



Issue 22 - Winter 2023





All Councillors and the Clerk at Little Waltham Parish Council hope that you have had a lovely Christmas and offer best wishes for the New Year

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RideLondon-Essex, the world's greatest cycling festival, is returning to Essex in 2023. Thousands of cyclists will travel through Essex towns and countryside before returning to the capital on a 60-mile or 100-mile route.

London Marathon Events and Essex County Council are working together to plan for RideLondon-Essex 2023. We're engaging with residents, communities, businesses and partners to make sure this event is as successful as possible.

Have your say and find out more

Join the 12,000+ who have already signed up to share your thoughts and local knowledge. For more information, visit ridelondon.co.uk



22. Winter 2023

Little Waltham PARISH MAGAZINE

| Edition | Input Deadline | Delivery |
|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
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| Summer | 1st June | End June |
| Autumn | 1st September | End September |
| Winter | 30th November | End Dec |

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Front cover photograph courtesy of Suzanne 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 winter issue of this magazine and I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas!

The Parish Council has continued to make representations on behalf of the community. In particular having objected to the proposals for new pylons by National Grid representatives from the Parish Council attended a meeting with other local Parishes and the MP Kemi Badenoch to make sure the voice of this community is heard. You can find out more about the proposals and the Parish Council response on the website.

<https://littlewaltham.org.uk/national-grid-consultation/>

Regarding play facilities you may have seen that the new safety surfaces under the swings in the children's play area have been laid completing the work in that area to upgrade all surfaces. Also, the rocker that had to be removed has been repaired and reinstalled and replacement tennis nets are being purchased.

As you will be aware, as a result of the recent Community Governance Review, those who live at Channels plus some more established residents in Domsey Lane and Wheelers Hill will be leaving this Parish and becoming part of a new Garden Community Council. This will mean less people within the Parish to pay the precept so the Parish Council is working hard to make sure that the financial impact upon remaining residents is kept to a moderate level and will keep you updated.

A number of residents had raised questions about the use of byway 51 which runs from Back Lane to Croxton Mill. The Parish Council has been advised that the closure of part of that byway has now been extended to 15th April 2023.

Representatives from the Parish Council recently met with the new head teacher at the primary school and look forward to working with him and the school as an important part of this community in future.

The Parish Council was also pleased to collaborate with the Channels Residents' Association to organise a Defibrillator and First Aid training event – unfortunately it had to be cancelled but it is hoped to be able to re-arrange it for February 2023 so do keep an eye out on the Parish Council website as to how to book.

The issue of traffic remains a concern to residents so I have provided a more detailed update further on in this magazine.

The Parish Council was pleased to be able to provide two grants recently – one to the Good Companions who provide valued support for older members of this community and also a grant to enable the URC to purchase a Christmas tree for the community this festive season.

Feasibility continues regarding the project to update the Pavilion and I hope to have more news for you in the next issue.

As ever if you wish to contact the Parish Council and raise any issues, please feel free to contact me using the details below. You can also come along to a Parish Council meeting on the first Tuesday of each month (except August) at 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall.

Suzanne Walker

Parish Clerk (01376 331251) email: clerk@littlewaltham.org.uk



THE GOOD COMPANIONS OF LITTLE WALTHAM

2023 PROGRAMME

Speakers and Events

NB All events 2-4pm unless otherwise stated



For Info and enquiries:
Marion Maidman: 07850317657
Chris Todd: 07818032219
Julie Harding:
julieharding@homeinstead.co.uk

New Members Welcome!

Tuesday 7th February – Hearing Help Essex by Sophie Eade

Tuesday 7th March – Cyber Prevention by Gavin Saunders

Tuesday 4th April – Essex & Herts Air Ambulance

Tuesday 2nd May – Chelmer Footcare by Maria Walters

Tuesday 6th June – Fire Prevention by Les Mann

Tuesday 4th July – The National Trust by David Simmonds (TBC)

Tuesday 1st August – The Tiptree Jam Factory by Liz Baker (TBC)

Tuesday 5th September – AGM (all welcome)

Members fees due, £10pp

Saturday 9th September, 1-4pm – Summer Fete (all donations welcome, refreshments available)

Tuesday 3rd October – The Glass Girls (TBC)

Menu for Christmas Dinner available

Tuesday 7th November, 1-4pm – Quiz Time!

+ Fish & Chips

Saturday 9th December – Christmas Meal (12.30pm TBC)



*The Good Companions gratefully acknowledge financial
support from the Little Waltham Parish Council*

Memorial Hall, Brook Hill, Little Waltham, Chelmsford CM3 3LN. Charity number: 1023827



Digigo on demand bus service

The Parish Council would like to remind residents about the handy DigiGo 'on demand' bus service. Using the app you can book, pay and arrange to be collected from your home and travel to a number of destinations within the route map shown below including :

- **Broomfield Hospital**
- **Braintree Town Centre**
Train Station and Bus Interchange
- **Chelmsford City Racecourse**
- **Great Notley Country Park**
- **Chelmer Valley Park & Ride**
- **Many local village pubs, restaurants and cafes**
- **Various places of worship and community clubs!**



You can book DigiGo via the TravelEssex app and you will even be able to track the bus as it is on its way to you!

The pricing structure is shown below.

To stay updated you can 'like' **@DigiGoUK on Facebook**, or visit **www.digigo.uk** for more information.

DigiGo fares offer three ticket options - Adult, Young person and Concession.

The table below outlines single fares, per person.

| Distance | Adult | Young person | Concession* |
|--------------|-------|--------------|-------------|
| 0 to 2 miles | £2.50 | £1.87 | Free |
| 2 to 4 miles | £4.00 | £3.00 | Free |
| 4 to 6 miles | £6.00 | £4.50 | Free |
| 7+ miles | £8.00 | £6.00 | Free |

**Concession's travel for free after 9am on weekdays and at all times at weekends. Before 9am on weekdays the standard fares apply. A young person on DigiGo services is classified as under 18 years of age.*

Group bookings via the app are now available – for up to 6 people, so that's you plus 5 others.



LITTLE WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB

The Club's Autumn Programme began in September with Darren Lerigo of Modern Mint giving a presentation on A Typical British Garden. Useful advice was given about how improvements could be made by using clever planting. A list of useful and sometimes unusual plants was available to members of the audience.

In October we were welcomed into the World of Bees, by Stacy Cronly-Dillon who enthusiastically shared her knowledge of bees and the intriguing world in which they live. Stacy began her career as an Apiarist with just 2 hives of bees and has worked up to keeping 250 hives and brought along honey and items made from beeswax for sale.

Covid struck our advertised speaker in November. Zsuzsa Serer of Spiceostic Plants kindly agreed to come along at very short notice, bringing with her an exciting and colourful display of glamorous orchids. Orchids were introduced to Britain by adventurous plant hunters as early as the seventeenth century and continued to be much sought after by wealthy clients. Nowadays some orchids are mass produced by micro propagation, making them less expensive.

Zsuzsa explained that the cultivation of orchids is dependent on replicating the conditions in which they grow in nature: some grow in the leaf canopy of trees where they find dappled sunlight and moisture and other orchids grow on the ground beneath trees where there is less light but more moisture. *During her talk, Zsuzsa gave us many tips on how to get the best out of orchid plants in the home.*

Suttons Seed and Sundries Catalogues were distributed offering members 50% discount on seeds and 15% discount on sundries

DECEMBER will see Club members enjoying a home grown social evening and like our gardens, we will have a rest in January.

On FEBRUARY 1ST we are looking forward to Carolin Rogers from The Wilderness Foundation who will be giving her presentation 'A Down to Earth Community Allotment Project.

Our AGM follows on MARCH 1st and we will use this occasion to mark the Gardening Club's fortieth year.

On SATURDAY APRIL 8th the Club will be staging THE SPRING FLOWER SHOW. There are classes for spring flowers, vegetables, flower arranging, cookery, craft and photography - something for everyone! There is no entry fee to place entries in the Show and there is no charge for coming into the Memorial Hall to view the horticultural and culinary talent.

Homemade refreshments will be available and there will be A PLANT STALL, full of bargains.

Schedules of classes will be available in February - Contact Marion on 01245 361857, or Maggie on 01245 360042 or look on our website www.littlewalthamgardeningclub.co.uk

Our Gardening Club is enthusiastic, small and friendly. Please pay us a visit one evening (£3.00), or join for an annual subscription of £10.00 making you eligible for 50% discount on Sutton Seeds

Maggie Williams (01245 360042)

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Little Waltham Drama Group

So... with Christmas just around the corner thoughts are also beginning to turn to the New Year and of course January is Pantomime time here in Little Waltham.... 'Oh, yes it is!'. This year the Panto is Pinocchio and the cast have been rehearsing since September and are very much looking forward to performing to full houses.

The Pantomime dates are as follows:

Matinée Performances: 15th and 21st January

Evening Performances: 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st January

There will be a licensed bar, soft drinks and ice-creams available at the performances.

Ticket prices are £9 (concessions - £8) and can be purchased by following the link at **www.lwdg.org**

We very much look forward to seeing as many of you as possible there and thank you in advance for supporting your local drama group.

Little Waltham Drama Group
presents their annual pantomime



Matinee Performances:
January 15th & 21st

Evening Performances:
January 18th – 21st

Tickets: Follow the link at **www.lwdg.org**

A pantomime by Tom Whalley • www.tomwhalleypantomimes.com

How to advertise in this magazine

Little Waltham Parish Council is committed to assisting local businesses by providing advertising space in this magazine which is circulated to around 550 homes within this Parish. The magazine is published quarterly and one year's advertising covering 4 issues costs as follows:

Black and White

Half page £140.00 • Quarter page £70 • Eighth page £35

Full Colour

Half page inside the covers £300 • Back cover in full colour £400

To advertise please contact the Clerk Suzanne Walker by email – littlewaltham@gmail.com

Or by phone 01376 331251. Your artwork will need to be sent to the above email address. Payment to be made by cheque to Little Waltham Parish Council.



A time for mists and fruitfulness
t's been a busy new start for the
Little Waltham Meadows. Even
though it's autumn there's new life
at the reserve with new volunteer
wardens and work parties.

We've recently been clearing
Reedmace from the flood pond in
the lower meadow; and with the
recent downpours, it's filling nicely
with clear water. This not only
allows sun light into the water, but also lets the space function as it was designed, to
help any flood water collect away from housing and then flow out once water levels
drop.



We've also spent a soggy session taking off old tree guards from the hedge line down
the side of the green lane, despite getting wetter than a Haddocks bathing costume.

The next big push over the festive period will be several practical days doing some
hedge-laying. A decent section of the green lane will be laid to reinvigorate the
boundary and open up the lane to some winter sunshine. Currently the boundary is
getting leggy, so the laying will encourage the hedge to thicken at the bottom making
it more enticing for small mammals and birds. We'll also be laying the hedge around
the car park on Back Lane to not only keep the hedge healthy but also make the
parking safer and more open.



This island of brambles will also be
coming out. This will help stop visitors
being channelled to either side forming
muddy paths, and allow the grass
sward to improve and spread in the
spring.

You'll also soon see the signage being
updated and refreshed.

There are plenty of dog walkers and
families enjoying the space and fresh
air.

It's definitely the time of year for catching leaves and making wishes.

Wishes on the Wind

Wishes on the wind
swirling leaves
falling and spinning
carried from the boughs
stretching across the grey sky.

Running
jumping
laughing
hands flailing
grabbing
missing
grabbing again
leaves changing direction at
the last minute
falling to the floor
and so scan again
eyes aloft
waiting for the next leaf to fall.

Another heads your way
and you jump
arms up
hands clapping
and you have it
leaf in hand
gasping
now to make a wish
anything you wish
before letting the leaf continue
to the ground.

And why not have another go
as the wind shakes the crowns
and the air fills once again
with wishes on the wind.

As the nights draw in and the Rooks caw, if you are wandering through the meadows and feel the urge to help do some practical work and get extra fresh air while getting some well-earned exercise then keep your eye out on the EWT website for our work party dates.

Neil Bailey
Voluntary Warden LWM



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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



Allotments available!

As from 1st January 2023 there will be a number of allotment plots vacant and available for new tenants at the site at Blasford Hill, Little Waltham.

Are you interested in cultivating a plot and growing your own food? If so please contact the Clerk on **01376 331251** or by email clerk@littlewaltham.org.uk and information can be provided to you as to the price of the plot and the locations within the site. ***Tenants on the site have water from standpipes included in the annual rent, the use of communal sheds and there are regular deliveries of fresh horse poo as well! There is also a community orchard and wildflower area to enjoy.***



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At the last meeting of the Memorial Hall Management Committee, the passing of former Chairman, (2007 – 2019), Richard Thomas, was noted with much regret and with condolences to his wife, Rosemary and family.

Richard came initially to the Memorial Hall with the Drama Group and joined the Committee in 2005. This was at the time when long service Chairman, Derek Elliott, was coming to the end of his over 35 years' dedicated service - a hard act to follow!

The Hall's finances were not strong after so much modernisation and enlargement. In his practical way and with his 'hands on' ability, Richard responded to emergencies of all sorts, drains/electrics etc., as well as masterminding successful grant applications including the major frontage project, and commissioning the separate storage building. A Sunday afternoon routine to set the boiler timetables for the week just one small example of much time given so conscientiously.

Thank you Richard from your many friends and community at large.

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



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Broomfield & District U3A

Broomfield u3a is part of a nationwide collection of independent charitable 'branches' totalling 430,000 members.

We hold monthly meetings with guest speakers here at the Village Hall and offer a broad range of member-led interest groups that provide opportunities for those no longer working or acting as a full time carer, to come together to share knowledge, skills or interests, and to learn and have fun in a friendly, sociable atmosphere.

Membership costs only £15.00 a year and entitles you to receive the national magazine *Third Age Matters* five times a year, our own monthly newsletter and to join (or lead!) as many Interest Groups as you wish. You can also attend a wide range of on-line learning events run by the Third Age Trust. *(Upcoming topics range from Live Cooking Demonstrations, Apple device skills, Seated Yoga and Solving Maths problems!)* To find out more about our range of activities, or to make contact, just go to: **u3asites.org.uk/broomfield/welcome** or alternatively, why not come along to one of our meetings and check us out? *(2nd Wednesday in the month from 1.30)*

u3a learn,
laugh,
live



(October's Walking Group en route to Gosbecks)

**TO ALL PATIENTS OF THE LITTLE WALTHAM AND GREAT
NOTLEY SURGERIES
YOU ARE WELCOME TO COME TO THE PATIENT
PARTICIPATION GROUP'S
OPEN MEETING
ON
WEDNESDAY 25th JANUARY 2023 AT 7.00 PM
AT
GREAT NOTLEY SURGERY**

Find out about what is happening in your Medical Practice.

You will have the opportunity to raise any questions you might have about the Surgeries and how they are run. It is hoped that a GP and two Practice Professionals will be attending the meeting. You will also be able to meet the Patient Group Committee and discover more about what it does and how you can help.



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developing as individuals together in a distinctively
Christian environment.**

1 Corinthians, 12:14 "For the body is not one member, but many".



It has been a fantastic Autumn term at Little Waltham C.E.V.A Primary and the children have worked extremely hard in the run-up to the festive period. The Christmas period is always a packed timetable with Key Stage 1 and Reception classes performing a nativity to parents and our Key Stage 2 visiting our local church for a Christmas carol service.

We were delighted earlier this term to welcome parents back to school for our Harvest and Remembrance services. As a school, we were also honoured to be invited by our community to take part in the Act of Remembrance at the war memorial in Little Waltham and for a pupil to have the opportunity to read.

During the Autumn term, our pupils have been on a range of school trips such as Mountfitchet Castle and Toy Museum, Essex Fire Museum, Colchester Castle and to the Palace Theatre in Southend to watch Oliver Twist. We welcomed the 'Wonderdome' – an indoor planetarium – to school to enrich learning in Science and our Year 6 pupils had a virtual visit with Berlie Doherty, author of Street Child. We are also pleased to have introduced a range of clubs across the school this term. Pupils have taken part in football, archery, running, fitness and martial arts to name a few.

The children have also showcased their learning through performances and we were treated to a marvellous Victorian class assembly by our Year 6 class. We look forward to many more special events in school including our participation in the Take One Picture art project in partnership with the National Gallery. We are looking forward to showcasing this work in school at the start of Spring.

We are also delighted that our school achieved a 'Good' outcome in our recent SIAMS inspection and thank you to all the hard work, effort and support from our whole school community to enable our school to achieve this.

Lastly, I would like to wish all members of our school community a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Stephen Saunders
Headteacher**

Little Waltham C.E.V.A Primary School



The Parish Council continues to work hard to address the concerns of residents in relation to traffic issues.

Regarding the volume of traffic travelling through the village centre and the ongoing concerns regarding rat running, an origin and destination survey is awaited. Once the outcome is known it will assist in addressing what outcomes would assist in trying to resolve the problem and the Parish Council will of course keep residents updated.

The Parish Council has also liaised with the local Police. Please remember that if you suffer an accident or damage to a vehicle, it is important to report it to the Police so as to be included within official figures which are so important to demonstrate the extent of the problem within the Parish.

Essex County Council has agreed to fund and install village gates at the entrances to the village by the school, the bottom of the street by the village sign and at Back Lane. The Parish Council is currently negotiating the position so that they have the maximum impact of alerting drivers that they are entering a village environment and should adjust their speed accordingly.

The Parish Council is also actively involved in the 20s Plenty initiative which is bringing pressure to bear on Highway authorities to reduce speed limits in residential areas to 20mph. A number of local authorities in the UK have already adopted this approach and the Parish Council considers it will be beneficial for this area as well.

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EXPERIENCED - LOCAL - FAMILY RUN

The Parish Council will shortly be distributing 20s Plenty stickers which are designed to be stuck on bins and displayed as prominently as possible. It is hoped that as many people as possible will want to become involved in making the village a calmer and safer place.

Finally, would you like to volunteer to join the village speed watch group? The group is an important tool to help reduce speeding in the Parish and support the Essex County Council zero vision strategy. Training, equipment and insurance are provided.

For more information and to volunteer please contact the Parish Clerk 01376 331251 or by email clerk@littlewaltham.org.uk



News from Essex Libraries - Warm Welcome Initiative

Warm and inviting spaces, hot drinks, activities, and the opportunity to connect with others are promised this winter in our new 'Warm Welcomes' initiative.

'Warm Welcomes', launched on 2 November at Chelmsford Library with local launches across Essex on 5 November, commits to supporting residents over the winter, particularly those affected by the cost-of-living crisis and rise in energy prices.

This additional support includes warm drinks (availability will vary in each library), warm spaces for groups, and extra clubs and activities including arts and crafts, homework clubs, cookery, mindfulness activities, advice sessions and skills and training. The offer will vary across libraries. You can find out more about activities at individual libraries at this link <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/events/>

In addition to library staff helping facilitate activities and being on hand to engage with library users, we're recruiting 'Warm Welcomes' volunteers across the county's libraries, who will be on hand to offer company to those feeling isolated, give advice and guidance to those in need, and run activities, clubs and events for residents to enjoy.

Library App

You can have free, on-the-move access to our hundreds of online courses and our online reference resources – simply by downloading our library app.

To access them, simply select 'Our Libraries', then 'Free courses and reference services' within the app.

Download the app free of charge now, via your usual app store – search for 'Essex Library Services'.

For those that don't know us, Hello from all THE HUB team, we are
THE HUB - Farm shop & Light Bites. Based at Warners Farm, Greerham roundabout.

"In a way, we are your local farmer's market but every day of the week offering the best in food but also we're a handy place to grab those daily essentials such as milk and bread or why not order your fresh fruit & veg box to collect".

In addition to our Farm shop, The HUB has a small seating area in our Farm Shop serving tea, coffee and cake, we recently added our Bistro which enables us to serve you great restaurant tasting food throughout the day, breakfast & lunch plus our recent extension is THE HUB PUB so with an alcohol license too, we are open also Friday nights till 10pm, currently serving Tapas style food it's also a friendly place for a glass of wine, prosecco or why not try our draught beers.

We believe a great cosy place to catch up with friends and family plus we love a board or card game!

We named it The HUB because we are a daily place to meet friends at the heart of our community so join us at The HUB and see for yourself. We would advise to book a table by calling 01245 527109

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It has been really wonderful to have so many more people from our Parish join us for our services – it really has made our lovely little church come alive. We are delighted that we now have a new priest, Reverend Dan Pierce, and we very much welcome him, his wife (Ruth) and family and look forward to our first service with him on January 1st at 11.00 a.m. Everyone is very welcome to join us for this service and as always there will be refreshments afterwards to give us all time to have a friendly chat over teas and coffees.

But.... before this we have Christmas and this year we will be holding our Crib Service on Friday, December 23rd at 4.00 pm.

Again everyone is very welcome indeed to join us in a what will be a very much child friendly service complete with well-known carols and a bit of dressing up! Festive refreshments will be served at the end of the Crib Service and we hope that it will really get everyone into the spirit of Christmas. ***Do come along and join us and you can be assured of a very warm welcome indeed!***

LITTLE WALTHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Minister: Rev. Hans Stein 01371 875654 Web Site: www.littlewalthamurc.org.uk

Services at 10.30 am:

January 2023

1st Rev. Geoffrey Griggs

8th Marina Price

15th Rev. Geoffrey Griggs

22nd Rev. Hans Stein **HC**

29th Rev. Hans Stein

(Joint service with Dunmow URC at Little Waltham)

February 2023

5th Ian Chamberlain

12th Rev. Hans Stein

19th John Amos

26th Rev. Hans Stein **HC**

March 2023

5th Rev. Geoffrey Griggs

12th Marina Price

17th Ian Chamberlain

26th Rev. Geoffrey Griggs **HC**

On the 1st Thursday of the month there is **COFFEE & CAKE** from 10.00am to 12.00noon, and on the 3rd Saturday of the month **COFFEE MORNING** from 10.00 am to 11.00am.

Please see the Church Notice Board for updates.

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.

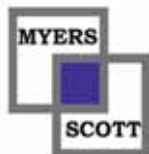
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Little Waltham Parish Council - Your Councillors

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