

Little Waltham PARISH MAGAZINE

Issue 23 - Spring 2023



VOLUNTEERING

Looking for a new challenge?

Here at Citizens Advice Chelmsford, we are always keen to recruit

new volunteers to join our friendly team and help us deliver the service. Whether a client has a problem with a neighbour, or has applied for benefits and been rejected, (and all things in-between) we try to help them to resolve it. We give people the knowledge and confidence they need to find their way forward - whoever they are, and whatever their problem. At the moment we are particularly looking for volunteers for our dedicated rural service. Excellent training and support will be provided. If you would



Chelmsford

like more information, please contact the Project Lead, Peter Harland on 01245 205653 for an informal discussion.

ADVICE

Citizens Advice Chelmsford has recently established a service dedicated to the many rural districts which fall within the city boundary. This project gives residents in those areas a dedicated phone line which supplying direct access to a member of the rural team.

You might have a problem with benefits, the cost of living, or debt, or just need a bit of information – whatever it is, we will do our best to help you move forward. **We offer free, confidential advice which is independent and impartial. If you need our service call 01245 951339 to speak to an adviser.**

Neighbourhood Watch is about local people working together to create a safer, attractive, friendly place to live, a neighbourhood where crime is less likely to happen, and people are less likely to turn to anti-social behaviour. It's about you looking out for your neighbours and them looking out for you, crossing barriers of age, race, and culture, for everyone's good. It's about making sure that no one need feel alone, scared or vulnerable in the place where they live. You can find out more on the website at :



<https://www.chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk/aboutnhw.html>

Little Waltham Parish Council received a presentation from the Chelmsford scheme co-ordinator at the January meeting and for such a scheme to be set up for Little Waltham there is a need for a local resident to volunteer as a co-ordinator for this area. If this is something that is of interest to you please contact the Clerk who can then put you in touch with the link person at Neighbourhood Watch. **The Clerk may be contacted at clerk@littlewaltham.org.uk or by phone 01376 331251**

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 – clerk@littlewaltham.org.uk

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.



23. Spring 2023

Little Waltham PARISH MAGAZINE

Edition	Input Deadline	Delivery
Spring	1st March	End March
Summer	1st June	End June
Autumn	1st September	End September
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 spring issue of this magazine. This will be the last issue to be distributed to properties in the Channels area of the Parish together with certain residents of Wheeler's Hill north of Essex Regiment Way and parts of Domsey Lane as those areas will be moving into the new Chelmsford Garden Community Council area as a result of the Community Governance Review carried out by Chelmsford City Council.

This will mean that there will be fewer residents in the Parish generally and the Parish Council has worked hard to make sure that the financial impact of this change has been kept to a moderate level and you can find out more in an article about the precept within this edition.

The other impact of those changes is to reduce the number of Councillors serving on Little Waltham Parish Council from 9 to 7 which will take effect from the election that will take place on 4th May 2023 and you can find out more about the election in this issue.

The Play in the Park scheme will again be taking place for children at Taylor's Park during the Easter and summer holidays with morning and afternoon sessions available on 12th April and 9th August respectively. Booking needs to be made on the Chelmsford City Council website <https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/leisure-centres/where/community-sport-and-wellbeing/play-in-the-park/>

Regarding the project to upgrade the Pavilion, a project manager has now been appointed by the Parish Council and he has drawn up plans for the building which are being considered by Councillors. The next stage will be to cost the scheme and seek funding. I will keep you updated in future issues.

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that it has successfully renewed the Local Council Award Scheme certification at Foundation level. This is an award that recognises good governance in the Local Government sector. The Parish Council has also signed the Respect and Civility Pledge underlining its commitment to act in a respectful way to all and underlining its commitment to standards of good governance generally.

The Parish Council was concerned to hear about recent criminal activity in the Parish including a number of burglaries and thus continues to liaise with the Police and is promoting the Neighbourhood Watch scheme for this Parish – you can find out more in this magazine.

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. Please note however, that as a result of the date of the election the May meeting will be taking place on 16th May 2023

Suzanne Walker

Parish Clerk (01376 331251)

email: clerk@littlewaltham.org.uk





OVER THE GARDEN GATE February 2023

Do you remember the long hot dry summer of 2022? By now I think nature has well and truly redressed the water balance. The soil is distinctly soggy, but the mild temperatures in January have brought the daffodils near the Little Waltham War Memorial into bloom, together with snowdrops, aconites and hellebores. Spring is just around the corner.!

The cold snap before Christmas caught many gardeners, (myself included), unprepared. After so many relatively mild winters, we've been lulled into a false sense of complacency and the hard frosts of December damaged many plants that we have come to regard as 'hardy'. Shrubs that have been seen 'as tough as old boots' have succumbed - even privet hedges have lost their leaves. Likewise my Pittisporum, so often used in church flower arrangements.

The best thing that we can do is wait until the weather and soil warms up and review the situation. All may not be lost, damaged plants may shoot at the base. Hold back with the secateurs just yet. (But it is time to prune bush roses, don't forget!)

Continuing with the weather topic - Candlemas day is on 2nd February, 40 days after Christmas. I'll leave the biblical significance of the day to our Ministers. According to country folk law, the weather on this day is supposed to predict the conditions for the remainder of the winter. "If Candlemas Day be fair and bright, winter will have another fight. If Candlemas Day be cloud and rain, winter will not visit us again". We'll see!

Keep warm and well.

Maggie Williams (01245 360042)

P.S. By the way, snowdrops are sometimes called "Candlemas Bells"

**ALL ABOUT
GARDENS**

**Garden Maintenance
& Clearance**

**Tree Surgery
& Removal**

Hard Landscaping



Robert - 07879 003135



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



Chairman's Statement Little Waltham Parish Council 2023

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Antony Kingham and I have lived in Little Waltham for the past 21 years. In the middle of 2022 I was elected to the role of Chairman of the Parish Council for Little Waltham, having already served on the parish council for a number of years. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our previous Chairman Edith Robertson for her hard work and dedication over the previous tenure. Having seen first hand as a councillor the issues that we deal with as a village, I want to ensure that our focus is for LWPC to work towards a greater sense of community within the parish. Regarding the two major housing developments on either side of the village. We continue conversations with both Bloor Homes and Chelmsford Borough Council to ensure that we are informed and aware of any new plans or changes to the current position, and needless to say we will keep you closely informed of any significant changes. The Parish Council continues to make representations in relation to planning matters and in particular the East Anglia Green pylon consultation.

Due to the on going local development, one of our major priorities is the problem with traffic using the village as a cut through. There is no easy solution to this issue, but we are aware this is a problem that affects the entire village. We therefore part funded, in conjunction with the Local Highways Panel, an Origin and Destination Survey, which was carried out recently over a period of 4 days. This survey will assist in finding ways to tackle both the speed and volume of traffic within the village at peak times. In addition, we have joined the Essex initiative known as 20's Plenty. This is part of a national campaign to reduce the speed limit to 20 miles per hour in towns and village centres. 60 Essex Parish Councils have now signed up to this campaign.

Regarding play facilities in the last year new goal ends have been installed in the tennis court and the play surfaces in the children's play area have been upgraded. The Parish Council has decided to develop the Cricket Pavilion, which sits on the main communal area in the village. Plans have now been drawn up to refurbish the interior and exterior, including a kitchen and toilet facilities. This will enable us to use this space and outside area as a community hub. As I am sure you will have noticed the new village signs have been installed at all entrances to the village, but due to the recent accident on Back Lane, we are now in active discussion with the council as we feel that the signs there are not in the most suitable position. Having had issues as a Parish last year with the large events that were held at Wheelers Farm, we have been proactive, and I am pleased to say successful, in reducing the maximum number of attendees to a much more manageable number, and as a result of that we feel that the issues previously experienced will not happen again. The Parish Council was pleased to renew its Foundation award certification in the Local Council Awards scheme demonstrating that it meets good standards of governance. Lastly, I would like to thank all of my fellow councillors for their continued efforts and support, along with special thanks to our Clerk Suzanne who keeps us all very much on point. We are always open to suggestion and very pleased to meet any of you during our monthly Parish Council Meetings which are held on the first Tuesday of every month at the Memorial Hall. In conclusion I would like to assure you that the LWPC has the very best interests of the parishioners at all times.

Antony Kingham

Chairman - Little Waltham Parish Council

Little Waltham Drama Group
presents
A MURDER MYSTERY



Performances:
May 18th, 19th & 20th
at 7.30 p.m.

Licensed bar

Tickets available
from

A Murder Mystery Play
by Chris Martin
www.murderplays.com

www.lwdg.org

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 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

And so the curtain has closed on our annual Pantomime Pinocchio and the cast thoroughly enjoyed playing to such appreciative audiences – it makes the months of rehearsal so worth while so thank you for supporting us.

Rehearsals are now just beginning for our next show, a Murder Mystery, 'Who Killed the Director'. This will be a great chance for you to get your friends together, put your 'sleuthing hats' on and join us in unmasking the murderer. There will be a licensed bar at all performances which should help lubricate the little grey cells.

Performances will be on May 18th, 19th and 20th and we very much hope that you will be able to join us. Tickets will be available nearer to the time and can be bought by following the link www.lwdg.org

Our drama group is also always keen to welcome new members so if you fancy treading the boards, doing the lights, scenery or just being a part of a group who enjoy each other's company do please either pop along to the Memorial Hall (Monday and Thursday at 8.00 pm) or contact Hugh Godfrey at hugh.godfrey@virgin.net for more details.



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

You may recall from information in previous editions of this magazine that the Parish Council has agreed to contribute the sum of £3,000.00 towards an Origin and Destination survey the aim of which is to establish, with the aid of ANPR cameras, the time it takes for every vehicle that enters the village to exit thus indicating those drivers that are residents and those that are visiting the village for a purpose from those who are 'rat running' through and to demonstrate the volume of traffic and the extent of the problem.

The Parish Council is pleased to say that the survey, which was organised by Essex County Council Highways department, was undertaken from 24th to 27th January 2023. At the time of writing this article the results are awaited. Essex Highways have made it clear that demonstrable evidence of a rat running issue is required to make any changes to the public highway so it is hoped that this survey will provide the information

required to effect change for the benefit of residents.

Essex County Council 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 gates have been installed but unfortunately the gate at Back Lane was destroyed following a vehicle crash. The Parish Council is currently negotiating the position of the replacement gate as it considers that its previous position was not particularly visible and is considering installing planters around the other new gates again to increase visibility to remind drivers that they are entering a village environment and should adjust their speed accordingly.

The Parish Council continues to support the 20s Plenty initiative which is bringing pressure to bear on Highway authorities to reduce speed limits in residential areas to 20mph and it has bought a number of stickers that residents may choose to put on wheely bins to support the campaign for the Parish which will be distributed shortly.



Parish and City Council Elections 4 May 2023

This May, local elections are happening to elect councillors to all wards across Chelmsford City Council, as well as some parishes, including Little Waltham. Everything you need to know about the elections can be found at www.chelmsford.gov.uk/elections including how to register to vote, Voter ID (a new requirement – passport, photo driving licence, bus pass, blue badges), how to use a postal or proxy vote.

I am particularly keen to get people to join their Parish Council - find out more at www.chelmsford.gov.uk/voting-and-elections/stand-for-election/.

I started 20 years ago and initially combined it with full time work in a demanding job, through retirement, and becoming a City Cllr 4 years ago, and a County Cllr 2 years ago. Being a Parish Cllr can mean as little as just attending 1 meeting a month, or being much more actively involved. It is important to have a full range of experiences and ages.

Traffic: Some of you may have noticed the ANPR cameras that appeared at the 3 entrances to LW Village in January for 4 days. County Council and LWPC have jointly funded a survey to monitor the type of traffic travelling into and through the village. By timing every vehicle over those 4 days, we should be able to categorise the traffic into 3 general types (residents, service users, rat runners) and gain a better understanding of how we might address the volume of traffic. Analysis of the results will be provided to myself and LWPC.

You may have also noticed that ECC have added “gateways” to each entrance, which are meant to give vehicles the impression that they are entering an area that expects them to slow down and drive carefully. Unfortunately, and ironically, the gateway on Back Lane was knocked down by a vehicle within a few days of it going up! The replacement will be via an insurance claim.

I deal with many issues via my email inbox, and most are to do with carriageway and pavement defects. We have just come to the end of a “Member Led Pothole” scheme where each County Cllr was given an allowance of 36 potholes. I contacted all my 10 PCs to nominate their worst holes. It seems some County Cllrs did not use all, or any, of their allowance, so I

kept submitting them. I have submitted over 80 holes, which are progressively being done (should be all done by April). It does mean I have been getting more complaints about roadworks. I have thanked the Highways Cabinet Member for running the scheme and suggested that an equivalent pavement scheme be set up, and he is doing exactly that. With a new member Led scheme of £4M to address more potholes and pavement defects. I will consult with my Parish Councils to select the worst!

2023 RideLondon-Essex

RideLondon will return Sunday 28th May along the same route as last year. This route goes through 3 of the Parish's in my division, but also effects all the others. Because of the issues last year, I insisted on being on the Steering Group and particularly wanted to make sure that the businesses that were badly affected last year, do not suffer the same issues. More info at ridelondon.co.uk/community-info including info on how local access will operate.

There will be two Public Meeting/Consultations in my division:

13th March at Writtle College

TBD in Great Waltham

Recycling Centres Booking system

ECC have decided to implement a booking system for the Recycling Centres from Monday 13 March. This was a Cabinet decision and I have to admit that I am not fully on board with it! I understand this is to help manage waiting times, reduce congestion, and improve the customer experience. The booking process has already been trialled using the Rayleigh Recycling Centre. I am a member of the Scrutiny Committee that reviews this decision and I will ensure that the decision is well scrutinised. - in terms of benefits and drawbacks (e.g., impact on fly tipping).

Some sites do suffer queues, sometimes backing onto major roads. I am told that just applying the booking system to these, could result in residents travelling to other sites and creating queues there. There is no restriction on the number of bookings you can make as long as the waste you are disposing of is household waste. I understand that same day booking will be introduced. More info at

www.essex.gov.uk/news/booking-system-planned-for-essex-recycling-centres



Could you be a Parish Councillor?

There will be an election for Little Waltham Parish Council on Thursday 4th May 2023. The Parish Council is the first tier of democracy and deals with the issues directly concerning your parish so why not get involved and contribute to your community?

What issues does the Parish Council deal with?

The Parish Council deals with the following matters –

- *Maintains the play area and tennis courts on the playing fields and the car park*
- *Maintains recreational facilities to consider the provision of new play equipment in those areas*
- *Keeping the Parish clean and tidy by arranging regular litter picking and the emptying of bins in the Parish*
- *Provides bins and dog bins in the Parish*
- *Arranges for grass cutting of certain public areas in the Parish in order to maintain a tidy standard.*
- *Maintains certain bus stops*
- *In order to maintain a pleasant environment, the Parish Council arranges gardening and the provision and maintenance of flower tubs*
- *It is responsible for the War Memorial on The Street*
- *Is responsible for the allotments*
- *Works hard to address specific issues of concern to the community – specifically at present the issue of rat running traffic through the village centre*
- *Undertaking an upgrade of the Pavilion to provide a Community hub for Little Waltham*
- *Makes representations in relation to planning applications and consultations*
- *Works with other agencies and organisations for the benefit of the Parish*
- *The provision of grants to local voluntary organisations*
- *Plans for the future of this Parish*

I'm not sure I have the time!

The Parish Council meets on an evening on the first Tuesday of each month except August. The meetings last about 2 hours. Sometimes it would be useful to be involved in specific projects or activities which may take up more time. The day to day administration is dealt with by the Clerk. Most of the existing Councillors have full time jobs so the commitment of time is not excessive!

What sort of knowledge do I need?

The existing Councillors come from all walks of life and you don't need to be specially qualified. An interest in your community and a commitment to do the best for the residents of the Parish are the most important things together with your life experience and common sense views! Training is available and the clerk is available to advise or obtain advice on more technical matters.

Are there any specific qualifying requirements?

Yes! You need to be aged 18 or above, be an elector in the Parish or have resided or worked within the Parish for a period of at least a year or reside within 3 miles of the Parish, you should not have gone to prison in the last 5 years and you should not be bankrupt!

How can I stand as a Councillor

Nomination forms and guidance will be made available on the Chelmsford City Council website early in April 2023
<https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/voting-and-elections/upcoming-elections/>

I would like to know a bit more

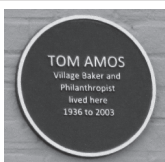
If you would like to know more about being a Councillor you could always come along to a meeting of Little Waltham Parish Council or give the Parish Clerk a ring for a chat and if you wish she can arrange for you to have an informal chat with an existing Councillor. Contact the Clerk by phone on 01376 331251 or email clerk@littlewaltham.org.uk

Little Waltham PARISH MAGAZINE

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 £870,000.00 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.

The Trustees welcome grant applications from Little and Great Waltham residents and organisations which are considered at quarterly meetings. Please go to the website at the base of this article for details of how to apply.

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

Little Waltham PARISH MAGAZINE

Allotments



Allotments available!

Would you like to cultivate an allotment and grow your own food?

There are available allotments at the Blasford Hill site if you are interested. The plots are half size plots so a bit more manageable than the really large plots.

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.



If you would like to know more please contact the Clerk on 01376 331251 or by email clerk@littlewaltham.org.uk and information can

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, Greenman 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 FOR OPENING HOURS & WHAT'S ON VISIT www.thehubfarmshop.com





DEFIBRILLATOR LAUNCH

kindly donated
to us by



now at our Chatham
Green Site



The Wilderness Foundation are delighted to announce the launch of a new defibrillator unit at their HQ in Chatham Green. The life-saving defibrillator can be found on the side of their education centre at Whitbreads Business Centre and was made possible by the kind donations from RALPHH and the Fowler Smith & Jones Trust.

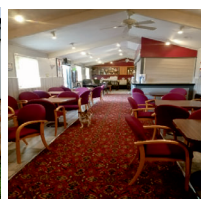
The defibrillator will serve the local community in and around Chatham Green and also all service users including over 7,000 young people and adults who visit the Wilderness Foundation every year for environmental education, mental health services and outdoor therapy.

Little Waltham Open Gardens and Classic Car Show

This year, the open gardens and car show is planned for Sunday June 25th, 10.30 am to 4.30 pm, and will be held in support of Farleigh Hospice, as before. It is a great community event, and has been very successful in raising funds as well as showcasing the village. We have been able to offer a good variety of gardens for visitors to enjoy, but it's good to have some new ones each year as well as those who join us regularly. It doesn't have to be a perfect garden - some are, but others are more 'work in progress'. Our visitors do enjoy seeing gardens as they develop; they are often a source of inspiration. If you would like to take part by opening your garden on the day, please do get in touch with me, and I can give you further details. You can contact me by email (dblaine@aol.com), or phone (07900493544). Please do get in touch if you are interested - **David Blaine**

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



www.thewillowpractice.com

The Willow Practice

Counselling & Psychotherapy

Little Waltham, Chelmsford

Harley Street, London

Tel No: 01245 364207

Mobile: 07742917874

* Relationship Issues (individual/couple) * Lack of Self-esteem & Confidence * Stress * Grief * Bullying
* Dependency Issues * Anxiety * Anger * Addiction
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Fully Qualified Psychotherapist
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Keeping the county warm



Fuel Services

Contact Bfs for prompt delivery of your domestic heating oil direct from our local Danbury Fuel Services depot. You'll find no better service, no better value.

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Broomfield & District U3A

Broomfield u3a is part of a nationwide network of locally-run groups with over 430,000 members nationally, that provide a wide range of opportunities to come together to learn, share knowledge and skills, participate in activities and have fun in the process.

We offer a range of special interest and activity groups all run by members, as well as monthly gatherings which include entertaining and informative talks from a diverse selection of guest speakers.

Membership costs only £15.00 per year and is open to everyone who's not working full time.

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, at the Village Hall)

u3a learn,
laugh,
live



Local Charity 'Hearing Help' give a talk on their services and answer questions on hearing impairment issues at the February meeting.

We are a small Independent SEMH school with 24 students on the outskirts of Little Waltham sent in 11 acres of land.

Monday is outdoor learning day at school and this term the students have been to Channels to practise Golf, we have also had Reiki and yoga sessions in school as well as our regular Forest School sessions. We have a whole school trip planned in March to the Hemel Hempstead Snow Centre as well as Duxford Air Museum. The student's topic this half term has been learning about Myths and Legends. We had a visit from Henry Scragg who helped the students to create their own stories and brought along some interesting artefacts to share!

We have recently started an interaction between the students and the residents of

The Belsteads School



Ayletts Residential home. Some of the residents have visited us for afternoon tea and a game of bingo, and before Christmas the students visited the residents to spread some festive cheer. We

are planning to visit this month to take an afternoon tea and have another game of bingo at the home.

As a school we have been supporting Bujagali Orphanage in Uganda. The orphanage was set up by 19-year-old Bango who was an orphan himself. The students have made bracelets to send to the orphans and we have sent a parcel containing clothes etc as well as donations towards running costs. We are hoping to be able to send some staff out to Uganda to help with building works at some point this year.

Staff and Students at The Belsteads School



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Bellringing

St Martin's Church in Little Waltham has a set of 6 bells. For a few years now there has been no one in the village with the skill to ring them and the bells have only been kept in good order thanks to the bellringers from Broomfield Church attending once a month to ring. The church is looking to find people who are willing to come along and learn how to ring or maybe you are someone who has rung in the past and would like to return to ringing?

Thanks to the ringers from Broomfield Church sessions are taking place on the first Wednesday of each month where instruction and practice will take place and if you would like to have a go please do come along! Some members of the Parish Council have already decided to take part as you can see from the photos right!

Not only is ringing enjoyable but it is good for fitness and very social as well so to find out more you can either come along to a session or contact Hugh Godfrey on hugh.godfrey@virgin.net

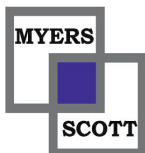


Waltham Patchwork Friends

We are a friendly patchwork and quilting group that meet on the last Tuesday of the month from 1pm to 5pm in the Little Waltham Memorial Hall.

We are looking for new members. Hand/machine sewers are welcome. For more information contact Vivienne Thompson 0793 9629780

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St Martin's Church, Little Waltham is 800 years old this year, actually it is almost certainly older than that as the first priest was appointed at St Martins in 1223. It is quite a thought to think that people have been coming to this ancient church for over 800 years, and hopefully for many years to come.

This year we welcomed Revd Dan Pierce as our Priest and we will look forward to his ministry in our community, alongside our friends in our neighbouring parishes of Great Waltham and Ford End, The Chignals and Mashbury, Great Leighs and Little Leighs and our newest neighbour the congregation of St Francis' at Beaulieu Park. It is an exciting time for our benefice.

We have been delighted to welcome the Broomfield Bell Ringers on the first Wednesday of every month and a few plucky souls from our community are hoping to learn the ancient art of bell ringing, it certainly isn't as easy as it looks.

Many people have joined us for services over the past couple of months and it has been lovely to welcome so many new friends to St Martin's.

The crib service was a lovely occasion and all who attended were treated to a mighty spread of cakes, mince pies and brownies, juice, tea, coffee and mulled wine. The team at St Martin's will endeavour to ensure there are refreshments at the end of all our services so as to facilitate an opportunity to chat and thus grow our community. The Juniper tree that has for years grown in front of the church has over the past few months been shedding branches and on the advice of a tree surgeon we reluctantly had it removed, on the plus side the view to the church is unimpeded and quite simply stunning, it also means the lovely English oak that stood behind the Juniper can now be fully appreciated.

Our next service is on 19th February at 11.00 am and then on 19th March (Mothering Sunday) also at 11.00 am, and we would be delighted to welcome you at St Martin's.

LITTLE WALTHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

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

Services at 10.30 am:

April 2023

2nd	Rev. Geoffrey Griggs (Palm Sunday)	14th	Rev. Geoffrey Griggs
9th	Rev. Geoffrey Griggs	21st	Rev. Hans Stein
16th	John De Lacy	28th	Rev. Hans Stein HC
23rd	Rev. Hans Stein HC		
30th	Rev. Hans Stein		

(Joint service with Dunmow URC at Dunmow)

May 2023

7th	Martin Payne
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June 2023

4th	Rev. Geoffrey Griggs
11th	Marina Price
18th	Rev. Geoffrey Griggs
25th	Rev. Hans Stein 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.



Explanation to Residents from the Parish Council regarding Council Tax

Very shortly all residents will be receiving their Council Tax bill setting out how much they will have to pay. Council Tax raises money for the County Council, City Council, the Police and the Fire service and also for the Parish Council. Little Waltham Parish Council is keen to let you know about the amount of Council Tax that is paid to the Parish Council (the Precept) and hopes that you will consider that it is value for money.

As residents you may be aware that Chelmsford City Council recently carried out a Community Governance Review and the outcome is that the size of the Parish of Little Waltham is to be reduced. This is because the houses in the Channels section of the Parish will be moved into the new Chelmsford Garden Community Council together with some of the more established houses up to the middle of Wheeler's Hill.

This will mean that there will be fewer residents available to pay the Precept so even if the lump sum to be raised was kept the same as last year the remaining residents would have to pay more as there are fewer residents now in the Little Waltham Parish due to these changes.

The Parish Council has carried out a very careful review of what money is required to enable the Parish Council to continue to function, provide services to you and represent your interests and has managed to agree a reduction in the lump sum to be raised.

The lump sum to be raised by way of precept will therefore reduce from £49,526.00 to £41,877.00 which is a 15% reduction. However due to the reduced number of residents, this will still see an increase in the Precept. Therefore, regrettably, the precept for a Band D property will increase by £22.40 a year from £55.81 to £78.21 which equates to an additional £1.86 a month.

The Parish Council would like to let you know what you will receive for that money and in its strategy statement for the year the Parish Council has committed to providing the following:

· To maintain Taylor's Park including all

grass cutting and tree maintenance so that it continues to be a central focal point in the village to be enjoyed by all residents

· *To maintain the children's play area, the tennis courts, the table tennis table and the goalposts in the park.*

· *To upgrade the Pavilion to provide a community hub for the village*

· *To provide allotments at the two sites in the Parish*

· *To maintain a clean and tidy environment in the Parish by arranging for gardening to be undertaken, for flower tubs to be maintained, for litter picking to be carried out and for litter bins to be emptied*

· *To maintain other assets in the village such as the defibrillator, benches, noticeboards, the village sign, the war memorial and bus shelters*

· *To address the clear concerns of Parishioners in relation to traffic in the Parish including participation in the Community Speed watch scheme and lobbying Essex County Council by way of engaging a traffic consultant and contributing to the cost of a traffic survey.*

· *To provide support to local community groups by way of the small grant scheme*

· *To make sure that the Parish Council is aware of the concerns and views of residents by communicating effectively with them by way of the website, Facebook page and the Parish magazine*

· *Responding to planning applications in the Parish and representing the concerns and views of residents within that process*

· *Making representation to third parties on issues that effect the Parish such as liaison with the Police*

In addition, the Parish Council is considering the hosting of a Christmas event in December 2023 and hosting a Warm Spaces Coffee Morning.

Councillors will continue to work hard to represent your interests and hope that residents will understand that due to the impact of the Community Governance review, there has had to be an increase in the Precept but that Councillors worked hard to make sure that the increase is both moderate and value for money for residents



On 4th May 2023 Local Government elections will be taking place. The Government has recently brought in a requirement that will take effect as from this election that to be able to vote individuals will need to provide photo ID. If you cannot provide the required ID then you will not be permitted to vote. Do make sure you have the relevant information when you go to the polling station so you do not lose your democratic right to vote!

What ID do I need?

The following forms of photo ID will be considered acceptable –

- *A passport issue by the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, a British Overseas territory, an EEA state of Commonwealth Country.*
- *A Driving licence issued by the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man or an EEA state*
- *A blue badge*
- *A national ID card issued by an EEA state*
- *An older person's bus pass*

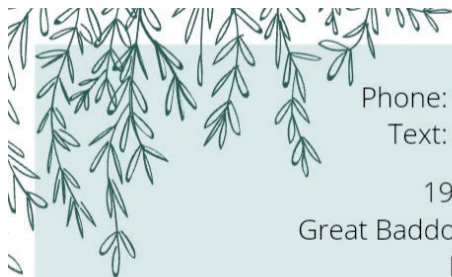
- *A Disabled person's bus pass*
- *An Oyster 60+ card*
- *A biometric immigration document*
- *An identity card bearing the proof of age standards scheme hologram*
- *And MOD form 90 ID card*

What if I do not have any of the above ID?

If you do not have any of the above forms of ID then you may apply for a Voter Authority Certificate and can use this link to do so <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>

Please note the deadline to apply for the certificate is 25th April 2023.

I want to find out more
More information is available on the Chelmsford City Council website <https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/voting-and-elections/voter-id/> or the Government website <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/voter-identification-faqs>



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

It has been a busy but enjoyable and productive term so far at Little Waltham C.E.V.A Primary School.



We started the term by taking part in the 'Take One Picture' art project run by the National Gallery. Working with a local artist, each class created a class art piece and then through debate and discussion on a focus painting created their own individual artwork. We then opened our school hall for the afternoon in early January to create an art exhibition to parents.

On Wednesday 22nd March at 2pm we will be holding a parent, pupil and community workgroup to develop ideas concerning the current swimming pool area. Unfortunately, the

swimming pool at Little Waltham is in a state of disrepair and after consultation with our parents, it is not viable to continue having a swimming pool on site. I am very aware that the community played a significant role when the swimming pool was first constructed many years ago - therefore I am inviting any interested members of the community to our school on the 22nd March to plan the next stages of the development. Hopefully once again, by working together as a school community we can develop an even better resource that will greatly benefit our pupils and our community for many years to come.



The pupils have been on some fantastic school trips this term. Year 6 visited Duxford Imperial War Museum to find out more about the Battle of Britain and Year 2 had an African Experience Day in which they learned about African culture, music and dance and performed their drumming and dancing to parents at the end of the day.

Next half term, we look forward to our Little Waltham Public Speaking Festival. All pupils will be preparing a speech about a topic they are passionate about and discussing things that really matter to them. We also are looking forward to celebrating World Book Day and later in the term an author will be visiting Little Waltham. Year 5 are also looking forward to a trip to the West End to see 'Wicked the Musical'.

Warm regards,
Mr S Saunders Headteacher



Little Waltham Meadows – *an update from one of our volunteer wardens*



It is now about 7 months since I first got involved with Little Waltham Meadows for The Essex Wildlife Trust, and I am so glad I did. I have always enjoyed the 'outdoors' and think of the countryside as an important part of our heritage and for our well-being. Volunteering with Essex Wildlife Trust has given me a small chance to have an input in keeping the land safe for the future and for our children and grandchildren. I 'walk' the Meadows regularly keeping an eye out for fallen trees, damage, overgrown paths etc., and report back to the Trust with updates of the conditions, and whether I think something needs to be done or improved. This gets

me out and about, and hopefully, makes it that little bit better for everyone who uses the meadows for dog walking or just ambling along by themselves. I meet people all the time, sometimes we stop and chat, sometimes it's just a nod, but everyone is there for the right reasons - to enjoy it! A small 'shout-out' for everyone that uses The Meadows - Thank You for not leaving litter - I really don't have much to collect when I do a litter-pick. That's a huge help. (the carpark cannot be included in this sadly). Especially pleasing for me, as someone from the 'older generation', is the number of young families using the site. I hope this will bring along another generation of people who will care for their environment and see the need for looking after what we have. Over the next few months you should notice some small improvements in The Meadows, as we have plans for hedge-laying, bramble removal, new signage, and more 'tidying'. It won't happen overnight, but we're working on it.

Bernard - *Volunteer Warden LWM*



The Parish Council was recently contacted by a representative of the Hedgehogs R Us project and would like to pass on the information received to residents and community groups about the project –

With Hedgehog numbers in decline and Hedgehog awareness on the rise, there has never been a better time to get involved in Hedgehog conservation. A Hedgehog Highway is a 5 inch gap in a fence and is essential in the battle to prevent the extinction of our endangered spiky friends. This gap allows them access to forage for food and meet mates. A Highway surround raises awareness to their plight and encourages others to take part.

Boxes of hedgehog highways surrounds can be purchased either individually or by Community Organisations where boxes of 50 at £150 can be purchased and include:

*** 50 Hedgehog Highway surrounds & 50 information leaflets**

***A display box & window sticker showing you are part of the project.**

You can find out more at
hedgehogsrus.co.uk/hedgehog-highway-project



Little Waltham Parish Council - Your Councillors

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