

LITTLE WALTHAM

Parish Magazine



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C.E.V.A. Primary School

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We need volunteers to check the defibrillator in Little Waltham. No experience is required and training is provided.

Please contact clerk@littlewaltham.org.uk for more information.

Little Waltham Drama Group
proudly present their PANTOMIME

THE KING ARTHUR SHOW



CAMELOT AND BEYOND

Matinee Performances:
January 21st & 27th

Evening Performances:
January 24th – 27th

Ticket Link: littlewalthamdrama.com
by David Edkins - Lazy Bee Scripts



Welcome to your

LITTLE WALTHAM

Parish Magazine

Issue 25 - Winter 2023

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How to Advertise

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 starts from £35.

Contact us to find out more or to book an advert



01245 442658



clerk@littlewaltham.org.uk

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

Welcome

Welcome to the Winter edition of Little Waltham Parish Magazine. The Parish Council have been busy since the last edition. There have also been some changes which you will read about in this magazine.

If you would like to contribute content for the Parish Magazine, such as an article, photos or information relevant to Little Waltham please email clerk@littlewaltham.org.uk. The next edition will be published in March.

We welcome information from groups in the local community so we can keep the Parish aware of events, so please do get in touch!

Local Events

1 December

Christmas Bazaar at Little Waltham Primary School – Friday 1 December at 4pm

The Friends of Little Waltham Primary School are hosting the annual Christmas Bazaar, this will include festive performances, stalls, games and refreshments. The event will run from 4pm until 7pm, and raises vital funds for the school.

3 December

Little Waltham Christmas Tree Celebration at Taylor's Park, Little Waltham – Sunday 3 December from 3pm

The Little Waltham Christmas Tree Celebration will be fun for all the family and get you in the festive mood. Come and enjoy Christmas carols being performed by the Essex Police Band whilst enjoying complimentary festive treats and watching the Christmas tree lights being switched on. A lovely community event for the whole family. The tree is located on the playing field opposite The White Hart pub in Little Waltham. We hope to see you all there!

14 December

Farleigh Hospice's Light Up A Life Service at Chelmsford Cathedral - Thursday 14 December at 7.00pm.

Everyone is welcome at this special service

to remember loved ones in Chelmsford Cathedral.

For the dates and times of Farleigh's other services and to make a donation to the charity's Light Up A Life appeal, please go to www.farleighhospice.org/lightupalife

16 December

Santa's Sleigh at Morrisons, Regiment Business Park, Eagle Way – Saturday 16 December, 8am-8pm

Santa's Sleigh, assisted by Chelmsford Mildmay Rotary, will be visiting this location to visit the children, fundraise for local charities and bring seasonal greetings and cheer to everyone. Please pop down and say hello.

18 December

Santa's Sleigh visits Great Waltham and Little Waltham – Monday 18 December, 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Santa's Sleigh, assisted by Chelmsford Mildmay Rotary, will be visiting Great Waltham and Little Waltham. Routes may change depending on weather and other unforeseen circumstances, so please check daily updates during December on www.facebook.com/mildmayrotary/ You can visit www.mildmayrotary.org.uk for more information.

21-27 January

**Pantomime, The King Arthur Show...
Camelot and Beyond at Little Waltham
Memorial Hall**

*The Little Waltham Drama Group
Pantomime "The King Arthur
Show....Camelot and Beyond" is being held
between 21st and 27th January at the Little
Waltham Memorial Hall. There are
matinees and evening performances, for
more information and to purchase tickets
please visit: www.littlewalthamdrama.com.*

6 December

**Christmas Social at Little Waltham
Gardening Club at The Memorial Hall, Little
Waltham at 7:30pm**

*The Members' Christmas Social is being
celebrated at 7:30pm on Wednesday 6
December. All members are welcome.*

7 February

**Guest speaker at Little Waltham Gardening
Club at Little Waltham Memorial Hall at
7:30pm**

*Come and enjoy an evening with Ken
Crowther - Ken is a gardener and nurseryman
of many years' experience and previously a
garden guru on BBC Essex*

If you would like to submit an event for
the next edition, please email
clerk@littlewaltham.org.uk

Contact the Clerk

**Hello! I am really pleased to be the
new Clerk for Little Waltham Parish
Council.** I am here to help you and
the Parish, so if you have issues or
queries, please let me know.

You can contact me by:

✉ clerk@littlewaltham.org.uk
☎ 01245 442658

You can also come along to a Parish
Council meeting on the first Tuesday
of each month (except August) at
7:30pm in the Memorial Hall.

Michelle Harrison

Clerk - Little Waltham Parish Council

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News from the Parish Council

Chairman's Update

I am pleased to say that we have two new members of the Parish Council, Councillor Emma Cunningham joined us in September, and Michelle Harrison joined us in August as our new Clerk. We would very much like to welcome them both and thank them for the contributions that they have already made.

I would also like to express our thanks to our outgoing Clerk, Suzanne Walker, for all of her efforts during her time with LWPC.

As a Parish Council we continue to face a number of challenges updates of which are highlighted below. As a reminder to all Parishioners, the Parish Council meet on the first Tuesday of every month in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm, we always welcome any participation that you may wish to give on specific issues.

As you will see from the Christmas event schedule below, we are very much looking forward to the arrival of the first Little Waltham Christmas Tree which will be installed at the end of November, in time for our carol service on 3rd December which we very much hope many of you will be able to attend.

National Grid's Proposals

One of the most important issues the Parish Council have been discussing is the National Grid's proposal to erect pylons from Norwich to Tilbury. As I am sure you are aware, Little Waltham has been identified as being in the vicinity of the route and the proposals include building a 400,000 volt electricity transmission line over a distance of approximately 180km.

The National Grid held a non-statutory consultation from June to August 2023. Little Waltham Parish Council made representations to Chelmsford City Council about their response, and we made further submissions to National Grid in September.

Councillor Burrow, in particular, has worked tirelessly on this issue and was recently interviewed on BBC Essex to highlight this issue.

You may have noticed the banners highlighting the pylons installed around the Parish, we are trying to raise as much awareness as we can.

You can find Councillor Burrows interview and further information on our website (<https://littlewaltham.org.uk/national-grid-consultation/>). In particular, the document titled LWPC Further submissions regarding Norwich to Tilbury pylons on the website (<https://littlewaltham.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/LWPC-Further-submissions-regarding-Norwich-to-Tilbury-pylons.pdf>) clearly sets out Little Waltham Parish Councils responses to the National Grid's proposals.

Traffic in the village

The Parish Council have been dealing closely with Essex Highways and Councillor Steel regarding the traffic issues in Little Waltham. Essex County Council have now provided the results from the traffic survey they carried out in Little Waltham. The Parish Council have decided it was necessary to consult an Independent Traffic Consultant, to try and help find the best resolution to the traffic issues within our Parish. We will continue to update you on this ever-changing situation.

Pavilion

The Parish Council are committed to renovating the Pavilion to create a community hub. The renovation is still in the planning stage, and we will keep you updated as this exciting project progresses.

Christmas Tree Celebration

The Parish Council are pleased to be hosting the Christmas Tree Celebration event on Sunday 3 December at 3pm, at Taylor's Park in Little Waltham (the field opposite The White Hart Pub). We hope that you will all come along and enjoy in the festivities.

The Essex Police Band will be performing Christmas Carols, there will be complimentary festive treats and the Christmas tree lights will be switched on. We hope that it will be enjoyed by the whole community.

Antony Kingham

Chairman - Little Waltham Parish Council

Tom Amos 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**

Keep our Parish safe

Please can we ask all residents to be considerate whilst driving in Little Waltham. We have received various reports of anti-social behaviour and speeding.

The Parish Council are working hard to try to address the traffic issues, and we would ask for everyone to consider their driving and help where they can.

Please be aware that the speed limit signs have changed location on Back Lane.

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

Phone: 01245 471888

Text: 07570 493774

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Little Waltham Parish Council

Contact Us

We can be reached by email or telephone as below:

✉ Clerk@littlewaltham.org.uk

☎ 01245 442658

🌐 www.littlewaltham.org.uk

Your Parish Councillors

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Your Member of Parliament

Kemi Badenoch

Kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk

020 7219 1943

Useful Numbers

Chelmsford City Council

Call 01245 606606 or visit
www.chelmsford.gov.uk/your-council/contacting-us/

Essex County Council

Call 0345 743 0430 or visit
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Essex Police

Always call 999 in an emergency.

For non-emergencies report a crime by
calling: 101 or through Essex Police

Website: www.essex.police.uk/digital101

News from the Headteacher

This term, we have had the pleasure of welcoming new pupils and their families to our school. We are thrilled that our reception pupils have settled in superbly well, pupils and parents have taken part in a delightful Teddy Bears Picnic where families came together to share books and a love of reading.

We are thrilled to announce that we received a very positive Ofsted inspection report, thanks to the unwavering support of our school community. Achieving a good grading is a testament to the dedication of all staff, the hard work of our students, and the involvement of our parents. It is through your collective efforts that we continue to strive for excellence.

It was fantastic to see so many of our community at St Martin's Church for our Harvest festival. Thank you to Reverend Dan for leading the service. We also had a special Remembrance Service in school on Friday 10th November and we look forward to our Christmas service at St Martin's later this term.

In early October, we were privileged to host a special guest, author Alasdair Beckett-King. With great excitement, our children had the opportunity to listen to him speak about his captivating young crime mystery books. Through this visit, we aimed to promote the love for reading and inspire our pupils to explore their imagination through storytelling. With this in mind, pupils across the school have taken part in BBC 500 Words - creating their own stories that they have loved sharing with their class and the school.

To bring history to life, our Year 6 pupils embarked on a journey to Victorian England on a memorable Victorian Day. Dressed as Victorian school children, they immersed themselves in the experience of what school life was like at that time. We extend our gratitude to Braintree Museum for their invaluable support in making this day educational and enjoyable for all.

Education extends beyond the four walls of a classroom, and this term we embraced the opportunity to engage our students in immersive theatre workshops. West End for Schools guided our Year 5 and Year 3 pupils on a captivating journey through Ancient Greece and the Stone Age. The experience developed a deeper understanding of these historical periods.

Additionally, we would like to highlight the outstanding achievements of our pupils in the Key Stage 2 SATs at the end of the last academic year. An incredible 90% of our pupils achieved the expected standard in reading and mathematics, with an impressive 45% and 48% of pupils attaining the greater depth standard in these subjects, respectively. These



exceptional results are significantly above the national average and demonstrate the commitment and determination shown by both our students and staff.

To stay updated on the latest news and events happening at Little Waltham Primary School, we now have a platform on X (formerly known as Twitter). Our X handle is @LittleWalthamPS. Through this platform, we strive to foster a sense of community and provide valuable insights into the daily happenings at our school.

As we look towards the next term, we are determined to maintain our high standards of education, nurture creativity, and continue providing a safe and inclusive learning environment for all. We are grateful for your ongoing support and commit to working together to ensure every child at Little Waltham Primary School achieves their full potential.

As we approach the festive period, I would like to wish our community a joyful and merry Christmas.

Warm regards,

Mr S Saunders

Headteacher, Little Waltham Primary School

Good Companions of Little Waltham



COME AND JOIN OUR FRIENDLY GROUP

We are a very friendly organisation seeking new members of senior age groups.

Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month commencing at 2.00 pm held in the Memorial Hall, Brook Hill, Little Waltham, Chelmsford, CM3 3LN Entry £2.00.



We have had a variety of Speakers throughout 2023, plus quizzes, once a year fish and chip lunch and it also gives members the chance to join in together to have friendly topical discussions to set the world to rights!! Annually we always have a Christmas meal, with the chance of winning one of many lovely hampers.

For further information please either call:

Marion 07850317657 or Christine 07818032219

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

St Martin's Church

News Update



It's been a busy few weeks with lots going on. The parish had a visit from the new Bishop of Bradwell (my new boss I guess!). If you get the chance to hear him speak it'll be worth your while. He was excellent.

Hard to believe we're here again. Another season of Christmas and new year. It's a crazy busy time for many of us but it's still one of my favourites. A time for taking stock. We look back on the year that has been, and we look forward to the year that will be. It's a peculiar season where regret and hope are served together like sprouts and turkey. A season of personal inventory.

Some years the hopes outweigh the regrets and other years vice versa. Whatever the case this season is one of reorientation. This is an opportunity to rediscover, realign, or perhaps realise for the first time, what your values are. I hope you can make space amid all the festivities to do this. Try to grab some time to ponder. That's what I'll be doing as I bounce from one thing to another in coming weeks.

For all my regrets there is comfort in confession and the unrelenting grace of God. All my hopes are founded on the belief that the best thing to be done with life is to love extravagantly. That's the goal. To bring all my resources, intention and attention to both receive and pass on the love of which I'm learning. This is not to say I'm good at either receiving or passing on, but this is the value to which I most commonly return. Rediscover. Realign.

As we stand in that bridge between 2023 and 2024 here's a poem for pondering the past, present and the future. **Rev'd Dan Pierce**

I Am The Day

I am the day.

The day done and past.

The moments replay, compare and contrast.

Of sincerity and sarcasm and failure and chance.

Of yes and amen and bizarre circumstance.

I am the day.

The day been and gone.

It's victories and failures.

That lost and that won.

That fleeting and feckless.

That wondrous and good.

My best comprehensions and that least understood.

I am the day.

The day that was spent.

The joy of good choices or the need to repent.

The selfish ambition, the generous act.

The lies and the fiction, invention and fact.

I am the day.

It's substance and weight.

The obvious answer and obscure debate.

Each faithful devotion.

Each faltering whim.

My mind is both empty and full to the brim.

I am the day.

The day is now done.

I am tomorrow.

Begun.



St Martin's Church



Services

The Parish of Great Leighs, Little Leighs & Little Waltham

Sunday 10th December

9.30am Christingle - St John's Little Leighs

Sunday 17th December

11.00am Communion Service - St Martin's Little Waltham

4.00pm - Carol Service - St Mary's Great Leighs

Monday 25th December

10.00am Christmas Day Service - St John's

Little Leighs

Sunday 21st January

11.00am Communion - St Martin's Little Waltham

Sunday 18th February

11.00am Communion - St Martin's Little Waltham

All are welcome

Contact: Alison Bates Parish Administrator **Tel:** 07957 228467

Email: admin@littleandgreat.org.uk

Visit our website: <https://churchesattheleighsandlittlewaltham.org>

United Reformed Church



Services

Everyone is welcome - Sunday services at 10.30 am

December 2023

Sunday 3rd Charles De Lacy

Thursday 7th Coffee and Cake (10am to 12 noon)

Sunday 10th Rev. Geoffrey Griggs (*Lessons and carols*)

Sunday 17th Martyn Payne

Christmas Eve 24th Rev. Hans Stein (*Carols by candlelight at 4pm*)

There will not be a service here on Christmas Day

Sunday 31st Rev. Geoffrey Griggs

January 2024

Thursday 4th Coffee and Cake (10am to 12 noon)

Sunday 7th Rev. Geoffrey Griggs

Sunday 14th Rev. Geoffrey Griggs

Saturday 20th Coffee Morning (10am to 11am)

Sunday 21st Rev. Hans Stein

Sunday 28th Rev. Hans Stein HC

February 2024

Thursday 1st Coffee and Cake (10am to 12 noon)

Sunday 4th Rev. Geoffrey Griggs

Sunday 11th Rev. Hans Stein

Saturday 17th Coffee Morning (10am to 11am)

Sunday 18th John Amos

Sunday 25th Rev. Hans Stein HC

Minister: Rev. Hans Stein 01371 875654 **Website:** www.littlewalthamurc.org.uk
Services at 10.30 am Please see the Church Notice Board for updates

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At the **OCTOBER** meeting Little Waltham Gardening Club hosted the annual Inter Society Quiz. Teams from Hatfield Peveral & Ulting Horticultural Society, Chignals & Mashbury Gardening Club, Great Baddow Horticultural Society, Boreham Gardening Club and Purleigh & District Gardeners competed for The Essex Gardening Clubs Trophy. Aimee Gill and Jack Dyke, both trained at RHS Hyde Hall, set a challenging and interesting set of questions which took in all aspects of gardening. Competition was fierce but the Little Waltham team won by just one point. Great Baddow came a very close second, Boreham third, Hatfield Peveral fourth, Purleigh 5th and Chignals sixth.

- **On NOVEMBER 1st** Warden Sylvia Jiggins will be giving a presentation about the nearby Phyllis Currie Nature Reserve that she manages on behalf of the Essex Wildlife Trust
- **On DECEMBER 6th** there will be a members' Christmas Social.
- **There is NO MEETING in JANUARY**
- **FEBRUARY 7th** 'An Evening with Ken Crowther' – Ken is a gardener and nurseryman of many years' experience and previously a garden guru on BBC Essex
- **MARCH 6th** A.G.M.
- **APRIL 6th (Saturday)** Annual Spring Show in the Memorial Hall. Schedules will be available on website from mid February. Bumper Plant stall.

The above mentioned evening meetings take place at 7.30pm in Little Waltham Memorial Hall (CM3 3LN) where there is plenty of parking at the rear. There is a plant stall in season and refreshments are available. Little Waltham Gardening Club is a small friendly Club with enthusiasm for gardening and growing in all its forms. Why not pay us a visit? Visitors very welcome. £3.00 per evening, or annual subscription £10.00. Discounted seeds and sundries available. **For more information, please phone Margaret Williams 01245 360042 or visit www.littlewalthamgardeningclub.co.uk**



BOOK SWAP Outside the Memorial Hall in Brook Hill are book shelves for everyone in Little Waltham to drop by and pick up a book to read. Paperbacks (*in good condition please*) are always welcome, children's books as well as adult. So when you're passing, drop off a couple of books and browse to find something new and interesting to read. Please use this facility - it's free and reading is one of the greatest pleasures in life.

Little Waltham Drama Group



Rehearsals for our annual Pantomime at Little Waltham Drama Group are now well underway and we have been delighted to welcome 3 new members to our group all of whom will be performing in January which is wonderful.

This year's pantomime is The King Arthur Show... Camelot and Beyond.

'Time has moved on and all is peaceful in the Kingdom of Camelot. No naughty knights have tried to take over for ages. If only King Arthur would stop trying to get a sneaky look at his present and a sneaky taste of his cake before his birthday. However, the evil Morgana is being a bit mean again, and only a man whose name definitely isn't Wayne can stop her. But beware the Questing Beast!' ***The dates for the Panto are:***

Matinees: January 21st & January 27th **Evening Performances:** January 24th – 27th

There will be a licensed bar as well as soft drinks and ice creams available and we can now take card payments as well as cash. Tickets will be going on sale from November 27th and can be bought through Ticket Source by following the link on our website **www.littlewalthamdrama.com** It would be wonderful if our lovely group was well supported by everyone in Little Waltham so do encourage your families and friends to join you in what will be a real feel good panto (what better way to rid yourselves of the January blues 12). We will really look forward to seeing you all there.

The Memorial Hall has lost a faithful servant and friend in the recent passing of Bob Balaam. Bob came to us in April 2008 serving for 9 years as cleaner and caretaker, a job which entailed him unlocking the Hall at 7.00am and closing up at 11.00pm. He went far beyond his duties, often putting out chairs and tables for the regular user groups which was appreciated by all. *Thus, he became a friend to so many, and the village will be all the poorer for his passing.*

u3a News

u3a is for people who are no longer working and who want to keep mind and/or body active in a friendly, sociable company. We are your local branch and are a charity, part of a national network, run entirely by volunteer members.



Walkers take a break

What's currently available at the branch? Well, if you like the idea of stretching your legs and exploring the Essex countryside, there are regular guided-walks, finished off with a tasty pub lunch! Not too keen on walking? There's a 'bus-pass' group making visits to places of interest across the county via public transport. If you're interested in topics such as, natural history, geology, photography, table tennis, scrabble, ukelele, to name just a few, there are opportunities to take part in volunteer-led special interest groups covering all those. To find out more about those groups and all the others currently on offer, just google-search our website, 'Broomfield & District u3a' where you can also take a look at our regular newsletters, get contact details and obtain application forms. Along with the interest groups, we hold monthly meetings at Broomfield Village Hall (second Wednesday of the month 1.30-4.00pm) which provide an opportunity for members to come together to share information, socialise, and enjoy presentations by invited guest speakers on a very wide range of topics.



At the monthly meeting

You're welcome to come along to one of these as a 'taster' where any member of committee will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Annual Membership is only £15.00. For information on u3a at a national level, go to u3a.org.uk

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opening times

Monday to Friday 9 am – 5.30 pm (open lunch hours)

Saturday 9 am – 12.30 pm

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| Dry cleaning | | Car Tax |
| Bread and savouries baked on the premises | | |



Festive Bellini

Fancy making a special cocktail this Christmas?

The Windmill in Chatham Green have recommended a Festive Bellini:

Ingredients: 20ml Hibiscus Syrup
5-10ml Chambord, Prosecco

Method: Pour the Hibiscus Syrup and Chambord into a champagne flute. Top with Prosecco and enjoy immediately.





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Essex Police Choir

Police choir opens up to everyone



Having spent 34 successful years as Essex Police Choir - which has tended to make people think that they had to be in the Force, or something to do with it, to be a member - the Choir has decided to widen its appeal to the whole community.

Essex Police Community Choir will be the new name and this coincides with some internal changes to modernise their image.

Gone will be the somewhat dated uniform for ladies who will now wear their own white tops and black skirts or trousers. Potential members will still not need to read music as the Choir rehearses pieces in a way that everyone will learn the songs quite easily. There is no audition or test for new members to pass as they will just have to be able to hold a tune.

The Choir's repertoire includes songs from the shows and other popular items and sheet music is provided at no cost.

Because they are part of the Police family, members will still have to accept that they represent the Police and therefore need to uphold the image of Essex Police and the wider service. Whilst the Choir is totally self-sufficient, not receiving any money from the Police precept, it does have very welcome support from the force, in that it rehearses at the HQ in Chelmsford and when needed, is provided with transport.

This enables subs to be kept to a minimum - £100 for 2024 or around £2 per rehearsal for the 48 weeks a year that it meets, as opposed to most commercially run choirs who charge upwards of £6 a session, or £300 a year for just school terms.

The Choir performs around 5 or 6 concerts a year for good causes, at no cost to them, and over its life it has raised in excess of £300,000 for those charities. It also believes that it has helped put more toilets in churches than any other organisation!

Choir Chairman, Tony Willson, said 'These days there are many community choirs around and potential members can choose which one they feel comfortable with. However, we feel that we are missing out on a vast range of people who probably thought that they had to be working for the police in order to join. We can now say that



Some of the Essex Police Community Choir in the garden at Police HQ

this just isn't so. We have thrown the doors open to anyone who wants to sing - which we all know helps our mental wellbeing. So if anyone is interested in seeing what we do, they are very welcome.'

Chief Constable and President of the Choir, BJ Harrington said 'Essex Police is proud of being part of the community, so this is a great opportunity for anyone to get involved with the Choir. Being a member is an amazing way for people to enjoy singing and to get-together with like-minded people whilst giving something back to the community and raising money for good causes.'

The Choir's first concert as the new Community Choir will be their Christmas event on Saturday 16th December with Essex Police Band at Christchurch, London Road, Chelmsford and details will be on the website and on social media soon.

If anyone is interested in attending a rehearsal, they should either send details via the contact form on the Choir's website (essexpolicechoir.co.uk), via email at membership@essexpolicechoir.co.uk or telephone **Sally Low, Membership Secretary on 07966 207115** to make arrangements.

For more information please contact:

Tony Willson, Chairman and Publicity Officer
Essex Police Choir **07939101838**
enquiries@essexpolicechoir.co.uk



**ESSEX POLICE
COMMUNITY CHOIR**

Bus Travel



A message on Bus travel and DigiGo by your County Cllr, Mike Steel

I do get complaints about bus services, especially in the rural areas. Most bus services are commercial operations and the

operators struggle to put on a service during non-peak hours, or at all, in the more remote areas.

How often do you see a bus with hardly anyone on it?

I believe the answer is on demand buses like DigiGo, which is a flexible and shared public transport service with an EV fleet. It's not a taxi or a traditional bus. With no fixed route or timetable, passengers are in control of their journey. Bookings can be made on-demand or up to 7-days in advance via the TravelEssex app. The service operates flexibly within the operational area – journeys can be made anywhere from one of the thousand virtual stops to another, within the area. Other passengers may be picked up on route to help reduce emissions and congestion. The service is made for everyone... so, whether you're a commuter, a student, a weekend tripper or a key worker, DigiGo can get you to where you're going.

DigiGo is a two year subsidised trial operated by Essex County Council and covers the rural area to



the north and west of Chelmsford. It has recently been expanded to come down as far as Broomfield Village Hall.

All single fares are currently capped at just £2! Concessionary bus pass holders travel for free after 9am on weekdays and all day at weekends.

It's easy to book a DigiGo journey via the TravelEssex app, www.travelessex.co.uk.

- **Book - Select your pick-up and drop-off points within our operational areas and pay on the app.**
- **Track - Watch on your smartphone as your designated vehicle makes its way to you in real-time.**

• **Ride - Hop on and off you go!**

If you can't use an app, journeys can be booked via the booking phoneline on 03330 137138, Monday – Friday, between 10am and 12pm (excluding bank holidays). If you have a smartphone but would like support in making bookings via the app and the first few journeys, email us at digigo@essex.gov.uk and we can put in a referral for you to meet with a Travel Trainer. Travel Training is a service that helps support and train people to travel independently on public transport on a one-to-one basis. For more information on the service, visit www.digigo.uk

We are fortunate that DigiGo covers a large proportion of my rural ECC division where traditional bus services struggle. A good proportion of the journeys are under 18s using it as school transport and others are using it to get to medical appointments or remote pubs (one being particularly popular on a Friday night!) We need this trial to be a success so that it becomes a permanent service. So please make use of it!

Waltham Meadows



As the onset of autumn sweeps through the meadows of Little Waltham, a magical transformation is taking place as the season turns with golden leaves and a myriad of berries adding a canvas of colour to the grey days. If you stop and listen, you'll hear the Robins, Blackbirds, Thrushes and Wrens flitting about, feasting, and in the darker evenings, making noises like there's a huge monster fighting through the hedges. They get me every time! Recently we've had skeins of geese honking overhead, off to warmer climes.

The small gang that look after Little Waltham Meadows have been busy. A lot of what we do is behind the scenes and doesn't get noticed, but it all adds up to, hopefully, keeping the area a nice place to be for humans and wildlife alike. One work party some time back, spent a hot summers Sunday pulling Ragwort from the middle meadow. That's the yellow stuff that looks nice but is dangerous to some wildlife and the cattle, and spreads far too quickly. A hard day but very rewarding. We also had the meadows sprayed with 'friendly' weedkiller to try and get the nettles, dock and Hemlock back under control. It worked, but will need a second application next year. New signs are being installed to the entrance gates, which will keep users notified of grazing animals and asking for dogs to be kept under control etc. I have to say, that by far the majority of users are very careful in regards to 'waste' and litter. Thank you to everyone for that, as my litter picking days

are minimal !! Several small bits of broken fencing have been, or are being, repaired. Also the larger project of clearing alder and willow saplings from the main drainage ditch in the lower meadow has begun. It's important, in times of flooding to keep the water flowing off the land as easily as



possible. The ditch is currently extremely choked up.

While we are talking the lower meadow, the Owl Box in the tree toward the southern end will soon be serviced and cleaned (visualise a mini version of the BBC's Clean it, Fix It team). We have plans to lay some of the hedging down the bridleway. Laying may look drastic initially but it allows leggy hedges to grow new and vigorous shoots back at ground level; which in turn produces a thicker and more beneficial habitat for birds and small mammals. Longer term there will also be a major investment to renew all the fencing. **An Action Plan has been done, so watch this space!** It won't happen overnight, but we are working on it. When we do our 'patrols' we meet up with dog-walkers, hikers, ramblers etc. **If any of you are local and think you may like to help on a work party or two, get in touch with Nicky Payne on her email NickyP@essexwt.org.uk**



Essex
Wildlife Trust

Broomfield Hospital

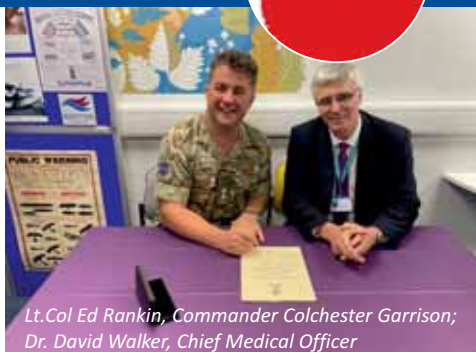
Broomfield Hospital Reconfirms it's commitment to the Armed Forces.

On October 5th, the Mid & South Essex NHS Foundation Trust reconfirmed it's commitment to armed forces colleagues, and their family members, by signing the Armed Forces Covenant.

This was the first time the covenant had been signed by the merged Trust and in doing so the Hospital was promising to support colleagues and their families who serve, or have served, in the Armed Forces. Making sure they are treated with the utmost respect and fairness. David Walker, Chief Medical Officer and Executive Lead for the Armed Forces, signed the Armed Forces covenant on behalf of the Trust alongside Lieutenant Colonel Ed Rankin, the Commander of Colchester Garrison.

David said: "We first signed the Armed Forces Covenant in 2018 as Mid Essex Hospital Services and I'm incredibly proud to re-sign it today on behalf of Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust."

"We recognise the contribution our service personnel and their families make, not only to our organisation but to the community and the country and we are committed to promoting the Trust as an armed forces friendly organisation, working together with the Armed Forces strengthening the bond and supporting those who have dedicated their lives to protecting our country and those who are part of the wider Armed Forces Family."



*Lt.Col Ed Rankin, Commander Colchester Garrison;
Dr. David Walker, Chief Medical Officer*

Pictures copyright MSE NHS Foundation Trust.

Broomfield Airfield

Memorial plaque unveiling commemorates Broomfield Airfield

On Thursday 5th October 2023 a celebration took place in the gardens of Broomfield Hospital to officially unveil a memorial plaque to commemorate Broomfield Airfield. The airfield was home to the No.37 Home Defence Squadron for a short time during World War I, before being used by the Chelmsford and District Flying Club until 1932,



RBL give background info of project to assembled guests

when a fire destroyed the buildings. The plaque was unveiled by Wing Commander Glenn Mayes DL in the presence of the Deputy Mayor of Chelmsford, Councillor Jude Deakin, Members of the Hospital Board, representatives of the organisations involved in the project, RAFA and members of the public and hospital staff. Malcolm Taylor, County Chairman of Royal

British Legion Essex, said: This is the culmination of many years of cooperation between Broomfield Branch Royal British Legion, Broomfield Parish Council and Broomfield Hospital. At last, we can formally recognise the contribution of those young pilots, entertained by the Nash family, at Broomfield Court. Our thanks go to the Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust (ABCT) for their kind donation of the commemorative plaque" David Walker, Chief Medical Officer, added: "Today's event is a reminder of how old our hospital sites are, and how long they've played a part in the community. Thank you to all the organisations that have come together to unveil this plaque – please come and have a look for yourself if you're passing by Broomfield Court."

An exhibition about the airfield's history was on display in the Broomfield Hospital Academic Library for a limited period.



from left. Councillor Jude Deakin, Deputy Mayor of Chelmsford; Wing Commander Glenn Mayes DL; Dr. David Walker, Chief Medical Officer Broomfield Hospital; Malcolm Taylor, County Chairman RBL Essex

(All photographs are copyright of Mid & South Essex NHS Foundation Trust)

Little Waltham & Great Notley Surgeries Patient Participation Group

The surgery is pleased to announce that the new E-consult booking system is now in operation and can be used for all routine appointments. To access the E-consult system go to the surgery website **www.littlewalthamsurgery.co.uk** and click the online consultation button; fill out the form which will be sent automatically to the surgery. It will be triaged, and you will either receive a phone call or a booking link. The phone booking system is available for urgent cases that need to be seen on that day or for people unable to access the online service. Work continues on the new design for the website making it clearer and simpler to use. As we enter the season of goodwill, which unfortunately coincides with an increase in

ailments such as coughs and colds please, in the first place, consult the pharmacists for advice. The surgery is empathetic to peoples' need to feel listened to and understood and is aware that some of the systems and boundaries that the surgery is legally required to abide by, can seem unnecessary and frustrating, so please be patient with us and respect that we are doing our best to meet all your needs.

For any concerns, questions or suggestions on issues relating to the running of the surgeries then please contact the PPG on lw.gn.ppg@hotmail.com and we will get back to you.

Wishing Everyone a Very Happy Christmas!

The Windmill

Chatham Green



The Windmill Chatham Green is a charming family run and dog friendly restaurant and pub, surrounded by the beautiful Essex countryside, just outside of Chelmsford on the route to our city's racecourse.



Earlier this year it was announced that they are now officially recommended in the Michelin guide. Both have worked at some of the best restaurant in England and France. Tom, born in Chelmsford, has started his career in some very well-known local restaurants, such as “Le Talboth” in Dedham before moving on to work at Ramond Blanc's “Le Manoir aux Quat'Saison” in Oxford, Jean Andre Charial in France at Le Strato Hotel in Courchevel and the legendary L'Ousteau de Baumaniere. In 2015 he took over the head chef position at “L'Ortolan” in Reading where he was awarded one Michelin star and three AA rosettes, which he retained for 5 years until leaving to open up his own restaurant. Nancy, born near Berlin, has worked at the famous Sacher Hotel in Vienna, before moving to the country to work at the private members club “Mosimann” in the centre of London, as well as the Michelin-starred restaurant “L'Ortolan” in Reading, where the couple met.

Tom and Nancy found their true passion for foraging at the small experimental restaurant “Forage Kitchen” in Bury St. Edmunds, where they worked for 2 years prior before moving to the Hamlet. It is not so farfetched for the pair to choose this very location for their own venture when you realise that the family roots run deep here for Tom. His Uncle and grandparents ran The Bakery in the nearby village in Great Waltham selling freshly baked goods to the local community until closing in 1991. The restaurant has the cosy feel of a county pub with a rustic chic

and original features. There is a well-stocked bar with a quite unusual offerings of sprits and cocktails. The menu is kept short as dishes change frequently with the seasons. Menu descriptions are deceptively and don't reveal the full complexity of cooking until the actual dish arrives, served and described by the chefs and the front of house. A clear feature as you arrive is the original Windmill building next to the pub where Henry Challis, the last miller, stopped grinding wheat to start selling beer back in 1904. Since arriving, the couple have transformed the downstairs room into a very charming Private Dining room, offering the perfect space to celebrate any special occasion, from birthdays to smaller wedding reception.

For those who are looking for a mini break, there are 2 individually designed ensuite bedrooms, which are assessable via a well-hidden secret garden overlooking English countryside.



Farleigh Hospice

Christmas Recycling

Farleigh Hospice recycles Christmas trees

A real Christmas tree makes your home look very festive but how do you easily dispose of it in the New Year? Farleigh Hospice can collect your tree from outside your home and recycle it for you on 5th – 7th January!

This convenient service means you won't have to queue at your local rubbish tip or clean out a car boot full of pine needles. Your tree won't go to waste either, as it will be chipped and used for biomass fuel or on pathways in local cemeteries and parks. Farleigh Hospice is a charity. It provides specialist care and support, free of charge, to people affected by life-limiting illnesses and bereavement at its hospice building in Broomfield, Chelmsford, and in patients' own homes across mid Essex.

Farleigh's fundraising team has eight years' experience of collecting Christmas trees.



To register your tree, go to www.farleighhospice.org/trees where you can also make a donation.



SPEEDWATCH - Ford End

Your community needs you!!

The SPEEDWATCH team are normally out by the roadside every week monitoring speeding motorists. We are only a small team, so really need a few more volunteers so that we could be out there more often!

If you can spare 1 or 2 hours a month to help deter motorists speeding through our village, we would love to hear from you. Training is given via Zoom and Speedwatch sessions are arranged by mutual agreement amongst the volunteers. No pressure!! Please email Angela

angelaforham14@gmail.com



Santa's Sleigh



Santa's Sleigh is coming your way

❄ Santa's Sleigh is heading to Little Waltham in December as part of its tour to North Springfield, Beaulieu and Channels, Ford End, Great Waltham and Little Waltham.

❄ Chelmsford Mildmay Rotary will be assisting Santa's visits to as many boys and girls as possible, fundraising for local charities and bringing seasonal greetings and cheer to everyone.

❄ Dates for your Diary in December:

03 Sun Beaulieu Community Centre
Christmas Fayre 10.30am till 4pm

05 Tues Armistice Avenue ▪ Wright
Crescent ▪ Ben Wilson Link

07 Thurs Goldenacres ▪ Stablecroft ▪
Paddock Drive ▪ Trenchard Crescent ▪
Mountbatten Way ▪ Daffodil Way ▪ Hunters
Way ▪ Martingale

09 Sat Sainsbury's Superstore White Hart
Lane 8.00am - 8.00pm

12 Tues Channels Drive ▪ Brassie Wood ▪
Mashie Link ▪ Jigger Gardens ▪ Fairway
Drive

14 Thurs Boreham: Butterfield Road Shops
▪ Butterfield Road area including St
Andrew's Road and Fitzwalter Road

15 Fri Channels Area: Belsteads Farm Lane
▪ Albatross Way ▪ Belfrey Crescent ▪ St
Andrews Drive

16 Sat Morrisons Superstore, Regiment
Business Park, Eagle Way 8.00am - 8.00pm

17 Sun Ford End



18 Mon Great Waltham and Little
Waltham

19 Tues Boreham: Orchard Way ▪ Orchard
Plaza ▪ Orchard Way (loop) into Plantation
Road

20 Wed Centenary Way ▪ Wilfred
Waterman Way ▪ Robert Finch Crescent ▪
Minns Avenue

21 Thurs Centenary Way ▪ Linge Avenue ▪
Regiment Gate

Routes may change depending on weather
and other unforeseen circumstances so
please check daily updates during

December on our Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/mildmayrotary/



www.mildmayrotary.org.uk

Rotary
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CHRISTMAS
Celebration

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3
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HOSTED BY LITTLE WALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL



Christmas at the Hub



Our festive Christmas menu is available by pre-ordering for Thursday, Friday & Saturday evening....throughout December 6pm - 10pm

Book now to avoid disappointment! T: 01245 527109

3 course £30pp

A service charge of 10% is automatically added to your bill however this is payable at your discretion.