

LITTLE WALTHAM

Parish Magazine



LT WALTHAM WAR MEMORIAL HALL
ARE CELEBRATING 100 YEARS
SINCE FIRST OPENING

1924 — 2024



ANNIVERSARY

Invitations to forthcoming events in June
will be extended to
all Little Waltham Villagers

Issue 26 - Spring 24

Lt Waltham War Memorial Hall

Centenary Celebrations



The Memorial Hall was opened on 18th June 1924. It was built in memory of the brave men and women who sadly lost their lives in the First World War and to others. Since that time, it has served the people of Little Waltham as a facility to meet and hold many events and group activities. This year it is proposed that the Memorial Hall celebrates by holding an event on the anniversary of its opening. This will be in-keeping with the original opening night of vocal and musical entertainments for the community. A licenced bar will be arranged for refreshments.

An invitation will be sent out similar to that of 100 years ago, only 100 places will be available for that evening, so registering your interest early will be a requirement. We also would love to hear from anyone who may have historic memorabilia/ photographs of the Hall that we could display over the period of celebrations. We do hope that you will keep the date and come along to join in the fun. More information will be given nearer the time.

For contact please either drop a note into the letterbox of the hall or email our Chairman, **Gordon Condie** lwmhchairman@gmail.com or Secretary **Susan Condie** lwmhsecretary@gmail.com ***The Memorial Hall Management Committee will be organising events for the celebrations this summer in June.***

LITTLE WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB ANNUAL SPRING FLOWER SHOW

(ALSO OPEN TO NON MEMBERS)

SATURDAY 6TH APRIL LITTLE WALTHAM MEMORIAL HALL.

Schedule of classes from M Lawson (01245 361857) or M Williams (01245 360042) Or download on www.littlewalthamgardeningclub.co.uk

WEDNESDAY 3rd APRIL Entrants should notify M Lawson or M Williams of their proposed entries please.

SATURDAY 6th APRIL Entries to be at Memorial Hall by 10.15am please. (Stewards will be on hand to advise entrants). **NOTE: ENTRANTS OF FLOWER ARRANGING CLASSES, PLEASE BRING ENTRIES TO HALL BY 9.30am. Thankyou.**

FREE CLASS ENTRY AND FREE ENTRY TO VIEW THE SHOW from 1.30pm onwards
Prize giving at about 4.00pm

**Refreshments with homemade cakes available. Raffle
BUMPER PLANT STALL**

**Enquiries to M Lawson (01245 361587) or M Williams (01245 360042) or
www.littlewalthamgardeningclub.co.uk**

Welcome to your **LITTLE WALTHAM**



Parish Magazine

Issue 26 - Spring 2024

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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 Spring edition of Little Waltham Parish Magazine.

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

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

2nd April

Guide and Hearing Dogs with Sara Burrell, 2pm-4pm, The Good Companions of Little Waltham – Little Waltham Memorial Hall

6th April

Annual Spring Flower Show, 1:30pm onwards, Little Waltham Gardening Club – Little Waltham Memorial Hall

1st May

A presentation by Dr. Richard Rolfe, chairman of Chelmsford Branch of British Cacti and Succulent Society entitled 'Back to Basics, Cacti and Succulents' - Little Waltham Gardening Club – Little Waltham Memorial Hall

7th May

The Treasures of The National Trust with David Simmonds, 2pm-4pm, The Good Companions of Little Waltham – Little Waltham Memorial Hall

8th May

Afternoon Outing to 'Heyrons' National Garden Scheme Garden, High Easter CM14QN, Little Waltham Gardening Club – Little Waltham Memorial Hall

4th June

Fish and Chips lunch, 1pm-4pm, The Good Companions of Little Waltham – Little Waltham Memorial Hall



Join the Wilderness Foundation for a series of evening talks in 2024!

Our new series of Wild Talks will cover a range of topics on the natural world, with guest speakers bringing their expertise and breadth of knowledge to our Chatham Green HQ. Booking details can be found on our website - www.wildernessfoundation.org.uk

Little Waltham Parish Council

Chairman's Update



As a Parish Council we were really thrilled to see how many of you attended the Christmas event that we held on the Cricket Field in December. There was an excellent atmosphere, and it was so nice to catch up with, and meet many people that we had not seen for a considerable time. We feel that the cricket pavilion can continue to provide the opportunity for getting together, and as a Parish Council we are working on a number of ideas to achieve this over the coming year. I would like to thank all the councillors who volunteered their time to help, in particular Emma, Lallie and Rupert who really went out of their way to make the event a success.

On that note we would like to reiterate that we would really encourage any one in the village with ideas or concerns to attend the Parish Council Meetings which are usually held on the first Tuesday of every month, in the Memorial Hall and start at 7.30pm. Please check the website for details of upcoming meetings.

As a reminder for concerns or Parish matters our Parish Clerks details are as follows : Michelle Harrison, email address clerk@littlewaltham.org.uk

NATIONAL GRID

Councillor John Burrow continues to lead our response on this matter, and we would continue to encourage everyone who objects to the pylon roll out to email their concerns and specific opposition to the link that can be found in our website www.littlewaltham.org.uk

We will keep you all closely updated as further information is available.

TRAFFIC IN THE VILLAGE

We have recently had a positive meeting with Essex Highways. Having employed a traffic consultant, we were able to present our findings.

There has now been some acknowledgement that Little Waltham has a rat run issue. This has resulted in an agreement that we will be given the opportunity to present to Essex Highways a proposal to reduce the issue. For this we would like your input and therefore we will be asking Parishioners for their thoughts. Further details will be sent as to how this will be carried out.

VILLAGE APPEARANCE

A knock on effect of the amount of traffic passing through our village is the continual blight of litter. We have redoubled our maintenance contracts litter picking efforts, which starts this month, and in addition to this we will be holding a community litter picking day in the Spring date to be determined. This is an onerous task for anyone volunteering and we are truly grateful to all who get involved. Councillors Emma Cunningham and Lallie Godfrey are working hard towards updating and refurbishing all the flower tubs in the village for the Spring and we are also looking to repaint and repair where necessary the village signs as well.

THE PAVILLION

I have previously mentioned the Pavillion when discussing the Christmas Event that we had. As suggested we are looking at further events and a range of options with regard to the refurbishment of the Pavillion. There have been a number of ideas for further events and regular use of the facility, but we very much want to get this right, therefore please bear with us and we will be back to you with details in due course.

Antony Kingham
Chairman LWPC

Council Tax

You will receive your Council Tax bill shortly, which includes charges from the County Council, City Council, Police, Fire Service and the Parish Council.

Little Waltham Parish Council carried out a very careful review to understand the amount of money required to enable the Parish Council to function properly, provide the necessary services and represent the interests of our residents. In order to fulfil the obligations, the Parish Council have needed to make an increase of £1.79 a month (based on a Band D property).

Councillors will continue to work hard to represent your interests, improve the Parish and provide the best service to residents that we can. This year the Parish Council are committed to:

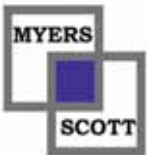
- Maintain and improve outside spaces, including the Cricket Field, Taylor's Park, the children's play area, tennis courts, and goalposts
- Create a strong community by hosting events for the Parish, such as a Christmas celebration and Play in the Park
- Create a community hub for the parishioners to enjoy in the Pavilion
- Improve the Parish environment, including gardening, upgrading the flower tubs, and services such as litter picking, bin collections, grass cutting and gardening services
- To address the clear concerns of parishioners in relation to traffic in the Parish

For further information please visit the Little Waltham Parish Council website.



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.

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Ford Ride London-Essex will return to Writtle on Sunday 26th May this year and will again involve around 25,000 cyclists. Whilst the event is enjoyed by many and raises funds for the community, I have again expressed my concerns about the disruption road closures will cause to some local businesses and have insisted that all those on the route are contacted so that mitigation plans can be put in place. The event first came to Essex in 2022 and has raised more than £5m for charities in the County. Hosting the event has also meant Essex has received £1.75 million in grants for projects across the County which inspire and provide opportunities for people to be active. For more information visit ridelondon.co.uk/community-info

National Grid Electricity Transmission - (NGET) Pylons Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk County Councils commissioned an Independent Report which questions the timings of the projects and questions NGET's preferred land-based pylon route. All 3 County Councils have said that NGET's proposal will harm the local economy, the environment and the health and wellbeing of their communities. The Report challenges the delivery date of 2030, and instead suggests 2035 which would reduce the cost of an integrated offshore alternative. The three Councils have "a clear preference is for a coordinated, offshore centred approach, delivered at pace to minimise onshore works" I recently invited our MP, Kemi Badenoch, to visit the "pinch point" between Great and Little Waltham and also asked her to write to the Minister for Nuclear and Networks at the Department for Energy Security, to share this report and make it clear that the three County Councils 'remain united against NGET's onshore option; in order to emphasise just how close the pylon route runs to the Walthams. A further study which will analyse onshore and offshore options, is ongoing and will take around three months to report. For more information on its scope visit <http://www.nationalgrideso.com/.../offs.../east-anglia-study>



GP Surgery provisions I have met with LW/Notley PPG and Partners, who asked for help with their concerns about more housing and shortfall of primary care services. Whilst this is outside my County Council remit, I have lobbied the NHS Integrated Care Board (ICB) to understand their plans for the provision of surgeries in the area, in line with the housing development expansion. It concerns me that there is so much unclaimed S106 and CIL sitting with City Council (this is the funds collected from developers to fund local services). I have provided a full report to the Little Waltham/Great Notley practices and my commitment to getting the ICB to plan for rolling out new surgeries in Beulieu, Garden Community, Broomfield, and Writtle – to align with the proposed developments.

DigiGo is extending the service beyond the pilot for an extra 2 years! DigiGo is a fully electric shared public transport service which offers on-demand or pre-bookable travel in parts of Essex. DigiGo is booked through the TravelEssex journey planning App. Digigo

covers much of Writtle and operates seven days a week, from 7am until 10pm. Fares are capped at £2 per journey, or concessionary passes apply. www.digigo.uk Digigo are eager to collaborate with Parish Councils to explore the possibility of arranging session to in using the app. The sessions will specifically focus on providing digital support for those less digitally inclined, guiding them through the process of using the TravelEssex app and making DigiGo bookings via it. Parish Councils can organise an event in February/by emailing digigo@essex.gov.uk . More information about the DigiGo service itself can be found at: www.digigo.uk

Fibre to the Premise – FTTP To enable economic growth and supporting people the County Council is driving forward plans for Essex to become a **Digital-First** County and has launched a strategy which aims to boost digital connectivity and tackle digital exclusion. As part of that strategy, **Gigaclear** are rolling out in my division, with speeds up to 900Mbps. You can find out more and register your interest at gigaclear.com

Mike Steel Essex County Councillor (Broomfield and Writtle)

Tel 01245 360918 **E:Mail** cllr.mike.steel@essex.gov.uk

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**

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



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THE HUB HUB

News from the Headteacher

As we embrace the arrival of warmer weather and the promise of new beginnings, everyone at Little Waltham Primary School is thrilled to share some of the exciting events and achievements that have unfolded during the Spring term. At the outset of the term, we embarked on a creative journey with our Take One Picture project, in collaboration with the prestigious National Gallery in London. Our pupils, guided by a talented local artist, created both individual and collaborative artworks. The school exhibition held in January was open to parents with its kaleidoscope of colours and creativity, showcasing the artistic flair of each and every child.



In late January, our school choir had the extraordinary opportunity to grace the O2 Arena as part of the Young Voices choir - the largest school choir in the world. It was a day filled with music, community, special guests, and immense pride as our young pupils performed superbly well. It was an opportunity and experience that many of our young people and parents will never forget. Our educational adventures continued with some amazing school trips this term. Our Year 3 pupils delved into history at Colchester Castle, unraveling the mysteries of the Romans, while our Year 4 pupils showcased their sporting prowess at the Superstars competition, competing against other local schools. Looking ahead to the second half of Spring term, our Year 4 pupils eagerly anticipate their upcoming visit to the Tower of London to learn more about Henry VIII and our Year 5 pupils will be enchanted by Wicked The Musical. As March approaches, anticipation mounts for our eagerly awaited World Book Day celebration on the 7th. This year, we are also thrilled that the Little Waltham Speech Festival will return for a second year, a platform where each child presents on a topic close to their heart. It's a great occasion where we witness the blossoming of confidence and the honing of public speaking skills, captivating classmates and the whole school as our pupils speak with passion and confidence on subjects that matter to them. As we reflect on the successes of the term, we extend our gratitude to our supportive community whose unwavering encouragement supports our journey toward excellence.



I wish all of our school community a fantastic Spring and Easter. Here's to a season filled with warmth, renewal, and endless possibilities.

Warm regards,

Mr S. Saunders Headteacher

Little Waltham Primary School

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Little Waltham Gardening Club



During these cold months us gardeners take a little respite from our toils and are using the time to plan for the gardening season to come. The Club participates in a seed buying scheme whereby our members are able to purchase seeds at 50% discount from Suttons of Paignton. With the reduced prices so low, members feel more encouraged to experiment with new varieties as well old favourites. The Club is affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society and members are able to take advantage of the Club's Entry Ticket which enables 2 people to visit the RHS Garden at Hyde Hall (Rettendon CM3 8ET) for the price of one. These are two more good reasons for joining our Club, besides the wide range of subjects discussed at the evening meetings, the afternoon outings to beautiful National Garden Scheme gardens and the wealth of gardening information gathered from like minded growers. **The Annual Subscription is £10.00. Visitors are very welcome - £3.00 per visit.**

SATURDAY APRIL 6th - ANNUAL SPRING FLOWER SHOW in MEMORIAL HALL

This is a colourful, inclusive event featuring spring flowers, flower arrangements, cookery, craft and photography. A schedule of classes will be available on line littlewalthamgardeningclub.co.uk or hard copies from Show Secretary Marion Lawson (01245 361857) or from Maggie Williams (Hon.Sec) (01245 360042)

ANYONE and EVERYONE where ever you live is welcome to enter the Show. There is no entry fee, all we ask is that you let Marion or Maggie know about your proposed entries no later than **WEDNESDAY 3rd APRIL**. This gives us time to allocate space to the best advantage. **Entry forms in back of schedules.** Don't be shy if you haven't entered a flower show before. Novices are very welcome. Please contact Marion or Maggie for advice and stewards will be on hand to help on the morning of show day.

Entries to be at the Memorial Hall by 10.15am on 6th April and the Show will be open for public viewing at 1.30pm. Prize giving at 4.00pm

During the afternoon refreshments with home made cakes will be available together with **BUMPER PLANT STALL**. Come early to bag some bargains!

MAY 1st - a presentation by Dr. Richard Rolfe, chairman of Chelmsford Branch of British Cacti and Succulent Society entitled ' Back to Basics, Cacti and Succulents' This is a great opportunity to learn how we should look after our cacti and succulents and get the best out of them. This type of plant are becoming very fashionable as they will forgive a little neglect

MAY 8th - Afternoon Outing to 'Heyrons' National Garden Scheme Garden, High Easter CM1 4QN. Leaving the Memorial Hall carpark to arrive at Heyrons at 2.00pm. Cost, including refreshments £10.00 pp.

All the above evening meetings take place at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall (CM3 3LN) where there is plenty of parking at the rear. Little Waltham Gardening Club is a small friendly Club with enthusiasm for gardening and growing in all its forms.

For more information, please phone Maggie Williams 01245 360942 or visit www.littlewalthamgardeningclub.co.uk

A PLEA FOR HELP I have enjoyed being the Honorary Secretary of Little Waltham Gardening Club since 1985, but now I think the time has come to find a replacement secretary or an 'apprentice' secretary with whom I would be happy to work alongside for as long as necessary to secure the continuity of the Club. I have been very fortunate to have been supported by a very hardworking, enthusiastic Committee.

The programme of Club events has been confirmed for 2024 and also a number of events for 2025. *As secretary, no great horticultural knowledge is required, just a love of gardening and a desire to see Little Waltham Gardening Club continue to be a viable organisation in our village.*

Please contact me for a chat (01245 360042) or email maggiewilliams40@yahoo.co.uk

Little Waltham Charity Garage Sale

Sunday 7th April 2024

Whether your a seller or a buyer, why not join together with our village to help raise some much needed funds for

**The Ark Therapy Centre, Chelmsford
Which Offers Support to Children with Autism.**

Its the perfect time of year to clear out that garage, sort out that loft and finally get rid of those unused toys and games.

Everyone is welcome to pitch a stall on their driveway, doorstep or front lawn and invite along their friends & family.



10am - 2pm



A suggested contribution of £15 per stall, or donation of profits will be gratefully received

For any further information or to sign up please text or call Sharon Carter on 07718907546

Pop this flyer in your window to show neighbours you're participating

Obituary

Iris Diver

Iris Diver died peacefully at Okeley Care Home aged 96 Years.

Iris was born in Walthamstow in 1927. She was the eldest of four children. Her mother died of kidney disease when Iris was only 11 years old. Iris won a bursary to go to Highbury High School for Girls. Within a year the war started and Iris's school was evacuated to Huntingdon. In 1943 Iris got a job as a booking clerk at Sawbridgeworth Railway Station. It was while working here that Iris met her husband Don. They married in 1950 in Harlow. In 1951 their son Alan was born followed by Ann in 1953. In 1961, when Don's job moved to London, the family came to Little Waltham. Iris then returned to education.



Iris, when she retired as Parish Clerk in 1993

She passed enough GCE exams to enrol for a teacher training course at Brentwood. She passed this with flying colours and taught at Bocking School for a while.

Iris delivered 'Meals on Wheels', and in school holidays helped to cook the meals. She was a member of 'Chelmer Residents' that campaigned for changes in the village. Iris, Don and Alan organised the first village flower show in the 1970's. Iris was life-time President of the Little Waltham Gardening Club. She was a Parish Councillor and then Parish Clerk – a job she did very successfully for 20 years. When Iris's husband Don died in 1979, this work became even more important to her. As a councillor she got the opportunity to be a school governor and a trustee of the 'Poole and Aley'n Charity'. Iris spear-headed a campaign to 'Keep Little Waltham Little'. The campaign was to stop a 100 houses being built by the river in the centre of the village. She also organised WEA classes and ran a weekly 'Brew-Up' for many years. She helped with the 'Village In Bloom' and 'Best Kept Village' competitions. Iris also delivered the Parish magazines; cleaned up the bus shelters and went out with councillors to clear footpaths around the village. She enjoyed feeling that she was making a contribution to her community.

In June 2021, due to memory problems and poor sight Iris moved to Okeley Care Home. Ann and Alan would like to thank all the people who kept in touch with their mum by phone, letter or card, and special thanks to those that were able to visit and chat with her about the good old days. Iris loved and served this village for many years. Her funeral and interment was at St. Martin's Church on 20th December. She is now back home in the place she loved with all her friends and neighbours.

£197.50 was donated in memory of Iris to 'CHESS Homeless' charity.

St Martin's Church



Services

All are welcome

The Parish of Great Leighs, Little Leighs & Little Waltham

24th March 9.30am **Palm Sunday**

St Mary's Great Leighs CM3 1PP

7th April 11am with **Archdeacon Jonathan**

Great Waltham Church

14th April 9.30am **Communion**

St Johns Little Leighs

21st April 9.30am **Family Service**

St John's Little Leighs

11am **Communion** Great Waltham Church

28th April 9.30am **Communion**

St Mary's Great Leighs

5th May 11am **Communion with Bishop**

Adam, Great Waltham Church

12th May 9.30am **Communion**

St Johns Little Leighs

19th May 9.30am **Family Service**

St John's Little Leighs

11am **Communion** Great Waltham Church

26th May 9.30am **Communion**

St Mary's Great Leighs

*If you would like to be added to our monthly mailing list please contact our
Parish Administrator*

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

March 2024

Palm Sunday 24th Rev. Geoffrey Griggs

Good Friday 29th Rev. Geoffrey Griggs

Easter Day 31st Rev. Hans Stein

April 2024

Thursday 4th Coffee and Cake

(10.00am to 12.00 noon)

Sunday 7th Rev. Geoffrey Griggs

Sunday 14th John De Lacy

Saturday 20th Coffee Morning

(10.00am to 11.00am)

Sunday 21st Rev. Hans Stein

Sunday 28th Rev. Hans Stein

May 2024

Thursday 2nd Coffee and Cake

(10.00am to 12.00 noon)

Sunday 5th Ian Chamberlain

Sunday 12th Rev. Geoffrey Griggs

Saturday 18th Coffee Morning

(10.00am to 11.00am)

Sunday 19th Marina Price

Sunday 26th Rev. Hans Stein

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



The curtains closed at the end of January on Little Waltham Drama Groups' annual pantomime, 'The King Arthur Show... Camelot and Beyond'. It was wonderful to play to large audiences who laughed, booed, cheered and clapped throughout the show and we loved seeing the smiles on everyone's faces as they left – it made the months of rehearsals so worthwhile – thank you.



We were delighted to have three new members on stage and also new members backstage as we are always looking for more people to join us. As one of our members once said... **'We are a friendly, happy group of people who enjoy meeting socially and who happen to also enjoy performing'**.

So, if you would like to be involved in our next show in any way at all then head to our website www.littlewalthamdrama.com for more details. If you fill in a contact form we will get back to you.

Little Waltham & Great Notley Surgeries Patient Participation Group

Spring Update: The surgery has implemented a new phone system across both sites and now offer a call back service. The phone lines are still extremely busy, but we aim to have 3 receptionists at site, especially during the morning rush at 8am.

The surgery is pleased to announce that the E-consult booking system seems to be working well for making 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 with the new design for the website making it clearer and simpler to use.*

LW&GN PPG, other PPGs and representatives from local Parish Councils have met to discuss the level of local development alongside proposed healthcare provision and are collectively in contact with the Integrated Care Board to clarify the situation.

We will keep you updated.

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.

u3a News

If you've never heard of u3a, it is a national collection of charities run by and for members which was established to promote opportunities for those no longer in work to come together and learn for fun. Our local u3a offers opportunities to participate in range of member-led social, recreational and learning activities and interest groups, and if you have particular skills, knowledge or enthusiasms you'd like to share, there's scope to add these to the local 'offer'.



The walking group on a monthly walk. We usually have good weather and always start and finish at a pub with good food! Check out our other groups via the Broomfield and District u3a website.

Besides the group activities we hold monthly get-togethers at Broomfield Village Hall (**2nd Wednesday of**

every month, 1.30-4.00) which include presentations from guest speakers on a wide variety of topics. To find out more about our current groups just google-search our website, 'Broomfield & District u3a' where you can also take a look at our monthly newsletters, get contact details and obtain application forms.

You're welcome to come along to one of these meetings as a 'taster', where you'll get a friendly reception and any member of committee will be happy to answer any questions you might have. (If you could let us know in advance via the website we'd appreciate it)

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



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Old Park Meadow

Natural Burial Ground



Old Park Meadow Natural Burial Ground first opened back in September 2017 in a secluded area of countryside between Great Dunmow and Chelmsford, Essex. A natural final resting place full of wildflowers and young woodland, it is a space visiting family and friends can return to and enjoy together. Families can say goodbye their own way and have the opportunity to have whatever kind of funeral they would like for their loved ones. We offer funerals with no time constraints and no fixed rules or formats, everything can be completely personalised whether it's a burial, ash interment, service, or wake and all held in the heart of nature.

Our journey began on former farmland, where Old Park Meadow embarked on a remarkable transformation. The vision was to cultivate not only a final resting place but also a vibrant and sustainable natural environment. Over the years, we have planted more than 3,500 trees, nurtured 500 meters of native hedgerow, and sowed the entire 34-acres with a blend of grass and wildflower meadows. This conscious effort has led to the creation of a thriving nature reserve, where every aspect of our flora and fauna plays a pivotal role in bolstering the local ecosystem and providing a refuge for wildlife.

With guidance from the Essex Wildlife Trust, we strategically placed wildlife boxes throughout our expansive grounds, creating ideal conditions for various species to flourish. A notable success has been the



establishment of a breeding pair of barn owls in our Wildflower Meadow area, a testament to our efforts and the Trust's invaluable guidance. Furthermore, we have tailored the habitat of our resident barn owls to meet their specific needs. Our ponds and fields, with the continued expertise of the Trust, have evolved into thriving ecosystems that provide a sanctuary for the diverse wildlife that now calls Old Park Meadow home.



The evolution of Old Park Meadow displays the seamless integration of natural burials, eco-conscious practices, and the flourishing wildlife that benefits from our commitment to preserving and enhancing the natural beauty of our grounds.

Essex Wildlife Trust

Waltham Meadows



The floods abate, thankfully.

As we embrace the changing seasons (and let's face it, boy, is it changing frequently at the moment), let's look at what's happening in the Meadows.

The hedgelaying down the side of the lane from the carpark continues into February. After that it'll be on hold till the winter, so we don't disturb nesting birds etc. In case you missed it from previous articles - hedgelaying, a traditional conservation practice, is an age-old technique involving partially cutting through the base of a hedge and bending it over to create a living barrier. This not only strengthens the hedge but also provides an ideal habitat for various wildlife. We know it can look drastic when it's first done, but fear not. The hedge grows back thicker and stronger than ever.

Fancy a go? Contact Essex Wildlife Trust and get yourself on to a volunteer work party.

In the spring, the kissing gate to the north of the reserve will be getting a face lift, well a base-lift. If you are a regular user of this entrance, you'll know that when it's wet weather (which does happen occasionally!) getting through the gate requires waders, snorkel and special forces training. Once the ground is resilient enough to accommodate vehicles and trailers, we'll be getting some aggregate down to hopefully help with the drainage.

We'll also be able to continue clearing all the Alder from the main drainage ditch in the bottom meadow. With the ongoing flooding we would have required scuba gear.

We've recently had a spate of fly tipping in the car park and volunteers have done quite a few trips to the tip to remove it. If you see any, please let EWT know. Unfortunately, it seems that once some appears certain people seem to think it's a good idea and add to it. And of course, it goes without saying, if you do see litter in the reserve, please do help us by picking it up. Maybe take it home with you, even if it's not your own. It's a great habit to build, to take three pieces of random litter home with you on each walk (obviously don't pick up anything you are unsure of). We very much appreciate your support.

Spring will soon be springing so we'll be able to share some great wildlife updates in following articles.



Thanks everyone, Neil Bailey



How Reducing Meat

Can Make a Difference

Colder temperatures, fewer hours of daylight and rainy times may indicate the onset of winter, and with these 'darker' times you may be craving more 'comfort' foods and meals. This is normal, as our bodies use more energy to keep us warm, so carbs and higher fat foods may be on the menu; but we need to remember that the planet is feeling those darker times too. My favourite quote is 'It will take millions of people living an imperfect sustainable life, rather than a few living it perfectly' and these articles are all about how minor shifts in our habits can have a lasting impact.

Meat consumption is a key topic when it comes to climate change contributions and in our own personal behaviours. 51% of the UK population eats meat every day in meals; that is 34 million people. Globally, livestock farming is estimated to make up more than 14% of all man-made greenhouse gases. That is huge, but because it is huge, you may wonder what reducing one meat portion can

actually achieve...can our individual actions make a difference? The answer is yes it does, but that doesn't necessarily mean we have to give it all up.

Beef produces the highest environmental footprint, largely because of the added methane that cows produce. Lamb is having the next highest, but even this impact is 50% less than beef. But getting back to the question, what does reducing one meat portion have on our individual footprints?

Reducing one 75g portion of meat in a meal would save:

- Beef (a burger) - 8kg of carbon emissions; the equivalent of travelling 18 miles by car!
- Lamb (two lamb chops) - 4kg of carbon emissions; the equivalent of 34 showers!
- 5 king prawns (farmed) - 3kg of carbon emissions; the equivalent of 15 showers!
- Pork (3 bacon rashers) - 2kg of carbon emissions; the equivalent of travelling 7 miles by car!

And that is only for one meal! If we reduced 1 meat meal per week for a year that could save 198kg of carbon emissions. That's 330 car miles! And that is only as us as individuals. If the 34 million Britons who eat meat everyday were to give up one meat meal a week for a year that could save 102 million tonnes of carbon emissions!

That is just one meal, one vegetable curry included in the weekly plan, and so that one small action together will make a huge difference. What meal will you change during these colder times?

Written by David Jackson – Sustainability Professional AIEMA, follow my own personal journey on Instagram @david_ecolife





News from Farleigh Hospice

Farleigh Hospice provides award-winning care, free of charge, to people affected by life-limiting illnesses and bereavement across mid Essex. Here are some of the charity's upcoming events.

Calendar Photography Competition

Farleigh is looking for photos that capture the beauty of Essex in all seasons. The best pictures will be included in its 2025 calendar. They can be taken with a camera or a phone - all entries are welcome! Visit the website for the competition rules and to submit your photos by Sunday 12 May –

www.farleighhospice.org/photo-comp

Walk for Life – Sunday 12 May

Registration is now open for this popular family-friendly walk along the towpath of the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation. Choose between the 12km ramble that begins at Paper Mill Lock, Little Baddow and the more demanding 24km route that starts at Heybridge Basin, both finishing in Chelmsford. To find out more and book your place, visit

www.farleighhospice.org/walk



Little Waltham Open Gardens and Classic Car show

This year, the open gardens and car show is planned for Sunday June 23rd, 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.

Apart from standing by your garden on the day, there is not much else you would have to do. We are well supported by Farleigh Hospice for admin practicalities like insurance, etc

You can contact me by email (**dblaaney@aol.com**) or phone **07900493544**
Please do get in touch if you are interested.
David Blainey

Can you help?



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 Parish Council

Contact Us

We can be reached by email or telephone as below:

✉ Clerk@littlewaltham.org.uk ☎ 01245 442658 🌐 www.littlewaltham.org.uk

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