

# Woodham Walter 2010-11 Annual Parish Report

APRIL 2011

## Woodham Walter Parish Council

### From the Chairman...



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Welcome from me as the new chairman of Woodham Walter Parish Council. My name is Mark Durham and this is my second spell as chairman, the last time being about ten years ago. Each Chairman serves a period of two years before handing over to another councillor to take the helm. My vice chairman elect is James Bunn and he is joined by the other councillors, Claire Robinson, David Potter, Peter Warren, Angus Neale and Colin Warner. We are kept in order and ably assisted by our wonderful clerk, Jacky Bannerman.

In my 15 plus years as a councillor, I have experienced four clerks and have come to realise that this is one of the most important roles in the community. It involves a considerable amount of work and commitment to keep on top of the never ending stream of correspondence, circulars and emails that have to be sorted, prioritised and actioned. Our monthly meeting minutes and agendas actually form

only a small proportion of her work and there is no doubt that without her, we would not be able to function effectively.

This is the second set of published reports which are circulated prior to our Annual Parish Meeting. The aim of this booklet is to provide parishioners with a written summary of the things that have been going on in the village over the prior year. Members of the public are of course welcome to attend the meeting on Monday 11th April and I would strongly commend you to do so. Members of the public are also warmly invited to attend any or our monthly parish council meetings which take place on the second Monday of every month at The Women's club on Top Road. There is a public forum at the start of every meeting at which any subject that may be of concern can be raised.

This last year has been relatively uneventful for the council. We donate approxi-

mately £1500 per year to various village organisations with the intention to provide much needed support in these difficult times. We believe that these clubs and organisations are a valuable asset to the people of the village and as such are worthy of our continuing financial assistance. We are very conscious that this money comes from each and every council tax payer in the village and we are careful to ensure that we are balanced and fair with these contributions.



*Woodham Walter  
Parish Council chairman  
Mark Durham*

## Annual Parish Meeting - Monday 11th April

All Woodham Walter residents are invited to attend the

### Annual Parish Meeting

On Monday 11th April 2011 at 8pm

At Woodham Walter Village Hall, Rectory Road.

- Matters Arising from Annual Parish Reports
- Public Forum

## Woodham Walter Parish Council - Chairman, Mark Durham



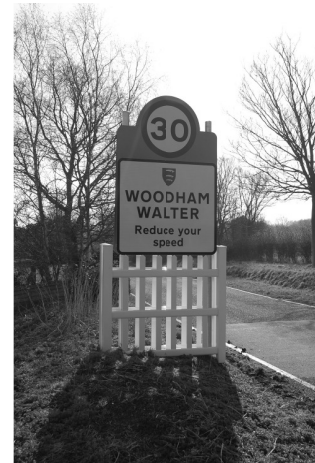
One of the most important roles for the parish council is to be part of the consultation process for planning applications. Maldon District Council send us the full applications and we have a policy to speak to those neighbours who may be affected by the application. We then discuss each case at our meetings and use the results of the consultations and our own personal views on the merits or otherwise of the application. I must stress that none of the parish councillors are experts in planning law and although we sometimes get guidance from the relevant planning officer, our decisions are based on our opinions on how we feel it would impact on the village. On many occasions the final decision is contrary to our parish recommendation but there are often legal or planning policy reasons for this. Maldon District Council are relying much more on the planning officer to delegate the decision and in cases where there is no objection from the neighbours, parish council or ward district councillor this is always the case. However for larger applications or those that have attracted some objections they are referred to the Planning Committee. It has long been a concern of the Parish Council that neither applicants nor objectors were allowed to address the committee members at planning meetings. There is now a trial underway at MDC where concerned parties may make a short statement at meetings. Although this does not really go quite far enough, it is a start and it will give us a voice that we previously did not have.

This last year we had a total of 17 planning applications which included 2 listed building consents. We also had one appeal lodged. This is down on the 2010 number of 21 applications and further down on 26 in 2009. I think that this is largely due to the current economic situation in the UK. The other major planning matter that the council has been active with in the last year is that of the property known as Falconers Lodge. This has been a problem for a couple of years due to the fact that a previous owner had illegally altered the ground levels by means of dumping material on the site. This infringed a planning application for the property and therefore an enforcement notice was issued by Maldon District Council to restore the site. In the meantime the owner suffered bankruptcy and the site is now owned by Barclays Bank PLC. Also the ruins of Woodham Walter Hall, which are within the site boundary, were given legal protection by becoming scheduled as a National Monument in 2010. This effectively means that any work has to be overseen by archaeologists and future planning consent for this site will be strictly limited. I am very pleased that MDC are progressing the enforcement notice with Barclays Bank and we should see a resolution to this matter within the next few months.



As the village recovers from a particularly cold winter with two bouts of severe ice and snow, it was quite fortuitous that we purchased the salt bin at the end of last year. It was positioned to allow salt to be used to alleviate the icing of the hill from the end of Top Road to the Bell Pub. This has been very dangerous in previous years and in 2009 it was barely

passable at all. A few good Samaritans spread the salt on the road when the snow came in December and thanks to them the route remained passable. We have to hope that we don't have any more snow this winter as the bin is currently empty and we cannot rely on it being refilled for a couple of months.



Speeding continues to be a problem in the village and this has been one of my pet projects in recent years. The village benefits from the new gating and the Vehicle Activated Sign that we share with other parishes, but I remain convinced that in the absence of a regular police presence, the best solution is the community speed watch campaign. This is due for re-launch in the near future and Essex Police have put a lot more resources behind the scheme. We do need more volunteers however to make this viable. It will only require an hour or so every two or three weeks, full training is given and from this spring we are advised that a police officer will attend every four weeks to assist and issue speeding tickets if these are needed. If you are interested in making a real difference to our community, please contact our parish clerk.



## Woodham Walter Parish Council - Chairman, Mark Durham

One of the most irritating matters that is frequently raised at meetings is that of litter and dog fouling. We are all justly proud of our village surroundings and by far the majority of litter comes from cars as they drive through, hurling rubbish out of the window. We do have an 'adopt a road' scheme that works very well and an annual community litter pick, however I would urge everyone not to walk past a piece of litter, but pick it up and put it in a bin. The 2011 litter pick took place in mid February with 14 adults and two children turning up to help. A staggering total of 47 bin bags and 11 tyres were collected during the morning. Although the area covered was wider this year, this is a worrying figure, as it represents nearly double the amount from 2010.



Dog fouling is yet another example of anti-social behaviour.

Those people who walk their dogs in the village should take great care not to let them foul the paths and pavements, this is particularly unpleasant by the school and nursery, both being locations where we get numerous complaints. Please, bag it and bin it!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank a few people and welcome some new personalities to the village. Firstly thank-you to the contractors that we use in Woodham Walter. Paul from Blackwater Landscapes, our lighting contractors and to the management & green staff of The Warren Golf Club for cutting Bell Meadow. We welcome our new Vicar to the parish, Rev'd Stephanie Stroebel and our new shopkeepers Simon and Marilyn. Welcome to you and indeed to any new resident of Woodham Walter that has moved here in the last 12 months.

Just before Christmas the village saw the retirement of a person who has made one of the most significant contributions to Woodham Walter in recent years. Derek (Del) Butcher is



someone that many in the parish may not even be aware of, but as manager and warden of the Wood Corner gypsy site since it opened, he has worked to make the site one of the best in Essex. I have been on the council long enough to recall the strong concerns that many people had prior to the site opening and I think it is fair to say that this facility has been a credit to the Gypsy Services Department of Essex County Council, but most of all to Del Butcher.

In May this year Councillor Mrs Sheila Young is retiring from being our ward councillor at Maldon District Council. Mrs Young has served Woodham Walter and the other villages in her ward since 1995. During this time she has worked tirelessly for the community and held the prestigious position of Chair of the Council for two years.



Finally, a warm thank-you to my fellow councillors and clerk. You make the job of chairman both easier and enjoyable by your help and support. I have another year before I give up the chair to the next chairman and I am pretty sure that there will be a few challenges to come our way in the coming months. I am fiercely proud of this village and the incredible community spirit that we all enjoy. I trust that parishioners of Woodham Walter are happy with the way that your parish council look after your interests and that you entrust this job to us for another year.

Mark FL Durham  
Chairman, WWPC



## What do Parish Councils do?

**Powers and duties** Parish councils have a large range of powers and activities.

Woodham Walter Parish Council is involved in planning consultations, managing Bell Meadow, the care and upkeep of the village, liaising with Highways, street lighting, allotments, promoting the village and any other local issues.

We provide community funding to local organisations to help with maintenance including Woodham Walter Women's Club, Woodham Walter Village Hall Association and St Michael's Church. We regularly contribute to the Parish Magazine and also make annual grants under the heading "Entertainment & The Arts" to Silver Threads club and the Bell Meadow Village Association. We give an annual grant to the Essex Wildlife Trust towards their work

managing Woodham Walter Common.

Spending plans include maintenance work at the War Memorial Shelter outside Chapel Stores and new nets for the football posts on Bell Meadow along with our other regular expenditure.

### How parish councils work

Parish councils are statutory bodies. Members are elected for a term of four years. 2011 is an election year and we are due to begin the process. The deadline for nominations is 4th April with a view to an election being held if necessary on 5th May – if the number of nominees does not exceed the number of vacancies a poll will not be required.

Parish Councils are funded principally by an annual precept. Income and expenditure for the next financial year are calculated

in the form of estimates. The net amount (the precept) is added to council tax, collected by Maldon District Council (the principal authority) and paid to Woodham Walter Parish Council annually. Parish councils can apply for other funding such as grant and funding awards, but they do not receive funds direct from central government, as principal authorities do.

Woodham Walter Parish Council also receives income from the hire of the Party Tents. During 2010 we raised £675 in hiring income.

Councillors have agreed that the precept requirement for Woodham Walter in 2011/12 will remain the same as in 2010/11 at £10,449.00 which works out at £36.79 per Band D property for the year.

## What do Parish Councillors do?

As a councillor you become a voice for your community. Parish Councils are the most local part of our democratic system and are closest to the public.

Councillors have three main areas of work:

1. **Decision-making:** through attending meetings and committees with other elected members, councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented. Woodham Walter Parish Council meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 8pm for approximately 2 hours.

2. **Monitoring:** councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how well things are working.

3. **Getting involved locally:** as local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations. This often depends on what the councillor wants to achieve and how much time is available.

The work of a parish councillor may include:

- going to meetings of local organisations
- going to meetings of bodies that affect the wider community,

such as the police, the Highways Authority, the local Council and schools

- taking up issues on behalf of members of the public.
- Neighbour consultations for planning applications.
- Inspections of Bell Meadow and the Community Playground at the school.

Being a parish councillor is an enjoyable way of contributing to your community and helping to make it a better place to live and work.

Further information on Parish Councillors and Parish Councils is available from our Parish Clerk, [jacky@wwparishclerk.co.uk](mailto:jacky@wwparishclerk.co.uk)

## District Councillor, Mrs Sheila Young



Last May saw the end of my time as Chairman of Maldon District Council.

For two years 2009-2010 I had the honour to serve as Chairman of the District which includes Burnham-on-Crouch as well as Maldon.

It was an extremely hectic but a very interesting and rewarding experience. One of the most amazing things that struck me was the number of voluntary groups in operation. David Cameron take note, this is your "Big Society" already in action.

The District of Maldon, as we all know has some beautiful countryside, fascinating history and archaeology, coupled with two well used rivers and parks.

Oh yes! We have all this but the really best part is the people, and I met quite a few in my two years. The rest of Essex knows about Maldon.

Now what has all this got to do with a report about what has been going on in 2009-2011 at MDC. Quite a lot really because it is about people.

I would like to highlight some of the good things that have been going on and which we hope will keep going.

At the last Council meeting the Leader of the Council gave a glimpse of last year.

The Revenue and Benefits Team continue to maintain an excellent record in the processing of benefit applications, collection of Council Tax and business rates. They have achieved a Highly Commended Award at the prestigious IRRV Benefits Team of the Year Awards. The Private Sector Housing Team have greatly improved its processing of the Disabled Facilities grant.

With ever increasing demands, the Housing Team has also managed to avoid the use of Bed & Breakfast accommodation and lessen the use of temporary accommodation. The Benefits & Fraud Team investigation has been very successful in addressing attempts to commit fraud. For the current financial year to date 65 cases of benefit fraud have been proved with overpaid benefits totalling at least £92,400.

The Green Flag status has again been maintained for the Promenade Park, Oak Tree Meadow and Burnham Riverside Park.

The Park Rangers Team has filmed a D.V.D. on the excellent work they do. They are part of a National Community Safety Accreditation scheme which allows rangers to confiscate alcohol, takes names and addresses, tackle anti-social behaviour and deal with litter and dog fouling.

The Tourist Information Centre continues to produce excellent booklets on "Where to go" and "What to do", new ones are coming out all the time e.g. New Maldon Tourist Guide. They have received another Highly Commended Award from East England Tourist Board Scheme.

As the squeeze on funding begins to bite we have been looking at all our services. Regretfully we have had to cut the amount we give to the Voluntary Sector and to encourage them to find funding elsewhere.

We have been working in partnership with other authorities and different groups for some time. The Emergency Planning Services is one and the District has responded to several incidents including a major fire.

Regarding Planning Services, which is always something which people feel strongly about, from both sides

of the spectrum. A number of improvements have been made and more staff employed to fill vacant posts. There is tighter caseload management within the Development Control Team which has helped our performance significantly. A much needed improvement to our Planning Enforcement Service which I am very pleased to see.

A number of things mentioned are already being resolved. The really good news is of course No Council Tax rise. We are in reasonably good health money wise. There will probably be more working in partnerships with others.

This is for the future but I am sure Maldon District Council will continue to "Punch above its weight" and the residents of the District will continue to be the kindly, helpful and courteous people they have always been.

Many thanks to all members of Woodham Walter Parish Council and for the residents of Woodham Walter for ploughing through this report.

There is much going on. We do have some good officers who are working really hard. I think Fiona Marshal the new C.E. has had a big task but I think everyone is getting there. Time will tell!

When new people come on the Council it will be most interesting.



*Her Majesty The Queen visited Maldon during 2010.*

## What do District Councillors do?

The primary role of a Councillor is to represent their Ward and the people who live in it.

If you would like to talk to your District Councillor you can telephone or write to them using the contact details which can be found on the Maldon District Council website: [www.maldon.gov.uk](http://www.maldon.gov.uk)

## Woodham Walter Women's Club - Enid Lush



The Woodham Walter Women's Club has again enjoyed another year with some most interesting speakers and events and this year we have welcomed an additional two members to our group and four committee members.

In our fund raising events the Women's Club once again provided teas and cakes at the Festival of Flowers which proved to be well attended and many thanks to all our members and everyone who donated cakes and preserves, much appreciated.

Bell Meadow Day was an enjoyable family occasion and despite the weather we actually completely sold out of all our produce and cakes. Our Tombola stall, which was run by one of our members, proved to be very popular and also managed to sell all tick-

ets. Thank you, a tremendous effort on everyone's part.

Our final fund raising event for the year was our Jumble Sale in July and this has also contributed to funds.

These fund raising events have helped to boost our maintenance fund and this year will enable us to have the outside of our club repainted. Apart from fund raising we send shoe boxes each year filled with goodies to the Samaritans Purse appeal. The boxes are then distributed in different countries to children for Christmas. Also we give donations to various charities.



We have visits to the theatre and for our Founders Day we spent a most pleasant afternoon at Hylands House where we enjoyed a private tour of the house and had tea in the Blue Room overlooking the gardens.



Another welcome activity is our coffee mornings where we have a chance to discuss the future of the club and get to chat to other members in a friendly atmosphere. Thank you to all our hostesses.

Unfortunately we had to cancel our Christmas Party in December due to the snow and general bad weather conditions. However, most of our members were able to come along in January and celebrate the New Year instead.

Woodham Walter Women's Club meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Women's Club on Top Road.

Enid Lush  
President

## Silver Threads - Ann Mulley

Sadly our membership continues to fall year by year.

Membership for 2010/11 were 12 with about six or seven members attending regularly, the others when fit enough or hospital appointments etc allow. With an average age of approximately 85 years it's to be expected that our activities are somewhat limited.

We do however manage a few trips out for a pub lunch and afternoon teas in the summer months, using the Viking bus service. We have been to The Queen Victoria in Woodham Walter and The Ship at Tiptree for lunch and had wonderful

afternoon teas at Tiptree Jams Tea Rooms and the Stisted Tea Rooms.



Wendy Munnion gave a flower demonstration for Christmas in November. Sadly our annual Carol concert when the Salvation Army Band come and play for us was cancelled due to their members being not well enough to keep the date.

The Christmas lunch was well attended with nearly all members being able to attend.



We have started 2011 with a couple of pub lunches.

Our AGM takes place in March at the village hall. We always hope for new members to join us, they would be made most welcome.

Ann Mulley  
President

## Woodham Walter Village Hall Association - Sarah Maxted

It has been another successful year for the village hall. We have some new regular bookings which means the hall is in fairly constant use. Our challenge for the year is to raise a substantial amount of money as the hall needs re-wiring to make it compliant with current regulations.



Any volunteers to come on the committee would be very welcome. We hold approximately 10 meetings a year, 2 or 3 work parties to tidy up and we run 2 fund raisers per year - The Art Show in July and The Revue in November. We are looking for new acts for the revue so anyone who has a fancy to be on stage please watch in the Parish magazine for details.

I would like to thank the current committee for all their work in maintaining the hall as it is an important part of the village.

Sarah Maxted  
Chairman WWVHA



To book Woodham Walter Village Hall please contact Andrew Ritchings  
Tel: 01621 811733 or email:  
caretaker\_wwvh@btinternet.com

## Bell Meadow Village Association - Mark Durham

We have now organised six events on Bell Meadow for August Bank Holiday Weekend. Every previous one enjoyed good enough weather to bring everyone out to enjoy the daytime events and the evening entertainment. I suppose that on the balance of averages, we were due to have rain sooner or later and unfortunately it came on August 29<sup>th</sup> 2010. We had arranged the biggest range of stalls and entertainments, with

**"I MUST THANK EVERYONE WHO BRAVED THE WEATHER AND SUPPORTED US THAT DAY, DESPITE THE COLD AND WET"**

everything pointing to a bumper event, however we were blighted by strong winds which effectively stopped the falconry display and then rain. It wasn't just a shower either and at one point I retreated into my tent and just put my head in my hands, wishing it was all over! No sooner had I done that, a glimpse of blue sky appeared and within an hour, the rain had stopped. It did delay quite a lot of our displays however and unfortunately lots of people also decided to give up and go home. Undaunted, we carried on and got things relatively back on schedule ready for the evening music. However the weather had other plans and I think that we must have experienced the coldest August evening in history. I will never

forget the vision of people huddled up in coats and even sleeping bags to keep warm. Fortunately our band, 'For Funk Sake' got everyone up dancing, so the day finished pretty much as usual, in high spirits!



I must thank everyone who braved the weather and supported us that day and I hope that they had a nice day, despite the cold and wet. This obviously affected the gate receipts and we actually made a small loss last year. Fortunately we have enough money in reserve from previous years to enable us to run the event again this year.

This event cannot be held without the hard work of the committee members and I would like to thank them all for everything they did to make the day successful. I am in a fortunate position to be able to just chair the meetings and do some of the setting up prior to the event, but the other people spend many hours of precious time sorting out the arrangements. I have to single out (name & shame!) a couple of people this year, as they both had new roles and really made an excellent contribution. Firstly, Victoria

Nolan who was in charge of finding and booking the stalls. This is probably the hardest job and without her efforts we would not have the afternoon event that we have come to know. Secondly thanks to Gill Orford who ran the competitions tent last year. Gill had some new ideas and worked tirelessly to get the entries in on time and displayed so superbly. Fortunately both Victoria and Gill have agreed to do the same roles this year and I am sure that they will both have some interesting things for us. There is one other person worthy of special mention and he has been involved right from the first year in 2005. Darren Durant does more work for the event than pretty much anyone else, in fact we have a real job on our hands stopping him from working. For the two or three days beforehand, he camps on the meadow and is up at six in the morning doing something or other. Without Darren we would need at least half a dozen other people to do what he does just on his own.





## Bell Meadow Village Association

Our event will take place again this year on August 28<sup>th</sup> and we obviously hope that the weather will be a bit kinder to us. We are expecting to be able to hold a similar event to last year and we have the usual displays and stands already booked. The RAGS Shoot gun dogs will be put through their paces and the falconer will be bringing his birds of prey for a static and flying display. We expect the competitions to be even bigger this year, so now is the time to start thinking about what you should be growing in your garden or allotment. I believe that the classes have already been advertised in the parish magazine.



We have thought long and hard about the evening music this year and we plan to make a few changes. There is no doubt that the band, 'For Funk Sake' are very popular and this is why so many people braved the cold last year. We do think however that it would be good to have a slightly different show to previous years, so we are in discussions with the band at the moment. I am sure that we will be able to ring the changes and still be able to

give everyone the opportunity to dance away the evening! Nearer to the event itself, we will once again be appealing for volunteers to help us for the setting up and on the day itself. It only needs an hour or two of your time, but without such help we will find it almost impossible to organise & run the day.

I am very proud of the celebration that we have created and grown over the last seven years. Please bring your friends and family along again this year and enjoy what is for us, one of the village highlights of the year.

MFL Durham, Chairman,  
BMVA

## Bell Meadow Day - Sunday 28th August 2011

The plans are going well for Bell Meadow Day, this year to be held on Sunday August 28<sup>th</sup> from 1pm, with the ever popular competition tent bursting at the seams with many entries. (Hopefully!)

This year we have a fantastic opportunity to mark a little bit of history in Woodham Walter. The plan is to design a flag to depict life in Woodham Walter, with the winner having their design made up into a full size flag, to be flown at next years event! There will be only one winner, and the competition will be open to adults and children. More details will be in the parish magazine and competition schedule. We are expecting loads of interest.

We have also opened up the photography competition to include a separate category for children under 16. This years titles are St Michaels Church and Essex Wildlife. We are sure these will be very popular categories.

We will be having the usual preserving categories of jam, marmalade and chutney. There will also be categories for sewing, a hand made garment and for various cooking skills - not forgetting the flavoured spirits back by popular demand!

We also need all you flower arrangers out there to get your artistic hats on! The flowers are beautiful and such an asset. We are very lucky to live amongst so many talented people, so have a

think and keep an eye on the parish magazine for the titles which are due to be released very soon. The competition schedule will be available during July in your parish magazine and in the village shop. If you require any information please call Gill on 01245 226721.

We are also looking for more volunteers to help with the setting up of the event on the day.

Stallholder information is available from Victoria on [victoria.nolan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:victoria.nolan@hotmail.co.uk)

See you there!



## Woodham Walter Allotment Association - Angus Neale



The whole project continues to be a resounding success, with healthy home grown food in abundance. Relationships are strengthening with many young members of the community learning that supermarket shelves are not the only source of food.

Fingers crossed for a fine spring and long warm summer days.

The village allotments have continued to flourish over the last year, with everyone getting stuck in to grow some first class produce. This is our final year of our 3 year trial and I am hopeful we will be able to continue for many years to come.

Rabbits have been our greatest problem, with “the tunnelling committee” working hard to ensure we have a secure enclosure and everyone’s hard work is not ruined.

The allotment holders had great success in the “Bell meadow Day’s” exhibitor tent, with a large and varied range of vegetables gaining rosettes. Well done to all.

The winter snow and freezing temperatures meant little was done during the months of December and January, however with the temperatures rising and spring just round the corner, the hard work of preparing the ground for this years crops has begun in earnest.

Angus Neale  
Chair W.W.A.A.



## Mobile Library



The Mobile Library visits Woodham Walter fortnightly as follows:

Woodham Walter, Wood Corner 1530-1600  
Tuesdays 12th & 26th April, 10th & 24th May,  
7th & 21st June

Woodham Walter, Queen Victoria 0930-1000  
Wednesdays 6th & 20th April, 4th & 18th May,  
1st, 15th & 29th June

## Footpath Officer - Peter Warren



I'm still regularly walking the parish paths making sure that there is nothing amiss. Having a dog means a walk every day come rain or shine (longer when it's shine, not quite so long when it's rain!). There are 33 public rights of way in the parish (28 footpaths and 5 bridleways) and I try to cover all of them several times during the course of the year.

The most common problem is that of paths becoming impassable, either due to fallen trees, impenetrable crops (particularly oilseed rape), or overgrown with weeds such as

nettles. Also farmers ploughing up the path can make walking difficult. Fortunately it's been a good year for all of these things. Only a couple of trees have fallen across paths, not much rape was planted in the parish and ECC cut 14 of our paths mid-August keeping the nettles under control for the rest of the year. Not so good was the wet autumn and snowy winter making most of our paths exceptionally muddy and at times flooded.

I've received good support from Nicky Coleman, the Essex County Council Public Rights of Way Officer for Mid-Essex.

Despite the financial cutbacks anything that needed attention has been rectified promptly. After a couple of incidents where walkers have ended up flat on their backs several of our 17 bridges have been made safer with new handrails.

Two bridges have been completely rebuilt, on FP6 Bassetts



Lane to Retreat Farm and on FP4 Gun Hill to West Bowers, the latter being trialled with anti-slip strips. Three of the new wooden fingerposts have been taken by persons unknown (cheap firewood?) and have been replaced. Half a dozen additional waymark posts have been erected and about the same number replaced where they have rotted and fallen over. Also I've replaced or added many waymark discs.

We are very lucky in Woodham Walter to have such beautiful walks in countryside that varies from open farmland to dense woodland with a canal thrown in for good measure. I really enjoy helping to keep our paths in good shape and if you are out walking and see anything that could be improved please let me know.



## St Michael's Church - Kathy Tompkins



During 2010 we were delighted to welcome Rev'd Stephanie Stroebel and her husband Kurt to our parish. We wish them happiness and fulfilment in the Benefice of St Michael and St Margaret. This non-stipendiary self-supporting, ministry is a 'House for Duty' appointment. Rev'd Stephanie is working in a part-time capacity and will



*Rev'd Stephanie with churchwardens of the Benefice, l-r Pauline Abrey, Joan Guiver and Kathy Tompkins.*

minister to both parishes on Sundays and three days per week.

As well as being our Parish Priest she assists her husband in running a small estates company. On taking up her post, she has assumed ex-officio roles on the governing body of our village school, a trustee to the Almshouses and a committee member of The Friends of St Michael's. Please welcome her when you see her as she gradually gets to know us.

We are committed to a continuing involvement in the village school, by both our new priest and the ongoing contribution by lay members of our congregation. Two members of the Parochial Church Council also serve on the school governing body together with Rev'd Stephanie. Church led assemblies, JAM club, fortnightly prayer group and the Fresh Expressions Outreach project with the travelling community all continue. We are also fully involved with the Diocesan led partnership with Kenya and were pleased to play an active part in Mr Dickson Kabuga's visit to Woodham Walter.

The church choir under the direction of our organist, Mr Ken Hay, is much appreciated. The choir enhances our worship at special festivals and is available for weddings throughout the year. During last year we held a Baptism, a thanksgiving for the gift of a child, four weddings, four funerals and two services were

conducted at the crematorium on behalf of the church. All this was amidst the challenges of an interregnum and the arrival of our new priest.



*Robert Philpott married Jessica Haley on the 15th August 2010.*

We were delighted to welcome the Bishop of Bradwell, The Rt. Rev'd Laurie Green, to our church on a 'farewell' visit prior to his retirement.

The Robert Henry Faulkner Almshouses continue to serve an important social need under the care of our dedicated Honorary Clerk Mr Malcolm Bunn and his wife Iris.

The Friends of St Michael's are a great source of support. Please read about their achievements during last year, under their own heading, to fully appreciate the extent of their commitment. We would like to thank every member of the Friends, but particularly the committee, for their enduring support in helping us to keep our beautiful church and grounds in such good order. Taking third prize in the Best Kept Churchyard Competition, at the first attempt, was an amazing result.

## St Michael's Church (Continued)



*Renovated Medieval glass panel in North wall.*

In addition to the work undertaken by the Friends, we were also successful in obtaining full funding from The Glaziers' Trust of the Worshipful Company of Glaziers, a City of London Livery Company, for the renovation of a medieval glass panel situated at the top of the middle window in the north wall. This involved removing the panel for restoration and replacing it within a protective glazing system commonly referred to as 'Isothermal Glazing'. We are extremely grateful to The Glaziers' Trust for their sponsorship and to Susan McCarthy of Auravision for such fine workmanship.

Our involvement in the community continued with the vil-

lage weekend in July, which includes our Flower Festival. A massive project for all those involved. To The Friends, and our friends in The Women's Club, the flower arrangers and sponsors we send you our sincere thanks. We also took part in Bell Meadow Day, exhibiting church records and providing refreshments.

Fundraising included the Christina Hoskyn Memorial Lecture with profits split between St Michael's and the Breakthrough Breast Cancer Charity and coffee mornings, 'bring and buys' and carol singing in support of the continuing work of our church. Carol singing around the village attracted support from our friends at school of all ages who turned out on a freezing night, thank you so very much.

Our plans for this year are to raise funds for repairs to the south and west walls of the church and re-open the south door. We also hope to make a start on the long awaited kitchenette. In the churchyard the line of yew trees running from north to south along the old boundary line are giving cause for concern. We will start by

pollarding the most distressed of them in the hope that this will promote regrowth and it may be that others along that line will require similar treatment. But please be assured that we are doing our best to preserve these trees and our own tree expert will oversee all work undertaken. If all else fails then the trees will be replaced because they are a significant feature of the churchyard.

Our services follow the established format with Holy Communion on the first and third Sunday of the month, Morning Prayer on the second followed by a Family Service on the fourth. Please remember that to allow more time between Sunday services we now start at 9.30am. Plans are also in hand to re-start the Sunday School, so do look out for details to be advertised over the coming months.

We would like to thank everyone for the support we receive in so many different ways. Your support enables us to continue the work of St Michael's Church that started here over 500 years ago.

Kathy Tompkins  
Churchwarden  
St Michael's



## Wood Corner Caravan Site - Steve Andrews



We can report another quiet year for Wood Corner Caravan Site outside of normal day to day life for the residents and site manager, with only one change of resident, the site remains settled.

The grant funding we were hoping to attract for continued site improvements was one of the early fallers in the cuts imposed by the new government, when all remaining Gypsy/Traveller refurbishment funding was withdrawn. Although we understand there is now new funding to be made available in 2012/13 which we may be able to bid for.

Once again, the snow came, making movement on and off the site virtually impossible, although we did not suffer the same issues with the power supply in the cold snap as we did last year.

This leads us to the major event of the year which was the retirement of our long serving site manager Derek Butcher. After many years service and tipping the scales at a little over 70, Derek decided it was time to take the retirement route. His colleagues gave him an appropriate send off at the Queen Victoria in

Woodham Walter which included a Gypsy Wagon cake specifically commissioned for the occasion. Once again we thank Derek for all of his hard work for the site and the community, and wish him all the very best in his retirement.....he has not moved far, so I'm sure you will see him around



*Derek Butcher who retired as on-site manager in December ... and the Gypsy wagon cake.*



### Moving forward

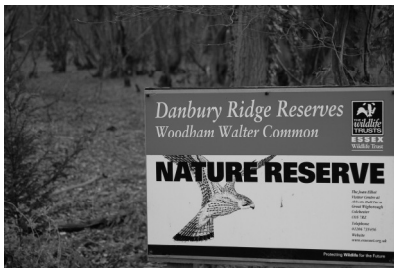
Our new manager, Martin Curtis has taken over responsibility for the site and is settling in nicely, along with help and support from the other members of the team, and Derek never too far away should help/advice in settling in be needed.

As with all local government services, we are currently having to review how it will operate in the future, and options under consideration are a partnership approach working with other agencies across Essex or the possibility of the service moving to a Registered Social Landlord. This is likely to be actioned within the next financial year.

Steve Andrews  
Gypsy & Traveller  
Services Manager  
Essex County Council

**"WE THANK  
DEREK FOR ALL  
HIS HARD WORK  
FOR THE SITE  
AND THE  
COMMUNITY"**

## Woodham Walter Common - Chris Wheadon



### General.

Working parties have undertaken normal maintenance concentrating on removal of bramble and bracken from both bog areas downstream of Pheasant House Farm. This work is ongoing.

Work has also included the continued removal of the invasive species Himalayan Balsam. This particular work is wholly undertaken in the bed of the stream near Twitty Fee. This work is ongoing.

Removal of bracken from the newly created Heather area will continue as and when necessary.

### Projects

**(1) Water Level Monitoring.** Following the installation of the measuring equipment and subsequent readings taken by the Hydrologists. The Trust will continue the monitoring process. Initial visual inspection of both bogs indicates that water levels in both bogs remain stable, which is encouraging. Further upland tree/shrub removal could be undertaken as necessary when time and money permit.

**(2) Heath land Regeneration.** The upland area of 1/3 acre (0.15 ha) already earmarked for regeneration and reseeded with Heather in 2010 has been further hand cleared of new invasive bracken. I am pleased to report that a few new Heather shoots have started to appear, despite the harsh winter. It may be some time before the area completely regenerates, however the new growth is a good sign and the newly created open space may encourage butterfly species such as the Heath Fritillary and Purple Hairstreak.

**(3) Bridleways/Footpaths.** The ECC Team replaced a number of

Footpath signposts in 2010, however, we still have two damaged Bridleway way mark signs/posts, that need replacing, this matter has recently been referred to Councillor Peter Warren, Footpaths Officer for Woodham Walter Parish Council. Councillor Warren has arranged for new posts to be delivered by Essex County Council. He and I will install them and attach necessary waymarking. Unfortunately we did have an accident on a Bridleway in September when a mountain biker collided with a horse rider. Fortunately none of the parties were injured although the horse did sustain minor cuts to a hind leg. It was subsequently decided to erect appropriate signage worded in a manner agreeable to both the Essex Wildlife Trust and Woodham Walter Parish Council.



**Encroachment on Badger Set .** A situation had occurred where a new mountain bike path had been created through an existing and established Badger Set. I have now obstructed the path using felled holly bushes, effectively closing it.

**Dormice.** As the survey concluded that there are very few, if any, Dormice on Woodham Walter Common, work on establishing Dormouse numbers continues on adjoining EWT Reserves.

### **Damage caused by creation of Mountain Bike Circular Track (2010)**

I reported last March that a Mountain Bike "track" had been created primarily on land owned by The Warren Golf Course; however there had also been some encroachment onto Woodham Walter Common. I am pleased to report that the culprits

have not returned, and to my knowledge no further damage has occurred.

### **Additional Matters**

**(1)** Members of Woodham Walter Parish Council were invited to have a mini tour of the Common. This visit took place on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 2010. Councillors, Robinson, Neale, and Warren were able to attend. The tour was led by Leanne Sergeant, accompanied by myself. The tour highlighted the work of The Trust, the overall situation, and objectives, management of the woodland, bogs and heather areas. Important issues such as damage caused by deer were discussed; Councillors were shown examples of this damage in coppiced areas. Leanne explained how this problem is addressed on some other Trust Reserves by management of the deer population

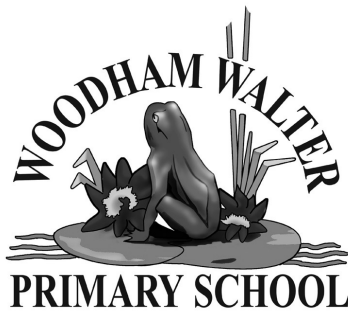
**(2)** A new "Steep Slope" warning sign has been erected next to the path which runs North/South adjacent to The Warren Golf Club. The sign was erected at the top of the slope leading down to the stream as I had noticed numerous skid marks left by mountain bikes, indicating violent and sustained braking once the severe incline had been encountered.



**(3)** A Common Buzzard as reported last year has been seen on the Northern edge of The Common near Bun-say Downs Golf Club. A buzzard has also been sighted near Pheasant House Wood, by another Warden, very likely to be the same bird.

Chris Wheadon .  
(Greatly assisted by the "retired"  
Martin Gregory)

## Woodham Walter Primary School - Headteacher



We always strive at Woodham Walter CofE Primary School to give our children the best learning opportunities through engaging activities that deliver high standards. It is always incredibly rewarding to see children develop and learn new skills and knowledge.

### Developments:

#### Admissions Number

The school is continuing to show increasing popularity. We had a full intake for this year and we will have a full intake this September with over 50 families applying for the 15 places.

#### New Build

The school was successful in obtaining approval and funding for the building of a new classroom. The building works began in January and should be completed by June. Our children are excited by the new build and have been studying buildings through the topic 'Raising the Roof'. The additional space will be very much appreciated. We do not intend to increase the admission number.



#### New Library

The new build is to ensure that our youngest children have a decent sized classroom. The old class room will now become a library and will be filled with new books to inspire the joy of learning. These will be purchased with funds raised by the P.T.A.

### Creativity in the curriculum

Our staff plan interesting and exciting lessons and activities to engage our children and to help develop their life skills. Recently children from years 2 to 6 were taken on a school trip to France. Whilst on the continent the children had to purchase food using French to ensure that they were able to share a picnic together. Tres bien!



### Africa

Our link with an African school continues to be of great benefit to the school and village community. This link has developed our cultural understanding and knowledge of an African community. The visit by Mutira Primary's headteacher, Mr Dickson Kabuga, last year, helped develop our friendship and links further. The many fundraising events for our African links have been supported by many members of the community and have been fun to participate in.

### Forest School

We are extremely pleased the Forest school work in 'The Wilderness' has been so successful. The children have had fun exploring and finding out about nature. Both the children and adults have developed their environmental awareness, independence and problem solving skills. We are so fortunate to have such a beautiful environment which we utilise all year round.



At Woodham Walter CofE Primary School we always endeavour to give our children an excellent education. The support given by The Blackwater Consortium of Schools, the Small Schools Cluster, the Parish Church, the Parish Council, local businesses, and the parents, including our very active P.T.A., as well as many other individuals who give their time so kindly, continues to move our school forward. Our members of staff are highly skilled and committed and our governors give willingly of their time and expertise to support and develop the schools' future. Mrs Matthews will be leaving the school and moving on to new ventures but with such effective support the school will continue to flourish as a new headteacher takes up leadership of the school in September.

Madeleine Matthews, Headteacher  
[www.woodhamwalter.essex.sch.uk](http://www.woodhamwalter.essex.sch.uk)





## Parent & Teacher Association - Emma Springham

We have had a really fun and successful year within the Woodham Walter PTA this past year. We have had a few changes within the PTA team, unfortunately we have lost several key PTA members this September who were a huge support to me when I took over as chair last year. However on a positive note with the new school year we have gained half a dozen absolutely fantastic parents and teachers to the team. I am also truly grateful to Kate Hills who has stepped in at Vice Chair, as Lucy Bennett has sadly had to stand down.

2010 started with The Quiz Night in January reaching new heights in entertainment. Our thanks went to Colin Bennett, for his inspired questions, and to Graham Bannerman for hosting the event and to the PTA members for doing the really important bit and making sure the food arrived!

The Fashion Show last May allowed us to add £176.04 to the kitty and has to be one of the most entertaining events on the calendar, mainly as many of the PTA, old & new, donned the outfits and had an enjoyable evening. I would like to thank the parish for their support at this event.

The Fete brought a fantastic £3,075.93 to the account. Thanks to everyone who helped out and again we were blessed with good weather. We really enjoyed this year's event and once again had the lovely Alan Dedicoat to open the event with our fabulous Graham Bannerman as host. Having our regular stalls and games alongside entertainment with demonstrations from all the children – karate, dance, football & gymnastics – made for a great afternoon.



**"WE ALSO LIKE TO SUPPORT THE LOCAL COMMUNITY. THIS YEAR WE TOOK PART IN THE CHURCHYARD SALE AND TOOK OUR COCONUT SHY TO BELL MEADOW"**

the Friends of the Church and the PTA. We also took our coconut shy to the Bell Meadow celebration in August. A dedicated team built a great stall. Unfortunately due to the disastrous weather we only made £60 but at least that will pay for the Easter Eggs for the children this year!!!!

Our spring, Autumn and Christmas 'Bake 'n' takes were a popular hit with the children enjoying the food along with stalls, popcorn and raffle. At Christmas we had Santa's Grotto for all to visit - all sales helped to boost the profits by a combined £430.

This past term we have had a busy time. We have held several really successful events. The Race Night was a disappointment in the number of attendees but each of them made up for it and we made a staggering amount. We also held the now annual Pamper evening where we saw the school hall filled to the brim with stalls from cakes, to jewellery to candles to Christmas gifts. We even had to get in more therapists to cope with demand – just wait until next year when we have even more room! We also had the ever crazy jumble sale! In total this term we have raised a staggering £2,524. This is an amazing amount thanks for everyone's help and support!

So having raised all this money we love to spend it on the people we are all here for - the children and the school. This year has been a year of saving and buying bits and bobs! Our big aim, this year has been to raise

We also like to make sure we support the local community. This year we took part in the Church Yard Sale back in May helping with the Toy Stall. The proceeds were split between

money to equip the new library, which will be an integral part of the new build to be completed in the early summer this year. The football & athletic teams will also be looking super-smart in their respective matches and events this school year with the PTA funding the purchase of lovely new kits. We purchased new dungarees for class 2 for Forest Schools, with the idea to save us parents having to do soooooo much muddy washing – although it might not be so in some cases!!

The children have enjoyed a Christmas Disco, and a visit from Father Christmas (with authentic beard) who was able to bring a present for each child paid for with the funds we raise. The biggest Christmas treat though was the PTA covering the cost for the children to have a touring pantomime - Cinderella at Christmas. We managed to fund taxis to transport the children to their swimming lessons, a trip to the national history museum & Stansted Mountfitchet Castle for class 1 & 2, a field study trip to the British museum, Christmas Carol theatre trip and trip to Marsh Farm for classes 1 and 2. We made sure the Easter Bunny left an egg for each child and continue to contribute to the after school clubs. All of these things added up to well over £3,700

This coming year our main priority will be to raise more funds to help furnish and provide books for the new library that will evolve when the new build is complete.

We have several more money raising adventures in the pipeline for 2011 – coming up soon is the Murder Mystery Evening on Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> April and the Annual Quiz Night on Sat 14<sup>th</sup> May. We hope that we can continue to raise more money to benefit the school and our wonderful children.

Emma Springham  
Chair, PTA

## Friends of St Michael's Church - Malcolm Bunn

The "Friends" organisation was set up in the summer of 2005, so we are now into our 6<sup>th</sup>. year. It is an independent organisation, separate from the Parochial Church Council.

Its aims are to assist the P.C.C. financially and otherwise, in all aspects of the preservation, maintenance and conservation of the Church fabric (and Churchyard), to ensure that our beautiful old Church can remain at the heart of our rural community for future generations. Membership is open to everyone and is not restricted to worshippers.

Since we began, we have raised over £15,000 through membership subscriptions; very generous donations from our Members and other fundraising activities.

Currently we have approaching 150 individual members drawn from 80 family groups.

By the use of Working Parties we have been able to keep costs down significantly and achieve the successful completion of more projects. During the last five and a half years we have had 25 working parties.

Some have been small and specific to a particular task (such as the new ladder to the bell tower) involving 2 people and some have involved upwards of 25 people working hard in the Churchyard.

In last year's report I listed eleven projects which had been completed. I also mentioned six future projects.

One of the most significant of these is the work needed on the South & West internal walls of the Church, to remedy a serious damp problem which is damaging

the brickwork. Associated with that work, is the proposed re-opening of the "bricked-up" door in the South wall of the Church, which was closed off more than a century ago. I am reliably informed that the cost of such work ( to include a new Oak door ) would be in excess of £20,000. Clearly this is a huge amount and the "Friends" will need all of their fund-raising skills, if this project is to be tackled.



Another priority project concerns a proposed Kitchenette, to enable a direct water supply and sink facilities, at the rear of the church, (to replace the current primitive arrangements) for when catering requirements are needed. (For example, services which are followed by light refreshments such as Carol services; Harvest festivals etc., and working parties.)

There are many other "deserving" projects and the Friends continue to liaise with the Churchwarden and the P.C.C. to agree upon priorities.

On top of all the excellent work done by the working parties, we achieved a **3<sup>rd</sup> Prize** in the Rural Community Council of Essex competition for the best kept Churchyard in **2010**. (Our first ever entry & a prize of £50.!)

Our Working Parties are advertised on posters in the village and in the Parish Magazine. We continue to fund-raise at the July Flower festival and on Bell Meadow day.

The Committee would like to thank the membership for their outstanding support and generous donations and many other people, who, although not members, turn out and support us.

As chairman I would like to thank all the committee members for their unstinting support and hard work.

New members are always welcome.

Malcolm Bunn  
Chairman



## Tadpoles Nursery - Pam Seear



September saw some changes to our previous session times due to parental demand and changes to the government funding. We now offer the option of Tuesday and Thursday as all day sessions; this has proved very popular with parents and children alike. We still take into consideration the needs of the younger children and so devote Monday and Wednesday morning sessions to them, this allows them to become familiar with the staff, routines etc and allows them to become settled and confident before moving up to the older children's sessions.

We always take the time to listen to the children and offer a child initiated curriculum, in line with the EYFS, this means that what we do is based around the children's interests. This approach makes the children feel important and valued, and they thoroughly enjoy the control allowed when choosing the activities they would like out on their next session. We also operate our free flow system into the garden, which means that come rain or shine we have great fun outside with our umbrellas and wellys.

At Tadpoles we work closely with our parents and carers. We do this by ensuring parents receive comprehensive information on

the nursery by giving them a induction pack detailing all the most relevant information, and informing parent/carers of our open door policy. Parents are invited to attend termly stay and plays where the child and key person together, share with the parent, their learning journey. Parents receive regular newsletters and have access to daily information on our notice board. Parents/ carers also help with walks to the school, around the village, to bell meadow and to the allotment.

After a very successful sponsored Teddy Bears picnic in the summer we managed to raise a considerable sum of money towards our planned bench for our allotment. We enjoyed such fine weather this year and children, staff, parents together with the school all had lots of fun. The children loved the races and we even managed to persuade some of the mums and dads, grannies, grandads to join in, although some were a little shy. We always enjoy a lolly at the end to help cool us down after all our hard work.



**"THE HIGHLIGHT OF OUR ALLOTMENT YEAR WAS WINNING 3RD PRIZE AT THE ANNUAL BELL MEADOW CELEBRATIONS"**

This year again we have found our allotment to be a very beneficial learning rich environment, which the children and their

families love; this has helped to promote our healthy eating policy. The children plant, harvest and eat produce from their allotment, also taking home some produce to share with their families. We have 'allotment working parties' which are well attended by all family members, as well as members of the local community, and we visit our allotment regularly during session time. The highlight of our allotment year was winning third prize at the annual Bell Meadow celebrations last August!

Autumn was followed by Christmas which is a really fun time for us, we performed our usual nativity in the school which was enjoyed by families, neighbours and the local community and really put us in the festive spirit. This was followed by our party and a visit from Father Christmas, before he started his busy time delivering all the presents.

We are now expecting our three yearly Ofsted inspection which is due anytime!

As always if you have any questions at all or would like to come visit us please contact us either by phone 01245 222046 or email [tadpolesnursery@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tadpolesnursery@hotmail.co.uk)

## Neighbourhood Watch - Brian Cumming



This last year the village has been subject to a number of criminal actions:-

- A section of lead was stolen from part of the Church roof allowing water to enter part of the building
- A break-in and theft of valuables from a private house
- An attempted break-in at the post office
- Theft of a number of garden ornaments
- An attempted theft from a garage and workshop.

None of this would be ranked as 'serious crime' but it is very distressing to those involved and it illustrates that we all need to keep our eyes and ears open.

I regularly attend meetings of the NHW area coordinators run by one of the local coordinators. These meetings typically take place every 2 months. The good news this year is that the Police are again funding a liaison position and the area coordinators are once more receiving regular reports from the local police highlighting key matters of current concern.

I have links with Little Baddow NHW (who are linked to Chelmsford Police) and this is also a valuable source of local information.

Whenever there is a matter of concern to raise with the villagers I communicate this through the parish magazine and I have written four articles for the magazine during the year. Issues raised in this way have included the following:-

- A variety of phone scams involving attempts to elicit credit card information, attempts to place costly viruses on computers and attempts to embezzle money through claims of outstanding phone bills.
- The theft of tools from vans
- The theft of catalysts from cars
- Door to door salesmen making false claims about official backing
- Security system sales people making false claims about police backing

As always I encourage everyone to remain aware of those around the village and to alert the police immediately (using 999) if they believe that there is something suspicious going on. The great majority of crime in the Maldon area is opportunistic and simply ensuring that our homes and vehicles are secure would help greatly in reducing such problems.

## Community Speed Watch



The aim of the traffic monitoring Community Speed Watch initiative is to address the problem of either real or perceived speeding. This is done in partnership with the community and police. Woodham Walter Parish Council were instrumental in organising the scheme in the village back in 2007 and it is now set for a re-launch with increased support from Essex Police insuring the scheme receives the right level of reassurance and enforcement.

Community Speed Watch members are not Police or County Council employees but members of the local community who want to make a real difference to the speed of vehicles through the village. Using a hand-held radar gun, they capture the speed of offending vehicles, record the necessary data and send it to the police. This information is logged on the police computer where further checks can be made into insurance, tax etc. The police then send the registered keepers a warning letter explaining the dangers and problems caused by speeding. Persistent individuals may then be targeted by the police who will prosecute them if they are caught.

Essex Police are due to re-launch the Community Speed Watch initiative

with further support via the use of police staff, neighbourhood policing teams, special constables and police community support officers this should include visiting Woodham Walter on a regular basis to back up the monitoring work done by the local team.

More volunteers are needed in Woodham Walter, the commitment required only needs to be an hour every two or three weeks. Full training will be given on how to use the detecting equipment, how to record the data, health and safety at the roadside and basic conflict resolution techniques. If you are interested in volunteering as a CSW member please contact our Parish Clerk, Jacky Bannerman for more information.

jacky@wwparishclerk.co.uk

## Police - PS Phil Morley



The village of Woodham Walter forms part of the Purleigh Policing area which currently falls within the Maldon

Neighbourhood Policing District. The main Police Station for the area is located in West Square, Maldon and the office is open daily between the hours of 0900 and 1700. There are extended opening hours on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday when the office is open between 0800 and 2000 hours.

Whilst these are the opening hours for the office Officers operate from Maldon Police Station on a 24/7 basis. Officers can be contacted at the station by calling 0300 333 4444.

The Purleigh Policing area encompasses the majority of the villages in the South West of the Maldon area and stretches from Wickham Bishops to North Fambridge and across to Latchingdon.

Between the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2010 and the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2010 Essex Police dealt with 77,361 crimes of which 22,909 were detected giving an overall detection rate of 29.61%. This is an overall reduction in Crime of

1,946 crimes from the previous year.

For the same period the Maldon District dealt with 1735 crimes, detecting 518 of those, giving a detection rate of 29.86%. This is a reduction of 81 crimes, an increase of 35 detections and an increased detection rate of 3.26% compared to the same period in the previous year.

The Maldon District continues to be plagued by incidents of Acquisitive Crime (Theft from cars, garages, sheds etc.). There has been an increase of 22 offences of theft from motor vehicle and an increase of 24 offences of Burglary Other. In addition to these offences the District also saw a large spate of Theft of Chimney Pots and other garden ornaments during the autumn months. This was a particular problem for the villages in the North and West of the District.

In the current financial climate we are seeing an increase in a number of different crimes but of particular concern for the more rural areas is the Theft of heating oil. We have had a few incidents recently where several hundreds of litres of oil have been stolen from domestic storage tanks. Another crime that is on the increase

is the theft of metal objects. We have had incidents of the theft of wire cabling but have also seen the theft of lead from people's houses as well as the theft of garden gates and drain covers.

If you see anybody acting suspiciously please do not hesitate to contact the police as soon as possible.

The 'One Place on Wheels' initiative that sees the Mobile Police Station visiting the parishes within the Maldon District is now into its second year. This is a joint project between the Maldon Neighbourhood Policing Team and the Dengie Project Trust. This normally takes place during the second week of the month and will be at Woodham Walter Village Hall between 1300 and 1400 hours on the Friday.

A full list of the locations the Mobile Police Station will visit can be found by visiting the One Place website at [www.one-place.org.uk](http://www.one-place.org.uk)

Police Sergeant 214 Phil Morley  
Maldon District Neighbourhood  
Policing Team  
Non Emergency Number:  
0300 333 4444  
Email:  
[phil.morley@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:phil.morley@essex.pnn.police.uk)

## One Place on Wheels



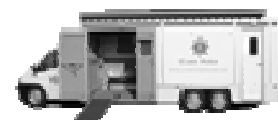
**One Place on Wheels** visits the 24 rural parishes across the **Maldon District** in the **Mobile Police Vehicle** on a monthly basis. *The Mobile* vehicle is manned by representatives of both *Essex Police* and the trained *One Place Team*. **Maldon District Council** has lent its full support to the initiative

The One Place On Wheels vehicle visits Woodham Walter Village Hall on the second Friday of every month from 1300-1400.

This vehicle is manned by representatives from Essex Police and One Place Team offering information and advice on policing, tourist & commu-

nity information, social care, healthy living, benefits and housing advice, volunteering opportunities and access to IT and training. It is open to all.

One Place on Wheels is due to visit Woodham Walter Village Hall on 15th April, 13th May, 10th June, 15th July, 12th August, 9th Sept, 14th Oct, 12th November and 9th December.



## Village Agent - Christine MacDonald



Thank you for inviting me to submit an article for your Parish Council Annual Report.

I am often asked what do Village Agents do? To be honest it is sometimes difficult to give a precise answer. Basically we provide free, independent and confidential signposting and in-

formation to help people live independent lives in their own homes. Everyone has different needs and it often takes a while to understand how we can help.

Village Agents are skilled in making referrals to over 80 project partners and approved assessors (Level 1) for Telecare and Occupational Therapy Equipment .... But you might be surprised to know some of the varied activities I have been involved with – everything from coffee morning to commodes, swimming clubs for disabled people to finding volunteers for tree planting .



Easy access to services and information

I have enjoyed my second year in Woodham Walter and look forward to the future.

## Your local Village Agent can help you with:

- “ Local Social groups, leisure and learning
- “ Welfare Benefits
- “ Fire and home safety
- “ Health and Fitness
- “ How to travel
- “ Services and carers’ support
- “ Volunteering, Digital Switchover Help Scheme

[www.villageagentsessex.org.uk](http://www.villageagentsessex.org.uk)

FREE, CONFIDENTIAL, INDEPENDENT ADVICE AND INFORMATION

phone FREE on 0800 977 5858



Village Agents are employed by The Rural Community Council of Essex

Registered Charity No. 1097009, Company Limited by Guarantee No. 4609624

## Bus Services for Woodham Walter

### Regal Busways

**CHELMSFORD - SANDON - DANBURY - LITTLE BADDOW - WOODHAM WALTER  
DANBURY - LITTLE BADDOW - WOODHAM WALTER - MALDON**

**31A**

**5**

**Mondays to Fridays**

From: 31/08/2010

	Service :	5	31A	31A	31A	31A
	Notes :	Th				
<b>Chelmsford, Bus Station, Stand 2</b>	≠	-	-	1240	1600	1715
Chelmsford, Rail Station, Stand 11	≠	-	-	1241	1601	1716
Great Baddow, Blue Lion		-	-	1252	1612	1727
Sandon, The Crown		-	-	1257	1617	1732
Danbury Common		0910	-	1305	1625	1740
Danbury, Eves Corner		0913	0914	1307	1627	1742
Little Baddow, Spring Close		0920	0922	1315	1635	1750
Woodham Walter, Spring Elms		0927	-	-	-	1758
Woodham Walter, The Bell		0933	-	-	-	1801
Woodham Walter, Council Houses		0936	-	-	-	1804
Beeleigh, Brook Farm Corner		0941	-	-	-	1809
Maldon, All Saints Church		0946	-	-	-	1814
Maldon, Tesco Store		0949	-	-	-	-
<b>Maldon, Morrisons</b>		0955	-	-	-	-

### Regal Busways

**CHELMSFORD - SANDON - DANBURY - LITTLE BADDOW - WOODHAM WALTER**

**31A**

**Saturdays only**

From: 31/08/2010

	Service :	31A	31A	31A	31A
	Notes :				
<b>Chelmsford, Bus Station, Stand 2</b>	≠	0730	0845	1045	1515
Chelmsford, Rail Station, Stand 11	≠	0731	0846	1046	1516
Great Baddow, Blue Lion		0739	0857	1057	1527
Sandon, The Crown		0743	0903	1103	1533
Danbury Common		0750	0910	1110	1540
Danbury, Eves Corner		0752	0912	1112	1542
Little Baddow, Spring Close		0800	0920	1120	1550
Woodham Walter, Spring Elms		0808	0928	1128	1558
Woodham Walter, The Bell		0810	0930	1130	1600
Woodham Walter, Council Houses		0813	0933	1133	1603
Beeleigh, Brook Farm Corner		0817	0937	1137	1607
Maldon, All Saints Church		0822	0942	1142	1612
<b>Maldon, Tesco Store</b>		0827	0945	1145	-

### Regal Busways

**MALDON - WOODHAM WALTER - LITTLE BADDOW - DANBURY - SANDON - CHELMSFORD  
MALDON - WOODHAM WALTER - LITTLE BADDOW - DANBURY**

**31A**

**5**

**Mondays to Fridays**

From: 31/08/2010

	Service :	31A	31A	5	31A	31A
	Notes :			Th		
<b>Maldon, Morrisons</b>		-	-	1145	-	-
Maldon, Tesco Store		-	-	1150	-	-
Maldon, White Horse		-	-	1154	-	-
Beeleigh, Brook Farm Corner		-	-	1159	-	-
Woodham Walter, Council Houses		0725	-	1203	-	-
Woodham Walter, The Bell		0728	-	1206	-	-
Woodham Walter, Spring Elms		0731	-	1212	-	-
Little Baddow, Spring Close		0738	0925	1217	1318	1638
Danbury, Eves Corner		0746	0933	1219	1326	1646
Danbury Common		0748	0935	1222	1328	-
Sandon, The Crown		0756	0943	-	1336	-
Great Baddow, Blue Lion		0801	0948	-	1341	-
Chelmsford, Rail Station, Stand 12	≠	0812	0959	-	1352	-
<b>Chelmsford, Bus Station, Stand 2</b>	≠	0813	1000	-	1353	-

### Regal Busways

**MALDON - WOODHAM WALTER - LITTLE BADDOW - DANBURY - SANDON - CHELMSFORD**

**31A**

**Saturdays only**

From: 31/08/2010

	Service :	31A	31A	31A	31A
	Notes :				
<b>Maldon, Tesco Store</b>		-	1000	1200	1530
Maldon, White Horse		-	1004	1204	1534
Beeleigh, Brook Farm Corner		-	1009	1209	1539
Woodham Walter, Council Houses		0801	1013	1213	1543
Woodham Walter, The Bell		0804	1016	1216	1546
Woodham Walter, Spring Elms		0807	1019	1219	1549
Little Baddow, Spring Close		0814	1026	1226	1556
Danbury, Eves Corner		0822	1034	1234	1604
Danbury Common		0823	1035	1235	1605
Sandon, The Crown		0830	1042	1242	1612
Great Baddow, Blue Lion		0835	1047	1247	1617
Chelmsford, Rail Station, Stand 12	≠	0844	1059	1259	1629
<b>Chelmsford, Bus Station, Stand 2</b>	≠	0845	1100	1300	1630

THIS SERVICE IS OPERATED UNDER CONTRACT TO ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

#### NOTES

≠ Bus stop near Rail Station

## Woodham Walter Parish Council

Burnt House  
Burnt House Road  
Woodham Walter  
Maldon  
Essex CM9 6RS

Parish Clerk: Mrs Jacky Bannerman  
Phone: 01245 222595 (Before 6pm)  
E-mail: [jacky@wwparishclerk.co.uk](mailto:jacky@wwparishclerk.co.uk)

**The Woodham Walter Parish Council website is:**  
**[www.essexinfo.net/woodhamwalter-pc](http://www.essexinfo.net/woodhamwalter-pc)**  
**Here you can find information about the Parish Council, agendas, minutes and other village information.**

### Who's Who and What They Do

#### Parish Councillors

Mark Durham - Chairman  
& Bell Meadow Village Assoc.

James Bunn - Vice Chairman  
& Bell Meadow Village Assoc.

Angus Neale - Councillor  
& Allotment Association

David Potter - Councillor

Claire Robinson - Councillor

Colin Warner - Councillor

Peter Warren - Councillor  
& Footpath Officer

#### Parish Clerk

Jacky Bannerman

### Parish Council Meetings

Woodham Walter Parish Council meets at 8pm on the second Monday of the month, usually at Women's Club room, Top Road. Members of the public are very welcome to attend and can address the council on agenda items or any issues relevant to Woodham Walter. The agenda for the meeting is displayed on the notice board outside Chapel Stores during the week preceding the meeting.

### Diary Dates 2011/12

11th April	10th October
9th May	14th November
13th June	12th December
11th July	9th January
8th August	13th February
12th September	12th March



## Party Tents For Hire

Two 8m x 4m Party Tents available to hire from Woodham Walter Parish Council.

£50 for one tent or £75 for two.

During 2010 we raised £675 hiring out the tents.

For Bookings contact Parish Clerk, Jacky Bannerman 01245 222595 (before 6pm)