



Woodham Walter 2011-12 Annual Parish Report

APRIL 2012

Woodham Walter Parish Council



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From the Chairman...

Welcome from me as the chairman of Woodham Walter Parish Council. I am coming to the end of my two year's as the Chairman and will be handing over the reigns at the May Parish Council meeting and AGM .

This year has seen several changes on the Parish Council line up, May 2011 saw the Parish Council elections and we said thank you to Claire Robinson who stood down at this time after 3 years as a councillor. The Vice Chairman over the past couple of years has been James Bunn and he is joined by the other councillors David Potter and Peter Warren and our first new councillor of the year, Andrew Newland. In June Colin

Warner left the Parish Council after some 24 years of sterling service and we thanked him with a presentation of an engraved hip flask.



Woodham Walter Parish Council chairman Mark Durham presenting Colin Warner with an engraved hip flask..

He was replaced by Gill Orford in August. Angus Neale stepped down in October after 4 years as a councillor, he was instrumental in forming the Allotments Association and we thank him for his dedication to this project. Angus was re-

placed by our newest recruit Joanna Symons who was welcomed onto the Parish Council in January.

We are kept in order by Jacky Bannerman, the role of the parish clerk and responsible financial officer is one of the most important in the community and 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.

Annual Parish Meeting - Tuesday 10th April

All Woodham Walter residents are invited to attend the

Annual Parish Meeting

On Tuesday 10th April 2012 at 8pm

At Woodham Walter Village Hall, Rectory Road.

- Matters Arising from Annual Parish Reports
- Public Forum

Woodham Walter Parish Council - Chairman, Mark Durham



Woodham Walter Parish Council

Back Row L-R: David Potter, Joanna Symons, Peter Warren, Gill Orford, James Bunn, Andrew Newland. Seated: Jacky Bamerman, Mark Durham

Members of the public are of course welcome to attend the Annual Parish meeting on Tuesday 10th 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.

We donate approximately £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.

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 and 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. However for larger applications or those that have attracted some objections they are referred to the Planning Committee. We are pleased that MDC does now allow a representative from the Parish Council along with the applicant and one objector to address the committee at planning meetings. This does now 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. This is the same number as in 2011. One of the major planning matters over the last couple of years is that of the property known as Falconers Lodge. 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 MDC to restore the site. We are pleased to report that following a change of ownership finally the remedial work has been done under the supervision of English Heritage as the ruins of Woodham Walter Hall, which are also within the site boundary, were given legal protection by becoming scheduled as a National Monument in 2010.

Woodham Walter Parish Council - Chairman, Mark Durham



In August we were informed of an Essex County Council consultation affecting Woodham Walter parish, the proposed gravel extraction site at Whitehouse Farm. An extraordinary Parish Council meeting was called in September and attended by over 100 people.

The parish council presented information on the application and how to respond. Since the extraordinary meeting we have received many very positive comments on the way that the meeting was conducted and the useful and balanced information presented. Following the meeting our website was updated and received more hits than ever before with 410 visitors over a 3 month period. (Average monthly usage previously was 30. Since then our average monthly website visitors has increased to 53). Councillors then drafted our response to the consultation. I should thank all councillors for

their considerable time commitment during this process and particularly Cllr. Andrew Newland and the clerk for their time in researching and submitting the final comprehensive response. We had expected that the Minerals Development Document (including: Whitehouse Farm Site) would have been published by now but we have been informed that the timetable for the publication has been delayed, probably until the autumn.



This year the winter was not too severe, this was especially lucky as despite our best efforts over several months we only managed to get the salt

bin at the Top Road junction refilled by Highways 4 days after the snow had come! Additionally to the salt bin we are pleased to have taken part in Essex County Council's new Winter Salt Scheme. They have provided some additional bags of salt/grit for volunteers to store and use in strategic locations such as the pavements adjacent to Old Chapel Stores, the Church and the junctions each end of Top Road and The Bell. This proved to be a great success thanks to the hard work of some dedicated volunteers who first cleared the snow and then applied the salt.

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 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. We do need more volunteers however to make this viable. It will only require an hour or so every two or three weeks. 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 2012 litter pick took place in mid February with 6 adults and one child turning up to help on the day, plus other volunteers who collected during the days and weeks preceding the pick. 28



bags, a wooden cabinet and fire extinguisher were collected during the morning along with reports of several tyres which were advised to the council for collection. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers we have been able to litter pick the entire parish. 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. 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. I would like to welcome any new resident of Woodham Walter that has moved here in the last 12 months.

The Parish Council was delighted to learn that during the year both Tadpoles Nursery and Woodham Walter Primary School have received "Outstanding" status from Ofsted. Congratulations to both.



In May 2011 Councillor Mrs Sheila Young retired from being our ward councillor at Maldon District Council. Mrs Young served Woodham Walter and the other villages in her ward since 1995. During this time she worked tirelessly for the community and held the

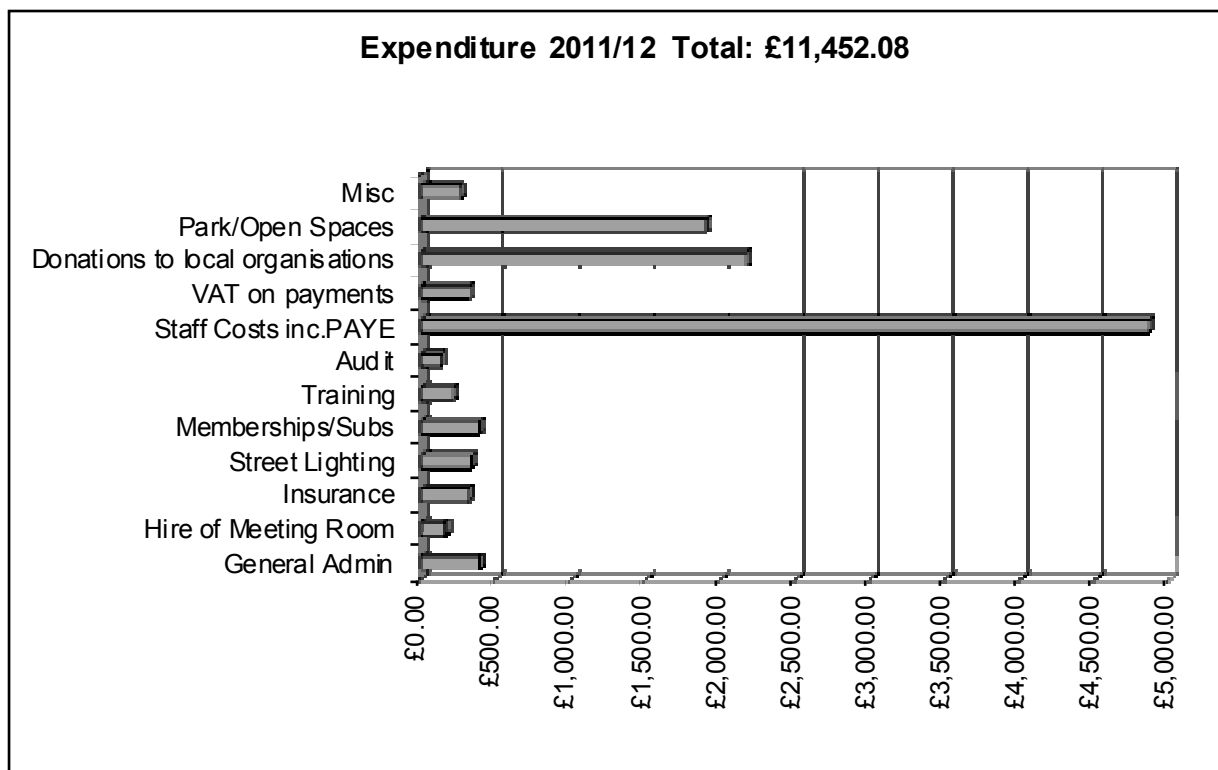
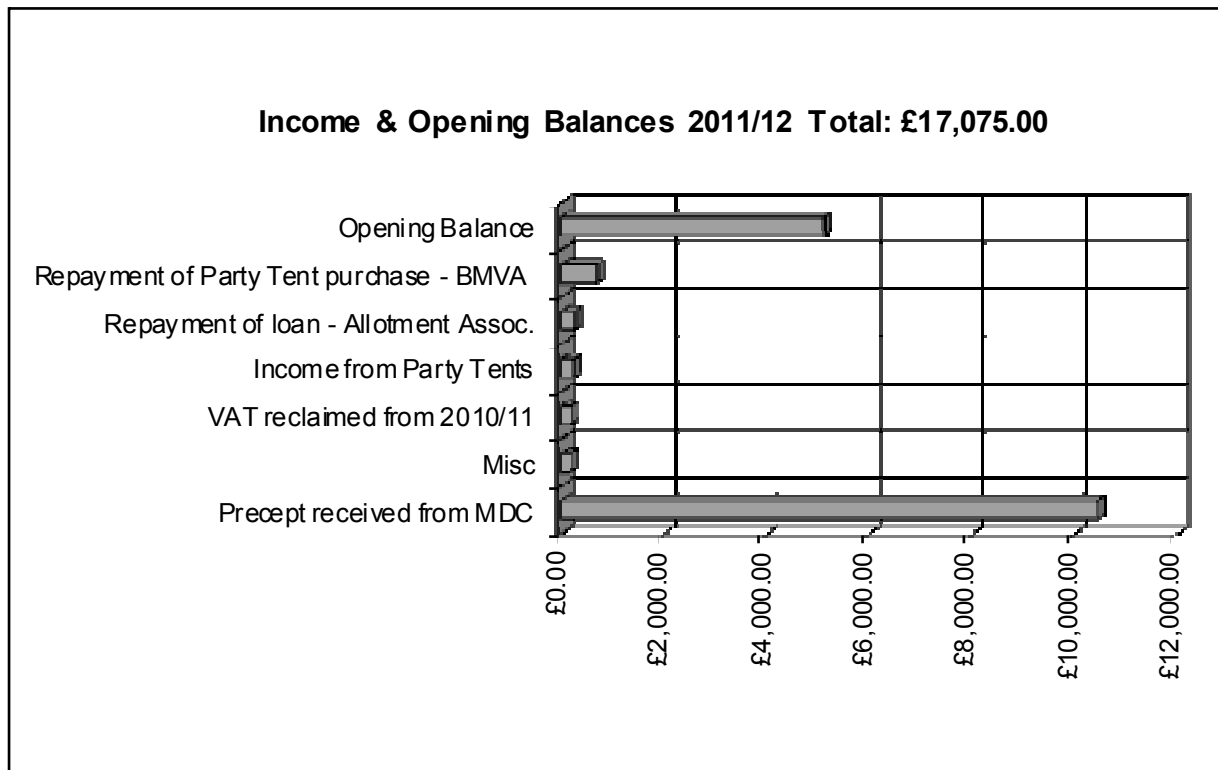
prestigious position of Chair of the Council for two years in 2008 & 2009. I was successfully elected to the position of ward councillor at the elections and my District Councillor report can be found on page 8. Looking ahead we are pleased to be supporting the Diamond Jubilee Street Party Celebration on Monday 4th June, more details on page 22.

Finally, a warm thank-you to my fellow councillors and clerk. You have made the job of chairman both easier and enjoyable by your help and support. I will shortly give up the chair to the next chairman and I am pretty sure that there will be as ever 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.

Councillor M.F.L. Durham
Chairman,
Woodham Walter Parish Council



Woodham Walter Parish Council - Financial Overview



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 for 2012 include contributing to the Diamond Jubilee Street Party and giving a small memento to all the children in the parish 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 was an election year.

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 2011 we raised £225 in hiring income.

Councillors have agreed that the precept requirement for Woodham Walter in 2012/13 will reduce by 15% to £8881.65 which works out at £31.73 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 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

What do Parish Clerks do?



The Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer of Woodham Walter Parish Council is Jacky Bannerman. She has been the clerk for just over 4 years.

Jacky lives in Woodham Walter with her husband Graham and two children, Ellie who attends The Sandon School and Fergus who is currently at Tadpoles Nursery and will start at Woodham Walter Primary School in September.

“Being the Parish Clerk is an enjoyable job. I feel very much part of the community which is important to me. My career has always been in admin (before our children, I worked as a Production Assistant at the BBC in London) so this is the ideal job for fitting in with my family life and other commitments and in a familiar clerical/secretarial role.

I am lucky to have a team of supportive, hardworking and loyal councillors - they don't get paid for their time but the Parish Clerk is a paid position.”

The Parish Clerk is the Proper Officer of the Council and as such is under a statutory duty to

carry out all the functions, and in particular to serve or issue all the notifications required by law.

The Parish Clerk is accountable to the Council for the management of all its resources. The Clerk advises councillors and produces the information required to help them make effective decisions and is then responsible for ensuring that the instructions of the Parish Council are carried out.

The Clerk is also the Responsible Financial Officer and must ensure that all financial records of the Council are maintained and administered correctly.

The Localism Act is likely to expand the role of the Parish Council and the workload and responsibilities of Parish Clerks.

Responsibilities Include:

1. To ensure that statutory and other provisions governing or affecting the running of the Council are observed.
2. To receive and report on invoices and prepare payments, to issue invoices on behalf of the council as necessary, to monitor and balance the Council's accounts and prepare records for audit purposes and VAT.
3. To prepare, in consultation with appropriate member/s, agendas for meetings and display them on the noticeboard (adjacent to Old Chapel Stores) and on the website of the Council. To attend such meetings and be responsible for minutes for approval.
4. To update the Woodham Walter Parish Council website.

5. To attend all meetings of the Council and all meetings of its committees and sub-committees.

6. To receive correspondence and documents on behalf of the Council and to deal with or bring such items to the attention of the Council. To issue correspondence as a result of instructions of, or the known policy of, the Council.

7. To draw up as a result of suggestions by Councillors, proposals for consideration by the Council and to advise on the practicability and likely effects of specific courses of action.

8. To complete any other tasks the Council may reasonably require and to act as the representative of the Council as required.

9. To issue notices and prepare agendas and minutes for the Annual Parish Meeting; to attend the Meeting and to implement the decisions made at the Assembly as agreed by the Council. To prepare the written Annual Parish Report, liaising with contributors and printer.

10. To attend training courses or seminars on the work and role of the Clerk as required by the Council.

jacky@wwparishclerk.co.uk
01245 222595 (before 6pm)
07968 028808

**www.essexinfo.net/
woodhamwalter-pc**



District Councillor, Mark Durham



Just after Christmas 2010 I was formally nominated as a candidate for the seat of Wickham Bishops & The Woodhams for the local elections. This was a huge honour and came about due to the retirement of Sheila Young who was the sitting councillor. The ward is a large one and therefore has two councillors, myself and Henry Bass who lives in Wickham Bishops. Prior to the election date, we both did some local canvassing and hopefully most people saw and read our campaign leaflet. On Election Day, we were both elected with healthy majorities and took our seats at the end of May.

As a district councillor I am obliged to sit on the planning committee for the area that covers this ward, North West Planning. We then have a choice of another committee to sit on and I was selected for The Community Services Committee and Cllr. Bass sits on The Planning & Licensing committee. This means that between us, we cover most key workings of the council that affect our parish-

ioners. On occasions we are asked to substitute at other committees when another member cannot attend. This is actually a good way to see how the rest of the council operates and to date I have attended all of the other committees, The Finance & Corporate Services and Overview and Scrutiny Committees. We also get involved in other partnership meetings representing Maldon District Council and internal working groups etc. I am at present a member of The Gypsy & Traveller Working Group which is proving very interesting.

If I had to be totally honest, I had not anticipated the amount of time and work that is involved being a District Councillor. Despite having been on Woodham Walter Parish Council for 16 years, I was not prepared for the difference in the roles and it has taken a few months to get into a routine. I try to attend Parish Council meetings in the other villages in the ward as well as keeping my current position of Chairman of Woodham Walter Parish Council. However the scheduling of meetings at MDC has meant that I miss many parish meetings for which I am sad. It is my belief that our job as District Councillors should be to represent each and every parishioner and the best way to do this is via parish meetings. As the new Localism Act has passed into law, I am expecting quite a few changes as the aim is to encourage government from the bottom up rather than from Westminster down. It is still early days, but we are already seeing changes to planning policy etc. One of the most significant

changes that started recently is the opportunity for members of the public to speak at any council committee meeting. This is something that as a parish councillor, I campaigned for many years, but has only just been adopted since the May election. Any member of the public can attend any meeting and request to speak about an item that appears on the agenda. Although this is limited to two minutes, it is a major step forward for local democracy. I would urge parishioners to look at committee agendas on the website and attend the meetings to see how these things are dealt with at committee. We have noted a gradual increase in the number of public spectators at meetings and on a couple of occasions, it has been standing room only! Mostly it is only one or two stalwarts and the press watching us in action.

I do have to extend an apology to my Postman / lady for the huge increase in mail that they have to deliver to my house almost daily. In this electronic age, I remain staggered at the volume of paperwork that is generated and mailed out for us to read.

In these difficult economic times, Maldon District Council has to make considerable cost savings due to a cut in the money it receives from central government. Fortunately the financial affairs of the council have been well managed and we still enjoy the luxury of a considerable reserve of money. However as the government subsidy decreases year on year, we will be eating into the reserves within two or three years.

District Councillor, Mark Durham

The council has to provide many front line services to everyone in the district and the range and variety of costs is quite staggering. We have however recently signed a new waste collection contract for the next five years which will retain weekly collections and give considerable cost savings.

Every item of expenditure is looked at annually and council members debate these at a number of budget meetings. It is inevitable that some services have to be cut and unfortunately the weekly collection of green waste has now ceased as it was not seen to give good value for the rate payer's money. MDC do offer a green waste wheelie bin service where it is collected from your property like the general waste. The cost of these bins has been reduced to less than £30 per year, which I believe to be most reasonable. We as a council have managed to produce a balanced budget this year and are very pleased that this will mean that the council tax element for MDC will not increase this year.

Planning matters take up most of my time and we receive a large number of applications each week. I am told that this is lower than usual due to the economic situation, so in some ways, I am not looking forward

to the recovery! On many occasions we are called out to look at specific sites for all sorts of matters, from a small domestic extension to huge schemes like the hospital and major proposed housing & retail projects. This can be most interesting and it shows that the future for the district is sound and vibrant. I have a personal policy to step back from planning matters regarding this village as we are obliged to deal with applications in committee without any pre-disposition or predetermination. I therefore tend to follow the recommendations of the parish council unless there are extraordinary reasons due to details that may not have been in the public domain previously, this is very rare though.

In conclusion, I have had a most enjoyable first year as District Councillor and am looking forward to the challenges facing us in the coming year. I thank parishioners for their support in what are difficult times for a lot of people. As district councillor, I do not have a magic wand to get some things done, but I will always try to represent the village and the other villages in the ward to my best ability. My contact details are available to everyone on the new MDC website and I am always very happy to take telephone calls or meet per-

sonally if someone has a particular issue. As time goes by, I am getting to meet and work with an increasing number of the council officers and it is getting easier to find the right person for the job. I am also willing to discuss planning matters, however I may give advice but will not say whether I would support the application or otherwise as this would indicate bias.

I think that we are all going to see quite a few changes to the way local government impacts on the daily lives of parishioners as the governments new laws filter down from Westminster. On the subject of Westminster, I have to acknowledge the assistance I have received from Priti Patel MP on several occasions. She has on more than one occasion worked with me to get a good result for a couple of long standing problems in the village. As your MP, she works very hard and should anyone have any matters that they would like raised with her, either do so through me, or to her parliamentary email address. She tells me that she receives on average 3500 per day, so I am grateful that I only receive a couple of dozen daily in respect of Maldon Council.

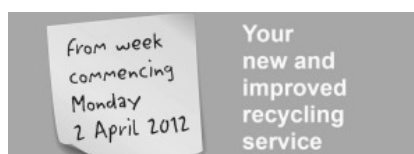
Councillor Mark FL Durham
March 2012

Your new and improved recycling service - MDC

We are pleased to announce that in April 2012 Maldon District Council will be introducing a new and improved recycling service for its residents.

In addition to what we already collect from your kerbside we will

also be able to collect selected plastics & food waste on a weekly basis.



Look out for the delivery of your new boxbag, kitchen caddies and information leaflet in March 2012.

For further information please visit www.maldon.gov.uk/waste or telephone 01621 854477

Woodham Walter Women's Club - Jean Newton



Est. 1906

Women's Club has enjoyed the past year and our various activities keep us busy, our monthly meetings for the most part are well attended and we enjoy interesting speakers organized by Gill.

At our AGM in September Enid retired from the Presidency and I have stepped into her shoes, she has been at the helm for four years. We would like to thank her for the smooth running of the Club and overseeing the major renovation of the Club Room, she and Sally successfully applied for a lottery grant to help pay for this big project. I have been very fortunate to inherit her Committee, a tried and tested team. We are now looking forward to another busy year of activities including the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Olympic year too I don't envisage any of us participating in any of the events though.

Fund raising events – This year at the Flower Festival the weather was mixed, visitors were very pleased to shelter in the Tea Tent during the odd heavy shower and enjoy a welcome cup of tea and piece of cake. We also catered for a rambling group and a U3A group on different days I hasten to add First they enjoyed a conducted tour around the Church and then a ploughman's lunch in the

Tea Tent. Advance warning is appreciated if we need to cater for groups so that the necessary preparations can be made. Thank you to everyone who donates cakes, scones and preserves your efforts are much appreciated, and to everybody who gives their time so freely to help in the Tea Tent thank you.

Bell Meadow Day is a fun family day and enjoyed by the Village, again the weather was mixed, but that didn't seem to stop people enjoying themselves. Our Cake and produce sold out and the Tombola stall run by one of our members proved to be popular.

Our final fund raising event for the year was the Jumble Sale in September thank you to everybody who helped out at this event. We also have to thank the team from the Danbury Village Hall who also help us make the event run so smoothly.

These fund raising events are essential to our maintenance of the Club Room it is an old building and needs constant attention. The outside of the building was repainted in August 2011 and its appearance is something we can be proud of.

Throughout the year we collect items which go into shoe boxes these are

for the Samaritans Purse Appeal, the items collected are very basic but give a huge amount of pleasure to the children who receive them. The boxes are collected and distributed to countries in Eastern Europe and Africa for Christmas.

The Founders Day outing was a visit to Beeleigh Abbey Nr. Maldon members enjoyed a leisurely walk around the gardens and a welcome cup of tea and cake was served in the refreshment tent.



We had a trip to the Civic Theatre at the beginning of October to see the musical 'Annie Get Your Gun' a very lively and colourful production which I am sure we all enjoyed. Not to be outdone by this very professional group we once again performed at The Village Revue our feet trying to remember the steps, the sewing machines whir away, and on the night it all seems to come together – amazing.

Finally our Christmas 'do' this year was in December the weather was kind to us. Father Christmas made his annual visit with much hilarity, the evening ending with carol singing and good wishes to every one for a happy Christmas and New Year.

Women's Club meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm in the Club Room in Top Road. We always welcome new members to the Club perhaps our activities may have whetted your appetite come and meet us we are a very friendly group. We also welcome visitors to our meetings too.

Jean Newton, President

Silver Threads - Ann Mulley

2011 has seen our numbers decline further. We now have only eight members only six attending on a regular basis. There are three of us who provide assistance.

Due to the small numbers we are not able to provide entertainment and speakers but try to go out for pub lunches, and visit tea shops for afternoon teas as often as possible.

Our meetings in the Village Hall have largely been abandoned also due to so few members being able to attend on a regular basis. We now meet on the first Tuesday of the month if anyone is interested in joining us. Please give us a ring to confirm venues.

Rebecca Johnson raised enough money at her coffee morning to pay our annual club insurance of £157.98 for which we give our thanks to her it was very much appreciated.

The Parish Council grant was used for the members Christmas lunch and the Viking minibus to transport the members to Tollesbury which all the members look forward to.

The donations in memory of Doll Rogers kindly donated by her family in favour of Silver Threads will enable us to continue taking



members on outings for a further year. The members very much appreciated the families gesture.

The two bowls mats and set of bowls are still in the village hall but sadly none of the members are agile enough to use them these days. If anyone in the village would like to start a bowls club we would be happy to see them used. If not I will endeavor to sell them on to another group.

The members are now looking forward to spring and another round of teas and lunches out hopefully exploring some new places.

Ann Mulley
President

Woodham Walter Village Hall Association - Sarah Maxted



The village hall has had another successful year. My thanks go to all those involved with the Art Show - especially June Chandler & Jane Weedon - and our annual performers at the Revue. Andrew Jasper has done a fine job over the years since taking over from John Chandler.

The lettings have increased and we have several regular bookings for a range of activities. Another thank you to our caretaker

Andrew Ritchings who does a fabulous job.

We have finally had the old door at the rear of the hall blocked up and the leaky roof over the old toilet has been fixed. We are looking to redecorate the hall this year, replace the curtains and fit water heaters to provide hot water in the toilets! These will be large expenditures so we will have to think carefully.

Kevin Page has brought our electrics up to the required standard for our electrical certification.

One of our Trustees, Keith English, kindly arranged to have the tanks & pipes in the loft insulated as we had a flood in the cold weather.

I would like to thank all of the committee for all their hard work especially Ken Rennie for mastering paperwork, Ivor Brearley for being our odd job man, Doug Sear for stepping in as secretary and Ann Kay for agreeing to be vice-chair.

As always new volunteers would be very welcome - it's not an arduous task. Meeting every 4 to 6 weeks, 2 or 3 tidy ups a year and a couple of fund raisers.

Sarah Maxted
Chairman

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



Bell Meadow Day has become one of the most popular events in the village calendar. It has grown since the first one in 2005 to be a day that everyone looks forward to and literally enjoy in their thousands.

The weather was a little kinder to us in 2011 than in 2010 and it is fair to say that the committee feared that it would be more difficult attracting stall holders following the semi washout of the previous year. However the team managed to get a record number of stalls last year and it was really nice to see a few different things. We were particularly pleased to get The Essex Smallholders Association, who brought along a variety of animals which proved to be very popular with everyone, particularly the children. There was plenty to see and do, with the old favourites of the gun dog display provided by The Woodham Walter Shoot and the falconry display. Fortunately the weather allowed a few birds to be flown which was a bonus. The arena events were also well supported, with the egg throwing and dog beauty competition attracting even more entries than in previous years.

One of the most marked differences was the success of the competition tent which received more entries than ever before and the organiser of this, Gill Orford worked very hard to get them all displayed and judged. I try not to name helpers in my report as I will inevitably miss out someone important, but the committee who meet throughout the preceding year all put in a fantastic effort to get the event staged. We are also lucky that there is a band of ever willing volunteers on the weekend itself, who give up their time to put up tents and generally help with the preparations. As committee chairman, I have the easy job as



everyone on the committee knows what to do and just gets on with it. With the additional workload that I have being the new District Councillor, I could not continue without this support.

In 2011 we were lucky to have a main sponsor for the event, Robert Lee whose company, Hire Plus in Maldon provided some equipment as well as financial support which covered some of our biggest overheads. Many thanks to you Robert for your kind involvement with this event. I also have to thank the village shop for sponsoring the competition tent and giving us a fine new trophy for 'Best in Show'. As it grows, this event is getting ever more expensive to put on and we are very grateful for all of the help by way of donations, raffle prizes or even just personal time. In 2011 we decided that we needed to have more control over the number of people attending. This is partly to ensure that we get an entry fee from all attending but we also have to know how many people actually come to the event for reasons of safety and insurance. We decided to issue the wrist bands to everyone coming through the gate and it certainly helped a great deal as people tend to wander around the village coming and going from the meadow itself. These bands were sponsored by The Queen Victoria Pub for which we are very grateful. Every year so far we have received a grant from the Parish Council to assist with the running of the day. We have now established a fund that can cover us in the event of a total loss due to bad weather etc so it has been decided not to take this grant in 2012.

Bell Meadow Village Association

We hope that parishioners will be happy that we are planning to run the event again this year and preparations are well under way already.

One of the biggest things that we have considered is the music for the evening festivities. Many peo-



ple had commented that they were tired of our regular feature, For Funk Sake and so we made a few changes in 2011. There were three bands playing different types of music, the last being a small version of FFS. It was made quite clear to us that this is the most popular as they get everyone

up and dancing until the end of the evening even when we got the odd short sharp shower of rain. This leads us to think that we should revert back to our old format this year and we have booked the entire For

Funk Sake band, complete with costumes etc to play for us in the evening. We believe that this is actually the highlight of the day for a lot of people.

I enjoy the day myself, probably more than any other in the year and look forward to yet another successful Bell Meadow Day in 2012. However I do hope it is a bit warmer this year as even a short spell in the stocks, getting pelted with ice cold water isn't much fun!

Cllr. MFL Durham
Chairman Bell Meadow Village Association

Bell Meadow Day - Sunday 26th August 2012

Plans are going well for this year's Bell Meadow Day 2012 which will be held on Sunday 26th August, with the fun starting at 1pm. The falconer is booked ready to fly in with his fabulous display, the gun dogs are raring to go and the sacks are ready for the sack race.

The winners of the flag competition will be unveiling their masterpiece, which is being lovingly created as we go to print, creating just a little more history in our village.

Essex small holders will be joining us again, bringing with them their vast array of animals to enjoy, along with Jen's pets corner and her pony rides we are well equipped with animals!

The competition tent will be heaving as ever, with a record

number of entries last year we will try and beat the total again. Get your preserving pans ready for the Jam, marmalade and chutney categories. This year, we have a new category. "Grown and made in Woodham Walter". So a vegetable or fruit that you have grown, and made into chutney perhaps or some wild plums you have picked in the woods and made into Jam.

The photography competition for the under 16's is "Your favourite animal". This may be your pet dog, granny's cat or a badger you have seen in the woods. If you like it put it in.

More categories to follow, watch out in the parish magazine. Music during the day will be by the wonderful Frank Ryan, just near the beer tent! Lovely!

Get your wigs and platforms out for the evening entertainment of the full band of "For Funks Sake" where dancing on the meadow is a must!

We still need a little more help however so if you are able to spare some time, please e mail: bellmeadowday@gmail.com or call Gill on 01245 226721. See you there
Gill Orford



Woodham Walter Allotment Association - Gill Orford



Our village allotments have had another blooming good year, with just a few changes. The initial 3 year trial is up (where did that time go!), and with the kind and continued support of Bryony and Peter Maynard, we have renewed the contract for a further 3 years. Long may this fantastic community project continue. We are very grateful to them for encouraging the scheme and allowing it to flourish, enabling us to have this valuable village facility.

We also need to say a very big thank you to Angus Neale, who after 3 years has decided to stand down. He has been with the allotment scheme from the beginning, helping it develop to what it is today. His hard work has been fabulous. We will miss his guidance and wish him well. It is great to see Woodham Walter School and Tadpoles

out in the allotments, developing their knowledge with this valuable learning resource. A big thank you to all the parents and teachers who have encouraged the children to learn these important life skills, and who knows, we may have our next generation of allotment holders in the making.



Again, huge success in Bell Meadow Day's competition tent. There were so many entries (long may that continue!) with rosettes and certificates aplenty. Chris and Catronia doing especially well! It is astounding the quality of the produce that can be obtained with a bit of hard work and

knowledge. Tadpoles pumpkin was a sight to behold! Good luck to you all in this year's competition.

In the autumn the holders had a huge pile of manure delivered which had to be dug in before the winter to prepare the soil before the snow came. A few moans of back ache were heard but we all appreciate the exercise.

Looking forward, seeds are



being studied, the soil is warming, plans are being drawn up for the new growing season, and weeding is being thought about. Perhaps unlike the rest of the nation, the holders are praying for rain!

Here is hoping for a long fine summer, with plenty of produce, lots of chat, a few tips shared, and perhaps a summer gathering.

There are 14 plots in total - all are currently taken and there is a waiting list.

To be eligible for a plot, one must be a Parishioner of Woodham Walter or be an Educational establishment within the Parish.

For more details contact Gill Orford : 01245 226721
Email: gill_orford@hotmail.co.uk

Footpath Officer - Peter Warren



I've now completed 5 years as Parish Footpath Officer and still enjoy making sure our public rights of way are clear and safe to walk. I get good support from Nicky Coleman (the ECC Public Rights of Way Officer for Mid-Essex), also our farmers and landowners, not to mention the unknown villagers who like to do a bit of pruning on their walks. For example, I might notice that an overhanging branch is becoming a danger. When I return a few days later armed with a saw I find that some kind person has already dealt with it!

All of our paths have remained walkable throughout the past year. With a lot of growth early in the season, ECC were persuaded to bring forward their cutting schedule for Woodham Walter from mid-August to late May. They then did a second cut for a few paths in September. During the past year there have only been 6 incidents with trees blocking paths, the worst being a large

elm falling across FP19 plus the power lines (and my garden!) putting the village in darkness for the evening! Also on FP19, the many barrow loads of stones, kindly dumped by the allotmenters, seems to have solved the problem of the muddy area by the stream.

Most of the improvements to our paths in the past year have been to the bridges. There are 22 footbridges in the parish (I think!) and the 14 wooden ones can get very slippery in winter with leaves, algae, frost etc. Despite the financial cut-backs, in the past year ECC have either widened or completely replaced 8 bridges, surfaced them with the yellow anti-slip strips and in some cases added handrails. Additionally at least ten new waymark posts have been erected and literally dozens of waymark discs nailed up, or old ones replaced.

On the downside I'm afraid there has been some vandalism. Last May Chris Wheadon and I erected 3 new waymark posts on a bridleway in Woodham Walter Common. Within 3 months two of them had completely disappeared. On FP14 running from the church to The Wilderness, a new handrail was added to the bridge over the stream. Within 9 months this has been sabotaged twice by loosening or removing the grub screws holding it together. Also there have been several instances of waymark discs being prised off or damaged. Usually this is down to squirrels, woodpeckers or horses, not humans! Please help me to keep our paths in good shape. Keep up the pruning and if you are out walking and see anything that needs attention or any improvement that you could suggest please let me know.

Peter Warren
01245 221326



St Michael's Church - Kathy Tompkins



The past year saw several changes within the Diocese. The Bishop of Bradwell, the Rt Revd Dr Laurie Green retired and was replaced by The Venerable John Wraw (Archdeacon of Wiltshire) and in Chelmsford a new Bishop, Stephen Cottrell, was installed. A group from St Michael's joined over 2,700 people at St Paul's Cathedral to witness the consecration of John Wraw. Many of us have also had the opportunity of meeting Bishop Stephen.

St Michael's commitment to the village school is a priority. Revd Stephanie, together with two church representatives on the school governing body and lay people from the parish, have made their own contribution to spiritual awareness within the school. A successful Diocesan Inspection early in the New Year reflected that commitment. We hold regular assemblies both in school and at church, together with weekly JAM Club and a monthly KidsJAM held in the Women's Club Room on Sunday mornings to which all children are warmly invited. Revd Stephanie has also visited Tadpoles Nursery.

The Diocesan led link with Kenya entered a new stage with the village school securing a grant to enable the continuation of exchange visits, together with strengthening links and

understanding through education. We were pleased to be part of the visit paid last summer by Mary Wanjiku and David Njanja.



Our service to the community included two weddings, five funerals, three crematorium services and five baptisms. We have also celebrated the Confirmation of a young member of our church. The Outreach project with the travelling community continued, as has a fortnightly prayer group and pastoral visiting. Courses in a range of Christian studies take place at The Rectory catering for all age groups. Revd Stephanie is also available at The Rectory on Tuesdays between 10am and 11am for all parish related enquiries.



*The Wedding of Leah Maxted and Adam Drew
August 2011*

Weekly services continue in the usual format of Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays, alternated with Morning Prayer and Family Service. On the occasional fifth Sunday we enjoy a joint service of Holy Communion with our sister church, St Margaret's. Music plays an important part in our worship and we are immensely grateful to our organist and members of the choir for their dedication and enthusiasm.

We play an active role in the village, through involvement in the village weekend in July and Bell Meadow Day in August. Other charitable fund raising includes Ride and Stride in aid of Essex Churches, The Children's Society, The Royal British Legion, the Kenyan Link and various cancer charities amongst others.

The Flower Festival continues to be a main fundraiser for which we gratefully acknowledge the dedicated efforts of so many people, resulting in a significant sum raised for kitchen and toilet facilities. The theme last year was "Celebrations" running over four days in July. The festival is proving popular with groups of visitors such as Ramblers and local history groups, who enjoy architectural and historical talks as well as the delicious ploughman's lunch and cakes provided by the Women's Club.



Flower Festival - the first Christmas under the theme leading of Celebrations.

All work necessary to keep the church and land in good repair is undertaken voluntarily where possible and for this we are indebted not only to our congregation but also to The Friends of St Michael's. Please refer to The Friends' contribution to this Annual Report for their latest achievements. This year some of the yew trees have been lopped in an effort to halt their decline, and it is hoped that this work will be effective in promoting new growth. Metal theft is a continual danger and we do ask everyone to be vigilant. Insurers will now only cover costs up to £5,000 that in many cases is insufficient to cover the cost of damage caused and the parish must then provide the difference.

St Michael's Church

Following the appointment of a Fabric Officer and a new architect, we are looking forward to progress on long awaited projects. A dedicated electrical supply has been installed in readiness for the new kitchen area and we are looking forward to repairs starting on the south and west walls, the re-opening of the south door and access for the disabled.

The Robert Henry Faulkner Almshouses are in good repair thanks to the efforts of the Honorary Clerk Malcolm Bunn and his wife Iris. Last year saw the replacement of front hedges and fences.



We are custodians of a beautiful Elizabethan church and financial worries are never far away. We are very grateful for the support we already receive but costs for the upkeep of the fabric continually drain our resources and if the time comes when this is no longer viable we will

have a 'dark church' – a locked empty shell. If we wish to retain our church, we should all see it as our responsibility to ensure it survives. There is no price for admission and it is available as a quiet pastoral centre at all times not just for weddings, baptisms and funerals. St Michael's does not have the look of a church in despair. It is a thriving place, providing a welcome to everyone both in good times and bad. So please continue to help us, in any way you feel able, to maintain the spiritual heart of Woodham Walter.

Kathy Tompkins, Church Warden

Friends of St Michael's Church - Brian Cumming

The Friends of St. Michael's Church have had another very successful year. Our membership currently stands at 133 and these Friends supply us with very valuable support in a number of important ways. Members provide us with manpower to assist with working parties, they provide professional support with their knowledge and skills, they support fundraising activities and critically they provide us with direct financial support.



As normal this year we have run a number of working parties to maintain the church grounds; during the last of these a number of hardworking friends succeeded in filling sixteen one ton builders bags with

leaves and other plant material that was cleared from the churchyard.

We have funded specialist repairs to the supports to the stained glass windows and repairs to the guttering and down-pipes.

Other actions include management of the churchyard to develop an ecologically sound and attractive environment, work on the yew trees, restoration work on some Victorian grave markers, the installation of electric heaters and the design of a fireproof box for the electrical switch panel.

We ran fund raising activities at both the Flower Festival and at the Bell Meadow Rural Celebration; many thanks go to the Friends who organised and manned those stands.

We have achieved a lot in the few years that we have been in existence but there is a lot more to do. One of the critical outstanding tasks is extensive building work that will be necessary to resolve damp problems in the south and west walls of the church.

The Friends are a non-religious group established solely to ensure that the fabric of the church and its grounds are appropriately maintained and we are always seeking new members. If you would like to join this activity, physically, professionally or financially please get in touch; we would be very happy to receive your support.

Brian Cumming
Chairman



Wood Corner Caravan Site - Steve Andrews



The weather has been kind to us this year, with the snow short lived, hence not finding the site temporarily cut off as in previous years. Government funding has been less kind, with cuts and changes in access to grant funding; we have been unable to apply for the key refurbishment grants to keep the site at its best. However the site management team continue to do their best to maintain the site for all key functions.

In my previous report, I mentioned that our service was under review. Things have moved on considerably since then, and we will be expanding the service via a partnership approach to the "Essex Countywide Traveller Unit", which in addition to the existing site management responsibilities, will be promoting health, education and fire safety across all sites in Essex, and managing unauthorised encampment on the same basis. I will provide more information on this to the parish when we get closer to launch.

Life after Derek

It's hard to believe that it's a little over a year now since we were wishing Derek well in his retirement. Although we knew Derek would be a hard act to follow, this has proved to be the case, as his original replacement has unfortunately, due to ill health, been unable to take on the role. However, youth steps in, in the shape of Alec Baker, the youngest member of the management team, who has taken on the role and quickly made it his own.



Picture taken in 2008, so looks a little older now!!

The site remains settled, as we have only recorded two changes in residents throughout the year, although their individual stand-

ings have changed, as the Mobile Homes Act now includes Local Authority Gypsy/Traveller sites, hence giving the residents rights akin to tenancies.

Steve Andrews
Gypsy & Traveller
Services Manager
Essex County Council

Mobile Library

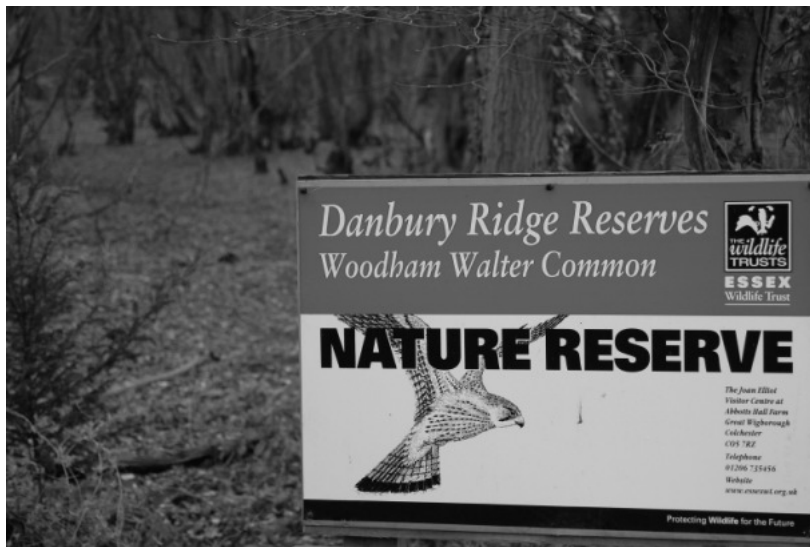
The Mobile Library visits Woodham Walter fortnightly as follows:

Woodham Walter, Wood Corner 1530-1600
Woodham Walter, Queen Victoria 1605-1635

Tuesdays 10th & 24th April, 8th and 22nd
May,, 19th June.



Woodham Walter Common - Chris Wheadon



General

I am pleased to report there have been no major issues on the Common apart from damage by Deer. (Highlighted later in this Report)

Working parties have undertaken normal annual 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 annual 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 has been undertaken successfully and will continue as and when necessary.

A number of fallen/rotten trees have been felled/made safe. This work is ongoing.

Projects

(1) Water Level Monitoring. This is ongoing; water levels in bog areas are still visually reasonable despite below average rainfall.

(2) Heath land Regeneration. The upland area of 1/3 acre (0.15 ha) has new successful heather growth. Another larger area of approx 1 acre (0.50 ha) has now been cleared ready for seeding shortly.

(3) Bridleways/Footpaths. Two Waymark posts have been mysteriously removed it is anticipated that they will be replaced in the near future.

Following a Horse rider/cyclist accident new signs have been erected at main entrances requesting mutual respect for all users

Encroachment on Badger Set . Following my persistent use of felled Holly, cyclists have now desisted from cycling near the Set.

Additional Matters

Deer Management

(1) Following agreement with adjoining landowners a Deer Management Plan is soon to be implemented. It has been established that increasing Deer numbers are causing considerable damage to newly coppiced areas. Such damage if allowed to continue, adversely affects woodland regeneration. As Woodland regeneration is one of our objectives, it is important to address the problem.

(2) The “Steep Slope” sign has been damaged I have already re erected it twice. This damage may be linked with the disappearance of the Waymark signs mentioned earlier in the Report.

(3) A small bridge near “Twitty Fee” needs attention, this repair work will be undertaken by a Working party in April.

(4) Leanne Sergeant (Reserves Manager) has now taken up another Post within the Trust, and has been succeeded by Adam Rochester (as of 1st February 2012)

Chris Wheadon
Volunteer Warden
(Greatly assisted by the
“retired” Martin Gregory)

Woodham Walter Primary School - Headteacher



OUTSTANDING

We are very proud that our village school has been graded 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. The education regulator handed us the highest possible mark after visiting us in November.

"WE ARE VERY PROUD THAT OUR VILLAGE SCHOOL HAS BEEN GRADED OUTSTANDING BY OFSTED"

The lead inspector Ted Wheatley praised our 'excellent' school and said that 'many aspects of its work are

outstanding, including its provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage' and 'that pupils behaviour, attendance, understanding of the importance of healthy lifestyles and their contribution to the school and wider community are outstanding'

KENYAN LINK



Our link with our partner school in Kenya is thriving. In September Mary and David visited Woodham Walter to share work on our joint gardening project and in February Mrs. Dodd and Mrs Parker Druce returned the visit to share examples of our work.

DISPENSARY



Our school, church and community have worked hard to raise funds for the Dispensary in Mutiria alongside the church and community in Kenya. Amongst other things we have donated a microscope and blood pressure unit. We are now raising funds for a much needed haemoglobin unit. A Kenyan Sleepover and Fun Run are just two of the activities we have planned for the coming year.

NEW BUILD



Our new build was officially opened at the summer fete. It has been specially designed to host our youngest children. It is a real joy to see the children

enjoying learning in the bright and airy indoor classroom, on the decking and in their own outside area.

FOREST SCHOOLS

We are fortunate to have 'The Wilderness' on our doorstep and have two teachers trained in Forest Schools who ensure that our children make the very most of our wonderful environment.



CHURCH INSPECTION



We are lucky to have strong links with our Church. Our Church Inspector said 'there is a strong, distinctively Christian ethos which is effectively shared amongst the whole community. Relationships in school are very good and this means that children are flourishing in a caring environment. Church Inspection Jan 2012

Sue Dodd, Headteacher

www.woodhamwalter.essex.sch.uk

Parent & Teacher Association - Michelle Grant

We have had a really fun and successful year within the Woodham Walter PTA. We have had a few changes within the PTA. Emma Springham sadly stood down as PTA chair along with Kate Hills who was vice chair. Myself, Michelle Grant is now chair and Sandra Britto is now vice chair, Eleanor Bacon is now secretary and doing a fantastic job.

We had our usual jumble sale held in Danbury which made us £337 which was a great start to the year.

We also had our first Murder Mystery night which was well attended. Everyone enjoyed it who attended. Unfortunately we made a loss of £71.48 due to the cost of running the event.



The summer fete brought us a fantastic amount of money. We raised £2659.40 which was great as it rained. The fete was opened by the local MP Pritti Patel who also opened our new classroom. Once again we had the lovely Alan Dedi-coat and Graham Bannerman as hosts. Having all our regular stalls and games. Unfortunately we had to cancel some

of the demonstrations due to the wet weather which was a shame.

Our Spring, Autumn and Christmas Bake and Takes were a popular hit with the children and adults alike along with the raffle, games and stalls. At Christmas we had a Santa's grotto for all to visit. All sales helped to boost the profit by a combined total of £540.

The race night which was held in September was a fantastic evening with all who attended having a great night, we raised £850.20. Thanks to Emma Chapman's hard work.

The pamper evening was a good evening with lots of stalls packed into the school hall, there were many stalls varying from cakes, children's clothes and jewellery and many more. We had lots of therapists in all the classrooms who were kept busy all night. Can't wait till next year. We raised £739.46 and that was due to Samantha Woodcraft great planning and organisation of a great night.

We also held our first family disco full of fun and games which was enjoyable for all, due to the high amount of money it cost to running the event we only made £35.

The children have enjoyed a Christmas disco and a visit from Father Christmas who was able to bring a present for



each child funded by the PTA. The children also enjoyed the Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime. We also managed to fund taxis to transport the children to their swimming lessons, we have given £5000 to the school to equip the new library with books and furniture. We have also brought the children's bibles for the foundation class, plus much more.



We have several more fund raising things in the pipeline on the 19th of May we have the Quiz night and on the 15th of July we have the Summer Fete which has an Olympic theme - we are lucky to have Jeremy Lynch a footballer freestyler who is going to open this year's summer fete .

Michelle Grant
Chairman

Diamond Jubilee Event - Monday 4th June



Woodham Walter Diamond Jubilee Event

**Including a Top Road Street Party
on Monday 4th June from 1pm
to which all parishioners from the youngest to the
oldest are invited.**

**Plans are developing for a memorable afternoon
including sandwiches & cakes lunch along Top Road.**

**Plus during the afternoon on the school field:
face painting, crown decorating & community races
Plus competitions /activities for everyone to get
involved in - fancy dress, portraits of the Queen
wheelbarrow decorating, house decorating
Plus a royal exhibition.**

**More details in the parish magazine - look out for a flyer with
information on how children can claim a Diamond Jubilee Memento**

**Next Planning Meeting, Wednesday 11th April
at 8pm, Women's Club Room, Top Road**

**Please come along if you are interested in being part of the organising
committee for our village celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.**

**More information from:
Councillor Joanna Symons**

symonsjm@aol.co.uk

07771 742814

Tadpoles Nursery - Pam Seear



We at Tadpoles have enjoyed another busy year, learning whilst we play and explore, with lots of the usual ups and downs. We spent a lot of time working hard on our allotment, with working parties attended by whole families at the weekends, also regular visits during the nursery sessions. We were able to enjoy a plentiful harvest and were very excited when our 'cuddling carrots' won 1st place for the 'Wackiest Vegetable' at Bell Meadow day.



This summer instead of the usual zoo visit we decided to visit Tropical Wings in South Woodham Ferrers, we all travelled together by coach and had a wonderful day. We also had our yearly 'Teddy bears Picnic' which was well attended and we raised over £200 for the Essex Air Ambu-

lance. The children were very excited when during our leavers presentation, for the children starting school in September, a representative from The Air Ambulance arrived. We presented her with the cheque and in return she gave us lots of stickers, and a toy replica of the Air ambulance.



Again this year we provided a display for the flower festival with the theme being 'celebrations' we celebrated 50 years of the Pre-school Learning Alliance and learning through play which is what we love!



In November there was a knock at our door from Ofsted, they had come for our three yearly inspection. We are thrilled to report that we received our 3rd Outstanding

"WE ARE THRILLED TO REPORT THAT WE RECEIVED OUR 3RD OUTSTANDING."

outcome, something that myself and all the staff are very proud of.

Autumn was followed by

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

At present we operate 10 sessions a week, which includes two all day sessions, and there is always lots going on, regular visits to the allotment, walks around the village, visits to our friends at school and visits to us from others in the community, If you would like to visit please just call Pam 01245 222046, we would love to see you!



Neighbourhood Watch - Brian Cumming



We have had a fairly quiet 12 months; some relatively minor crime but nothing serious and significantly less than surrounding areas. Incidents have included a house burglary, a break-in and theft from a garage, a vehicle theft, the theft of a vehicle catalyst, the theft of a garden ornament and an act of vandalism to an agricultural vehicle. Not major

crimes but disturbing for those involved and potentially something that we could deter by remaining vigilant.

During the year I have attended a number of area coordinator meetings in Maldon and I have communicated advice derived from these meetings via articles in the Parish magazine.

I regularly receive crime reports from Maldon Police and, again, I pass on any relevant information and advice through the magazine.

An issue that has grown this year is the number of phone, post and internet scams that we are subject to; I have written on this subject a num-

ber of times and highlighted some of the methods used by the scammers. My advice on this subject is to treat any approach by a stranger as suspicious, no matter how plausible and never give away any personal information. Also if something seems too good to be true, it almost certainly is!

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 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 support the scheme and organise Community Speed Watch members who 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.

In Woodham Walter during 2011 we carried out 7 sessions resulting in 43 vehicles details being forwarded to Essex Police- this included vehicles with speeds in excess of 50mph. Essex Police also carried out enforce-

ment in the village which resulted in 3 drivers sent for Speed Awareness Training, 1 fixed penalty ticket and 2 reported to court.

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 etc. If you are interested in volunteering as a CSW member please contact our Parish Clerk, Jacky Bannerman for more information.

jacky@ww.parishclerk.co.uk

Police - PS Phil Morley



2012 sees some major changes taking place within Essex Police as we attempt to make the vast savings that have been widely publicised. As of the 1st of March 2012 the Maldon District will combine with Chelmsford to become one Policing area with a 24/7 Response element operating from South Woodham Ferrers.

The Neighbourhood Policing Teams will continue to operate from both Maldon and Southminster Police Stations. The 'Front Office' service at both of these Police Stations has also seen a change in the opening times. These Stations will now be open between Midday and 6 PM, Monday to Saturday and closed all day on Sundays. This is in line with other Police Stations throughout the County.

As has previously been explained the village of Woodham Walter forms part of the Purleigh Policing area in the Maldon District encompassing the villages to the South West of the area from Wickham Bishops to North Fambridge to Latchingdon.

Between the 1st of April 2011 and the 31st of December 2011 Essex Police have dealt with 79,847 crimes of

which 21,874 were detected and 2,359 were dealt with by Neighbourhood Resolution. This gives Essex Police an overall detection rate of 30.55%.

For the same period the Maldon District has seen 1,760 criminal offences reported of which some 488 were detected and a further 64 offences dealt with by way of Neighbourhood Resolution. This gives the Maldon District an overall detection rate of 31.36%, nearly 1% higher than the Force average, meaning that just fewer than 1 in 3 crimes are solved within the District. We have seen a slight increase of 25 crimes this year which equates to an increase of 0.1 offences per day. Whilst there has been an increase in crime we have also seen an increase in the number of offences detected by 34 or by 1.5%.

Although the Crime figures may have changed from the previous year unfortunately the type of crime that is being committed in our Community doesn't. We are still seeing a large number of acquisitive or opportunist crimes. These are in the main targeted at insecure vehicles and premises often with valuable items on display or left in the glove box. I would urge all local residents to ensure that all valuable items are re-

moved from vehicles and that they lock them when left no matter for how short a period of time. Garages and sheds should also be locked and secure with valuable items secured by additional means.

The 'One Place On Wheels' initiative continues to take place on a monthly basis with the Mobile police Station visiting the villages within the District. The days, times and locations have changed in some of our areas so please see below or check the One Place web site for up to date details, www.one-place.org.uk.

The coming year promises to be very busy for us with the Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations and the Olympic Torch coming to our District, together with the numerous annual events that require a policing input.

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

One Place on Wheels



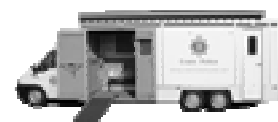
One Place on Wheels visits the 24 rural parishes across the **Maldon District** in the **Mobile Police Vehicle** on a monthly basis. *The Mobile* vehicle is manned by representatives of both *Essex Police* and the trained *One Place Team*. **Maldon District Council** has lent its full support to the 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 Friday's 13th April, 11th May, 15th June.



Village Agent - Christine MacDonald



Thank you for inviting me to submit an article for your Parish Council Annual Report. Last year was a busy year for the Village Agent project, with continued investment in training to meet the diverse needs of people wishing to live safer, healthier and more independently.

I have found Woodham Walter a very pleasant village with welcoming amenities and an efficient parish council. It has been a privilege to meet residents and discuss your needs and put forward suggestions how they can be best met. The range of activities has been extremely varied, from measuring up for grab rails to referring for garden clearance; from advising on digital switchover to supplying information on how to apply for a blue badge. Sometimes what seems to be the most bizarre enquiry turns out to be something one of the other 12 Agents has already experienced.

In most cases, I visited people in their own homes (and enjoyed tea and biscuits, thank you!) but I am also willing to talk to groups and very much enjoyed my evening with the Woodham Walter Women's Club last June.

Village Agents were pleased to support Bell Meadow Day last August, and my colleague John Peart and I look forward to attending again. I have enjoyed my third year in Woodham Walter and look forward to meeting you in the future.

If you are not sure if a Village Agent could help, why not try me?

YOUR LOCAL VILLAGE AGENT
CHRISTINE MCDONALD

Tel: FREEPHONE 0800 977 5858
Mobile: 07540 720608 Email:
christine.mcdonald@vaessex.org.uk

Your local Village Agent can help you with:

Mid-Essex Pilot

Your local Village Agent is available to discuss:

- Early interventions to improve your health
- Aids to independence
- Personal and home safety and security
- Access to services and carers' support
- Advocacy
- Life records and funeral plans
- And lots, lots, more!



Easy access to services and information

www.villageagentsessex.org.uk

FREE, CONFIDENTIAL, INDEPENDENT INFORMATION, SIGNPOSTING AND REFERRALS

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 - MALDON

From: 01/05/2011

Mondays to Fridays

	5	31A	31A	31A	31A
	Th				
Chelmsford Bus Station (Stand 2)	-	-	1240	1600	1715
Chelmsford Railway Station (Stand 11)	-	-	1241	1601	1716
Great Baddow, The Blue Lion (opp)	-	-	1252	1612	1727
Sandon, The Crown (o/s)	-	-	1257	1617	1732
Danbury Common (opp)	0910	-	1305	1625	1740
Danbury, Eves Corner (N-bound)	0913	0914	1307	1627	1742
Little Baddow, North Hill, adj Spring Close	0920	0922	1315	1635	1750
Woodham Walter, Spring Elms Lane, adj Bass etts Lane	0927	-	-	-	1758
Woodham Walter, The Bell (o/s)	0933	-	-	-	1801
Woodham Walter, Council Houses (opp)	0936	-	-	-	1804
Beeleigh, Brook Farm (opp)	0941	-	-	-	1809
Maldon, All Saints Church (o/s)	0946	-	-	-	1814
Maldon, Tesco Store	0949	-	-	-	-
Maldon, Morrisons	0955	-	-	-	-

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

Mondays to Fridays

	31A	31A	5	31A	31A
			Th		
Maldon Morrisons	-	-	1145	-	-
Maldon, Tesco Store	-	-	1150	-	-
Maldon, White Horse	-	-	1154	-	-
Beeleigh, Brook Farm Corner	-	-	1159	-	-
Woodham Walter, Council Houses (adj)	0725	-	1203	-	-
Woodham Walter, The Bell (opp)	0728	-	1206	-	-
Woodham Walter, Spring Elms Lane, adj Bass etts Lane	0731	-	1212	-	-
Little Baddow, North Hill, adj Spring Close	0738	0925	1217	1318	1638
Danbury, Eves Corner (SW-bound)	0746	0933	1219	1326	1646
Danbury Common (adj)	0748	0935	1222	1328	-
Sandon, The Crown (opp)	0756	0943	-	1336	-
Great Baddow, The Blue Lion (o/s)	0801	0948	-	1341	-
Chelmsford Railway Station (stand 12)	0812	0959	-	1352	-
Chelmsford Bus Station (Stand 2)	0813	1000	-	1353	-

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

Saturdays only

	31A	31A	31A	31A
Chelmsford Bus Station (Stand 2)	0730	0845	1105	1515
Chelmsford Railway Station (Stand 11)	0731	0846	1106	1516
Great Baddow, The Blue Lion (opp)	0739	0857	1117	1527
Sandon, The Crown (o/s)	0743	0903	1123	1533
Danbury Common (opp)	0750	0910	1130	1540
Danbury, Eves Corner (N-bound)	0752	0912	1132	1542
Little Baddow, North Hill, adj Spring Close	0800	0920	1140	1550
Woodham Walter, Spring Elms Lane, adj Bass etts Lane	0808	0928	1148	1558
Woodham Walter, The Bell (o/s)	0810	0930	1150	1600
Woodham Walter, Council Houses (opp)	0813	0933	1153	1603
Beeleigh, Brook Farm (opp)	0817	0937	1157	1607
Maldon, All Saints Church (o/s)	0822	0942	1202	1612
Maldon, Tesco Store (Stop 1)	0827	0945	1205	-

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

Saturdays only

	31A	31A	31A
Maldon, Tesco Store (Stop 1)	1000	1210	1530
Maldon, The White Horse (o/s)	1004	1214	1534
Beeleigh, Brook Farm (o/s)	1009	1219	1539
Woodham Walter, Council Houses (opp)	1013	1223	1543
Woodham Walter, The Bell (opp)	1016	1226	1546
Woodham Walter, Spring Elms Lane, opp Bass etts Lane	1019	1229	1549
Little Baddow, North Hill, adj Spring Close	1026	1236	1556
Danbury, Eves Corner (SW-bound)	1034	1244	1604
Danbury Common (adj)	1035	1245	1605
Sandon, The Crown (opp)	1042	1252	1612
Great Baddow, The Blue Lion (o/s)	1047	1257	1617
Chelmsford, Railway Station (Stand 12)	1059	1309	1629
Chelmsford, Bus Station (Stand 2)	1100	1310	1630

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

The Woodham Walter Parish Council website is:
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.

Gill Orford - Councillor
& Allotment Association

David Potter - Councillor

Andrew Newland - Councillor

Joanna Symons - Councillor &
Diamond Jubilee Event

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 Old Chapel Stores and on the website during the week preceding the meeting.

Diary Dates 2012/13

10th April	8th October
14th May	12th November
9th June	10th December
13th July	14th January
13th August	11th February
10th September	11th 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 2011 we raised £225 hiring out the tents.

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