

Woodham Walter Annual Report 2013-14

WOODHAM WALTER 2013-14

APRIL 2014

Woodham Walter Parish Council

From the Chairman...



Councillor James Bunn, Chairman

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Welcome from me again as Chairman of Woodham Walter Parish Council.

This year we have had some changes within the Parish council. I have been lucky that Peter Warren has continued valiantly as my No2 as well as his other role as footpath officer. Unfortunately 2 councillors have left us in the last year, David Potter – left in June 2013 after 25 years as a councillor. Gill Orford – left in January 2014 after 2½ years as councillor. I would like to publicly thank them both for their time and effort. David's wealth of his-

torical information will be sorely missed.

Peter and I are supported by 4 other Councillors: Mark Durham, Andrew Newland, Joanna Symons and Angus Neale. At the time of writing we have one vacancy so please contact myself or our clerk if you would like further information.

As usual I have to thank Jacky for her unstinting work to keep us all in order and in ensuring the smooth operation of the Council. Jacky's is a vital role which none of us underestimate and without which we would be at a very serious disadvantage.



This set of published reports are circulated prior to our Annual Parish Meeting. This report format has made the distribution of information much easier for all and we continue to receive good feedback on it. Indeed, we, or should I say Jacky won an award for it last year!



Parish Clerk, Jacky Bannerman receiving Communications Award at Essex Association of Local Councils

Annual Parish Meeting - Monday 28th April

All Woodham Walter residents are invited to attend the

Annual Parish Meeting

On Monday 28th April at 8pm

At Woodham Walter Village Hall, Rectory Road.

- Matters Arising from Annual Parish Reports
- Public Forum

Woodham Walter Parish Council - Chairman, James Bunn

We welcome parishioners to the annual meeting on Monday 28th April at 8pm in Woodham Walter Village Hall, Rectory Road, and indeed to all our regular monthly meetings which are held in the Women's Club on Top Road at 8:00pm on the second Monday of the month.

The Parish Council continue to consult neighbours on planning applications and we make

"ALTHOUGH WE ONLY HAVE A LIMITED VOICE IT IS AN IMPORTANT ONE AND THE WHOLE PLANNING PROCESS FORMS AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR FUNCTION."

our recommendations to Maldon District Council for inclusion in their deliberations. Although we only

have a limited voice it is an important one and the whole planning process forms an important part of our function..

In 2013-14 there were 15 planning applications, of which to date, 2 decisions were contrary to the Parish Council view.

Of these applications, none were refused and so far 13 have been given approval by Maldon District Council.

Apart from the usual garages and extensions these also included:

1 x Claims for Lawful Development Certificate

2 x Change of Use

6 x Demolition of existing and replacement with new build/ Conversion

There were 2 appeals which we provided written representation to the Planning Inspectorate with our objections and these were both subsequently dismissed by the inspector. (Land between Beightons & Barrow Cottage, Bassetts Lane and Albany Orchards).

It is always helpful with our deliberations if the applicant is present at our meeting. We offer a public forum at the start of the meeting where representations can be made and at the discretion of the Chairman, if councillors have any queries it is useful to be able to open the meeting up to the public during deliberations to clarify certain points.

The committee developing the Village Design Statement (VDS) have completed some good work in developing a questionnaire which will be issued to all households. This questionnaire will be used to develop the VDS. This is an important document and will help us to define what is important to us all in maintaining the character of the village. I have included a paragraph here from the Rural Community Council of Essex to explain the purpose of the VDS: "A Village Design Statement

(VDS) gives a detailed description of the existing character and main features of design in the village and guidelines for how this should be respected in any new development. It identifies the physical qualities and characteristics of the village and its surroundings that are valued by local people and the aspects they would like to conserve and protect. It is an advisory document for planners, designers, developers and local people. There is wide involvement in its production so that the finished VDS represents the views of the village as a whole. If it meets the requirements of the local authority, it can be suitable for use as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

The distinctive local character is identified at three levels

- the village in its countryside or landscape setting,
- the form of the settlement as a whole,
- the characteristics of the buildings and spaces within the village. "



Woodham Walter Parish Council - Chairman, James Bunn

It is very important to us that this document serves a useful purpose as a planning aid and I would therefore urge you all to study the questionnaire carefully when you receive it and please do answer it and return it. It is your chance to have a real say in how the village develops in the future.

We continue to try to get improvements to the highways in the village and we do try to push for rectification works whenever we can, however this is difficult and often we do not get the responses we would like from Essex County Council Highways. I would urge you all to report issues yourselves as the more people that do, the more likely we are to get a solution. There is a page on the ECC website for you to report problems, it can be found here:

www.essexhighways.org/Report-a-highways-problem.aspx



There seem to have been some significant break-ins in the village this year, more than we would normally expect to see. Please try to be vigilant, take care of your own property and look out for your neighbours.



The footpaths around the village have suffered badly in the weather this year and we have had many trees down and of course the rain has caused many to become incredibly muddy. Peter does a superb job of working with landowners and others to keep these passable but it will be well into the spring before they really start to dry out. If you see any serious problems along these then please speak to Peter.

We do try to have an annual litter pick in the village and there are many regulars who help with this, however I am aware that there are many others who go to significant lengths to collect litter and look after our village. To avoid missing anyone, I won't name names, but you know who you are, Thank you, it is appreciated.

This will be my last report as Chairman of the Parish Council unless I'm lucky enough to do it again in the future as I will soon hand the baton on to another.

I would like to end with the traditional but heartfelt thanks to all of the other councillors, I look forward to working with you all in the year to come.

Councillor James Bunn
Chairman,
Woodham Walter
Parish Council

Party Tents

8m x 4m White

Party Tents

£50 for one

£75 for two

Woodham Walter Parish Council raised £745 hiring the tents during 2013. For bookings contact

Parish Clerk: Jacky Bannerman

01245 222595 (before 6pm)

Village Design Statement

Following the introduction of neighbourhood planning by Central Government in Spring 2013, the Parish Council set up a committee to prepare a Village Design Statement (VDS) as part of the community led planning initiative. This was announced in the Parish Magazine and followed by a Committee presence at Bell Meadow Day.

Woodham Walter Village Design Statement

What is the Woodham Walter Village Design Statement?

It will be a document that will:

- be a record of Woodham Walter and its country setting as seen through the eyes of those living in the village in 2014
- express the views of the community on how changes could be incorporated in the village
- guide property owners and occupiers on the care of the village
- assist developers in adopting designs which are acceptable to the local community
- assist the Parish Council and the Maldon District Council in the determination of planning applications
- not prevent, but assist, in the management of change in the village
- help protect visually important buildings and open spaces
- consider environmental enhancements
- guide people undertaking new building work on design, including setting and material.
- help to protect and manage the historic environment of the village and its surrounding landscape

For this we need your input.

WWWVDS/John Tompkins 2013

The principles of the VDS were set out on display boards for public viewing and comment.

Feedback from those visiting the stand was very positive, providing support for the Committee who have now prepared a questionnaire covering a wide range of issues that can influence design. The questionnaire, which will take about 20 minutes to complete, will be delivered to and collected from, every household by a member of the Committee or Parish Council.

The VDS will provide a detailed description of the existing character of the village and use questionnaire responses to provide guidelines for the appearance of all future development in Woodham Walter. So **your views are vitally important!**

Analysis of questionnaire responses will be carried out during Summer 2014 at the end of which, outcomes will be exhibited and further community comment sought.

The VDS will then be drafted and finalised. It will need to be compatible with the Statutory Planning system and the Local Plan and require the support of the District Council Planning Department and the Rural Community County of Essex (RCCE). It will provide significant support to the Parish Council and Maldon District Council in determining future Planning Applications. The final document will be available to everyone.

David Beattie, Chairman.

Committee Members:

Keith Amato
James Nolan
Ken Rennie
John Tompkins.
Andrew Newland (PC Member).

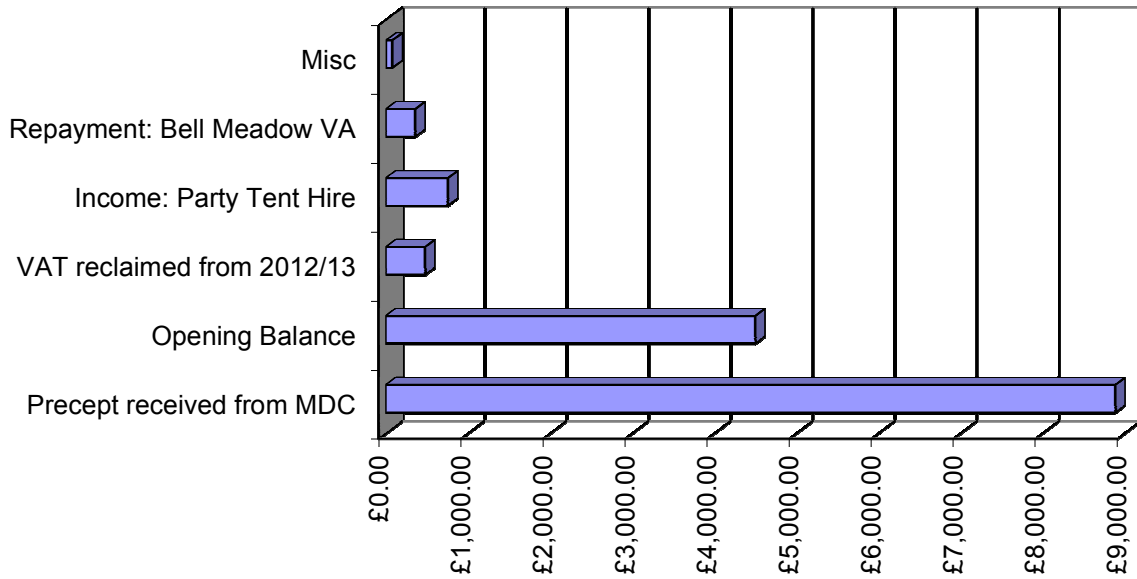
Additional Information can be found at:

www.essexinfo.net/woodhamwalter-pc

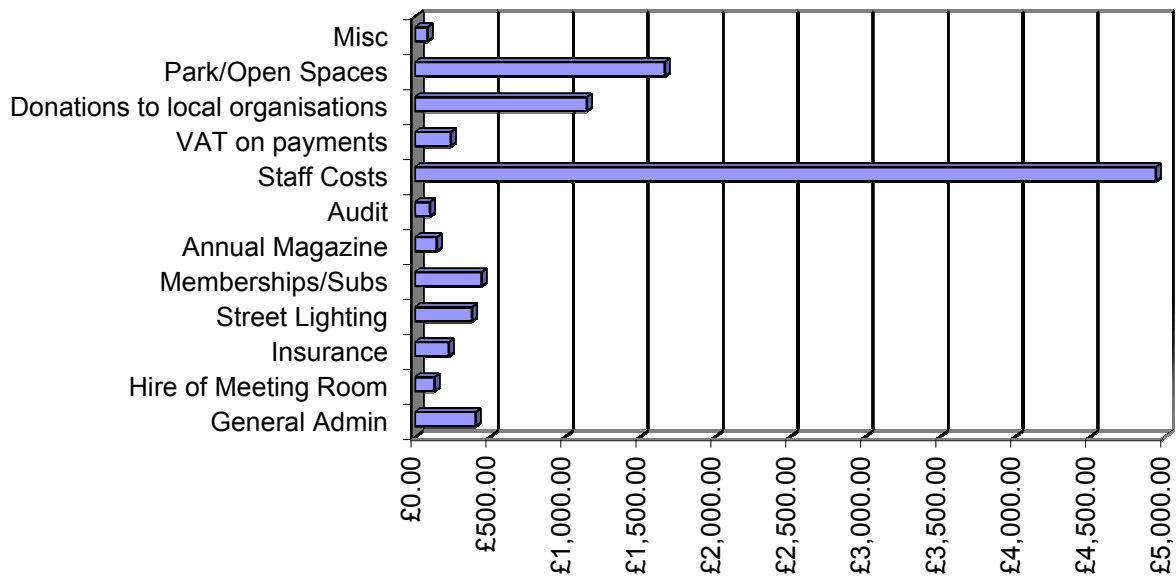
www.essexrcc.org.uk/Our_work_with_Communities/Community_Led_Planning.aspx

Woodham Walter Parish Council - Financial Overview

Income & Opening Balances 2013/14 Total: £15,015.71



**Expenditure 2013/14 Total: £9,877.15
Closing Balance: £5,138.56**



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.

During 2013/14 we provided community funding to local organisations to help with maintenance including Woodham Walter Women's Club (£147), Woodham Walter Village Hall Association (£200) and St Michael's Church (£189). We also make annual grants to Silver Threads Club (£150) and to the Essex Wild-

life Trust (£105) towards their work managing Woodham Walter Common.

We also have an agreement to help pay towards the maintenance costs of the Community Playground facility at the school up to £400 per year.

How parish councils work

Parish councils are statutory bodies. Members are elected for a term of four years. The next elections are in 2015.

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 2013 we raised £745 in hiring income.

Councillors have agreed that the precept requirement for Woodham Walter in 2014/15 will be £10,214.00 which works out at £37.90 per Band D property for the year.

What do Parish Clerks do?

The Parish Clerk is the Proper Officer of the Council and as such is under statutory duty to carry out all the functions and to serve or issue all 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.



Jacky Bannerman has been the Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer for Woodham Walter Parish Council for just over 7 years.

2013/14 has seen the usual mix of work for the clerk. Liaising with various village organisations, responding to planning applications and other correspondence according to the decisions of the council. This year in Woodham Walter I have liaised with Highways on more occasions than I care to re-

member! Reporting various issues such as potholes, broken signposts and drainage issues. After over 2 years of efforts I'm pleased to see that finally work has taken place along Little Baddow Road to address the drainage problems. I now await some rain to see if they have been successful!

Woodham Walter is lucky to have a team of supportive and dedicated councillors and I thank them all for their valued time, judgment and friendship. We do currently have one vacancy for a councillor, if you think you may be interested please let me know.

Vacancy for Parish Councillor

Could I be a parish councillor?

As a councillor you can become a voice for your community and affect real change. Parish Councils are the most local part of our democratic system and are closest to the public. Parish Councils have a large range of powers and activities. We are involved in planning consultations, managing Bell Meadow, the care and upkeep of the village, liaising with highways, street lighting, allotments, promoting the village and other local issues.

How much time does it take up?

Woodham Walter Parish Council usually meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 8pm for approximately 2 hours. As well as this there are ad-hoc duties including neighbour consultations for planning applications, inspecting Bell Meadow and the Community Playground and paperwork to read plus occasional meetings & training courses. 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.

Am I qualified?

Most people are. However there are a few rules. You have to be:

- a British citizen, or a citizen of the Commonwealth or the European Union, and
- 18 years or older on the day you become nominated for election

You cannot stand for election if you:

- are the subject of a bankruptcy restriction order or interim order
- have, within five years before the day of the election, been convicted in the United Kingdom of any offence and have had a prison sentence (whether suspended or not) for a period of over three months without the option of a fine
- work for the council you want to become a councillor for

What do parish councillors do?

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.
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.

For information contact:

Parish Clerk, Jacky Bannerman

01245 222595 (before 6pm)

email: jacky@wwparishclerk.co.uk

www.essexinfo.net/woodhamwalter-pc





District Councillor, Mark Durham



This annual report comes towards the end of my third year as your District Councillor. When I was first approached to stand for the seat previously held by Sheila Young, I was assured that being a councillor wouldn't be a significant time commitment. All I can say is either that things have changed recently or I was being told a tall tale! Over the last year I have spent an average of three evenings a week at meetings and at least a couple of daytime appointments. Some weeks I am out every evening all over the district and several times during the day. I am very fortunate to have a supportive wife and tolerant employer. Although the time commitment is significant and sometimes the role is highly challenging, I enjoy it immensely and get a huge amount of satisfaction from it. I have been a Parish Councillor in Woodham Walter for over 20 years which has given me a valuable insight into local democracy, but I have to ask myself whether I can continue to give this tier of local government my full attention. I intend to see how this coming year progresses before I make this decision.

Last May I was elected to be The Chairman of The Community & Leisure Services Committee as well as Vice Chairman of The

North West Area Planning Committee. Both of these executive roles have added to the workload, but it has put me in the forefront of several initiatives that the council is currently working on. My committee is responsible for things such as the waste and recycling contract, which to be honest has not gone as smoothly as we had hoped. After an initial bedding in period, we have worked closely with Amey Enterprise who operate the service for the council. Things have gradually improved and I am confident that we will be able to provide the residents of Maldon District with regular weekly collections for the years to come. Refuse and recycling is the largest contract that the council outsources and it accounts for a significant proportion of the MDC council tax precept. We

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are currently in the process of awarding a new contract for the management of the leisure centres in Maldon and Burnham. The tenders are being evaluated this month and it is hoped that a new contract will provide an income to the authority, rather than the cost that is incurred at the moment.

We have been heavily involved in the budget setting for the council and this is increasingly difficult due to year on year cuts from central government. We are obliged to present a balanced budget, but this is getting harder and harder each year. Maldon is fortunate that it has been a prudent authority and it still has con-

siderable financial reserves. Regrettably this does not produce much investment return due to the low interest rates and we have to draw on these reserves in order to balance the finances. The council has to find further cuts or increased income in the coming years, otherwise the reserve will be spent by 2020. This is much the same picture that was experienced by central government a few years ago, but they had to resort to borrowing money to balance the books and we all know where that lead us!

One of my other interests is the Promenade Park in Maldon. The responsibility for this falls under my leadership and I firmly believe that it is a real jewel in the crown of the district. It provides a wonderful area for people to walk and enjoy themselves, many of whom come from well outside the district. The Prom brings a considerable amount of money into the town and the income from parking, Splash Park and facility rents helps provide a valuable boost to the council coffers. I am very keen to find other attractions that will generate revenue and I have supported growth bids for some daily beach huts, a boating lake and crazy golf. I am hopeful that most, if not all of these will come on stream this year.



District Councillor, Mark Durham



MALDON DISTRICT
COUNCIL

I obviously have a great deal to do with matters that effect the villages that I represent, namely Wickham Bishops, Ulting, Langford, Woodham Mortimer, Hazleigh and Woodham Walter. I have presentations on behalf of children and the school admissions policy, helped facilitate the installation of central heating into some Moat Housing properties, given evidence at a public enquiry for a significant planning appeal, campaigned against roadside littering and assisted several residents with specific problems that they have experienced. I receive an average of 25 emails per day, frequent phone calls and numerous letters. If there is something topical that is happening, usually a contentious planning matter, the email count can hit the roof!

Planning is one of the most important functions of the district council as it is the determining authority for all applications unless they are referred to HM Planning Inspectorate or The Secretary of State. Clearly this means that I am involved with almost every application that is submitted in my ward and unless they are determined under delegate powers by the officers, I will be on the committee that decides on the case. In some ways this is a thankless task as the majority of cases coming before the committee will have people in favour and in opposition. One side is there-

fore disappointed or even aggrieved at the decision taken, but all applications like this are voted in a democratic fashion by the eight members on the committee. We are advised on legal and technical points by the planning officers, but in the end we make a decision based on planning criteria, the views of local people and our own personal views. I have certainly not increased my Christmas card list, but I believe that I and the other members make the right decision in the vast majority of cases. In the main, the planning inspectors tend to agree in that they have supported most cases where the failed application was appealed.

Maldon District Council is in the final stages of producing its new Local Development Plan that sets the policy for the next fifteen years. This detailed document has taken two years to prepare and there have been two public consultations. It will shortly be sent to The Secretary of State for examination in public. We are hopeful that the plan will be deemed sound and it will be adopted towards the end of this year. We have to produce figures for housing growth in line with government expectations and this has to be evidence based for the district. Maldon has shown 4,400 new dwellings over the next 15 years which will be in three main development areas, North Heybridge, South Maldon and West Burnham. In addition to these areas we will have to find locations for 335 new houses in rural locations. Some of these will be in North Fambridge, but it is highly likely that most parishes will have to accept some development. Adoption of this Development Plan is vital as it will reinforce the current village envelopes which are effectively worthless at the

moment. Until the plan is adopted, the government tell us through the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) that there is a presumption in favour of sustainable development. What this effectively means is that the council cannot realistically refuse applications for new houses where they can be deemed sustainable. Our problem is that the definition of sustainable is unclear and is still being argued by planning lawyers on a daily basis. Woodham Walter is inherently sustainable because it has a school, three pubs, bus routes and maybe an outreach post office. For this reason I am hopeful that the passage of the LDP will be smooth.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Woodham Walter Parish Council and particularly Jacky Bannerman, the clerk. I attend a lot of parish meetings now and can honestly say that Woodham Walter is truly blessed. I very much appreciate the faith that the community has put in me to represent them and trust that this will continue. I would also like to thank Priti Patel MP, who is our representative in Westminster and one of the hardest working politicians I have encountered. I speak to her frequently and she will always make time to help with problems and lend her support when needed. I am thinking about holding regular surgeries if there is a demand, probably in one of the pubs, so if this is wanted, please let me know.

Cllr. Mark FL Durham

Woodham Walter Women's Club - Jean Newton



The Club has enjoyed another year with various activities which keep us busy, our monthly meetings are well attended and we enjoy interesting speakers organised by Gill.

Fund Raising Events What wonderful weather we had for the week-end of the Festival of Flowers in St Michael's Church, thank you to everybody who came to help us serve teas, making wonderful cakes and scones, and a huge thank you to everyone who helps behind the scenes to keep the tent running smoothly. We would like to wish Ann and Tony Maxwell a happy retirement from organising the Flower Festival with such dedication over a number of years, we send our good wishes to the new committee organising the 2014 Flower Festival.

Bell Meadow Day a very welcome sunny day after the rain the previous day, our cake stall proved popular as did Penny's tombola stall, it was good to see the raising of the Village Flag at this event too.

The Jumble Sale at the end of October was the final fund raising event for us in 2013. We would like to thank the team from the Danbury Village Hall who help us make the event run so smoothly. Thank you also to all Club members who give their time on the day

Other Activities in April we hosted a very successful Fashion Show by the Danbury Dress Agency the hall full to capacity. Linda Hamilton prepared and served delicious canapés during the interval, this was a most enjoyable evening.

Founders Day in August a trip to the Popular Garden Centre Nr. Marks Tey was enjoyed by members who enjoyed looking around the nursery and garden centre then adjourning to the Tea Rooms for tea and a chat.



In November the Village Revue took place and as usual the dance team gave an immaculate performance, costumes colourful and glamorous. The Christmas 'do' was a lovely social evening, Father Christmas made his annual visit, and we enjoyed light refreshments the evening ended with carol singing and good wishes to everyone for a happy Christmas and New Year. In the New Year we enjoyed a post Christmas Lunch at the Bell which was enjoyed by twenty two members this has become an annual event. In March we returned to the Village Hall for an

evening of Entertainment with the Dance Team and Club Members with a little help from friends of the Club.

Women's Club and the Tadpoles will be looking forward to a new era in 2014, Tadpoles will be leaving the Club Room and moving into new premises at the Village Shop. They have been with us since 1995 and we would like to wish them every happiness and success in their new home.

Women's Club are also looking forward and feel very positive

about the future, we feel that the club room has good potential for anybody who would like to hire the hall.

Finally I would like to thank the ladies on the committee who always give un-

stinting support to all our activities, thank you also to all our club members who attend our monthly meetings particularly on dark wet evenings, your commitment is much appreciated.

Just a reminder Women's Club meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm in the Club Room, Top Road. We always welcome new members and visitors to our meetings. Dates, speakers plus our activities are always mentioned in the monthly Parish News.

Silver Threads - Ann Mulley

We still meet on the first Tuesday of the month. In Winter it's lunch locally and when the weather improves we find a tea shop with some lovely cake!!

Christmas lunch was as usual at Tollesbury. Only possible with the grant from the Parish

Council which the members are most grateful.

Membership is still low. There have been occasions when we have had only two or three for the outing. On a good meeting it could be five.

I would like to thank Ann Maxwell and Sheila Wade for their continued help and support without which it would be impossible to continue.

Woodham Walter Village Hall Association - Paul G Clark



This year saw our lettings continue on a mainly weekday basis with input from many outside bodies

The Bell Meadow Village Association have been a great support with handsome contributions towards our upkeep with the replacement porch the next benefit The support will take us on to the redecoration and refurbishment of the hall and old kitchen. We would welcome more helpers to improve our hedges and garden as well as a Computer King to

search for grants

The Queen Vic has supported us by a quiz night with a useful sum of money for our funds thank you for your time and efforts

June Chandler and helpers raised another large contribution from the Art Exhibition which shows local artists work and sells many paintings for our benefit

The review was a sell out once again with Andrew Jasper supported by a large cross section

of the village assisting and taking part

In conclusion I would like to thank the committee for their dedication and their positive contributions with ideas and practical work

Mystery

In the minutes of 1928 Miss Constable offered a painting of hers to be auctioned for funds

Does anybody know where it is?

Paul G Clark

Chair

To book the hall contact
Andrew Ritchings

01621 811733 or e mail

Caretaker-
wwwvh@btinternet.com

Bell Meadow Village Association - Gill Orford

Now in its 9th Year, Bell Meadow Day 2013 arrived rainy and rather wet underfoot but some bark chippings laid down and we were ready to go. With the event getting busier and bigger, and with more visitors than ever we were all looking forward to the day. We were ready!

The red sparrows had practised, tug of war teams were ready, stalls booked, tents up, the competition tent was up and ready to receive entries. and the meadow set out. At this point, there is always a worry that we will be standing on the meadow alone, but no! Stall holders arrived thick and fast, the tents and gazebos soon filled up, folk queued for the competition tent with entries in hand, magnificent home grown vegetables, tasty jams and chutneys, best photographs in frames ready to display and wonderful floral art displays which had to be seen to be believed. What a clever talented village we live in! Well Done Amanda Lucas winning the Best in Show with her cake of St Michaels church.



The arena events got under way after the day was kindly opened by Anna and John Durham, the flag was raised and we were off. The girls won the tug of war, through sheer gritty determination and we did look better in our pink tee shirts!!

The public tug of war was hugely popular and it is so much harder than it looks!



The bird of prey display was watched and enjoyed by many, with the gun dogs watching with acute interest! Woodham Walter shoot provided us with a fantastic display of their trained hounds working well, dressed in tweed the handlers looked as good as the dogs. A great show.



Then came the Woodham Walter Red Sparrow display team. This concept was thought up in the pub and was meant to be a casual bit of fun, Until we started training that was! We met up on the meadow every week and took it all very seriously but there is something very comical watching grown men running around with barrows. What a display they put on! Dressed in their red boiler suits and an injured sparrow, they put on a cracking show. Well done, the smoke was fab. (ish)

The ever popular egg throwing (how do they bounce?) and the dog beauty the arena was a busy

place.

Beer was drunk, pizza's, burgers and sweets were all consumed, horses and ponies were ridden and it was so lovely to have Essex small holders joining us again, with so many crafts and stalls to look and learn as the sun came out. We all caught up and enjoyed our wonderful community.

Bell Meadow Day is a little like stepping back in time. Many have likened it to The Vicar of Dibley and really that's what we are aiming for. A rural celebration of life. Sometimes rural life seems to be forgotten or pushed to the wayside but we prove every year that it is alive and well and enjoyed by so many far and wide. Politicians, take note!

The evening entertainment event got under way with For Funks Sake, back by popular demand and with a new set, we were all soon dancing the night away. Some may say that our singing along abilities need some practise!

Bell Meadow day is an incredible amount of work, but we have a fantastic committee and with so many people helping at the weekend, setting up, setting down, thank you. We would not be financially viable if it was not for the great local support that we receive. A very big thank you to Hire Plus, The Warren, The Queen Vic and The Bell. We feel very fortunate to have such support.

Bell Meadow Village Association - Bell Meadow Legacy

Bell Meadow legacy was set up in 2013 as we found we were beginning to have surplus money in our funds as Bell Meadow Day was just getting bigger and busier. We also have a lot of local support for which we are most grateful.

In 2013, we gave £1,000 to the

friends of St Michaels Church and £1,000 to the village hall to assist them with the water heater. This year after a number of applications were studied we decided to donate £1,000 to the women's club to enable them to buy new tables and chairs, £500 to the community playground, £500 to

the village hall new porch and also hopefully starting a new tradition of a village Christmas tree!

The legacy was set up to benefit the village or villagers so we were very pleased to support these applications.

Gill Orford
Bell Meadow Committee

Bell Meadow Day - Sunday 24th August 2014

Picture by John Durham



As we are beginning to think of warm long days, the plans for Bell Meadow day 2014 are under way. With a great committee on board the day hopefully will go without a hitch! We are celebrating ten years of the meadow being gifted to the village so it needs to be a big day!

We are opening this year at 12.30 to allow more time on the meadow. So come for lunch, and of course time spent in our village beer tent is always good!

In the arena we have the hugely popular Red Sparrow display team performing with a new routine and with Squadron Leader Durham leading, with self appointed Corporal Del and the team, I feel this is a display not to be missed!! Along with the Woodham Walter girls v's boys tug of war teams, will the girls win again this year? The boys new captain Nick seems to think not.....let's just wait and see. The

public tug of war team will be pulling just after so if you are up for a pull come along to the arena and pull away.

Woodham Walter shoot will be performing also, with the gun dog display showing us their wonderfully trained dogs in the arena. A great display and all part of our village life and history which is so important to maintain and develop. We need to remember to have the egg throwing competition after the dog display as dogs are rather partial to eggs! Dog beauty will also be in the arena, with a rosette prize for the best. So bring your faithful friend into the arena on a lead please and keep an eye on the programme for more events.

We will be having stalls and local crafts and we are aiming to keep the event as rural as possible as it is a very special event, and it seems that the majority of people like the simple day, a little like stepping back in time. We have Essex small holders coming along bringing their wide selection of animals for us all to look at and admire and the popular pony rides and sheep that Jen and Lee so very kindly bring along. Essex Bee keepers are bringing along

their bees to study and their products. Lots to look at and learn.

On The Warren stage, Chelmsford Rock Choir will be kicking off the evening entertainment followed by For Funks Sake with a new set and new singers ready to get us all up dancing the night away on the meadow.

Plans are coming along for the competition tent with categories for August's Best Produce and the heaviest marrow. Also this year some categories you can enter as a family. More details in the competition leaflet which will come out soon.

Well, we hope to see you all again this year along with your friends and family to support our wonderful village and our cracking community. Have a catch up with old friends and neighbours.

For more information please visit the website :

www.bellmeadowday.co.uk.

e mail: bellmeadow@gmail.com
or call Gill On 01245 226721.

See you there.

Don't forget, we are opening at 12.30 this year to fit everything in!!

Woodham Walter Allotment Association - Gill Orford



Our allotments have been running for 5 years now, and I feel we are very lucky to have such a valuable asset in our community. Again, many thanks to Peter and Bryony Maynard for making this thriving scheme available to our villagers.

This year, we were awarded a grant to replace a rather tired fence which also enabled us to have 3 new taster plots. A very

big thank you to Sophie Blythe and her team at Edible Essex to make it possible for us to expand.

The new taster plots are smaller to enable tenants to try their hand at vegetables and fruit growing without making a huge commitment. If you are interested in a taster plot, please do not hesitate to contact us for more details.

With spring springing into action and hopefully a drier spell, the plot holders can get back to planting ready for the growing season. Competition will soon be hotting up ready for the infamous Bell Meadow Day competition tent and the all important winning rosettes and certificates! The manure has been dug in so they are all ready to go. Good luck to all.

Top gardening tips from plot holder Chris are hugely valu-

able in our parish magazine, and are always welcome. Thanks Chris.

Here's to a warm summer, plenty of rosette winning produce with maybe a tad of rain.

Gill Orford

Having left her role as Parish Councillor this has also meant that Gill has stood down from representing the Parish Council on the Allotment Committee. Gill has done a great job over the last couple of years to help the allotments move from strength to strength. Thanks Gill. While we sort out a replacement please contact Parish Clerk, Jacky Bannerman with any allotment enquiries.



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

Jacky Bannerman: 01245 222595
Email: jacky@wwparishclerk.co.uk

Footpath Officer - Peter Warren



I've now completed seven years as the parish Footpath Officer and still enjoy making sure that our public rights of way are clear and safe to walk. I try to cover at least a couple of paths each day and endeavour to check all of our 28 footpaths and 5 bridleways every three or four months. Any problems that I can't fix easily are referred to the appropriate farmer or landowner or failing that the Rights of Way department of ECC Highways.

As we're all well aware the weather has been quite variable over the past year. This time last year many of our paths were flooded and ended up scarcely passable due to the boggy mud. At the time of writing twelve months later things are even worse, wading in wellies and hosing the dog down a regular occurrence! In between we've enjoyed a good summer and ECC completed cutting the 13 paths on their schedule in just a couple of days in early June. Unfortunately, due to a lack of funds,

there was no second cut this year and we had to wait for the foliage to die back naturally. Brambles seemed to grow extra vigorously this year. Fortunately a few villagers taking their secateurs on their dog's constitutional got rid of the worst of them!

The biggest problem in the past year has been paths blocked by fallen trees. On average we have half a dozen such incidents each year. This year we have had at least four times that number, the worst storm in late October resulting in 8 paths being blocked at once, some by more than one tree. The landowners and farmers involved were all exceptionally proactive and all paths were clear within a week. Also, due to the waterlogged ground, a lot of trees have sagged over leaving branches hanging across the footpath. Most of these I have removed myself.



Whilst walking the local paths I also carry out my second job as Tree Officer. This is to satisfy the Parish Council's responsibility to check the safety of trees on WW Common, those surrounding Bell Meadow plus various others dotted around the village, also ECC's request for parishes to check for Chalara Fraxinea (Ash Dieback). In the past year three fallen trees have required removal but I'm pleased to report that I've yet to see any evidence of Ash Dieback. I hope nobody else has either?

Last autumn our new ECC Rights of Way Inspector Shirley Anglin came to the village at my request and we walked a couple of paths where there were problems. She has responded promptly to these issues and I'm confident that we will continue to get good service in WW.

Please help me to keep our paths in good order. If you see anything that needs attention, or any improvement that you could suggest, don't hesitate to let me know. Let's hope we have a good summer to enjoy our lovely WW countryside!

Peter Warren
01245 221326

St Michael's Church - Kathy Tompkins & Arthur Razzell

It has been another exciting year for St Michael's!

Thank you all so much for joining with us in our 450th anniversary celebrations that took place on the September feast day of St Michael and All Angels last September. Celebrations and fund raising took place throughout the year starting with a lecture on village involvement during the First World War, followed by coffee mornings, tea afternoons and strawberry teas, through to the final concert and thanksgiving service. All these activities only took place due to the generosity of those giving of their time and talents freely. We cannot thank you enough.



Level Access and New Pathways

Last year also saw the beginning of major building projects. A gentle inclined pathway now provides a level access to the church entrance for the disabled and continues around the church, the tea-point and extension accommodating toilet facilities, one for disabled persons use, are completed. The opening of the south door, closed in 1795 when the south porch was demolished, caused great excitement. We sometimes felt daunted by such a tremendous task but with the enthusiasm of past and present church members and the wider village community we have made it happen. With modern amenities now in place, we hope to move our church forward both in membership and in providing social and



Re-opened South Door

other services for the benefit of the entire village.

Throughout this very busy year we continued to support the usual village activities. At the village weekend in July our gifted flower arrangers and sponsors achieved the 'best ever' Flower Festival. The event supported as always by our friends in the Women's Club who manage to run the refreshment tent over the entire four days of the festival. We enjoyed



New Tea Point

playing a greater part in Bell Meadow Day generously dedicated to St Michael's, and for the first time we had a presence on the field as well as our usual refreshments in the church. We also supported various charities during the year including Ride and Stride in aid of Essex Churches, The Children's Society, The Royal British Legion, the Kenyan Link, Maldon Food Bank and various cancer charities amongst others.

We have continued our involvement with the village school and have been pleased to welcome them into church on several occasions. Rev'd Stephanie is often to be seen reading to the children and leading school assemblies. She is also a regular visitor to Tadpoles. At the final church service of the academic year the parish present bibles, chosen by the children, to Year Six leavers.



New Toilet Extension

It was a wonderful year for weddings too, five in all. A marriage preparation course for those involved, organised by Rev'd Stephanie, encouraged a feeling of membership with the church and friendship with each other.

St Michael's Church



It also inspired the exchange of wedding paraphernalia and the now famous white umbrella.



Five Weddings During the Year

Our thanks must go especially to Ann Maxwell who retired last year after many years as co-



Village Flower Arranging

ordinator and organiser of the annual Flower Festival. Her hard work and that of all her team of arrangers and sponsors helped towards the building work now completed. So we do thank her very sincerely

and are delighted to be able to report that members of her former team are determined to run the festival again this year. There is still plenty of refurbishment needed to conserve St Michael's for future generations.

Please see under their own heading, information regarding the refurbishment carried out at the Robert Henry Falkner Almshouses during last year. At this point we must acknowledge the work carried out by the retiring Hon. Clerk, Malcolm Bunn and his wife Iris. We are very sad indeed to see Malcolm retire after an extraordinary number of years looking after the fabric of the Almshouses and keeping a kindly eye on the residents. We shall greatly miss his kindness and dedication but are delighted to announce that Angus Neale has agreed to take over the post, and are confident that he will make a very worthy successor.

The Friends of St Michael's have also been a huge source of support for us, but they too appear in this report under their own heading.

The death of Graham Beighton at the end of the year came as a sad blow to our community. He was a longstanding member of our church and of the Parochial Church Council, and also served as Churchwarden for a number of years. We will miss him greatly.

Weekly services continue in their current format of Holy Communion on the first and third Sunday alternating with Morning Prayer and Family Service to which all are welcome. The choir led by organist Ken Hay accompany

special festivals. All services commence at 9.30am followed with light refreshments. The church is open every day for quiet reflection and, now that building works are complete, we plan to hold various charitable fund raising events, including coffee mornings, tea afternoons and soup lunches.



Present, Former and Visiting Priests at the 450th Anniversary Celebrations

The future of St Michael's Church is assured. You may be confident that, provided it has your continued support, your parish church will be here for you and your families in the years ahead. There will no doubt be changes regarding the running of the church with greater emphasis placed on the laity. However, change is nothing new within the church and in Woodham Walter we have shown that we are not afraid of change or new challenges. The doors of St Michael's church will continue to be open for all. As we have said in the past and continue to say, there is no admission charge, no age barrier, colour or sex discrimination.

***There are no exceptions,
St Michael's is here for you.***

Wood Corner Caravan Site - Steve Andrews



It's difficult to believe another year has gone by and we are reporting for the 2014 newsletter/meeting. After reporting Alec Baker's move from the Wood Corner site management role last year, I am happy to inform you that we secured the services of Danny Hayden as the new live on site manager from August 2013.



Danny is member of the Gypsy/ Traveller community, and has been on the other side of the fence as a paying resident on our site near Great Yeldham. Danny brings a wealth of knowledge of the community, culture as well as maintenance skills and practical experience of Health and Safety from working in Highways Main-

tenance. Already, it's difficult to remember a time when Danny wasn't the live on manager, as he has settled in well, and is already making his mark on the efficient management of the site and supporting others and the team as a whole.

Once again, we have recorded minimal movements on and off the site – 2 plots have had the original families move on, with new families coming and staying a short while, before the current families moved on and remain in situ. This is not uncommon with some families who prefer to be "on the move". 2 other plots have had single movements, with the new families moving on and staying, in one case it's a family returning after a short period travelling.

In the last newsletter I mentioned upcoming joint projects with the Childrens Centre to be run on Wood Corner around Child Safety and Oral Health. We have since carried out successful campaigns under:-



Child Safety Week - re child safety and reduction of Childhood Accidents. This was delivered across all of our sites in Essex directly reaching 70 families and 126 children.



National Smile Month – promoting oral health to 71 families, 90 children, and the Stoptober stop smoking campaigns. This is in addition to our ongoing works supporting children and young adults into education, promoting immunisations and treatment of long term conditions, supporting with GP / Dentist registrations etc

We look forward to another year within the Woodham Walter community.

Steve Andrews

Essex Countywide Traveller Unit
Manager

Essex County Council

Woodham Walter Common - Chris Wheadon



Work on the Common in the past year has been of a routine nature, involving removal by hand of bracken, bramble and Holly and Himalayan Balsam, involving my work and that of groups of volunteers.

The heather areas are benefiting visibly from this work, which, although time consuming, is pay-

ing dividends. However, we may be facing a problem in future, caused by Birch saplings. We hope the felling of a number of large Birch trees around the perimeter of the new heather area will improve the situation. These trees had been distributing their seeds, so felling them will obviously reduce the problem. The felled wood will of course provide Beetle banks etc.,

The Bogs have overflowed, the ferns and sphagnum moss are looking very good certainly plenty of water at the moment.

A number of trees/ branches have fallen in the strong winds

and have been removed from the paths, if they had been causing an obstruction. Some paths have become extremely muddy due to the rain, alternative routes have been unofficially created.

Pheasanthouse Farm (on the adjacent Reserve) is now being managed directly by the Trust, some timber has already been removed for charcoal production. A Trust Team is at present "tidying" the site.

Chris Wheadon. (gratefully assisted by Martin Gregory)

Bank Holiday Refuse & Recycling Collections

The dates shown below relate to bank holiday **refuse & recycling** collections.

For Garden Waste collections please refer to your calendar for collection schedules .

Usual Collection

EASTER 2014

Good Friday	18th April
Easter Monday	21st April
Tuesday	22nd April
Wednesday	23rd April
Thursday	24th April
Friday	25th April

EARLY MAY BANK HOLIDAY 2014

B/H Monday	5th May
Tuesday	6th May
Wednesday	7th May
Thursday	8th May
Friday	9th May

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY 2014

B/H Monday	26th May
Tuesday	27th May
Wednesday	28th May
Thursday	29th May
Friday	30th May

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY 2014

B/H Monday	25th August
Tuesday	26th August
Wednesday	27th August
Thursday	28th August
Friday	29th August

Revised Collection

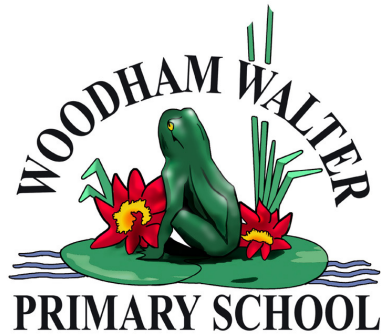
Good Friday	18th April
Tuesday	22nd April
Wednesday	23rd April
Thursday	24th April
Friday	25th April
Saturday	26th April

Tuesday	6th May
Wednesday	7th May
Thursday	8th May
Friday	9th May
Saturday	10th May

Tuesday	27th May
Wednesday	28th May
Thursday	29th May
Friday	30th May
Saturday	31st May

Tuesday	26th August
Wednesday	27th August
Thursday	28th August
Friday	29th August
Saturday	30th August

Woodham Walter Primary School - Headteacher



Our village school continues to thrive and our roll now stands at 106, its highest ever. Children, staff, parents and Governors work hard together to constantly move the school forward whilst retaining the traditional values and caring culture of a church school.

Village Celebrations

We began our school year by joining with the Parish to celebrate the 450th anniversary of St Michaels



Church. The children researched Britain in the past with special reference to the Tudors. The term ended with a very successful Tudor Experience Day.

School Choir

As well as having another opportunity to sing at the Royal Albert Hall and the village review this year, our school choir was honoured to be invited to sing at Westminster Cathedral. We are looking forward to taking part in the Plume school music festival later in the year.

Kenyan Link

We are proud to announce that we have been awarded another grant from the British Council to continue our partnership with

Mutira Primary School in Kenya. This year the grant will be centred on our joint gardening project.



Healthy schools

Working together we have recently had our Healthy schools status revalidated. Our schools meals service and our work with Forest schools were major factors in achieving this prestigious award.



Sue Dodd
Headteacher

www.woodhamwalter.essex.sch.uk
01245 223264

Parent & Teacher Association

Your village school of Woodham Walter is very lucky to have such supportive parents and staff to enable us to run a successful PTA, without which the children would not benefit from such items as sports kits, books and classroom resources.

A huge thank you must go to all of the PTA for their hard work and enthusiasm and to all the other staff, parents and local residents who have supported us this year.

At our AGM, we had some change of faces with Mel Coates-Jones as Chair, Paul Freeman-Hacker as vice-Chair, Maxine Littman as Treasurer, Louise Flavell as Secretary and Nancy Lott as Vice-Secretary as well as a fantastic team of parents, teachers and school staff.

Our school year of fundraising started with the ever popular pamper evening in November. There was a selection of stalls selling unusual gifts as well as the therapists who were kept very busy resulting in some very polished ladies and gents! The successful evening raised just over £830.

In December, the children once again made delicious Christmas puddings with Mrs Dixon and Mr Freeman-Hacker. The puddings were delicious and sales this year made £150.

The school discos were well attended and lots of fun for all – and so nice to see some of our old year 6 pupils. The Christmas Bake & Take raised



£350 for the school and all the children loved playing various games and visiting Father Christmas.

A school recipe book was made this year and is on sale from the school at £3.99. It is full of lovely family tasty meals and cakes. Please call into reception at school to buy your copy.

Funds raised by the PTA are used to purchase vital resources for the school including stage lighting and on-line educational resources as well as rejuvenating the school grounds and for treats such as the Aladdin Christmas Pantomime.

We are planning some really exciting events for this year which we would love the community to join us including:

Geocaching (a high-tech treasure hunt around Woodham

Walter) event on 25th May – why not enter a team?

Grab yourself a bargain at our jumble sale on 21st June at Danbury Village Hall – or why not have that spring clear out and donate some jumble (leaflets will be coming through your door)

Our amazing School Fete on 13th July – a traditional day based on this year's theme bygone days.

We look forward to seeing you and thank you all for your support.



Friends of St Michael's Church - Brian Cumming



The Friends of St. Michael's Church is a non-religious group which was formed in 2005 to support the maintenance and development of this important historical building and its grounds.

The 'Friends' organisation is well supported within the village and we are very grateful for the skills, knowledge, people power and financial support that our Friends (and sometime their friends too) provide. Our membership currently stands at 134 people and we would welcome anyone who might like to join us.

It is with much sadness that I report the death of Graham Beighton. Graham was one of our founding members and a great supporter of our work. As many of you will know Graham was an architect and his

knowledge of and passion for the church were a great asset to us; Graham was a lovely man and he will be very sadly missed.

In this last year we ran two working parties during which we conducted extensive work in the churchyard. The church saw three 'village weddings' in the summer and we put in a lot of effort before these events to ensure that the church was at its best. We also ran a fund raising event at the Village Celebration and raised a valuable sum to support our work.

But, without doubt the biggest news of the year has been the installation of a tea-point at the rear of the church, improvements to the entrance threshold, the opening of the long sealed south doorway and the building of the new toilet facilities. Ideas for these improvements have been discussed for many years and the income from the annual Flower Festival has been accumulating towards the day when the work might start; well this year it did. Much of the credit

for this must go to Geoff Hicks, who 'took the bull by the horns' and pushed the project forward. The cost of this work was not insignificant and there was always a worry that we would never have enough to get the project underway. But the generous donations of a number of individuals, combined with the Flower Festival funds and support from money donated to the Friends we were able to raise enough money to see the project through to completion. As part of this funding the Friends made an approach to the Essex Heritage Trust who very kindly made a donation of £5,000 towards the project. As you are probably aware, this work is now very close to completion and the Friends are delighted to have been able to support this important activity.

With this major building project now behind us we are looking forward to support work to resolve the damp problem associated with the south and west walls, repairs to the exterior brickwork pointing and redecoration of the interior; this work will follow on in subsequent years.

We thank our existing members for their ongoing support and we would happily welcome any new members who would like to join us.

Brian Cumming
Chairman and
Membership Secretary



Graham Beighton



Tadpoles Nursery - Pam Seear

Another busy year for us at Tadpoles. We are still making frequent visits to our allotment. This year we did lots of digging then we planted vegetable seeds the seeds grew and grew we had to water them a lot, when they were big we harvested them and took them back to Tadpoles, we chopped them up and made them into soup, it was very yummy!



We also enjoy making our own sandwiches and choosing healthy things to put inside them.

At Halloween time we made a lantern out of a pumpkin and watched how it shone when we closed the curtains.

Another thing we love doing is walking around the village, stopping to play on Bell Meadow, we had great fun splashing in puddles with our wellies on.



As always we have great fun playing with our friends we made a giant snakes and ladders game to play.

We have also been busy planting bulbs for the garden at Tadpoles they are now flowering and we can see the lovely colours and smell the lovely smells.

We are always busy at Christmas and again this year we performed our nativity play in the school hall, lots of people came to watch us.



In the summer we had our annual picnic on the school field we had races with our teddies our mums and dads ran in a race to.

Another thing we did in the summer was our visit to Colchester zoo, where we had a bug experience we held the bugs and let them walk on our hands.

We always have fun at Tadpoles and love sitting listening to stories or sharing books.

This year we are offering all day sessions on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays we also offer lots of different sessions every day of the week, term time only, if you would like to join us or have any questions please contact me, Pam at

tadpolesnursery@hotmail.co.uk

telephone 01245 222046

nursery mobile 07710903126.



Neighbourhood Watch - Brian Cumming



During the year I attended four Neighbourhood Watch meetings in Maldon as the Woodham Walter representative. In addition to these meetings I receive regular information from the local police with summaries of crimes that have been conducted in the Maldon area. From this information I extract items that may be of relevance to us and publish related advice and guidance in the village magazine; this year I have published two such articles. This number is lower than in previous years but the reality is that the issues don't change and I am reluctant to keep publishing the same advice even though it remains very relevant.

As I have said before, we are lucky to be living in a low crime area but the area is not entirely crime free and we all need to take sensible precautions to protect our property.

We are subject to two main kinds of criminal activity, petty theft and phone and internet based fraud. The fact that we are in a low crime area can easily lead to complacency and we have had a number of examples where insecure items have been stolen.

Examples of theft that we have suffered in the year include:-

- Items taken from garden sheds, some of which were secure and some of which were not
- Thefts and attempted thefts of farm equipment
- The theft of a handbag from a locked car
- Theft of laptop computers from the school
- Lead flashing removed from a shed roof
- A stolen vehicle
- The spare wheel stolen from a parked vehicle

The police advice is to keep valuables out of sight and securely locked away. The addition of security lighting and alarms will also help to deter a potential thief.

It is not possible to quantify the number of phone and internet scam attacks that we have been subject to but, if my experience is anything to go by, then I suspect that these potential crimes greatly outnumber the thefts. Typically these include phone calls about an alleged computer problem and emails promising refunds or a share in a large sum of money; they are all after one thing, your bank or credit card details. The bottom line is to

treat all approaches from strangers offering help or money with the utmost caution; never pass over any confidential information to someone you don't know and don't follow any advice that they might give you on how to verify their identity. Seek trusted independent advice if you are worried.

If you want further details on your local Neighbourhood Watch please refer to the follow link
www.maldondistrictnhw.co.uk

This website contains a lot of useful information on crime prevention; it provides police and Neighbourhood Watch contact details and includes the regularly published local crime reports.

Finally, as always, please keep your eyes and ears open and your mobile phone handy; ring the Police on 999 for any urgent help or if you think there is a crime underway and 101 for all non-urgent matters.

Brian Cumming
 NHW Co-ordinator

Police - Inspector Chris Kilgallen



The Maldon and Dengie remains a very safe place to live with decreasing levels of crime and anti-social behaviour. The period 1st April to the end of December in 2013 saw a decrease in overall crime levels of 13.9%. That means there were 252 less victims of crime. This includes dwelling burglaries which have also decreased this year

Incidents of antisocial behaviour also were down by 7.7% from 1075 incidents in 2012 to 992 incidents in 2013.

These levels could be decreased even further by people taking simple crime prevention measures, such as locking up vehicles and not leaving valuables inside. Also please don't leave bicycles insecure and unattended.

If you see anything suspicious, ring police straight away. Your information could be the crucial missing information we need. Use 101 or if it is an emergency dial 999

Finally, I would ask all of you but particularly parents and young people to remain vigilant around the use of the Internet. We are

dealing with ever increasing incidents of bullying and harassment being committed via the Internet. Remember, anything put on there now will remain on there for ever. Sharing images between persons you think you know can quickly be spread and be extremely upsetting for the victim. Think before you hit that send button!

Further useful information can be obtained from the Essex Police website.

Insp Chris Kilgallen

Maldon and South Woodham Ferrers Neighbourhood Policing Team

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 2013 we carried out several sessions resulting in vehicles details being

forwarded to Essex Police- this included vehicles with speeds in excess of 50mph. .

More volunteers are needed in Woodham Walter in order to make the initiative even more successful. 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@wwparishclerk.co.uk

Village Agent - Christine McDonald



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.

It has been a privilege to meet residents and discuss your

needs giving me the opportunity to put forward suggestions of how they can be best met. The range of activities has been extremely varied, from arranging home support and shopping, to setting up a creative writing group; from dementia support to electrical appliance testing.

Sometimes what seems to be the most bizarre enquiry turns out to be something one of the other 12 Agents has already experienced. For example, information on dog training tips for an unruly pet that was turning his owner's life into a misery. Result - fulfilled dog and happy, relaxed owner!

In most cases, I visited people in their own homes (and en-

joyed tea and biscuits, thank you!) but have also met people in supermarket cafes when more convenient. 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:

- 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

IF YOU ARE NOT SURE IF A VILLAGE AGENT COULD HELP, WHY NOT TRY ME?

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

From: 29/03/2013

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

Mondays to Fridays	5	31A
	Th	
Chelmsford Bus Station (Stand 2)	-	1715
Chelmsford Railway Station (Stand 11)	-	1716
Great Baddow, The Blue Lion (opp)	-	1727
Sandon, The Crown (o/s)	-	1732
Danbury Common (opp)	0940	1740
Danbury, Eves Corner (N-bound)	0943	1742
Little Baddow, North Hill, adj Spring Close	0950	1750
Woodham Walter, Spring Elms Lane, adj Bassetts Lane	0955	1758
Woodham Walter, The Bell (o/s)	1000	1801
Woodham Walter, Council Houses (opp)	1001	1804
Beeleigh, Brook Farm (opp)	1006	1809
Maldon, All Saints Church (o/s)	1011	1814
Maldon, Tesco Store	1013	
Maldon, Morrisons	1019	

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

Mondays to Fridays	31A	5
		Th
Maldon, opp Morrisons, Wycke Hill	-	1300
Maldon, Tesco Store	-	1305
Maldon, White Horse	-	1308
Beeleigh, Brook Farm Corner	-	1313
Woodham Walter, Council Houses (adj)	0725	1318
Woodham Walter, The Bell (opp)	0728	1319
Woodham Walter, Spring Elms Lane, adj Bassetts Lane	0731	1323
Little Baddow, North Hill, adj Spring Close	0738	1327
Danbury, Eves Corner (SW-bound)	0746	1334
Danbury Common (adj)	0748	1337
Sandon, The Crown (opp)	0756	
Great Baddow, The Blue Lion (o/s)	0801	
Chelmsford Bus Station (Stand 2)	0813	

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 Bassetts 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 Bassetts 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, 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 (Monday-Friday, 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.



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 the former shop and on the website during the week preceding the meeting.

Diary Dates 2014/15

14th April 2014
28th April 2014 (Annual Parish Meeting-VH)
12th May 2014 (& AGM)
9th June 2014
11th August 2014
8th September 2014
13th October 2014
10th November 2014
8th December 2014
12th January 2015
9th February 2015
9th March 2015
30th March 2015 (Annual Parish Meeting-VH)
13th April 2015

Who's Who and What They Do

Parish Councillors

James Bunn - Chairman

Peter Warren - Vice Chairman & Footpath Officer & Tree Officer

Mark Durham - Parish Councillor & District Councillor & Bell Meadow Village Assoc.

Angus Neale - Parish Councillor

Andrew Newland - Parish Councillor

Joanna Symons - Parish Councillor & Primary School Community Governor



Keeping in touch

Woodham Walter Parish Council works hard to keep the community informed of issues and information which affects residents.

As well as this annual printed report and our Annual Parish Meeting (Monday 28th April at 8pm in WW Village Hall) we include notes from our meetings in the monthly parish magazine. All our Parish Council meetings are open to the public and you are warmly

invited to attend on the second Monday of the month at 8pm in Women's Club Room.

Full copies of the minutes are available from our clerk and on our website. www.essexinfo.net/woodhamwalter-pc

As well as this we provide information on the noticeboard outside the former shop and there is lots of other information on our website.

Our clerk sends out an email with any particular news which is useful such as when the refuse and recycling days change after bank holidays or during poor weather.

To be included on the group village email for such information just send our clerk your email address:
jacky@wwparishclerk.co.uk