

Woodham Walter Annual Report 2014-15

WOODHAM WALTER ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

MARCH 2015

Woodham Walter Parish Council

From the Chairman...



Parish Council Chairman
Councillor Peter Warren

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Welcome from me, Peter Warren, the new Chairman of Woodham Walter Parish Council.

The past year has seen several changes within the Parish council. In August James Rushton filled the vacancy created by Gill Orford when she left earlier in the year, joining the other five councillors: Andrew Newland (Vice Chairman), Mark Durham, James Bunn, Joanna Symons and Angus Neale. Then in January, after 3 ½ years valued service, Andrew unfortunately had to stand down due to ill health, his role as Vice Chairman being filled by Joanna. In February John

Tompkins was co-opted to fill the vacancy until the forthcoming Parish Council elections in May. Last, but definitely not least, I must mention probably the most important member of the Parish Council line up: Jacky Bannerman,

the Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. This is a very important role within our community and involves a considerable amount of work and commitment to keep on top of the constant stream of correspondence, emails and



Woodham Walter Parish Council. Standing L-R: Councillor's John Tompkins, James Rushton, Mark Durham, James Bunn, Angus Neale. Seated L-R: Councillor's Joanna Symons, Peter Warren (Chairman), Parish Clerk Jacky Bannerman

Annual Parish Meeting - Monday 30th March

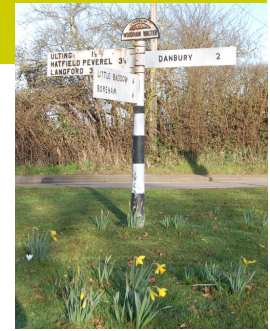
All Woodham Walter residents are invited to attend the

Annual Parish Meeting

On Monday 30th March at 8pm

At Woodham Walter Village Hall, Rectory Road.

- Matters Arising from Annual Parish Reports
- Public Forum
- Opportunity to view and comment on the Woodham Walter Village Design Statement Draft Document



Woodham Walter Parish Council - Chairman, Peter Warren

phone calls that have to be prioritised and actioned, in addition to producing the monthly agendas and minutes as well as controlling the parish finances. There is no doubt that without Jacky the Parish Council would not be able to function effectively.

This is the sixth year that Jacky has collated this set of reports for circulation prior to our Annual Parish Meeting. These reports have made the distribution of information much easier and we now reach a far wider audience than just those who attend the annual meeting. We would however still strongly recommend parishioners to attend the annual meeting on Monday 30th March at 8pm in Woodham Walter Village Hall, Rectory Road, especially this year with the VDS Exhibition on display. Indeed we warmly welcome parishioners to all of our regular monthly meetings which are held in the Women's Club on Top Road at 8pm on the second Monday of the month. At the start of each meeting there is a public forum at which any issues concerning the village may be raised.

Funding for the Parish Council comes principally from the annual precept collected by Maldon District Council (MDC). From this money the Parish Council provides community funding to several local organisations (totalling over £1000 per annum) in addition to paying for the care and upkeep of the village (such as grass and hedge cutting, street lighting etc). As you may have noticed, this winter we've also managed to fund a major tidy-up



to the western side of Bell Meadow involving considerable tree surgery and removal of brambles. Councillors are very conscious that this money comes from each and every council tax payer in the parish and try to ensure that it is spent wisely.

One of the most important roles of the Parish Council is to be part of the consultation process for planning applications. We continue to consult neighbours on any new applications received and, after discussion at our meetings, we make our recommendations to MDC for inclusion in their deliberations. It is always helpful 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 if councillors have any

"ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ROLES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL IS TO BE PART OF THE CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR PLANNING APPLICATIONS"

queries during our deliberations it is useful to be able to reopen the meeting to the public in order to clarify certain points.

Although we only have a limited voice it is an important one and involvement in the planning process forms an important part of our function.

In 2014-15 (to date) there were 15 planning applications to consider, of which 2 decisions were contrary to the Parish Council view. We supported 11 of the applications and raised objections to 3. Of these applications so far 11 have been approved and one refused. This year there were 4 applications for demolition, replacement or conversion of buildings, also one claim for Lawful Development, one extension, one application for an outbuilding and one application for redevelopment and internal alterations. Additionally we considered 6 applications for works to trees including TPOs. We also made representations to Essex County Council objecting to an application to upgrade FP7 (in Woodham Walter Common) to a Bridleway. The application was subsequently refused.

At the time of writing we have just received an application for a residential development comprising 11 dwellings on land adjacent to Whitegates, Herbage Park Road. Application Reference; FUL/MAL/15/00047 The Parish Council are due to discuss our response to MDC at an Extraordinary Parish Council meeting which I have called on Wednesday 18th March at 8pm in Woodham Walter Village Hall. It will be interesting to receive parishioners views on this proposed development.



Woodham Walter Parish Council - Chairman, Peter Warren



For future planning and new development it is most important that the village submits a Village Design Statement (VDS) meeting the requirements of the district council as soon as possible. I would like to sincerely thank our VDS committee (David Beattie, John Tompkins, James Nolan, Ken Rennie and Keith Amato) for all of their hard work and the good progress made in order to get the VDS consultation copy onto the Parish Council website. If you haven't done so already, please take some time to check out the document at: <http://www.essexinfo.net/woodhamwalter-pc/woodhamwalter-village-design/>

All comments received by March 15th will be considered for inclusion in the final draft that will be on display in the Village Hall prior to the Annual Parish Meeting.



Keep verges and swards

The VDS questionnaire return rate was in excess of 75% which reflects not only the team's commitment but also the interest

which we all have in our village's future. Analysis of the returns showed that the second highest perceived disappointment living here (after the lack of a village shop) was the number of vehicles speeding through the village. However, with the help of the Bell Meadow Legacy committee, we hope to do something about this problem. Thanks to the promise of a generous grant we are now in a position to apply for match funding which would enable us to purchase our own Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS). For the past five years we have been loaned a VAS from Essex County Council for a few weeks at a time positioned on Church Hill. What we would like to do is to purchase our own VAS with the facility to download the figures for analysis. Also to install one or two extra poles so that the VAS can be moved from site to site, in order to maximise its effect and hopefully reduce speeding.



At long last most of the major potholes in the village have been repaired. Throughout the year Jacky is constantly reporting problems to ECC Highways Dept and chasing up on their progress. 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:

<https://secureweb1.essexcc.gov.uk/Highways/Report-a-highway-problem.aspx/>



The annual litter pick took place in early February and a dozen helpers collected in excess of 30 black bags of rubbish. Many thanks to Colin Warner for organising this and also collection and disposal of the bags. Thanks also to all the other people who regularly clean up their road throughout the year keeping the village looking good.

I would like to end with the traditional but heartfelt thanks to all of the other Councillors and our hard working Parish Clerk for making the job of being Chairman a lot easier.



Village Design Statement Working Group

The VDS Working Group has had a busy 11 months since the last Annual Report and is now at a stage where the draft VDS document is available for resident consultation.

In May 2014 every household in the Parish received a Questionnaire designed to assess residents' views on how they wished to see the village develop in the future. The Questionnaire covered a wide range of topics and the response to it was outstanding - in excess of 75%! Solid evidence of Parishioners great interest in the future of our village!



Keep verges and swards

The Questionnaire results were collated in June and July and exhibited at Bell Meadow Day in August 2014 and simultaneously placed on the Parish Council Website. The results were subsequently used by the Working Group to dictate the format of the 'Design Statement itself and for the remainder of 2014 we set about preparing the draft, which from 1st February 2015 has been available online for residents to review.



Disproportionate New Build with Cut Of Character Design.

The draft 'Statement describes the existing character and main features of design in the Village and sets out guidelines for how these should be respected in any new development. It provides an overview of the development of the Village from its inception in the Anglo Saxon period to the modern day, covering physical and human geography, infrastructure, settlement pattern and the built environment.

The guidelines, which relate to both new and existing properties, provide detailed guidance on settlement pattern, design relationships, materials, alterations and extensions, windows, roofs, boundaries, parking, lighting, street furniture and landscaping.

It is important to note that this guidance is based wholly on Questionnaire responses and therefore embodies residents' views. Its objective is to provide positive advice to householders, designers and developers on design acceptable to the community and will help to protect important or historic buildings and open

spaces. Significantly, it will assist the Parish Council and District Council in determining planning applications.

Residents were able to review the draft document via the Parish Website from 1st February to 15th March 2015. Comments received have been used to refine the full document and this will be exhibited, for further resident comment, in the **Village Hall from 11:00am onwards on Monday 30th March 2015**. The Village Design Statement will have a significant impact on how our village changes in the future, so please come – your views are vitally important.

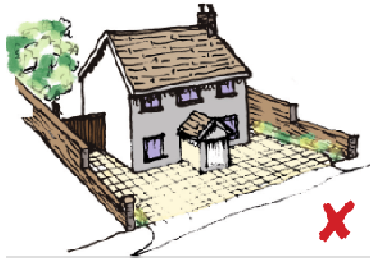


Change of Use for Redundant Agricultural Buildings

If you would like to comment and are unable to attend the exhibition or don't have access to a computer (you can still view the draft online at www.essexinfo.net/woodham-pc after 15th March), please speak to Christine McDonald our Village Agent (0800 977 5858), or David Beattie (01245/224141) Chairman of the VDS Working Group who will help you.

Village Design Statement Working Group

Following the Annual Parish Meeting, comments made at the exhibition will be used to further refine the draft document. The Working Group will then commence a period of consultation with the Maldon



Hard Landscaped Front Garden

District Council to seek their full approval of the final draft as a supplementary planning document to the Local Development Plan. A copy of the Approved Village Design Statement will be available to every household in the Parish and posted onto the Parish website.

David Beattie, Chairman.

Committee Members:

Keith Amato

James Nolan

Ken Rennie

John Tompkins

James Bunn (Parish Council Member).

Woodham Walter Annual Parish Meeting

MONDAY 30TH MARCH 2014
8pm Woodham Walter Village Hall
Guests are invited to attend from 7.30pm.

Woodham Walter Village Design Statement

The VDS Public Consultation document will be exhibited at the Village Hall from **11am on Monday 30 March** when members of the VDS Working Group will be in attendance to receive comments. This will have a significant impact on the future of our Village, so your views are very important.

Parish Clerk's Report - Jacky Bannerman

It is the job of the Parish Clerk to carry out the functions and serve or issue all notifications required by law. The clerk is responsible for carrying out the decisions of the Parish Council. 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 2014/15 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 Wildlife 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. The playground is open to the community outside of school hours. There are currently plans to repair and replace a number of pieces of equipment at the playground which will necessitate the full grant being awarded again in the next financial year.



Other expenditure during the financial year has been for the works to the trees on the western side of Bell Meadow.



Parish councils are statutory bodies. Members are elected for a term of four years. The next elections are in May 2015. Watch out for details of the elections, nominations and voting on our noticeboard and website over the coming weeks.

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.

Councillors have agreed that the precept requirement for Woodham Walter in 2015/16 will be £10,724.00 which works out at £38.63 per Band D property for the year.

Woodham Walter Parish Council also receives income from the hire of the Party Tents. During the last financial year we raised £350 in hiring income. This is down on previous years so please do bear us in mind if you need a party tent, the income generated helps to keep the precept request down which benefits everyone.

Next year amongst other things, we will be paying for new football nets for the goal posts at Bell Meadow and for the re-painting of the 3 green benches in the village - so far the bench in the Memorial shelter has been completed and looks fantastic.



We have also budgeted for expenditure on producing the Village Design Statement document.

Plus we are hoping to source funding to add to the Bell Meadow Legacy grant for our own Vehicle Activated Sign and posts during this year to help address the problem of speeding through our village.

Party Tents For Hire

8m x 4m White

Party Tents

£50 for one £75 for two

For bookings contact

Parish Clerk: Jacky Bannerman

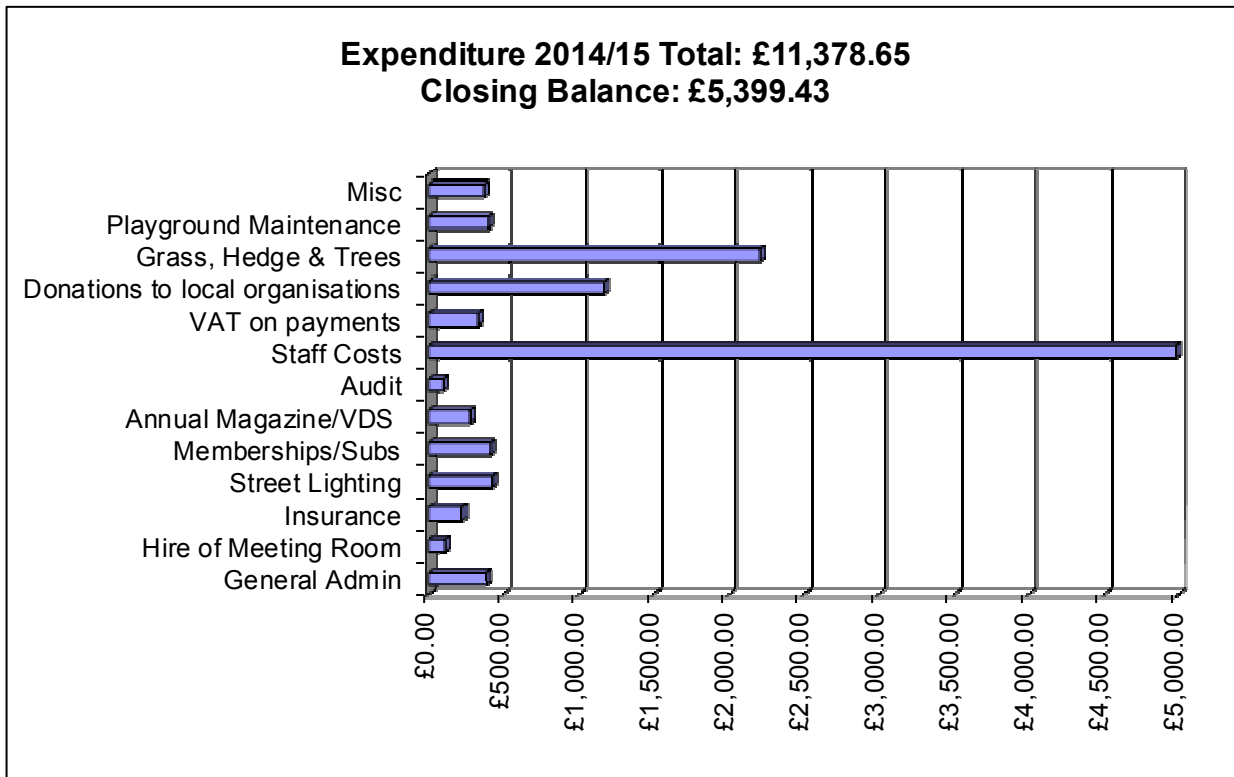
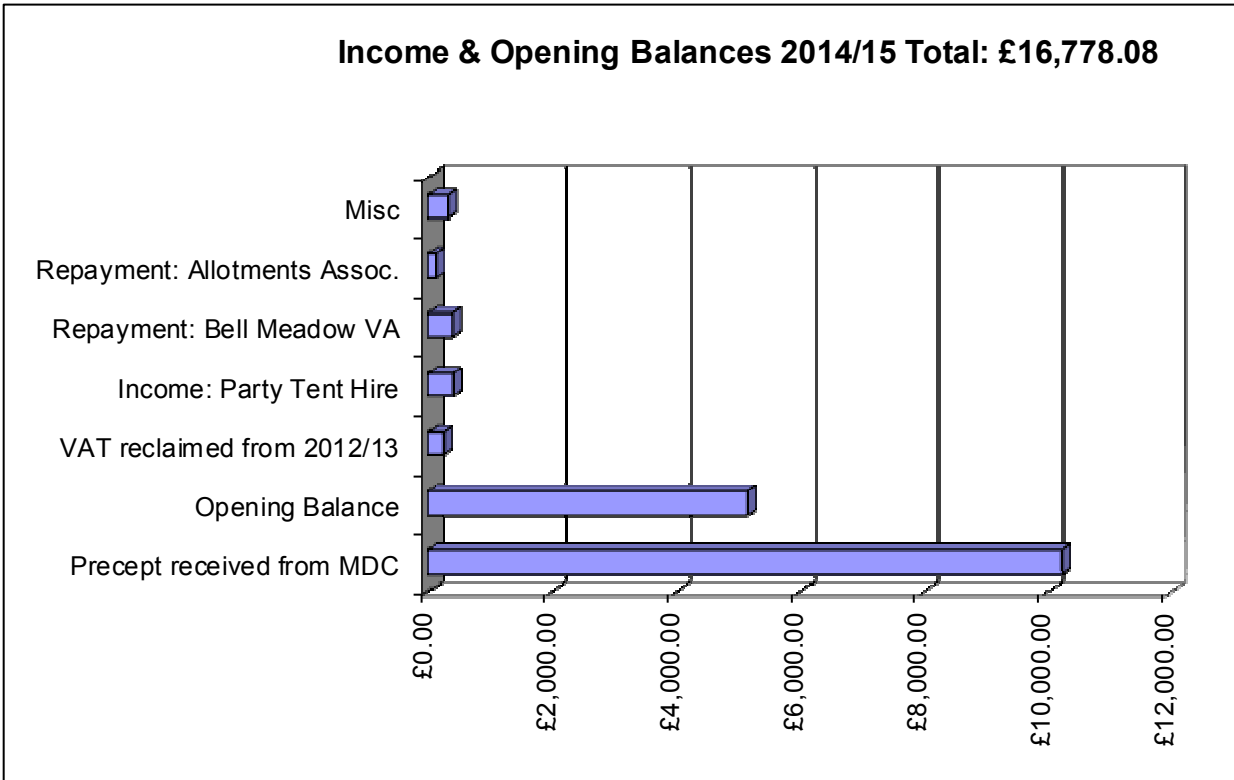
01245 222595 (before 6pm)

jacky@wwparishclerk.co.uk



Woodham Walter Parish Council - Financial Overview

Please note, financial information below is an estimate based on figures at 9th March 2015. This will be subject to minor changes at the end of the financial year on 31st March 2015.





District Councillor, Mark Durham



Another year has gone by and I cannot believe that it is almost time to face an election locally and nationally. In the four years that I have been a district councillor for this ward, I have encountered many different issues and challenges. Some directly affect the parish, some the ward and a great many that impact on the district and county.

Since being elected in 2011, I have been appointed to the chair of the Community & Leisure Services Program Committee and Vice Chair of the North West Planning Committee. This increased the workload considerably, but has given me the opportunity to take key roles in several projects and initiatives for the council.

The last year at Maldon District Council has been dominated by a couple of major topics. The most important, and one that will have a wide ranging impact on every parish in the district is the submission of our Local Development Plan. The LDP sets out the planning strategy for the authority for the next 15 years and lays down the number of new houses, employment land, economic strategy, infrastructure requirements etcetera. The planning policy team have been working on this plan for the last two years, there have been two district wide consultations and several localised ones where the main developments are planned. The

council is obliged to fulfil national targets for the provision of new housing which is based on population projections from the recent census results. We have tried to keep these numbers as low as possible based on local assessments of housing need. The planned areas for expansion are identified as North Heybridge, South Maldon and Burnham. There will also be a rural allocation whereby village settlements will have to absorb approximately 420 new dwellings across the district. Preparation of this document was completed last year and then submitted to the Secretary of State. It was then allocated to The Planning Inspectorate who decide ultimately whether the plan conforms to current legislation. Part of this assessment involved an examination in public where all interested parties were invited to give evidence to an inspector. This took place in late January over a period of three weeks. The inspector heard testimony from both the council, external consultants, objectors, developers and neighbouring authorities. This is currently being analysed by the inspector who is due to tell the council whether its housing strategy is legally sound on May 8th. If this is the case, he will then go on to look at the other elements of the plan, provisionally seeking to finish in July. If the plan is sound, the council will be in a position to adopt the LDP later this year.

There are several reasons why this is crucial to every parish in the district. Until the plan is deemed sound, the council cannot demonstrate to the government that it has a suitable quantity of housing land, known as The Five Year Land Supply. In cases like this the government impose rules on the council under its National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This clearly states that MDC is obliged to grant any application that is in a sustainable location unless there are significant reasons to refuse. The difficulty here is that sustainability is a rather undefined criteria and is interpreted in different ways by different planning inspec-

tors. The other key point is that until the council can demonstrate it has a five year land supply, the previous village development boundaries (village envelopes) are effectively suspended. This has led to a large number of applications that the council have either been unable to refuse or refused and lost on appeal. We are hoping for a favourable verdict from the inspector on May 8th which will give us the five year land supply and provide much greater power to resist applications in areas not identified in the LDP. Unfortunately if the decision goes against us, we will be back with the NPPF rules and little chance opposing developments either large or small, rural or otherwise.

In 2014 Woodham Walter Parish Council decided to commission a Village Design Statement which is one of the initiatives under The Localism Act 2011. This lays down a guide that suggests suitable design styles for new properties and extensions in the village. This guide has to accord with the councils LDP and will be adopted at the same time. The VDS will then become a piece of the jigsaw that is used when applications are considered. Although it cannot contradict planning policies, it has some weight enabling planning officers and elected members to resist inappropriate design. The VDS is unable to influence whether the parish receives new development, but it can be used to guide the appearance and street scene. There has been a great deal of work done to compile this document and I congratulate the team on their efforts. Maldon District Council has identified Woodham Walter for the designation of a conservation area although this will be limited to The Bell, houses adjacent to the pub, the church and possibly Bell Meadow. This will give further protection to this defined area, however I am advised that the process is unlikely to be completed this year.



District Councillor, Mark Durham

The other main topic dominating the council recently has been a senior management restructure. Funding from central government is steadily being reduced to local authorities and costs savings are having to be found to balance the budget. Maldon is fortunate to have considerable reserves from the disposal of its housing stock and prudent financial management. These reserves are being steadily eroded by grant cuts and poor investment returns due to low interest rates. The management changes will give a saving of nearly £100,000 per year and make the organisation more streamlined.

My committee has also overseen a new contract for leisure centre provision in the district which involves an investment by the council of 2 million pounds but will greatly improve the standard of its facilities and generate a significant income for the authority. We have also worked on some initiatives to improve The Promenade Park in Maldon, promote tourism, reduce roadside litter and standardise parking charges in council car parks. We have also been looking at the efficiency of the waste collection contract and district recycling rates. Until February this year, Essex County Council spent £24m per year on landfill tax, which is additional to the costs of collecting and transporting the residual waste. ECC now has a brand new facility in Basildon where all residual refuse will go for processing into a renewable energy product. This means that Essex is not putting a single black bag into landfill. Our recycling targets are very strict and we receive cash credits from ECC for every tonne of recyclable material. It is essential therefore to do whatever we can to improve the district performance, which may lead to a review of collection methods at some stage in the future.

I have been working with McDonalds restaurants in the area to try to reduce the litter that comes from its outlets. Maldon District Council had some success with a scheme of tracing car owners who



had been linked to a particular order via their receipt and the in store CCTV. Unfortunately we are now no longer able to use our web based access to the

DVLA due to legal constraints about evidence acquisition for the offence. Since this happened I am liaising with McDonalds to look at other initiatives to reduce roadside littering.

There is no doubt that whatever government we have in England after The General Election on May 7th, the nature of local government will change over the coming years. Central government is steadily cutting its grant funding to councils and at some stage in the future I believe that local government will have to be self sufficient from Westminster. This will necessitate alternative ways to raise the required income, such as local taxation, retention of business rates and a more commercial attitude to the use of council assets and service provision. Maldon District Council has a good level of reserves, but this will dwindle in the next three years unless further cuts can be found or new revenue streams pursued to offset funding cuts and low investment income. Our position is further helped by several years of prudent financial management and a careful spending strategy.

I would like to remind parishioners that all council meetings are open to the public and since the middle of last year, there is an audio recording which is available from the MDC website. I would recommend that people attend a meeting or two as this gives an oppor-

tunity to see how the decisions that affect everyone's lives are made. I am always available to talk to parishioners on any subject that I can help with. In many cases I am able to either take action myself, or refer questions to the department that can assist. In some cases this may mean seeking help from our Member of Parliament. I have had to do this on a number of occasions and Priti Patel MP has been very pleased to assist, often with spectacular results.

Having been born and brought up in Woodham Walter, our village is very important to me. We are fortunate to live in a community where there is more local pride and spirit than any other that I represent, possible more than any other parish in the district. I remain proud and grateful to be to contribute to the village in my roles as district councillor and hopefully I will remain to be your representative in the future.

Cllr. Mark FL Durham
Member for Wickham Bishops and Woodhams,
consisting of the parishes of Wickham Bishops, Little Braxted, Langford, Ulting, Woodham Walter, Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh.

07850 967239
Cllr.mark.durham@maldon.gov.uk

Bank holiday refuse & recycling and food waste collections

EASTER 2015

Good Friday 3 April	Good Friday 3 April
Easter Monday 6 April	Tuesday 7 April
Tuesday 7 April	Wednesday 8 April
Wednesday 8 April	Thursday 9 April
Thursday 9 April	Friday 10 April
Friday 10 April	Saturday 11 April

EARLY MAY BANK HOLIDAY 2015

Bank Holiday Monday 4 May	Tuesday 5 May
Tuesday 5 May	Wednesday 6 May
Wednesday 6 May	Thursday 7 May
Thursday 7 May	Friday 8 May
Friday 8 May	Saturday 9 May

Woodham Walter Women's Club - Jean Newton



This year has seen a few changes for the club, the Tadpoles Nursery left us in July for their new home and that obviously left us with a large hole in our income. We have been very fortunate that Linda Hamilton was keen to set up a supper club in the club room. Starting in September the supper club was born and each month it has been gaining in popularity. On the back of the supper club, the idea of a village lunch was discussed, the first Monday in the month was decided upon, the hope is that it would attract people who are on their own and would enjoy some friendly company. To keep costs down three ladies from the village support Linda and wait on the tables, a huge thank you to them for making the lunch at the club room such an enjoyable experience.

This year the Women's Club were awarded a legacy from the Bell Meadow Association which we put to good use by purchasing six folding tables and ten upholstered chairs a huge thank you to the Association. The club room is now well equipped and attractive for anybody who wishes to hire the hall.

What have we been up to over the past year – What a mixed bag of weather we had for the Festival of Flowers, but as usual the Tea Tent was ready to serve teas and cakes regardless of what the weather was throwing at us. Thank you to everyone who came

to help serve teas, make cakes and scones, and a huge thank you to everyone who helps behind the scenes. Founders Day we made a return visit to Beeleigh Abbey Gardens on a lovely sunny afternoon, after a wander around the gardens we all enjoyed a welcome cup of tea and some of us gave in to temptation and enjoyed a piece of cake. Bell Meadow Day I understand was an enjoyable day, I was on holiday, the cake stall proving popular as did Penny's tombola stall. The Auction at our annual Jumble Sale proved exciting and the result was a good boost to our funds. We have to thank the team from the Danbury Village Hall who help us make the event run so smoothly. In November the Village Revue took place and this year the Dance Team gave two quite different performances thank you to Sylvia and Gill who planned and rehearsed us so that we knew our left foot from our right!!! As usual Angela came up with some super ideas for costumes thank you to Sylvia, Gill and Angela. Also to Penny who transformed the stage with her props. Christmas was upon us before we knew

it and the 'do' in the club room was a lovely social evening, Father Christmas made his annual visit and we enjoyed light refreshments before wishing everyone a happy Christmas. In the New Year a post Christmas Lunch was held at the 'Bell' which we all enjoyed. We are also now hosting Coffee Mornings once a month it is lovely seeing everybody enjoying lots of chat with friends over a cup coffee and maybe indulging in a piece of cake.

I would like to thank the committee and club members who have given me unstinting support over the past year. Our speakers have given talks on a wide range of subjects, one speaker bought a very special guest along, his trainee guide dog a five month old Labrador puppy named Candy, who was the star of the evening.

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



Woodham Walter Village Lunch Club - Sally Bull



The idea of Woodham Walter running its own Village Lunch was first suggested during 2014 and such was the enthusiasm behind the idea that the first lunch was actually served last November.

Based in the Women's Club Room, the Village Lunch has been set up by volunteers from the village and is a non profit making venture. Running on the first Monday of each month, attendees are charged £6 for a two

course meal. Water is provided to drink, but those who come are welcome to bring drinks, soft or alcoholic to accompany their meal. The cooking is done by Linda Hamilton who does an amazing job. Linda is supported by volunteers organised by Sally Bull, Jacky

Bannerman and Cathy Barber, who help to serve the lunch and clear away afterwards.

There were two main objectives behind the setting up of the Village Lunch. The first was to give older people the opportunity to meet up with friends and neighbours whom they may not get to see regularly either because of illness, being housebound or just having lost social contact. The second objective was to

give those people an opportunity for a good quality home cooked meal in a warm and welcoming environment.

Since its launch, Village Lunch has been increasingly successful with more people attending each month. With numbers limited at 20, booking is one month ahead and we are finding that many people re-book for the next month which is great.

There is a real buzz at our lunches which is just the way it should be; lots of conversation and good food. If you know anyone, especially living in the village, who would benefit from joining our lunch then please let us know and we will make sure they have a place at our table.

If anyone would like more information about the Village Lunch or about volunteering to help, please contact Sally Bull 01245 227908 or Jacky Bannerman on 01245 222595

Woodham Walter Village Hall Association - Sarah Maxted



Time again for another report on the Village Hall:

Another successful year for the Hall. Thanks to the generosity of The Bell Meadow Legacy we have hot water for hand washing in the toilets and a new porch.

We would like to thank Arthur Clark and his Whist group for their many years of support and wish them the best in their new home at the Women's Club.

My thanks go to the committee for keeping the Hall running –

Doug and Ivor who maintain hedges and toilets, Mel Cox for keeping the paperwork in order, Ken Rennie for his meticulous book keeping, Ann Kay and Peter Warren for their calming

approach.

Jane Weedon is our new trustee having filled the vacancy created by the sad passing of Graham Beighton.

The Hall's 2 main fund raisers each year are the Art Show and the Village Revue. June Chandler, Tina Warren & Jane Weedon run the Art Show with assistance from the screen shifters & picture hangers

The revue would not go ahead without a huge amount of work

from AJ. The Women's Club rehearse tirelessly for months to perfect their dance routines. Mark Durham has his hands full trying to keep the event running smoothly. We also must also thank the volunteers who run the bar & the waiters.

This year our target is to repair the ceiling in the hall and ideally insulate it.

As always any new committee members would be very welcome.

Anyone who maybe interested please contact me

Once again I would like to thank the volunteers who help with maintaining the Hall and running the fund raising events.

To book the hall contact Andrew Ritchings 01621 811733 or e mail Caretaker-wwvh@btinternet.com

Bell Meadow Village Association - Gill Orford

Well, how star struck were we? We had BBC Essex, a television film crew and our local MP Priti Patel, in our village all in one day!

Plans were going well in the run up to Bell Meadow day, the meadow was looking good, everything was going smoothly when a TV company rang to ask if we would be interested in a film crew coming to film a programme called Disappearing Villages, hosted by Penelope Keith, to talk about rural communities and typical English villages. Of course I said! As it was our 10th anniversary, I thought it would be fun, so along they came and filmed our village day. After filming however, they decided to change the name of the programme to Hidden Villages as they realised that villages like ours are alive and well and not disappearing at all!

The day started with BBC Essex dropping by to start with the first clue on their morning programme The Quest, so after chatting with them we were off. The tents were all up, the competition tent was bulging with entries, stalls were full, the arena was ready, tractors and war displays were looking great, cones were covering almost the entire village, the TV crew were ready, we were good to go.

The day was kindly opened by John and Anna Durham, and the flag was raised by Angela, we were ready.

The competition tent entries will never cease to amaze me with the amount of entries that we have and the level of talent in such a small village. The standard of entries is so high and the effort that is put in is just wonderful. Well done! Jacky and Cathy did a cracking job, the tent looked just great especially with the display of poppies from WW1. A lovely



touch. Well done Chris Wheadon on winning Best in Show, with a magnificent display of home grown produce.

In The Warren Arena, it was busy! The girls won the Tug of War, but only just! It nearly finished us off! Both teams were fairly determined to win but the girls won the coin toss to pull downhill so we had the advantage. Well done to both teams. The public tug of war was hugely popular and so much harder than it looks! Good fun.

Woodham Walter shoot provided us with a fabulous display as always, dressed in tweed looking good, the dogs behaved impeccably, just proving that rural life and rural skills are alive and well. I would like to thank the team as it was their last display. They have been entertaining us now for 10 years and a lot of work and effort is put into it to make it so great. They were presented with a trophy as a token of our appreciation. Thank you.

The Woodham Walter Red Sparrow display team had two displays which went quite well



(ish) Penelope Keith said that we were nearly in time! But ever popular we raised £400 for Essex Air Ambulance and The British Legion poppy appeal so that was great. The rig Chief Engineer Nick made for the wing walking was just fab. And nearly safe!! We nominated the youngest members of the team to wing walk and what a fine job they did. With the smoke billowing out, it was so funny but quite hard to see. A great team effort. There is something rather comical to see 10 adults running around Bell Meadow with wheelbarrows in formation. We got many strange looks whilst practising!

The evening event was started with Funky Voices choir which was a great opening and a great introduction to the fabulous For Funks Sake who put on a fantastic show, especially for our 10th anniversary. We were all singing away and dancing on the meadow. I'm not sure how many villages have such lively villagers and guests!

Without the local support that we have, Bell Meadow Day would simply not function, so a very big thank you to Hire plus, The Warren, The Vic, Dave and Jane, Colin, J, Chris and Matt for the tractors. A big thank you to Graham for his comparing, remaining so calm and keeping us to time! And all the folk who came and helped put up, take down, "man the gates" and fill in the many gaps. Thank you.

After many years, I have decided to stand down from the committee this year. I would like to thank the fantastic committee for their support, work and effort that is put into the day. It is a massive amount of time and energy and it was the best team yet, so thank you gang.

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 donated £1,000 to the village hall to help them with the water heater and £1,000 to Friends

of St Michaels to assist the extension. In 2014, we donated £1,000 to The Women's club to enable them to buy some new tables and chairs, £500 towards the community playground and £500 towards the village hall porch.

In 2015 after many applications and much discussion we decided to donate £2,000 to the Parish Council to enable

them purchase a speed indicator device which will be owned by the village and slow down the traffic going through our village. The legacy was set up to benefit the village or villagers and we were very happy to support these applications

Gill Orford.

Bell Meadow Day - Sunday 30th August 2015



Bell Meadow Day will take place again on August 30th this year and the new committee are putting together some new elements for this exciting day.

There will still be the ever popular village competition tent where people can show off their garden produce, craft and art skills plus a range of musical features during the day and into the evening.

We aim to have some old fashioned team games, animal displays and lots of stalls.

We also plan to have a bigger classic car show feature this year which will widen the appeal of the day and entries are already coming in.

I think that the secret to the events success is that it can change with the times and each year there is something new, but retaining the village appeal.

This is certainly helped by so many people offering their assistance and a fresh new look to the day should take Bell Meadow Day into the next few years. We are still happy for more volunteers to help with the organising, so if you are interested, please call either Mark Durham on 07850 967239 or Amanda Durrant on 07854 492253



The 2014 event was featured on national television, so we have a lot to live up to, but I guarantee there will be some surprises this year!!

Mark Durham

More information will be in the Parish Magazine and on the website nearer the event.

www.bellmeadowday.co.uk

Woodham Walter Allotment Association



Our Allotments have been running for 6 years now and again we must thank Peter and Bryony Maynard for making this thriving scheme available to our villagers. We are very lucky to have this opportunity to grow our own fruit and vegetables in our own community of Woodham Walter village.

Two of the three new taster plots have been taken while we have two or three larger plots vacant and hope that there are some potential tenants out there in the village community who would like to try their

hand at growing their own fruit and vegetables.

It was quite hot early on in the growing season last year which benefitted some early crops and the end of the growing year was extended by a very warm Autumn with crops growing on the plants well into October.

We had a great day for the BBQ at the beginning of September, which unfortunately Peter and Bryony were unable to attend. We had a good turn out with some newcomers joining us, we ate and drank until the bottles were empty,

some of the food we ate had been grown during the year on the allotments or in our gardens. We exchanged local gossip and growing successes and failures and thanked Chris Wheadon for his growing tips in the Parish News which the whole community finds useful as well.

The plot holders will be aware that the days are getting longer, the soil is warming up and the grass is growing and they will be back to preparing the ground for sowing and planting their crops. With a good harvest in mind and the thought of the end of the year BBQ, we just can't wait to get started!

Gill Orford having resigned, Sue Cumming and Jane Weedon were elected joint Chairman. James Rushton has kindly offered to be the Parish Council representative attending our meetings.

Jane Weedon & Sue Cumming



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'm still walking the Parish paths every day with my assistant Bella in an attempt to make sure that our public rights of way are clear and safe to walk. There are over 30 footpaths and bridleways in the Parish and I try to cover two or three each day. Ones that are close to home are checked at least once a week whereas the far-flung ones I endeavour to check every few months. Any problems that I can't fix easily are referred to the appropriate farmer or landowner, failing that the Rights of Way department of ECC Highways. Our Rights of Way Inspector there is Shirley Anglin who responds promptly to any issues that I bring to her attention.

For the third winter running many of our paths have become flooded and ended up scarcely passable due to the boggy mud. Although we en-

joyed a good summer the water table still remained high and a lot of paths didn't really dry out from the previous winter. Several new springs have appeared around the parish and washing boots and hosing down the dog have become a daily occurrence almost throughout the year! Some people have suggested that we need to install decking in places but I think that the vast majority would prefer things to be left as they are, muddy or not.

Apart from mud, the perennial problems are overgrown paths and fallen trees. Last year was particularly bad for weed growth and stinging nettles. In particular FP18 through the old ruins of WW Hall became impassable, as was FP14 behind the church where walkers unfortunately resorted to walking through the crops. Most parishes must have been in a

similar position as, despite repeated requests to ECC from late May onwards, the cut for our parish wasn't completed until the end of July (however the 13 paths on the schedule were eventually cut very well). Fortunately the past year was a good one for paths blocked by fallen trees with only 6 such incidents compared with four times that number the previous year.

Whilst walking the local paths I also carry out the job of Tree Officer. This is to satisfy the Parish Council's responsibility to check on the safety of trees bordering paths on WW Common, plus the trees surrounding Bell Meadow and a few others dotted around the village. In the past year only two fallen trees have required removal (one on Bell Meadow and one on BR31). I'm pleased to report that I still haven't seen any evidence of *Chalara Fraxinea* (Ash Dieback) in WW.

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

Peter Warren
01245 221326

St Michael's Church - Kathy Tompkins & Arthur Razzell



We are entering another challenging time for our church. In the coming months we will be witnessing great changes within the Diocese of Chelmsford, but at St Michael's we have never been afraid of change. As we wish Rev'd Stephanie and Kurt a long and happy retirement, we are making plans for the next stage of our Christian journey. It gives us all the opportunity to think about the way ahead as individuals, as members of our village community and as members of our church family. We have a beautiful 16th Century building, now meeting expectations of 21st Century living, in which to worship and to celebrate family events, let us all use it to its full potential.

Last year saw the culmination of all our endeavours over many years of fund raising, obtaining legal approvals and quotations for the extension, and for a dedicated social area with full facilities. Last March we celebrated the opening of the extension, and later, in May, we held a service of Dedication. Redecoration of the church interior swiftly followed. It has been an amazing time in our history. Did we doubt it would ever happen – yes, we did. But that was underestimating the high regard St Michael's Church holds in this community. We cannot say 'thank you' enough for the gener-

osity of so many people. Our commitment now, is to make full use of our combined achievements and the following will show that we have made a good start.

St Michael's continues to build on strong links al-

ready existing with the village school. Church members serve on the governing body, hold assemblies both in school and when the children attend church; they help with making a poppy wreath for Remembrance Sunday, distributing Christingles at Christmas and Palm Crosses at Easter. We are also very happy, to host the school's Harvest Festival, Carol Service and end of term assemblies. The parish provides bibles chosen by and presented to the Year 6 pupils in July, as they prepare to move on to other schools. The children also take an active role in helping us with the floral decorations at the Flower Festival, taking part in the Remembrance Sunday Service and reading at our own Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Before her retirement, Rev'd Stephanie attended school on many occasions reading to the pupils there and at Tadpoles.

Several U3A and local history groups have requested visits to see the church for talks on both its history and its architecture. The speakers are local volunteers and others provide teas, all helping towards our running costs.

Last year two couples chose to make their marriage vows at St Michael's, James and Nicola Dallingier in May, followed by Jamie

and Karen Dykes in August, and three couples are planning their wedding here this year. Isabelle Huxstep was baptised in August and Lottie Moore in November. We attended the Confirmation by the Bishop of Bradwell of Anne Beckwith, our PCC secretary, welcoming her as a full member of our church family.



The Church supports the village weekend in July with the now famous Flower Festival playing an integral part in pro-

ceedings. A loyal team of flower arrangers have played an active role in encouraging people into church and raising much-needed funds for its upkeep. This was the first year under new management and we must thank Sally Bull and her team for spectacularly fulfilling their brief enabling them to make a sizeable contribution towards the redecoration. As always we could not manage without the fantastic support we always receive from The Women's Club, not only nurturing our visitors in the tea tent but also making a generous contribution to our funds. We also support Bell Meadow Day providing teas in the church and a place on the Meadow for all to find a quiet corner. other charitable fund raising activities in the future.

St Michael's Church

St Michael's Church was happy to hold the Christina Hoskyn lecture in aid of Breakthrough Breast Cancer this year and look forward to holding other charitable fund raising activities in the future. As in other years, we have supported The Royal British Legion, Water Aid, Maldon Food Bank, Farleigh Hospice, and Ride and Stride in aid of Essex Churches.

Sadly, we lost several long-time members of our congregation and others who had become friends over a shorter period. We were all shocked at the sudden loss of David Lawton in August. David was an active member of our church; serving as sidesman, choir member, and for many years serving on the school governing body latterly as our PCC representative. He was a great supporter of village events and many fund raising activities associated with his varied interests. We also lost Enid Bradbrook and Enid Lush. Both ladies well known and loved for their charitable works. We were sorry to lose Beryl Wareham too, a long-time and loyal supporter and fundraiser for The Royal British Legion. A funeral was also held in August for Melvyn Parker.



We also saw changes at the Robert Henry Falkner Almshouses, not only welcoming a new resident but also a new Honorary Clerk, Angus Neale. He succeeded Malcolm Bunn who, assisted by his wife Iris, served as

Honorary Clerk to the charitable trust, for many years supervising the maintenance of the buildings and taking a kindly interest in the residents, way beyond his responsibility. We are so grateful that Angus has now taken on this very important role and that the Almshouses are still in a safe pair of hands.

We are very proud of our heritage and grateful to Neil Arnold and Jeff Hamilton who helped in the restoration of the ironmongery removed from the original south door and replaced on the new.



Also, for their help in restoring the Victorian Grave Markers now attached to the railings bordering the churchyard. Thanks to Tim Maxted for helping with the installation of the markers and to Jenny Plumb for the research that enabled their identification.

Although The Friends of St Michael's appear under their own heading, we could not exclude them from this report. Since its inception, the association has made a huge difference to the appearance of our church, both inside and out. And they have inspired a wonderful spirit of camaraderie and friendship.

We give special thanks to Ken Hay and choir members who enhance our services, and to all who give of their time so willingly to

assist at services as sidesmen, readers, intercessors, members of the tea team, and to the small group of stalwarts who clean and polish our church every week. We would also like to thank Sue Williams and Martin Cook, who periodically deputise for Ken. We also acknowledge all the additional work required from PCC members; Barrie Harding our Treasurer, Anne Beckwith Secretary, and Geoff Hicks Fabric Officer, Sue Neale, Viv Clark and Liz Gillam. Many thanks to you all.

Consideration is already being given to changes in our usual format of services so do please check the magazine and our notice boards for times and nature of services. We are planning a Songs of Praise

and will be asking for your favourite hymns. During the summer months we will, on occasion, be celebrating Evensong in place of a morning service, and we are looking forward to welcoming 'All creatures Great and Small' to a special thanksgiving for our animal friends.

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, sex or disability discrimination. There are no exceptions;

**St Michael's is here for you.
Please use it.**

Wood Corner Caravan Site - Steve Andrews



I am pleased to report that Danny Hayden continues to go from strength to strength as the live on

site manager. With his wife Shirley, Wood Corner is both their home and place of work.

The site has enjoyed another settled year, with little movement. We have had two families move off site, one new family move on, and one plot which was only recently vacated, we will be filling soon.

We are currently enjoying monthly visits from the Maldon Children's Centre who utilise the community room for children's clubs, and we anticipate this utilisation expanding in the spring and summer months. We are also hoping to expand the facility to enable continued club usage, but also to give the site management, and outreach workers/administration staff an alternative work location.

The **Essex Countywide Traveller Unit** is into the final year of the initial 3 year contract, and continues to deliver health and education outreach and fire safety

inspections to the families in Maldon, and are working with partner authorities with a view to extending the service for another 3 years.



Steve Andrews
Essex Countywide Traveller Unit
Manager
Essex County Council

Silver Threads - Ann Mulley

Silver Threads' Club Members spent the first part of last year going out each month for lunch and afternoon tea. In September, October and November we took advantage of the availability of the Womens' Club to meet in the hope that with a more permanent local venue, we might encourage more retired Woodham Walter residents to join us, but without success.

Our Christmas meeting and lunch was at Tollesbury, for which we are grateful to the Parish Council for their support towards the lunch and the transport. This is always an enjoyable occasion, with everyone receiving a present.

In January we celebrated New Year with lunch at The Bell and in February we had our lunch in the Queen Victoria. In March we met at Ann Maxwell's where we made our plans for the summer months. The delicious cupcakes



made by young Charlotte Rushton were much enjoyed.

We only have a few Woodham Walter residents as members now, the mother of a resident of the village who now lives in Maldon also joins us. The availability of affordable small housing in the village means that when older people wish to downsize they have to move to Maldon.

The help of Sheila Wade from Heybridge and Ann Maxwell is invaluable. As the members become less able, the quota of helpers to members necessarily becomes higher. The volunteers who give freely of their time and car running costs is very much appreciated by the members.

Over more than thirty years since I was first asked to be President of Silver Threads we saw the club grow from 21 members to 35. A carpet bowls section was formed for those more active members to enjoy and then decline and finally end as members became less able to play. The bowls carpet and bowls are now stored in the village hall, and it would be good if these could be used by village residents. It seems over those thirty years we have flourished but owing to the village demographic there are now fewer retired people who do not drive and appreciate a social meeting.

The volunteer helpers are willing to continue running the club as long as they are needed and able, but if for any reason Ann Maxwell or I were not able to drive, then the club would have to be wound up.

Woodham Walter Common - Chris Wheadon

General.

Working Parties have undertaken hand pulling work of invasive species in the two Bogs downstream of Pheasant House Farm, due to our efforts this work is now paying dividends. The work has **substantially reduced** the amount of Bracken. As a consequence the areas of rare Sphagnum Moss have increased considerably, which is rated a great "success."

Projects

1. Water Level Monitoring.

It is now visually obvious that water levels in the Bogs have increased considerably, which is what we wanted to see. This is due in part to the past clearance of by The Trust of invasive trees/undergrowth on the adjoining slopes. The trees/undergrowth, by utilising natural run off had been reducing the natural water flow to the Bog areas.

2. Heathland Regeneration.

Both "New Heath", and "Rowan Hollow", the large heather areas, are establishing well, Rowan Hollow having been planted last year with seed from the existing established perimeter plants. However, Working Parties will still need to control invasive Bracken /Bramble and Silver Birch Saplings.

3. Bridleways/Footpaths. Replacing missing "waymarks" is an ongoing process, generally overseen by the ECC Team. For my part I undertook a visual inspection of existing bridges on the Reserve in January this year, as



part of a Health & Safety Audit, no problems were found at that time. Last Autumn a third party did undertake some clearance of undergrowth/saplings, on a particular section of Bridleway in order to better facilitate use by horse riders.

4. Mountain Biking. This activity has increased considerably, which is obvious by the effect this is having on a number of paths. Being a Common, with free Public access we can only monitor the situation, and rely on the common sense and understanding of **all** users to be mindful, careful, and respectful to anyone else enjoying the Common.

Additional Matters.

Unfortunately the small area of Orchids have not appeared again this year, we will brush cut the area again in the Spring of 2015, if they still do not appear we may have to accept the fact that they have suc-

cumbed. It is always sad and difficult to know why certain plants succumb, with no obvious reason, despite our efforts to carefully manage the habitat. We can only hope that this can be reversed and our Spring brushcutting will encourage the plants to

recover.

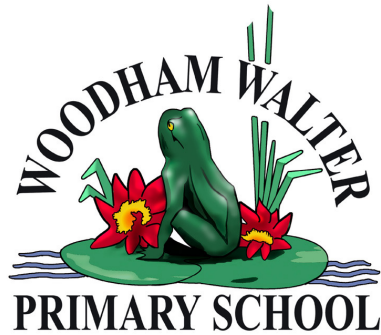
If anyone is interested in joining our Working Parties, they occur on different Trust sites in the Danbury area, either during the week, on a regular basis, or, in the case of Woodham Walter Common, normally on two or three distinct Saturdays a year, between 1000 hrs and 1500. If you are interested in giving us hand on **your** Common then please contact me on 01245 22 5340.

Chris Wheadon

+This picture shows how an area is prepared by a Working Party for Heather seeding



Woodham Walter Primary School - Headteacher



It has been a busy year at the school. Building work has been completed to expand the main playground and it is being put to good use during PE lessons and playtimes. Class 1 are enjoying their new outdoor area and all of the children are making use of the outdoor drums.

Free School Meals

Every child in YR, Y1 and Y2 is now entitled to a free meal at lunch time. With growing numbers on roll and the introduction of Free School Meals we now have a staggered lunchtime. One child said, 'It's great, we have more space and it is more quiet'.

Our small school wins the Football Tournament

We are really proud of all of our children. They always give their best, not least the football team. The Year 5 & 6 boys played so well together by passing accurately, communicating with each other with comments such as "good goal" or "tackle". The

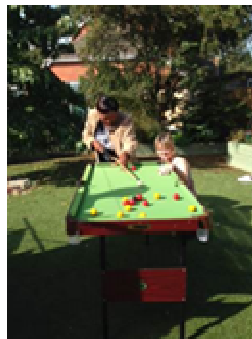


team won the Tournament with an exciting finish on penalties. Well done!

School Choir

Children had the opportunity to sing with other children in the area and the Blackwater School Music Festival. The children performed brilliantly and we received many positive comments from parents. The children also played African Drums and performed poetry at the Village Review in November.

Kenyan Link



Our partnership with Mutira Primary School in Kenya is still strong. Mary Wangui Migwi visited our school in June and spent a lot of time talking with the children and getting to know them. We learnt a lot from her and she learnt a few new skills from us! In May, we held a Kenyan Maths day. The classes planned and lead maths activities for parents and visitors to try.

Learning beyond the classroom

The children in years 5 and 6 attended a Food and Farming Day at Writtle College in June. They learned about where their food comes from, from "farm to fork", taking part in many interactive and informative displays and presentations.



Our Y6 children spent a week in Norfolk. They participated bravely in all the activities, including the Leap of Faith and the zip wire. We are proud that staff at the centre commented favourably on their behaviour.

World War I Day

We held a World War I day in June. Visitors were welcomed to an assembly when the children showcased their work. The children had learnt songs from WW1, made poppies and a wreath and played old-fashioned games. The day ended with a whole school Tea Party. It was lovely to see so many parents and people from the community attend. We were fortunate that the weather stayed fine for us.

Sue Dodd (Headteacher)
01245 223264
www.woodhamwalter.essex.sch.uk



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 IT equipment and playground improvements.

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 agreement with Mel Coates-Jones continuing as Chair, Maxine Littman as Treasurer and Louise Flavell as Secretary as well as a fantastic team of parents, teachers and school staff.

March 2014 hosted the launch of the PTA Bonus Ball Lottery, open to all parents, carers, teachers and governors. Allowing people to pay £1 per week and win £20 per week if their number is the Bonus Ball drawn on the National Lottery Saturday Night draw. This is mostly for fun, but still raises a few funds to support the school over the course of the year.

The year of fundraising events started in Easter with the ever popular 'Bake & Take' (now with a Room of surprises with presents for Mum and Dad) and a school disco. These events raised a total of £910. This was followed in May by a new event, a 'Charity Bridge luncheon' at Little Baddow Memorial Hall, where the proceeds were split between Woodham Walter School PTA and Essex Air Ambulance. This raised £150 for each charity. We are hoping for even greater success this year.

Then later in May we hosted another new event, a fun family 'Geo-Caching' event followed by a BBQ. This raised £237, and is being planned again for this year, with more routes and will be available for external participants

June played host to our annual Jumble Sale at Danbury Village Hall, a day which raised £532.



In July our amazing 'Bygone Days' school fete was extremely well attended and with fantastic weather (despite the soggy set up) and with the invaluable support of parents, local business and the community we raised a total of £5000

Over the summer period we were able to support the village with a Coconut Shy at the successful Bell Meadow Day, raising £121.

Our thanks to the Bell Meadow Legacy Grant Committee who awarded the PTA £500 to begin playground improvements, allowing the loose Slate Surfacing to be removed and replaced with Brick Pavia's. The work being undertaken by Hardwicke Contractors over the summer.

The new school year started with a brand new event A Charity Golf day, held at The Warren Golf Club. Again proceeds were split between the school and Essex Air Ambulance. We had a number of teams playing and a great day and evening were had by all, raising in excess of £500.

October saw the return of Quiz evenings, but this time for the whole family to enjoy. With the early start and finish, plenty of craft activities for the children, and tables full of picnics, a fabulous time was had by all. We raised £265 and still got the children to bed on time.

The pamper evening was our November event. Despite a wet and cold evening people still arrived for a

Pamper and shop, although this was a little quieter than last year, raising £560.

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

2014 was brought to a close with a Christmas bake & take (including the Room of Surprises with presents for mum and dad) raising £520.

By the time of going to press, we will have hosted our first 'Bake and Take' of the year, including a Room of Surprises for Mothers' Day gifts, and we are hoping for great things.

Funds raised by the PTA are used to purchase vital resources for the school including hard standing in the school playground and on-line educational resources as well as subsidising the school tracksuits and the new art club and for treats such as the Wizard of Oz Christmas Pantomime. We are planning some really exciting events for this year which we would love the community to join us so put a date in your diary for:

Grab yourself a bargain at our jumble sale on 28th March at Danbury Village Hall – or why not have that spring clear out and donate some jumble please (deliver to school on 27th March or to Danbury Village Hall from 9am on the 28th).

Charity Bridge Luncheon Friday May 15th - 2 course lunch and plenty of bridge played, submit a duo/four. This year's charity will be Great Ormond Street.

Geocaching (a high-tech treasure hunt around Woodham Walter) event on 17th May – why not enter a team?

Our amazing School Fete on 12th July – a traditional fun day.
The Charity Golf Day

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 131 people and we would welcome anyone who might like to join us.

The major improvements at the Church have now been completed and the new toilets and the kitchen facilities are both fully functional. These improvements have been long awaited and the Friends are pleased to have been able to

make a significant contribution towards the cost of this work; we are very grateful to our membership who have been extremely generous with their financial support.

With the new building work completed we decided to fund the redecoration of the inside of the Church and that too has now been done; if you have not yet seen the results of this, I encourage you to take a look next time you are passing, it really does look splendid.

We recently agreed to fund repairs to the cremated remains memorial wall and the building of an extension to the existing wall to create more space. We are also planning to pay for the

main gravel path to be upgraded to the standard of the path at the Church threshold.

We have three working parties planned for the year and lots of jobs for people to do; re-painting the railings, repairing the wooden fence, moving some grave spoil, strimming and general tidying.

Looking further into the future there is still a damp problem associated with the south and west walls and it is not clear what is causing this. Investigations are about to start and it is almost certain that there will be costs associated with any remedial actions that may be found necessary; the Friends plan to be in a position to support this work.

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





Tadpoles Nursery - Pam Seear

It's been a really busy year for us, with lots of changes, but we still found time to enjoy our annual Teddy Bears Picnic and outing. This year we visited Tropical Wings, the children really enjoyed it, I think the butterfly house and the Wallaby area was the most popular experience.



At Christmas we performed our nativity as usual in the school hall, our audience consisted of not only parents, friends and locals but also the school, who as usual sang along. We have really enjoyed being part of the village celebrations, with our face painting and glitter tattoos at Bell Meadow day also making Christmas decorations at the village Christmas tree decorating evening. One of the things we love most at Tadpoles is being a part of the community and knowing we are providing for the little people of the village.

After some delays we finally moved into our fantastic purpose converted former village shop, which was really exciting, it has been very beneficial in enabling us to develop the children's learning even further. Although we did feel a little

sad to leave the Womens club where we had spent 18 happy years.

After settling in we held a very successful open day which was well supported by parents and children old and new, and other members of the local community. We now have a small kitchen area, an office, children's toilets and a separate adult's toilet. The toys are all at the children's level which makes choosing so much easier and we have filled the wall with our displays and even have the children's art work hanging from the ceiling. The children have enjoyed making the outdoor area their own and enjoy the large play house, both of which allow us to offer the same learning experience inside and out.

The children were able to plant pumpkin seeds on the allotment this year and watch them grow before they harvested them and then made pumpkin pie and soup using the cooker in the kitchen. This was a fantastic learning experience for



the children (and staff) and a lot fun. This year we were sent seed potatoes to plant by the Potato Council, we shall look forward to watching them grow and thinking of recipes to make.

In September 2015 we will be celebrating our 20 year anniversary and intend to have lots of celebrations!!!

As always we continue to offer 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 a number of 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 written two such articles.

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, theft and phone and internet based fraud. Items under the theft category include:-

House, garage and shed break-ins
 Items stolen from cars
 Purses stolen from bags in Maldon and the supermarkets
 And most recently, gates stolen from the school
 Items in the fraud category include:-
 Phone calls with claims to fix computer issues
 Emails with false information about tax refunds
 People claiming to be police or credit card officials attempting to acquire credit card details
 Emails, letters or phone calls directing people to call premium rate phone numbers

I have previously written about all of these issues and more, and the advice remains the same - keep valuables out of sight and locked away whenever possible and don't give any personal or financial details to people you don't know.

Late last year Essex police launched the 'Essex Community Messaging' system. This system gives everyone who signs up the chance to receive crime notifications

and crime prevention advice via email, text or voice message from Essex Police officers, Essex Watch liaison officers and other partners including Neighbourhood Watch. I signed up for text messages and I receive two or three messages a month with useful information about current crime and safety issues. For example, one recent message provided a description of a vulnerable person who had gone missing in the local area, and it asked people to report any possible sightings.

If you are interested check the following website
www.essex.police.uk/ecm



Finally, as always, please keep your eyes and ears open and your mobile phone handy.

Brian Cumming
 NHW Co-ordinator

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.

Using a hand-held radar gun trained volunteers 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 explain-

ing the dangers and problems caused by speeding. Persistent individuals may then be targeted by the police who will prosecute them if they are caught.

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

jacky@wwparishclerk.co.uk

Police - Inspector Chris Kilgallen



The Maldon and Dengie area remains a very safe place to live with low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour

Essex Police is currently facing significant challenges due to budget reductions which has inevitably led to a decrease in police numbers and this trend will continue over the next 2 years at least.

Because of this it is even more important than ever, that everyone continues to report anything suspicious to the police straight away, using telephone number 101 or 999 if it is an emergency. Across the rural communities

Land Rovers in particular continue to be targeted by thieves. Both the whole vehicles and parts from them are being stolen. Please bear this in mind when deciding where to leave such vehicles overnight and ensure appropriate security measures are in place.

If you are the owner of an oil tank, then please also take advice from your supplier as to how to reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim of crime as this is also an offence type that is occurring regularly in the rural communities.

Your local neighbourhood constable is Pc Lea Keene. Lea can be contacted by email at lea.keene@essex.pnn.police.uk, **Mobile: 07970844179** or by **telephone on 101 ext:412337**.

Over the past few months Essex Police has introduced a system of holding weekly street meetings in local communities which last for an hour. Details of where they

will be taking place are publicised on the Essex Police web site. It is hoped that these will be up and running in the near future when PCSO Vicky Hayden commences her role as your PCSO.

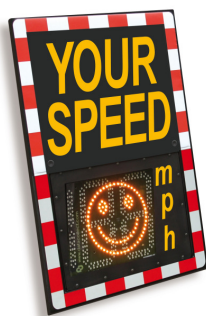
Finally, I would encourage everyone to sign up to Essex Police's new Community Messaging system (ECM) The use of Essex Community Messaging (ECM) is a force initiative to inform our communities about the policing and community safety issues which affect them. To sign up to ECM, visit

www.essex.police.uk/ecm



Insp Chris Kilgallen, Chelmsford and Maldon Local Policing and Partnership Inspector
Direct dial: 101 ext 420001, Mobile 07855

Vehicle Activated Speed Sign



An example of a Speed Indicator Device

Woodham Walter Parish Council are currently looking into purchasing our own Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) or Speed Indicator Device (SID) for the village in order to make drivers more aware that they're exceeding the 30mph limit. We feel that this is something that would benefit all members of our community and

judging by the number of comments on the returned Village Design Statement questionnaires this is something that worries a lot of villagers and urgently needs addressing.

Unfortunately this equipment is rather expensive, far too much to purchase from our reserve funds or by requesting an increase in the precept income which the Parish Council receives from Maldon District Council as part of the Council Tax system.

A simple battery powered SID (smiley face) costs in excess of £3000. Ideally what we would like to purchase is a SID Data Capture version (approx £4500). We already have one pole by Bell Meadow (this currently receives a VAS which is

shared with other villages on an ad-hoc basis) and Essex County Council Highways would be commissioned to erect at least one additional pole in the village for us. We could then download and analyse the results so that the SID could be moved from site to site with best effect.

We have been successful in our application to the Bell Meadow Village Association for a Legacy Grant of £2000. There are a number of grant funding options which we are now in the process of investigating and hope to be successful in achieving the purchase of this equipment in the next year which we expect will be of great benefit to all of the village and act as a good reminder that Woodham Walter village has a 30 mph speed limit.

Community Agent - Christine McDonald

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

Last year saw some changes in my role in your community, when based on the successful Village Agent pilot in Mid Essex, an innovative new partnership between the Rural Community Council of Essex, Age UK, British Red Cross, Neighbourhood Watch supporting older people and their informal carers was extended throughout the County.

My area continues to include Woodham Walter and 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.

I have been particularly pleased to be involved with the discussions for your Village Design Statement and am looking forward to the Annual Parish Meeting when the results of the consultation will be on show.

In addition to the suggestions below, I have been asked for help with a myriad of enquiries so if you are not sure if a Community Agent could help, why not try me?



Supporting independent living

www.communityagentsessex.org.uk

BEST WISHES FROM
YOUR LOCAL
COMMUNITY AGENT
CHRISTINE MCDONALD

Phone **FREE** on

0800 977 5858



Christine McDonald
Mobile: 07540 720608,
Email:

christine.mcdonald@caessex.org.uk

Your local Community Agent can help you with:

Your local Community Agent is available by
telephone, email or to visit you at home to discuss:



Supporting independent living

Mobility issues
Practical living skills
Social inclusion
Healthy living
Caring for someone
Individual resilience
" **And lots, lots, more!**

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

FREE, CONFIDENTIAL, INDEPENDENT INFORMATION, SIGNPOSTING AND REFERRALS

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

Further information on bus services can be found www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk

Essex County Council currently want your views on bus travel. To take part in the Bus consultation survey go to www.essexinsight.org.uk/consultations and select 'current consultations' then 'bus and passenger transport consultation'. Or you can complete the survey over the telephone please call Healthwatch 01376 572829 (10am-2pm M-F). Please complete the questionnaire by 31 March 2015.

Regal Busways

From: 19/03/2015

CHELMSFORD - DANBURY - LITTLE BADDOW - WOODHAM WALTER - MALDON

Mondays to Fridays	5	31A
	Th	
Chelmsford Bus Station (Stand 2)		1715
<u>Danbury, Eves Corner</u>		<u>1742</u>
Little Baddow, North Hill, adj Spring Close	0950	1750
Woodham Walter, Spring Elms Lane, adj Bassetts Lane	0955	1758
<u>Woodham Walter, The Bell (o/s)</u>	<u>1000</u>	<u>1801</u>
Woodham Walter, Council Houses (opp)	1001	1804
Maldon, All Saints Church (o/s)	1011	1814
Maldon, Tesco Store	1013	
Maldon, Morrisons	1019	

MALDON - WOODHAM WALTER - LITTLE BADDOW - DANBURY - CHELMSFORD

Mondays to Fridays	31A	5
	Th	
Maldon, opp Morrisons, Wycke Hill	-	1230
Maldon, Tesco Store	-	1235
<u>Maldon, White Horse</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1238</u>
Woodham Walter, Council Houses (adj)	0725	
<u>Woodham Walter, The Bell (opp)</u>	<u>0728</u>	<u>1249</u>
Woodham Walter, Spring Elms Lane, adj Bassetts Lane	0731	
Little Baddow, North Hill, adj Spring Close	0738	1257
<u>Danbury, Eves Corner</u>	<u>0746</u>	<u>1304</u>

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

Saturdays only	31A	31A	31A	31A
Chelmsford Bus Station (Stand 2)	0730	0845	1105	1515
<u>Danbury, Eves Corner</u>	<u>0752</u>	<u>0912</u>	<u>1132</u>	<u>1542</u>
Little Baddow, North Hill, adj Spring Close	0800	0920	1140	1550
Woodham Walter, Spring Elms Lane, adj Bassetts Lane	0808	0928	1148	1558
<u>Woodham Walter, The Bell (o/s)</u>	<u>0810</u>	<u>0930</u>	<u>1150</u>	<u>1600</u>
Woodham Walter, Council Houses (opp)	0813	0933	1153	1603
Maldon, All Saints Church (o/s)	0822	0942	1202	1612
Maldon, Tesco Store (Stop 1)	0827	0945	1205	-

WOODHAM WALTER - LITTLE BADDOW - DANBURY - CHELMSFORD

Saturdays only	31A	31A	31A
Maldon, Tesco Store (Stop 1)	1000	1210	1530
Maldon, Town Centre o/s White Horse	1004	1214	1534
Woodham Walter, Council Houses (opp)	1013	1223	1543
Woodham Walter, The Bell (opp)	1016	1226	1546
<u>Woodham Walter, Spring Elms Lane, opp Bassetts Lane</u>	<u>1019</u>	<u>1229</u>	<u>1549</u>
Little Baddow, North Hill, adj Spring Close	1026	1236	1556
Danbury, Eves Corner	1034	1244	1604
Chelmsford, Bus Station (Stand 2)	1100	1310	1630

Woodham Walter Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Mrs Jacky Bannerman
 Burnt House, Burnt House Road, Woodham Walter CM9 6RS
 Phone: 01245 222595 (Monday-Friday, Before 6pm)
 E-mail: jacky@wwparishclerk.co.uk

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

Peter Warren - Chairman & Footpath Officer & Tree Officer

Joanna Symons - Vice Chairman & Primary School Community Governor

James Bunn - Parish Councillor & VDS

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

Angus Neale - Parish Councillor

James Rushton - Parish Councillor & Allotment Association

John Tompkins - Parish Councillor & Village Design Statement



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 2015/16

30th March 2015 Annual Parish Meeting (V-Hall)
 13th April 2015
 11th May 2015 (AGM)
 8th June 2015
 13th July 2015
 10th August 2015
 14th September 2015
 12th October 2015
 9th November 2015
 14th December 2015
 11th January 2016
 8th February 2016
 14th March 2016



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 30th March 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