

Woodham Walter Annual Report 2016-17

WOODHAM WALTER ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2017



Parish Council Chairman
Councillor Joanna Symons

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Woodham Walter Parish Council

From the Chairman...

Welcome from me, Joanna Symons, the 'relatively new' Chairman of Woodham Walter Parish Council – I have in fact been Chair since May 2016, but this is the first time that I have written a report for the Annual Parish Meeting.

The composition of the Council has remained the same this year, with James Rushton (Vice Chairman) James Bunn, Mark Durham, Jenny Hughes, John Tompkins and Peter Warren.

Jacky Bannerman is the only non-volunteer member of the Parish Council team and is employed part time by Woodham Walter Parish Council. Without Jacky's immense hard

work and dedication, the Council would most definitely not be able to function effectively. Jacky has been in the role for over 10 years, in which time the workload has greatly intensified, with Jacky receiving a constant flow of emails, phone calls and correspondence, which have to be dealt with on an almost daily basis. Jacky is often the first point of contact between parishioners and the Parish Council, and her years' experience have been particularly valuable to me as a new Chair. Jacky produces the monthly agendas and minutes of the Parish Council meetings, both of which can be long and complex, and she controls the parish finances.

For several years now, Jacky has collated this annual report, consisting of individual reports from various groups and bodies within the village, which has allowed for a wider circulation of the information, other than just reaching those who are able to attend the Annual Parish Meeting.

This year's Annual Parish Meeting is on Thursday 27th April at 8pm in Woodham Walter Village Hall, and we hope very much that as many villagers as possible are able to attend, to get an update about what is going on in the village.

(Continued overleaf)

Annual Parish Meeting - Thursday 27th April 2017

All Woodham Walter residents are invited to attend the

Annual Parish Meeting

On Thursday 27th April at 8pm

At Woodham Walter Village Hall, Rectory Road.

- Matters Arising from Annual Parish Reports
- Public Forum
- Update on the Woodham Walter Village Design Statement



Woodham Walter Parish Council - Chairman, Joanna Symons

We also warmly welcome parishioners to all of our regular monthly meetings which are held in the Women's Club in 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 of concern within the parish may be raised.



Some of the Parish Councillors also have additional individual responsibilities within the community. Peter Warren is our Footpaths Officer, and diligently reports on any damage or problems relating to our footpaths that may need attention. James Rushton oversees the Allotments Association, and reports back at Council Meetings on any developments or problems relating to the allotments in our village. John Tompkins is a key member of the Village Design Statement (VDS) committee, and provides valuable feedback on developments and issues relating to getting the VDS finally completed and accepted by Maldon District Council. Mark Durham, as Chairman of the Bell Meadow Village Association, keeps us updated on

plans for the next Bell Meadow Day, and I am a School Governor at Woodham Walter C of E Primary School, and update councillors on school matters, and issues relating to my Governor duties.

Mark Durham is also a Maldon District Councillor, as well as being a Parish Councillor. Along with Henry Bass, they regularly attend our monthly meetings, to update Councillors on developments within the Maldon District. We also very often have Essex County Councillor, Penny Channer, at our monthly meetings, and Penny updates us on wider issues of interest in the area covered by Essex County Council. If the District or County Councillors cannot attend the Parish Council meeting in person, they send a written report instead. The attendance of these Councillors provide us with valuable information about wider local issues.

Funding for the Parish Council comes principally from the annual Precept, this being the money returned to us by Maldon District Council (MDC) from that collected via Council Tax. From this money the Parish Council pays for the care and upkeep of the village, including things such as grass and hedge cutting and street lighting etc. It also provides community funding for several local organisations. Councillors are very conscious of the fact that this money comes from every Council Tax payer in the parish and thus they ensure that the money is spent wisely and fairly. One of the most important roles of the Parish Council is to be part

of the consultation process for planning applications. We consult nearby neighbours on applications received, and after discussion at our meetings, make our recommendations to MDC for inclusion in their deliberations. Thus it is always helpful if the applicant for a planning application is present at the relevant Parish Council Meeting, where during the public forum at the start of the meeting, they can make representations about their application, and if councillors have any queries during their deliberations

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on a case, they can reopen the meeting to the public, in order to clarify certain points. Although we have a somewhat limited voice, it is

nevertheless an important one, and our involvement in the planning process does form an important part of our function.

In 2016-17 there have been 16 planning applications to consider (compared with 25 in 2015-16), of which 2 decisions by the NW Planning Committee of MDC were contrary to the Parish Council view. We supported 10 applications and raised objections to 4 and made comments on 2 other applications.

Woodham Walter Parish Council - Chairman, Joanna Symons

Of these applications 12 have been approved and 4 refused. In the past year there has been applications for:

- 1 demolition and replacement of a building
- 1 Change of Use from office use to a dwelling house
- 2 Change of use of agricultural buildings to dwelling houses
- 3 New Outbuildings or Extensions to Outbuildings
- 3 Extensions
- 2 Extension to dwelling and new outbuilding
- 1 outline application for a new dwelling
- 1 Alterations to Listed Buildings
- 1 Renewals of Expired Consent
- 1 application for additional lodges at the holiday park.

We also responded with an objection to the major application for 140 houses just outside the village at Runsell Green which has now been refused and we have sent similar objections regarding another development of 100 houses on land east of Hyde Lane in Danbury.

The application for 11 new dwellings on land adjacent to Whitegates to the south of Bell Meadow by Warren Golf Club went to appeal after MDC objected, as did the Parish Council. The first hearing took place in February 2016, with a second hearing adjourned until June to give MDC time to study new financial docu-

ments submitted to the Inspector by the appellants. The appeal was finally dismissed by the Planning Inspector in September 2016. The Parish Council did some good work in helping this appeal to be dismissed. Councillors attended the Appeal hearings, and put forward the reasons as to why the Council was against the appeal.

The Village Design Statement (VDS) committee have expended much time, energy and hard work on finalising the Village Design Statement. The VDS was first launched publicly in August 2013, and then the following May (2014) a questionnaire was distributed to each household in the village, asking for villagers' views of design, wants and future wishes for the village. The document is very important for the parish to have more control over future planning and development in our area, and once it is endorsed by MDC, it will be a material planning consideration when determining planning applications (although this does not necessarily mean that an application contrary to the VDS will automatically be refused as each case will be determined on its own merits). I would like to sincerely thank the VDS committee for all their hard work and perseverance in order to get the document into an acceptable format to be endorsed by MDC. This process has involved several meetings with MDC planning staff, much moving of goalposts and extreme frustration! However I am hopeful that the final alterations will be acceptable by MDC, and that the

VDS will be endorsed by the Planning and Licensing Committee in June 2017. The document is well written and very readable and informative, and will be a real asset and help to those considering making a planning application.



The annual litter pick took place in the village on February 25th, and 28 bags of litter were collected by twelve volunteers. A big thank you to the people taking part on the day, and to others who regularly clean their roads throughout the year, in an attempt to keep the village looking clean and tidy.

At the moment, we have brought to the attention of the Highways Department, the muddy conditions left after repairs to a broken drain were carried out several weeks ago on Little Baddow Road/Church Hill in Woodham Walter. We were delighted to see that these works had finally taken place, and had hoped that the problems to drainage would be alleviated, but the condition that the verge was left in after repairs, was very poor – this also forms part of the Memorial Garden. We are hopeful that the dips made will be repaired and that grass seed will be sowed in the near future.

Woodham Walter Parish Council - Chairman, Joanna Symons



We are currently putting together an application to extend the Zig Zag lines opposite the Top Road junction, to improve road safety for motorists and pedestrians. The junction at Top Road and The Street has been a cause for concern for some years, but with increased pupil numbers at the primary school this junction has become even more congested and dangerous, especially at school drop off and collection times. This location is ideal for Zig Zag lines especially as Tadpoles Nursery now occupy the Old Chapel Stores building. We have circulated a petition for this application amongst parents and carers at the school who have offered their support, and would welcome support from anyone in the community, who feels strongly about this. Please email comments to : parishclerk@woodhamwalterpc.org

The Woodham Walter Broadband Group was set up in September last year, and has already met several times. The intention of the group is to keep villagers informed of developments (or lack of them!) in getting reasonable broadband speeds to all of the

village. A Woodham Walter Broadband Parish update was sent to all properties in the village recently, explaining that the Parish Council have long recognised the importance of this, and have lobbied the organisation tasked by the County Council to allocate funding available. The result is that some, but not all, of the village will probably get reasonable broadband by the end of this Summer (2017), but at least 75 out of the approximately 275 properties in the parish, are not in any planned scheme to improve their broadband in the near future. The Group will continue to meet and to lobby for greater coverage, as good broadband now is often referred to as the '4th utility', and the lack of good broadband speeds could in the worst case scenario, prevent a house from selling or affect its price.



A really successful Street Party was held on Sunday 12th June 2016 in Top Road to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday. Many villagers attended, and the Queen herself would have been impressed by the turnout and all the lovely sandwiches and cakes provided, despite the less than wonderful weather. (See full report on the party on page 13)

Councillors are keen to preserve village history for future genera-

tions, and it is hoped that papers relating to various groups in the village, including the Parish Council itself, the Women's Club, Village Hall committee etc. will be able to be kept together in appropriate conditions in a suitable place. Possible storage in a room in the village hall is currently being investigated.

Many villagers are keen that the telephone kiosk outside Tadpoles Nursery should be preserved, as it is an iconic piece of the village scene. Several suggestions have been made about its future usage, including having a defibrillator kept in it for village use, and also for the storage of books for borrowing. Please let us have your ideas for consideration.

I would like to end with genuine thanks to all the hard work undertaken by the other councillors, and of course, by our excellent Parish Clerk, who all help to make the job of being Chairman that much easier. I look forward to continuing working with you all in the year to come.



Village Design Statement Working Group – David Beattie

Woodham Walter Parish Council



The Woodham Walter Village Design Statement 2016

Following extensive consultation with residents and Maldon District Council (MDC) from mid 2015 onwards, the final draft of the Woodham Walter Village Design Statement was approved by the Parish Council at their May 2016 Meeting and submitted later that month to the District Council for approval by the Planning and Licensing Committee (P and LC).

What has followed has been a particularly frustrating year for the VDS Working Group, with on-going delays to the approval of our VDS caused by the District Council changing its requirements (none of which related to changes in legislation or the planning environment) and failing to communicate.

Additional delay has been caused by the need to incorporate an approved Conservation Area into

the VDS, the approval of which was itself delayed until recently by the District Council. The Conservation Area was finally approved at the March 2017 P and LC Meeting. The VDS was on the Agenda for this meeting but it was deferred by the Committee because yet further amendments were, at the last moment, required by MDC. Once again they had changed their minds!

The points raised were promptly addressed by the Working Group assisted by the Parish Council. Despite promises of a prompt response given by our District Councillor and County Councillor and an intimation that the VDS would be on the April 2017 P and LC Meeting Agenda, MDC remained silent until it was too late to include on the agenda for this meeting. We now have a response from MDC and hope to

be meeting them as soon as possible.

We have been informed that the VDS might be on the agenda for the June 2017 P and LC Meeting, but please do not hold your breath!

In the hope that one day our VDS might eventually be approved, it will become a material consideration to the Local Development Plan and will, amongst other things, greatly assist the District Council and Parish Council in determining planning applications.

The Working Group is doing its utmost to get our VDS approved and will keep everyone informed of progress via the Parish Website www.essexinfo.net/woodhamwalter-pc and the Parish Magazine.

Parish Clerk's Report — Jacky Bannerman



Woodham Walter Parish Council are consultees in the planning process and we are responsible for the care and upkeep of the village. This

includes Bell Meadow, some grass verges, the street lighting plus any other local issues. It is the job of the Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to carry out the functions, serve or issue all notifications required by law and carry out the decisions of the Parish Council.

During 2016/17 we provided community funding to local organisations to help with maintenance including Women's Club (£163), Village Hall Association (£220) and St Michael's Church (£208). We also make an annual grant to the Essex Wildlife Trust (£115) towards their work managing Woodham Walter Common. The Street Party in June cost £298.63 which was a great community occasion and I'm sure will be repeated again one day.

We have an agreement to pay towards the maintenance costs of the Community Playground at the school up to £400 per year. Last year this money was carried over to this financial year as the school are expecting a number of repairs and replacements very soon. The playground equipment is open to the community outside of school hours, at weekends and during school holidays. Please remember that this does not include the playing field or any other areas

within the school grounds. We are currently trying to find a way of ensuring that the school remains secure and it is likely that the gate will be locked during the Winter at 4.30pm and during the Summer at 6.00pm. We are working with the school to find a suitable way of achieving this. If there are any volunteers who would like to take on the role of locking/unlocking the gate we would be glad to hear from you.



Parish Councils are funded principally by an annual precept. This is added to the council tax collected by MDC and paid to the Parish Council annually. We also receive income from the hire of the Party Tents. Last year this raised £700. Councillors have agreed that the precept requirement for Woodham Walter in 2017/18 will be £14,183.00 which works out at £52.22 per Band D property for the year.

All Parish Council's have to adhere to the Transparency Code and the information required is available on the Parish Council website so that that parishioners can view relevant documents in order to increase democratic accountability. We received a grant towards the costs of setting this up and purchasing a new laptop and scanner. So have a look at the Parish Council website and see what you think!
www.essexinfo.net/woodhamwalter-pc

We have budgeted for expenditure on producing the Village Design Statement, a contingency fund for a Speed Indicator Device and for the proposed storage of documents at the Village Hall. We also have a budget for a new gate at the top of Bell Meadow and funding for some new party tent bags.

The clerk position is a paid one which I have been doing for just over 10 years. I enjoy this community role which is not without its challenges on occasions but I try to keep everything and everyone in order as much as possible!

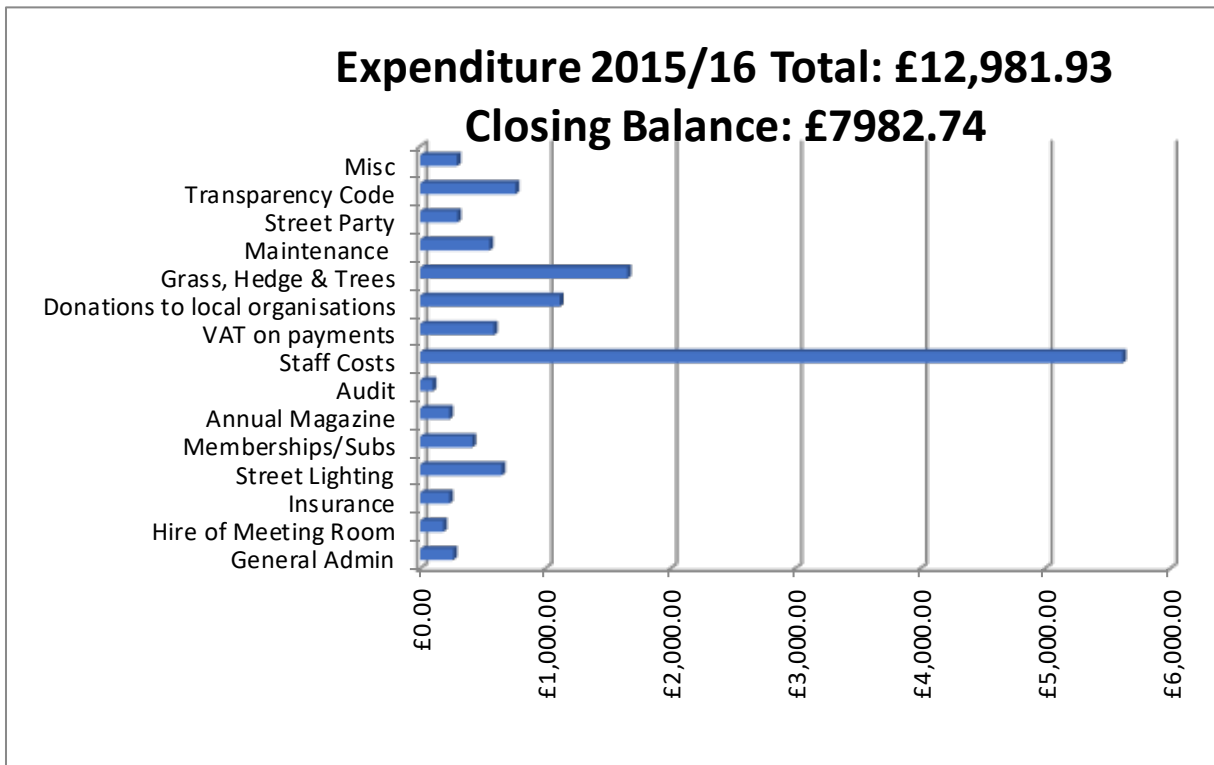
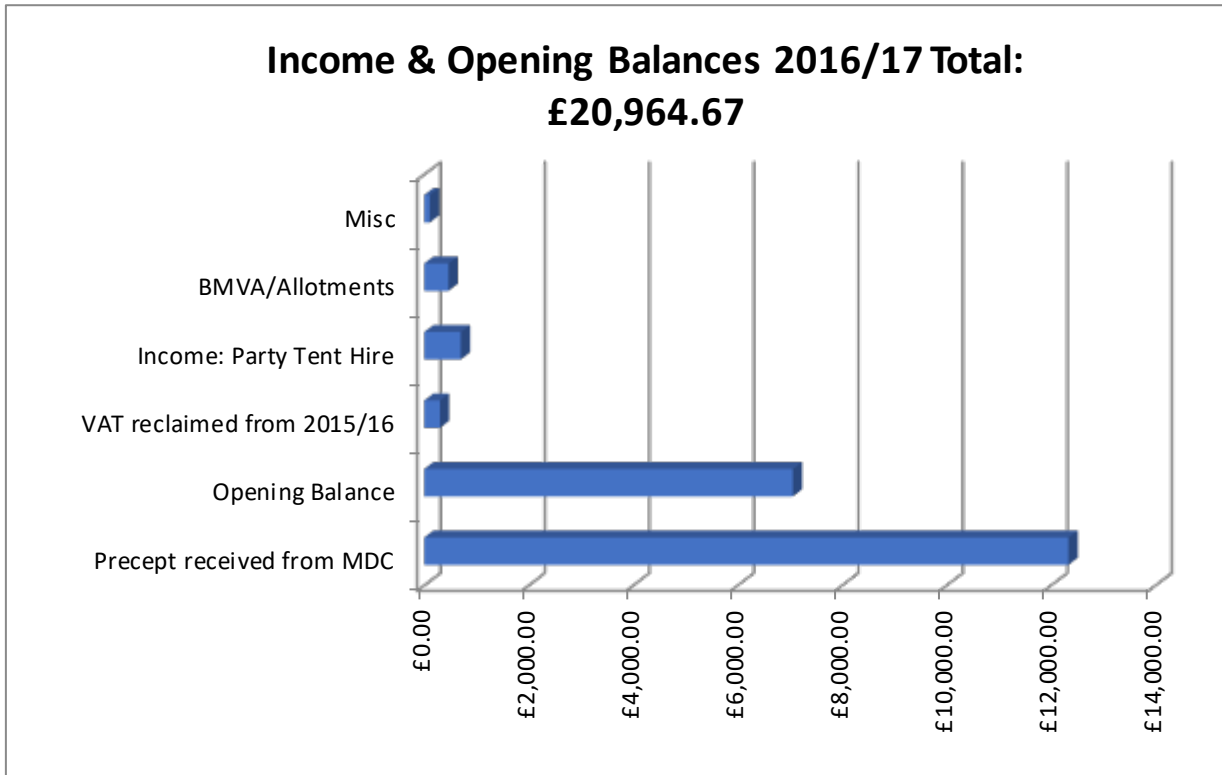
All the councillors are volunteers and I would like to thank each of them for their time and commitment to this important position. And in particular to Cllr. Joanna Symons who as the Chairman and has been a great support to me.

If you would like to be included on the village email for local information please send me your email address. If you have any other queries or suggestions please email:

parishclerk@woodhamwalterpc.org



Woodham Walter Parish Council - Financial Overview





District Councillor—Henry Bass



The ward of Wickham Bishops & The Woodhams which encompasses Woodham Walter is represented by two District Councillors, Mark Durham and myself, Henry Bass. Under normal circumstances Mark would compile this report, but due to the forthcoming election for Essex County Council and restrictions of the purdah period, it falls to me to write this year's report to the parish council as Mark is a candidate in a neighbouring division.

In the last twelve months, several significant things have happened at Maldon District Council. In June 2016, the system of waste collection was changed to alternate weekly collection. This is rapidly becoming the most common method across the UK as it has significant economic benefits and the recycling rates are greatly improved. Since the changeover, Maldon's recycling rate has reached nearly 58% and we are hopeful that it will get close to 60% which is

an excellent result for our collection regime. Another benefit of making householders think more carefully about their refuse is that the total amount of collected waste has dropped by 700 tonnes. This is clearly a significant benefit to the environment and cost saving to the authority.

The green waste collection is extremely popular and it gives residents the opportunity to have their garden waste removed for a very cheap cost. Green bins are still available and if anyone wants to subscribe to this service, please contact the council switchboard.

The new refuse vehicles have state of the art GPS tracking and 360 degree cameras which record the entire round. This can even be accessed live by the depot if problems are reported. Certainly the number of alleged missed collection complaints has drastically reduced when residents found out that the contractor has video evidence!

The Local Development Plan has occupied a great deal of time and resource at the council over the last three years. The LDP lays out the housing requirements for the district over the next 15 years as well as things like employment land, gypsy & traveller provision and infrastructure. Due to a previous issue with a planning inspector, the LDP was referred to The Secretary of State in early 2016. This effec-

tively means that the plan is no longer under the control of the district council. The Secretary of State appointed a new inspector to examine the plan and the public hearings were completed this January. It is hoped that subject to some modification, the plan may be agreed by late summer. This will give the council much greater control over the size and location of developments in the district. However, many people will have seen the government's intention to increase house building and political pressure is being felt across the country to increase the number of new houses and the speed of development. The government is now requiring local authorities to review their plans every five years which in itself places further resource pressures on local councils.

Local government finance is also a major concern at the moment. Since the last reorganisation of local government in 1974, councils have received the money they need to provide services from taxes (council tax or rates) and a grant from central government. Since the austerity measures came into force in 2007/8 the government have reduced the amount of grant year on year. To date MDC receives less than 50% of the grant it has been paid since then and in 2015 it was announced that the grant will be completely removed by 2020.

District Councillor—Henry Bass

This would be replaced by a system of business rate retention which would be kept by local government rather than passed to the treasury. At the moment we have not been told how this will work or how the money will be distributed between the County Council and Districts, but it is fairly certain that the overall amount of money won't increase, so councils are having to look at being more commercial and find ways to generate the funds that it needs to maintain services to the community.

From my attendance at Parish Council meetings, I am aware of two key issues for Woodham Walter. High speed broadband is one of the topics that frequently comes up at parish meetings and the rural parishes seem to suffer more than most. Essex County Council are working in conjunction with BT and other broadband providers under the banner of Superfast Essex. A great deal of progress has been

made across the county, but clearly Woodham Walter is yet to benefit from this. The ducting has recently been laid into the village which will take the fibre optic cable to one of the exchange boxes in the village. This should be onstream this summer and other parts of the village should follow next year.

The other issue is the Village Design Statement that the parish have been working on for some time. It is important to understand that this document, although locally produced must comply with national policy, district policy and other documents such as The Maldon District Design Guide. National planning policy is also subject to change and a recent government white paper has outlined some possible alterations. In addition the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is also about to be amended which could have implications for the LDP and Woodham Walter VDS. At this time, the VDS is being

assessed by council planning officers to ensure that it is satisfactory and policy compliant. Once this is done, it should be endorsed by the council by the summer.

Part of the village has already been designated as a Conservation Area. This means that dwellings in this area have certain restrictions placed on them regarding how they can be changed. For example, windows cannot be changed from timber to UPVC etc. This ensures that the character of the heart of the village is protected.

Both Mark and myself are always available should parishioners have issues that they want addressed. There are of course some things that are out of our control, but we are often able to forward such matters to whichever organisation can help. Our contact details can be found on the Maldon District Council website. www.Maldon.gov.uk

Recycling Bags

An annual delivery of recycling sacks will be made to households during May.

If you need additional supplies of pink recycling sacks or food caddy liners prior to May they can be obtained from the following locations.

- All Libraries in the District
- Maldon District Council
Princes Road, Maldon

- Maldon District Tourist Information Centre,
Wenlock Way, Maldon
(open Mon, Tues, Thurs,
Fri & Sat 10am - 4pm)
- Woodham Walter Parish Council - sacks can be obtained from 7.50pm, prior to Parish Council meetings which are held on the 2nd Monday of the month at the Women's Club Room, Top Road

- **There will be a supply of pink sacks and food caddy bags for collection at the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 27th April at 8pm in Woodham Walter Village Hall, Rectory Road.**



Woodham Walter Women's Club - Jean Newton



Women's Club has enjoyed another year with various activities which keep us busy. The monthly meetings are well attended and we have enjoyed some interesting speakers. The monthly Village Lunch is now well established and those who attend enjoy a varied menu and good company. Thank you to Linda who cooks the delicious lunches, Sally, Jacky and Cathy who serve, wash-up and look after everybody.

Fund Raising Events In July the annual Flower Festival in St Michael's Church takes place, Women's Club are to be found in the Tea Tent. Thank you to everyone who bakes cakes, scones and serves teas and coffees. A huge thank you to the very important people who help behind the scenes, without this team work the Tea Tent wouldn't function. At the end of August, Bell Meadow Day takes place, we had our usual cake and tombola stall. Thank you to the cake makers, they must be good as we always sell out. Penny runs the tombola stall on her own, she collects and cross-references all the items - thank you Penny. The Jumble Sale at Danbury Village Hall in

October is a big fund raiser for us, thank you to the Danbury Village Hall team who help us make the event run smoothly. We haven't held a Coffee Morning since last May, sadly they haven't proved very popular, but we possibly will try again. The problem is we make the cakes and if no one comes to the Coffee Morning, we eat the cakes and that is not good for our waistlines!

Other Activities – Founders Day outing we visited Oliver's Nursery Nr. Witham. Members enjoyed a stroll around the Nursery before tea, staff in the tea room were very tolerant as we organised the tables so that about twenty members could all sit together for a lovely social afternoon. The annual Village Revue took place in November and as usual Women's Club participated. A totally different offering this year, the Dance Team performing a Caribbean number by Harry Belafonte. The costumes and props highly colourful and they lit up the stage. Christmas celebrations followed and our lovely social evening took place in the club room. Quizzes and light refreshments provided

by committee members and a visit from Father Christmas. In the New Year the popular post Christmas Lunch was held at The Bell, thank you to The Bell for making us so welcome. We have also been to the Civic Theatre, we have seen two musicals performed by the Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society, "Barnum" in October and "Anything Goes" in March of this year, both excellent performances.

Monthly meeting Speakers Gill our programme secretary arranged a varied programme throughout the year. We have enjoyed a fish and chip supper followed by a game of Beetle in the Spring. The speakers have ranged from a Theatrical Costumier, a demonstration of the Alexander Technique, and a Christmas Flower arranging evening to name just a few.

We would like to extend a big welcome to the new members who have joined us over the past year, we hope they enjoy all our activities.

Finally I would like to thank the Committee who have always given me unstinting support over the past year, to Club Members who attend the monthly meetings despite some bad weather - we are a hardy bunch. Women's Club meets on the 4th Tuesday every month at 7.30 pm in the Club Room Top Road. We always welcome guests and possible new members to our meetings. Dates, speakers plus our activities are always in the monthly Parish News.

Woodham Walter Village Lunch Club - Sally Bull



Since it's first serving in 2014 the Village Lunch has become increasingly successful. Running on the first Monday of each month there are now regularly more than 20 attendees who join the group to enjoy a delicious two course meal which costs them £6 per head.

The original two objectives behind the setting up of the Village Lunch still stand. The first is to give older people in the community, 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 is to give those people an opportunity for a good quality home cooked meal in a warm and welcoming environment. Based in the Women's Club Room, Village Lunch is a non profit making venture and is run by volunteers from the local community.

The cooking is done by Linda Hamilton who does an amazing job, creating wonderful lunches using seasonal, locally sourced ingredients. Her food is truly delicious and the full house of clean plates at the end of each lunch is a perfect indicator of just how good the food is! Linda is supported by volunteers Sally Bull, Jacky Bannerman and Cathy Barber, who help to serve the lunch



and clear away afterwards. Attendees book a month in advance and there is often a waiting list.

There is a real buzz at the lunches which is just the way it should be; lots of conversation and good food shared between friends. If you know of 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, please contact Sally Bull 01245 227908 or Jacky Bannerman on 01245 222595

Bell Meadow Village Association - Mark Durham

The 2016 Bell Meadow Day was yet another huge success, making it one of the most popular events of its nature in this and surrounding villages. Now in its twelfth year we thought that it was about time to make some subtle changes to the event. After several years of having For Funk Sake as the evening entertainment, it was a hard decision to give them a rest as many people had come to associate Bell Meadow Day with this popular band. However, after a lot of thought, we chose to pick a new band and came across Jupiter Ray, headed up by the fabulous Sam Robinson. As it turned out, we had no cause to worry as the different music went down very well, with the traditional dancing in front of the stage as busy as ever. We are pleased to announce that Sam and his band will be back later this year for Bell Meadow Day 2017.

There was also a change to the arena show last year, with Geoff Hicks doing a really excellent job with his new dog display. Geoff's show was both informative and entertaining and we sincerely hope that he will also be back this year. The children were well catered for with the magician and as always, one of the most popular elements was the dog beauty competition.

Bell Meadow Day tries to keep to its tried and tested formula, but also ringing the changes to keep things interesting. We are

always on the lookout for new ideas and suggestions.

One of the key elements is the village competition tent. This has grown and grown since the first event back in 2005 and I would like to thank everyone who bakes, makes, brews & grows everything that is bought along. Hopefully we will have even more in 2017.

As always, it is vital to thank the people who contribute to the event and without whose help, Bell Meadow Day could not happen. 2016 saw the ship being captained by Dave Still, Darren & Amanda Durant, Ken Rennie, Ivor Brearley, Kev Page, Jenny Hull, Nick Bullen-Bell & Kayleigh Durant, James Nolan, Gary Whitworth, Terry Fisk & Keith Amato. Many more helped along the way, so if I have forgotten anyone, please forgive me!

As the event grows each year, the costs of staging the event grow too. The overheads are now at a level where we can just about financially break even. This is only possible due to the generosity of Robert Lee for his sponsorship for which we are duly grateful. Over the years we have managed to accumulate some surplus funds and at the moment we are holding onto these subject to the possibility of funding a permanent speed sign in the village. This is subject to agreement by Essex County Council and we should have

news on this soon. If the money can't be used for this, it will be used for another project to benefit Woodham Walter.

This year will mark the thirteenth Bell Meadow Day and we are well advanced with preparations. There will be some new features and some old favourites to keep you entertained. We will always need more help as the day gets closer, so if you are able to help us in any way, please contact one of the committee or leave your name at one of the pubs.

Along with a couple of the other people on the crew, I have been involved in every Bell Meadow Day since 2005 and pressures from other commitments may well mean that I cannot devote as much time to this event as it needs. We desperately need some new blood to join the team, otherwise I fear that this unique village event may falter. If someone can step forward to join the committee with a view to keeping the event alive, please let us know. I can promise that it is very rewarding and although quite hard work, you won't regret it!

Bell Meadow Day 2017 takes place on Sunday August 27th. Please support us and make this the best year ever!!

Mark FL Durham
BMVA Chairman

Queen's 90th Birthday Street Party - Sunday 12th June



Another big Royal milestone, and another very enjoyable Woodham Walter Street Party was enjoyed by over 170 villagers in Top Road on Sunday 12th June 2016. It seems to be becoming a bit of a tradition.

Once again we had lots of offers of help from villagers ranging from the loaning of straw bales, to providing entertainment for children, bringing cakes, making sandwiches, putting together patriotic flower arrangements etc. As ever the village response was magnificent and Jacky and I had fun sourcing some 90th Birthday party packs online, and before we knew it mid June had arrived, and our main worry was the weather!

Preparations started in earnest the day before, when a dedicated band of sandwich makers from the Woodham Walter Womens

Club met in the Clubhouse and set up a working party to prepare a mountain of delicious sandwiches. The actual day of the party dawned and the weather looked reasonably promising. At 9am Top Road was closed to traffic, and villagers started to arrive from all directions to give a hand in erecting the tents, collecting tables and chairs and setting them all out. It was lovely to see the tables and the tents resplendent in red, white and blue with bunting and flags and posters of the Queen, and the tables looked lovely once laid up with Union Jack plates and cups, and lovely flower arrangements. Lots of villagers started to arrive with some really lovely cakes, many carrying on the patriotic theme, and to top it all, Amanda Lucas came with her wonderful 'Royal Cake'.



This time her theme was fittingly a 'Street Party' and it was an absolute work of art with over 30 intricately iced plates of food set

out on a table.

It certainly seemed much too good to eat. Lucia and Fergus, both from Woodham Walter School, set up a series of games for the younger guests. Much

fun was had later by children trying their luck at 'Naming the Corgi', 'Putting the Tail on the Corgi', and doing some fittingly Royal Colouring! Pam Seear and her team from Tadpoles set up a 'Crown Making' table, and later one of the organs from the Cats arrived to provide some music outside Tadpoles.

Stewards and First Aiders were despatched to their positions, and the church bells pealed at 1pm to herald the start of proceedings. Joanna Symons welcomed everybody on behalf of the Parish Council and then invited everyone to sing 'God Save the Queen' followed by three cheers for Her Majesty. Then everyone started to tuck in to the sandwiches that had been laid out on the tables by Womens Club members. Trays of impressive cakes were then distributed, and the atmosphere was great with lots of laughter and chatter and people having the opportunity to meet up with old friends and neighbours and to meet new ones.

As people drifted away, the magnificent team of helpers swung into work mode, and very quickly the tents were dismantled, tables and chairs taken away and peace was restored to Top Road by 5pm with no evidence at all that anything had happened out of the ordinary there that day.

Thank you again to everyone who helped make the event such a success again, and we look forward to a repeat performance, hopefully when the Queen celebrates her 100th Birthday!

Joanna Symons



Woodham Walter Allotment Association - Jane Weedon



Having had some very dry periods and annoyingly wet ones some crops have done really well as ever some gardeners have the magic touch whatever the weather. We all tend our allotments to the best of our abilities and share seeds and produce between ourselves whenever we can. Looking after each other's allotments during the holiday periods has worked well with the load being shared equally. While Suzanne and Peter Gaywood have given up their patch, Graham Loveday has bought a house on the Isle of Wight and has sadly had to let his allotment go! As a consequence we have 2 allotments available both in good condition and ready for some one to take on without too much effort along with 2 taster plots still available.

Sadly we didn't have a B.B.Q. last year so we must book it in this year at the A.G.M. in April. We are very pleased the

Tadpoles Nursery are still with us and I understand Chris Wheadon has been kindly helping them. The autumn garlic and broad beans are looking very good and now the weather is warming up we will be back to seeing our members tending their plots and looking forward to fresh produce to eat. The brassicas have been good so far this winter and we are looking forward to eating those cabbages and purple sprouting that are still in the ground and looking very healthy and unpecked by the pigeons! Plenty of seeds have been planted at home and potatoes and onions are nearly ready to put in once the ground has warmed up a bit more. As ever we are waiting to put those tender plants out after the danger of frosts have passed.



Thank you again to Chris Wheadon for sharing his horticultural knowledge with us in the Parish News and gardening advise on the allotment. Our Allotment Association is now into its 8th year thanks to Bryony and Peter Maynard for making this thriving scheme available to the local communi-

ty and filling our larders, freezers and stores with home grown produce to eat during the year.

So we are looking for some new members to join our happy group and grow some of their own vegetables on the vacant plots.

EVER WANTED TO GROW YOUR
OWN FRUIT AND VEGETABLES
WHY NOT HAVE AN
ALLOTMENT

ALLOTMENTS AVAILABLE

CONTACT JANE WEEDON
01245226469
janeanneweedon@gmail.com

To be eligible for a plot, you must be a Parishioner of Woodham Walter, be an Educational establishment within the Parish or have a direct connection to the village.

For more details contact
Jane Weedon
janeanneweedon@gmail.com

Sue Cumming.
sue.cumming@hotmail.co.uk

Footpath Officer - Peter Warren



I've now been walking the Parish paths virtually every day for the past 10 years with my elderly assistant Bella and still enjoy making 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 ones further away I endeavour to check every few months. Any problems that I can't fix easily are referred to the appropriate farmer or landowner and failing that, the Rights of Way department of ECC Highways. Unfortunately we no longer have a Rights of Way Inspector for this area so there is no longer a direct contact at ECC and any problems have to be logged onto the ECC Highways online reporting system. Progressing a problem can sometimes be frustratingly slow, on the other hand some landowners get fallen trees removed the next day!

In the past year wind and storms have caused 16 trees to fall blocking footpaths and bridleways. Thanks to co-

operative landowners most were removed and the path cleared within a few days. Another problem, following the warm and wet weather in May and June, was the prolific weed growth, particularly nettles.

Footpath 18 through the old ruins of WW Hall became impassable, and a couple of cross-field paths were blocked by the tall oilseed rape closing in. All parishes were in a similar position and we had to wait until early August for ECC contractors Ringway Jacobs to carry out the annual cut, all 13 paths on the schedule being cut very well. Then thanks to some decent weather last summer and a beautiful sunny autumn followed by a fairly dry winter all of our paths have remained walkable for the remainder of the past year.



The only other problem was the collapse of a rotten bridge where the church path

(footpath 14) crosses the stream in The Wilderness. After reporting on the online system this was promptly replaced by ECC contractors (see photos for before and after).

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 the paths on WW Common, plus the trees surrounding Bell Meadow and others dotted around the village. In the past year six trees have required removal (one had fallen on Bell Meadow and one on WW Common plus four rotten and unsafe on bridleway 31).



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 improvements 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 - Michael Bradbrook



We started the year still without a priest and also the retirement of Kathy Tompkins and Arthur Razzell as Churchwardens. The church and the community owe Kathy and Arthur a great debt of gratitude for their many years of untiring commitment and dedication and the Annual Report provides an opportunity to express publicly my sincere thanks on behalf of us all for everything they have done to support St Michael's.

The task ahead seemed quite daunting but with a very active and supportive Parochial Church Council together with the wider congregation, the various functions and tasks that keep the church running were divided among the members of the PCC with Geoff Hicks taking on the role as Lay Chair.

Throughout the Interregnum St Michael's has continued to function as you would expect with Holy Communion Services,

Morning Prayer and Family Services taking place without any interruption. In this we have been greatly assisted by Rev'd Canon Dr Graham Blyth, Rev'd Ken Dunston, Rev'd Lionel Webber and Rev'd Mary Cottee and others.

I have never thought of Priests being like buses but then three came along at virtually the same time. Canon Stephen Carter, the priest at All Saints Church in Maldon, stepped forward as Priest-in-Charge and Julie Willmot as Assistant Curate and they were both formally licensed on 4th September 2016 at St Michael's. We then had the good fortune of Rev'd Penny Sayer coming forward as an Associate Priest to run concurrently with her role as Bradwell Area Turnaround Minister and she was formally licensed on 26th November 2016 at St Margaret's Woodham Mortimer. In two months we had moved from an Interregnum to having three Priests – a remarkable turn of

events and a great foundation for the challenges ahead.

In January 2017 I became Deputy Churchwarden and I anticipate being duly elected as Churchwarden in late March 2017. We now enter a new chapter in the continuing life of St Michael's with optimism and faith with a new team leading us.

We have continued our links with Woodham Walter Primary School with church members serving as governors and leading assemblies, and maintaining contact with Tadpoles Nursery.



Although in an Interregnum we were able to start a "Messy Church" group for children run monthly by volunteers from our congregation. During the year two of our members were confirmed, there were five baptisms, two weddings, one service of thanksgiving for marriage and five funerals.

We have remained involved with the community and the Flower Festival in July remains a highlight of the year with an amazing display by our wonderful flower arrangers.

St Michael's Church

We have been active with social events raising funds for various charities and this year in April will be Ken Hay's 40 years as our organist and we will be marking the occasion with a special celebration of music in church at the end of April.

The Robert Henry Falkner Almshouses are now fully occupied following complete refurbishment of No.2 during a vacancy between residents. We are so grateful for the continued well-running of the Almshouses by our Honorary Clerk Angus Neale.

We would also like to extend our continued thanks to all members of the Friends of St Michael's, together with their chairman and members of the committee. The grass is cut, hedges trimmed, trees nurtured, all on a voluntary basis. We couldn't manage without you.



Sam & Fiona Maynard were married in September 2016

As always our church is open every day and we intend to keep it that way. We will continue to celebrate weddings, baptisms and joyous occasions but also to be there to console during times of sadness.

St Michael's is constantly aware of the need to keep up with the times. We will endeavour to promote initiatives that will appeal to the younger generation. We have said before we are not afraid of change! We are here for the community, the young and the more mature. We welcome new ideas so please share them with us.

As always we do need extra support at our weekly services and always appreciate an extra pair of hands during events etc.

As a church, we want to be known to represent God's love to all. Although we gather to praise and worship on a Sunday, as Christians and as a church our mission is to extend that love to our community every day.

A big thank you to our PCC team who have worked tirelessly and to everyone that has extended a hand to make sure that St Michael's runs smoothly. Your loyalty and dedication has been greatly appreciated.

Ending now with the words that encompass the heart of all at St Michael's.

The doors of St Michael's will be open for all, whatever age, colour or sex they may be and we are committed to welcoming all that enter our doors.

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



Wood Corner Caravan Site - Steve Andrews

I always feel that I should be providing pages of updates on events on the site, but then the realities of a settled site are the families enjoying a peaceful and secure home. No unnecessary frills or excitement. And that is what I am reporting once again, we have a quiet and peaceful site.

We have experienced some movement this year with 2 families moving on but, as usual, these were quickly filled with new families who have settled in to their new homes and are now happy "Wood Corner'ers". Obviously I am delighted to report that we still have Danny at the helm.

Our community room still enjoys a number of uses, including the



ber, we continue to support the Parish's on any unauthorised encampments on Parish land at no direct cost to the Parish.

Steve Andrews
Essex Countywide Traveller Unit
Manager

Maldon Childrens Centre and regular multi-agency health days providing key outreach to the Gypsy/Traveller Community.

The **Essex Countywide Traveller Unit** continues to expand with Braintree, Brentwood and Chelmsford joining the fold. This means 11 of the 14 Essex authorities and unitary are now members. As Maldon remain a mem-



Woodham Walter Village Hall Association - Sarah Maxted



It has been another successful year for the Hall. We have several regular bookings ranging from keep fit classes to a sewing group.

Once again my thanks to the committee for their continued work in keeping the Hall running. Our treasurer Ken, handyman Ivor, secretary Mel, Ann, Doug & Peter. Special thanks to Doug for his tireless efforts with the hedges & insulation

As always the committee would welcome some new members. It isn't an arduous task – meetings every 6 to 8 weeks, 2 fund raisers per year and a couple of tidying sessions

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 which continues to come up with surprising new routines! The Women's Club really go to town each year with their performance & costumes. We also must also thank the volunteers who run the bar & the wait-

ers as well as the artistic director AJ & Mark Durham for running the evening.

We have had to have the water main repaired & a generous benefactor has supplied us with insulation which we are installing in the roof of the extension. We still have several other items on our 'wish list' which we are working towards achieving

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

Sarah Maxted

Woodham Walter Common - Chris Wheadon



PATHS:-

Bridleways/Footpaths have remained in reasonable condition, although high winds have resulted in some tree casualties which have obstructed one main path and one minor one. (Neither of these are officially designated Bridleways or Footpaths.) So we have indeed been fortunate. We had cleared the main path, and removed the obstruction on the minor path, unfortunately two days later **another** tree was blown over across the same minor path! A short detour around the fallen tree has been created, so the path is still operational. The offending tree will be chain sawed when time /resources are available!



BOGS:-

Both the “Bogs” on the Common have fared surprisingly well considering the very dry weather in the Summer, and continue to look very healthy. The regular pulling of invasive bracken is having the desired effect, so the Ferns are thriving and increasing in number. The rare Sphagnum Moss area is also gradually increasing in size on both sites, which is very encouraging.



HEATHS:-

“New Heath “ The Heath is looking remarkable, the Heather has established very quickly and looked wonderful when in full bloom, a real picture, well worth a visit a great success. Small self seeded Birch saplings cause a problem, so we remove them by hand. However, we have now ring barked of nearby mature Silver Birch trees, they will eventually succumb, thus reducing the amount of Birch seeding in the Heather area.

“Rowan Hollow”. We are systematically digging out the larger invasive brush and have used it to create a brushwood “fence” alongside the adjoining Bridleway on the Western edge. The area is now signed as a “Nature Reserve”. We have continued to brush cut the area .Heather is now establishing very slowly. It

may be that we have to isolate one area at a time in order to achieve our ultimate objective which is to remove unwanted invasive plant species.

HIMALAYAN BALSAM:-

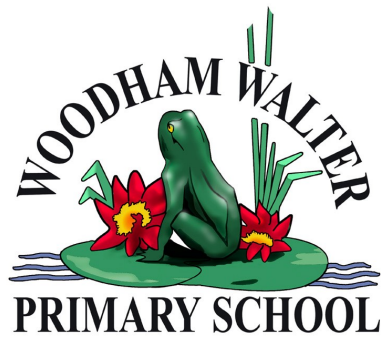
The amount of Balsam on the Woodham Walter section of watercourse near “Robins Nest” was very small this year, thanks to vigorous hand pulling and removal over the past two years by Working Parties. This meant that over a period of two days greatly assisted my wife (Senior Volunteer and great support!), we managed to remove virtually 100% of the plants we could see. The odd plant will always remain, however I consider that we are now successfully managing the issue, and could in time eradicate it completely from the Woodham Walter Common watercourse section .

CURRENT PROJECTS:- Creation of “Wildlife Corridors”

We have started to widen sections of Bridleway which have become restricted in width. This is a very labour intensive activity, sometimes involving lopping/sawing and in some cases removal of saplings/ small trees using heavy hand winches. I am pleased to say The Trust, which is always exploring more effective and efficient ways of Habitat Management, has now invested in some new innovative small tree/sapling pulling tools which are proving very effective and easier to use.

Chris Wheadon.
Volunteer Warden.

Woodham Walter Primary School - Headteacher



It has been a busy year at the school. We would like to thank everyone connected to the school, in whatever capacity, for their hard work and their tremendous support. It is what makes our school such a special place.



Children's University



Throughout the year, our children earn "hours" for learning that takes place out of school. When they reach certain milestones, children are invited to graduate at The Anglia Ruskin University. They wear caps and gowns and they are awarded their certificates by the Chancellor of the University. Footprints Dance group gave an outstanding performance as part of the evening and all the children, as always, did us proud.

School Choir

Children from KS2 performed at the Royal Albert Hall in November, to raise funds for the Barnardo's Young Carers charity. As part of a massed choir, made up of children from across the coun-



try, they performed "Scrooged". It was a most enjoyable evening and the children's performance and behaviour was exemplary.

The David Randall Foundation – Kind Donation

Trustees from the David Randell Foundation have kindly donated Arkel the bear to our school. The



Foundation has been running since 2012 supports people with their ambitions in music and sport and helps people with life limiting illnesses to enjoy life to the full for as long as possible. The children love to cuddle Arkel. Come and meet him in our entrance hall.

Healthy Schools Award

We are really proud of our whole school community to have been awarded the Essex Healthy Schools Enhanced status. The award was presented at an elaborate ceremony, where our pupil representatives were made to feel very special and important indeed.



School Council trip to The Houses of Parliament

Our school councillors in Key stage two joined other school councillors from our Blackwater Partnership for a visit to the Houses of Parliament.



"We met the Rt. Hon. John Whittingdale, MP for Maldon." Charlie G.

"I thought it was really big. We saw someone do a speech in the House of Commons." Tilly.

"It's great to see that the children have the opportunity to see and do things that we didn't get to do as children" Mr Clarke.

"I learned that on the day that the Queen comes they have to take a Member of Parliament hostage so they have something to bargain with if something happens to her." Miss Keeble

Sue Dodd (Headteacher)

01245 223264

www.woodhamwalter.essex.sch.uk

Parent & Teacher Association - Tracy Evans



The Christmas Fayre was a huge success raising almost £1000. Festive spirits were high as the children enjoyed Christmas games, crafts, food and sang Carols around the tree. We also had a visit from Father Christmas!

We are planning more events for this year which we would love the community to join us so put a date in your diary for the following:

Once again a big thank you to all the PTA members for their hard work and enthusiasm and to all other staff, parents and local residents who have supported us this year.

There have been changes in the officers of the PTA in the last year and at an EGM in September, Tracey Evans was voted in as Chair, Lucy Walsh was voted in as Treasurer and Kim Dobson as Secretary. Many thanks to Simon Gray who stepped down as Chair after a successful year.

Funds raised by the PTA are used to purchase vital additional resources for the school and improvements such as security glass which is to soon be fitted in school's reception.

Every child is bought a Bible, school tracksuits are subsidised as well as contributing to the cost of school trips. Also, fun treats for the pupils such as chocolate eggs at Easter, a pantomime at Christmas and every child receives a Christmas present each year.

We have held several fundraising events this year. Movie Night — The children enjoyed a film after school, with popcorn and drinks, raising £150

St Andrew's Day/St David's Day/St Patrick's Day – Everyone came to school dressed in the colour that represents the country on each day, paid £1 and will be doing the same on St George's Day. This will have raised approx. £350

The Rose Ball Saturday 27th May 7pm – 11.30pm at The Generals Arms in Little Baddow. Live Rat Pack singer, glass of fizz and buffet. Tickets £20 each and available from the school office.

Charity Bridge Luncheon Friday 19th May - 2 course lunch and plenty of bridge played, submit a duo/ four.

Jumble Sale Saturday 24th June at Danbury Village Hall

Summer Fete on Sunday 16th July – a traditional fun day with the theme this year of Tropical Island

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

Zig Zag Lines

Woodham Walter Parish Council are currently putting together an application to extend the Zig Zag lines opposite the end of Top Road, in front of Tadpoles Nursery.

This is to improve the safety for motorists and pedestrians. We need to show that we have support for this proposal.

Please email your comments to: parishclerk@woodhamwalterpc.org

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

The 'Friends' support the Church in two fundamental ways – by providing people power and by funding professional help where our own knowledge or skills are not appropriate for the task.

Looking back over the years I think that we can be proud of the improvements that we have been involved with:-

- A new gate and refurbished fencing
- The new toilet block and alternative access to the building
- The new kitchen facility
- Improved access to the main entrance and associated pathways
- Redecoration of the interior of the building and the vestry
- Repairs to the windows
- Repairs to historic graves
- Repairs of and an extension to the Memorial Wall

In addition to these activities we have organised a number of working parties (typically 2 to 3) per year to provide general maintenance, cleaning and repair

of the Church building and grounds.

Looking forward there is a number of items that we plan to support:-

- The installation of lighting to the path leading up to the church (this is likely to involve a working party to bury the electrical supply cable)
- Repairs to the brickwork of the 'shed'
- Improvements to the floodlighting inside the church
- Ongoing actions to try to resolve the damp problems in the southeast corner of the church

All of this involves manpower and/or financial support and we are very grateful to our members for their ongoing commitment.

Please contact me if you would like to join our ranks.

Brian Cumming

Chairman and Membership Secretary

Bus Services for Woodham Walter

The village is currently served by two buses, the 31A Monday-Friday and Saturday and the No.5 on Thursdays.

The current timetable is available on the noticeboard outside the Old Chapel Stores and on the Parish Council website:

www.essexinfo.net/woodhamwalter-pc

Further information on bus services can be found at www.essexhighways.org/Getting-Around/bus.aspx and timetables are available at: www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk

We are however, awaiting the outcome of the recent Essex County Council Bus Network Review which was consulting on the withdrawal of the No.31A Monday to Friday. When we know the results (due in May) we will advise through the Parish Magazine and on the website.



Tadpoles Nursery - Pam Seear

Another busy and productive year for everyone at Tadpoles! September was busy settling the new children and welcoming back all our old Tadpoles. After all our school preparations, which included having school lunches with the children at Woodham Walter school and practising P.E in the school hall, our older children finally started at their 'Big schools'. Many of course we still see as they pass on their way to school in the morning.

At the end of the summer term we visited Barleylands for our outing which everyone enjoyed, this included a tractor ride and a session with the snakes!!

We also had a visit from 'Wild science' in the nursery they brought with them lots of interesting animals and creatures including a giant African millipede who because he was so long had two hearts!



Christmas as usual was a busy but fun packed time for us. As always, we performed our Nativity in the school hall and father Christmas visited at our party.

The school also invited us to see the pantomime which was performed by a travelling group, all the children really enjoyed this and thoroughly enjoyed joining in with the shouting and songs.

Again, we have been regularly visiting the church and been entertained by Viv, Arthur, Angela and Kathy, we also met Julie who is new to the church and as her roots are in a nursery environment we found we had a lot in common with.

Kathy also still comes in to read to the children on a regular basis which the children really look forward to, in fact she is referred to by the children as 'Café'.

Our themed weeks have continued this year with many happy events. The children really enjoyed our 'People we love week' as part of the week we baked cakes and then invited the 'People we love' to share them with us.

This winter we made our own vegetable soup which was a very popular snack with most of the children, everyone enjoyed chopping the vegetables and the soup was very delicious.



We continue to enjoy our walks around the village particularly stopping at Bell Meadow to collect interesting things to take back to Tadpoles.

In February we had a much awaited visit from Ofsted, who gave a very strong Good, they were very complementary saying,

'Children enjoy their time at the nursery. They are greeted by caring adults who provide smiles and reassuring words to help them settle quickly into their nursery day'
'Children are very well prepared for their next stages of learning, including starting school'

As we start this last summer term we have lots to look forward to and lots planned, so watch this space!

If you would like to visit or have any questions please contact Pam on 01245 222046 or the nursery on 01245 222711 or visit our website

www.thetadpolesnursery.co.uk



Neighbourhood Watch - Brian Cumming



During the year I attended a number of Neighbourhood Watch meetings in Maldon as the Woodham Walter representative.

Maldon is a low crime area and here in Woodham Walter we are fortunate enough to have even lower crime rates than Maldon. However, this is not a crime-free area and we do need to maintain vigilance.

Over the year we have seen thefts from outbuilding and thefts of heating oil, and I (and others) still regularly receive calls from indi-

viduals who wish to 'help' me to sort out problems with my computer. I have written many times about threats from cold callers and the internet and this does seem to be the main potential source of problems for us.

I used to get regular crime reports from Maldon Police and these were a good source of information on current issues and things to watch out for. However these reports became infrequent and were not always timely. In recent years the Essex Community Messaging service has been a much more effective source of information; it is convenient to use and available to all; please take a look at their website at

www.essexcommunitymessaging.org. You can select the types of information that you wish to receive and how that information will be sent to you. It is a very

good way for the police to spread information quickly around the community and support crime prevention activity. For example; if a person or a vehicle is reported to have been seen behaving in a suspicious manner then an alert can be swiftly circulated increasing awareness and raising the chances of the police being able to successfully intervene. I would recommend members of our local community signing up for this service; it is free, you can select relevant information, you don't get bombarded with junk mail and it just might lead to someone getting their comeuppance! Finally, as always, please keep your eyes and ears open and your mobile phone handy; ring the police straight away using 999 if you suspect something criminal is happening.

ESSEX COMMUNITY MESSAGING

Keep up to date with local crime and community information

ESSEX POLICE
Protecting and serving Essex



Keep informed about policing and community safety issues which affect you

Sign up for free at essex.police.uk/ecm to receive accurate and up-to-date crime, community safety information and crime prevention advice from Essex Police, the Essex Police and Crime Commissioner and Neighbourhood Watch to help keep your community safe

Choose to receive these messages via email or the app, and for more urgent matters via text or voice-recording

Select what information you would like to receive – based on where you live, work, go to school or socialise.

Play an active role in helping to keep crime down in your community whilst keeping up to date with what's going on around you.

More information about Essex Community Messaging can be found on the Essex Police website at www.essex.police.uk/ecm where you can also sign up to receive messages.

Alternatively, scan this QR code with a smartphone



Community Speed Watch



In Woodham Walter we are part of the Community Speed Watch initiative where members of the community join together with the support of Essex Police, Essex County Fire & Rescue Service and the Safer Essex Roads Partnership to monitor speeds of vehicles using a speed detection device. Vehicles exceeding the speed limit are referred to the Police with the aim of educating drivers to reduce their speeds through our village.

The scheme aims to cater for the problem of real or perceived speed related offending, and through partnership with the community it is used in order to:

- Reduce death and injury on the roads
- Improve the quality of life for local communities
- Reduce the speed of vehicles to the speed limit
- Increase public awareness of inappropriate speed

Our speed detection equipment has recently been recalibrated and we now plan to start doing some more sessions in the village.

Parish Clerk Jacky who coordinates the scheme in Woodham Walter, recently attended a meeting at the Essex Fire and Rescue centre in Kelvedon. There was lots of positive information including the fact that the project is receiving relevant priority from Essex Police and the EFRS have now joined forces to help administer the scheme. For more information or to volunteer please email Jacky Bannerman.

The Parish Council is still pursuing the application for a Speed Indicator Device for the village and hope that this can be achieved some time this year.

parishclerk@woodhamwalterpc.org

30mph Wheelie Bin Stickers

These stickers have been supplied by Woodham Walter Parish Council. Discussion concluded that although on the one hand a proliferation of signs would not improve the design aspect of the village and could be considered to be unsightly, this is outweighed by the perceived benefits. It is acknowledged that to have best effect the bins should not be left out.

Research shows that the stickers are most effective when they appear occasionally – i.e. in

Woodham Walter they should appear for 1 day a fortnight if they are on the black wheelie bins or 1 day a week if they are on the green bins.

They are for properties in the 30mph zone: Rectory Road, The Street, Herbage Park Road, Oak Farm Road, Little Baddow Road.

The stickers will be available for collection at the Annual Parish Meeting or by emailing the parish clerk.

parishclerk@woodhamwalterpc.org



PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY

smartwheelie.co.uk

Community Agent - Jan Hawkins



Supporting independent living

Community Agents provide support to vulnerable older people and their informal carers within their own communities. It is an Essex-wide project with a dedicated Community Agent covering Woodham Walter.

Many of the people that Community Agents help are seeking information and advice. Others want to know how to maximise their income or assistance with continuing to live independently. Most enquiries come from the 75-84 age group.

With the support of Community Agents more than 94% of the people who contacted them in the past year are still living independently in their own homes.

This valuable community project is being delivered in a partnership between Essex County Council, the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE), British Red Cross, Age UK Essex and Neighbourhood Watch Essex (NhWE).

Community Agents is a FREE service. It is effective and responsive, with initial visits normally arranged within two working days of first enquiry.

Agents are local people who are easy to talk to and a fountain of knowledge about how to access services/benefits, and local clubs and groups to help combat feelings of loneliness.

Community Agents can provide information on things like community transport, emergency care planning and benefits. They can also arrange for home adaptations such as grab rails in bathrooms/bedrooms, handrails for the staircase, MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE containing all emergency information in case of illness, and much more advice and support about clubs and organisations that can help connect people back into their local communities.

To find out more or to arrange a free visit from a Community Agent please call: 0800 977 5858 or 01376 574341. Alternatively email: enquiries@caessex.org.uk or visit:

www.communityagentsessex.org.uk



In partnership with



BritishRedCross



Funded by



Woodham Walter Parish Council - Party Tents for Hire

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 (Mon-Fri before 6pm)

parishclerk@woodhamwalterpc.org



Income from the party tents forms an important part of Parish Council funding. Last year we raised £700 in hiring income.

Broadband

Last year the Parish Council decided to form a Broadband Working Group, the aim of which is to explore all options for Broadband service improvement in the Village.

To date there have been two meetings where various options were reviewed and the decision taken to distribute an update leaflet which was delivered in January 2017

The current position is that things should be a lot clearer by the end of this summer when we will know the true impact of the Superfast Essex backed scheme (scheduled for completion in June/July 2017) to bring faster speeds to the centre of the village. It is unfortunately very difficult to be precise about the numbers of households that will see an uplift in broadband speeds from the information available at the current time, in spite of much scruti-

ny on our part! The maps available on the Superfast Essex website appear to have a number of anomalies.

We have received notification of road closures for Spring Elms Lane/Little Baddow Road to enable BT Openreach to conduct cabling works, this is from 5th – 30th June; our hope is that this is to route fibre cables for the Superfast Scheme in to the village for those on the Danbury Exchange (01245 numbers), so this is encouraging for some properties. We have also recently received notification for the installation of high speed broadband cabinets at Tom Tit Lane which is encouraging for properties in this vicinity.

We are hoping that there may be news on a similar provision from the Maldon end of things before too long (01621 numbers).

The Broadband working group is closely monitoring the outcome of this latest development as until then its impossible to know what will be in place. The group will then be in a position to explore community partnership funded options with providers if required. It's highly likely that there will be in excess of 75 properties that could still fall outside the currently planned schemes.

Our thanks to Graham Bannerman and John Brown who have been pulling together all the information and especially to John for his excellent technical expertise and for the recently published Woodham Walter Broadband Parish Update that was delivered earlier this year.

To keep up to date send us a short email to broadband@woodhamwalterpc.org

Telephone Box



Did you know that Woodham Walter Parish Council have applied to adopt the classic red phone box in the village for just £1 and turn it into ... well, that's up to you.

Since BT launched the Adopt a Kiosk scheme, more than 3500 communities across the UK have seized the opportunity to

do something wonderful with local phone boxes that had little or no usage. Our phone box only had 2 calls made in the last year.

BT are giving communities the opportunity to get back in touch with their local phone box, to make them once again an asset that local people can enjoy.

Thousands of people around the UK have already come up with a fantastic array of ideas to re-use their local phone box. For instance, many communities have:

- Installed defibrillators so that the iconic red kiosk can remain a lifeline for

the community.

- Created mini-shops and cafes
- Transformed into art galleries, showcasing the work of local artists.
- Created libraries for the community to share their books.
- Provided maps of local walks and tourist information.

So what should we do with our local phone box?

Come along to the Annual Parish Meeting on 27th April and let us know or email the parish clerk: parishclerk@woodhamwalterpc.org

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: parishclerk@woodhamwalterpc.org
 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

Joanna Symons - Chairman &
 Primary School Community Governor

James Rushton - Vice Chairman &
 Allotment Association

James Bunn - Parish Councillor

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

Jenny Hughes - Parish Councillor

John Tompkins - Parish Councillor &
 Village Design Statement

Peter Warren - Parish Councillor, Footpath
 & Tree Officer



Parish Council Meetings

Woodham Walter Parish Council meets at 8pm on the second Monday of the month, usually at the 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 2017/18

10th April 2017

27th April 2017 (APM at Village Hall)

8th May 2017 (AGM)

12th June 2017

10th July 2017

August—we only meet if there is a planning application to consider—see noticeboard or website.

11th September 2017

9th October 2017

13th November 2017

11th December 2017

8th January 2018

12th February 2018

12th March 2018

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 (Thursday 27th 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: parishclerk@woodhamwalterpc.org