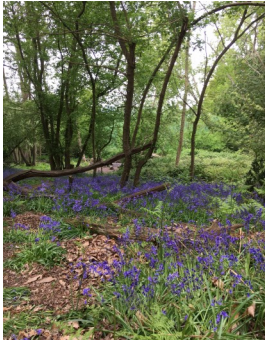


Woodham Walter Annual Report 2017-18

WOODHAM WALTER ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

APRIL 2018



Parish Council Chairman
Councillor Joanna Symons

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Woodham Walter Parish Council

From the Chairman...

Welcome again from me, Joanna Symons, the Chairman of Woodham Walter Parish Council. I am coming to the end of my second year in this role, and will very shortly stand down to make way for a new incumbent.

The composition of the Council has altered slightly this year. Mark Durham retired after many years on the Parish Council to concentrate on his District and County Councillor duties. He was replaced by John Brown. The other councillors making up the team are John Tompkins (Vice Chairman) James Bunn, James Rushton, Jenny Hughes, 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 ded-

ication, the Council would most definitely not be able to function effectively. Jacky has been in the role for over 11 years, in which time the workload has greatly intensified, with Jacky receiving a constant flow of emails, phone calls and correspond-

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.



Woodham Walter Parish Councillors

ence, 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 Chair. Jacky

This year's Annual Parish Meeting is on Monday 16th 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.

Annual Parish Meeting - Monday 16th April 2018

All Woodham Walter residents are invited to attend the

Annual Parish Meeting

On Monday 16th April at 8pm

At Woodham Walter Village Hall, Rectory Road.

- Matters Arising from Annual Parish Reports
- Presentation from Community Protection Team
- Presentation from Playground Working Party
- Public Forum



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. John Tompkins advises us on the Village Design Statement (VDS) having been a key member of the (VDS) committee who steered the project forward to finally getting the document approved as a material planning consideration. Peter Warren is our Footpaths and Tree Officer, and diligently reports on any damage or problems relating to our footpaths that may need attention. James Rushton oversees the Allotments Association, Jenny Hughes is now the Parish Council representative sitting on the Bell Meadow Village Association committee and regularly keeps us updated on plans for the next Bell Meadow Day, John Brown keeps abreast of Broadband issues, John Tompkins and I sit on the Playground Working group 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 specific Governor duties.

Due to insurance and security issues it was formally agreed towards the end of last year to close the School playground as a community facility. It had hitherto been open to the community for a limited time after

school, at weekends, and in school holidays. As a result of this, the Parish Council formed a Working Party to look into the possibility of creating a playground on Bell Meadow. The Working Party has now met three times. A questionnaire was distributed to all households and to the School and Tadpoles, as other interested parties, in January, about the possibility of creating a new playground.

There was a 30% response rate, and 88% of the returns indicated that a community playground would be an asset to the village. Thus at the latest Working Party meeting it was decided to proceed to the next stage, and to form a sub-group to look into the next stage of inviting three selected suppliers to put forward proposals and costings. Once all the proposals and costs have been received, the Parish Council will support an exhibition to facilitate a full public consultation before any major decisions are taken

Mark Durham and Henry Bass are our Maldon District Councillors who regularly attend our monthly meetings, both are able to update Councillors on developments within the Maldon District. We also very often have an 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 such things 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 a Parish Council has been to be part of the consultation process for planning applications. For many years, we have consulted with nearby neighbours on any new applications received, and after discussions at our meetings, we make our recommendations to Maldon District Council for inclusion in their deliberations. Sometimes an applicant for a planning application is present at the relevant Parish Council Meeting, where during the Public Forum at the beginning of the meeting, they can make representations about their application. The Parish Council had the power to demand a debate if they had requested that a planning application be rejected, but an officer had recommended it for approval. This is called the Parish Trigger.

However the Trigger was removed completely by Maldon District Council in November 2017, and under the new rules, only District Councillors can trigger a debate. This was part of a raft of cost saving measures by the Council, as each Parish Trigger required that an additional report be prepared and presented, and it was claimed that this wasted time, and thus more Parish and Town Councils will now have to convince District Ward Members to call for a debate on any planning application, where the Parish Council disagrees with a Planning Officer.

Woodham Walter Parish Council - Chairman, Joanna Symons

Many local Parish Councils in the area, including Woodham Walter Parish Council, have been dismayed by this decision about the change to the Parish Trigger and have written to Maldon District Council (MDC) to say that they consider this to be a diminution of the democratic rights of a local elected body to the extent that the Parish Council will become of no consequence in the planning procedure. The Parish Council considers all planning applications with great care and responds to MDC on the prescribed form, giving sound planning reasons for any objections. We also feel, along with other Parish Councils in the area, that this does not fit well with the Government's localism agenda, as Parish Councils are the most local part of the democratic system.

Another major concern to Woodham Walter Parish Council is that MDC will no longer be providing paper copies of planning applications. Woodham Walter is a very poor Broadband area, as we all know, and so we are often severely restricted gaining access to these important documents, and there are some residents without access to a computer. It is also very difficult to read these documents online, with the detail in the plans often being too small to read.

Both of these changes are cost saving measures for MDC, and whilst we appreciate that local government is under severe pressure to make savings, we are very disappointed that despite our protests, that it seems very unlikely that either of these important changes (that we consider to be extremely detrimental to us), will be changed back. We are continuing however to make our protestations.

Planning Summary 2017/2018

Total Applications: 32 (to 19/3/18)

Decision contrary to WWPC: 2

Parish Council Recommendations

Support	21
Object	4
Comments	7

MDC Decisions

Approve	20
Refuse	5
Await Decision	3
Withdrawn	4

The following types of applications were considered:

TPO/Tree	3
Claims for Lawful Development Certificates	4
Change of use from agricultural to residential	3
Change of use from agricultural to office	2
Extension/Alteration/Outbuilding	1
Extension	1
Tennis Court	1
Alterations to Listed Buildings	4
Agricultural	1
Residential Development	1
New outbuilding	5
Extension/alterations to clubhouse	2
Illuminations	2
Communications Pole	1
Reserved matters re: New dwelling	1

We also objected to the major application for houses just outside the village at Runsell Green which has now been refused by Chelmsford City Council.

In the past year we have held 2 additional extraordinary meetings in order to discuss specific planning applications, where the deadline for comment, would have been before or after our normal meeting.

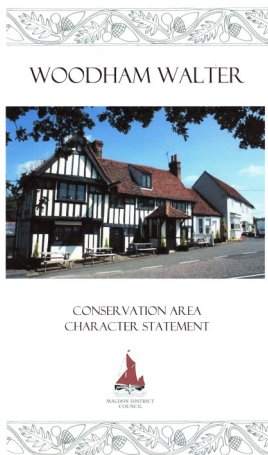
In September the Parish Council hosted a Village Design Statement launch event. After several years of hard work by the VDS committee we were pleased that the document was finally adopted by Maldon District Council as a material consideration in the planning process. The document provides guidance to householders, designers and developers on design acceptable to the community. It will help to protect important or historic buildings, open spaces and local character and assist the Parish Council and District Council in determining planning applications in line with community views.



VDS Team with Parish Councillors and District Councillor Henry Bass

I urge you to consult the VDS in the early stages of considering any planning applications or development work including that which does not require planning permission. The document is well written and very readable and informative.

Woodham Walter Parish Council - Chairman, Joanna Symons



The Woodham Walter Conservation Area was also adopted by Maldon District Council and will further protect the central area of the village. Conservation areas are ‘Areas of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance’

The Woodham Walter Conservation Area character appraisal or statement, summarises the area’s special character and appearance and makes recommendations for its appropriate preservation and enhancement. The Conservation Area and Village Design Statement documents are

available to view on the Woodham Walter Parish Council and Maldon District Council websites and there are copies kept at St Michael’s Church.

The annual litter pick took place in the village on February 24th, and 26 bags of litter were collected by 12 volunteers. Many thanks to Colin Warner for collecting the bags and storing the litter. A big thank you to



the people taking part on the day, and to others around the parish who regularly clean their roads throughout the year, in an attempt to keep the village looking clean and tidy.

The Parish Council decided not to purchase a Speed Indicator Device for the village and instead will be using the funds set aside for the

Community Protection Team who carry out TruCAM patrols. It was decided that this would be better value for money and it is hoped that villagers notice a reduction in speeding through the village.

From April 2018, the CPT, who are part of MDC, will visit our Parish for



up to four hours a month, to deal with any antisocial behavior, dog fouling, fly tipping and TruCAM Speeding Patrols, as directed by the Parish Council in accordance with Council procedures.

I have enjoyed my two years as Chairman, and now look forward to continuing working with you in years to come, but under the leadership of a new Chairman.

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 £500 in hiring income.

Village Design Statement Working Group – David Beattie



Representatives of the Village Design Statement (VDS) Working Group and Woodham Walter Parish Council met with members of the Maldon District Council (MDC) Planning and Policy Team on 18th May 2017 with the objective of finalising the draft VDS which had been approved by the Parish Council at their May 2016 meeting. As a result of the meeting, a few minor adjustments were made to the document, resulting in final endorsement by the District Council Planning and Licensing Committee on 13th June 2017.

The endorsed Woodham Walter Village Design Statement was formally launched at an event at the Village Hall on 26th September 2017 attended by residents, the VDS Working Group, Parish Council and representatives of MDC and the Rural Community Council for Essex.

The VDS, which is based on the needs and views of village residents, is now a material planning consideration and sits alongside the MDC Local Development Plan and National Planning Policy Framework. This means that Planning Officers, when assessing planning applications, must take its contents into consideration when making planning decisions relevant to Woodham Walter; it is a tool to assist both the Parish and District Councils. Its objectives are numerous, but the principal ones are to guide anyone (residents, designers, builders) undertaking any type of building work, on design, including setting and materials and to assist in protecting and managing the historic environment of the village and its surrounding landscape.

The VDS can be viewed on the Parish website at www.essexinfo.net/woodhamwalter-pc



and hard copies are available from the Parish Clerk. Monthly articles based on the various elements of the VDS (extensions, roofs, dormers, windows, materials, landscaping, lighting, special character elements, boundaries, garages) feature in the Parish Magazine. Any enquiries arising from the VDS should in the first instance be directed to the Clerk.



Our VDS is the result of over four years work by the Working Group and the input of the numerous people who are acknowledged on the document's last page. As Chairman of the Working Group I would like to thank all of these people and finally, of course, the residents of our lovely village, without who's views and comments none of this would have been possible.

David Beattie. Chairman.

Committee Members: Keith Amato, James Nolan, Ken Rennie, John Tompkins.

Parish Clerk's Report — Jacky Bannerman



Woodham Walter Parish Council is the first tier of local government and represents the interests of the village.

7 councillors represent the parish of Woodham Walter. Elections are held every 4 years, the next one takes place in 2019. 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. The clerk position is a paid one but 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 is currently the Chairman, it has been a pleasure to work with her.

The Parish Council is responsible for maintaining Bell Meadow and a number of grass verges and hedges, the street lighting and the general care and upkeep of the village. The council are a consultee in the planning process. Although the system for planning responses has changed recently comments made are still considered by Planning Officers and District Councillors during the decision-making process.

During 2017/18 we provided community funding to local organisations to help with maintenance including Women's Club (£171), Village Hall Association (£231) and St Michael's Church (£218). We also make an annual grant to the Essex Wildlife Trust (£121) towards their work managing Woodham Walter Common.

Parish Councils are funded principally by an annual precept. Income and expenditure for the next financial year are calculated and this is added to the council tax collected by MDC

and paid to Woodham Walter Parish Council annually. Councillors have agreed that the precept requirement for Woodham Walter in 2018/19 will be £15,601.00 which works out at £57.91 per Band D property for the year.

Expenditure last year included £315 on the Village Design Statement including printing and the launch event in September. £320 on bags and other parts for the Party Tents – these still provide a good income (£500 last year). £492 on a Councillor Training course given by the Essex Association of Local Councils and on several courses attended by the Clerk including Risk Assessment and Data Protection. We are expecting some expenditure on the new GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) which come into effect in May this year and the Parish Council has to appoint a Data Protection Officer – this is likely to be a service offered by Maldon District Council with a cost to the Parish.

We spent £1 on adopting the telephone kiosk outside the Old Chapel Stores (Tadpoles Nursery). Soon BT will be removing the telephony equipment and we are delighted that St Michael's Church are progressing well with their fundraising campaign for a defibrillator which will be housed in the telephone box.

This year there are plans for expenditure on the Community Protection Team (see page 29) with a budget of £2000, the team are due to visit the village for up to 4 hours per month. We have set aside a budget of £1000 towards the possible new playground on Bell Meadow.

The Parish Council has recently gained permission to carry out works to the Memorial Garden. This is the strip of grass running down the outside of Bell Meadow opposite the Church and Bell. Trees will be maintained and we are going to remove

the bush which obstructs visibility turning out of Little Baddow Road. We will then plant a couple of trees in order to mark the 2018 Centenary of the end of World War I.

Woodham Walter 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 Community Speed Watch team will be up and running again now the weather is improving. This project will continue to run as well as the new Community Protection Team who will be carrying out TruCAM monitoring which results in prosecution.

I send out a village email from time to time with information relevant to villagers—such as changes to refuse collection during snowy weather, road closures plus any other matters of local interest that we think should be shared with the village.

If you would like to be included on the village email for local information please send me your email address parishclerk@woodhamwalterpc.org

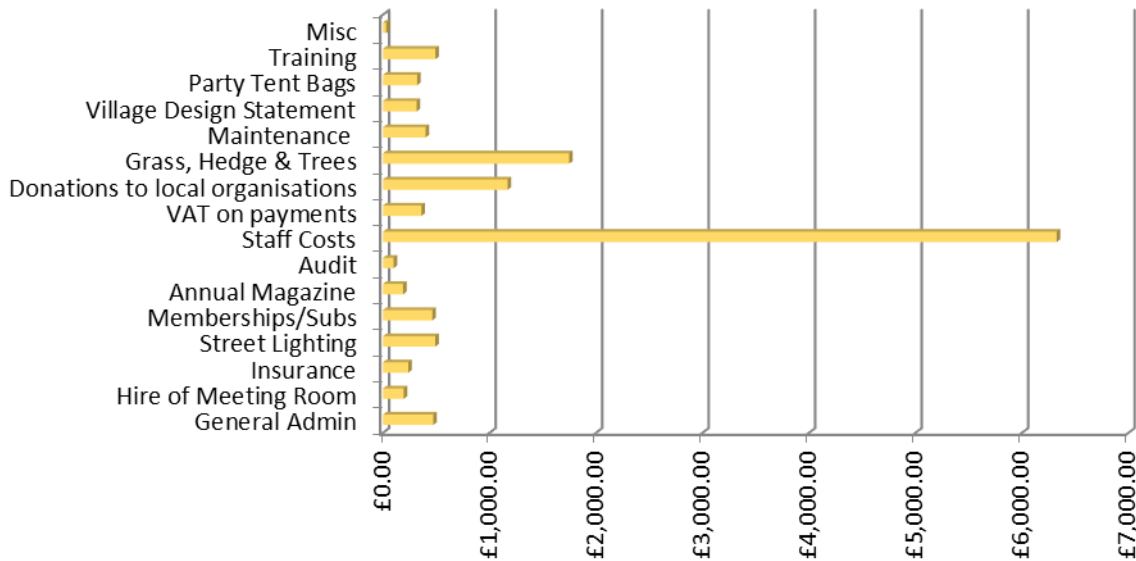
Find out more about Woodham Walter Parish Council from its website www.essexinfo.net/woodhamwalter-pc



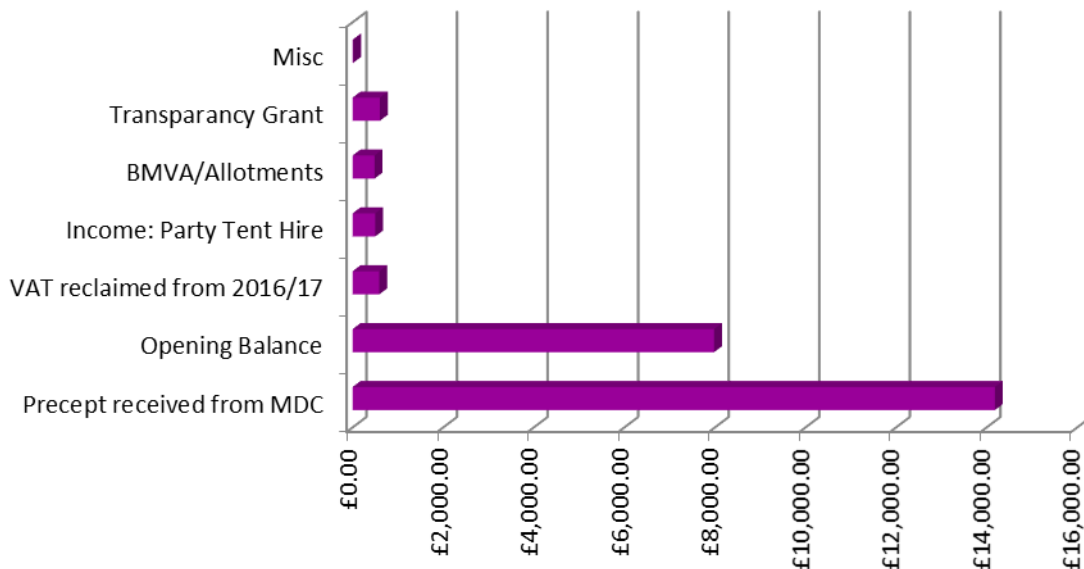
Woodham Walter Parish Council - Financial Overview

All Parish Councils have to adhere to the Transparency Code. Information is available on the Parish Council website so that parishioners can view financial documents, agendas and minutes in order to meet the governments desire to place more power into citizens hands to increase democratic accountability. Transparency gives local people the tools and information they need to hold local public bodies to account. So have a look at the Parish Council website and see what you think! www.essexinfo.net/woodhamwalter-pc

Expenditure 2017/18 Total: £13,315.73 Closing Balance: £11,042.20



Income & Opening Balances 2017/18 Total: £24,357.93





District Councillor—Mark Durham



The last year has been another one with high and low points, both for the district council and myself as your elected member. May 2017 saw local elections for the county council and I was to be found walking the streets canvassing most days through April and early May. I was fighting for the Heybridge and Tollesbury division previously held by Rodney Bass. During one of my door knocking sessions in Goldhanger, the Prime Minister called the general election for late June. Having been successfully elected to Essex County Council, myself and many other colleagues were back on the canvassing trail. I was appointed as a deputy cabinet member of ECC for Culture, Communities and Customer which is quite a wide portfolio, but very interesting and varied.

In April, I was also elected as Leader of Maldon District Council, which is a great honour, but also a tough and time consuming role. I am fortunate enough to have the time and at the moment, the energy to do all of these and with some time to spare for my family!

There is no doubt that local government is facing its most difficult time at the moment, with spending as a percentage of GDP by central government on local government at its lowest since 1945. Currently district and county councils receive grants from central government to supplement the income they receive from council tax and a proportion of business rates. This is known as The Rate

Support Grant, but it was announced a couple of years ago that it would be abolished in 2020 in favour of a scheme that would allow local councils the ability to use local taxes to fund themselves. This would be in the form of a retention of the business rates that are currently passed onto central government. Initially it was expected that councils would be able to keep 100% of the rates they collect, but it is now more likely to be only 75%. However, due to the delicate power balance at Westminster, the act that was required to bring this into law has not been passed. At this stage, local government is still uncertain about where its funding will come from after 2020. This is a major concern given that since the austerity period started ten years ago, the RSG has been gradually cut year on year. Maldon District Council has seen its grant reduced from £5.6m to £2.2m in 2019/20 which will clearly have significant impact on how the authority runs. There have been many cost & efficiency savings, as well as other measures to close the widening funding gap each year. MDC is fortunate that through prudent financial management it has been able to protect all of the key services to its residents, but we are now at the point where any further funding reductions are likely to have a more severe impact. In the current financial year it has been possible to achieve a balanced budget, but for the next two years there will be a deficit of over £1.4m. Although Maldon District Council has a level of reserve funds that could cover this gap, it would not be prudent to spend this money simply to balance the books. It has therefore been decided that a full study into how the council operates and how it structures its processes has been commissioned in order to ascertain whether it is organised in the best way to achieve its objectives. There have already been a number of councils who have gone through this process and many have been able to transform their organisation, close their funding gap and maintain front line services. This project has just started at Maldon and we should

receive the first report by the end of April. In the meantime, we are looking hard at how we can save money in order to reduce any potential impact to our residents.

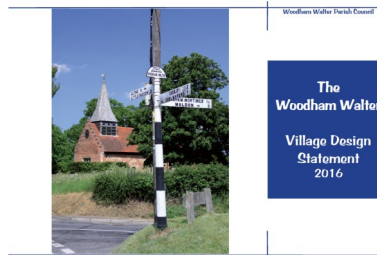
Parish councils have been one of the tiers of local government that have not been subject to fiscal measures by the government and it is expected that in the future, more tasks currently carried out by the upper tiers will be devolved down to parishes. Some of the efficiency measures that have been introduced by the district council have had an impact on parish councils, particularly in the way that the planning system is operated. District councils are the authorities who determine planning applications (LPA) and parish councils are generally included as consultees in this process. However parish councils are not statutory consultees and the law currently states that the LPA is only obliged to advise parish councils if they make a specific request to be notified. However MDC will continue to advise all parish councils each week about all of the applications that are validated in the district. In the past, planning applications had to be submitted in paper form, with several copies of the plans that were circulated to the various consultees. This is no longer the case, as most applications are now submitted electronically direct to the LPA. This has made it very expensive and time consuming to print them for circulation to parish councils and as a result, paper copies will no longer be provided. All of the documents are available to see or download from the council website and some parishes elect to print them off to help with their discussions. Parishioners can help their parish clerks by looking up any plans that they wish to see directly from the website, so that the clerk does not need to print out off paper copies. Any property that has a planning application submitted will have a notice pinned outside, so residents can then use the reference number on the notice to search for the details online.

District Councillor—Mark Durham

Another efficiency measure that has been introduced to streamline the planning process is removal of the so called 'parish trigger'. There has been quite some discussion about this and a good deal of misunderstanding. This 'trigger' was simply a method that automatically directed a planning application for determination by a committee of members, rather than a decision by a professional planning officer. There were several problems with this and as a result it was common place that many applications ended up being sent to the planning committees unnecessarily. This was an expensive process and Maldon DC was almost the only council to operate such an archaic system. Parish Councils are still a key part of the planning process and they can still request a particular application to be sent to committee, but this is now done by asking the ward member to 'call in' each case individually. Early indications are that this has reduced the number of routine cases having to be presented at a committee, but still ensuring those applications that may be contentious get referred upwards. National government has given a target for LPA's that 80% of all planning applications should be determined by officers under delegated powers and this step is the only way that we can meet this objective.

The district council works very hard to deliver its services and the new waste collection regime seems to have been widely accepted and is working well. Our recycling rates have literally gone through the roof, moving us from nearly the bottom of the league table to second across the county. Our parks and leisure facilities are admired nationwide and we have an active program of events across the district. There are many challenges for us in addition to the funding uncertainty. The government has fixed strict targets for the delivery of new homes across the country and Maldon is not exempt from this. We do however have a local plan that has been agreed with The Secretary of State which lists the areas that will receive development, the number of

houses, traveller sites, employment areas and infrastructure. The LDP does not however mean that every application that isn't totally in line with every policy will be refused, as we are obliged to treat each case on its merits.



In 2017, Woodham Walter parish council saw its Village Design Statement adopted by MDC. This was the culmination of a great deal of work by the parish team and the final result is a comprehensive and useful document that should help to ensure that the appearance of the village is protected.

One of the most significant things that has been developed by the district council recently is the Community Protection Team. This has grown from the old park rangers and is now a service that is being regarded as a model across the country. The team are now uniformed and carry body-cams at all times whilst they are on duty. They carry out parking enforcement in car parks and roadsides, tackle antisocial behaviour, dog fouling, fly posting, littering, speeding on the estuary and since the start of this year, they are able to carry out speed enforcement. We are the first authority in the country to have civil officers able to issue speeding penalties. We use a new device called Trucam which takes a high definition photograph of the vehicle with details of speed & location. This can even be used for drivers not wearing seat belts or using a mobile phone while driving. Since being introduced we have forwarded literally hundreds of reports to Essex Police who process the data and issue the penalty notices.

Contrary to popular belief, this is not simply a money making exercise, as none of the fines end up with the district council, it does however help to make our district safer for everyone.

This last week, we have been host to representatives from across the country who attended a meeting of authorities that have existing or new nuclear power stations in their area. Known as the NNLG, the purpose of the annual conference is to hear about developments in the nuclear industry and to discuss the new facilities that are being built. By sharing information we can ensure that we gain the benefit of valuable knowledge from those councils who are ahead of us. The proposed new power station in Bradwell has moved a few stages nearer reality, with work having commenced on ground studies late last year. The design for the new type of reactor is being assessed by the government and it is envisaged that work could start on site in about five years if all of the necessary permissions are successful. It is accepted that not everyone is happy to see the development of new nuclear facilities, but we have seen from Hinckley Point the scale of community benefits that could be achieved from the project.

It remains an honour to represent residents of the Wickham Bishops & The Woodhams at Maldon District Council. I am always happy to hear from parishioners if they have any problems or comments. My contact details are provided in this booklet or available on the MDC website.

CLLR. MFL Durham

Phone: 01245 227249

Mobile: 07850 967239

Email: Cllr.Mark.Durham@maldon.gov.uk

Maldon District Council
Website: www.maldon.gov.uk
Tel: 01621 854477

Woodham Walter Women's Club - Jean Newton



Looking back over the past year Women's Club has enjoyed our monthly meetings some with Speakers, participated in Village events and the Club Room is hired out for various activities to take place, for example the popular monthly Village Lunch on the first Monday of the month. Thank you to Linda Hamilton who prepares and cooks the delicious lunches and a huge thank you to Jacky, Sally and Cathy who serve and wash-up always with big smiles and cheerful greetings.

Fund Raising Events in May we hosted a Cream Tea in the Club Room as I recall the weather was kind to us but not warm enough to place tables outside, nevertheless it was a lovely social occasion. Next was the Flower Festival in July as usual we occupied the Tea Tent, thank you to everyone who bakes cakes, scones and serves teas and coffees, not forgetting the ladies who behind the scenes wash-up collect water and keep the ladies serving in order!!!! A new venture for us at the Flower Festival was Penny's plant stall which generated a lot of interest, members were urged throughout the Spring to take cuttings, sow seeds propagate as many plants as possible. Penny spent many hours identifying and labelling said plants which at times was challenging, thank you to Penny who manned the plant stall over the four day period. At the end of August Bell Meadow Day takes

place Women's Club with our usual Cake and Tombola stall plus we had a few plants to sell which added further interest. Moving on to the Autumn the annual Jumble Sale in Danbury Village Hall is an important fund raiser for us, thank you to the Village Hall team who help us make the event run smoothly. Finally the last fund raiser of the year was a repeat of the "Evening of Magic" which we hosted two years ago. Once again this "Magic Night" was very popular not only with the audience but the Magicians enjoy coming to Woodham Walter they know they will receive a warm welcome.

Other Activities We have been to the Civic Theatre in Chelmsford twice this year the first time was last March when we saw a Cole Porter musical "Anything Goes" and again in September another musical the rock 'n roll musical comedy inspired by Elvis Presley. And why break the habit, we have tickets to see another musical "West Side Story" in April, which leads me on to the Village Revue rather nicely. The club dance team participated in the Revue with a lively disco dance routine, a huge thank you to Sylvia for her dedication to the choreography and rehearsals to make sure we don't trip over our feet on the night!!!

The Founders Day visit in August was to Butterfields Farm in Latchingdon for tea and a talk on



'Get Ahead Hats' after tea and the talk we were let loose in the Hat Studio to try on some beautiful glamorous hats. What a lovely afternoon.

In October we enjoyed a Fish and Chip supper in the Club Room, sadly our Christmas Celebration in December had to be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions, and sadly the February meeting was also cancelled due to weather conditions forcing the Speaker to cancel. In the New Year the popular post Christmas Lunch at the "Bell" took place, thank you to all at the "Bell" for making us so welcome, and at the January meeting we did a scaled down version of the December Christmas Celebration, the collection in lieu of Christmas cards was donated to the Defribulator fund.

Monthly Meeting Speakers thank you to Gill our Programme Secretary who had arranged a varied programme of speakers ranging from the Gardens of Easton Lodge, The Magic & Beauty of Diamonds, and in July the "Just Us" Singers entertained us with some foot-tapping popular songs

Finally I would like to thank the Committee who have always given the Club and me unstinting support over the past year, and to Club Members who attend the monthly meetings and support the fund raising activities sometimes in adverse weather conditions.

Women's Club meets in the Club Room on the fourth Tuesday every month at 7.30 pm in Top Road, we always welcome guests to our meetings, dates, speakers plus our activities are always in the monthly Parish News.

Woodham Walter's own suffragette

A History of Woodham Walter Women's Club to mark the 2018 Women's Vote Centenary.

The club was formed on August 7th 1906 by a Woodham Walter resident, Mrs Edith Chaplin.

Mrs Chaplin and her husband, the Rev Chaplin, bought a house in Woodham Walter called Bassetts in the early part of the 20th Century, after becoming keen on the area after holidaying in the vicinity.

Edith had a sister called Mary Pyne, a nurse, who had been trained under Florence Nightingale, and when she retired, she bought a house called Gills Farm in Little Baddow presumably to be nearer her sister. The family seems to have had a strong medical tradition. Edith's eldest daughter Ursula was a doctor, her son Henry was working with the West African Medical Staff when he died in Salaga in 1905 while engaged in scientific research in the employment of the Gold Coast Government, and a second daughter married a Prof Gregory, who was a geologist and explorer and lost his life seeking the source of the Amazon. The Gregory's daughter also became a doctor. Thus overall a very interesting family for their time, with several of the women in professional medical jobs.

Not surprisingly in 1906, when Edith was called to the house of a village woman who was in labour, and found there was no one to help her and nothing prepared for the new baby, she decided to call for help from a local American friend of hers, a Mrs Walker, and they both went to this poor mother's rescue. Woodham Walter was (and still is) a small rural village, with the majority of the menfolk at that time, working on the land. Edith and her American friend decided that something must be done to help these village families.

Thus they invited all the women of Woodham Walter to a special tea at the Old Rodney pub in Little Baddow on August 7th 1906, where they introduced the idea of setting up a local club predominantly for local women. Mrs Walker, gave an account of women's clubs in America, and



another local from Little Baddow, Mrs Nicholson, talked about similar clubs that existed in London. It has been found out not surprisingly that Edith Chaplin and her friends had been involved in the non-militant side of the Suffragette Movement, and

all seemed to be well educated and interested in the rights of women. The result of the meeting was that the Woodham Walter Women's Club was formed that day with 80 members, which was remarkable given that the village had a total population of around 406 inhabitants (figure from the 1901 census).

The Club's initial activities seem to have revolved around them having two 'midwifery bags', and giving four shillings (20 pence) to any member when pregnant. However gradually activities extended to talks on Home Nursing, First Aid and Health Care, given mainly by Edith Chaplin's sister Mary Pyne, the ex nurse, and her medical friends. Next they acquired a sewing machine and sewing lessons were added to the proceedings, and members could use the sewing machine to make household articles and clothes for their families. It has to be remembered that most of the village women were dependent on their husband's meagre wages from working on the land, so the loan of a sewing machine must have been a real Godsend! The Club seems to have been a great success, despite some acrimony about payments when these were extended to include 'payment on serious illness'! Some minutes exist from these early meetings, and most are to be lodged with the Essex Record Office, as they provide such an interesting snapshot of the social history of a rural village at the turn of the 20th century.

Meetings were held once a month and regularly attracted about 60 members. They met at first in the local schoolroom, but it became apparent that they needed their own premises, so Edith Chaplin offered the Club 'her house in the garden that had been made for her son', and

where he had painted, so she said that if a suitable piece of land could be obtained, then the club could make it their meeting room. This achieved, the new club house was soon erected, and still stands today. According to the Minute Book, Miss Chapman and Miss Ager, two younger members of the club, volunteered to cycle to Chelmsford to get curtain poles for the windows, as the carrier would not be going to Chelmsford in time for the Club grand opening night, and the motor bus refused to carry them! Despite the hazards of carrying the poles on their bicycles, they succeeded in getting the poles back to the Club Room in time to hang the curtains for opening night!

Edith Chaplin was a keen supporter of the Women's Club until her death at the age of eighty two in 1928, and her portrait still hangs in the club room.

The Women's Club continues to meet once a month and has a flourishing membership of about 35 women, mostly from Woodham Walter, but some from surrounding villages, and from all backgrounds and ages. A yearly programme of varied talks and events are arranged by the Committee, and Founders Day is always celebrated with a special day out. The Club members usually put on a major annual Fundraising event like a Fashion Show, or a Magic Night or an Antiques Evening, and the Clubroom is rented out throughout the year for activities such as Whist Drives, Village Lunch, and other social events, and the Parish Council hold their monthly meetings there too. The Clubroom has also been a focal point for making refreshments for Street Parties, and every year members help out with Bell Meadow Day and the annual Church Flower Festival.

The original aim of the Club was to provide 'care and service in the community', and although over the 111 years or so that have elapsed since its formation, the Club still provides this, albeit with different events and activities, but still with the common thread of community involvement.

Joanna Symons

Bell Meadow Village Association - Mark Durham

The annual report for Bell Meadow day usually contains a lengthy summary of the event which thanks all of those who contributed to the success of the day. It should go without saying that Bell Meadow Day could not happen without the entire team of committee members and volunteers who work very hard to deliver the event. In 2017 this was no exception and I am certain that everyone who attended will have had a highly enjoyable day.

I think that this report would be better served as a reminder of how the event started and how we got to this point. There has been some misunderstanding about these facts and I believe that it is important to put the history straight.

In 2004 Essex & Suffolk Water contacted the parish council to advise them that they were looking to sell Bell Meadow and the adjacent 22 acres of woodland. This had been owned by the water company for many years and the parish rented Bell Meadow each year for a peppercorn rent. This was to be sold as single plot and was to be offered on the open market. The price for the land was well beyond anything that the parish council could afford, so it was possible that another buyer could come forward and the meadow be lost for the village. As the woodland bordered that owned by The Warren Golf Club, the directors were not keen to have another owner adjacent to its property and as a result, they bid for the land themselves. It was their intention that if successful, the smaller portion of Bell Meadow would be gifted to the village after the purchase. Although there were other people interested in purchasing the plot, The Durham family raised the money and a sale was agreed. On hearing about the intention to gift the meadow to the community, the vendors thought that it would be a better public relations exercise for them to give the meadow to the village, so Bell Meadow was separated from the woodland and The Durham family and the water company agreed terms to buy the land to ensure that the meadow was

secured for the village in perpetuity.

In 2005, the parish council decided that it would be fitting to celebrate the acquisition of Bell Meadow and the idea of an event later that year was put forwards. A small team of volunteers worked for several months to arrange this celebration and this was held on August 28th 2005.

The very first Bell Meadow Day was opened by John Durham and the Parish Council Chairman, Irene Chessis. The event was broadly similar to the more recent examples, with a village fete during the afternoon, followed by live music. I can remember the day (well, most of it!) and afterwards as everyone had enjoyed it so much, it was decided to hold a similar event the following year. The rest they say, is history! Since 2005 Bell Meadow Day has been held every August Bank Holiday Sunday and it has gradually grown each year. It is now recognised as one of the most popular attractions, not only for Woodham Walter, but for the wider area too. Each year, it attracts over 2,000 visitors who come along to enjoy the celebration and our special village.

As the event has grown, the demands on the organisers have grown too. Inevitably the costs have increased as well and the overheads to run the show exceed £6,000 per year. Fortunately we have some generous local sponsors and all of the committee and event team are volunteers, without whom it would not be possible to stage the day. For many of them, there is a 12 month involvement and for others, it is just a case of lending a hand over the bank holiday week-end. It doesn't matter how much, or how little any individual contributes, it is all welcome and the entire community should be grateful for their efforts. I have been involved with every Bell Meadow Day since 2005 with this year being the fourteenth. There are a couple of others who have braved every year and every BMD week-end that goes by, we tell each other, "this

will be my last"! By the time we are clearing the last bin bag from the site on the Monday morning, despite the fatigue, we have started to think about how we would miss the camaraderie and agree that "we'll do one more year". I have no doubt that sooner or later, the time will come, but in the meantime, or until someone else comes forward we will continue!

It is our intention to bring about a few changes this year, but still maintain the fundamental format of the show. It is hoped to have a wider variety of live music running during the afternoon, as well as some other attractions. Following a couple of years with our headline band, Jupiter Ray, we will be seeing the disco band, For Funk Sake make a return to the main stage for the finale performance. I am certain that the day will have something for everyone to enjoy and no doubt the party will run well into the evening as always.

Any member of the parish is welcome to put forward ideas for the event and the committee meetings will be advertised on the parish notice board. We will also be overjoyed to see more volunteers over the bank holiday week-end to help put things together, but more importantly, take things down and clear up on Monday.

Bell Meadow Day started life as a single celebration to mark the gifting of the land to the parish, it has now become a regular fixture in the village social calendar and as the chairman of the BMVA, I am still very proud of its legacy and the happiness that it has brought to thousands of people since 2005.

Bell Meadow Day
Sunday 26th August 2018
www.bellmeadowday.co.uk

Bell Meadow Playground Working Party – John Tompkins



At the behest of the Parish Council a Working Party was formed to consider the feasibility of creating a new children's playground following the withdrawal of community use of the School installation.

The Working Party has now met three times. The first meeting decided that it was necessary to establish community interest and the level of likely usage. This was demonstrated by circulating an agreed questionnaire to every household in the Parish as well as to the School and Tadpoles as interested parties. There were 93

questionnaires returned representing a 30%+ return, of which 23 were from the School and Tadpoles. The returns indicate a child village residency of 27 aged up to 16 years and up to 127 regular children visitors. 88% of the returns indicated that a community playground would be a village asset with a 76% encouragement of use. There were 5 negative responses with some expressing concern on costs. It is hoped to display the questionnaire results at the Annual Parish Meeting; in the meantime they are available on the Parish Website.

At its latest meeting, the Working Party considered an illustrated factual report on the questionnaire. It concluded that there was a sufficient positive response to proceed to the next

stage of inviting selected suppliers to put forward proposals and costs for consideration. To this end a sub-group has been formed to instigate negotiations with prospective suppliers and to consider funding. When all the proposals and costs have been submitted it is hoped that the Parish Council will support an exhibition to facilitate a full public consultation before any major decisions are taken.

There will be a short presentation on the latest position and a display of the questionnaire analysis at the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 16th April at 8pm in Woodham Walter Village Hall.

Broadband—John Brown

Over the last year the task of getting better broadband for the village has seen some disappointment and frustration but ends on a very positive development.

BT Openreach

Openreach is the company that provide the infrastructure for your telephones and the associated Internet services. Despite the effort of the councillors and some keen residents the roll out of broadband by them is still an unknown.

There have been indications along Spring Elms Lane and Little Baddow Road, that some work is underway but there is no specific date available from Openreach or Superfast Essex. All we know, along with many



other villages in Essex, is that the target for them all to be completed is by December 2019.

Those properties with Maldon phone numbers currently have no timescale at all. The general area is included in the next tender package for works but there will be no detailed information until after September 2018 when the tender responses are due.

We have investigated funding the infrastructure ourselves, but the costs are well beyond the likely

collective finances.

Wireless Broadband

The good news is that the village is now serviced by two wireless Internet providers. Fibre Wifi has been available to some areas for a couple of years and now new provider, Essex Wifi is likely to be able to cover most of the properties in the village.

EssexWifi, with the encouragement of councillors and residents, have installed a mast at Gunhill barns. They can offer good speeds and prices comparable with BT fibre services.

<http://essexwifi.co.uk/>

We are pleased that a private company has invested in our village to be able to offer these enhanced broadband services.

Woodham Walter Allotment Association - Jane Weedon

Well that is another year gone and all the allotment plots have been taken and this is a record in our 9 year history.

At this time of year it all looks a little sad and forlorn at the moment but if we look back we have had a good 2017 with some super strawberry and bean crops as well some excellent rhubarb and courgettes harvests.



When you look closely there are still some crops waiting to be harvested still while the early rhubarb is pushing up under our homemade covers.

Some newcomers have yet to get started on their plots while others

prepared the ground in the Autumn and our now ready to put in their seeds and plants in.

We thank Chris Wheadon for his monthly gardening tips found in the



Parish News if we follow his guidance we can look forward to a successful growing year. Our newest tenant has taken 2 taster plots and has made a dramatic start and we all look forward to seeing what she grows. Some allotment holders only think of edible crops except for one lady who has always sewn some flower seeds which gives a lovely show in the Summer. We welcome back a husband and wife team who have already got started on their plot in the Autumn.

Running repairs to the fence are on going with some rotten fence posts being reinforced by additional supporting posts and as ever rabbits have been letting themselves in again but with some extra wire on the fence will help to discourage them.

Again we convey our thanks to Peter and Bryony Maynard for giving the community the opportunity to grow their own fruit and vegetables. We are all looking forward to another successful growing year and meeting our new plot holders.

Jane Weedon and Sue Cumming

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

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

Footpath Officer - Peter Warren



I've now completed eleven years as the Parish Footpath Officer and still enjoy the job trying to make sure that our Parish paths are clear and safe to walk. I try to cover at least a couple of paths every day and endeavour to check all of our 28 footpaths and 5 bridleways every few months. Any problems that I can't fix easily are referred to the appropriate farmer or landowner or failing that the Rights of Way Department of ECC Highways. Unfortunately we no longer have a Rights of Way Inspector for this area and no direct contact at ECC and any problems now have to be logged onto the ECC Highways online reporting system. This is quite a good tool for logging any issues, however chasing up progress is an extremely frustrating process as the enquiry option doesn't work, resulting in a call to the ECC Helpdesk who invariably cannot get hold of anybody in the Rights of Way department. They then update the problem report and that's the last that seems to happen!

However, last Autumn I received a phonecall from a Lenny May offering his help to resolve the long term issues that had been building up in the Parish. Lenny is a Rights of Way Inspector working for Ringway Jacobs 3 days a week covering 17 parishes – a massive area to cover on a part time basis! We arranged to meet and spent a morning touring the parish inspecting 4 long term problems. Within a fortnight 3 of these were resolved! A very large willow leaning dangerously over FP36 (first reported Summer 2013) was cut down. Rotten planks were replaced on BR31 bridge (a danger to horse riders for the past 2 years) and a new bridge and handrail installed on FP16 after a 9 month wait. Thank you Lenny! The only major problem remaining is a large oak that's fallen completely blocking BR30 (Green Road) for over a year.

In the past year wind and storms have caused 19 trees to fall blocking our footpaths and bridleways. Thanks to some very co-operative landowners most were removed and the paths clear again within a

few days. Another problem, following the warm and wet weather in May, was vigorous weed growth. As usual FP18 through the old ruins of WW Hall became impassable, and FP14 was partially blocked by oilseed rape closing in. All parishes were in a similar position with overgrown paths and we had to wait until early September for ECC contractors Ringway Jacobs to carry out the annual cut. The long cold and wet winter has left most paths very muddy and not much fun to walk in places! The wet has also taken its toll on several wooden finger posts causing them to rot and fall over and are awaiting replacement.

Whilst walking the local paths I also carry out the job of Tree Officer. This is to satisfy the Parish Council's responsibility for ensuring that the trees bordering the paths on WW Common, plus the trees surrounding Bell Meadow and others dotted around the village are safe. In the past year only one on Bell Meadow has required removal.

Please help me to keep our paths safe and in good order. If you see anything that needs attention, or any improvements that you could suggest, don't hesitate to let me know. Following all this cold snowy weather let's hope that we have a brilliant summer to enjoy our lovely countryside!



Peter
Warren
01245
221326

Woodham Walter Parish Councillors

Joanna Symons (Chairman)



With the exception of the three years that I lived in Warwickshire while at University, I have lived and worked in Essex for most of my life.

My late husband and I moved to Woodham Walter nearly 27 years ago, attracted by its peace and tranquility, the lovely views of rolling countryside, the open skies and the beautiful woodland walks. My working life was spent mainly at the University of Essex, where I was Head of a Department, so when the opportunity came to take early retirement about six years ago, I took it due mainly to personal circumstances at the time, but was also keen to devote the spare time I had to some community activities. Thus I joined the Parish Council in the hope that I could, in some very small way, help to preserve the character and history of the village for future generations, and provide advice and help on any local issues as necessary to parishioners.

John Tompkins (Vice Chairman)



By profession I am a Chartered Architect now retired from a lifetime career as a principal in private practice. In addition I was appointed a General Commissioner of Income Tax serving 22 years and becoming Deputy Chairman of the Havering Division. I also acted as Clerk of the Worshipful Company of Bakers for 17 years until 2012. My wife and I moved to the Village in 1977 and we have a son and a daughter both of whom are married with each having two daughters. As a family we enjoy being involved with village life and are active in St Michael's as well as socially. I have always been interested in the environment in which we

live and became involved with the Parish Council by way of the Village Design Statement where as a volunteer I was able to use my knowledge and experience of design, planning, building and the environment together with design and graphic skills to best advantage. I now strive through the Parish Council to endeavour to retain the happy, friendly and pleasant environment in which we are all privileged to live.

John Brown



I grew up in Rayleigh and moved to Woodham Walter in 2004 with my wife Shelley. We have two gorgeous horses, three troublesome but adorable cats and feed a large number of the local wildlife.

For my day job I commute to the city of London where I am the global Head of Information Systems for an investment company.

My spare time is spread thinly between seeing friends and family, fixing things round the paddocks and stables, tinkering with Land Rovers and a large number of hobbies. Most of my interests can be summarised by saying, I like to design and make things. I enjoy playing games on the Xbox and, occasionally, I roller skate. I initially became involved with the parish council to try to get decent broadband to the village that led to taking up a vacancy.

James Bunn



I have lived in Woodham Walter for most of my life now, having lived in Danbury from age 1-6, then Woodham Walter there after except for periods working away all over the country. I spent my childhood playing in the Wilderness and cycling round the lanes of the village. I went to school in Danbury, then in Ingatestone before working for several years for an Electrical Engineering company before going to University to get a degree in Engineering. I bought my own house in the village 20 years ago, and have loved the village since I was a child.

I became a Parish Councillor at the time that Bell Meadow was being disposed of by the water company as I wanted to ensure that the asset was not lost to the village. I have always felt that being a Councillor is a small way for me to do some good for the place I grew up in, and intend to continue living in.

Woodham Walter Parish Councillors



Jenny Hughes

I have been a parish councillor for two years and joined as I felt that I could add a valuable perspective to the council. I have lived in Woodham Walter all my life my parents still live in the village and I'm lucky enough to live here with my husband and two young girls. I am passionate about the countryside and our farming heritage and the preservation of this in the modern world.



James Rushton

I am Essex born and bred, born in Loughton and growing up in Frinton. My wife, Anne, and I moved to Woodham Walter in 2004 with our two daughters, Elizabeth and Charlotte, having fallen in love with the village and the Essex countryside. Our principal reasons for moving here were quality of life and to be nearer to family, both Anne's and mine.

I work as a music publisher, all genres of music but mainly classical, and so unfortunately have to travel into London every day, but living in Woodham Walter is worth that hassle.

Anne, the girls and I all play, but some (in particular in my case) not as fluently as once was the case.

I am a passionate cricket fan, and since moving here I have found myself growing more and more interested in the natural world around us, particularly the birds, and aim, when retirement comes, to devote time to volunteering in that sector.

The community of Woodham Walter gives a lot to us as a family and I am concerned as a Councillor to help to retain that sense of togetherness in the village as a whole and to ensure that social and generational diversity is maintained, something essential if Woodham Walter is to continue to flourish and keep its unique character.



Peter Warren

Both born and bred in Essex, keen on walking and the countryside in general, my wife Tina and I have always enjoyed visiting this area. So, on my retirement after 43 years in the pharmaceutical industry, we couldn't wait to move from Rayleigh to the tranquillity of Woodham Walter and 13 years later have never regretted it. Living not far away, our 3 children and 5 grandchildren are frequent visitors.

I really value the strong community spirit in the Village and joined the Parish Council 10 years ago to help protect the unique character and charm of this area. My main role is Foot-path Officer and I'm always wandering around the Parish paths with my yellow labrador Bella. Besides walking and the countryside my interests include tending my vegetable plot, sea fishing, playing snooker badly, going horse racing and sampling the occasional pint of real ale.



Jacky Bannerman (Parish Clerk)

I was born in Lindfield, West Sussex where I lived until I married Graham and moved to Essex 25 years ago. I worked at the BBC World Service in London as a Radio Production Assistant before taking a voluntary redundancy package shortly before our daughter was born. We lived in Bicknacre before moving to Woodham Walter in 2002.

I took on the role of Parish Clerk in 2006 as I was looking for a job which fits in with family life and being part of the community is very important to me so it was a perfect opportunity to do both things. Our son was born in 2007 so the job working from home continues to fit in well with my life. I also work with Graham for our business TV, audio and events company which we run from home. I enjoy taking on other community roles such as helping with the village lunch and I'm on the Playground Working Group. We like walking and you will often see us out and about walking around Woodham Walter which we love.

St Michael's Church - Michael Bradbrook & Paul Clark



We started in March 2017 with the election of Michael Bradbrook and Paul Clark as Churchwardens which meant that we were back at full strength to meet the challenges of the year ahead with optimism and faith.

We have been very fortunate in the last year with Canon Stephen Carter, Rev'd Penny Sayer and Rev'd Julie Willmott leading our services of Holy Communion with assistance from Alan Marjoram and Adrienne Knight and our 'Home Team' in leading Morning Prayer and Family Services.

We have continued our links with Woodham Walter (C of E) Primary school with church members and Rev'd Penny Sayer serving as governors and with our clergy and church members leading assemblies, and maintaining contact with Tadpoles Nursery. The 'Messy Church' group for children run monthly by volunteers from our congregation has continued to flourish.

During the year there were two baptisms, three weddings and eight funerals.

We have remained involved with the community and the Flower Festival in July remains a highlight of the year with amazing display by our wonderful flower arrangers. The 'Fizz and Flowers' event during the Festival is also much enjoyed.

We have remained active with social and charitable events with The Children's Society receiving



£70 from the Christingle Service and the celebratory concert to mark Ken Hay's 40 years as our organist raised £716 for Farleigh and the J's Hospices. We also held a concert for Essex Air Ambulance in recognition of the invaluable support they provided to

Nick Carter (the son of Canon Stephen Carter) which raised an amazing £1,106. We have been strongly supported in running these activities by our social committee and members of our congregation.

During the year with kind donations and funds raised in particular from the Flower Festival we have been able to complete the installation of new chandeliers and lights and the renovation of the tiled floor. We have also been able to install new pathway lighting which has already been a great asset and will enable more evening events to be held at the church.

In August 2017 the Quinquennial Report on the general condition and fabric of St Michael's was received which highlighted a number of items which required attention and we are in the process of dealing with these items on a phased basis. The work never stops to maintain and improve St Michael's. We are indebted to Geoff Hicks as our Fabric Officer for his continuing efforts in coordinating the works and obtaining the relevant permissions.

The Harvest Supper was revived with St Margaret's after many years and was well attended at Woodham Mortimer Village Hall with good food and musical accompaniment. It is hoped to host the event this year in Woodham Walter.

The Robert Henry Falkner Almshouses remain fully occupied and we are so grateful for the continued well-running of the Almshouses by our Honorary Clerk Angus Neale.

St Michael's Church



The memorial clock at St Michael's is now showing its age and essential maintenance works and an overhaul are in hand including repairs to the dial. The final costs of the works will not be known until further inspections have been carried out. David Weedon and Brian Cumming have been very involved with the daily running of the clock and overseeing the essential maintenance work for which we are most grateful. We have launched a clock appeal to fund the works and we have been very fortunate in that a number of donations have already been received. This is very much work in progress and further information will follow.

St Michael's has led a community appeal to provide a defibrillator for the village. Our first fund raising event was a most fascinating illustrated lecture by local historian Stephen Nunn on St. Roger of Beeleigh. Donations are still being received but we anticipate raising

in excess of £1,000 which is an excellent start. We hope to arrange another lecture with Stephen Nunn later in the year.

We are always most grateful to the friends of St Michael's who help maintain the church and care for the churchyard and in particular Colin Warner who ensures that the grass is cut, hedges are trimmed and trees managed - all on a voluntary basis.

As villagers may be aware there is very little space left in the churchyard and we faced the prospect in the not too distant future that without extending the churchyard we would have to refuse applications for new graves. However we have been extremely fortunate in that we have been donated a parcel of land of approximately half an acre to the southern boundary of the churchyard and the transfer of the land is currently in the hands of solicitors. We are most grateful to the Warner Family who helped facilitate the donation. There is still much to do including planning, landscaping and the consecration of the land but we have made a major step forward in being able to serve the needs of the local and wider community now and for future generations.

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 pro-

mote 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.**



Bus Services for Woodham Walter

The village is currently served by two bus services run by Arrow.

The 99 (formally 31A) runs Monday-Friday to/from Chelmsford.

There is also a recent additional service, the D6 (formally 5) which is now running on Tuesdays and Thursdays to/from Maldon.

The bus currently stops outside The Bell (and does not go along Rectory Road/The Street, although we have requested that it makes further stops through the

village and they are looking into this possibility.

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



99 Monday—Friday

Woodham Walter, The Bell	0725	1140
Danbury, Eve's Corner	0746	1200
Sandon, The Crown	0756	1210
Chelmsford, Railway Station	0810	1226

Chelmsford Railway Station	1601	1731
Sandon, The Crown	1612	1745
Danbury, Eve's Corner	1622	1755
Woodham Walter, The Bell	1641	1813

Please note, other stops are made on the route, these are highlights only.

See timetable for full details.

D6 Tuesday and Thursday

Woodham Walter, The Bell	1240
Maldon Town Centre	1250
Maldon, Tesco	1252

Maldon Tesco	1430
Maldon Town Centre	1432
Woodham Walter, The Bell	1442

Essex County Councillor—Penny Channer



The 2017/18 year saw a funding reduction of £44M from Government through the Revenue Support Grant (RSG), with the RSG planned to be phased out completely by 2020, to be replaced by business rate retention.

ECC kept Council Tax low so supporting all our residents. Implementation of the 3% Social Care Levy raised an extra £17 million which supported the most vulnerable. The 2017/18 budget allowed for spend of £524m on adult social care, our greatest pressure.

In July 2017 a masterplan that will guide Essex County Council's work over the next four years and drive prosperity for everyone was approved at Full Council. The Organisation Strategy, which will help the Council deliver its ambitions by 2021 as it bids to become the nation's best local authority and a digital leader, is underpinned by four key principles.

1. Enable inclusive economic growth
2. Help people to get the best start and age well
3. Help to create great places to grow up, live and work.
4. Transform the council to achieve more with less

Fostering economic growth will improve not only the living stand-

ards of people in Essex but also their health and wellbeing, opportunities and life chances.

Helping People get the best start and age well. ECC has a critical role to safeguard and support the most vulnerable people in the county. One fifth of Essex's population (20%) is over 65 and this is projected to rise to 32% by 2030. With demand for services growing faster than income, especially in adult social care, we need to help people to help themselves, and make the best choices, working with communities and the NHS to achieve change. Also, our ambition is for all schools to be 'good' or 'outstanding'.

Investing in infrastructure will support great places to grow up in, live and work and the focus will be on building new communities where people can live, work and play, not dormitory towns. Great places are the products of their people and communities, supported by good public services, a thriving voluntary sector and private enterprise.

Transform the Council to achieve more with less. To deliver our priorities and maximise our positive contribution to all in Essex, we need to continue to develop as a proactive, efficient and effective organisation. As a public body it is important that we spend taxpayer's money wisely, on matters that are important for our residents. To offset reductions in government funding, we must constantly manage demand, reshape, and reimagine services and look for opportunities to generate income. It is also imperative that we work to secure investment into Essex to make our county an even better place to work and live.

In February 2018 Full Council agreed the budget for 2018/19. Local Government finances remain constrained and the funding from Government through the RSG was reduced by a further £28M. At the same time demand for many services continues to grow. However, the financial management of the Council is strong and will remain so and despite the issues and our pressures the Council has made excellent progress with the delivery of its objectives.

In the last year, we have: Seen 94% of Essex schools judged good or outstanding - three points higher than the national average and created over 2,500 additional school places ;Signed over a hundred good causes up to receive funding from the Essex lottery; Helped 1,330 young people not in education, employment or training to move into employment or learning; Reduced the amount of household waste over the last 12 months by 32kg per household ;Continued to invest in our country parks which has increased visitor numbers by 7.5% to almost three qtrs. of a million; Resurfaced over 400 miles of roads – nearly 4 times around the M25 – and filled in 5,000 potholes.

As well as all of this, we have an outstanding track record of ensuring value for tax-paying residents.

We have delivered £350m of savings in the last 4 years by driving out inefficiency, innovating, generating income and reducing costs. And will continue to do so

This track record has enabled the Council not only to maintain services in new and improved ways at lower cost, but also to invest for the future so that Essex is a better place in which to live and work.

Recycling Bags

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

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 Monday 16th April at 8pm in Woodham Walter Village Hall, Rectory Road.**



Wood Corner Caravan Site

We understand from Steve Andrews, the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit Manager, that

Wood Corner continues to be a settled residential site.



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.

Pleased to announce we do have a new committee member but as always the committee would welcome more 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

We are very proud of our own art screens which eliminate a huge job in moving the ones we used

to hire. Many thanks for the donation of the materials & the construction team who had an assembly line running – Brian Cumming, Dave Weedon, Ivor Brearley & Tim Maxted

The revue continues to come up with something new each year. The Women's Club really go to town with their performance & costumes. We must also thank the volunteers who run the bar & the waiters as well as the artistic director AJ & Mark Durham for running the evening.

The new insulation is now installed

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

Woodham Walter Common - Chris Wheadon



PATHS:- All paths remain in reasonable condition despite periods of inclement weather which do adversely affect certain sections that are in regular use by Riders, Cyclists and Walkers. Trees that had fallen across specific paths have been successfully removed. Overhanging branches are removed as and when necessary, which is an ongoing process.

BOGS:- The two Bogs on site remain in good condition. The regular removal of the invasive bracken by Work Parties has had the desired effect; this too is also an ongoing process. The Bogs are visually monitored to ensure they remain healthy.

HEATHS:-

“New Heath” The Heather is thriving, the invasive Birch saplings have been regularly removed, so the area shows what can be achieved when a plan is successfully executed. We now have an area which is attractive to Butterflies/Moths with much improved Biodiversity.

“Rowan Hollow” This area is now beginning to show its real potential. A considerable amount of work has been undertaken by Work Parties to clear as much unwanted undergrowth as possible. The work is extremely time consuming in order to avoid damage to the establishing Heather Plants which are the result of past hand seeding; however the hard work is proving to be extremely worthwhile with encouraging results.

HIMALAYAN BALSAM:- I am very pleased to report that the existence of this invasive species is no longer a major issue on this Reserve. Our management approach over the past few years has proved successful. The situation is, of course still regularly monitored however the odd plant that may remain can now be easily removed by hand.

CURRENT PROJECTS:- Last year the Trust had started to widen certain sections as part of our commitment to creating “Rides” in effect new “Wildlife Corridors” As many of you are already aware this activity has seen the creation of a wide “Corridor” linking Rowan Hollow with our adjacent Reserve. This will attract more birds, Butterflies and Dragonflies. This was achieved with the use of a very large Flailing Machine, in order to achieve the desired result. (See “Before & After” Pictures below).

Chris Wheadon

(Volunteer Warden)





Woodham Walter Primary School - Headteacher

Woodham Walter Primary School welcomes the opportunity to share with you just a few of the wonderful events and happy memories we have of the past year. Thank you to all members of the community who have contributed so positively to our year

Reading at Woodham Walter



To celebrate a love for books, the children recently came into school in their pyjamas and shared their favourite bedtime story. Fun was had reading and discussing the books, characters and authors. We have also celebrated Roald Dahl Day, remembered AA Milne and CS Lewis's birthday and have some exciting new activities planned for World Book Day and beyond!

Year's 5&6 Outdoor and Adventurous: Mersea Trip

The children had a wonderful time on their Residential trip to Mersea Outdoors. They worked as a real team as well as challenging themselves with the many new experiences on offer. Their



behaviour was exemplary and we are very proud of each and every one of them. Many thanks to our committed staff, who stayed and supported them throughout the week.

Curriculum Enrichment

Key Stage 1 & 2 were treated to a "hands on" animal experience, including a corn snake, giant land snail, baby rat, bearded dragon, giant millipede and a tarantula. Imogen said, "I thought ZOOLAB was amazing because I liked touching a corn snake. I thought it was going to be slimy, but it wasn't."



and swallow a mouse."

Henry said, "I learnt that a snake can unhook its jaw

Elm Tree

Sadly, the Elm tree adjacent to class 3 had Dutch elm disease and needed to be removed. The children took a vote and have chosen to plant a new Cherry Tree in the



school field. Mr Hicks and the School Council members took part in the planting.

Karate Grading Success

We are so very proud of all of the children who took their karate grading on Friday with Sugasawa



Sensei. They showed real determination and were impeccably behaved. All 19 of the students passed their grading and were awarded their certificates and new belts at the end of the session. Well done to all of you :)

STEM Day

In November, Woodham Walter had a fantastic S.T.E.M day. STEM stands for SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING and MATHS. It encourages a cross curricular approach to these areas and relates them to real life situations and problems. The activities included: building towers with marshmallows and spaghetti, making and testing slime for its feel, "splatability" and viscosity, making periscopes, freeing frozen super heroes, making square bubbles and many more. Our hard working caretaker introduced the children to all the exciting activities in the new outside sensory garden area linked to S.T.E.M. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who gave up their time to help on the day and for all the plants, bulbs and seeds that



Sue Dodd (Headteacher)
01245 223264

www.woodhamwalter.essex.sch.uk

Parent & Teacher Association - Melanie Coates-Jones



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 has been changes in the officers of the PTA in the last year, with Melanie Coates-Jones being voted in as Chair, Tracey Evans as Treasurer and Anita Hiscott as Secretary. Our thanks have been extended to Tracey Evans who stepped down as Chair after a successful year, but who continues to be involved with the Committee.

Funds raised by the PTA are used to purchase vital additional resources for the school which have included educational additions, such as a visit from the travelling Zoo, new interactive whiteboards and updates to IT resources.

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 Nights — The children enjoyed a film after

school, with popcorn and drinks.

Pyjama Day and World Book day have seen everyone (even the teachers) come to school dressed in a variety of attire, paying £1 or bringing in donations for the next event.

The Christmas Bazaar was unfortunately not able to run this year as a result of there being no elected Committee, but never the less Father Christmas still managed to pay the children a visit, and the whole school went to the Cliff's Pavilion to see 'Jack and the Beanstalk'; a fantastic event for all involved.

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:

Jumble Sale

Saturday 5th May at
Danbury Village Hall

Summer Celebration on

Saturday 7th July —
a traditional fun day with
the theme this year of
World War I.

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

Woodham Walter Litter Pick



February saw a group of 12 dedicated villagers carry out the annual litter pick. We were lucky with the weather and managed to cover the whole parish.

Together we collected 26 bags of rubbish plus a few tyres and other general items. One of the most startling things about the litter pick is that in certain locations there are numerous items of the same type.

For example along Manor Road over 40 empty bottles of High Commissioner Whiskey and over 40 packets of Leibniz Chocolate biscuits along with numerous bottles of orange Lucozade. Not to mention around the village collections of cigarette packets and in various field entrances a huge number of baby wipes, and fast food wrappers.

Thanks to the team and to everyone who collects litter around the parish.

Friends of St Michael's Church - Brian Cumming



Firstly, a big thank you to all those who have supported 'The Friends' for another year, some financially, some physically and some both. The past year has been another success for us, building on the achievements of the previous 12 years (we started in 2005).

This year we supported two primary activities. Firstly, the new light posts that have been installed along the pathway from the gate to the Church. Greatly assisted by the kind loan of a key piece of equipment by a local equipment hire firm a group of Friends installed the three new lights along the path and routed the power supply to them. These lights are now fully functional and a great assistance to those accessing the Church at night.

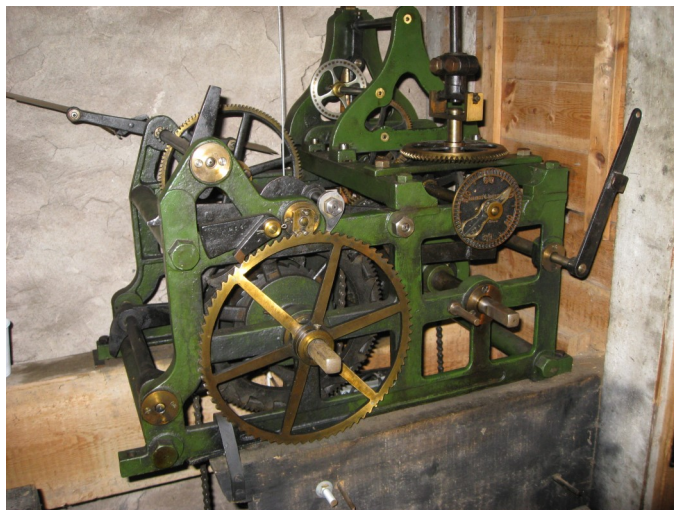
The second main activity has been work on the Church clock

and there are three elements to this task; the winding mechanism, the clock mechanism and the external clock face and hands. Many years ago the old, manual, winding mechanism was replaced by an electrically powered system where electric motors slowly raise the weights that drive the clock and the chimes. These mechanisms were in need of servicing and update and we managed to track down the original manufactures based in St Neots. For several weeks last year the clock

was stopped whilst these systems were remove and returned to the manufacturers for refurbishment. The removal and refitting was conducted by two Friends and the work in St Neots was paid for from Friends' funds. Diligent research by one of our Church Wardens resulted in the location of the manufacturers of the clock mechanism. Late last year we were visited by a representative from this company to discuss the

job of servicing the clock mechanism itself. A separate fund has been established by one of our Church Wardens to pay for this work and a plan is in place for the job to be conducted in July. At the same time we will be repainting and regilding the clock face and the hands. This work will be supported by the Friends and funds from the Flower Festival. The Church clock was established as a First World War memorial and it is very appropriate that this work should be conducted during the centennial year of the end of that conflict.

Looking forward, there is still plenty to do. The Church has recently been given land to the south of the current churchyard, this will require fencing and the land will need some preparation also there is the ongoing issue of damp in the southern foundations of the building. These activities and much more will be supported by the Friends and if you are not already a member I would encourage you to join us to support the upkeep of this important historical village asset.





Tadpoles Nursery - Pam Seear



Another year has gone by and again lots has happened since last March.

Spring came and so did our annual visit to the lambs, again thanks to Lee and Jen Hughes for letting our families visit their prize winning sheep and lambs.

Our allotment has always proved to be a popular outing for staff, children and parents, thanks to all the mums, dads and grandparents who helped with our allotment this year, special thanks to the Cummings family for their help and support.

School preparations as always were very important for us at Tadpoles, the children joined Woodham Walter school for lunches, which as always were very yummy!!

We also had P.E. sessions in the school hall, where the children practiced dressing and undressing ready for big school P.E. lessons. So as summer came so did our busy term, the Teddy Bears picnic was again very well attended and enjoyed by all, lots of Teddys and friends all enjoyed the afternoon. This was followed in July by our



Outing again this year we enjoyed a visit to Barleylands, a tractor ride and interactive sessions with the animals particularly enjoyable for everyone.

We were very excited as we returned last September to our newly refurbished outdoor area to have fun in. Thanks to all who made that possible especially Joe, Jason, Doug and Angus who provided the man power, laying the turf, making the flower beds and relaying the path.

Inside we had our new loose parts play to enjoy, with the children creating for themselves using lots of recyclable materials and natural products, thanks to all who have donated and collected materials for us.



We are really enjoying our outdoor learning environment especially our mud kitchen and sand pit which we can now access whatever the weather. Our woodwork sessions proved to be very popular too with everyone enjoying their turn.

As Autumn turned to Winter we collected leaves and enjoyed tidying our garden, the snow was fun this year as we have had so much of it.

Unfortunately due to bad weather closure our annual nativity had to be cancelled, the school offered us an alternative date and all went ahead as planned that time, with everyone really enjoying the performance.

As well as cooking lots of deli-



cious cakes and biscuits, heart shaped ones for mums on Mothers day, we have also enjoyed making and eating our own vegetable soup and pizzas this year. Our new member of staff Teryall also introduced us to 'Sticky Kids' a music and movement session which we all love.

We continue to enjoy our walks around the village particularly stopping at Bell Meadow to collect interesting things to take back to Tadpoles. We also continue to enjoy our visits to the church, where we are made very welcome, thanks to Viv, Angela, Arthur, Kathy and Julie for their hospitality. Special thanks to Kathy for her very popular story sessions.



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@hotmail.co.uk

Neighbourhood Watch - Brian Cumming



The Maldon district is regarded as a relatively low risk crime area and we are lucky to live in a quiet corner of that low risk area. However, that doesn't mean that we are immune from the activities of the ne'er-do-well.

Serious issues this year have included the theft of farm equipment, the theft of a pick-up, the loss of an agricultural building and its contents due to a fire that was deliberately set. In addition to this there have been a number of outbuilding brake-ins and one case of damage to a vehicle.

As I have previously reported the biggest threats to our community come from the internet and tele-

phone, with criminals attempting to gain access to banking detail and trying to trick people into parting with their money. Keep your computer security up-to-date and never give private information to a stranger, whatever they may be claiming.

A good way to keep in touch with local news is through Essex Community Messaging. By signing up to this free service through

www.essexcommunitymessaging.org

you can choose to receive email, text or voice messages from the local police, enabling you to be aware of any current issues that are affecting the area.

As always please keep your eyes open for suspicious activity and if you think that a crime is underway ring the police using 999. Other non-urgent information

can be fed to the police via www.essex.police.uk/do-it-online/ or by calling 101 (although I believe this can result in a long wait!)

ECM
ESSEX COMMUNITY MESSAGING

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



Speak up and stop crime in the Essex countryside.

Whatever your crime concerns tell us what you know.

100% anonymous. Always.



CrimeStoppers.

0800 555 111

100% anonymous. Always.

Community Protection Team



The Community Protection Team from Maldon District Council are due to start working in Woodham Walter in April. They are accredited officers and have close links with Essex Police and other agencies such as South Essex Parking Partnership.

The Parish Council has signed a Service Level Agreement with the team to carry out various activities in the village (up to 4 hours per month) including tackling:

- Anti Social Behaviour
- Dog Fouling
- Litter Fouling
- Abandoned Vehicles
- Fly Tipping
- Fly Posting
- Graffiti
- Stray Dogs
- Parking Enforcement
- TruCAM Speed detection
- Playground Inspections

CSAS is a voluntary scheme under which chief constables can choose to accredit employed people already working in roles that contribute to maintaining and improving community safety with targeted powers.

The scheme creates a framework for public and private bodies to work in partnership with the police, providing additional uniformed presence in communities and capitalising on the skills and information captured by those already engaged with the community.



The TruCAM collects and stores a complete chain of video evidence for both speeding and tailgating, along with a high-resolution image that identifies vehicle make, model and license plate number and facial characteristics of the driver.

The Parish Council are keen to see results of having a regular TruCAM activities in the village and hope that this will go some way to reducing the speeds of vehicles through Woodham Walter.

The team will be visiting the Annual Parish Meeting and will give a short presentation and answer any questions residents have.

Much of the work of the Community Protection Team relies on information from residents.

Many people in the Maldon District are dog owners and the CPT work hard to support and enforce responsible dog ownership

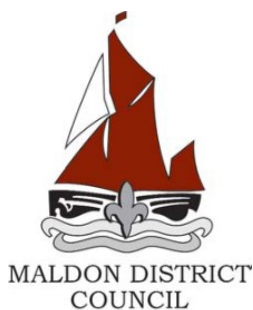
Dog Fouling on footpaths and in parks affects us all and a small number of irresponsible dog owners soon have a big impact on an area. People who do not clean up after their dogs, or a dog they are walking, are breaking the law.

Adrian Rayner, Community Protection Team Leader said "Offenders could be served with a Fixed Penalty Notice of £80 or if the case is referred to the Magistrates' Court, be fined a maximum of £1,000. If you have witnessed a dog fouling or you have noticed an area where dog fouling is a problem, you can report it on our website or by calling us on 01621 852475 or 07771935330."

The CPT work with members of the public through a scheme called Park Watch. Park Watch encourages the public to be confident in contacting the CPT and be our eyes and ears. Public information also informs our enforcement and investigative actions. The CPT is able to provide Park Watch members with feedback on our activities and prosecutions. The scheme has already proven very effective in several areas with over 650 members and the Team are now encouraging more people to join and share the responsibility of protecting our parks and open spaces.

To become a Park Watch member or report an issue call The Community Protection Team on 01621 852475

To find out more visit the Woodham Walter Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 16th April at 8pm in Woodham Walter Village Hall.



Sismore Memorial Bench



Air Commodore Edward Barnes Sismore DSO, DFC, AFC, AE.**

The family of Air Commodore Ted and Mrs Rita Sismore contacted the Parish Council to ask if they may gift a bench to the village in memory of the couple who lived happily in retirement in Woodham Walter for many years.

The Parish Council was delighted with the idea of placing the bench on Bell Meadow, which was particularly positioned to enjoy the long, lovely views, specific to the couple and that they most enjoyed.

Ted and Rita came to live in Lares in the Village around 1976/77 on retiring. He was a modest man who enjoyed golf, a passion that was to last until the end of his life; he was a member of the Warren. He and his wife were very sociable and fully entered into village life. Rita ran what was known as a 'Sports Drome' which involved meeting together in one or other's home on Saturdays to watch sport but in particular what was then the 5 Nations Rugby and the Boat Race. Rita's curries on these occasions were magnificent. This modesty however disguised a very distinguished career with the RAF that saw him decorated five times, four of which were for bravery in action with the Distinguished Service

Order and the Distinguished Flying Cross with Two Bars. Latterly he was awarded the Air Force Cross, and the Air Efficiency medal and honoured with an appointment as Knight of the Order of Danneborg, a Danish award for his wartime exploits.

Ted joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve and trained as an observer. On the outbreak of war he was posted to a squadron of Blenheim bombers attacking coastal shipping and the ports of the Low Countries. After some 30 missions he converted to the then new, fast, low-level twin-engine fighter-bomber made of plywood, powered by Rolls-Royce Merlin engines and known as the De Havilland Mosquito. As an Observer, planner and navigator he was teamed up with pilot Squadron Leader Reggie Reynolds and the pair were noted for their, even by today's standards, spectacular exploits over enemy occupied Europe. Ted was the principle planner for Operation Jericho, which involved creating a hole in the wall of the Amiens Jail allowing the entrapped French Resistance Fighters to escape. Ted was not allowed to fly on that raid, as his expertise was considered too valuable to lose should he be shot down. There was a similar raid on the Shellhus in Copenhagen where Ted's

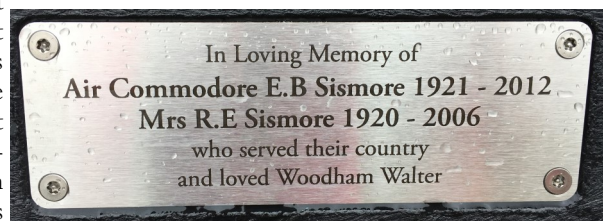
Squadron took out the lower floors of the Gestapo headquarters that was housing Danish Resistance Leaders on the top floors allowing 18 of the 26 prisoners to escape. In a book published about this raid there is a photograph taken from a department store on the final approach run that clearly shows Ted sitting beside the pilot, the raid was at that low level. There was a similar raid at Aarhus where a SS headquarters was taken out

Ted was recognised as the RAF's finest low-level navigator of the Second World War. His biggest propaganda coup was probably in 1943. Hitler was scheduled to broadcast to his nation in celebration of 10 years in power. The broadcast was set for 11:00, but Goering had to take over due to Hitler having a sore throat. Having flown for 1100 miles over sea and land at wave-top and treetop height to avoid detection, they bombed the broadcasting station at exactly 11:00 and the sounds of bomb blasts were heard across Germany and via monitors, in Britain.

After the War Ted married Rita, a former WRAF Officer in 1946 and settled into Service Life; after double figure house moves, they retired and settled into Woodham Walter village life, joining Marconi as an adviser. During the Falklands War he was instrumental in rapidly procuring mobile air defence radar that was critically for immediate use.

Many in the village will remember Ted as a quiet gentleman that belies his important and heroic role in WWII and one thing that will stand out in many memories was Ted's accuracy in his weather forecasting.

John Tompkins



Automated External Defibrillator



St Michael's Church

Woodham Walter

A Church Led, Public Access,
Community Project Appeal

Heart attacks can occur at any time, in any place, to any one, at any age, whether healthy or unhealthy, fit or unfit, smoker or non-smoker and are a leading cause of premature death. Survival potential is enhanced with quick intervention using CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and the subsequent use of a defibrillator; any delay in CPR beyond 4 minutes lessens the chance of a full recovery so every second counts.

The heart, being the organ, that pumps blood around the body, is powered by a series of electrical impulses in a rhythm known as ventricular fibrillation (VF). When the electrical rhythm becomes disturbed, the VF becomes uncoordinated;

the heart stops beating and the circulation of blood stops. Death will quickly follow unless the condition is promptly recognised and CPR applied to maintain the blood circulation. Defibrillation can then be carried out to restore the rhythm whilst waiting for the Emergency Services. It is considered that survival is lessened by 7%-10% with every minute delay in these procedures.

Defibrillation requires the use of high-energy electric shocks applied to the body that halts the chaotic rhythm and allows the normal rhythm to restart. These shocks are applied via an AED which is a small portable automated machine, about the size of a small first aid box that is meant to supplement and compliment other basic life support actions including CPR, particularly chest compressions and calling the Emergency Services.

St Michael's, with its charitable status, has instigated and is leading this project to purchase an AED and training in its use, for the Village. It is hoped to locate the unit in the redundant telephone box (subject to Parish Council approval), which is a well-known central location. It is hoped that there will be a volunteer for training from each of the Village businesses (civil law duty of care) and settlement areas as defined in the VDS.

Fund raising has started with a well-attended talk by local historian Stephen Nunn on St. Roger of Beeleigh that raised nearly £800 and subsequent private donations have raised the sum to approaching £1,200. This is still short of the £2,000 minimum target so an appeal to residents and businesses will be forthcoming. Contributions from all sources will be gratefully received and can take the form of cheques (Woodham Walter PCC and marked Defibrillator), bank transfer (Details from the Church Wardens) or cash to a PCC member.



Help Save a Life

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

John Tompkins - Vice Chairman &
 Village Design Statement

John Brown— Parish Councillor & Broad-
 band

James Bunn - Parish Councillor

Jenny Hughes - Parish Councillor & Bell
 Meadow Village Association.

James Rushton - Vice Chairman &
 Allotment Association

Peter Warren - Parish Councillor, Footpath
 & Tree Officer



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 16th 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 (details above). 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.

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

9th April 2018

16th April 2018 (APM at Village Hall)

14th May 2018 (AGM)

11th June 2018

9th July 2018

August—we only meet if there is urgent business or a planning application to consider—see notice-board or website.

10th September 2018

8th October 2018

12th November 2018

10th December 2018

14th January 2019

11th February 2019

11th March 2019

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

To be included on the group village email for such information just send our clerk your email address: parishclerk@woodhamwalterpc.org