

Woodham Walter Report April 2019—March 2021

Woodham Walter Parish Council

From the Chairman, Councillor James Rushton



I am pleased to welcome you to our latest Parish Report and invite you to attend the Annual Parish Meeting that will this year be held virtually on Monday, 19th April at 7pm. (Please see below for joining instructions)

Due to the upheaval that has affected all of us as a result of Covid-19, this year's Report covers two years (2019-2021), the April 2020 meeting having to be cancelled. And we are still unable to gather in the Village Hall as we would usually do – but nevertheless I do hope that as many parishioners as possible will join the virtual meeting, see what is going on in the Parish and take the opportunity to raise any appropriate concerns for discussion and/or action. My thanks go to

all, and in particular to Jacky Bannerman, for putting together what is, we hope, a one-off two-year Report.

Of course, such practical matters as these are the least of our concerns. Before proceeding do please join me in thinking of all those who have lost family, friends and acquaintances over the period of the pandemic, and also those whose lives have been irretrievably affected by Covid-19.

I have only recently been elected as Chairman of Woodham Walter Parish Council, taking over from John Tompkins who served in this role from April 2018 and who, I am pleased to write, continues as a Councillor. We owe a debt of gratitude to John who served as Chairman for longer than the usual two-year period and who held the reins in what was a demanding time, not only stemming from the effect of the pandemic but



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Annual Parish Meeting - Monday 19th April 2021

All Woodham Walter residents are invited to attend the

Virtual Annual Parish Meeting

On Monday 19th April at 7pm

- Matters Arising from Annual Parish Reports
- Latest news from Playground Working Party
- Public Forum

To Join the Zoom Meeting go to: www.zoom.us/join

Then enter the joining details below:

Meeting ID: 937 5728 6776

Passcode: 339246

You will first enter a waiting room and then be admitted.

The meeting will be recorded for minuting purposes and by joining the meeting it is assumed you give permission for this.

Woodham Walter Parish Council - Chairman, James Rushton

also as a result of needing to lead the Council's response to several significant planning applications, and its implementation of changes in financial regulations and governance protocols. I am also grateful to John for allowing me to make use of his unpublished report for the 2019/20 year and his notes for the year now ended.

The composition of the Council has, in fact, remained unchanged throughout this period, consisting otherwise of John Brown (recently elected as Vice Chairman, and also the brains behind our focus on broadband issues), James Bunn, Jenny Hughes, Joanna Symons (also Chair of the Playground Committee, and responsible for updating the Council on Primary School matters) and Peter Warren (who provides

invaluable feedback on our footpaths). In my experience the Parish Council is dedicated to its remit of serving those in the Parish community. It comprises a range of skills and a significant local knowledge. I'd like to thank fellow councillors for giving of their time so generously and voluntarily.

Of course, the Parish Council could not be effective were it not for the incredible contribution made by our Parish Clerk, Jacky Bannerman. Jacky has been in the role for nearly 15 years, and I am sure that she would agree that the last one has been the most demanding. In addition to the 'day to day' tasks of keeping up to date with legislation, carrying out all the admin, preparing all the reports, looking after the finances, Jacky has

this year played an even greater village community role than usual. This results from her Parish Co-ordinator responsibilities during the Covid-19 period, all of which have been invaluable and over and above all those other tasks. We are very fortunate to have the benefit of Jacky's expertise and the services of someone who is devoted to our community.

As ever a large part of the Parish Council's work has involved planning applications. As it happens, the period 2019-2021 has seen a decrease in the sheer number of applications – as the accompanying chart displays – but the workload, despite the perhaps not unexpected decline in numbers in 20/21, is much the same if not greater because of the size, complexity and multi-faceted nature of many applications.

Planning Summary 2019/2021

PARISH COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS		
YEAR	19/20	20/21
Support/Approve	7	1
Object/Refusal	2	6
Comments	13	5
No Comment	3	1
EIA is required	1	0
To Be Decided	0	3

MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL DECISIONS		
YEAR	19/20	20/21
Approve	13	6
Refuse	9	6
Withdrawn	2	0
EIA Not required	1	0
Grant Coupa	1	1
To Be Decided		3

Total Applications:

2019/20: 26

2020/21: 16 + 1 x ECC

35 (2018-2019)

Decision contrary to WWPC:

2019/20: 5

2020/21: 2

Appeals responded to: 4

Enforcement Queries Raised: 7

Type of Application	19/20	20/21	Type of Application	19/20	20/21
Extension	3	5	Holiday Lodges Development		1
Demolition/Replacement	2		EIA requirement	1	
Claims for Lawful Development Certificate	3	1	Variation to conditions	1	
Conservation Area	1		Car Park Surface	1	
Extension/Alteration/Outbuilding	1	1	Tree House	1	
Change of use from agricultural to dwelling house (COUPA)	1	1	TPO/Tree	2	2
Conversion to annexe	2		PIP (Planning in Principle—up to 9 dwellings)		1
New or Replace or extend Cart Lodge	5	2	Public Playground Facility—NMA		1
Hedge Removal	1		Conversion to Dwelling House	1	
New Dwelling		1	ECC Bridge Consultation		1

Woodham Walter Parish Council - Chairman, James Rushton

Currently, the focus is on obtaining greater clarity from Maldon District Council on its enforcement policy and procedures. We are well aware that there is much concern in the Village as regards the effectiveness of MDC’s policies in terms of monitoring conditions that have been applied to approved planning applications and also enforcing those decisions where there may be breaches. This will be the subject of ongoing discussion in the coming months.

Other challenges have been the very unfortunate increase in crime in both the Village (please see the further comment on this below) and the district, extensive new local government financial regulations, significant changes in government protocols, and the planning and fundraising for the new children’s playground that will be shortly starting on site following the very successful fund raising. Above all, Covid-19 lockdowns meant that meetings had to be held virtually and new skills and practices learnt with a resultant huge additional burden being placed on community administration.

On a more purely positive note, the Parish web site has been revamped and updated and the new Woodham Walter Community Update email has proved to be very well received and a great communication tool. This was initiated by Jacky in June 2018 and the number of subscribers has now shot up to 160 over the past year. It is difficult to see our managing without it. Further, the Village acquired a defibrillator, located in the renovated K9 ex-telephone kiosk. The Community Protection Team continues to be employed, with its focus mainly on the use of TRUCAM to counteract speeding through the Village, and we have at last entered the 21st century with access to superfast fibre broadband. Not all the Village is connected right now, but the missing areas are expected to be covered in the coming months.

As we begin to see some light at the end of the tunnel after what has been such a difficult year, perhaps more

Parish Council ▾
Planning Matters ▾
Playground ▾
Noticeboard ▾
Local info ▾
Accessibility ▾
Covid-19 ▾
Contact Us

Woodham Walter

A timeless village set in the beautiful Essex countryside

Woodham Walter Parish Council

Welcome to Woodham Walter



Drone video footage of Woodham Walter

Woodham Walter village lies 2 miles off of the A414 between Danbury and Maldon. It possesses plenty of the ingredients of an attractive and vibrant historic Essex village. It is a thriving community with a population of approximately 500. Woodham Walter has an ancient and beautiful parish church, village hall and separate meeting room, Bell Meadow which is a village green space, a primary school, a nursery school, together with two golf clubs, a holiday lodge park and three public houses. Woodham Walter benefits from numerous community groups and activities for all ages.

There are some fine walks in the countryside around Woodham Walter some of the paths provide links to Little Baddow, Danbury, Woodham Mortimer, Maldon and Ulting all of which border our parish. Woodham Walter is a village with many fine views.

The parish has an agricultural tradition offering varied land use pattern that includes arable and pasture land. The canalised River Chelmer runs west to east along the northern boundary.

Woodham Walter Parish Council represents the interests of the people living in and around the Village of Woodham Walter. Parishioners are very welcome to attend any of the Parish Council Meetings held throughout the year. Please view our other pages to find out more about the functions and services of the Parish Council.

Photo Gallery Slideshow



Upcoming Events

Woodham Walter Parish Council – Ordinary Meeting (Virtual)
April 12 @ 19:00 - 21:00

Woodham Walter Annual Parish Meeting
April 19 @ 19:00 - 20:00

[View All Events](#)

Village Email Sign Up!

If you would like to receive regular village updates from Woodham Walter Parish Council please send an email to parishclerk@woodhamwalterpc.org and request that we sign you up.

than ever we appreciate the strength of our community and how special is the village in which we live. The two are, of course, entirely interconnected. I quote directly from John Tompkins’s notes here - we live in a picturesque and tranquil, rural, ‘Arcadian Village’, isolated but not too far from shops, medical advice and transport links. We have a pre-school, a school, a Church, a recreational meadow, three public houses and three golf courses. We can walk along footpaths, bridleways, tow paths, though woods, around fields and on lanes. We have views between buildings, across meadows, undulations, a river, streams and towards an estuary. We have an eclectic array of structures including two ancient monuments, twenty-nine Listed Buildings, seventeen undesignated local heritage assets including the cast iron finger posts and the K9 telephone kiosk, three protected lanes and a defined settlement boundary. We have two Conservation Areas (one in the centre of

Woodham Walter, and the other being the Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation), a Site of Scientific Interest and a Site of Special Scientific Interest, a number of wild-life designated sites, allotments, a forthcoming children’s playground and a Village Design Statement (VDS).

There can be a tendency to take this all for granted but the reality is a constant battle to retain the environment in which we live against forces that seem not to wish to respect or understand what makes this Village special. The Parish Council, which is not the planning authority, has a limited palette of tools with which to attempt to ensure that this environment is not debased. One is the VDS that is District Council endorsed, one is the Conservation Area (s) and another, most importantly, is the strength of community that exists in the Village and that reinforces the arguments against these challenges. So, let us continue to value what we have and not in any way take it for granted.

Woodham Walter Parish Council - Chairman, James Rushton

That strength of community can be demonstrated in many different respects. Recently, two large planning applications were considered by Maldon District Council, and refused. Were these applications to have been approved they would have had a major impact on the environment of our village. In response to one of them in particular, the detailed work of the Parish Council and the strong feelings expressed by 200 communications from a village comprising just 250 dwellings were undoubtedly influential. So please do remember that as a resident you are able to express your opinion on all planning applications both individually to the District Council direct by letter or email and/or through the Parish Council by speaking at the monthly Parish Council meetings or special public meetings (all restricted to online at the moment) called to discuss significant projects.

Further, in response to the increase in rural crime in the area (which, sadly, still remains an issue), the Parish Council took the initiative to organise a public awareness meeting in

September 2019. This was very well supported and much was learnt by all present about crime prevention and security. Subsequent to that the local Neighbourhood Watch scheme was reinvigorated, with the result that information is now regularly shared across the Village, all with the aim of reducing crime, whether in the shape of burglary or, for example, online scams, and intended to look out for those who may be particularly susceptible.

Additionally, following public consultation in 2018 we now have the imminent prospect of the new children’s playground on Bell Meadow, a valuable asset to local families given the withdrawal of the school facility. Do join with me in thanking the committee and all those who put so much into the fund-raising and administration of the project as a whole.

And finally, the work in the community during these difficult Covid times has been extensive including distributing emergency food support, the Village lunch, lifts to the doctor,

pharmacy and shops. It has been marvellous to see so many coming together, whether businesses (for instance, The Bell and the Queen Victoria public houses) or individuals to contribute and volunteer towards this community effort; long may this community strength continue. Tribute should also be paid to Woodham Walter C of E Primary School and its devoted team of staff and helpers who have done so much to support the families of key workers and to continue to teach and guide pupils online; and also to Rev’d Julie Willmot and the Churchwardens at St Michael’s who have continued to offer a place of solace and prayer in the Village whether within the Church, when allowed, or online.

I look forward to continuing in my role as Chairman and send all good wishes for health and happiness to everyone in Woodham Walter for the coming months and years.



BELL MEADOW PLAYGROUND PROJECT : INCOME/EXPENDITURE (exc. VAT)

Income	Budget	Actual	Item	Estimate	Actual	Totals	Estimate	Actual
Income 2019/2020 (Fundraising/Donations)	3509.27	3509.27	Playground - Caloo	23912.78		Total Income	27834.27	26344.65
National Lottery	10000.00	10000.00	Fencing	4667.00		Total Expenditure	30404.78	1135.33
Income 2020/2021 (Fundraising/Donations)	1700.00	1700.00	Fencing installation	0.00		BALANCE	-2570.51	25209.32
CIF	10000.00	10000.00	Picnic Benches	840.00	840.00			
Parish Council- Grant	1000.00		Picnic Benches Installation	160.00				
Parish Council - Planning Fees	225.00	137.88	Bench & Installation	200.00	157.50			
Parish Council - Signs	200.00		Signs	200.00				
Parish Council - Bins	200.00		Bins	200.00				
Locality Fund	1000.00	997.50	MDC Planning	225.00	137.83			
Other	0.00	0.00	Misc					
TOTAL	27834.27	26344.65	TOTAL	30404.78	1135.33			

Woodham Walter Parish Council - Financial Overview

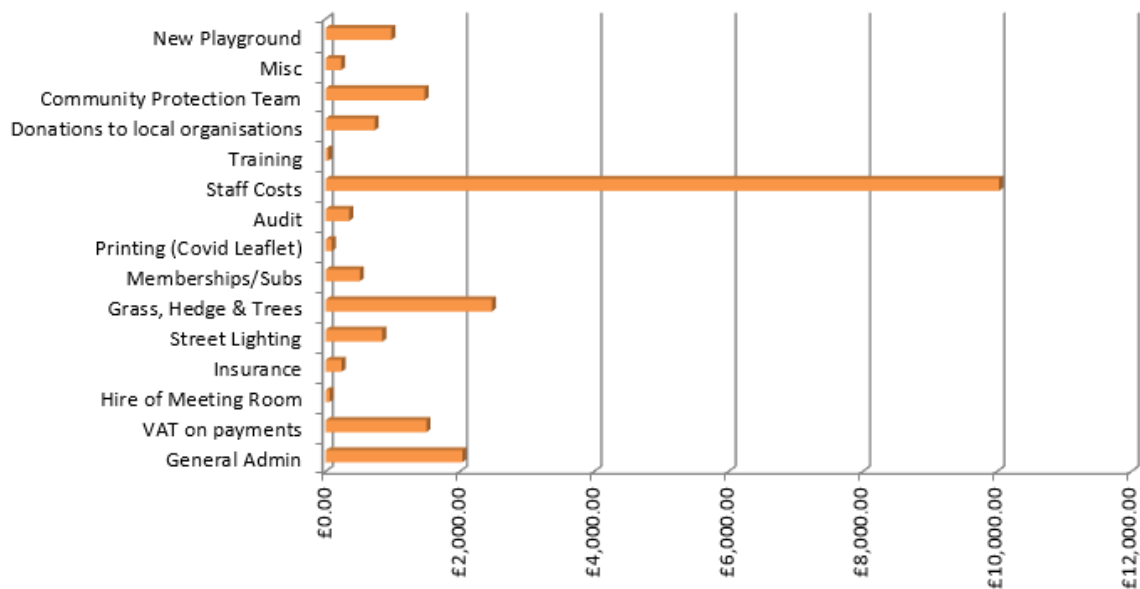
All Parish Councils have to adhere to the Transparency Code. Information is available on the Parish Council website so that parishioners can view financial documents, agendas and minutes in order to meet the governments desire to place more power into citizens' hands to increase democratic accountability. 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.woodhamwalterpc.org

Below are the latest figures for 2020/21 financial year, see the website for 2019/20.

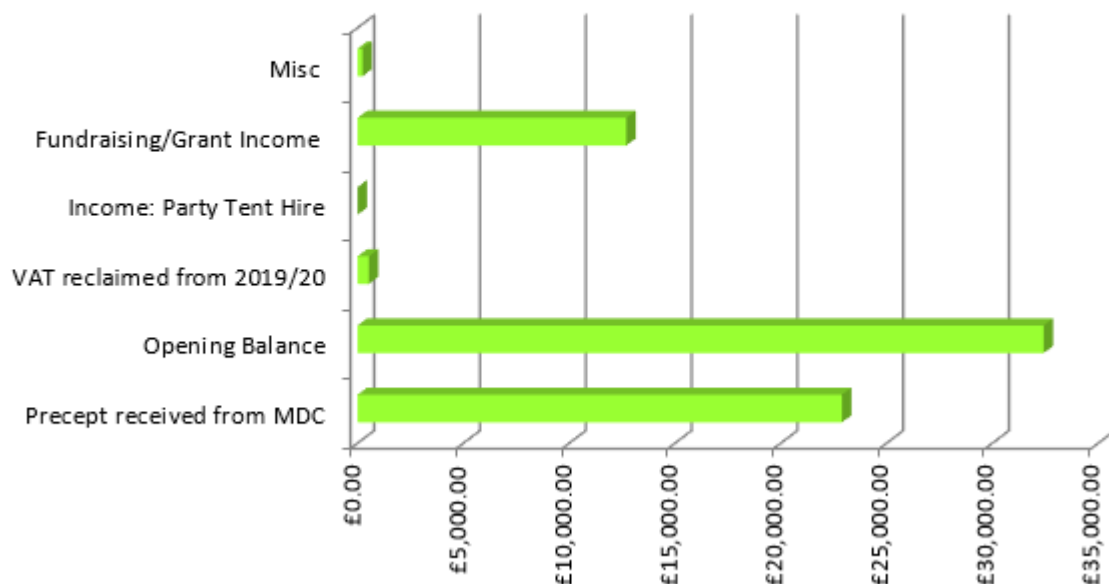
Please note: the reason the reserves are currently substantial is because we have the funding in place for the new play-ground and we also had to carry over some planned expenditure due to COVID restrictions.

Expenditure 2020/21 Total: £21,579.40

Closing Balance: £47,188.94



Income & Opening Balances 2020/21 Total: £68,768.34



Parish Clerk's Report — Jacky Bannerman



I have been Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer of Woodham Walter Parish Council for 14 years. My responsibility is to carry out the functions, serve or issue all notifications required by law and carry out the decisions of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council held an Extraordinary Meeting on 20th March 2020 as it became clear the country was due to go into a national lockdown. This was called in order to agree delegated powers to the clerk to carry out the functions of the Parish Council and fulfil its responsibilities to residents. Subsequently to this the Government announced legislation which allowed virtual meetings to take place. We began meeting virtually in May 2020 and have done so regularly since then. We have got used to the technology and have not encountered any of the issues reported in the press that Jackie Weaver had to deal with!

The Parish Council is responsible for maintaining Bell Meadow and a number of grass verges and hedges, street lighting and the general care and upkeep of the village. We are also part of the Planning consultation process.



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 Parish Councils annually. Councillors have agreed that the precept requirement for Woodham Walter in 2021/22 will be £24,035.00 which works out at £87.34 per Band D property for the year. Unfortunately due to COVID restrictions we have not been able to receive the usual income from the Party Tents. Hopefully as restrictions are lifted we will be able to rent them out. Every year we provide community funding to Women's Club and Village Hall Association to help with maintenance. We also make an annual grant to the Essex Wildlife Trust towards their work managing Woodham Walter Common. These annual maintenance contributions will continue.

The Parish Council has also decided to open up a Grants application programme so that local good causes can apply for funding for specific projects. The application documents and criteria are available on the Parish Council website and the deadline for applications is 30th September in each year. Grant awards will be made to eligible clubs, charities, organisations or societies where it can be demonstrated that it will be of benefit to the village, residents or community of Woodham Walter.

Other expenditure last year included the Community Engagement Team who are contracted for up to 4 hours per month (this includes TruCAM speed detecting). The CET time is going to be increased to 5 hours this year as they will play a role in inspecting the new playground facility. The goal posts have been the source of some discussion this year. We are delighted that they have been getting well used but unfortunately the ground conditions have suffered and inevitably the goals have been moved around the field to less muddy loca-



tions. This has meant that they are not secured to the anchor positions which could create a hazard. We have been working on solutions and plan to install 2 new anchor points so that the goals can be rotated regularly to help protect the ground. However they will be locked to the anchors to prevent them being moved.

We were pleased to be approached by a young village resident who wanted to volunteer as part of a Duke of Edinburgh Award. The result was the new trees on the Memorial Garden being regularly watered and litter picks taking place. This was a big success and we are now looking for another volunteer to carry on this role—especially as we are about to plant some more hedging. Get in touch if you're interested.

Other expenditure commitments made include maintenance of the Memorial Shelter, replacement of the main noticeboard, some new dog bins as well as responsibility for the new Playground. We also have long term plans to replace the street lighting to LED lights. This is becoming a requirement as the old lighting becomes obsolete and parts no longer widely available. We are due our annual inspection in May so if there are any issues let me know and we can get them sorted out at that time.

Our website has been updated since the last report. You will find lots of information about the Parish Council, Planning, as well as Useful Links, a Noticeboard and other local information.

Parish Clerk's Report –Jacky Bannerman

I send out a village email from time to time with information relevant to villagers—such as any major planning applications, road closures and Parish Council meeting reports. This year the information has also included COVID related government and council updates.

There are currently about 160 subscribers but with over 250 properties in the village there are many people who are missing out! If you would like to be included on the village email please send me an email parishclerk@woodhamwalterpc.org

My regular walks around the village are rarely without clearing drains of leaves and taking photos of pot holes, flooding etc. Highways reports take up a surprising amount of time and is not without frustration. Many is the time that a report “does not meet the criteria and will be monitored” when we think it should be dealt with promptly. We are able to access support from our County Councillor which I have done on several occasions. We are currently trying hard to address the issues of flooding along Blue Mill Lane/ Curling Tye Lane. We have engaged with landowners who have already made some improvements and we urged Highways to get gullies cleared which they finally did and this has helped. We will continue to pursue this especially outside Park Cottages where it is particularly bad with near



constant running water. Other open cases include the crack on Little Baddow Road, the overgrown hedges and pot hole on Herbage Park Road. We have had some successes including works as a result of the County Councillor pot hole and footpath defects funding. And the request to renovate the old ironworks fingerposts received almost immediate attention and very smart they now look too.

You can also report issues directly on the website www.essexhighways.org/tell-us/report-all-issues.aspx



One of the biggest Highways issues of the last couple of years has been Hoe Mill Bridge. We campaigned hard to ensure the width restrictions were as generous as possible whilst understanding that the reason for the restriction is because the bridge is dangerously weak. We will continue to liaise with Highways regarding future works to replace the bridge and understand a number of schemes are being investigated. We warned Highways before the width restriction works were carried out that parking was already a major issue and would be exacerbated by the works and we were proved right with the ensuing chaos that we all endured. We then worked with Highways, District and County Councillors to bring about the emergency installation of the double yellow lines. Thankfully the process happened quickly and has helped. But as we all know there continues to be large numbers of visitors and we are working with the South Essex Parking Partnership who carry out regular parking enforcement visits. The

Parish Council are also engaging with Essex Waterways.

Another topic which takes up a large part of my time is Planning and Enforcement. There's nothing like a controversial planning application to create a stir in the village and my inbox! The Parish Council notifies any major applications via the village email system and all planning applications are put on our website with links to the planning documents and any response made by the Parish Council.

Sadly I am all too frequently notified of fly tips in the parish. I report these to Maldon District Council who generally attend promptly. This year we requested additional signage which was erected by the Community Engagement Team. They can also deploy CCTV and this has been requested. You can report fly tipping directly to MDC by filling in the online form on their website www.maldon.gov.uk

The new Playground is a project that I have personally been heavily involved in having volunteered to serve on the committee. I am very proud of the work of the team in securing the funding and I'm excited for the build which we hope will take place in June.

With an update to Government Legislation regarding meeting virtually it now looks likely that the Parish Council will no longer be able to meet virtually and will need to consider the best way of carrying out our duties and putting in place the necessary measures to allow us to begin face to face meetings again.

Over the last few years and especially the last 12 months the Parish Clerk's job has evolved and I am very grateful to the Parish Council and the village community that this is recognised.

Find out more about Woodham Walter Parish Council from its website www.woodhamwalterpc.org

Village Design Statement Working Group – David Beattie



It is now almost four years since our Village Design Statement (VDS) was formally approved by Maldon District Council as a material planning consideration, so now is a good time to re-state its key objectives. The adopted VDS can be viewed on the Parish website

www.woodhamwalterpc.org under 'Planning Matters' at the top of the home page.

Overview.

This VDS is about managing change in the village, not preventing it. It is a tool to ensure that any new development in Woodham Walter respects and reflects the distinctive visual character of the village as valued by village residents.

What is included in the VDS?

- A brief historical context (page 2).
- The development of the settlement (page 3).
- The setting of the village in the surrounding countryside (page 4).
- The character of twenty two individual areas in the village (pages 5 – 17).
- The characteristics of buildings and spaces (pages 18 – 24).
- The Built Environment with Design Guidelines (pages 25 – 43).

Who should use it?

The VDS provides essential easy to read guidance for residents, designers, developers as well as the Parish and District Councils'.

When should it be used?

The VDS should be referred to where Planning Permission is required, where works are to be carried out as Permitted Development, or for any other work affecting the external appearance of a property. It applies to new buildings, extensions, or any alterations to buildings where the external appearance of a building, or its site, (including walls and hedges), is being changed or renewed.

There are additional legal requirements for properties within the village Conservation Area (pages 23, 24).

Design Guidance.

The VDS provides design guidelines on the scale and character of a building or extension and its relationship to the immediate area and adjoining properties (pages 26-30). It covers the individual elements that make up a building including walls, roofs, porches, dormers, windows, garages, boundary treatment, building and landscaping materials (pages 31 - 41).

Building Materials.

Materials from sustainable sources are much preferred. Facing brickwork in red and brown hues, parge-tting, render and feather edged boarding are all acceptable materials painted in Woodham Walter colours. Cementitious cladding is no substitute for traditional timber feather edged boarding which has a more superior appearance. Painted shiplap boarding is more suited to American colonial style buildings and not a rural Essex environment.

Roofing should be clay peg tiles, plain tiles, pantiles or slates depending on the existing property and surroundings and should complement the rural character of the location. Flat roofs should definitely be avoided.

New or replacement windows should be in timber, (or metal in appropriate locations) and not in plastic (upvc), which is wholly unsuited to a rural environment. Replacement windows should be consistent with the age and style of the existing building or complement or match the existing.

Guidance is also provided for boundary treatments, (fencing, walls, gates, hedges), external lighting, solar panels, satellite dishes and landscaping to front gardens.

Further detailed information on the above is provided in 'Design Articles' under the Planning Matters tab of the village website.

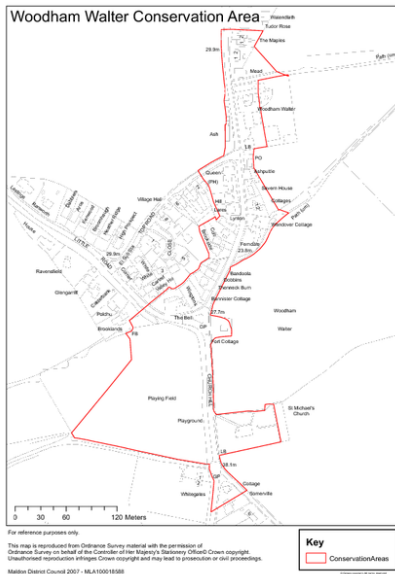
Advice on how to satisfy the VDS requirements.

If you have any doubts as to whether your project, however small, complies with the VDS please ask. The Parish Council provide free advice on how to meet the requirements of the VDS to anyone carrying out work to their property, whether Planning Permission is required or not. This may help you to speed the design process up and save time and money. Please contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance.

Finally, a plea! If you are intending to erect a new building, or to extend an existing property, please consult a Qualified Architect with appropriate experience, of which there are a number locally. They will be familiar with the Local Planning Authority and VDS requirements, as well as being able to design a building that you and the Village can be proud of.

You can choose an appropriate architectural practice by visiting the RIBA website www.architecture.com and selecting the 'Find an Architect' tab. The selection process takes about two minutes.

Woodham Walter Conservation Area



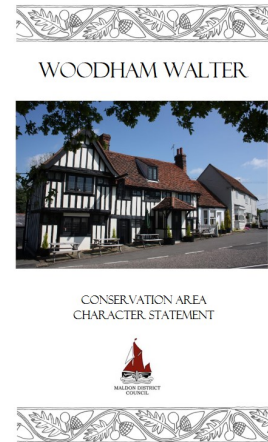
Woodham Walter has a designated Conservation Area and Article 4 Direction. This is in the central village area. You can view more information on the MDC or Woodham Walter websites.

Establishing a conservation area immediately places firmer planning controls over certain types of development. The main additional requirements include the following:

- 6 weeks' notice must be given to the local authority before works are carried out to any tree in the area. This does not include trees whose trunks have a diameter of less than 75mm above ground level
- Planning permission is required for the demolition of any unlisted building with a volume of more than 115 cubic metres
- Planning permission is required to demolish a gate, fence, wall or railing over 1 metre high next to a highway (including a public footpath or bridleway) or public open space; or over 2 metres high elsewhere
- Planning permission is required for alterations to the roof of a dwelling house resulting in a mate-

rial alteration to its shape, notably dormer windows

- Planning permission is needed for the installation of a satellite dish on a chimney, wall or roof slope which faces onto and is visible from a public highway
- Planning permission is needed to clad any part of the exterior of a dwelling house with stone, artificial stone, timber, plastic or



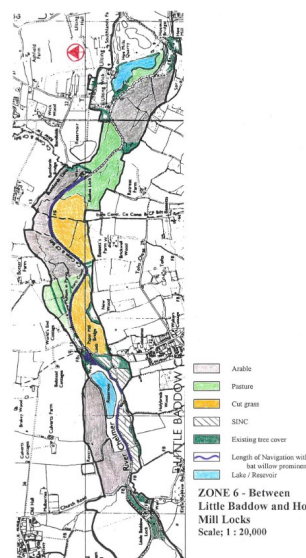
Chelmer & Blackwater Conservation Area



The other Conservation Area within our Parish is the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation Conservation Area. This forms a central element of the lower Chelmer Valley which is described as a major landscape feature. Woodham Walter is within Zone 6: Little Baddow to Hoe Mill Lock and Zone 7: Hoe Mill Lock to Langford Pumping Station.

The character of Zone 6 is described as quiet, rural remote from development and has the most valuable landscape of the Conservation Area.

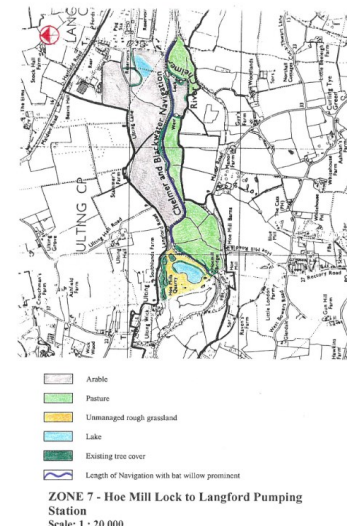
Zone 7 is described as having more pasture and more mixed native vegetation along the water-body banks. Enlarged arable fields are prominent on the north bank and can give an impression of a flat open landscape.



The document explains that conservation of existing qualities is a major requirement particularly in rural zones 6 and 7.

To read more of the document visit the website.

www.woodhamwalterpc.org





District Councillor—Karl Jarvis



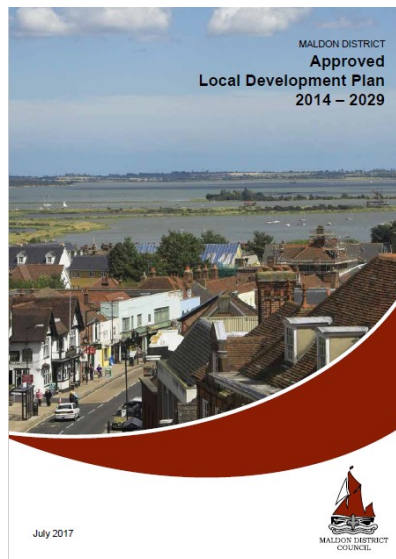
Dear residents of Woodham Walter I'm delighted to pen a summary of District matters that have occurred during the past municipal year.

It has of course been a year that none of us will ever forget because of Covid-19, lockdowns, tiers and Zoom meetings. While we may all have been inconvenienced to a degree, we all know some family that has suffered greatly with a bereavement or serious illness; our primary thoughts go to those families. Our next thoughts go to the services, the nurses and doctors and support staff at the NHS, the other services including the army and the civilian army of volunteers that have helped us manage our way through the pandemic and soon we hope out the other side to better times.

At Maldon District Council the officers have played their part organising 'testing' and 'vaccination' centres at various venues, including the MDC offices. Councillors have continued to meet albeit via TEAMS virtual meetings. As well as business as usual aspects, such as planning, decisions have had to be made on matters that have been hit by

Covid – grants to businesses have been available and the Council has assisted financially the Blackwater Leisure centre and the Dengie 100 sports centre in being ready for business on the road ahead.

The budget set recently for 2021/2022 saw an increase in council tax at £5 pa (2.47%), with other factors the average increase for most households will be under 2%. The Citizens Advice Bureau do a fantastic job and are great value as most of the team there are volunteers – extra funding has been given to them so they can carry on the good work and plan the delivery of their services including some additional drop-in centres.



The planning Local Development Plan (LDP) is reviewed periodically, and the next review has been brought forward by 12 months, partly to utilise some exceptional staff being released from the Bradwell B project; the target delivery for a new LDP is end-2023.

Car parking and barge fees have not been increased and there will be some free car parking days as gradually everyone is encouraged

to shop, eat out and eventually socialise freely once more. The government are helping with financial measures so that the Council can maintain a healthy reserve, but it will still be a challenging time ahead.

There are two major planning items I will comment on very briefly. The proposed development at The Warren Golf Club was refused at Council by a unanimous vote, although the debate itself seemed very balanced. There was considerable interest locally in the development with over 200 letters being received by MDC and 90% of those registering as being against the application. Residents getting involved in such a material way has to be a good thing no matter which opinion they are expressing, so well done to all that got involved. I would always encourage developers to consult as much as possible with residents and Parish Councils to ensure that they can take onboard local interests.

The other development I'll mention is Bradwell B. The China General Nuclear Power Group (CGN), the development company applying for consent to build the nuclear power plant at Bradwell on Sea, 'BRB', has informed the Council that engagement and all active project work will pause for at least a year. They have stated that they remain committed to the project, but that due to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic it has meant it has not been possible for engineers to travel between China and the UK and as a result, their activities are now at risk of falling behind. The pause will enable them to make up ground in some critical areas. The Council will re-engage with BRB when they are ready to do so.

District Councillor—Karl Jarvis

On a general planning matter the Five-year housing land supply is not currently being met. MDC say that there should not be a significant change to planning application decisions, just a switch of emphasis to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) rather than LDP, as one is primarily based on the other. All that said getting the correct supply back is a priority and requests via the parishes for possible housing sites has been made.

Mark Durham would usually write to you also at this time, as your other Ward Member and District Councillor. He is prohibited from doing so because of ‘purdah’ rules as he is involved in County Council elections – he wishes you all well.

Your own Parish Council has been admirably led over the year by Chairman Cllr John Tompkins and now the baton is passed to Cllr James Rushton and he has hit

the ground running on a number of issues. Your Clerk Jacky Bannerman is exceptional and I’m sure you all already know that. You have a great Parish Council team so I’m sure you would join me in thanking all of them for the volunteer work that they do.

Very best wishes to you all,

Karl

Recycling Bags

Maldon District Council will supply an annual delivery of recycling sacks to households during May/June.

As a consequence of the lockdown supplies were not available from many of the usual locations. It was therefore arranged that the Parish Clerk will keep a small stock for residents of Woodham Walter. If you need additional supplies of pink recycling sacks or food caddy liners prior to May they can be obtained by contacting the Parish Clerk by email parishclerk@woodhamwalterpc.org or telephone 01245 373686.





COLLECTION CALENDAR 2020 - 21

ROUTE 7 - THURSDAY

MAY 2021							AUGUST 2021						
Mon	3	10	17	24	31	Mon	2	9	16	23	30		
Tues	4	11	18	25	Tues	3	10	17	24	31			
Wed	5	12	19	26	Wed	4	11	18	25				
Thurs	6	13	20	27	Thurs	5	12	19	26				
Fri	7	14	21	28	Fri	6	13	20	27				
Sat	1	8	15	22	29	Sat	7	14	21	28			
Sun	2	9	16	23	30	Sun	1	8	15	22	29		

JUNE 2021							SEPTEMBER 2021						
Mon	7	14	21	28	Mon	6	13	20	27				
Tues	1	8	15	22	29	Tues	7	14	21	28			
Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed	1	8	15	22	29		
Thurs	3	10	17	24	Thurs	2	9	16	23	30			
Fri	4	11	18	25	Fri	3	10	17	24				
Sat	5	12	19	26	Sat	4	11	18	25				
Sun	6	13	20	27	Sun	5	12	19	26				

JULY 2021							OCTOBER 2021						
Mon	5	12	19	26	Mon	4	11	18	25				
Tues	6	13	20	27	Tues	5	12	19	26				
Wed	7	14	21	28	Wed	6	13	20	27				
Thurs	1	8	15	22	29	Thurs	7	14	21	28			
Fri	2	9	16	23	30	Fri	1	8	15	22	29		
Sat	3	10	17	24	31	Sat	2	9	16	23	30		
Sun	4	11	18	25	Sun	3	10	17	24	31			

Interested in joining our popular **garden waste service**?
 We are now able to accept new subscribers.
 Visit www.maldon.gov.uk/garden



● Pink Sacks, Blue Box, Food Waste and *Garden Waste (subscription required)

■ Refuse, Food Waste and *Garden Waste (subscription required)

*If you require further information on the chargeable garden waste service, please visit www.maldon.gov.uk/garden

This calendar is also available online

Please recycle this when you have finished with it. In October 2021 you will be issued with a new calendar.

Woodham Walter Women's Club - Jean Newton



As the 2020 Annual General Meeting was unable to take place last April due to the pandemic no reports were published so this is a biennial report covering the period from April 2019 – March 2021.

Speakers at the Monthly Meetings thank you to Gill our Programme Secretary who manages to arrange a varied programme of Speakers. One of which was a very interesting speaker from the charity “Chess” which helps the homeless in Chelmsford and beyond. Also the popular fish and chip evening, a Bring and Buy Sale and bringing the year to an end the Christmas Celebration. At the start of the year the post Christmas Lunch at the “Bell” takes place, thank you to everyone at the “Bell” for making us so welcome.

Fund Raising Events at the beginning of June we hosted a Cream Tea with the opportunity to buy some of Penny’s Plants a taste of what would hopefully be available at the Flower Festival in July. The Flower Festival is a big date in our calendar, once again a huge thank you to all members and non members who help man the Tea Tent over the four days. Outside the Tea Tent Penny is to be found with her successful plant stall, club members are urged for months to sow seeds propa-

gate plants etc. We are very grateful to everyone who keeps us supplied in scones, cakes and the team who produce the ploughman’s lunches, not forgetting all the lovely plant donations to Penny’s plants.

At the end of August “Bell Meadow Day” takes place, this year the weather was very warm. Women’s Club is to be found running a Cake and Tombola Stall. Thank you to all club members who made and donated the cakes and to Penny who is in charge of the Tombola.

Moving on to October the annual Jumble Sale in Danbury Village Hall is another important fund raising event.

Other Activities Founders Day at the beginning of August was celebrated with a visit to Hyde Hall on a beautiful day. After a leisurely walk around the gardens we ended up at the Restaurant for a Cream Tea the plan was to sit outside and enjoy the lovely warm afternoon, unfortunately the wasps also wanted to join in so we had to up sticks and move inside to escape the pesky insects. A trip to the Civic Theatre in July for a few club members to see a performance of the musical ‘Grease’. In November a new departure for us we hosted a Quiz Night in the Village Hall with an excellent Quiz Master and assis-

tant. It was lovely to see so many people from the Village join us for an excellent evening.

Maintenance In August 2019 the Club Room exterior received a make-over, all the rotten boards were replaced and the building received several coats of paint, even the club sign board has been painted and has new lettering.

At the beginning of 2020 a new virus made itself known – Covid/19 sadly there was nothing to stop its spread worldwide and in March something we have never experienced before was announced a Lockdown, an event which turned all our lives upside down. All future Women’s Club meetings and activities cancelled, fortunately the Spring weather was kind and gardening became a very popular pastime. In April we were very fortunate to be awarded a grant which was a huge boost to our finances as any fund raising was out of the question, which meant we were able to proceed with the painting of the interior of the building and replace the floor covering.

Founders Day in early August members were invited by Joanna Symons to a bring your own socially distanced picnic in her lovely garden, the weather was perfect, what a boost to morale that afternoon was, thank you Joanna. Since then there has been two further Lockdowns the third one, at the time of writing we are still living with stringent restrictions. At present we have no plans for future meetings in the Club Room but with some optimism I am hoping that we will be able to meet up outside in the summer months.



Woodham Walter Village Hall Association - Merryll Cox



It has been a challenging few years for the Hall. After many years of hard work and dedication, Keith English and Ivor Brearley have decided to retire from the committee. Their hard work and dedication will be sorely missed. The committee are grateful for their contributions and thankful for their support.

Sadly, we also lost another member of our team: Ken Rennie. Ken had been a committee member for many years and his loss is felt by us all. His commitment and calm, quiet efficiency was greatly appreciated by all who worked with him. When the committee members are able to meet again, we shall be organising a proper way to commemorate his valuable contribution not just to the hall, but to the entire village.

The Covid pandemic has meant that the hall has been shut for most of the last year. But we have put this quiet time to good use: our caretaker has been redecorat-

ing the inside and outside of the hall. Amongst other jobs, we have also installed new storage heaters in the extension.

We are facing other challenges at present: we need to update our Trust Deed and try to warm up the hall itself, to make it more attractive to hirers. These are expensive undertakings, but our dedicated committee members have been reaching out to our village community for help and also applying for grants. We have been pleased with the support received so far, receiving donations from some organisations, individuals and the Parish Council. The Queen Victoria also hosted a quiz night. We hope to make a start with updating the Trust Deed when we can hold meetings again. We are also pleased to be able to make a start on project 'Warm Up The Hall'. Our thanks go to all who have helped so far.

Our village hall is an integral part of our community, providing a

venue for activities such as yoga, puppy training and the before & after school club – these clubs help to maintain a sense of community and help keep other village amenities viable. It cannot run without the fantastic committee. Our thanks go to Doug Seear, who has taken over my role as Secretary and Sarah Maxted who has become Treasurer. Colin Warner and Lee Hughes continue to maintain the outside. We must also thank others, who kindly donate time and materials to help keep our maintenance costs to a minimum: Nick Bullen Bell, Terry Fisk, Darren and Chirina from Queen Vic, Del Boswell, and many more.

When the hall is able to re-open, it will be fresher, brighter and a little bit warmer than before. Hopefully, over the next year or two, our fundraising efforts and donations will enable us to revitalise the entire hall and make it a warmer, more welcoming place to use. We hope that this will help keep the village hall a valuable asset for our community.

We look forward to welcoming you all again over the next few months.



Bell Meadow Village Association



This report was originally written by Mark Durham for the 2020 report which was not published. It seemed only right that the new committee use this report which gives a broad overview about the event. The final paragraph being an update from the new committee.

In 2004 Woodham Walter parish Council received a letter from the then owners of Bell Meadow, Essex & Suffolk Water. This letter stated that they were looking to sell land which included Bell Meadow and 11 acres of woodland which extended from the meadow almost to Wayside House at the Warren. This land had fallen into the ownership of the water company as in Victorian times there was a brick building that housed a pump station that provided the water supply for the village. This was located in the woods, although there is almost nothing left today except a few scattered bricks.

Essex & Suffolk Water said that they did not want to split the land and was offering it on the open market as one plot. At that time The Durham family owned the Warren Estate and it would have been difficult for their business if the woodland fell into the hands of a third party. After some protracted negotiations and a couple of offers from other prospective buyers a deal was agreed to purchase the land for nearly £80,000. The family had also worked with the parish council and they offered to donate the meadow to the village once the sale was completed. However, on hearing of this intention, Essex & Suffolk Water decided that they would split the land and gift the meadow to the village themselves. At the end of the day,

everyone was happy and the significant joint effort resulted in the parish council owning the meadow and The Warren owning the 11 acres of woodland.

There was a small presentation held on the meadow between the Durham's, the parish councillors and management of the water company. Following this, the parish council thought that it would be a good idea to hold an event to celebrate acquiring the meadow and this took place in August 2005. It was hurriedly put together by a few dedicated people with the aid of a grant from the PC. The first Bell Meadow Day was such a success, many people thought that it should become an annual event so between 2005 and 2019 BMD grew and evolved into the event that we know.

Over the years, many people from the village participated in the organising committee, some for one or two years and others for longer. I am really proud that I have been involved every year since 2005 and it became one of the highlights of my year. I don't really want to single out individuals, but there are one or two who have also played a vital role every year. These are Darren & Amanda Durant, the late Ken Rennie, Dell Boswell and of course the greatly loved and missed Kerry. There are many others who have made significant contributions, too many to list. I would like to thank each and every one of them for what they did.

The biggest blow to us was losing Kerry Boswell in 2018 and many in the committee lost heart running another event. However, we felt that we owed it to her to make a last effort and also because 2018 had been a total washout.

Finally the day came and the sun blazed down on us, a far cry from the previous year. In fact it was probably too hot and as a result we lost some food stalls that couldn't keep their products cool! The hot weather also kept many visitors away which led to a significant drop in gate receipts. However the day was still

successful and in common with previous years, it ended in style with live music on the stage. It was a far cry from the first event in 2005 when a youth jazz band played on a makeshift stage built from scaffolding!

After the 2019 event, several of the committee decided that they had done their bit and it was a fitting time to stand down. This included those I have mentioned plus a couple more. After much deliberation, I too resolved to stand aside, largely because my other commitments and workload impinge on what I am able to contribute. At the last AGM, a new committee was formed and the organisation for 2020 was handed over to them.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has been involved, no matter how little it may have been. I enjoyed every single minute and will miss it terribly. I sincerely hope that the new committee carry on where we have left off and evolve the event to meet the changing needs of the future. May I wish them well and hope that they succeed.

MFL Durham

New Committee Update:

The new BMVA committee is headed up by Robert Lee.

Sadly the COVID restrictions meant that the event for 2020 had to be cancelled. It has also been decided that with all the current uncertainty we will not be organising the event in 2021—the risk of committing any expenditure is just too great.

The plan is certainly to return in 2022 with enthusiasm and lots of exciting ideas for the event.

Bell Meadow Day

Returns in 2022

www.bellmeadowday.co.uk

Bell Meadow Playground Working Party – Joanna Symons



The result of a planning permission submitted to Maldon District Council to build a new playground on Bell Meadow, was approved in late spring of 2019. The proposed playground installation was to be funded by public subscription and grant aid, rather than the capital cost being a burden on the Parish Council precept. The fundraising appeal for the new playground was launched on Bell Meadow Day 2019, when the Parish Council had a stand with a display of playground related materials to raise awareness of the project, and an information leaflet was distributed. From then on members of the Working Party researched a wide range of fundraising initiatives, including both commercial opportunities and community grants.

An open meeting for villagers and members of the Working Party took place in October 2019 in the Village Hall, where three playground companies were invited to present their ideas and further details on matters such as lead times, guarantees and maintenance contracts etc. Our fundraising target was set at £25k, and Wicksteed Playgrounds were chosen, as they were deemed to offer the best value for money, and could supply the most suitable equipment.

In December members of the Working Party took part in the village Christmas Tree lighting event, with display stands about the playground, and some money was raised through a Christmas themed tombola, a lollipop game and a raffle.

This was followed later in the month by a very successful bucket collection outside Maldon Tesco, where Working Party members braved the cold in their Christmas jumpers. Regular publicity about the Appeal appeared in the Parish Magazine, and many local people generously donated, and there were regular Playground Working Party meetings held to discuss further community fundraising activities, which included ideas for a Wine Tasting evening, a Family Picnic, a quiz, film night and many others. However all these initiatives and good ideas were brought to a halt by news of the March 2020 full national lockdown, but we continued with our fundraising efforts, and were delighted to hear that our application to the National Lottery for £10k had been successful. We kept the fundraising momentum going, and were successful in obtaining £10k from the Community Initiative Fund in late 2020. An additional £1,000 was received from our County Councillor's Locality Fund, which enabled us to buy two accessible picnic tables for outside the playground and a bench for inside the playground area. Funding was also kindly given to us by the Bell Meadow Association.

Having achieved our fundraising goal towards the end of 2020, we approached Wicksteed about making a start on the project. However unfortunately the company were unable to honour their original quote to us, thus we had to engage in a Playground Tendering/Procurement Process again.

We were very conscious that without having another playground provider in place fairly quickly, that we would not be able to fulfil our obligations to spend the money raised in the time set by the funders. Four companies submitted quotes and two were shortlisted for consideration by the Working Party. Caloo were selected as the Playground company and the decision ratified by the Parish Council.

The Working Party was advised by Maldon District Council in early 2021 that a Non Material Amendment reflecting the slight changes to the equipment provided by the new playground company, should be submitted to the Council, but unfortunately for technical reasons this was then refused. Thus we have now submitted another full Planning Application. We are hopeful that this will not take too long, and have been in touch with Caloo about plans for making a start on the project in the late spring/early summer of this year. We are now in the process of continuing to raise some further funding for landscaping, and have made an application to the Essex Community Foundation. If successful, this money will help us to provide landscaping features including fencing, bins and signs.

We look forward to the grand Opening Ceremony later in the summer!



Woodham Walter Allotment Association - Jane Weedon



Well last March seems a long time ago and we all pulled together with Bryony Maynard making an allotment invitation flyer which we distributed around the village and as a result 3 new families came on board and another a couple returned and were firmly back in the fold as well so all the allotments were taken. Peter Maynard very kindly created a compost spot in the hedge area and brought copious amounts of sheep manure while Bryony spent many an hour keeping our perimeter tidy. Peter also organised having the vacant plots rotavated ready for the newcomers.

We are looking forward to another abundant season, last year which initially was an excellent growing period followed by a long dry spell which had mixed effects on our crops with constant watering being required.

Due to the difficulty we had trying to buy plants and seeds when the garden centres were closed and the Internet not being able to keep up with demand we had lots of plant and seed exchanges which I am confident will continue this year. The first broad bean, strawberry or raspberry are



quietly coveted as horticultural achievements. Last year I grew celeriac successfully for the first time while another allotment holder continues to grow artichokes and if they leave

them, the purple flowers are a welcome contrast to green.



There are always some flowers planted beside the vegetables be they dahlias or sunflowers along with that some nasturtiums or marigolds snuggled in near their beans to fend off the black fly and green fly.

Many thanks goes to the quiet group of mowers and strimmers who keep the whole patch looking neat and cared for. We all continue to appreciate Chris Wheadon's monthly vegetable

cultivation guidance through the the Parish News and we extend our thanks also to the Maynards for the allotments and particularly last year as it gave us a safe space to be out in the open air and giving us the chance talk to people other than our close family bubble.

We do have a waiting list for allotments but do not hesitate in contacting one of us if you want express an interest in having an allotment.

Sue Cumming - Secretary
sue.cumming@hotmail.co.uk
 Jane Weedon- Chairman and Treasurer
janeanneweedon@gmail.com



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

Footpath Officer - Peter Warren



I've now completed 14 years as our Parish Footpath Officer and still enjoy the job trying to make sure that our Parish paths are clear and safe to walk. I go for a walk most days and try to cover at least a couple of paths on each walk. There are 28 footpaths and 5 bridleways in the Parish, those close to my home are checked at least once or twice each week whereas the ones further away I endeavour to check at least every few months. Any problems that I can't rectify easily are referred to the appropriate farmer or landowner (generally fallen trees). Other problems such as dodgy gates, bridges and signs are logged onto the ECC Highways online reporting system or anything really urgent or dangerous is referred directly to the Rights of Way Inspector for this area, Nicky Coleman.

Fortunately there haven't been too many issues on our paths in the past two years. After a dry winter the paths were in good condition at the start of Spring 2020, escaping the worst of Storm Gareth, just a lot of dead branches littering the paths. Following wet and warm weather in May and June, the weeds grew rather too well and several paths were hard to walk, and as usual FP18 through the old ruins of WW Hall became virtually impassable. Due to an oversight, the paths on the annual ECC cutting schedule weren't done until early September and then everywhere

was good to walk again. This didn't last for long as we then experienced the wettest Winter on record! The canal towpath was under water in places and 2 pontoon platforms on the new stretch of FP33 were lifted by the water and swept 20 yards away. A low lying section of bridleway BR2 remained flooded for several weeks and was impassable for both walkers and riders for a couple of months.

The route for the New Year's Day walk 2020 had to be revised a couple of times because of conditions underfoot and although really muddy in places was well attended by 48 people and approx 15 dogs (moving around too fast to accurately count!) finishing with an enjoyable lunch in The Queen Vic.



Thanks to a really dry Spring last year all paths dried out really well. As a result of the lockdowns and everybody's need to exercise, the paths have been extremely well used. The good Summer that followed, combined with the vastly increased footfall, resulted in the weeds not getting properly established unlike some Autumns! Unfortunately we have just suffered another extremely wet Winter and the increased number of walkers had an adverse effect and several paths got badly churned up. Again the canal towpath was badly flooded and the new bridge on FP33 ended up at a jaunty angle! Regrettably the New Year's Day walk couldn't take place, probably not such a bad thing bearing in mind the conditions!

Problems in the past two years have included the usual crop of fingerposts and waymark posts fallen over or gone missing completely. The many storms over this two year period have brought down at least 30 trees, some quite sizeable, generally removed promptly by our co-operative landowners. Also a rotten bridge on FP4 south of Glendale has been replaced by a volunteer group from the Maldon Ramblers – an excellent job, thank you!

Whilst walking the local paths I also carry out the job of Tree Officer. This is to satisfy the Parish Council's responsibility to check on the safety of trees bordering the paths on WW Common, plus the trees surrounding Bell Meadow. A couple of trees on the south side of Bell Meadow have needed dead limbs removing and 3 others removed completely.

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, please let me know. Let's hope that we have yet another good summer to enjoy our lovely WW countryside, we certainly deserve it!

Peter Warren 01245 221326

Woodham Walter Parish Councillors

James Rushton (Chairman)



I am Essex born and bred, born in Loughton, growing up in Frinton and going to school in Colchester. Anne and I moved to Woodham Walter in 2004 with our two daughters, Elizabeth and Charlotte, both of whom have now moved away from home. Our principal reasons for moving here were quality of life and to be nearer to family, both Anne's and mine.

My career has been in music publishing, all genres of music but especially classical. I retired at the end of last year. Music remains extremely important to me - although my piano playing isn't quite what it used to be! Alongside that, I am a passionate cricket follower, and since moving here I have found myself becoming more and more interested in the natural world around us, particularly birds, and my aim now is to devote time to volunteering in that sector..

The community of Woodham Walter has given a lot to us as a family and I am concerned as a Councillor to help to ensure that the sense of togetherness in the village as a whole and its unique and special characteristics are retained.

John Brown (Vice-Chairman)



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

For my day job I am the global Head of Information Systems for an investment company based in London.

In a normal year, my spare time is spread thinly between seeing friends and family, fixing things round the paddocks and stables, tinkering with Land Rovers, riding my mountain bike 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, I am looking forward to the day when I can go back to a rink and 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.

Jenny Hughes



I have been a parish councillor for five 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.

Woodham Walter Parish Councillors



Joanna Symons

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 28 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 the Careers Dept, and so when I had the opportunity to take early retirement, I was keen to devote some of my spare time to community activities, which was something that I had never had the time to do when working. 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

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.



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 16 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 13 years ago to help protect the unique character and charm of this area. My main role is Footpath Officer and I enjoy wandering around the Parish paths making sure that there aren't any problems. 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 West Sussex where I lived until I married Graham and moved to Essex 28 years ago. We have two children, our daughter now lives in London and works as an office administrator at an architects and our son is in Year 8 at The Plume in Maldon. We moved to Woodham Walter in 2002 (so still newcomers!) and I took on the role of Parish Clerk in 2006, 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. We have recently taken up kayaking on the canal which has become a new pleasure—but we plan our visits at quiet times to avoid those crowds!

St Michael's Church - Michael Bradbrook & Paul Clark



This is a somewhat unusual report in that it covers both 2019 and 2020. During this period Michael Bradbrook and Paul Clark continued as Churchwardens and it is anticipated they will continue to do so in 2021.

In July 2019, Canon Stephen Carter stood down as our Priest-in-Charge and in February 2020 retired from his duties at All Saints Maldon. We are indebted to Canon Stephen for his commitment and dedication to St Michael's and we hope he is enjoying his retirement. We were also extremely fortunate with Rev'd Julie Willmot leading our Services of Holy Communion (with Canon Stephen until July 2019) and were delighted when in October 2019 Rev'd Julie was licensed as our Priest-in-Charge including St Margaret's, Woodham Mortimer and All Saints, Purleigh. We are also grateful for the support and assistance from Alan Marjoram and our 'Home Team' in leading Morning Prayer and Family Services. As always, we are indebted to Ken Hay, our organist, and also to Martin Cook and James Rushton who step in when needed.

Throughout we have continued our links with Woodham Walter (C of E) Primary School with church members and Rev'd Julie Willmot (from her appointment in October 2019 as our Priest-in-Charge) 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 and led by Viv Clark continued through 2019.

In January 2019 church members started 'Open the Book' at Woodham Walter (C of E) Primary School which is a way of reading aloud well-known Bible based stories from The Lion Storyteller Bible. This was well received by children and staff and had become a regular event at the School as 2019 ended.

During 2019 there was one baptism, five funeral services and no wedding services. As we moved into 2020, we already had three weddings planned.

We have always remained involved with the community and

the Flower Festival in July 2019 was the highlight of that year with an amazing display by our wonderful flower arrangers. The theme was 'Gardens of Delight', which was indeed a great delight. The 'Fizz and Flowers' event during the Festival is also much enjoyed.

In 2019 we remained active with social and charitable events with a pets blessing followed by a BBQ at the Church which was well received and attended. In the summer we held a Churchwardens BBQ for members of the congregation and friends of the Church which was blessed by fine weather. It was also an opportunity to say farewell to Canon Stephen and to make a presentation to express our thanks to him.

The Joint Harvest Supper with St Margaret's was held again 2019 at Woodham Mortimer Village Hall and was well attended including members of the congregation from All Saints Purleigh. In October, The Gaudeamus Choir gave a splendid concert attended by some 80 people raising funds for local charities. We have been strongly supported in running these activities by our social committee and members of our congregation.



St Michael's Church

The work never stops to maintain and improve St Michael's. The wall mounted radiant heating system and associated electrical wiring was showing its age and therefore essential repairs were carried out to the wiring which was completed in 2020. Other works under consideration include repairs to the brickwork.

The Robert Henry Falkner Almshouses remained fully occupied during 2019 but sadly in 2021 a long-term resident passed away and consequently an Almshouse will be available in May. We are so grateful for the continued well-running of the Almshouses by our Honorary Clerk Angus Neale.

The memorial clock at St Michael's is working well following its overhaul in 2018 and we are most grateful to David Weedon and Brian Cumming for their continuing contribution in maintaining the clock.

The Church led project to provide a defibrillator for the village located in the phone box was completed in 2019 with some 30 residents trained in CPR.

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 previously reported, we have been extremely fortunate having been donated a parcel of land to the southern boundary of our churchyard. Planning permission for change of use of the land to a

graveyard was granted in 2019 and the archaeological conditions attaching thereto were satisfied. We have now incorporated the land within the existing churchyard and the land was consecrated by Bishop John in late 2020. The friends of St Michael's very kindly arranged and paid for new fencing to be erected to the graveyard extension. This is a major step forward in being able to serve the needs of the local and wider community now and for future generations.

As 2019 ended we had little idea as to how 2020 would unfold and of course its dramatic impact on all our lives as we moved into unprecedented times. January 2020 started as normal but then by March we were in full lockdown with all services suspended and the church closed. We were able to resume limited socially distanced services during the summer months and were able to conduct a much-postponed wedding during that period although our much-loved Flower Festival had to be cancelled. All other weddings and baptisms had by this time moved to 2021 and beyond. During 2020 there was one funeral, two burials of ashes and two funeral services conducted at a crematorium.

However, with much resourcefulness and with grateful thanks to the Rushton family we were able to arrange midnight mass which could be viewed on YouTube. The innovation of a nativity tableaux inside the

church gate was also kindly organised by the Rushton family. Reverend Julie has continued to work tirelessly in leading weekly services on Zoom and circulating a weekly reflection. It is hoped that we will be able to resume socially distanced services on 18th April 2021 and fortnightly thereafter.

It has always been our policy to open the church every day but of course that has not been possible although we hope that as we move through 2021, we will be able to resume some normality.

We must express our sincere thanks to Reverend Julie for her dedication and commitment to us particularly during this pandemic. We are most fortunate that she is our Priest-in-Charge.

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.

Our ethos remains the same and as Christians we want to be known to represent God's love to all and to extend that love to our community every day. St Michael's is always there for you.



Essex County Councillor—Penny Channer



The last Annual Report was written when COVID 19 had started to get a real grip and was affecting lives in more ways than ever imagined. The last twelve months have been dominated by the impact of Covid 19 with many losing family, friends, work colleagues and for others COVID 19 has left a legacy of continuing health issues which hopefully, given time, will improve.

ECC has worked tirelessly with communities to try and keep people as safe and secure as possible during these unprecedented times.

One of ECC's priorities is 'Securing inclusive economic growth'. Health of Essex's economy is so important to the long-term well-being of its communities and it remains a right priority now, as it was before Covid.

COVID 19 has affected jobs. ECC has piloted a Business Accelerator Scheme to support people who have been made redundant as a result of the crisis to start their own businesses; launched its own Kickstart programme to support new jobs in the county, working with small businesses to help them access government support to take on

new recruits; set up a Covid-19 Business Information Service to provide businesses with advice on any issues they had in relation to Covid; commissioned Let's Do Business to provide support for employers across the county to safeguard jobs; establishing a new £100m Economic Growth and Investment fund to promote the county; provided £2.2m to Districts to be distributed to Essex businesses through adaptation grants.

At the start of the pandemic ECC moved hundreds of staff onto 7-day working rotas to support hospital discharge for vulnerable people, requiring social care support; created a Covid-19 Response Fund worth £12m to support additional costs that care providers had to meet to keep people safe; additional capacity was secured for Care beds so that people could be discharged from hospital into an appropriate setting; technology used to support disabled people who could no longer access day opportunities; use of Care Phones to enable people to stay connected to their loved ones during lockdown.

For young people, ECC maintained critical children's services; worked closely with its schools to ensure they were able to operate safely when open; where appropriate, safeguard the access to education for the children of key workers and the most vulnerable.

ECC set up Operation Shield, working with the Community,

Voluntary sector, district, city and borough Councils which enabled the 60,000 people who had to Shield to access the support they needed. 7,000 volunteers were recruited to the Essex Well-being Service undertaking 40,000 tasks on behalf of residents who were unable to do those things for themselves. The volunteers remain supporting those who are still shielding or self-isolating.

**ESSEX
CORONAVIRUS
ACTION**

**PREVENT
INFORM
ASSIST**



To help hard-pressed families ECC delivered 22,850 free Summer holiday activity places, ensuring that throughout the summer holidays children could participate in physical activities and get a nutritious lunch, whilst parents were supported with free childcare.

Through ECC Public Health and Adult Social Care teams the lives of Essex people have been protected and safeguarded; including developing an Infection Control Plan - distributing more than £31m in funding to support infection control in its Care settings; the Essex Contact Tracing Service to manage outbreaks in sensitive settings has been set up; working with partners to manage the set-up of vaccination sites and the recruitment of Vaccination Marshall Volunteers.

Essex County Councillor—Penny Channer



2020/2021 was the first year of the Essex Climate Action Commission and it has produced its interim report. ECC has continued work towards net zero carbon emissions investing in and committed to environmental action and innovation. It is already building net zero school buildings; already converting street-lights to LED; already using innovative low carbon techniques, such as Leaky Dams and Natural Flood Management. The Essex Forest Initiative, 375,000 new trees, is ahead of Schedule. ECC announced that the first £2.5m of the £5m Climate Reserve was for an ambitious programme delivering green growth; net zero buildings, renewable energy and electric transport solutions, while making the county more resilient to the impacts of climate change, supporting the natural environment.

The 2020/21 budget only applied 1.50% Social Care Precept, no increase in the Council Tax element allowed, recognising that residents as well as ECC were under financial pressure.

A further £1m is allocated for community action for the Essex Environment with £500,000 to be spent on community initiatives to encourage people to create less waste, use less tap water, produce less carbon, travel sustainably, and use safe, renewable energy. The other £500,000 will be in-

vested in a competition to help four communities in Essex go further and to become national pioneers in net zero carbon communities.

ECC aims to transform adult social care, while with it being fit for purpose to deal with the increasing demands within the system, the vision is that every adult will be able to live as independently as possible and enjoy a good, meaningful life.

The Locality Fund has seen more than £700,000 being invested into more than 350 worthy local community initiatives. The fund will continue for 2021/2022, each member again receiving £10,000 to spend in their respective divisions.

A further £7.2m capital funding allocated to the Local Highways Panels, an additional £200,000 for each, each year for the next three years. £180,000 has been added to the revenue budget for LHPs.

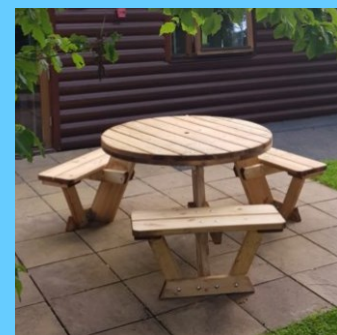
ECC has supported children not only with meals but spent £900,000 on 5,000 laptops to those who needed them for remote learning. An unprecedented amount of education time has been disrupted or lost because of COVID. To help address this and associated issues the intention is to establish an Education Recovery Task Force, which will have an independent Chairman, to lead and oversee the recovery of children. £1.5m has been placed in a reserve to support the task force work; £500,000 of which is to expand the summer holiday scheme to a wider group than just those in receipt of free school meals and to support formal

learning catch up; another £500,000 to support children's emotional wellbeing and mental health.

£500,000 in the budget will be used to work on violence and vulnerability, to protect children from being targeted by gangs by disrupting gang activity and breaking the cycle of violence

Over the last twelve months ECC has worked with the main single focus to address the challenges of Covid. It will continue doing that over the next twelve months. A fundamental responsibility of government is to save lives; working with partners and with central government ECC intends to protect people, families, communities from the COVID virus recognising the strength and resilience of our communities is going to be even more important in future.

Picnic Benches due to be installed at Bell Meadow which have been purchased through the Locality Fund.



Wood Corner Caravan Site - Paul Ashworth



The only thing I would like to say is to give a big thank you to Dr Dollery from the Danbury Medical Centre who came forward and organised for residents to be

COVID vaccinated onsite— an initiative the practice is now taking forward across other sites.

Paul Ashworth - Wellbeing, Place & Communities Lead, Essex County Council

Danny Hayden remains the site manager and like everything else the past year has been very different and pretty unremarkable. There have been no movements regarding the site, and we have not been able to do activities as we would in the past.

The Woodham Walter VDS describes Wood Corner as a 1990's constructed 20 pitch Traveller Site, enclosed by tall hedgerows and surrounded by arable fields. It is located on Old London Road at its junction with Curling Tye Lane on the eastern boundary of the Parish. The entrance to the site is very well kept with mown greenswathe.

Broadband—Councillor John Brown

IMPORTANT NOTE

Your broadband will NOT improve unless you order the faster service.

Over the last two years, the broadband service to the village has dramatically improved. Most of the homes with Chelmsford, 01245, telephone numbers will already be connected to a super-fast capable cabinet.

Those homes with Maldon, 01621, phone numbers and a handful of outlying properties on the Chelmsford exchange still have poor broadband connections.

Openreach have grant funding to get fibre connections to some of the outstanding properties, those in Blue Mill Lane and Curling Tye Lane are due before the end of the year.

In addition, a commercial provider, County Broadband, have also started to cable towards the village. At the time of writing, they

had reached Tom Tit Lane. The Parish Council have already made contact with them and hope to have a meeting to get more information.

The Parish Council will continue to push for improvements in those areas where it is still not possible get a good broadband service.

Ordering

With a BT Openreach connection, you can order your fibre broadband from ANY provider. Each offer different prices, packages and incentives however, the underlying broadband infrastructure is the same.

Typically, you order broadband based on the maximum bandwidth you want to use.

Individuals are likely to be happy

with a bandwidth of 10Mbps for general web browsing and between 20Mbps and 30Mbps for video streaming and online gaming. Even the lowest cost Fibre packages are fast enough. Most families will probably benefit from 30Mbps and above.

Additional Information

If you have any questions about broadband, please email john.brown@woodhamwalterpc.org



Woodham Walter Common - Volunteer Warden, Chris Wheadon



The existence of Covid in 2020 and the restrictions associated with it have obviously seriously affected the Management of all Essex Wildlife Trust Reserves. A roller coaster, dictating activities that can be permitted and those that cannot, particularly with regard to Work Parties which has seriously impacted on planned activities everywhere. However, not daunted, we have been relatively fortunate, and managed to get work done, because Catriona and I being a “Family Couple” were permitted to undertake some clearance activities, so it has not been a lost year in that respect. In early October a Management Inspection took place, we also had a “full” Work Party a few days later of six persons who worked extremely hard for a day achieving a great deal.

PATHS:- As can be imagined the Paths have certainly been used, since Social Media has posted Danbury/Woodham Walter/Little Baddow/Ulting as Recreational “Go To” places The Common has been extremely popular judging by the number of people that Catriona and I have seen.

BOGS:- Fortunately the October Work Party effectively cleared the invasive Bracken, and a small area of Birch. See the “Before and After” pictures below.



HEATHS:-

“New Heath”:- The Heather continues to thrive, and in some area patches are nearly one metre high. Ring barking of perimeter Silver Birch, which shed unwanted seeds, is proving very effective.

“Rowan Hollow”:- Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions we could not have the Work Party which was to clear more large Birch Saplings. **However,** on a very positive note I am very pleased to report the hand seed-

ing of Heather by Catriona and I some two years ago has resulted in hundreds of new healthy plants in a new area which are all growing well. We spent a week at the end of August hand weeding around those Heather plants, removing small Bramble and Silver Birch seedlings.

HIMALAYAN BALSAM. We (Catriona and I) had a Balsam pull in July and removed 155 plants.

OTHER MATTERS. Encroachment by Off Road Vehicles in the late Summer/Autumn, causing damage to small trees. The matter has been reported to the Police.

Broken glass in bed of Pond. A high percentage of which has been removed/buried. A Warning Sign has been erected, The situation being monitored.

We are fortunate in having this local Recreational Amenity, which provides enjoyment for many.



Woodham Walter Primary School—Geoff Hicks



Geoff Hicks, Chair of Governors

Unfortunately, Mrs Sue Dodd, our headteacher, is unwell and so it falls to me to write a few lines about our wonderful village school.

What a turbulent, challenging year that Mrs Dodd and all the staff at the school have had to cope with. But cope they did and magnificently too! I cannot praise them enough for overcoming all the difficulties that the pandemic posed while finding new, innovative ways of ensuring that the children were kept safe and given emotional, spiritual and educational support.

When the children were in school they were kept safe using frequently updated risk assessments which included the use of a fogger, deep cleaning, lots of sanitising units, frequent hand washing, the use of bubbles (this was a real challenge with only 4 classrooms) and social distancing for the older children.

The school has had a duty to look after key worker children when others are being home schooled which has meant that

some teachers have had to be in school at all times while others were using remote teaching methods. This has evolved through the year using a combination of lessons on

Zoom, material being accessed through the school website and hard copy materials for children who haven't been able to use digital versions. The school has lent laptops or tablets to children who have needed them. There has been a constant communication loop between school staff and children. In addition to teaching the children, staff have maintained frequent contact with parents to ensure their, and the children's, wellbeing.

In addition to core subjects, and to support wellbeing, the school has provided very well received yoga and PE lessons online and Rev'd Julie has conducted what she has called 'kitchen assemblies', - literally from her kitchen but with some interruptions from Toby her dog!

Unfortunately, Mrs Dodd and 3 other members of staff contracted Coronavirus but all have recovered now.

All except 2 children returned to school on March 8 but they were 'eased in' and made to feel more comfortable by the school putting on voluntary yoga sessions in bubbles the

week before. Apparently they arrived nervous but left beaming having enjoyed the yoga and being reacquainted with their school friends.

The teachers have conducted post lockdown informal assessments of the children and are using 'catch up funding' to put on additional lessons for those children who most need extra help.

I, and the whole Governing Board, are very proud of how Mrs Dodd and all the school staff have overcome the many and varied challenges of this year, constantly keeping the children's wellbeing front of mind. Well done all, we admire what you've achieved.

For more information about the school please visit the website: <http://woodhamwalterschool.co.uk/>



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 373686 (Mon-Fri before 6pm)

parishclerk@woodhamwalterpc.org

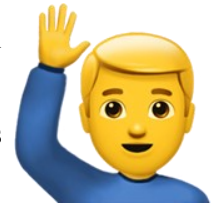


Woodham Walter Parish Council - Youth Volunteer



After a successful trial, Woodham Walter Parish Council would like to engage the services of another youth volunteer.

Volunteering is all about making a difference to other people's lives and using your skills and experience to help your local community.



This would suit the volunteering section of the Duke of Edinburgh Award or Scout/Guide Awards

Commitment: To visit Bell Meadow/Memorial Garden on a weekly basis to carry out tree/hedge watering and litter picking duties.

For more information apply to: parishclerk@woodhamwalterpc.org

Woodham Walter Litter Pick



Woodham Walter Parish Council organised a very successful litter pick in February. We were lucky with the weather and even though we couldn't meet up it was a nice community event with lots of positive comments and thanks. Over 55 bags of rubbish were collected by 16 household groups working independently

with around 35 volunteers and we litter picked pretty much the entire Parish of Woodham Walter.

Thank you to all of the volunteers at the weekend and also to everyone who litter picks out on walks around our village throughout the year.

Friends of St Michael's Church - Brian Cumming



2020 marked our 15th anniversary and looking back over those years (which seem to have passed surprisingly quickly) I think that we can be very proud of all that we have achieved; from work on the fencing and grounds, repairs to grave stones and brickwork, servicing the clock and re-gilding the clock face, supporting the development of the toilet extension and the kitchen unit,... the list goes on.

All of this started with the vision of our two founder members Moina Carnel and Frank Herrmann; sadly, both are no longer with us but I am sure that they would be delighted with the way the Friends has grown and thrived over the years. Our Friends supply expertise, knowledge, enthusiasm, people power and, importantly, funds to ensure that our historic village church is well maintained and able to keep pace with the needs of the modern world.

Moina and Frank started the ball rolling but it is through the enthusiasm and generosity of our members that we are able to keep making progress and I would like to express my grateful thanks to all those who support us in a variety of ways.

Looking forward there is still much

to do and currently at the top of the list is the preparation of a piece of land to the south side of the church which was very kindly donated to the church by our neighbouring farmer. This piece of land will be used to extend the church yard and the Friends will be supporting work to make this farmland suitable for its new purpose with grassed areas, planting and pathways.

The first important task in converting this land into a church yard was the erection of the new boundary fence. As luck would have it the new boundary was slightly shorter than the existing southern boundary fence and we were able to repurpose the old fence by moving it into the new position. Our intention had always been to call for a Friend's working party to complete this task, but, as in so many things, the restrictions imposed by the Covid virus have prevented this from happening. Time was running out to complete this work and so the Friends turned to a local contractor who was able to do the job

for us at a very reasonable cost. With the area now secured, better weather and, hopefully, Covid losing its grip on us, we should be able to continue the tasks necessary to complete the transition of this land into an attractive extension to the existing grounds.

Next on the list of things to do is the refurbishment of the brick work of the east gable of the church building itself and, funded by the Friends, work will commence on this very soon.

The Friends of St. Michaels Church is a non-religious group dedicated to the preservation and development of a beautiful and historic building and, if you are not already a member, I would encourage you to join us and to support our work and help to keep Woodham Walter the special place that it is.





Tadpoles Nursery - Pam Seear

It has been a very different year for us at Tadpoles, just like everyone else we have felt the effects of the Covid virus but have worked together staff, parents and community to provide a safe and welcoming environment for all our families.

As the first Covid lockdown started we sent the children home with some of their favourite resources and kept in contact with all our families through this and respective lockdown by sending out weekly activity packs to all the children. All the Aunties planned fun things that the children could do at home with their family. These ranged from nature hunts to see what they could see in their gardens or when they were out walking, to making cards, games, things that they could share.

This way we were still able to have fun learning through play!

In order to support parents I did a weekly ring round to see if there was anything parents needed support with.

A small group of children and staff returned and we finished the summer term, normally a very busy one for us it was very quiet, we were unable to go on our usual outing or have our Teddy Bears picnic which we all really missed. Our older children then left in July and we were able to have a small distanced leavers party in August.

So September we opened again and our numbers increased slightly, things were very different, with the Covid advice meaning that no visitors were allowed through our gate. The children soon got used to our updated cleaning routines which are now part of our daily life.

We also talked a lot about feelings and supported emotional well being discussing their feelings and helping them to process them using yoga techniques and calming music. The children and staff were so happy to be back.

In November we had great fun taking part in the children in need duck race, we watched it on the computer to see whose duck won the race, we also raised £77 for Children in Need.

Christmas came and we enjoyed a Christmas lunch cooked by the school cook, staff and children really enjoyed it.

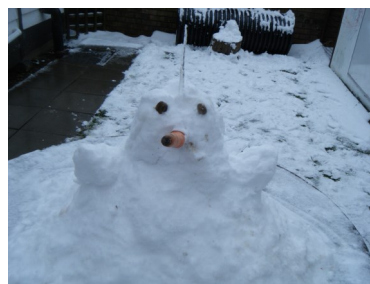
In January again a lockdown happened, however unlike schools (who were open for key worker and vulnerable children) we in Early Years remained open for all children.



Although we opened not many children attended, slowly more children started and by the time schools reopened to all children we were virtually at full strength.

Everyone was so happy to be back, they had all missed their friends and Aunties so much!!!

We had great fun in the snow, we made a snowman and did experiments with ice!



We were able to celebrate Chinese new year which included eating Chinese food with chop sticks.

We made pancakes in February and tossed them in the air!

We also made our own pizzas they were yummy.

The children really enjoyed writing letters to themselves which they



posted in the post box outside the Nursery.

Since then we have been very busy in our garden, making mud pies in our mud kitchen, making dens, building using our builders bricks and our sand pit. We also love playing outside with water, splashing in puddles as well as pouring water down pipes and tunnels

Early in March we took part in World book day sharing lots of stories dressed up as our favourite book characters. The Aunties dressed up too.

On March the 19th we all dressed up and showed that 'Funny is Power' we had a raffle and one of our children Ophelia, did a very special ride on her bike at home, her family and friends sponsored her and she raised an amazing £105 to add to our Red Nose day donation making it a fantastic £139.20 which will help so many children and families who really need it.

To end this Spring term the children enjoyed doing Easter craft, making cards and baskets, they especially enjoyed hunting for eggs in our garden.

We have really missed our visits to the church and Woodham Walter school and our walks around the village. We are all happy to be back with our friends sharing and caring and taking special care to keep ourselves and our friends safe.

Neighbourhood Watch - Gary Orford



As from March 2020 I took over from Brian Cummings as the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator for the village. I would on behalf of the village like to thank Brian for the work he has done previously to keep the village a safe place to live.

We continue to be a low crime village in a low crime area however that does not mean we sit back on our laurels thinking everything will continue to be OK in the future.

In late 2019 we had an incident in the village where 2 men impersonated police officers and conned their way into a residents property and stole goods (they were later caught and imprisoned). This prompted us to review what we can do as a community to support others. A number of residents got together to have a face-to-face meeting (ah the good old days!!!) and a plan was put together to better co-ordinate the information flow throughout the village of suspicious activity or crimes.

We set up 13 areas in the village each with a Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator. In order to communicate within each group, it was decided that e-mail would be too slow and therefore Whatsapp would be the favoured medium of communication as it was easily available on smartphones. These 13 Whatsapp groups are connected to one overriding Whatsapp group. The aim of the Whatsapp groups is to get a flow of information about incidents / suspicions in the village. This allows all

residents to be engaged in crime prevention and take precautions if necessary. Information includes but not limited to:

- Suspicious vehicles in the village
- Cold callers
- Unusual behaviour of individuals / cars visiting the village
- Criminal acts in the village

It must be noted that the person identifying the crime MUST still report it to the police in the first instance either through 999 if its serious or 101 for less serious crimes.

Proof of the Whatsapp system working came later in the year when we were having reports of criminals stealing from outbuildings and a number of suspicious vehicles / people were spotted in the village. After following the Whatsapp reports a resident woke up in the middle of the night to see a vehicle acting strangely in the village. They phoned 101 and a police car was dispatched and caught the criminals with breaking and entering equipment in the back of the van – the thefts stopped very soon after! Whether these were the criminals were the ones doing the thieving or the word got out to other criminals that Woodham Walter is on the lookout I do not know.

As well as general stealing from outbuildings and cars, anti social behaviour from quad bikes, trials bikes and 4x4 cars causing damage to farmers fields and Woodham Walter Common caused many incidents during 2020. This culminated in a farmer being assaulted when confronting the criminals. So far these men have not been caught however the village residents remain on alert if they return.

As a general rule I do not comment / report to residents on cyber crime reported in social media etc. as the incidents are too many and by the time I report the criminals have moved onto another scam. I feel that

if I keep reporting on individual incidents in time residents will get bored with my warnings and miss something that is very important and directly related to Woodham Walter. Instead, I try to inform the residents of Police / Neighbourhood Watch campaigns that give everyone the necessary information to spot a scam and what to do if they become involved in one. One such campaign is “take 5” where everyone is encouraged to not act hastily when involved in replying to texts / e-mails / links but to consider their actions before replying.

If you get 5 minutes can I suggest that you visit the Woodham Walter Parish Council website – www.woodhamwalterpc.org where you can find “crime awareness links” under the heading “noticeboard”. Here there is much information about police advice, crime prevention, cybercrime advice etc.

Lastly I would like to thank all the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators for their work over the last year. It is really great when everyone does a little and together we can do loads – we have proved it by keeping crime to a minimum and catching a few criminals along the way!!!

If anyone has any questions or they want to be included in the village Whatsapp group please do not hesitate to contact me at the below e-mail address and I will put you in contact with your local co-ordinator.

Keep them peeled!!

Gary Orford
Woodham Walter Neighbourhood
watch Co-ordinator
woodhamwalternw@hotmail.com



Community Engagement Team - Nicola Syder

The year 2020/21 has been unlike any that we have experienced before and our service has adapted to accommodate being part of the COVID community effort in partnership with organisations including Maldon and District CVS and The Salvation Army.

In the parish of Woodham Walter we have continued to be a presence delivering TRUCAM (Speed Enforcement Patrols) and when the schools have been open we have also carried

out school parking patrols in partnership with South Essex Parking Partnership, this raises awareness of safe parking around the school, and will see officers either move vehicles on or issue a penalty charge notice (PCN) to vehicles parked on restrictions (eg. Double yellow lines / School zig zags) During 2020/21, our officers did not issue any PCN's during a school patrol.

During 2020/21 we have carried out 43 TRUCAM patrols which captured

72 speeding drivers, who were referred to Essex Police for further action.

Whilst in the parish we also carry out a visual check and patrol at Bell Meadow for any issues such as dog fouling / littering.

We look forward to continuing to provide a service to and work in partnership with the parish of Woodham Walter for the new financial year.

TRUCAM Figures for 2020/21

Patrol	No of Patrols	Captures
30 TRUCAM	43	72

Street Scene Figures for 2020/21

Incident type	No of incidents	Action- info
Fly tipping – public land	39	All incidents are checked for supporting evidence and investigated – All hotspot areas will have signage installed by May 21 – Covert CCTV to be deployed in areas if suitable.
Abandoned Vehicles	1	We are aware of x5 abandoned vehicles on farmland / Woodland at the rear of the Wood Corner Caravan site – these are due to be removed once ground conditions improve due to the heavy lifting machinery required – Landowner has kindly allowed us access across his land.
Litter Reports	0	1 littering fine issued and paid by a driver witnessed dropping litter from his vehicle whilst in the parish of Woodham Walter (Fine issued and sent via post to vehicle keeper)
Dog Control – Fouling	0	The team will continue to patrol monitor and enforce where appropriate, if you require any further dog signage please inform us and we will aim to get this done Apr/May 2021.



Bus Services for Woodham Walter

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

The DaRT 99A runs Monday-Friday to/from Chelmsford/Broomfield Hospital.

There is also the D6 which is now running on Tuesdays and Thursdays to/from Maldon.

The main village bus stop for these services is outside The Bell but there are other stops on the route—please see the timetable for full details.

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

www.woodhamwalterpc.org

Further information on bus services can be found at www.essexhighways.org/Getting-Around/bus.aspx

and timetables are available at: <https://bustimes.org/localities/woodham-walter>



DaRT 99A Monday—Friday

Woodham Walter, The Bell	0728	1144
Danbury, Eve's Corner	0746	1200
Sandon, The Crown	0756	1210
Chelmsford, Railway Station	0810	1226
Broomfield Hospital	0824	1237

Broomfield Hospital	1545	1715
Chelmsford Railway Station	1601	1731
Sandon, The Crown	1612	1745
Danbury, Eve's Corner	1622	1755
Woodham Walter, The Bell	1641	1813

You must pre-book a minimum of 2 hours before departure (01621 874410)

Other stops are made on the route, these are highlights only.

See timetable for full details.

DaRT 6 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

You must pre-book a minimum of 2 hours before departure (01621 874410)

Other stops are made on the route, these are highlights only.

See timetable for full details.

Essex Waterways Report—Roy Chandler



The Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation

As this is our first entry to the annual Parish Report, I start with a little background to our operations. The Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation is a 14 mile river navigation running from Heybridge Basin on the River Blackwater to Springfield Basin in Chelmsford. It opened in 1797 and was until 1972 operated for entirely commercial transport. However in that year the commercial carrying of timber to Chelmsford ceased and the Navigation was gradually opened to pleasure craft.

The Navigation remained independent from the national system and was operated by the original Navigation Company until 2003 when it went into Administration. There was a real risk that the waterway would no longer be maintained and the locks which are all listed structures would become derelict. Following much activity by Chelmsford Branch of the Inland Waterways Association, Essex Waterways Ltd was formed in 2005 to take responsibility for the maintenance and operation of the Navigation. Essex Waterways Ltd is wholly owned by the Inland Waterways Association, a national charity that campaigns for the restoration and use of waterways. It is a volunteer led not-for-profit company with all

income spent on the Navigation which is run for public benefit.

The Navigation lies within a Conservation Area and there is a public tow path along its whole length which connects with footpaths to most of the nearby villages. There are nearly 300 boats moored on the Naviga-

tion with another 500 visiting Heybridge Basin annually including many foreign vessels. In addition the number of canoes and paddleboards using the waterway increases every year as more people enjoy active leisure time and of course the number of people walking the tow path or simply visiting also increases.

We operate moorings at Springfield Basin, Lockside Marina, Sandford, Paper Mill, Hoe Mill, Freshwater Crescent and Heybridge Basin and although these are usually fully occupied, the waterway remains a very tranquil place for most of its length. Popular spots particularly on summer days are Paper Mill Lock with its independent Tea Room, Hoe Mill Lock and Heybridge Basin and at all these locations the lack of car parking can be a problem as the Navigation does not have land available for this. We have a small seasonal caravan and camping site at Hoe Mill Lock.

Our main sources of income are from the moorings and growing willows along the length for cricket bats. Grant funding is sought where possible, although this is increasingly difficult to achieve. We have a small full time staff comprising General Manager, Heybridge

Lock Keeper, Boat Operation Manager and four Lengthsmen who carry out maintenance and improvement work including fitting new lock gates. Lock gates are built in the traditional manner from green oak timber and they generally have a life of around 25 years. Therefore with 13 locks each with two sets of gates, we need to replace at least one set every year. This is usually programmed for the winter period when the waterway is least busy but this time of year can bring flood conditions which halt work and prevent the moving of work boats required for the job. Dredging is also carried out in the winter outside the bird nesting and fish spawning seasons. Our team is assisted throughout the year by volunteers who like to keep active and enjoy the outside environment. Maintenance work in winter and grass cutting during the summer as well as litter picking are activities assisted by volunteers.

Essex Waterways also operates three trip boats using seasonal staff and volunteers offering public trips by both charter and ticket purchase. Blackwater Dawn, a twelve person boat, was acquired in 2019 to operate from the Daisy Meadow Kiosk at Heybridge Basin and Albert also a twelve person boat operates from Paper Mill Lock. Both are crewed by volunteers. Victoria also operates from Paper Mill Lock and can accommodate up to 43 guests for parties, anniversaries and groups with the offer of catering and a bar.

If you would like to volunteer to help on our gem of a waterway please contact our Navigation Office at Paper Mill Lock or email: sarah.philips@waterways.org.uk

Woodham Walter Village Lunch Club – Sally Bull



The Village Lunch has been running for six years now and has established a core group of around 25 members who attend the Women's Club room on a monthly basis not only for a delicious cooked lunch, but also for an all important social catch up with friends and neighbours.

The lunches had always been cooked by Linda Hamilton, but at the beginning of 2020 Linda stepped down in order to focus on her successful wedding and events catering business and so we joined forces with Woodham Walter Primary School and with thanks to Head Teacher Sue Dodd, the wonderful Claudine and Bridget in the school kitchens began cooking for our lunches; they were an instant hit with our regulars!

Unfortunately, with the onset of the Covid pandemic and the first lockdown we were unable to continue the lunches - not only were we not allowed to get together but the school was shut too - and we thought the lunches would have to stop. However, with her business on 'pause' as well, Linda Hamilton kindly offered to cook lunch during the lockdown and Cathy, Jacky and Sally were able

to telephone our regulars to check they wanted lunch and then help deliver it in the local area. We should add that at all times appropriate PPE was worn and all current social distancing guidance was followed.

What we thought was a one off lunch turned into something much more and Linda has been cooking every month for us, for over a year - even delivering a Christmas dinner in December. So we wish to thank Linda and Rob and their team at Gather and Feast Events, for without their hard work and kindness we would not have had a delicious lunch to deliver.

In addition to the help of Linda, during lockdown the lunches have been sponsored each month by different individuals and families in the village. This has been such a kind and generous gesture, for which we - and our members - are extremely grateful, as it has meant we have not had to deal with the awkward practicalities of individual cash payments and all the health and safety issues that would bring during the pandemic. So thank you very much to all our sponsors.

By making these changes, it has allowed us to keep in contact with

our group, check on everyone's well being and provide a nutritious and tasty meal to everyone. In fact we have been able to increase our numbers including some people who are house-bound and were not previously able to come to the lunches. We have been delivering to over 30 people in and around Woodham Walter.

Last autumn we were also delighted to be shortlisted for a Recognition of Service Award which was run by Maldon and District Community Voluntary Service. We were awarded 'runners up' which was a great result and was fantastic recognition for the Village Lunch team. It reinforced what an important and deserving service our lunch provides for the village and generated a deserving feel good factor not only to those of us running the lunch but also to all our villagers who receive it, after all we are all part of our close and friendly village community.



Community Defibrillator Project—Gill Orford



Woodham Walter is lucky enough to have its own defibrillator housed within the recently re-vamped red telephone box, outside Tadpoles nursery and opposite the Queen Vic. This was kindly purchased by the Church in 2019.

The phone box was restored by a group of village volunteers, cleaned and painted even with the gold crown being restored!! This “phone box” makes a very visual reminder of this great facility in our village.

A defibrillator is a simple piece of kit and can be administered by anyone “even under the most stressful circumstances” as the few instructions are totally self-explanatory. However, Woodham Walter community decided that it would be fantastic if we went one step further to help our community at an incredibly stressful time. A defibrillator help group was formed within the village. We have 29 villagers who have now been trained in CPR and AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) along with some basic first aid. We are located around all parts of the village and are happy to help you, should the need arise. Their names and telephone numbers are in the defib case so upon access please call the person whose location is nearest to you. We are here to help.

It maybe worth a moment to find out who your nearest first aider is, which hopefully none of us will ever need but always good to be

prepared. Please contact me at the below e-mail address for your nearest volunteer.

What to do in case of emergency

- Dial 999
- The operator will advise you what to do.
- If you are told to get the defib, you will be given the access code to open the box
- Inside will be a list of people to help you.
- Do not panic, there is help available.

Woodham Walter might be 10 miles away from an ambulance station, however there is a lot of support available in emergency. First responders are a group of highly trained volunteers in CPR, AED and first aid. In emergency they are despatched by the ambulance service. Local residents are trained, we have a defibrillator and I think you will agree this is very good for a small village!

Gill_orford@hotmail.co.uk

The Countryside Code



Your guide to enjoying parks and waterways, coast and countryside

Respect everyone

- be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside
- leave gates and property as you find them
- do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking
- be nice, say hello, share the space
- follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available

Protect the environment

- take your litter home - leave no trace of your visit
- take care with BBQs and do not light fires
- always keep dogs under control and in sight
- dog poo - bag it and bin it - any public waste bin will do
- care for nature - do not cause damage or disturbance

Enjoy the outdoors

- check your route and local conditions
- plan your adventure - know what to expect and what you can do
- enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory

www.gov.uk/countryside-code



Follow advice and local signs

In some cases, additional higher rights of access or permissive access could exist.

Footpath



Bridleway



Restricted Byway



Byway open to all traffic



Permissive Path

Follow advice on local signs as landowners voluntarily provide access to these paths and choose who can use them. Some open access areas are also made available in the same way.



National Trail

National Trails are created for walking, with horse-riding and cycling possible on some trails or trail sections.

www.nationaltrail.co.uk



Open Access

You can walk and explore away from paths.

www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk

For further information visit www.gov.uk/countryside-code

Woodham Walter Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Mrs Jacky Bannerman
 PO Box 12797, Woodham Walter, CM9 9FG
 Phone: 01245 373686 (Monday-Friday 9am-5pm)
 E-mail: parishclerk@woodhamwalterpc.org
 Woodham Walter Parish Council website is:

www.woodhamwalterpc.org

Here you can find information about the Parish Council, agendas, minutes and other village information.



Who's Who and What They Do

Parish Councillors

James Rushton - Chairman & Allotment Association

John Brown— Vice Chairman & Broadband

James Bunn - Parish Councillor

Jenny Hughes - Parish Councillor & Bell Meadow Village Association

Joanna Symons - Parish Councillor, Primary School Governor & Playground

John Tompkins - Parish Councillor, VDS & Playground

Peter Warren - Parish Councillor, Footpath & Tree Officer

Parish Councillors can be contacted via the parish clerk or by email

Firstname.lastname@woodhamwalterpc.org



Parish Council Meetings

Woodham Walter Parish Council usually meets on the second Monday of the month. At the present time we are meeting virtually and joining instructions can be requested by emailing the Parish Clerk. 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 Tadpoles and on the website during the week preceding the meeting.

Diary Dates 2021/2022

Virtually

Monday 12th April 2021 7pm

Monday 19th April 2021 7pm (Annual Parish Meeting)

Tuesday 4th May 2021 (includes AGM)

Time and Location/Virtual to be confirmed

Monday 14th June 2021

Monday 12th July 2021

August—we only meet if there are urgent matters

Monday 13th September 2021

Monday 11th October 2021

Monday 8th November 2021

Monday 13th December 2021

Monday 10th January 2022

Monday 14th February 2022

Monday 14th March 2022

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 (virtually on Monday 19th April at 7pm) we include notes from our meetings in the monthly parish magazine and by email.

All our Parish Council meetings are open to the public and you are warmly invited to attend. Full copies of the minutes are available from our clerk and on our new website. <http://www.woodhamwalterpc.org/>

As well as this we provide information on the noticeboard opposite Tadpoles Nursery and there is

lots of other information on our website.

Our clerk sends out an email with any particular news which is relevant to the village.

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