

# Woodham Walter Report April 2021—March 2022

## Woodham Walter Parish Council

### From the Chairman, Councillor James Rushton



Parish Council Chairman  
Councillor James Rushton

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I am pleased to welcome you to Woodham Walter Parish Council's Report for the year April 2021 – March 2022 and especially to invite you to what will be the first in-person Annual Parish Meeting since 2019, to be held on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> April at 8pm in the Village Hall. It is exciting to be able to schedule a live meeting, following the cancellation in 2020 and the Zoom version in 2021. We very much hope that as many parishioners as possible will join us.

At the time of writing, the government has announced the removal of all Covid restrictions, which is a cause

for celebration, even if the truth is that the Covid virus is still with us and is likely to be so in a variety of forms into the future. That reminds us of the need to continue to recognise the risks that remain, and to be sensitive to the concerns and needs of those more vulnerable within our community. The way in which so many people, as well as businesses (in particular, Sean and Ann at *The Bell* and Darren and Chiarina at *The Queen Victoria*, as well, of course, as Linda Hamilton and Wally and Anne at *The Cats*), have gone above and beyond to support friends, colleagues and residents of the village as a whole over

the past two years speaks volumes of the great quality of our community. We should also remember those who are no longer with us, and those whose lives have been irreparably affected by Covid-19.

This year we have a special guest speaker, Jules Pretty, Commissioner for the Essex Climate Action Commission and Professor of Environment & Society at Essex University. This promises to be a stimulating session from an expert on the climate crisis that is affecting us all and on which we need to focus. There will be an opportunity for a Q&A, and I urge those residents who might not normally attend the Annual Parish Meeting to do so on this occasion. I very much hope that this will be another area of activity in which we can all draw together to ensure that Woodham Walter becomes a meaningful contributor to this global challenge. There is more on this subject on Page 8 and 9.

## Annual Parish Meeting - Monday 4th April 2022

All Woodham Walter residents are invited to attend the

### Annual Parish Meeting

On Monday 4th April at 8pm

Woodham Walter Village Hall

- Matters Arising from Annual Parish Reports
- Climate Action in Woodham Walter—Prof. Jules Pretty
- Public Forum

***This is your meeting. Come along and raise any village matters or ideas.***



## Woodham Walter Parish Council - Chairman, James Rushton



The composition of the Parish Council has remained unchanged over the past year, comprising John Brown (Vice Chairman, with responsibility for anything relating to IT and, particularly over the past year, broadband); James Bunn; Jenny Hughes (representing the Council on the Bell Meadow Village Association); Joanna Symons (who chaired the Playground Committee and also now the organisation of a street party on 5<sup>th</sup> June in celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, in addition to representing us as a Governor at our Primary School); John Tompkins (whose expertise in matters of planning and design is hugely valued, and who is now overseeing the updating of the Village Design Statement); and Peter Warren (who is our Footpaths and Tree Officer and who relentlessly pounds those paths through the Village, ensuring that all is in good order by reporting on issues that need to be addressed by Essex County Council or local landowners). I am responsible to the Council for the allotments. I'd like to thank all fellow Councillors for contributing their considerable individual skills and knowledge so wholeheartedly, and voluntarily, to the Parish community.

Of course, we all send our thanks and great appreciation to our one employee, our Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Jacky Bannerman. Jacky has held this a position since 2006. It is still a part-time role – perhaps that is surprising to many, given the presence and profile that Jacky has in Woodham Walter – but, remarkably, it is. But it is true that the hours do continue to increase, particularly over the last 3

years, because of the changing demands of the role, mainly because of bureaucratic and administrative requirements. Without Jacky the Parish Council could not operate and serve the Village as it does, and, as I said last year, we are very fortunate to have the benefit of Jacky's expertise and the services of someone who is so very devoted to our community and whose commitment extends far beyond the administration of Council affairs.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the role that our Essex County Councillor, Jane Fleming, and Maldon District Councillor, Mark Durham, play in attending Parish Council meetings and being accessible for their advice, a key part in the two-way communication between Parish, District and County. We are fortunate to have representatives who both know the village, the area and its environment so well. We are now pleased to welcome the recently elected District Councillor for the Wickham Bishops and Woodham Ward, Simon Morgan. Simon has been elected following the retirement of Karl Jarvis at the end of 2021. We express our deep gratitude to Karl, whose wisdom and insight we shall greatly miss, and we send Karl our very best wishes for the future.

The principal consumer of time, for Jacky Bannerman and for the Parish Council, in and out of meetings, is the consultation on, and consideration and administration of, our response to planning applications in all forms. These range across a wide spectrum of permissions as outlined in the analysis below. Whilst the pure number of new applications has declined, the workload has not, mainly as a result of the size, complexity and multi-faceted nature of many applications and appeals. In addition, as mentioned below, the issue of enforcement of planning conditions is taking up an ever growing part of our agenda.

Our role in the planning process is a vital function of the Parish Council, since we represent the views of those

who know the Village and its rural environment best, and we seek to convey those views with clarity and emphasis to Maldon District Council. The Woodham Walter Village Design Statement was launched in 2017 and adopted that year by Maldon District Council, and is often referred to in planning decisions. Cllr Tompkins is now overseeing the updating of the VDS in order to take account of changes in the planning environment since 2017. It plays a vital role in obtaining decisions that are appropriate to the Village.

As important is the voice of parishioners. As has been noted, the strong feelings expressed by villagers in letters to Maldon District Council regarding the planning application by Warren Golf and Country Club for an additional tourism and interrelated leisure development comprising 70 holidays lodges (amongst other things) was surely influential in the application being refused. And no doubt the similarly strong views expressed by individual parishioners, as well as by the Parish Council and by the residents' group VOWEL, will focus the mind of the Appeal Inspector on the grave concern that so many have for the effect that this development would have on Woodham Walter and the local, rural environment. We now know the Appeal will be decided at an Inquiry which will open on 21st June and is scheduled for 4 sitting days. The Parish Council are considering how we will take part in the inquiry.

**WARREN  
APPEAL  
HAVE YOUR SAY**

**DEADLINE**  
Friday 21st January 2022

**WRITE TO**  
The Planning Inspectorate  
Appeal ref: APP/K1545/W/21/3280176  
Email: [cases@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:cases@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)  
<https://ecp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

**KEY FACTORS:** Visual Landscape - Roads & Increased Traffic - Noise & Light - Flora & Fauna - No Tourism Need - Significant Population Increase - Irreversible Impact - Visually Dominant - Lack of facilities - No Further or Compelling Evidence

**MORE INFO:**  
[WWW.WOODHAMWALTERPC.ORG/WARREN-PLANNING](http://WWW.WOODHAMWALTERPC.ORG/WARREN-PLANNING)

**WOODHAM  
WALTER PARISH  
COUNCIL  
STRONGLY  
OBJECT**

**MALDON  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL**  
REFUSED IN FEBRUARY 2021  
THE WARREN ESTATE HAVE  
APPEALED THAT DECISION

**INDIVIDUAL LETTERS**  
Take this opportunity to  
help stop this develop-  
ment which would be  
highly detrimental to  
Woodham Walter.

**WHO SHOULD WRITE?**  
As many individuals as  
possible.  
Follow up if you wrote  
before.

Write this time if you did  
not before.  
Remind your neighbours!

**HELP PREVENT**  
An inconspicuous and visually  
harmful development which  
would change the character  
and appearance of the village.  
It would be detrimental to the  
wellbeing of residents, the  
village and wildlife.

## Woodham Walter Parish Council - Chairman, James Rushton

Please do remember, therefore, that your voice does carry weight, and 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 meetings or at special public meetings called to discuss significant projects.

Once approved by the District Council, it is common for an applica-

tion to be subject to conditions. These are important in controlling the type and extent of development, and any breaches are subject to enforcement by the District Council, according to its Enforcement Policy. Sadly, and much to the irritation to the Parish Council and to many residents, the performance of the Enforcement Department at Maldon District Council has been particularly questionable over the past year and beyond, resulting in long, drawn-out and unresolved correspondence in

relation to what are evidentially serious breaches of planning conditions. This has been a matter of Parish Council concern for some years, and, more than anything else, has more of our and Jacky's attention and time than any other single issue. We now seek to draw wider attention to our concerns in the coming months.



### Planning Summary 2021/2022

PARISH COUNCIL		
RECOMMENDATIONS		
YEAR	20/21	21/22
Support/Approve	3	4
Object/Refusal	6	6
Comments	5	4
No Comment	2	2
To Be Decided	0	2

MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL		
DECISIONS		
YEAR	20/21	21/22
Approve	8	11
Refuse	7	3
Withdrawn	0	0
Grant Coupa	1	0
To Be Decided	0	4

Total Applications:

2021/22: 18

2020/21: 16 + 1 x ECC

2019/20: 26

Decision contrary to WWPC:

2021/22: 3

2020/21: 2

Type of Application	20/21	21/22	Type of Application	20/21	21/22
Extension	5	2	Holiday Lodges Development	1	0
S73A application	0	3	Tennis Court	0	1
Claims for Lawful Development Certificate	1	0	Water Tank	0	1
Conservation Area	0	3	Extension and garage conversion	0	1
Extension/Alteration/Outbuilding/Porch	1	1	Change of use of Highway Verge	0	1
Change of use from agricultural to dwelling house (COUPA)	1	1	Trees: TPO/TCA	2	0
Annexe	0	1	PIP (Planning in Principle—up to 9 dwellings)	1	0
New or Replace or extend Cart Lodge	2	1	Public Playground Facility—NMA	1	1
Stationing of Bus	0	1	Conversion to Dwelling House		0
New Dwelling	1	0	ECC Bridge Consultation	1	0

Appeals responded to: 6

Enforcement Queries Raised: 6

## Woodham Walter Parish Council - Chairman, James Rushton



One of the notable achievements of the past year was the opening of the Playground at Bell Meadow. This was the result of a long period of fund-raising and organisational hard work by the Playground Committee, led by Joanna Symons and Jacky Bannerman. Upon opening in early October, the Playground was an immediate and now a continuing success, with so many kind comments from parents happy to be able to relax whilst their children enjoy a safe and secure play area. It is a true community asset. Our thanks to the committee as a whole – to John Tompkins, Graham Banner-

man, Carolyn Gardner, Nigel Cornwell, Pam Seear and Bob Jones - as well as to Jo and Jacky. Please note the Playground is now subject to the regular round of Village visits by the Community Protection Team and is included in monthly reports to the Parish Council alongside the

TruCAM speeding patrols which continue to form part of CET's contract with us.

This new community asset sits comfortably alongside the Village's other organisations, groups and committees – for instance, St Michael's Church, under the inspired leadership of Rev'd Julie Wilmot, Woodham Walter Primary School (and this year Philip Brown was welcomed as Executive Head Teacher, working alongside Sue Dodd), Tadpoles Nursery, the revitalised Village Hall, the redecorated Women's Club, the Bell Meadow Village Association, the Neighbourhood Watch group, the defibrillator

team, Friends of St Michael's, the Essex Wildlife Trust volunteers, and the Allotment Association, all of which have contributed to our Annual Report. And these are in addition to our three pubs and two golf courses! No doubt we are all immensely grateful for all the hard work put into these organisations by so many people, especially over the past two very difficult years.

I look forward to continuing in my role as Chairman over the next year and send all good wishes for health and happiness to everyone in Woodham Walter.



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

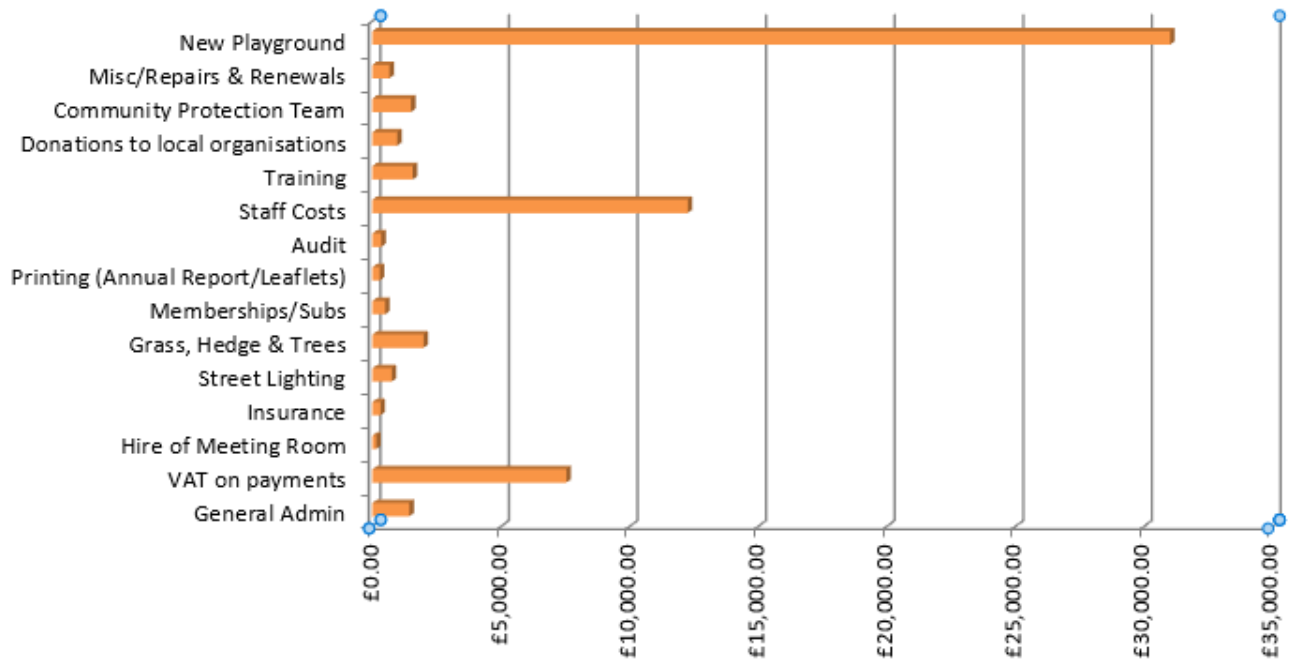
Income	Actual	Item	Actual	Totals	Actual
Income 2019/2020 (Fundraising/Donations)	3509.27	Playground - Caloo	23412.78	Total Income	32414.06
National Lottery	10000.00	Fencing	6300.00	Total Expenditure	31995.82
Income 2020/2021 (Fundraising/Donations)	1700.00	Misc (Seed/Tape/Pegs/mat)	199.48	<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>418.24</b>
CIF	10000.00	Picnic Benches	840.00		
Locality Fund	997.50	Picnic/Benches Installation	380.00		
Income 2021/2022 (Fundraising/Donations)	2200.00	Bench	331.67		
Essex Community Foundation	2500.00	Signs	50.62		
Parish Council- Grant	1000.00	Bin	273.06		
Parish Council - Planning Fees	137.88	MDC Planning	137.88		
Easy Fundraising	45.73	Grand Opening/Celebration	70.33		
Parish Council - Signs/Bin	323.68	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31995.82</b>		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32414.06</b>				

## Woodham Walter Parish Council - Financial Overview

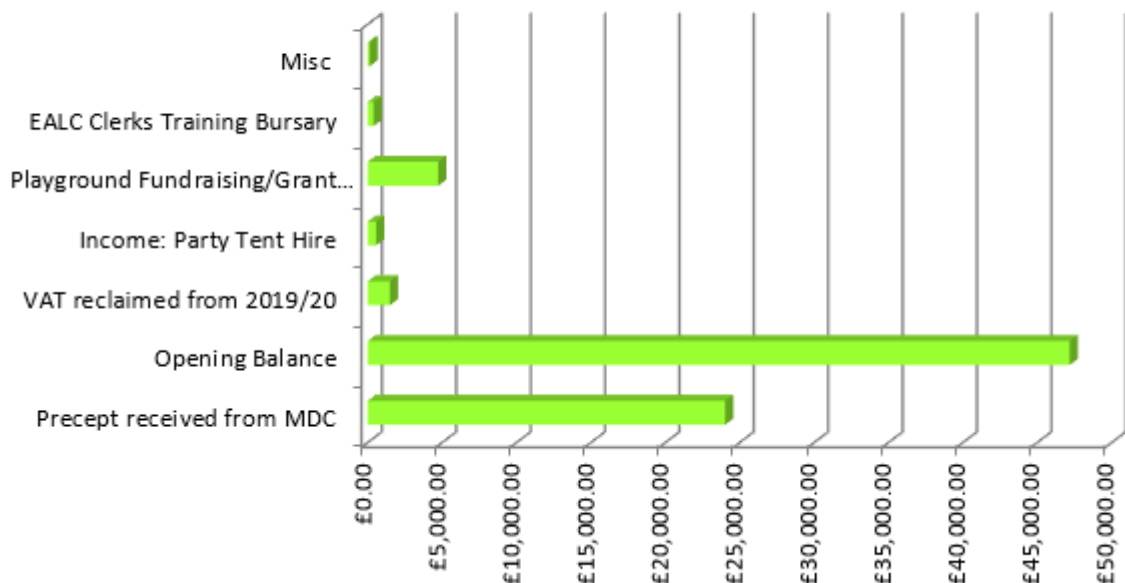
All Parish Councils have to adhere to the Transparency Code. Information is available on the Parish Council website so that parishioners can view financial documents, agendas and minutes in order to meet the Governments desire to place more power into citizens' hands to increase democratic accountability. 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.woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk](http://www.woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk)

Below are the estimated figures for 2021/22 financial year.

**Expenditure 2021/22 Total: £61,318.56**  
**Closing Balance: £17,260.60**



**Income & Opening Balances 2021/22 Total: £78,579.16**



## What do Parish Councils do?

### Powers and duties

Parish councils have a large range of powers and activities. Woodham Walter Parish Council is involved in planning consultations, managing Bell Meadow, the playground, the Memorial Garden and the general care and upkeep of the village, including, liaising with Highways, street lighting, promoting the village and any other local issues.

We provide community funding to local organisations to help with maintenance including Woodham Walter Women's Club and Woodham Walter Village Hall Association. We give an annual grant to the Essex Wildlife Trust towards their work managing Woodham Wal-

ter Common on our behalf.

Spending plans for 2022/23 include contributing to the Platinum Jubilee Street Party and giving a small memento to all the children in the parish along with our other regular expenditure.

### How parish councils work

Parish councils are statutory bodies. Members are elected for a term of four years. 2019 was an election year so the next election will be in May 2023.

Parish Councils are funded principally by an annual precept. Income and expenditure for the next financial year are calculated in the form of estimates. The net amount (the precept) is added to council tax, collected by

Maldon District Council (the principal authority) and paid to Woodham Walter Parish Council annually. Parish councils can apply for other funding such as grant and funding awards, but they do not receive funds direct from central government, as principal authorities do.

Woodham Walter Parish Council also receives income from the hire of the Party Tents. During 2021 we raised £575 in hiring income.

Councillors have agreed that the precept requirement for Woodham Walter in 2022/23 will be £26,000 which works out at £95.62 per Band D property for the year.

## What do Parish Councillors do?

As a councillor you become a voice for your community. Parish Councils are the most local part of our democratic system and closest to the public. Councillors have three main areas of work:

1. Decision-making: through attending meetings and committees with other elected members, councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented. Woodham Walter Parish Council meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 8pm for approximately 2 hours.

2. Monitoring: councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how well things are working.

3. Getting involved locally: as local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations. This often depends on what the councillor wants to achieve and how much time is available.

The work of a parish councillor may include:

- going to meetings of local organisations
- going to meetings of bodies that affect the wider communi-

ty, such as the police, the Highways Authority, the local Council and schools

- taking up issues on behalf of members of the public.
- Neighbour consultations for planning applications.
- Inspections of Bell Meadow.

Being a parish councillor is an enjoyable way of contributing to your community and helping to make it a better place to live and work.



# www.woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk

Have you had a look at the Woodham Walter Parish Council website? Our Parish Clerk spends time keeping it up to date with lots of useful local information, planning applications and advice, the Village Design Statement and Conserva-

tion Area documents, meeting agenda and minutes, financial documents, useful links and noticeboard information, road closure notifications, plus this Annual Report is available to view in full colour.

Why not take a look? Soon we will migrate all of the pages over to our new address [www.woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk](http://www.woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk) This address already diverts to our current website.

## Woodham Walter

A timeless village set in the beautiful Essex countryside

Woodham Walter Parish Council | Planning Matters | Playground | Noticeboard | Local Info | Accessibility | Covid-19 | Contact Us

### Noticeboard



**Farleigh's 40th Birthday Walk for Life**  
 Sunday 8 May 2022  
 12km & 24km routes  
 Register today  
[farleighhospice.org/walk](http://farleighhospice.org/walk)



**Warbler March 22**  
 RCCE  
 Warbler



**Police Maldon District Feb**  
 ESSEX POLICE  
 Your local update  
 Maldon District

### Photo Gallery Slideshow




**ESSEX RURAL PARTNERSHIP Monthly Bulletin**  
 SPECIAL EDITION  
 RURAL CRIME FEB 22



**Household Support Fund Help for families in the Maldon District**  
 Are you or your family struggling this winter? You may be eligible for the Household Support Fund.  
 Maldon Community Hub can provide support with food, fuel vouchers, warm packs, heaters and other household items.  
 Get in touch online at [www.maldoncs.org.uk/hsf](http://www.maldoncs.org.uk/hsf) or call 07740 112039



**TEC Motes Making Essex a Tech Friendly County**  
 TEC Motes is a programme to support the development of Big Data, Technology and Techology Enabled Core (TEC) products and services.  
 We are looking for volunteers with a good all round knowledge of various platforms, skills, of computer, coding, use an academy, business and legal.

### Upcoming Events

- Annual Parish Meeting  
April 4 @ 20:00 - 21:30
  - Woodham Walter Parish Council Meeting  
April 11 @ 20:00 - 22:00
  - Platinum Jubilee Street Party  
June 5 @ 13:00 - 16:00
- [View All Events](#)

## Climate Action—Cllr. James Rushton

### “How do the actions and decisions made today by us affect the environment now and also in the future?”

Earlier this year I attended a Climate Crisis conference organised by the Essex Association of Local Councils. It consisted of a large number of very informative zoom presentations, and it opened my eyes to the scale of the local challenge facing us as well as to the quality of resource and expertise that is available to us here in Essex.

The above quote is taken from a very inspiring presentation given at the conference by a Year 11 student at The Plume Academy, Hattie Phillips. It sums up where we are - how can we create change in the most effective way, both short and long term?

At the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 4th April at 8pm, to help us to answer the question we are very fortunate that we will be joined by Professor Jules Pretty, whose biography is below and who is an eminent speaker, commentator and writer on climate change, and on the East of England environment.

It is our hope that as a Council and as a community we will come away from this year's meeting with at least the beginnings of a greater sense of

how we can all work together and also as individuals to meet the climate challenge in front of us. As Hattie also said, “no action is a non-option”.

If you search for the Carbon Footprint of Woodham Walter on the [Impact Tool](#) you will find that we have an above average Carbon Footprint—see the graphic on Page 9.

Please come along to the meeting to hear about how we may be able to take steps both as individuals and as a community to reduce the carbon footprint of Woodham Walter.

“No action is a non-option”.

### Professor Jules Pretty

Professor of Environment & Society

Director, Centre for Public and Policy Engagement (CPPE)

School of Life Sciences

University of Essex

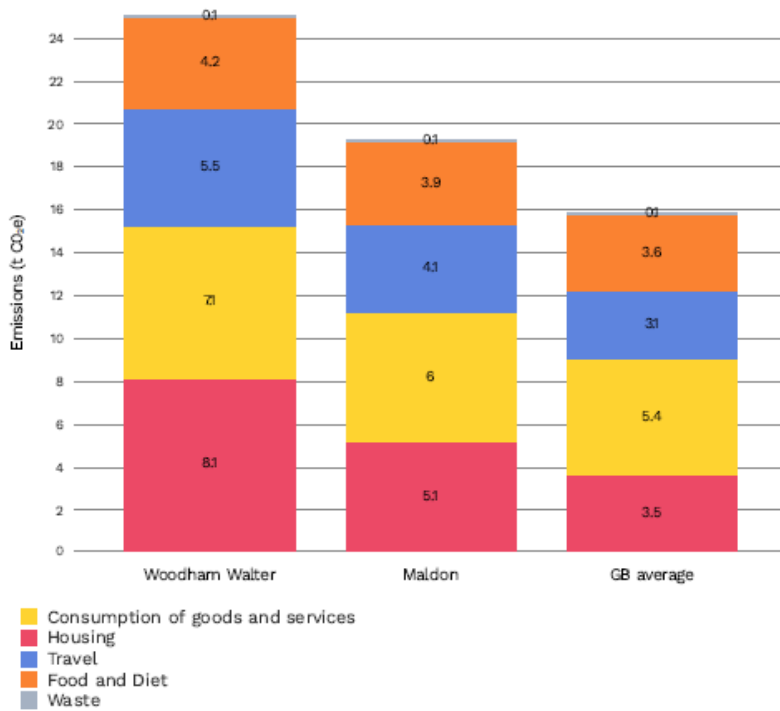
Jules Pretty is Professor of Environment and Society at the University of Essex. He was Head of the Department of Biological Sciences from 2004-2008, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Science & Engineering) from 2010-2012, then Deputy Vice-Chancellor from 2012-2019. He joined the Department of Biological Sciences in 1997, having worked for ten years at the International Institute for Environment and Development, where he was director of their sustainable agriculture programme from 1989. Before that, he worked at Imperial College. At the University of Essex, he set up the Centre for Environment and Society, which links across a variety of departments and disciplines. His sole-authored books include *The East Country* (Cornell Univ Press, 2017), *The Edge of Extinction* (Cornell University Press, 2014), *This Luminous Coast* (2011, 2014), *The Earth Only Endures* (2007), *Agri-Culture* (2002), *The Living Land* (1998), and *Regenerating Agriculture* (1995). He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology and the Royal Society of Arts, Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, former Deputy-Chair of the governments Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment, and has served on advisory committees for BBSRC and the Royal Society. He was presenter of the 1999 BBC Radio 4 series *Ploughing Eden*, a contributor and writer for the 2001 BBC TV Correspondent programme *The Magic Bean*, and a panellist in 2007 for Radio 4s *The Moral Maze*. He was appointed A D White Professor-at-Large by Cornell University from 2001, and is Chief & Founding Editor of the *International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability*. He received an OBE in 2006 for services to sustainable agriculture, and an honorary degree from Ohio State University in 2009.



## Climate Action in Woodham Walter

### HOW DOES WOODHAM WALTER COMPARE?

Here is what the average consumption footprint for Woodham Walter looks like per household and how it compares with the district average and the national average.



# Impact Tool

This information has been gathered using the Impact Community Carbon Calculator

<https://impact-tool.org.uk/>

## Useful Links

<https://impact-tool.org.uk/>

<https://www.essexclimate.org.uk/>

<https://sustainableanbury.org/>

[https://www.maldon.gov.uk/info/20095/home energy and climate change](https://www.maldon.gov.uk/info/20095/home-energy-and-climate-change)

[https://www.maldon.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/18809/climate action strategy jan 2022.pdf](https://www.maldon.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/18809/climate-action-strategy-jan-2022.pdf)

Social media pages -follow for ongoing tips, news and more:

-Facebook: **Essex Climate Action Commission, Essex is Green, Love Essex**

-Twitter: **Essex Climate Action Commission, Essex is Green, Love Essex**

-Instagram: **Essex is Green, Love Essex, Essex Climate Action Commission**

-YouTube: **Essex Climate Action Commission**

## Parish Clerk's Report – Jacky Bannerman



I have been Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer of Woodham Walter Parish Council for 15 years. The

Parish Clerk is the proper officer of the council and as such is under statutory duty to carry out the functions, serve or issue all notifications required by law and carry out the decisions of the Parish Council. The Clerk advises councillors and produces the information required to help them make effective decisions. In the last year I have

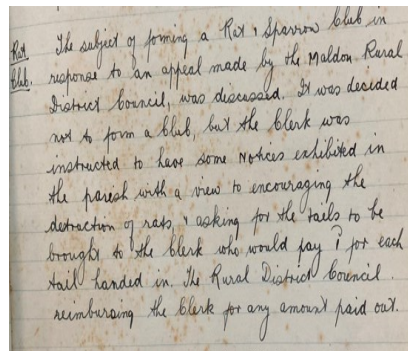


been studying for a Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) and very much hope to achieve this later in the Summer. Along with meeting other criteria, by having a qualified Clerk the Parish Council could take on the General Power of Competence. The GPC gives local councils confidence in their legal capacity to act for their communities. It encourages councils to use this power to work with others in providing cost-effective services and facilities in innovative ways to meet the needs of local people.

The Parish Council has continued to carry out its functions and fulfil its responsibilities to residents. We have had to make some changes to how we do things as a result of Government legislation but as we move out of COVID restrictions it's very much back to business as usual for us. We have been meeting in person since June 2021 although with some limits on the number of people we are able to accommodate in the meeting room, and we have been wearing jumpers and coats as we have kept the windows open to allow the air to circulate.

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

After some utility works took place on the Memorial Garden, I was tasked with gathering evidence of the Parish Council's claim to this land and have now submitted an application to HM Land Registry. We are awaiting the decision on this. As part of my research I spent some time at the Essex Records Office researching historic minutes. It was very interesting to see that many of the matters we discuss today were also on the agenda many many years ago!



Luckily for me, the Parish Council do not continue with the 1941 decision where the clerk was instructed to have notices exhibited in the Parish with a view to encouraging the destruction of rats and asking for the tails to be brought to the clerk who would pay for each tail handed in!

Every year we provide community funding to Women's Club and Village Hall Association to help with maintenance. The Parish Council are the custodians of Woodham Walter Common and we make an annual grant to the Essex Wildlife Trust towards their work managing the common on our behalf. In 2022 we have increased the funding to EWT to better reflect the huge amount of work that they do on our behalf.

The Parish Council also has a Grants 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 5 hours per month (this includes TruCAM speed detecting and parking enforcement outside the school). The CET inspect the new playground facility for us each week and provide a more detailed monthly inspection. The goal posts have been the source



of some discussion again this year. They continue to be well-used but unfortunately the ground conditions have suffered. We have now installed some additional anchor points so that the goals can be moved between different areas to help the goal mouths to be less muddy. We have also carried out repairs to the goals. However, we know that they will eventually need replacing and we have started saving towards new goals probably in 2023/24.

## Parish Clerk's Report –Jacky Bannerman



We were pleased to be approached by a couple of young village residents who wanted to volunteer as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. We are very grateful to them for their help in watering the trees on the Memorial Garden and the hedging plants. They also did a great job watering the new grass in the playground as it established. They do litter picks and other duties such as clearing the leaves from inside the Playground. This has been a big success and when they have finished their commitment we will be looking for another volunteer to carry on this role—especially as we are about to plant some more trees and hedging. Get in touch if you're interested.

Other expenditure commitments made include some items which have been carried over due to COVID restrictions such as maintenance of the Memorial Shelter which we hope will be completed by a group of volunteers this spring. Please get in touch if you would like to help. We also plan to replace the main noticeboard and hopefully provide some new dog bins. 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. The first lights should start to be replaced this year.

Our website continues to be regularly updated with lots of information about the work of the Parish Council, Planning, as well as Useful Links, a Noticeboard and other local information.

I send out a village email from time to time with information relevant to

villagers—such as any major planning applications, road closures, changes to bin and recycling collections and Parish Council meeting reports along with District, County and other useful information

There are currently 168 subscribers but with over 250 properties in the village there are many people who are missing out!

To be included in the village email write to:  
[parishclerk@woodhamwalterpc.org](mailto: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 are 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. Open cases include the crack on Little Baddow Road, the overgrown hedge on Oak Farm Road, the pot hole at the end of Top Road. You can also report issues directly on the website [www.essexhighways.org/tell-us/report-all-issues.aspx](http://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 continue to liaise with Highways, County Councillor Jane Fleming and District Councillor Mark Durham regarding future works to replace the bridge and understand a number of schemes are being investigated.

Another topic which takes up a large part of my time is Planning and Enforcement. There's nothing like a controversial planning application or appeal 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. You can report fly tipping directly to MDC by filling in the on-line form on their website [www.maldon.gov.uk](http://www.maldon.gov.uk)

The new Playground was a project that I was personally heavily involved in having volunteered to serve on the committee. I am very proud of the work of the team in the development of our wonderful new playground. My role now includes monitoring and ensuring that the playground remains safe and serviceable. Please report any issues to us.

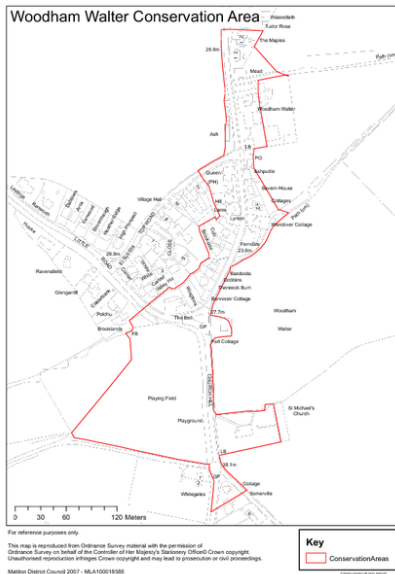


Over the last few years and especially the last 12 months the Parish Clerk's job has evolved and I am very grateful to the Parish Council and the village community that this is recognised. Woodham Walter is lucky to have a full team of supportive and dedicated councillors and I thank them all for their valued time and judgement.

Find out more about Woodham Walter Parish Council from its website: [www.woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk](http://www.woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk)



## Woodham Walter Conservation Area



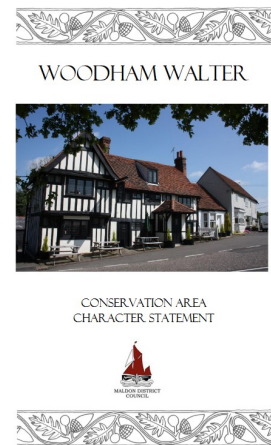
Woodham Walter has a designated Conservation Area and Article 4 Direction. This is in the central village area. You can view more information on the MDC or Woodham Walter websites.

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 tiles.



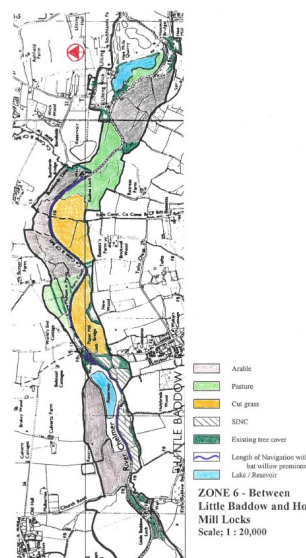
## Chelmer & Blackwater Conservation Area



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.

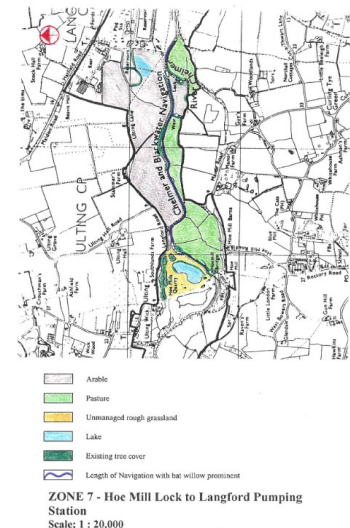
Zone 7 is described as having more pasture and more mixed native vegetation along the water-body banks. Enlarged arable fields are prominent on the north bank and can give an impression of a flat open landscape.



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](http://www.woodhamwalterpc.org)





## District Councillor—Mark Durham



It seems such a long time since I have had to write a parish report and by doing so now, it means that we are all starting to exit from the pandemic that has impacted everyone for the last two years. We are of course hopeful that another more virulent variant of the Covid Virus doesn't come along to spoil things, but due to the fantastic work done by the NHS, most of us are now vaccinated which seems to be greatly reducing the seriousness of the illness if infected.

Many of us have lost loved ones during the last two years, including myself. Some will have passed away directly from Covid, but many more from other reasons unconnected with the virus. However, for everyone it was impossible to say goodbye in the traditional way with full funeral services attended by family and friends. I am sure that at some-time in the future there will be services of remembrance for those we lost during this time.

The work of local government carried on during the pandemic, albeit without face to face meetings. We all had a very steep learning curve getting used to virtual meetings and hav-

ing to work from home. Two years ago we hadn't heard the words, Zoom, Teams & mute used in the ways we have now been accustomed to. One of the most common phrases, "You are on mute" will go down as an indelible reminder of those days.

I would like to pay tribute to my co-ward councillor for Wickham Bishops and Woodham, Karl Jarvis who unfortunately had to stand down from the council due to ill health. Karl was a very diligent and hard working member of Maldon District Council and he could always be relied on to bring some sense to otherwise unfathomable issues. Karl is now well on the road to recovery and I am sure that he will visit the parish socially in the future.

Following Karl's resignation there was a by-election and Simon Morgan was elected to join me as joint ward member. Simon is a former Army Officer and now practices as a property lawyer. I am sure that he will settle in quickly and become a valued member of the council.

Although both MDC and ECC have been able to conduct most of its usual meetings virtually, much of the day to day work and decisions were taken using emergency powers. This meant that members didn't take part to the same extent as usual. One important benefit of this was the introduction of live streaming of meetings. Initially this was to allow members to participate, but

latterly it provided an opportunity for the public to see how meetings were conducted. As many people may have seen, this wasn't always a good thing as was the case with Handforth Parish Council and then regrettably Maldon District Council who hit national news with some of the 'antics' exhibited by members. At Maldon, one member caused disruptions that prevented the democratic process being carried out for over five months. This member has now been disqualified and we all hope that business will return to normal in due course.

I would like to congratulate the parish council for all of the work they have done during the pandemic and last year they were able to finally deliver the excellent children's play area on Bell Meadow. Unfortunately the pandemic restricted the number of people who could attend the formal opening and on the day it rained in true British style! This facility fits into the meadow perfectly and I am sure that it will be enjoyed for many years to come. Sincere thanks have to go out to everyone who carried out fund raising for the project or took time to complete the numerous and often complicated grant applications that eventually led to the significant financial assistance that helped to hit the target.

Maldon District Council effectively closed down its offices during the pandemic and the building was used as a vaccination centre.

It was actually one of the most successful centres in this part of Essex and I hear many good comments about the efficiency of their service getting residents vaccinated.

Moving forwards it is very unlikely that working practices at either MDC or indeed ECC will return to their previous



## District Councillor—Mark Durham

patterns. Many staff will continue to work from home and other officers will only be office based for a couple of days each week. It is hoped that this will not have an adverse impact on the level of service, but this is being monitored to ensure that residents are still able to access whatever they need. Inevitably there will be a transition period but the situation is being monitored carefully.

Planning issues have actually been reduced over the last two years as the number of applications was lower than usual. There will of course be a period of catch up and we are already seeing that planning officers are being stretched with an increased workload. In terms of planning, MDC is currently reviewing its Development Plan which sets out targets for the coming years. There is also a planning white paper expected from central government in the near future. This new legislation will probably change planning policies across the England but at the moment we don't have any predictions how this will affect our area. A more serious issue for Maldon is that the predicted build out of new homes has fallen well below the numbers required to meet targets. Unfortunately this means that many of the existing policies governing planning applications are out of date.

In order to meet these targets it is going to be much more difficult for the planning authority to refuse applications for new developments across the district. In such cases, planning inspectors are far more likely to support new developments as they cannot apply the previous policy restriction accorded by the local plan. We are already seeing increased activity from developers who are ex-

ploiting this situation and submitting applications for sites that previously would not be considered. The district council has to



be very careful with its planning refusals as the number of appeals it loses may have serious consequences. Uttlesford District Council found itself losing appeals and as a result they have had their ability to determine applications removed by central government. Maldon certainly cannot risk this happening and as a result we may see rather more applications being granted than we would have previously wished.

Residents may have seen the recent government announcement of their 'Levelling Up' agenda. This was multi-faceted, but it included a background for local government reorganisation in the future. There are a number of options being offered and each come with a range of additional devolved powers. The level of such powers and the funding that comes with them will depend on the organisational configuration of its local government. We have always known that this government has long since expressed a wish to have more regional directly elected mayors. These areas will need to be economically specific and it is already acknowledged that Essex as a whole is too large to be one mayoral area. It is far too early to predict where this will lead, but work is currently underway by Essex County Council and all of the 14 districts to decide what proposals will be

put to government in the next year or two.

Finally, this year sees the return of Bell Meadow Day, an event very close to my own heart as I was involved with it for 15 years. I am sure that the new organisers will bring it to a new level and I am very much looking forward to being just a visitor this year!

Another significant event for Woodham Walter in 2022 is the Ride London cycle race. On May 27<sup>th</sup> stage one of the Classique ladies Elite race will ride through the village twice in the afternoon. The race starts and finishes in Maldon and will come along Old London Road, Church Corner, past Bell Meadow, up Little Baddow Road to Spring Elms. From there it goes through Little Baddow, Nounsley, Ulting and back to Maldon. Riders will do two loops and will therefore come through Woodham Walter on both occasions from about 1:30 pm. There will be road closures that day and everyone living on the route will be formally written to. Clearly there can be no on street parking along the route, but alternative arrangements will be made for residents if they need to park elsewhere that day. I appreciate that this may be an inconvenience to some residents, but it is also a huge honour to have an elite cycling race and one that will attract many spectators and significant press coverage.

This year also marks the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen. She has been on the throne for 70 years, the longest reign of any English Monarch and most residents have only known her as our head of state in their lifetimes. There are some very exciting events being planned to celebrate this fantastic milestone on our nations history.

## Woodham Walter Women's Club



Like most organisations The Women's Club's activities were seriously curtailed during the lockdowns enforced by the government due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Just before the lockdown we were able to hold a special tea party for Betty Gore and members of her family to celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

No meetings were held until August when we celebrated our Founders' Day with a picnic in her garden by kind invitation of Joanna Symons, this was enjoyed by members who were pleased to be able to 'catch up' on a lovely summer afternoon.

In September our A.G.M. was held, at this meeting Jean Newton was thanked as she retired as President after many years of service, at a prior meeting the committee had decided that as no one member felt they had the time to commit as President the Club would be run by a 'consortium' with a different committee member taking responsibility each month. This was agreed at the A.G.M., the arrangement is not ideal but is working for this year.

Since September we have held our monthly meetings but with lower attendance than we had previously experienced as some

members were still reluctant to mix. We held our regular Fish and Chip supper in October when the Staff at the Vic looked after us very well. We held a special tea party in November to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Jennifer Fowler who has been a loyal member for many years and a past President. At the November meeting there was a talk about Wasps and Bees also covering the aspect of pest control. We enjoyed a Christmas Party and also a post-Christmas lunch at The Bell, helping us to feel that some degree of normality was returning. At our January meeting a presentation of flowers and Garden Tokens was made to Jean Newton our resigning President in appreciation of all her dedication and work for the Club over the years. Since then we have had a talk about volunteering at the 2012 London Olympics.

All our fund raising activities were cancelled during this period (the Flower Festival, Bell Meadow Day and our Jumble sale in Danbury) so we were grateful for help and advice from Jacky Bannerman as Parish Clerk and Sarah Maxted of the Village Hall which led to successful applications for Government and local authority

grants which have left the Club in a stable financial situation.

During the time that the club room was not being used we took the opportunity to have the interior decorated, installation of new lighting and heating and a new carpet and flooring was fitted so it is in good repair.

Currently members are planning and looking forward to forthcoming village activities where the club will play its usual role of providing refreshments.

It seems to be a general conception that The Women's Club is for older members, this really is not true as we try to cater for all age groups, we may look old and grey but we are young at heart! We would love to welcome new members, information about meetings will be found in The Parish News so why not join us?

Although members were unable to meet in person during these rather extraordinary times we have kept in touch and given support to each other and to other people in the village thus living up to the feelings first voiced when the club was founded in 1906, 'To help and serve the community'

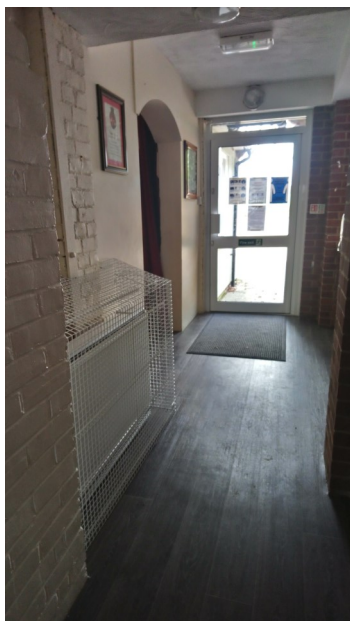




## Woodham Walter Village Hall Association - Merryll Cox



The last 2 years of Pandemic have brought mixed blessings to the village hall; we have lost a few of our regular hirers and our revenue has suffered. However, we have received Covid grants and other grants which has enabled us to make the most of the times when the hall has been shut – we have installed a new kitchen, new flooring, new heaters and new doors. The hall is now warmer, brighter and a more pleasant space to be in. We have also instructed a specialist building firm to lower and insulate the hall ceiling and reorganise the halls electrics. Hopefully this work will be carried out in the spring. I am



updating our Trust Deed, and although this is a lengthy process, we are hoping it should be completed this year.

I would like to thank the committee who are still supporting the hall while it undergoes a huge transformation in these unsettled times. Our thanks also go to Colin Warner and Lee Hughes who help keep the outside maintained.

Many of you will have noticed that a commemorative bench has been placed outside the hall, to mark Ken Rennie’s many contributions to our village. The commemoration service was conducted by the Reverend Julie in November and attended by Ken’s family and many villagers. The

sure that this will help the hall remain a viable facility for the village to enjoy for many years.

We are also working our way through the process of

village hall and the Parish Council were pleased to show our appreciation of Ken’s contributions to our village.

Our village hall is a valuable part of our village life, providing a venue for activities to help keep our community together. It is a place for people to meet, exercise, learn and celebrate. It forms part of the character of Woodham Walter and although it is run by the committee, it relies on local people hiring the hall for most of its’ income. The hall cannot survive without the continued support of the community, so we urge you to consider our venue for your special events.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Merryll Cox

Chair, Woodham Walter Village Hall Assc.

For bookings please contact:  
Andrew Ritchings  
Caretaker\_wwvh@btinternet.com  
Tel: 01621 828056



## Platinum Jubilee Event—Sunday 5th June

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# Woodham Walter Platinum Jubilee Event

**Including a Top Road Street Party  
on Sunday 5th June from 1pm  
to which all parishioners from the youngest to the  
oldest are invited.**

**Plans are developing for a memorable afternoon  
including sandwiches & cakes lunch along Top Road.**

**Plus community races during the  
afternoon on the school field:**

**Plus face painting, competitions /activities  
for everyone to get involved in  
Fancy dress and house decorating**

**More details in the parish magazine and village email -  
look out for a flyer with information on how  
children can claim a Platinum Jubilee Memento**

**Look out for the EventBright Link to book tickets**

**Next Planning Meeting, Monday 16th May  
at 7.30 pm, Women's Club Room, Top Road**

**More information from:**

**Councillor Joanna Symons**

[joanna.symons@woodhamwalterpc.org](mailto:joanna.symons@woodhamwalterpc.org)

**07771 742814**

## Bell Meadow Playground Working Party – Joanna Symons



The last report on the Playground Project that I wrote in March 2021 for last year's Annual Meeting ended with me stating that the Playground Working Party were looking forward to the Grand Opening Ceremony of the playground later in the summer.

Well of course, I am happy to report that the Grand Opening Ceremony did indeed take place, although a little later than planned—in October 2021, and the playground has now been open for nearly six months for the local children to play in.

At the end of my last report, I stated that we were waiting for Maldon District Council to approve the final Planning Permission, as we had to resubmit the application due to a Non Material Amendment reflecting the slight changes to the equipment provided, as we had to change the playground providers. Planning permission finally came through in May 2021 but by April we had reached the wonderful position of being fully funded for the project.

We were very fortunate to receive some generous donations and were successful with our application to the Essex Community Foundation which gave us £2,500 (made up of £1500 from the Middlewick Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund, and £1000 from the Crix Charitable Foundation) These funds along with £10,000 from the National Lottery

and £10,000 from Essex County Council's Community Initiative Fund and £1,000 from the Locality Fund as well as other fundraising, enabled us to provide landscaping features

including fencing, benches, bins and signs as well as the playground equipment.

Once fully funded we placed the order with Caloo, the playground company, and they started work on the new playground in September 2021. The work took several weeks and we were all really excited to see the new playground gradually taking shape. Even the men working on the installation said how impressed they were by the look of the equipment we had purchased, as the robinia wood looked so appropriate and in keeping with our country village setting.

Skippers made a great job of installing the fencing and the benches. The signs and bins were all put in place. The playground was finally completed and looked fantastic. This enabled us to go ahead with the Grand Opening Ceremony on Saturday 2nd October. Unfortunately the day chosen was very windy and it was pouring with rain. However it didn't deter about



60 hardy villagers coming along to Bell Meadow to watch Councillor Penny Channer declare the new playground open.

As Chair of the Playground Working Party, I thanked the committee and all the many local businesses, organisations, families and others who contributed and supported the project, as well as those who provided grants to help us to open this new facility. After a countdown, it was wonderful to see lots of children run into the new playground and have a great time playing on the new equipment.



Maldon District Council's Community Engagement Team are contracted by the Parish Council to carry out weekly visual and monthly physical inspections of the playground equipment, and an independent Annual Safety inspection will also be carried out in the spring/summer.

It has been so heartening to see the playground being used by children after school, at weekends and holidays and to see local residents coming together on Bell Meadow while their children are playing.



## Broadband—Councillor John Brown

### What do I need?

Typically, you order broadband based on the maximum bandwidth you want to use. The larger the bandwidth the more things can happen at once. The maximum bandwidth is limited by the infrastructure type connected to your home. Some providers also limit the total amount of data you can transmit and receive in a month. Unless you are a very light user, it is recommended that you avoid plans that limit how much you can

consume in a month. For most people an unlimited usage package will avoid bill shocks or having to keep topping up.

Individuals are likely to be happy with a bandwidth of 15Mbps 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 the 30Mbps

and above packages. 50Mbps to 100Mbps is going to be more than adequate for pretty much all homes, with only some types of business use and those downloading large applications, like computer games, benefiting from over that.

### Additional Information

If you have any additional questions, please email [john.brown@woodhamwalterpc.org](mailto:john.brown@woodhamwalterpc.org)

### New Council Email Addresses

As email and online has become the most common way to interact with the Council, it is more important than ever that you can be confident with whom you are communicating. To that end, the Parish Council have decided to adopt a .gov.uk domain name.

These are only available to verified government agencies.

Over the course of the next year, the Parish Council will transition to the new **WoodhamWalter-PC.gov.uk** email addresses and move to [www.woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk](http://www.woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk) for the web site.



## Wood Corner Caravan Site - Paul Ashworth



We manage unauthorised encampments on ECTU Partner land, and the 12 local authority sites for Gypsies and Travellers.

The Essex Countywide Traveller Unit (ECTU) is a partnership of Essex County Council, local councils, Essex Fire and Rescue Service and Essex Police. Together, we support Gypsies and Travellers to access services, including:

- supporting children into school and further education
- health services
- site and home fire safety visits

Nothing really remarkable has happened over the last year at Wood Corner.

The only change is that Danny Hayden retired last summer and the new Site Manager is Emma Collison.

Paul Ashworth, Wellbeing, Place & Communities Lead, ECC

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.

## Woodham Walter Parish Councillors

### James Rusthon (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 greater quality of life and to be nearer to family, both Anne's and mine.

My career was in music publishing, all genres of music but especially classical. I retired at the end of 2020. Music remains extremely important to me – although my piano playing isn't quite what it used to be! I do my best when called upon to play the organ at St Michael's. Alongside that I am a passionate cricket follower, and since moving here I have found myself becoming more and more interested in the natural environment. I am currently volunteering for the Essex Wildlife Trust.

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 tranquility of Woodham Walter and 18 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 15 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 29 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 9 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 the Playground Working Group and this year the Platinum Jubilee Committee. We like walking and you will often see us out and about walk-

ing around Woodham Walter which we love. We also enjoy kayaking and stand-up paddleboarding on the canal.

## Woodham Walter Allotment Association - Jane Weedon



Now into our thirteenth year of the Woodham Walter Allotment Association I am pleased to announce that all the allotments are being used with a waiting list to boot. Sadly we said goodbye to three allotment holders and as a consequence this year we are welcoming ones so the enthusiasm for growing your own has not diminished.

Looking back on last year's growing season I remember some laden soft fruit bushes, verdant pea plants, robust broad beans and the usual healthy runner bean plants. As ever there was a warm spring then too much rain and then too little rain but there were always winners and losers and I think the courgettes were not as abundant as they have been in previous years while some sweetcorn were thriving in August but dried out by September.



The winter greens have been particularly long lasting with curly kale and brussell sprouts topping the list. Onions and garlic have thrived well especially if they have been kept weed free.

The grass mowers have continued to keep the allotments tidy and most of the patches have been tended well with regular weeding taking place.

This year we need to consider having a new fence to keep the animals out and hope to have an A.G.M. in April to discuss how to approach the situation. Many thanks to Chris Weedon for all his helpful gardening tips over the year and we continue to be in-

debted to Bryony and Peter Maynard for allowing us to use their land for the allotments.

Please contact Jane Weedon on [janeanneweedon@gmail.com](mailto:janeanneweedon@gmail.com) or 012456469 or Sue Cumming on 01245222513 or [sue.cumming@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sue.cumming@hotmail.co.uk) if you are interested in having an allotment.

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 15 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 (weather permitting!) 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 home are checked at least once each week whereas the ones further away I endeavour to check at least every month or two. Any problems that I can't easily rectify are referred to the appropriate farmer or landowner (generally fallen trees). Other problems such as dodgy gates, stiles, bridges and signs are logged on the ECC Highways online reporting system. Anything really urgent or dangerous is referred directly to the Rights of Way Inspector for this area. For several years this has been Nicky Coleman but unfortunately in a recent reorganisation she has now switched areas to Braintree & Uttlesford. Our new Inspector is Roy Read who I look forward to meeting in the near future.

Fortunately there haven't been too many issues on our paths over the past year and were a pleasure to walk for most of the year. A dry spring was followed

by a lot of warm, wet weather in May and the weeds grew rather too well (cow parsley 12 feet tall on FP12). Several paths were difficult to walk, and a couple became impassable. Fortunately the paths on the annual ECC cutting schedule were all done by late July and everywhere was good to walk again. Since the start of the pandemic the number of walkers has dramatically increased helping to keep the weeds trampled down. This, combined with fairly low rainfall through the autumn and winter, has meant the paths are still in good condition for this time of year.

After a year's break the New Year's Day walk took place again this year, the 3.5 mile route through WW Common covering 3 parishes. Rain at Christmas meant it was a bit muddy in places but the 41 walkers enjoyed the exceptionally mild weather (60F) and also the welcome refreshments in The Queen Vic afterwards.

Problems over the past year have included the usual crop of fingerposts and waymark posts that have rotted and fallen over or gone missing completely (presumably by people a bit short of firewood?). 6 are still awaiting replacement by ECC, as is a dangerous stile, also a wobbly bridge handrail. Despite the many storms we have suffered over the past year our paths have escaped quite lightly, only a dozen trees have fallen across paths. Small trees and dead branches I can

deal with myself but some enormous specimens have come down. Whitehouse Farm has had more than its fair share, removed promptly by our co-operative landowners. There have been 4 bridge problems, the latest resulting in a new bridge on FP18 by the old ruins (see photo).

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 Public RoWs on WW Common, also the trees surrounding Bell Meadow. Several trees on the south side of Bell Meadow have needed dead limbs removing and 2 others complete removal. After getting clearance from the MDC Conservation Officer this work has been carried out by a local tree surgeon. There is also a dangerous tree on WW Common FP7 awaiting removal.

Please help me to keep our paths safe and in good order. If you see anything that needs attention, or any improvements that you could suggest, please let me know. Or even better, whilst out walking, carry a pair of secateurs in your pocket! I've noticed that quite a bit of mystery pruning is going on! Lastly, let's hope that we have yet another good summer to enjoy our lovely WW countryside, we certainly deserve it!

Peter Warren 01245 221326



## St Michael's Church - Michael Bradbrook



We started the year with Michael Bradbrook and Paul Clark being re-elected as churchwardens but unfortunately Paul had to step down on health grounds, but I am delighted to say that he has made an excellent recovery and is still able to assist with the day to day running of St Michael's. We are most grateful to him for his significant contribution as a Churchwarden and for his ongoing commitment to St Michael's.

As we came out of lockdown in early 2021, we were able to resume services in April although restrictions continued to apply. However, we felt unable to open the church during the day as had previously been the case before Covid. It is now our intention to reopen the church on a daily basis in April 2022.

We are extremely fortunate that Rev'd Julie is our Priest-in-Charge (including St Margaret's, Woodham Mortimer and All Saints, Purleigh) who leads our services of Holy Communion and the many other services held from time to time. We are also grateful for the support and assistance from Alan Marjoram and our 'Home Team' in leading Morning Prayer and Family Ser-

VICES. As always, we are indebted to Ken Hay, our organist, and also to Martin Cook and James Rushton who step in when needed.

Throughout the year we have continued our links with Woodham Walter (C of E) Primary School with church members and Rev'd Julie Willmot serving as governors and maintaining contact with Tadpoles Nursery.

Sadly, the 'Messy Church' group for children and 'Open the Book' were suspended but we are hopeful we will be able to resume these activities in the near future.

During 2021 there was one baptism, five burials, five burial of ashes, one memorial service, six other funeral services and three wedding services.

We have always remained involved with the community but sadly the Flower Festival had to be cancelled again but we are delighted that plans are already underway to hold the Flower Festival this year over the weekend of 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> July.

In 2021 with many restrictions still applying we were unable to hold any social and charitable events but as we move through 2022, we are hopeful that we will get back to some normality. It is hoped that our special 'Pet Service' will be held in June which is always very popular.

The work never stops to maintain and improve St Michael's. With some very kind donations and existing funds we were able to complete substantial repairs to the brickwork and it is hoped that the final section of the east elevation brickwork will be renovated this year.



A long-term resident of the Robert Henry Falkner Almshouses sadly passed away in 2021 but after some refurbishment a new resident has moved in, and the Almshouses remain fully occupied. We are so grateful for the continued well-running of the Almshouses by our Honorary Clerk Angus Neale.



## St Michael's Church

The memorial clock at St Michael's continues to work 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.



Sadly, the lead was stolen from the valley gutter of the church roof causing considerable damage not only to the roof but also to the fabric of the church. A group of volunteers were quickly assembled with buckets, mops and tarpaulins, to minimise the damage and we are particularly indebted to Robbie Wilks (a local builder) who carried out emergency repairs to the roof in adverse weather conditions. The roof has

now been fully repaired and the internal repairs will commence shortly as we move into the warmer months. We are also indebted to John Tompkins who has overseen and monitored the various works and repairs which have been carried out.

We are always most grateful to the friends of St Michael's who help maintain the church and care for the now extended 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 which has now been incorporated with 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 and during 2021 the first burials took place in the churchyard extension. Without the churchyard extension we would have been in the invidious position of having to decline further burials so 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 2021 came to a close, we were again able to hold midnight mass. A nativity tableaux inside the church gate was again kindly organised by James and Anne Rushon for which we are most grateful.

We must express our sincere thanks to Reverend Julie for her dedication and commitment to us and the wider community which knows no bounds. We are most fortunate that she is our Priest-in-Charge.

A big thank you as always 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 particularly through such an unprecedented period in our lives. 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—Jane Fleming



This is my first report for the Woodham Walter Annual Parish Meeting. I was delighted to be elected

to Essex County Council to represent the Maldon Division in May 2021. The Maldon Division comprises the parishes of Woodham Walter, Woodham Mortimer with Hazeleigh, Purleigh including Cock Clarks, Cold Norton, Stow Maries, North Fambridge and Maldon Town. I'm fortunate in that I've lived and worked in the Division for the past twenty five years, and already represented parts of the Division as a Maldon District Councillor so knew it well before taking up the role at ECC.

The May 2021 elections returned 53 Conservative County Councillors, so Essex County Council remains a Conservative controlled Council. Following the elections, at the May Full Council, Councillor Kevin Bentley was elected Leader of the Council and a new Cabinet appointed. In July, the Leader and Cabinet published an ambitious new plan for Essex - "Everyone's Essex, our Plan for Essex 2021-2025". Focusing on Renewal, Equality and Ambition, the plan contains twenty commitments and directs investment in the Economy, the Environment, Children & Families and Health & Wellbeing.

The ECC Locality Fund reopened for applications in May, and I'm

pleased to say that all of the £10,000 for the Maldon Division, has been spent. My thanks go to the parishes and community groups who approached me with their projects and for the hard work put in. This financial year, Parish Council projects supported in the Maldon Division include outdoor seating, bins and boiler replacement for Cold Norton's Village Hall and Playground project, fruit trees for North Fambridge's Community Orchard, and Woodham Mortimer's projector for their Village Hall. Community Groups and organisations in the Maldon Division also supported by the ECC Locality Fund include the Woodham Walter Village Hall "Warm Up the Hall" project, and outdoor seating for the Action for Family Carers' Day Centre at Brickhouse Farm. Plus, a new freezer to support the food bank work at Peters Hospital Café, support for the project to re site the Steam Tug Brent at The Hythe, and support for the refurbishment of an outbuilding for community activities at Purleigh Community Shop.

The Locality Fund opens again for applications this May, so if you have a project or community initiative, please do contact me with your suggestions/applications at [cllr.jane.fleming@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.jane.fleming@essex.gov.uk)

Essex County Council also supported the community through the Community Initiative Fund, a fund administered by the Essex Association of Local Councils on behalf of ECC. Town & Parish Councils, community groups, social enterprises and individuals in Essex were invited to apply. Successful applicants in the Maldon Division supported include the work of the Woodham Walter Vil-

lage Hall "Warm Up the Hall project and the establishment of the Chelmer and Blackwater Reserve in Maldon. The Chelmer and Blackwater Reserve is an exciting new venture by a community interest company on the site known locally as Ironworks Meadow. You can view it as you walk along the river wall from the Tesco superstore towards Beeleigh and work has already started on what will become a new nature reserve.

The winter months always bring additional pressures to the most vulnerable, so a £9.4 million Household Support Fund was announced in November for Essex families and vulnerable residents. This fund included £3.2 million for School Holiday Food Vouchers during the Christmas, February and Easter 2022 School Holidays for those eligible and £2.5 million for support those most in need with food costs, energy and water bills and other essentials. The fund also directed £120,000 for rough sleepers in Essex distributed through borough, city and district councils and £200,000 to local Citizens Advice and £108,000 to Care Leavers for food and essential items. Also £630,000 was directed to the Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service including £600,000 for a one off fuel payment to eligible families

In the New Year, the Essex Year of Reading was launched with a programme of fun activities and events that will run throughout the rest of this year to support pupils whose education has been affected by Covid 19. In 2021 Essex County Council committed to keeping all 74 Essex Libraries open, so shortly before Christmas, the new Draft Library Plan was launched with an eight week consultation seeking residents' views on the future shape of the Library Service in Essex. The results of that consultation have just been presented to the People and Families Scrutiny Committee. There is a strong emphasis on children and young people's literacy and an excellent initiative to provide every Essex primary school pupil and Year Seven pupil with a library card. This will be rolled out prior to National Literacy Week.



## Essex County Councillor—Jane Fleming



Also launched in the New Year, was the Leader and Deputy Leader's Levelling Up Plan for Essex. Priority areas and cohorts in the County were identified to achieve better outcomes and close the gap on the Essex and national averages. Priority places identified were Tendring, Basildon and Colchester housing estates, Harlow, Rural Braintree and Canvey Island. Priority cohorts identified were children and adults with SEND, learning disabilities or mental health conditions, children on free school meals, working families and young adults (16-25 years) who have not been in education, training or employment for around 6-12 months.

In February, Essex County Council agreed its new Budget for 2022/23. The one thing that strikes you as a new Member is the sheer size of Essex County Council – the net Revenue Budget for 2022/23 is £1.083 Billion. Like all local authorities, Essex has experienced a number of challenges this year including: the impact of the pandemic, issues with supply chains, inflation and the increasing costs of adult social care. The Council had a stark choice in balancing its budget - of increasing taxes or facing unacceptable cuts in services. Therefore, the Council increased their Council Tax precept by 4.59% (£1.16 per week for a Band D Council Taxpayer) of which 2.59% is for Adult Social Care.

Adult Social Care & Health accounts for £737m of Council spending which is over 40% of the gross Revenue Budget. This spending supports the most vulnerable in our communi-

ties including older people, people with learning difficulties, mental health difficulties and physical and sensory impairments.

The Budget also contained an ambitious £1.3 Billion Capital Programme to invest in the County's infrastructure as we build back from the pandemic including £696 million for Economic Renewal, £332 million for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport and £248 million to support Educational Excellence, Learning and Employability. An additional £2 Million 'Pothole Fund' was also announced targeting fixes where they are needed the most.

Major infrastructure projects that will affect the Division in the coming years include, the A12 widening and junction changes at Hatfield Peveler, the Army & Navy Roundabout redesign, and highways works associated with the delivery of the North Heybridge & South Maldon Garden suburbs around Maldon.

All 12 Boroughs, City and District areas have a Local Highways Panel who are responsible for making recommendations and setting priorities for Highways Schemes in their areas. The Panels are made up of a representative number of Members from Essex County Council and the individual Borough, City or District. Meetings are held on a quarterly basis and prioritise local concerns and make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for the implementation of highways schemes that meet the concerns of local people.

Local Highways Panel funding was

doubled in the 2021/2022 budget, resulting in the Maldon LHP budget being increased to £400,000 per financial year and this commitment was continued for this coming financial year. The Maldon LHP has underspent this year due to staffing shortages and the impacts of the pandemic, however the underspend will be carried forward into this next financial year. The way in which the Panels work is currently undergoing scrutiny largely due to the time taken from application to implementation. At the time of writing, the results of the findings and recommendations are awaited and will be presented to the Place Services & Economic Growth Committee when it next meets on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March.

Work towards protecting the safety of Hoe Mill Bridge continued this year. The bridge is known to be in a weakened condition so essential erosion protection measures were carried out in 2019 and then in 2020, the enforcement of the bridge's 3 tonne weight limit and a temporary physical restriction were put in place. This temporary restriction is designed to minimise further deterioration of the bridge and prevent vehicles from parking on the bridge until long term improvements to the bridge are made. In September 2021, permanent Width & Weight restriction signs were installed at various approach points, and this restriction continues with the support of traffic signals. Ground investigations originally due to be carried out in September 2021 were completed in February. An Option Study has been conducted to explore a number of engineering options and identify a suitable long term solution. Once an option has been agreed and subject to the necessary funding being available, Essex Highways will move to a design phase which will be followed by a period of work planning before physical works can begin.

If you have concerns about an issue in the Division, please email me: [cllr.jane.fleming@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.jane.fleming@essex.gov.uk)

## Woodham Walter Primary School—Philip Brown



### Vision Statement

*‘Our welcoming Christian community nurtures lifelong learners by: knowing one another and being known; valuing those around us and being valued; providing aspiration, inspiration and celebrating achievement. Through memorable learning opportunities and experiences, it enables a positive, sustainable, and inclusive future for all.’*

I am privileged to be able to work alongside my colleagues at Woodham Walter C of E Primary School to ‘nurture lifelong learners’ in the students that currently attend the school. In my 26 years in education there has never been a more challenging time to educate pupils as in the pandemic in



coach for a session in school, enjoying author visits as well as continuing to use the rich learning environment of the forest to bring enhanced learning opportunities.

Our school vision also talks about celebrating achievements and our children regularly celebrate their



but also celebrate the unique talents of each individual child through the interests and pursuits pupils have outside of school. Through this celebration of the whole child we are supporting the dancers, musicians, athletes, engineers and artists of the future, to name but a few of their wide and

the past couple of years and it continues to be challenging as the threat of coronavirus diminishes but continues to be present.

And yet when the Governing Body met in August to consider the vision of the school and its strategic direction they established a vision which we hope will meet the needs of a group of children who continue to deserve the very best quality education.

The vision talks about memorable learning experiences and our children have continued to enjoy their learning through such activities as visiting a planetarium, having Dinosaur experiences, welcoming athlete Steve Frew as well as a Little Scrummers rugby

achievements with one another. Through our House system we have a winning house each week determined by the house that has collected the most house points that week. We also celebrate academic excellence as well as personal and social development through Headteachers cups presented weekly to 1 member of each class. We celebrate individual successes at school by how many house points are collected individually and give certificates,



varied talents.

One of the other benefits of being a member of a small school community like Woodham Walter is the personal touch that it can offer. I enjoy the interaction with the children and their parents on the school gate each morning but also am blessed to witness children valuing each other every day. This might be as part of their daily act of collective worship or in collaborative work in class. Year 5 and 6 pupils offer their time at lunchtime as Playleaders to support younger pupils engage in meaningful play and really embodies that sense of ‘valuing others and being valued’ that the school looks to develop in its pupils.

# Woodham Walter Primary School—Philip Brown



As a church school children are also introduced to the Christian values that make the school so special. It's ethos of kindness, fairness, consideration, forgiveness and respect are reinforced through daily acts of collective worship as well as the behaviour policy in school. We are lucky to enjoy a relationship with St Michaels church with our foundation governors continuing

have been substantive Headteacher at All Saints for 6 years having previously been both co-headteacher and deputy headteacher for many years before that. In this time I have always had a close working relationship with Mrs Dodd and Woodham Walter C of E Primary School and so when the opportunity arose to work across those schools it felt like the natural progression with the schools having

School has continued to make it a happy learning environment that really does 'nurture lifelong learners'.

Written by Philip Brown,  
Executive Headteacher of  
All Saints, Maldon and  
Woodham Walter C of E Primary  
Schools



to safeguard the distinctly christian character of the school and with Rev Julie Wilmott visiting to lead some of our collective worship time in school.

The school has this year developed a closer working partnership with All Saints C of E Primary School in Maldon as part of the wider Seven Spires Partnership that it also continues to work in. I

so much in common and it is our hope that over time this relationship will continue to deepen and develop for the benefit of the pupils at both schools.

So after what has been a time of challenge for all primary school settings it is great to see the collective efforts of all involved at Woodham Walter C of E Primary



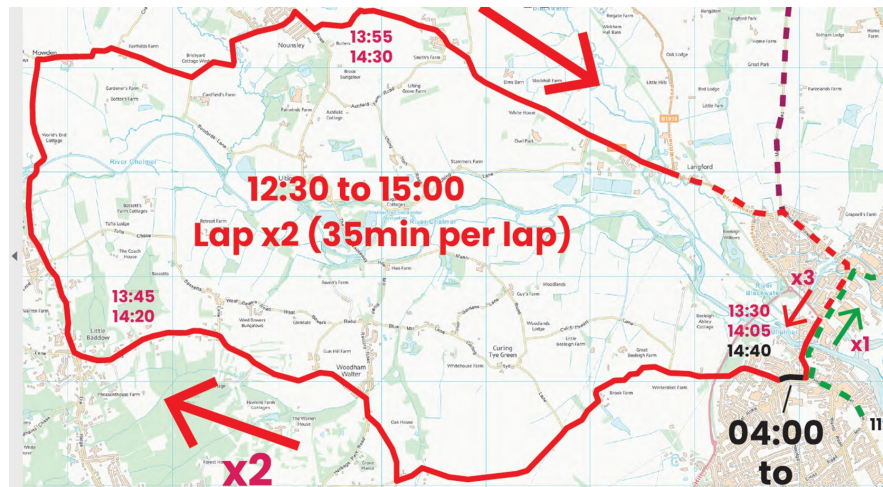


## RideLondon Event 27th–29th May

### Event overview

RideLondon is a festival of cycling and was established by the Mayor of London in 2013 as an Olympic legacy event from the 2012 London Games.

The event could not be held in 2020 or 2021 due to restrictions caused by the pandemic and it returns in 2022 with a new format, a new partnership with Essex County Council and a new three-day UCI Women’s WorldTour road race.



### Plan ahead for the 2022 RideLondon weekend

RideLondon, returns for its eighth edition from Friday 27 May to Sunday 29 May 2022.

As a result, **extensive road closures** will be required in some areas during this period. Check before you travel around Essex/London this weekend.

[www.ridelondon.co.uk/](http://www.ridelondon.co.uk/)

### On Friday 27th May the UCI Women’s World tour will come through Woodham Walter.

(estimated between 12-3pm) and will include various road closures. Details of the route indicates that it comes through the village (x 2 laps) via the following roads : Old London Road, Oak Farm Road, Church Hill, Little Baddow Road.

Date	Event	Local authority areas where the event takes place with road closures
Friday 27 May	Professional women’s cycle race: RideLondon Classique – Stage 1	Braintree Chelmsford Colchester Maldon (main area affected) <b>Woodham Walter</b>
Saturday 28 May	Professional women’s cycle race: RideLondon Classique – Stage 2	Braintree Chelmsford Epping Forest (main area affected) Uttlesford
Sunday 29 May	Family-focused mass participation ride: RideLondon FreeCycle	Camden City of London Lambeth Westminster
	Professional women’s cycle race: RideLondon Classique – Stage 3	Camden City of London Westminster
	Mass participation ride with 25,000 cyclists: RideLondon-Essex 100	<b>London</b> City of London Hackney Newham Redbridge Southwark Tower Hamlets Waltham Forest Westminster  <b>Essex</b> Chelmsford Epping Forest Uttlesford





## Woodham Walter Common - Volunteer Warden, Chris Wheadon



**ESSEX**  
Wildlife Trust

This past year has at last seen a return to planned activities on the Reserve, although of course we have obviously been playing “Catch Up” due to the effect of Covid in 2020. To that end we held four full well attended Work Parties, with an average number of 10 persons in each. In addition Catriona and myself have worked on the Common for a number of full days in the Year removing Bramble by hand, a very laborious and time consuming activity, although ultimately rewarding

**PICTURE BELOW SHOWS NEW “RIDE FEBRUARY 2022 PICTURE ABOVE SHOWS WORK PARTY ROWAN HOLLOW**

**PATHS:-** All the paths, as you can imagine have been extremely well used, some have been very wet at times, increased usage does sometimes cause compaction, thus reducing natural drainage, so the paths unfortunately remain wetter for longer.



**BOGS:-** The two bogs are looking very good, the invasive bracken has been much reduced, the now large number Butler Ferns are looking very good. Unfortunately a large Birch tree has fallen across the Westernmost Bog, and will be removed.

### **HEATHS:-**

**“New Heath”:-** As previously reported the Heather continues to thrive, which is very pleasing, the mature “ring barked “ Silver Birches on the perimeter have succumbed, as intended, and will hopefully provide nesting sites for Woodpeckers.

**“Rowan Hollow”:-** In addition to the bramble removal by Catriona and myself, we held 3 very well attended successful Work Parties, one pulling bracken in July 2021 and 2 removing encroaching Silver Birch in February 2022 .

**HIMALAYAN BALSAM.** I am very pleased to report that it appears that our continued efforts ( Catriona and I) of pulling out this non Native invasive plant have successfully, and substantially, **reduced the amount of Himalayan Balsam by approximately 90% compared to last year’s figure, of 155, this**

**year we found only 11 plants, which we removed.** It will be very interesting to see how many (if any) plants appear this Summer.



**OTHER MATTERS :-** An E.W.T organised visit by Parish Councillors took place on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July 2021, led by Neil Bedford, E.W.T Area Manager. Matters discussed included the proposed creation of a new “Ride”, to be created, starting at the end of Common Lane .(See below).

**New Ride:-** The new Ride was created by Contractors very recently in February 2022, as per the E.W.T Management Plan. A number of trees have been felled, in order to create a Wildlife Corridor, letting in more light which in turn will increase Biodiversity. The felled timber will be removed in due course, as and when ground conditions permit. As part of this “Coppicing” process branches from the felled trees are then used to protect new shoots, which will emerge from the tree stumps, which is all part of the regeneration of Woodland. These new tasty shoots are very much loved by foraging Deer, so will need protection.

As I have said before, we are indeed fortunate in having this free facility literally on our doorsteps, please use it, respect it, and enjoy it.

**Chris Wheadon. (Volunteer Warden)**

# Waste & Recycling

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. This system has worked well and so we will continue to offer this service for our local residents. If you need additional supplies of pink recycling sacks or food caddy liners they can be obtained by contacting the Parish Clerk, preferably by email [parishclerk@woodhamwalterpc.org](mailto:parishclerk@woodhamwalterpc.org) or telephone 01245 373686.

We will have a stock of pink and green bags at the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 4th April at 8pm in Woodham Walter Village Hall.



## APRIL 2022

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

### DON'T FORGET TO PUT YOUR FOOD BIN OUT WEEKLY

For more information on your recycling & refuse collections go to [www.maldon.gov.uk/waste](http://www.maldon.gov.uk/waste)



## COLLECTION CALENDAR

2021 - 22

**ROUTE 7 - THURSDAY**

### MAY 2022

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

### AUGUST 2022

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

### JUNE 2022

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

### SEPTEMBER 2022

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

### JULY 2022

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

### OCTOBER 2022

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

Please recycle this when you have finished with it. In October 2022 you will be issued with a new calendar.

Interested in joining our popular **garden waste service?**

We are now able to accept new subscribers. Visit [www.maldon.gov.uk/garden](http://www.maldon.gov.uk/garden)

This calendar is also available online

- 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](http://www.maldon.gov.uk/garden)

# IMPORTANT CHANGES

at your recycling centre

From 28 February 2022 online bookings are required to visit a van-friendly recycling centre in a van, pick-up truck or any vehicle towing a twin axle trailer

[loveessex.org/bookings](http://loveessex.org/bookings)

## 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



Woodham Walter Parish Council would like to continue to engage the services of youth volunteers which has proved to be of great value to the village.

**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 etc.

For more information apply to: parishclerk@woodhamwalterpc.org

## Woodham Walter Litter Pick



Woodham Walter Parish Council organised the annual litter pick in February.

We had less volunteers this year (going from 35 in 2021 to 10 in 2022!) but even so we were able to litter pick 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.

You can report any fly tips to Maldon District Council  
<https://www.maldon.gov.uk/info/20041/street-cleaning/9361/how-can-i-report-fly-tipping>

## Friends of St Michael's Church - Brian Cumming



The impact of the virus stayed with us during the main part of the year and it has limited our ability to gather at the church to work on the grounds and carry out the regular maintenance work that a building of this nature requires. Hopefully things are slowly returning to normal.

The main achievement during the year was the refurbishment of the brickwork of the east Chancel and Vestry gables. Repairs of this nature are a specialist activity and we engaged the services of a contractor who has completed previous brickwork repairs at the church. The work consisted of replacing a number of bricks that had deteriorated due to weather and frost damage and then re-pointing the two gables. The result looks really good and will help to protect the building from further water ingress and associated damage.

Looking forward there is still much to do and currently at the top of the list is the repair of the front fence of the churchyard that

was damaged during the recent storm. It is our intention to reinstate the existing fencing and to repair the broken wooden posts with concrete spur-posts; once again using as much of the original material as possible. We are considering the use of a working party to conduct this task. It is good to see that the new boundary fencing that was installed last year was able to stand up to the storm; a testament to the quality of the work done. In the longer term we plan to support the development of the newly extended churchyard and we will be calling upon the people-power of the Friends to participate in a number of working parties to help in this task.



The Friends of St. Michaels Church is a non-religious group dedicated to the preservation and development of a beautiful and historic building. The Friends support the Church in a number of ways: by the provision of people-power in working parties, by the provision of a wide variety of specialist skills and knowledge and, of course, by the provision of funds which have enabled us to achieve so much over the years. 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.

The AGM of the Friends will be held on the 28<sup>th</sup> April in the Women's Club, starting at 19:00 and all are welcome. On a personal note, I shall be stepping down as chairman at that meeting, but a very capable successor has put their name forward to carry the organisation forward. I have been in the role for around ten years, and I felt it was time for change. My grateful thanks to all of you that have supported me in this role during that time. I plan to stay on as membership secretary and hope to remain an active member of the team.

**Brian Cumming**  
Chairman



## Tadpoles Nursery - Pam Seear

It has been another busy and exciting year of learning through play at The Tadpoles Nursery, though it has not been without its challenges.

As a result of the ever-changing Covid-19 guidelines we have been regularly reviewing our policies and procedures, making sure that we keep the children and families safe and at the heart of all we do.

We started the summer term with hopes of being able to go on our annual outing and plan our Teddy Bears picnic, but unfortunately circumstances and rule changes meant these couldn't go ahead, instead we had our Teddy Bears picnic at the nursery with the children rather than as a large group, which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

We also had to delay our leavers party for those children going up to school in September, but everyone enjoyed it when it did happen. We managed to make the most of the warmer weather, with much of our time being outside in the fresh air. We enjoyed baking Gingerbread men, making our own pizzas, and investigating lots of visitors to our garden, in the form of crickets, caterpillars, worms, woodlouse, spiders etc holding puppet shows and getting busy in our mud kitchen.



When we opened in September, we had made some exciting changes to Tadpoles. We made changes to the layout inside to reflect what we felt the children would like.

Outside we added some storage sheds. A 'Builders shed' and a 'Creation Station', we also added some shelving to allow the children to choose and access the resources for themselves, to encourage the children to be independent and lead their learning. The children love it, and now enjoy being able to freely access resources to help develop and

extend their play. We also added an outside tap! The children love being able to access this independently, watering the plants and making muddy puddles are definite favourites, creating car washes and adding water to the mud kitchen are very popular. In October all the staff completed Level One Makaton Training, the staff learnt lots of the basic signs and were able to sign simple sentences by the end of the training, we are gradually introducing it to enhance the children's communication skills. By adding signs regularly, we have been teaching the children how to sign



Twinkle Twinkle, we have had lots of comments from parents saying the children were showing Dads, Nanny's etc how to do it which is great. We were very excited about the new playground on Bell Meadow and had a session with our families in the October half term holiday planting bulbs around the outside and playing on the playground as well.

November was a very busy month, with Guy Fawkes, Remembrance Day, and World Nursery Rhyme Week, where we focused on a different rhyme every day with lots of exciting rhyme focused activities.

As always, we raised money for Children in Need, by encouraging everyone to dress up and purchasing a 'biscuit' to take part in the big biscuit build. The children enjoyed watching BBC Rickie and Melvin's Big Biscuit Build live on our laptop, we all enjoyed a biscuit for snack afterwards. In December the Reverend Julie and ladies from the church came in to help us celebrate Christingle, they dressed up one of the Aunties to help the children understand the significance of the orange, the sweets, the red ribbon round the middle and the four sticks, and then the children got to make their own,

as you can imagine everyone had so much fun.

We couldn't perform our Nativity in the school hall in front of our parents so instead we did it at Tadpoles and took pictures of the children that we sent to the parents, which they loved. We added the costumes to our role play for a while, the children enjoyed dressing up in them and acting out parts of the story they remembered. We always encourage the children to take part but allow them some artistic interpretation so this year we had an Inn keeper with a shepherd's crook. The songs we sing during the nativity are always very popular and the children still request some of these now.

We did get to enjoy Christmas Dinner Day as we are able to purchase cooked lunches supplied by the school, we got to pull some crackers and ice cream for pudding, this really helped us get into the mood for Christmas. The potted Christmas tree we brought in 2020 is still alive so the children loved having Christmas trees to decorate inside and out. We also got to have our Christmas parties this year, so it was very exciting. This term we have celebrated Chinese New Year, the children tried some noodles and rice, surprising lots of parents with their child's willingness to try new foods and learnt about how the Chinese celebrate this important tradition. We also watched a video of some Chinese dragons dancing at a school which prompted the children to want to dance like dragons to music.

For World Book Day we dressed up as a character from a book, even the Aunties. We enjoyed lots of story focused activities and sharing our favourite books.

The children have noticed there are lots of changes happening around us as we move towards spring, they are enjoying watching the daffodils starting to flower and seeing the buds grow on the trees.

At Tadpoles we are looking forward to the Summer with lots going on especially outside! If you have any questions of any kind please contact Pam Seear 01245 22046 or via email [tadpolesnursery@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tadpolesnursery@hotmail.co.uk)

## Neighbourhood Watch - Gary Orford



We continue to be a low crime village in a low crime area and hopefully this reflects the work we have done to have an effective communication throughout the village via Whatsapp.

In 2019 the village decided that we need to improve the communication between residents of potential or actual crimes. We set up 10 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 10 Whatsapp groups are connected to one overriding Whatsapp group of co-ordinators. 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 or potential crime MUST still report it to the police in the first instance either through 999 if its serious or 101 for less serious crimes.

This year we have had a small number of crimes in the village including: -

- Car theft – criminals have been using technology to get access to the cars via scanners.
- House and outhouse break in – this looks random so would urge everyone to review their security including security lighting, CCTV, alarms, locks etc.
- Farm crime – including off road vehicles used for hare coursing, haystack fire which was suspected arson.
- Church theft – the lead from the roof was stolen and ripped up causing damage to the existing tiles plus as the roof was no longer watertight rain damage occurred to the inside of the church.
- General – including theft of the post box from outside the church that was angle grinded and stolen.

**I encourage you to report on Whatsapp – by being nosy neighbours we can keep crime in this village to a minimum.**

As a general rule I do not comment / report to residents on cybercrime 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 cyber-

crime incidents, in time residents will get bored with my warnings and miss something that is very important and directly related to Woodham Walter.

If you get 5 minutes, can I suggest that you visit the Woodham Walter Parish Council website – [www.woodhamwalterpc.org](http://www.woodhamwalterpc.org) where you can find “crime awareness links” under the heading “noticeboard”. Here there is much information about police advice, crime prevention, cyber-crime 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](mailto:woodhamwalternw@hotmail.com)



## Community Engagement Team - Nicola Syder

The year 2021/22 has been a busy period, where we have been adjusting back to delivering something which represents a more normal service, as we move away from the restrictions of covid.

Whilst in the parish carrying out our duties below, we also visit Bell Meadow regularly, where we carry out a weekly visual check on the fantastic new play equipment the parish has provided for the village. We have also been able to undertake a formal

monthly inspection of the play equipment on behalf of the parish council, as two members of our team are ROSPA trained.

We look forward to continuing to work with your parish in 2022/23 and are happy to discuss any additional requirements you may have.

### TRUCAM Figures for 1st April 2021-28 February 2022

#### Speed Enforcement Patrols

(Maldon District Council working in partnership with Safer Essex Roads Partnership)

[www.saferessexroads.org](http://www.saferessexroads.org)

Patrol	No of Patrols	Captures
<b>30</b> TRUCAM	44	56 Referred to Essex Police for further action.

#### Actions by Essex Police on those referred (1st April 2021—31 January 2022):

37 drivers have been referred to the speed awareness course

2 drivers have had conditional offers

2 drivers have been prosecuted

### Street Scene Figures for 2021/22

Incident type	No of incidents reported	Action- info
School Patrols *	27	Patrols are undertaken to help keep the parking restrictions around the school clear to enable a safe journey in and out of school. Drivers will either be moved on to park elsewhere or issued a Penalty Charge Notice if appropriate
Fly tipping – public land Fly tipping—private land	27 1	All incidents are checked for supporting evidence and investigated – Hotspot areas have signage installed – Covert CCTV to be deployed in areas if suitable.
Abandoned Vehicles	8	
Dog Control – Fouling	2	The team will continue to patrol monitor and enforce where appropriate, if you have any evidence let us know and we will target perpetrators.

\* School Patrols: On street parking patrols in and around Woodham Walter School, at the beginning and end of the school day (Maldon District Council working in partnership with South Essex Parking Partnership) [www.parkingpartnership.org/south](http://www.parkingpartnership.org/south)

**The team will continue to patrol; monitor and enforce where appropriate.**



## 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 Tadpoles Nursery and on the Parish Council website:

[www.woodhamwalterpc.org](http://www.woodhamwalterpc.org)

Further information on bus services can be found at [www.essexhighways.org/Getting-Around/bus.aspx](http://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—Anthony Comber



Firstly, I would like to thank all the people of the Parish for their support over 2021, as we exited covid restrictions in the spring of 2021. It was wonderful seeing and hearing from so many of you offering your assistance and support in getting the river cleaned up. Your volunteering was so welcomed, and between us, we must have picked up truckloads of rubbish from footpaths and river alike. So again, thank you for all your efforts, without the people in the communities along the navigation volunteering their time to assist us, we would not have the beautiful navigation we so cherish.

So onto the report, what a year it has been for Essex Waterways and the Navigation. The amount of work and effort put in over the year by both our paid team and the growing army of volunteers has been immense. I will list, but a few of the things they have done just in the Woodham Walter Parish area, let alone along the river, we have restored Rushes Weir strapping and underpinning the wing walls, while supporting the weir itself with rock roll gabions to reduce the undertow effect. We have Dredged Hoe Mill lock cut, as well as long stretches at Baddow Meads and Sanford Lock Cut. Working with the Air Cadet 2021 Duke of Edinburgh Gold team we installed 300m of Willow Faggot Banks. They also installed two new Canoe Landing stages with us. Essex and Suffolk water refurbished the automatic weir at

Hoe Mill. We planted over 200 Willow trees from Ricketts Lock to Rushes Weir. We have cut back over a mile of riverbank trees to maintain the route along the river and we have built a Shepherds Hut at Hoe Mill to help in the management of our small camp site.

A few highlights, a little further along the river, we also built new customer toilets at Papermill lock. In mid-summer, just when you don't want to, we closed the navigation for two weeks to repair the leaking lock seal at Papermill lock, and have just finished the two year project of piling the island to protect it from erosion that was starting to take place. Oh and of course we kept the footpaths cut and the river clean of weed in what seemed almost perfect growing conditions.



As a team we are looking forward to 2022 with great anticipation, we have a mammoth works plan including the replacement of 4 pairs of lock gates along the river, restoring and rebuilding Stonham's Weir, rebuilding over 4 miles of footpath, replacing two culverts and installing new moorings into Chelmsford Town Centre.

As well as the extra ordinary effort the team and volunteers along the river have made in maintenance of the river, we had an amazing sum-

mer working with people helping them enjoy the river, This year we added to our volunteer skippered Trip Boats, Albert and Blackwater Dawn, with a new service in Chelmsford City Centre in conjunction to the Business Improvement District One Chelmsford. In total, our Trip boats carried over 7200 passenger's a staggering number considering we were not allowed to mix people until July 19<sup>th</sup>.

The River saw a massive influx of new users in 2021 with over 3500 Paddle sports users alone, such is the influx of visitors, we have added to our team, James our full time river warden, James joins us from Greenwich council where he was an Anti-social behaviour officer and his brief, as well as to manage and check river users passes is to engage with some of the behaviour along the river educating the newer users of the environmental and social impact their behaviour may be having. James has been so successful. In 2021 we are looking to increase his team for 2022.

After the amazing uptake of support last year, for 2022 we have also employed a new volunteer coordinator Louise McConnell, who I know would love to meet you and chat about how you may be able to help us preserve the beauty of our river, we have volunteer vacancies for everybody, large and small vacancies, from assisting the Lengths men with the big jobs of lock gate restoration, to planting flowers, painting lock gates or just helping picking up litter. There is something for everyone to be involved with along the river and we would love to welcome you to the team.

But hey, if we don't see you volunteering, please say hi as you go by, we love our navigation and hope you do too.

Louise McConnell 07849275217  
[essex.volunteers@waterways.org.uk](mailto:essex.volunteers@waterways.org.uk)

## Bell Meadow Village Association—Nancy Lott

### Bell Meadow Day 2022 Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2022 "Bringing the Community back together"

Great progress is being made as the big day approaches.

There will be main arena events throughout the day.

There will be a selection of stalls (something for everyone), children's entertainer, fun games and local food and drink

Live music will be followed by an evening cinema event

More details will follow monthly.

Any offers of help, before, during or after the Day would be welcomed; please contact Nancy, Bell Meadow Secretary, via email [nancylott@outlook.com](mailto:nancylott@outlook.com) or call 07584 192 791

In 2004 Bell Meadow was gifted to the village by Essex and Suffolk Water. In order to celebrate the gift it was decided to hold a Village celebration day.

Bell Meadow Day has now been an annual Village event since 2005. Thanks go to Mark Durham and Committee along with numerous volunteers for organising 14 consecutive events that have been greatly enjoyed by village and local residents.

A new Committee was formed in 2020 but sadly COVID restrictions meant that the event for 2020 and 2021 were cancelled. The new Committee members are Robert Lee, Chairman, Nigel Cornwell, Vice Chairman, Gary Orford, Treasurer and Nancy Lott, Secretary.

Our main aim is to "bring the community back together" following a very difficult 2 years. We are trying to attract and involve all local Village Associations, local business and crafters to reflect a true "village day".

It was decided to hold Bell Meadow Day 2022 on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> Sep-

tember to avoid clashes with other events held over the usual August Bank Holiday weekend and it was hoped that more families could attend as the school Summer holidays would be finished.

The event format will be similar to previous years with main arena events (dog agility/beauty contest etc.), competition tent, stalls, exhibits, children's entertainer food/drink and live music. Local musical talent will be encouraged/sought rather than a "headline" act.

The new playground will be a great asset and outside toys will be added to create a children's play area.

In order to differentiate the "village day" from other fetes the Committee would like to put the emphasis on villagers providing entertainment and attractions rather than buying in professionals for example wellington boot throwing, hay tossing, egg throwing and tug of war; all encouraging participation.

Following conversations and support from the Committee of Little Baddow Festival 2021 who hosted a successful event in September we will be hosting a live cinema event in the evening.

With improved Wi-Fi in the Village the event will be as cashless as possible. Tickets will be sold via the internet and card readers will be used on the Meadow. Discounts will be offered if booking early. Cash will, of course, be accepted on the day. All forms of media will be used to advertise and promote the day including social media, Woodham Walter Community Update, Village News magazine, advertising placards and estate agent boards.

The "Day" takes a lot of organisation to arrange the attractions, set up Bell Meadow, co-ordinate the day and clear up afterwards. As such the Committee are unable to do this on their own and therefore we have always asked "villagers" to help with the organisation. The underlying principal of the Committee is to give volunteers a responsibility rather than a job in that way we hope people will really feel part of the village day – **we will never turn away an offer for help.** We would encourage 2 people sharing the responsibility which would spread the load and makes it a more enjoyable experience.

We currently have a strong Committee who meet monthly and help from previous volunteers is proving invaluable and is much appreciated. At the time of writing this Report we are still looking for volunteers and are actively seeking local businesses and crafters to host a stall.

Nancy Lott,  
Bell Meadow Secretary  
[nancylott@outlook.com](mailto:nancylott@outlook.com)  
07584 192 791

## Community Defibrillator Project—Gill Orford

We count ourselves very lucky to have a defibrillator here in Woodham Walter, housed within the old phone box in the centre of the village. This was purchased by the Church community in 2019.



A defibrillator is a simple machine that is designed to be very easy to use even in a very stressful situation. Up to now we have also had a defibrillator help team too, but unfortunately, the criteria for supporting a patient has changed so we are now unable to do this anymore without imposing significant liability on the volunteer.

This does not take anything away from the defibrillator as they are self-explanatory and very user friendly.

Given the time critical nature of using a defibrillator we are looking to raise more funds in the coming year for a second defibrillator to be located in the outskirts of the village.

The defibrillator is checked monthly and registered with The British Heart foundation so it is always in top working order.

### What to do in an emergency

- Dial 999
- The operator will advise you what to do.
- If you are told to get the defib from the cabinet, you will be given the access code.
- Follow the verbal instructions from the machine

Although Woodham Walter is 10 miles away from the ambulance station, there are also First Responders who are a highly trained voluntary group that are more local and are dispatched by the ambulance service.

If anyone would like any information on the defibrillator, or any thoughts on a potential second device, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Gill\_orford@hotmail.co.uk

## The Countryside Code

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](http://www.gov.uk/countryside-code)

The 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](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk)



#### Open Access

You can walk and explore away from paths.

[www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk)

For further information visit [www.gov.uk/countryside-code](http://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](mailto:parishclerk@woodhamwalterpc.org)  
 Woodham Walter Parish Council website is:

[www.woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk](http://www.woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk)

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 & Jubilee Celebrations

John Tompkins - Parish Councillor & VDS

Peter Warren - Parish Councillor, Footpath & Tree Officer

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

[Firstname.lastname@woodhamwalterpc.org](mailto:Firstname.lastname@woodhamwalterpc.org)



## 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 at the Village Hall on Monday 4th April at 8pm, 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 website.

[www.woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk](http://www.woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk)

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

### Parish Council Meetings

Woodham Walter Parish Council usually meets on the second Monday of the month, usually at the Women's Club room, Top Road. Members of the public are very welcome to attend and can address the council on agenda items or any issues relevant to Woodham Walter. The agenda for the meeting is displayed on the noticeboard outside Tadpoles Nursery and on the website during the week preceding the meeting:

#### Diary Dates 2022/2023

Monday 4th April 2022 8pm Annual Parish Meeting VH  
 Monday 11th April 2022 8pm  
 Monday 9th May 2022 8pm (includes AGM)  
 Monday 13th June 2022 8pm  
 Monday 11th July 2022 8pm  
 August—we only meet if there are urgent matters  
 Monday 12th September 2022 8pm  
 Monday 10th October 2022 8pm  
 Monday 14th November 2022 8pm  
 Monday 12th December 2022 8pm  
 Monday 9th January 2023 8pm  
 Monday 13th February 2023 8pm  
 Monday 13th March 2023 8pm

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](mailto:parishclerk@woodhamwalterpc.org)