



Parish Council Chairman  
Councillor James Rushton

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## Woodham Walter Parish Council

### From the Chairman, Councillor James Rushton

I am pleased to introduce Woodham Walter Parish Council's Report for the year April 2022 – March 2023 and to invite you to the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 8pm in the Village Hall. We hope that as many residents as possible will attend what is an important annual village gathering.

In last year's report I wrote that the government had just announced the removal of all Covid restrictions. We all knew that the truth was that the Covid virus would still be with us and in a variety of forms into the future. And, indeed, that has been the case. I know that many have caught Covid in the interim and suffered from it, a reminder to us all to be cognisant of the risks that remain. And, unsurprisingly, there is a lack of confidence about stepping back into an active social life and one of the themes of the Parish Council's work in the year ahead is to find ways of encouraging



more social gatherings in the village and to find new ways of communicating advice and guidance in the challenging world in which we now live. There is more on that later in this report but it is worth noting at this point that the Queen Vic remains closed - a victim partly of the pandemic and partly of changing social habits. Over the years it has been a community hub for many in the village, but sadly as of now there is no news as to wheth-

er it will re-open and if so in what form.

The composition of the Parish Council has remained unchanged over the past year. Indeed, this May's Parish Council election was uncontested, and so all seven existing councillors have been duly re-elected.

## Annual Parish Meeting - Monday 22nd May 2023

All Woodham Walter residents are invited to attend the

### Annual Parish Meeting

On Monday 22nd May at 8pm

Woodham Walter Village Hall

- Matters Arising from Annual Parish Reports
- Public Forum

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



## Woodham Walter Parish Council - Chairman, James Rushton

The Council comprises John Brown (Vice Chairman) who has very valuably brought his experience to bear on IT issues and on the installation of a new finance system; James Bunn; Jenny Hughes; Joanna Symons (chairing both last year's Platinum Jubilee celebrations and also this year's local celebrations of the Coronation of HM King Charles III, in addition to representing us as a Governor at our Primary School); John Tompkins (whose expertise in matters of planning and design is a much appreciated asset); and Peter Warren (who as our Footpaths and Tree Officer 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 land-owners). I am responsible to the Council for the allotments. Everyone contributes their own very considerable individual skills and knowledge to the Parish community, and I would like to thank everyone for their wholehearted commitment and for the time that they give on a voluntary basis.

Our Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer – and our one employee - is 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 because of the changing demands of the role. 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 guidance and expertise and the services of one who is so very dedicated to our community and whose commitment extends far beyond the pure administration of Council affairs. I am sure that everyone will join with me in thanking Jacky for all that she has done over the past year.

Importantly, this past year Jacky studied for, completed and passed her

CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration) with flying colours. This is a significant achievement for Jacky, but it also has tangible value for the Parish Council. With Jacky's qualification along with other criteria the Parish Council has been able to 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.



We have recently been successful in our application to the Local Council Award Scheme—Foundation Level. Awards given under this scheme celebrate the successes of the very best local councils as part of a framework to support all local councils to meet their full potential. More on this on page 4 of the report.

Finally, we acknowledge the roles that our Essex County Councillor, Jane Fleming, and our Maldon District Councillors, Simon Morgan and Mark Durham, representing the Wickham Bishops and Woodham Ward, play in attending Parish Council meetings and being accessible for their advice, a key part in the three-way communication between Parish, District and County. And we congratulate Cllrs. Morgan and Durham on their re-election this month. We are fortunate to have representatives who know the village, the area and its environment so well.

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 number of new applications has de-

clined, the workload has not, mainly as a result of the size, complexity and multi-faceted nature of many applications and appeals.

In the past year the most significant planning application requiring our attention was the Warren Estate's Appeal against the refusal of permission to build a large number holiday lodges at Bunsay Downs and at Wayside. The Parish Council, whilst technically being a third party to the Appeal, presented a strong paper calling for the Appeal to be dismissed; we attended every day of the Inquiry established to determine the Appeal, and were given the opportunity to speak and to ask questions. I thank all Councillors for the many hours of work put into presenting our case, but particularly Cllr. Tompkins for his expertise and contribution to that process. Our position was supported by a very significant number of written opinions from within the village and beyond, and the result was that the Inspector dismissed the Appeal. I cannot stress how important for the village this decision was, and how significant both the work of the Parish Council and also the coming together of so many in this community to resist the Appeal were in achieving that end.

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 continues to oversee the updating of the VDS in order to take account of changes in the planning environment since 2017, and with an ear to the ongoing discussions at governmental level on the revision of the National Planning Policy Framework. The VDS plays a vital role in obtaining decisions that are appropriate to the Village.

## Woodham Walter Parish Council - Chairman, James Rushton

One final point on planning relates to enforcement, the responsibility for which lies with Maldon District Council. Enforcement relates to the process of investigating and resolving possible breaches of planning law, including the upholding of conditions attached to approved planning applications, all according to MDC's Enforcement Policy. Sadly, and much to the irritation of the Parish Council and of many residents, the performance of the Enforcement Department at MDC has been particularly questionable over recent years, resulting in long, drawn-

out and unresolved correspondence in relation to what are evidentially serious breaches of planning conditions. As a result of what has been from our perspective a lack of any improvement in performance we have entered into a three-stage formal Complaint procedure with MDC. Our Complaint relates both to specific breaches of conditions, which despite many and frequent communications from the Parish Council to MDC have been left unenforced over time, and also to the general levels of resource, communi-

cation and performance within the Enforcement Department. We expect to meet with senior officers at MDC in the coming weeks and aim to have a productive discussion, with a sensible resolution of these areas of concern.



## Planning Summary 2022/2023

PARISH COUNCIL		
YEAR	21/22	22/23
Support/Approve	5	5
Object/Refusal	6	4
Comments	6	3
No Comment	2	3

MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL		
DECISIONS		
YEAR	21/22	22/23
Approve	14	8
Refuse	5	5
Withdrawn	0	0
Grant Coupa	0	0
To Be Decided	0	2

Total Applications:

2022/23: 15

2021/22: 19

Decision contrary to WWPC:

2022/23: 7

2021/22: 3

Type of Application	21/22	22/23	Type of Application	21/22	22/23
Extension	3	4	New Driveway	0	1
S73A application	3	0	Tennis Court	1	0
Claims for Lawful Development Certificate	0	1	Water Tank	1	0
Conservation Area	3	2	Extension and garage conversion	1	0
Replacement barn	0	1	Change of use of Highway Verge	1	0
Change of use from agricultural to dwelling house (COUPA)	1	1	Trees: TPO/TCA	0	2
Annexe	1	0	New Classroom	0	1
New or Replace or extend Cart Lodge or outbuilding	1	2	Public Playground Facility	1	0
Stationing of Bus	1	0			

Appeals responded to:

2022/23: 2

2021/22: 6

Enforcement Queries Raised:

2022/23: 5

2021/22: 6



## Woodham Walter Parish Council - Chairman, James Rushton

Finally, to revert to the question of 'community', Woodham Walter is fortunate to have many organisations, groups and committees that contribute actively to the benefit of the local community as a whole and all involving a large number of very committed volunteers - for instance, St Michael's Church, under the inspired leadership of Rev'd Julie Willmot, Woodham Walter Primary School (which after much effort has been able to add the essential resource of a new, additional classroom), 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 two excellent pubs and two golf courses, as well as the asset of the Playground on Bell Meadow, which has become so well-used and a

gathering point for parents (and for grandparents) with young children.

But there is a sense in which perhaps there are not as many village get-togethers as there used to be. Perhaps the pandemic has influenced that. (Having said that, there has, of course, been plenty of evidence of community spirit over the past year at last summer's Top Road street party which formed the centre-piece of our Platinum Jubilee celebrations, the mourning of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's passing and very recently the celebration of HM King Charles III's coronation, in addition to last September's Bell Meadow Day.)

So, the Parish Council has initiated Walter's Third Thursday Café at the Village Hall in order to give an opportunity for as many as possible to come together on an informal basis to catch up on local news, to meet new and old friends and to enjoy the company of neighbours with whom there is perhaps less contact than

there once was. I also hope that our efforts to focus on environmental and climate change issues over the coming months, to include a gathering in the summer, will result in a new sense of shared direction, interests and goals across the village as a whole.

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.



## Local Council Awards Scheme — Foundation



Woodham Walter Parish Council has received a prestigious award as part of the Local Council Award Scheme. This achievement recognises that the council achieves good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement. Moreover, your Parish Council goes above and beyond their legal obligations, leading their communities and continuously seeking opportunities to improve and develop even further.

The Local Council Award Scheme is a peer assessed programme that has been designed to both provide the tools and encouragement to those

councils at the beginning of their improvement journeys, as well as promoting and recognising councils that are at the cutting edge of the sector. It is through the sector working together to share best practice, drive up standards and supporting those who are committed to improving their offer to their communities that individual councils and the sector as a whole will reach its full potential.

Woodham Walter Parish Council's Chairman responded to the good news with Congratulations to all the team - and thanks to Jacky for all the work that was put into the successful application.

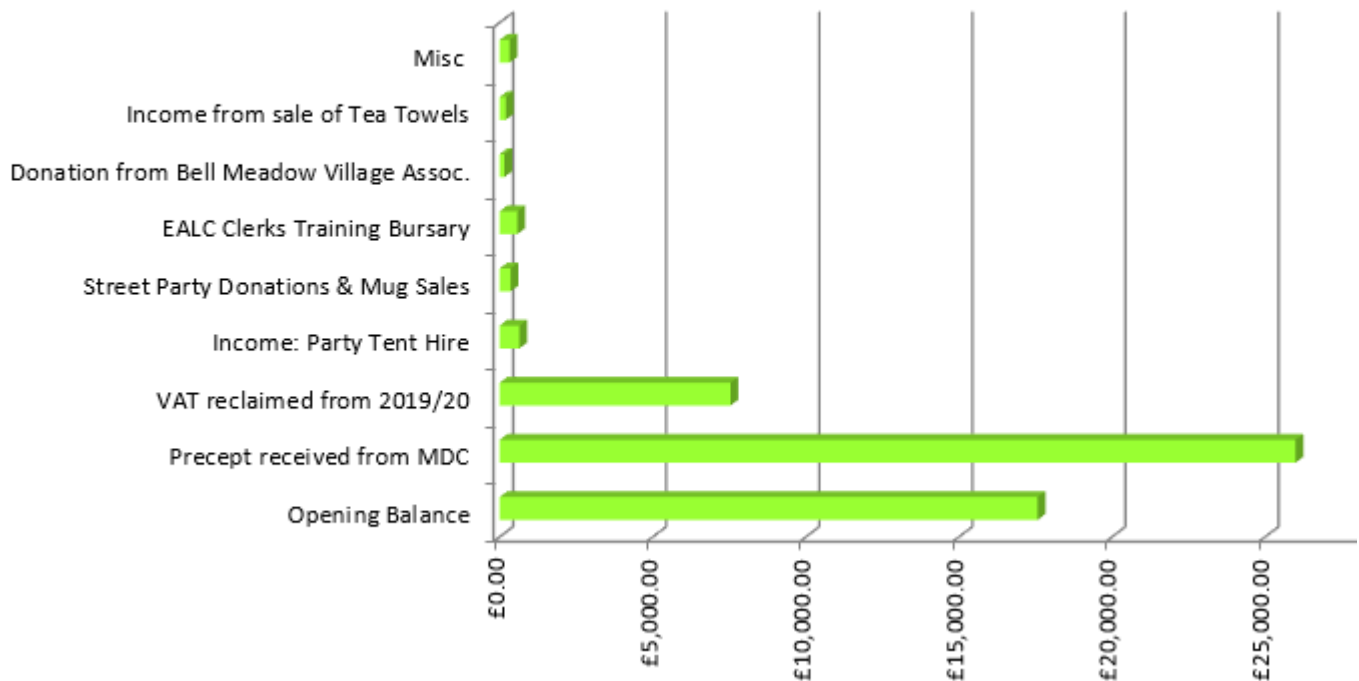
The certificate will be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting on 22nd May. Please come along to help us celebrate this national achievement.

In terms of the future, the council is now reviewing ways in which it can keep on improving its offer to the local community and welcomes input from local people and partners on this. Woodham Walter and other local councils like it, are at the front line of the government's localism agenda and are doing as much as they can to deliver services whilst being efficient and cost-effective. Currently the council provides a range of services including our new Walter's Third Thursday Café and wants to improve its community engagement through this and other activities. Let us know what you think.

## Woodham Walter Parish Council - Financial Overview

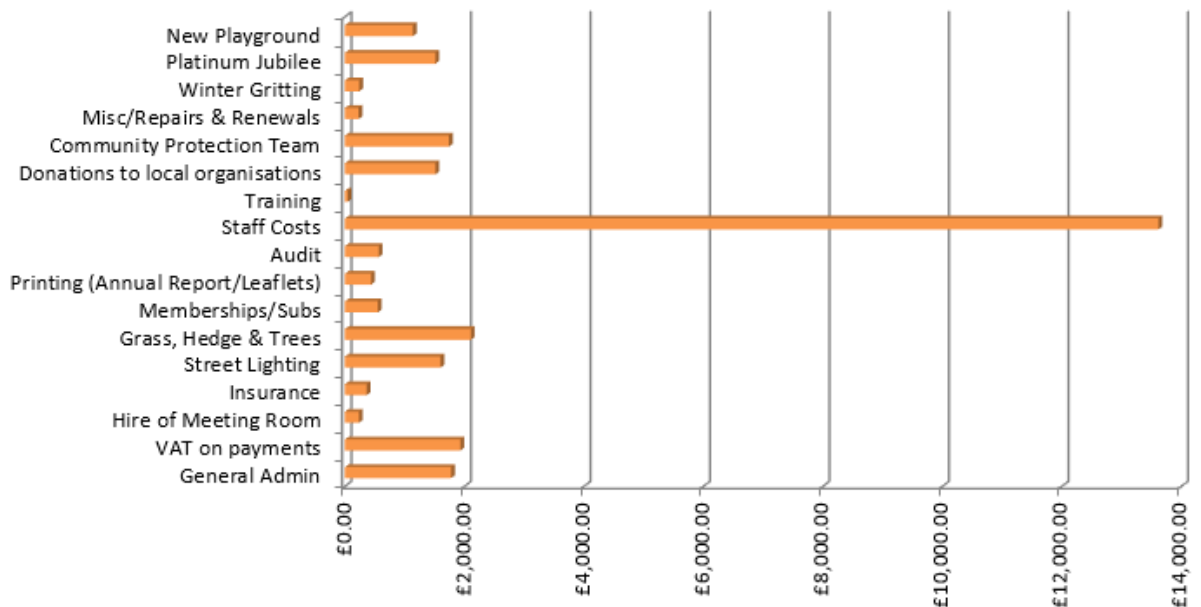
Parish Councils with an annual turnover below £25,000 have to adhere to the Transparency Code. Although Woodham Walter now exceeds this threshold, we think it's important to continue to provide information for you to review. Information is published on the Parish Council website so that parishioners 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. The Parish Council accounts are subject to an external audit review and this is usually completed by the end of September. 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 2022/23 financial year.

### Income & Opening Balances 2022/23 Total: £53,405.04



### Expenditure 2022/23 Total: £29,613.58

### Closing Balance: £23,791.46



## 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 Walter Common on our behalf.

Spending plans for 2023/24 include contributing to HM the King's Coronation Event and giv-

ing 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. 2023 was an election year and all our Parish Councillors were elected uncontested.

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 2022 we raised £650 in hiring income.

Councillors have agreed that the precept requirement for Woodham Walter in 2023/24 will be £228,665 which works out at £105.35 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 community, 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. Members of the community nominate candidates for election. All registered electors are encouraged to vote so that you can have a direct impact on the make up of the Parish Council which represents the local community of Woodham Walter.



## Climate Action—Cllr. James Rushton

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### How can Woodham Walter contribute?

Woodham Walter Parish Council has recently adopted a Climate Action Statement and a Biodiversity Policy. In brief, these two documents confirm amongst other things our commitment to:

- increasing the information and advice available to Parish residents on how best to protect our environment with a view to playing our part in achieving national net zero targets; and
- sharing advice and ideas for conservation and enhancement of biodiversity within Woodham Walter with residents across the spectrum of ages.

These two documents can be viewed at: [woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk/climate-action/](http://woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk/climate-action/)

The evidence of global warming is all around us. We may only be a small community but we need to contribute to the UK's efforts to reduce carbon emissions and to protect and increase biodiversity. Our work would have little noticeable impact on a national scale but it would make Woodham Walter itself a safer, more sustainable and greener environment.

For this to be effective, we need residents to help and to be involved. The Parish Council cannot do this effectively without your help.

We hope that residents will feel sufficiently passionate about this issue to be interested in forming a Working Party to drive our fight against Climate Change.

We are currently planning a Climate Action event which will take place in the Summer. We will have invited guests to talk about their areas of expertise, provide advice and information. We are also looking for those who have already taken their own initiatives to come forward and tell us of their experience. There is a new regular article in the Parish Magazine and you can submit your thoughts and ideas to [james.rushton@woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk](mailto:james.rushton@woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk)

## Useful Links

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

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

<https://sustainablebanbury.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:

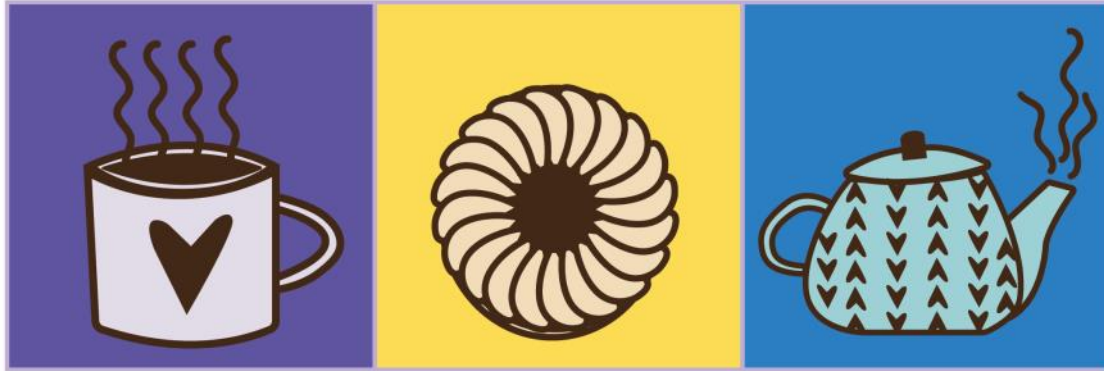
-Facebook: **Essex Climate Action Commission, Essex is Green, Love Essex**

-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**





# WALTER'S

## THIRD THURSDAY CAFE

18th May, 15th June, 20th July  
and every third Thursday ▼ 10am-12pm

Woodham Walter Village Hall, Rectory Road, Woodham Walter CM9 6RE

Free Tea, Coffee and Biscuits



Community Hub with advice and information; Health & Wellbeing, Crime and Fraud Prevention, Digital Help, Home Safety and lots more



Arranged by Woodham Walter Parish Council with funding from Maldon District Council Community Hub Grant Scheme



- ▼ Get to know your neighbours
- ▼ Bringing generations together
- ▼ Warm welcome to those who are new to the village
- ▼ Just for a cuppa and a chat
- ▼ Meet old friends and new
- ▼ Working from home? Take a screen break!



## Walter's Third Thursday Cafe

The Parish Council has long felt that an opportunity to provide a social meeting hub for village residents would be beneficial. Especially since lock down and all the changes that this has brought.

Walter's Third Thursday Café began on 20th April. We were delighted that about 40 people attended and we received lots of very positive comments.

A team of volunteers set out the Village Hall and served teas and coffees to the visitors. Sue Williams very kindly played the keyboard which helped create a lovely atmosphere.

Part of the idea for Walter's is to provide a Community Hub with advice and information on subjects such as Health & Wellbeing, Crime and Fraud prevention, Home Safety and lots more.

Hopefully soon the Village Hall will have a broadband connection and this will enable us to provide a Digital Buddy service for help with using devices, the internet and email. Plus you will still be able to check your emails while you're having a cuppa at Walter's!

There is an information corner with leaflets and advice for guests to have a look through.

Walter's is also a collection point for pink recycling bags and green food caddy liners.

There is a children's corner with some games and colouring organised by Pam Seear.

Each month invited guests will provide advice and information. At the April meeting we were joined by Essex Fire & Rescue Service who were on hand to offer home safety advice and arranged to make house visits to 7 residents to give advice about smoke alarms.

At the next meeting on 18th May we will be joined by the Community Agent, Kelly Coombs to learn about the role she plays in the community. Karis Galliano from United in Kind will also be in attendance to tell us how they help people around Essex to tackle loneliness and isolation through acts of kindness.

We are pleased to report that the Parish Council was successful in its application to the



Maldon District Council Community Hub Grant Scheme and have received £1000 funding for Walter's. Along with Parish Council funding, this will cover costs for the year so the event is completely free of charge to guests. Where possible we will also be sourcing our refreshments from local supermarkets—Tesco donating all of the teas and coffee for our first event.

Future guests include the Essex Police Fraud Prevention Officer, Maldon Community Voluntary Service, the Essex Police Rural Crime Team. If you have any ideas for guests please let us know.

Why not give Walter's Third Thursday Café a try?

Next dates: 18th May, 15th June, 20th July and every Third Thursday from 10-12 in Woodham Walter Village Hall, Rectory Road.

We look forward to welcoming you!



## Parish Clerk's Report — Jacky Bannerman



I have been Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer of Woodham Walter Parish Council for 16 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.

This council year (April 22-Mar 23) has been particularly busy. In that time I successfully studied and passed the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA). Along with meeting other criteria, by having a qualified Clerk the Parish Council has now taken 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. On top of this, we have recently been awarded Foundation level in the National Local Council Awards Scheme. (See page 4)

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.

Last year I reported on the task of claiming the Memorial Garden land for the Parish. It has taken just over a year for the application to proceed with Land Registry and we are pleased to announce that the Parish Council are now officially registered as the owners of this land.

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.

The Parish Council has a Grants programme so that local good causes can apply for funding for specific projects. The application documents and criteria are on the website, the deadline 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). The CET inspect the 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 and we have installed additional ground anchors—the goals should not be moved other than by the Parish Council or our contractors. Unfortunately we had an incident earlier this year where they were moved and damaged. We plan to replace the goals soon (assuming that they are not vandalised again) and have been saving up. We are currently researching grants that we can utilise to reduce the costs to the parish. We were fortunate to receive some funding from the Bell Meadow Village Association.

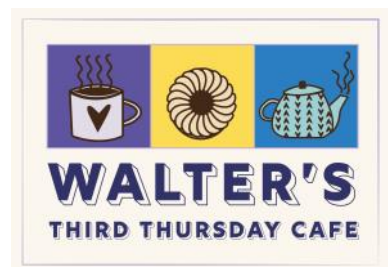
I was pleased to be part of the organising team for the Platinum Jubilee events in June 2022. Firstly we held a celebration for the School and Tadpoles on Bell Meadow and Rev. Julie blessed the new Oak Tree planted as

part of the Queen's Green Canopy. All the children were presented with a Platinum Jubilee mug, certificate and ice lolly. We also arranged a Street party along Top Road (see page 19)- Another memorable Woodham Walter occasion. Thanks again to everyone who got involved and attended.

We were of course impacted greatly by the sad death of HM Queen Elizabeth in September and I have written a separate article on page 20.

We have just held a celebration for the Coronation of HM King Charles III, but due to deadlines a full account is not possible in this report. I organised the event along with my colleague Cllr. Joanna Symons and a group of residents who offered their help. It was another fantastic Woodham Walter event and with sunshine too! We organised bespoke tea towels which were sold along with gifts of bookmarks for all of the children in the parish including the School and Tadpoles.

I have for some time wanted to organise a regular community coffee morning and am pleased to say that the Parish Council fully support this initiative and Walter's Third Thursday Café began on Thursday 20th April in the Village Hall. We were pleased to receive funding from the Maldon District Council Community Hub Grant scheme. About 40 people attended the April Walter's café and it was a very enjoyable morning. Offering free refreshments, advice and information in a social setting. Each month we will have different guests—please come along and see what it's all about. The next one is on Thursday 18th May from 10-12.



## Parish Clerk's Report –Jacky Bannerman



We are pleased to support the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme by taking on young volunteers to do various tasks around Bell Meadow and the village as part of their Community Volunteering. We are very grateful to them for their help in watering the trees and hedging on the Memorial Garden and for helping to plant new hedging. They do litter picks and other duties such as clearing the leaves from inside the Playground. We were very grateful they took on the task of re-varnishing the noticeboard and made a very good job of this. 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. Get in touch if you're interested.

This year volunteers have completed repairs to the Memorial Shelter and we are very grateful for their help. We plan to replace the main noticeboard and provide some new bins. We have begun a long term programme of replacing the street lighting to LED lights. We have so far replaced the Top Road and Church Hill lights. This is becoming a requirement as the old lighting becomes obsolete and parts no longer widely available.

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 188 subscribers but with over 250 properties in the village there are many people who are missing out! Scan the QR code or visit our website to sign up.

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 blocked drains on Church Hill and 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 our District Councillor 's 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 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. Of course in the last year we have heard that the Warren's appeal was unsuccessful—this being one of the biggest draws on our time over the last couple of years.

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 Playground has now been in place for well over a year and has weathered well. 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 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)



## Village Design Statement – Cllr. John Tompkins



The Village Design Statement (VDS) has been in use since it was approved by the Maldon District Council (MDC) in 2017 and has proved to be extremely useful for both the Parish Council and for the MDC when consulting on or determining planning applications. Although a guide, it is nevertheless an important supplementary planning document forming an integral part of the local planning authority assessment and carries some weight. In consequence residents wishing to make a planning application should carefully consider it with their consultants before making their planning submission.

Since the original document was produced, legislation has been changed with further elements being introduced including national and local design codes. Additionally, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is currently undergoing consultation on a major upgrade thus the Parish Council decided, in conjunction with their response to the NPPF consultation, to review the existing document. The review is taking into consideration the governmental changes, as well as accommodating

the experience that has been gained in assessing planning applications against the VDS and reinforcing areas where necessary.

You will have undoubtedly read in the press, seen on the television and social media or heard on the radio about the changes that may affect local development plans with the supply of development land – all this could be about to change. This affects the village for, although there is a defined settlement area (DSA) that is supposed to safeguard from rapacious and exploitative speculative development, unless the current 5-year housing land supply can be maintained across the Maldon District, the rules pertaining to DSAs are put in obedience. The Parish Council, through one of the District Councillors, has raised the matter with the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities of the United Kingdom in the hope that there could be more protection from creeping, banal urbanity for rural villages such as Woodham Walter as defined in the VDS.

The newly re-formed VDS group of three has already started on a significant survey of the design character and setting of every property in the Village but delayed by the potential national changes outlined above, the Warren Lodges Appeal and by ill-health of members. It is hoped to recommence in the near future to be ready to incorporate the findings in an updated, supplementary VDS

document following the publication of the new NPPF during the latter end of next year. This of course may change if the political background changes following a general election.

Notwithstanding this, the basics of the VDS remain extant and it is urged that these be considered by residents if, or when they are considering a planning application or building under Permitted Development (PD) rules. Elements such as fenestration, materials and roofs, combined with design are really important elements when considering the local setting and environment. Most PD such as Change of Use Prior Approval applications (COUPA) give little opportunity to comment or object but it is hoped that applicants will adhere to the VDS principles. The regulations regarding the Conservation Area and Listed Buildings remain unaltered and there is now a supplementary Local List of buildings of historic or architectural interest that will be fully integrated with the VDS.

The VDS group are closely monitoring the national planning changes and are exploring other avenues that may help in conserving and enhancing the character, beauty and peace of Woodham Walter for future generations. Members are always happy to assist or advise through the Parish Council Clerk.

Cllr. John Tompkins Dip. Arch. (Hons), RIBA (Rtd).

### Material Planning Considerations

When making or commenting on a planning application the **material considerations** include:

- Layout and density.
- Loss of amenity.
- Loss of light/overshadowing.
- Adequacy of parking/loading/turning.
- Traffic generation/highway safety.
- Noise/pollution and disturbance.
- Design and appearance.
- Effect on heritage (listed buildings/conservation area/archaeology).
- Previous relevant planning history of the site.
- Sustainability
- Local economy and employment opportunities.
- Cumulative impact.
- Effect on the character/appearance of the area/landscape quality/protected areas.
- The fall-back position e.g., extant planning consent on the site and any permitted development rights.

It is also important to identify matters which are **not material** considerations. These include:

- Competition between businesses.
- Comments relating to personal morals or views about the applicant.
- Matters covered by other legislation e.g., environmental health, building control.
- Perceived loss of value.
- Private disputes e.g., property boundary matters.
- Covenants on the land.
- Loss of a private view.
- Impact of construction work.
- Profit that may be made by the developer.
- Moral objections to development.
- That work has already been carried out.



## Woodham Walter Conservation Area



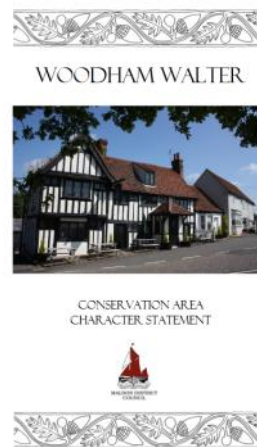
Woodham Walter has a designated Conservation Area and Article 4 Direction. This is in the central village area. You can view more information on the MDC or Woodham Walter websites.

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.



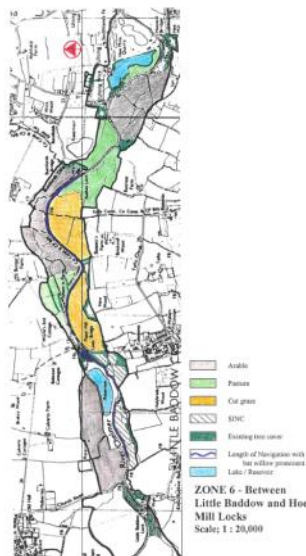
## Chelmer & Blackwater Conservation Area



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.

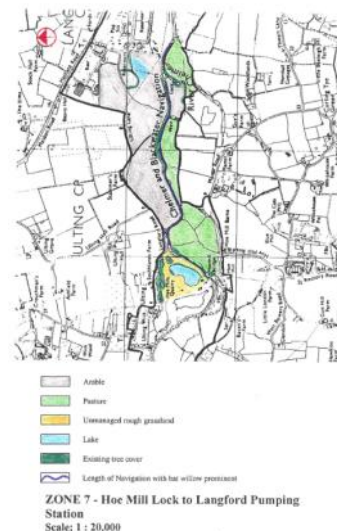
Zone 7 is described as having more pasture and more mixed native vegetation along the water-body banks. Enlarged arable fields are prominent on the north bank and can give an impression of a flat open landscape.



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—Simon Morgan



Having been elected in a by-election on 24 February 2022 – the same day that Russia invaded the Ukraine – hopefully not an ill omen - much of my time has been spent in getting to grips with my duties as a District Councillor and getting to know the five Parish Councils that constitute my Ward.

I have to say that the latter requirement has been a challenge but also a joy. The Wickham Bishops and Woodham Ward includes Five Parish Councils, which I think is the most in any Ward in the Maldon District, and all Five of them are constituted with vibrant and committed Councillors who bring to their Council its own significant and definitive character. It has been a pleasure

and a privilege to have met and interacted with them all.

Following my election and the Statutory Annual Council meeting in Mat 2022 I was appointed to the North West Area Planning Committee, The District Planning Committee, the Oversight and Scrutiny Committee, the Local Highways Panel and was made Vice Chairman of the Licensing Committee.

Subsequently I was appointed to the 5 Year Housing Land Supply Working Group, the Corporate Projects Working Group and the Strategic Housing Board. Of particular interest to the Parish of Woodham Walter is the 5 Year Housing Land Supply. Essentially, if a planning authority cannot show that it has one, then developers can seek to make speculative applications and hope to challenge any refusals upon appeal.

Unfortunately, in June of last year, Maldon District Council's 5 Year Housing Land Supply was assessed as 3.66; woefully below the required level. Thankfully, officers and members through the Working Group have managed to get that figure up to 5.1 as an-

nounced at the Last Full Council meeting on 30 March 2023.

As regards my other responsibilities they have not had any specific relevance to Woodham Walter. We were, of course, delighted to see the opening of the new classroom last month.

Otherwise, I have done my best to assist the Parish Council with its concerns as to possible planning contraventions and to make its voice heard at District planning Committee meetings.

I would like to pay tribute to my fellow District Councillor Mark Durham, and County Councillor Jane Fleming for all the help and support that they have given me over that last year.

### ELECTIONS

Please note that this article was written prior to the Local Council Elections on 4th May.

Cllr. Simon Morgan and Cllr. Mark Durham were both re-elected as the District Council representatives for the Wickham Bishops and Woodhams Ward..



MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL





## RideLondon Event 26th—28th May

### Event overview

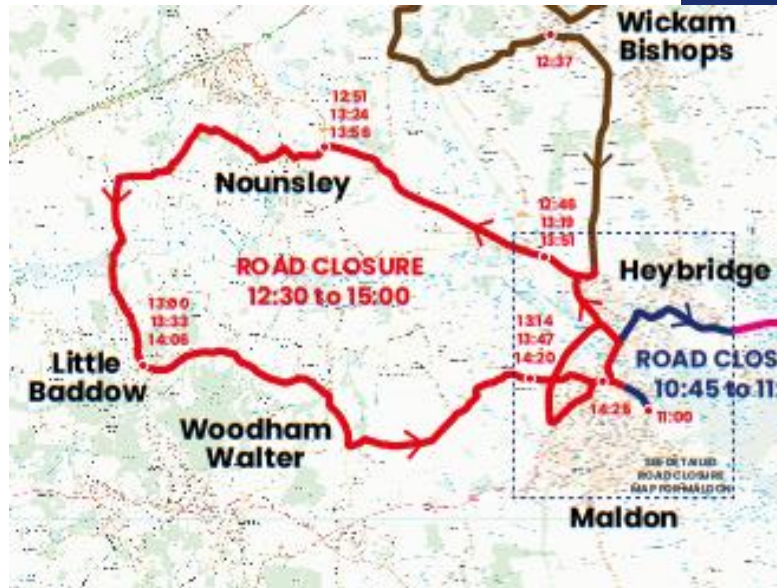
RideLondon is a festival of cycling established by the Mayor of London in 2013 as an Olympic legacy event. The event returns in 2023 along similar routes to last year across 3 days including parts of Essex and London.

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

Road closures will be in place in Woodham Walter between 12:30-3:00pm with the race expected to come through the village at speed approx.. 13:07, 14:00 and 14:13. Details of the route indicates that it comes through the village (x 3 laps) via: Little Baddow Road, Church Hill, Oak Farm Road, Old London Road (this is the opposite direction to last year.).

**Parking restrictions:** If you usually park on a road that will be closed for the event, please move your vehicle the night before. Vehicles cannot be parked on the event route from 05:00 on Saturday 27 May until the roads reopen. Any vehicle left on the route or parked in a suspended parking bay will be relocated.

Despite the late notice of the event, luckily we have not had



any Weddings impacted at the Church. Last year we had to make all sorts of arrangements for guest parking on Bell Meadow etc and the Wedding timing had to be altered to accommodate the race. Plus there were last minute school closures around the route. This year it takes place on the Saturday and there will be some disruption to residents and businesses so please plan ahead.

It is actually great fun to see the race come through the village and lots of spectators took the opportunity to come out last year.

### Plan ahead for the 2023 RideLondon weekend

Friday 26 May to Sunday 28 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/)

### About the Ford RideLondon Classique

The 2023 Ford RideLondon Classique is a three-day road race, part of the UCI Women's WorldTour, and will feature some of the best female cyclists in the world.

The Classique has been an integral part of Ford RideLondon since its first edition in 2013 and was added to the UCI Women's WorldTour calendar in 2016.

### Free to watch

We'd love you to come and support the event. There will be fun for all the family with entertainment and activities in Maldon High Street and Promenade Park. It's free to attend and no advance booking is required.

The riders will pass through the High Street and descend Market Hill for two laps before descending Spital Road and climbing Market Hill on the third and final lap for a thrilling High Street finish.

To find out more, visit [ridelondon.co.uk/the-classique/the-stages/stage-two](http://ridelondon.co.uk/the-classique/the-stages/stage-two)



## Woodham Walter Women's Club—Angela Beighton



The period April 2022 to March 2023 has been good for the Women's Club, after difficult times during and post Covid lockdowns we have enjoyed returning to normality.

During this period the Club has been run by the Committee without an acting President. The Club Room is in good order and financially we are stable.

We have had a very varied programme with talks on 'New York', 'The Queen and a History of Royalty', 'Magistrates', and after a cancellation we had an impromptu talk on her trip to the Glastonbury Festival by our member Jo Symons, also a very informative talk by another member, Diana Dollery on The History of The Club and founder member Mrs. Chaplin. Our most recent talk was about the shop Silo in Maldon, trying to cut the use of plastics etc. and doing our bit to save the planet. With thanks to Gill Brearley for arranging such an interesting programme.

We found ourselves in the usual position of providing food by making endless sandwiches and serving drinks for the

Queen's Jubilee in June and again serving refreshments in July at the Church Flower Festival.

We were saddened to hear of the death of the Queen in September, so in respect did not participate in the usual activities for Bell Meadow Day.

During the year we have enjoyed two lunches at The Bell each time about

twenty members were well looked after by their staff.

We like a reason for a celebration so were delighted to put on a tea party in June to celebrate Diana's ninetieth birthday.

In August, on one of the hottest days of the year we celebrated our Founders Day with a trip to The First World War Air Museum at Stowe Maries, which we found fascinating, we had a guided tour followed

by the obligatory cream tea! There was so much to see that many of us intend to have a return trip to take in more of the historic detail.



As you can see we aim to have an interesting programme; we may appear to be elderly but we are quite a lively bunch so why not come along to meet us? We always welcome new members and invite any one interested to join us on the fourth Tuesday of the month in The Club Room, Top Road, details appear each month in the Parish News.

Angela Beighton and the committee.





## Woodham Walter Village Hall Association - Merryl Cox



As many of you know, the Village Hall Committee used the lockdowns as a time to refurbish the hall, and I'm pleased to be able to tell you that the refurbishments are complete. Last year we installed a new kitchen, new flooring, installed new heaters in the passageway and replaced all the external doors with thermal efficient, draft free doors. This year we have completed project 'Warm up the Hall' by lowering and insulating the hall ceiling, changing the lighting, updating all the electrical works and installing a more efficient, user-friendly heating system. The hall looks fresher, more inviting and is warm and draft free!

These improvements have been made possible by the hard work of the village hall committee, who have been carrying out many tasks, including applying for grants and organising works. Our thanks also go the Colin Warner and Lee Hughes, who help to maintain the outside of the hall and carpark. Our community hall continues to be an asset to

this village because of their support.

One of the less visible projects the committee have been working on is updating our

Trust Deed. I would like to thank Sarah Maxted and Jane Weedon for accompanying me at various meetings to discuss the format of the new Trust Deed. This work is now complete and we are in the process of changing some of our procedures and reporting systems, including a change to the date of the AGM. Please check the Parish Magazine for more information.

I'm also pleased to be able to report that hirings have returned to pre-pandemic levels. The improvements made to the hall in recent years, by our hardworking committee, have meant that our community still has a place to meet, socialise, exercise, learn and celebrate.

Our community hall is a valuable asset to our village and continues to rely on the support of our community to keep the

doors open. I am grateful to the Parish Council for choosing the village hall as the venue for the new Community Coffee Morning: 'Walter's Third Thursday Café'. This exciting new social group will help ensure that our community retains its 'community spirit' and helps the hall achieve its aim of being a place for the local community to meet.

The next Walter's is on Thursday 18th May from 10-12.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Merryl Cox

Chair, Woodham Walter Village Hall Association



Last year's Annual Parish Meeting at the Village Hall.

## Platinum Jubilee Street Party— Cllr. Joanna Symons

It is hard to believe that since the last Annual Report we held a Street party to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June and now we are planning the next event to celebrate King Charles III's Coronation. Despite the sad death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, we wanted to share a report about the wonderful village occasion when we celebrated her Platinum Jubilee.

Communities were encouraged to get together to celebrate this milestone in British history—70 years on the throne for The Queen. The Street Party was advertised and by the beginning of June, 230 local residents had reserved tickets, which were free, as the Parish Council was financing the event. There were also offers of help to set up, provide stewarding, and first aiders etc as well as offers from residents to donate cakes and crisps.

The weather forecast for the day was not at all promising, however miraculously the expected rain somehow stayed away. By 9am Top Road was being transformed, the tents were starting to be erected by a team of volunteers, and dozens of tables and chairs were arriving, which were kindly borrowed from the School, the Village Hall and the Women's Club. Women's Club members were working hard cutting up the sandwiches which they had made the day before. The tables were transformed and covered with cloths and laid with red, white and blue serviettes and plates, along with some very pretty colour co-ordinated

flower arrangements. Bunting had been displayed and the tents were decorated. Several houses along the road were beautifully decorated with bunting, flags and lovely pictures of the Queen to add to the party mood, and there was a play list of great music to add atmosphere. At 12.45pm, there was a peal of bells from St Michael's Church, and guests started to arrive, many of them wearing patriotic clothes in red, white and blue. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr James Rushton, said a few words and opened the party, and people began chatting and enjoying themselves with friends and family. There was face painting and temporary tattoos, and a 'Guess the Name of the Corgi Competition' for the children, and when three tables were laid out a bit later for the wonderful selection of beautiful cakes, everyone, especially the children, made a bee-line for them.

Around 2.45pm when people had finished eating, Cllr James Rushton presented the prizes for the winners of the Fancy Dress, Portraits of the Queen and Best Decorated House competitions, and he also presented Platinum Jubilee mugs to the children of Woodham Walter. He then thanked everyone for coming, and we all sung God Save the Queen. Many partygoers then walked over to the School field, where there was a variety of races for both adults and



children, and Jubilee medals to be won.

Back on Top Road, helpers were back in action, packing up the tables and chairs, and taking down the tents, and the Women's Club members were hard at work doing all the washing up and putting the piles of crockery away, and by about 5pm, Top Road had returned to normal.

It had been a really happy day, the first real event where the local community had been able to join together to celebrate after a very difficult couple of years with the pandemic, and what better way to do this then to celebrate the historic milestone of our wonderful Queen becoming the first British monarch to ever achieve seventy years on the throne.

By the time this report is distributed we will have enjoyed the Coronation Picnic at Bell Meadow to celebrate the Coronation of HM King Charles III and we look forward to bringing you a report on that in the Parish Magazine, village email and on our website. We will once again create a village photo album which will be on display at future events.





## Coronation Event—Sunday 7th May

Due to the printer lead time we have been unable to provide a full report about the Coronation Event. This will follow in the Parish Magazine and Village Email. It was a lovely afternoon which was well supported by the community. Thank you to everyone who helped with the event and to all those who attended.



### King Charles III's Coronation Picnic at Bell Meadow Sunday 7th May 2023

#### **\*\*\* Programme of Events \*\*\***

- 12.25 pm Peal of St Michael's Church Bells
- 12.40 pm Welcome & Coronation Announcement from Chairman of Woodham Walter Parish Council, Councillor James Rushton  
National Anthem
- 12.45 pm Official Village Photograph  
Picnic
- 1.30 pm Official Opening of "Btingham Palace" & Wildflower Area  
Presentation of Coronation Bookmarks to the children of the village
- 2.15pm Community Races
- 3.30pm Raffle & Games Winners  
Village Game of Rounders
- 4.00pm Clear up



#### **Throughout the afternoon:**

- Raffle (£1 a strip)
- Tea Towel collections and sales (£4 each)
- Bookmark sales (£2 each)
- Children's games (Picture Hunt/King Splat/Guess the Name of the King Charles Spaniel)
- Fill Bingham Palace

Food Bank Donations - place in the boxes

***Please sign the guest book so we can keep  
a record of who attended.***

***The photo albums from the 2012, 2016 & 2022 events are on display.***



## Thank you

*Thanks to everyone who helped with setting up.*

*Thank you to the stewards and first aiders;*

*Thank you to Woodham Walter Parish Council especially Councillor Joanna Symons and special thanks to Jacky Bannerman, the Parish Clerk who has coordinated all aspects of the event.*

*Thanks to all those who have helped towards funding for the event.*

*Thank you to St Michael's Church for the peal of Church Bells, and the use of toilet facilities.*

*Thank you to Woodham Walter CofE Primary School for lending equipment.*

*Thank you to Graham Bannerman for the P.A System & compering.*

*Thank you to Hire Plus for loaning the generator.*

*Thank you to Roy Tipper for taking the photographs*

*Thank you to Tadpoles Nursery, and all helpers for organising children's crafts and face-painting.*

*Thank you to Angela Beighton & Gill Breasley for organising the raffle.*

*Thanks to everyone who submitted pictures and purchased tea towels.*

*Thank you to all the people who came to the organising meetings offering support, time, enthusiasm and ideas.*

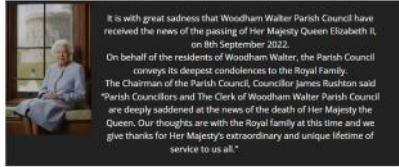
*Thank you to Monkey Workshops for creating Bingham Palace.*

*Thank you to Skippers Ground Maintenance for creating the Wildflower Area.*

*Thanks to the clearing uppers and anyone else who has offered to help in any way! Thanks for coming!*

# How we honoured HM Queen Elizabeth II on her passing

## Queen Elizabeth II



- Woodham Walter Parish Council has arranged that the bench on the Memorial Garden opposite St Michael's Church is the area designated in Woodham Walter as a focal point for grief. This will also be the location for the laying of flowers and other tributes as well as reflection and remembrance.
- The Parish Council has arranged with St Michael's Church for a Book of Condolence to be opened at St Michael's Church from Friday 9th September and this will remain open until the day following the funeral. The Church will be open from 09:00-17:00 each day.
- At 2:45pm on Friday 9th September The Parish Council and St Michael's laid wreaths at the Memorial Garden.
- There is also the opportunity to sign a Book of Condolence at <https://www.royal.gov.uk>
- At 12:00 on Friday 9th September the Church bells tolled, one for each year of Her Majesty The Queen's life.
- St Michael's Church held a Service of Holy Communion at 9:30am on Sunday 11th September where they remembered the life and faith of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.
- The High Sheriff of Essex read the Royal Proclamation on the steps of County Hall in Chelmsford at 1:00pm on Sunday 11 September 2022.
- The District Council Chairman read the Royal Proclamation at 2pm on Sunday 11th September at Malden District Council Offices.
- The Parish Council Chairman read the Royal Proclamation at 3pm on the afternoon of Sunday 11th September 2022 at Bell Meadow. Please see our Proclamation page for more information.
- Further local information will be made available via village email, noticeboards and on this page.

As a Parish Council we have various duties to carry out and the death of the Sovereign brought with it various tasks expected of local councils and of course for most of us this was the first time we have experienced this occasion. As Parish Clerk it was quite a task, understanding the etiquette and in some instances the law.

The first duty was to announce the death by putting up notices and changing our website front page. This was done on the day of the announcement.

We were due to have a Parish Council meeting a couple of days later, but this had to be cancelled as per the guidance, but with this comes more considerations—the council still needs to function.

There was a plan in place for other matters which had to be dealt with including that we had already purchased a Book of Condolence and some picture frames in anticipation and these were quickly delivered along with suitable photograph to St Michael's so that parishioners could pay their respects.

We were also advised to create a Focal Point for Grief. This was agreed to be the bench on the Memorial Garden opposite the Church. A quick dash to the florist for suitable wreaths from the Parish Council and St Michael's and a hastily organised ceremony to lay the wreaths was arranged with Rev. Julie members of the Parish Council and the PCC.

The advice was that the focal point for grief should remain in place until the day after the funeral and then the flowers composted. This was completed and the resulting compost was then used when we planted the new hedging at the top of the Memorial Garden—and these have been registered as part of the Queen's Green Canopy.



We decided that we would perform a Reading of the Proclamation Ceremony. This being the official announcement following the passing of Her Majesty, Proclaiming the new King. This was organised at Bell Meadow on the Sunday and despite the short notice was very well attended (the power of the village email and village grapevine). The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr. James Rushton did an excellent job of reading the official statement.

This was followed by the singing of the National Anthem and chants of "God Save The King".

Etiquette dictates that a letter be written to the new Monarch's Private Secretary. This was done in October along with offering the condolences of the Parish Council and residents of Woodham Walter and that the Book of Condolence will be kept in the Parish archives.

Buckingham Palace must have been inundated because the response to our letter arrived in April of this year! A lovely card of appreciation.



I personally was proud to have been involved in this historic moment.

I was also honoured to visit the Lying in State of HM The Queen. A long day of queuing but I was very moved to have attended and so many people



commented that I had represented them from family, friends and the community of Woodham Walter.

Jacky Bannerman  
Parish Clerk





## Bell Meadow Wildflower & Bug Hotel

As part of the Parish Council's Coronation legacy, along with our commitment to a biodiversity policy it was decided to create a wildflower area at Bell Meadow.

With thanks to our grounds maintenance contractors, Skippers who have created the area as a kind gesture to the community. We look forward to seeing how the area grows with a selection of native wildflowers over the coming seasons and with the aim of managing the area as a lasting wildflower area.

You will see that the Coronation event also provided funding for the new bug hotel "Btingham Palace" which has also been dedicated to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III. The idea was born out of the Coronation Working Party deciding that a fitting tribute to HM The King would be to support his interests in Biodiversity and the environment. The structure was made for us by Suffolk charity Monkey Workshops. This was filled with sticks, cones, straw etc partly at an event with the School and Nursery on Friday 5th May and then completed and opened at the Coronation Event on Sunday 7th May.

If sufficient funds are raised at the event these will be put to the purchase of an owl box for Bell Meadow.



## Wood Corner Caravan Site - Paul Ashworth



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

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

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

The only change is that there is a new site manager, Stuart Metcalf.

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 Rushton (Chairman)



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



My wife, Shelley, and I moved to Woodham Walter in 2004. Previously we had lived in Rayleigh where we had grown up.

For my career I am the global Head of Information Systems for an investment company based in London. It was IT and specifically broadband that led to me becoming a Parish Councillor. Woodham Walter is such a peaceful and friendly place; it is where I want to be most of the time. At home, we have two wonderful horses and five adorable cats. I also have a shed, where I spend time tinkering on various projects for myself and friends.

I like to get out on my mountain bike. This is an all-year activity, but it is nicer when the weather warms up. This has taken over a little from my previous preference to roller skate, which I still do from time to time. As many of you will know, Shelley is a passionate gardener, and we open our garden several times a year for the National Garden Scheme charity raising money for various nursing concerns. We have lots of help on the days and my main role in this is to make the teas and coffees.

### James Bunn



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

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

### Jenny Hughes



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

## Woodham Walter Parish Councillors

### Joanna Symons



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

My late husband and I moved to Woodham Walter nearly 28 years ago, attracted by its peace and tranquility, the lovely views of rolling countryside, the open skies and the beautiful woodland walks. My working life was spent mainly at the University of Essex, where I was Head of the Careers Dept, and so when I had the opportunity to take early retirement, I was

keen to devote some of my spare time to community activities, which was something that I had never had the time to do when working. Thus I joined the Parish Council in the hope that I could, in some very small way, help to preserve the character and history of the village for future generations, and provide advice and help on any local issues as necessary to parishioners.

### John Tompkins



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

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

### Peter Warren



Both born and bred in Essex, keen on walking and the countryside in general, my wife Tina and I have always enjoyed visiting this area. So, on my retirement after 43 years in the pharmaceutical industry, we couldn't wait to move from Rayleigh to the tranquillity of Woodham Walter and 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 30 years ago. We have two children, our daughter now lives in London our son is in Year 10 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 organising the Coronation celebrations and the new Walter's Third Thursday Café. We like walking and you will often see us out around Woodham Walter which we love. We also enjoy kayaking and stand-up paddleboarding on the canal.



## Woodham Walter Allotment Association - Jane Weedon

I can't believe this is the fourteenth year of the Woodham Walter Allotment Association and I am pleased say at the moment all the allotments are being used except one half of an allotment.

Sadly we are saying goodbye to one family but thanks to their kindness they have created an opportunity for a visiting Ukrainian couple to tend their old allotment.

Many thanks to those who kept the allotments looking neat and tidy with regular mowing, but as time went on the mowers had a lucky reprieve because everything was so dry the grass looked dead.

Many thanks again for Chris Wheadon's monthly very helpful gardening tips in the village news.

Well every year has a different story and this last year was so hot at times most of us gave up on runner or French beans and courgettes gave up on us!

There was one forward looking allotment holder who planted three patches of different varieties of tomatoes and reaped the rewards, big time!

The hot topic has been how to stop those rabbits coming in and sharing our meagre crops. We all knew that after thirteen years a new fence was required but how to finance it was the problem. The Essex Locality Fund came to the rescue and after sending all the appropriate documentation we were able to gain two thirds of the money required to replace the



fence. The work was completed at the end of February and now as we enter the allotments it is such a pleasure to have a gate that we can open without a struggle and keep the rabbits at bay. The allotment holders have been very generous with their kind contributions and with their annual subscriptions we should be able balance the books and keep this wonderful Woodham Walter community allotment going.

Continued thanks goes to the generosity of Peter and Bryony Maynard for allowing us to use their land to grow not only fruit and vegetables but to get us out in the open air, meet fellow enthusiasts and get away from the screens indoors.

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



Although sadly I no longer have a dog to walk and keep me company, I still enjoy the job of Parish Footpath Officer, trying to make sure that our Public Rights-of-Way 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 plus 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 myself are referred to the appropriate farmer or landowner, mainly fallen trees. Other problems such as dodgy gates, stiles, bridges and signs are logged onto the ECC Highways online reporting system. Anything really urgent or dangerous is referred directly to the new Rights of Way Inspector for this area, Mr Roy Read. We have yet to meet but Roy has been very helpful with any issue that's cropped up over the past year.

Fortunately there haven't been too many problems on our paths over the past year and they were a pleasure to walk for most of the time. The warm, wet weather last Spring made the weeds grow rather too well and several paths were difficult to walk, a couple becoming impassable. Fortunately the paths on the annual ECC cutting schedule were done in July and everywhere was good to walk again. A couple of paths were

missed (FP23 and FP33). Many thanks to The Maldon Ramblers for stepping in and clearing these. In fact we need to thank this group for a couple of other clearance jobs last year. Since The Pandemic the number of walkers has increased considerably, helping to keep the weeds trampled down. This, combined with the very hot summer and low rainfall through the autumn and winter, has meant the paths were still in good condition for most of the winter. However a very wet March has returned paths back to a muddy norm for this time of year.

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. Six were replaced or re-erected this winter, Despite storms and some high winds that we have suffered our paths have escaped quite lightly, only a half a dozen trees have fallen across paths. Small trees and dead branches I can deal with myself but a couple of enormous specimens have come down requiring the specialists to attend. Only one bridge problem requiring some minor work down by the canal.

The closure of The Queen Victoria caused a problem organising the New Year's Day walk as most walkers look forward to a drink and a chat over a bite to eat after the walk. However Annie from The Cats came to the rescue. 37 walkers plus 5 dogs started from

The Vic as usual, enjoying a leisurely walk in pleasant weather, the 3.5 mile route finishing at The Cats. Annie very kindly provided some complimentary hot food in return for a donation to Farleigh Hospice. Everybody was very generous and £420 was raised!

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 and west sides of the meadow have needed dead limbs removing. After getting clearance from the MDC Conservation Officer this work has been carried out by a local tree surgeon.

Please help me to keep our paths in good order and safe to walk. If you see anything that needs attention, or any improvements that you could suggest, please let me know. Or even better, join the gang of mystery pruners who must go walking with a pair of secateurs in their pocket, keeping the brambles at bay! Lastly, fingers crossed that we have yet another good summer to enjoy our lovely WW countryside!

Peter Warren 01245 221326





## St Michael's Church - Michael Bradbrook



We started 2023 with our annual meeting and Michael Bradbrook was duly re-elected as a churchwarden. We were however delighted that James Rushton also agreed to stand as a churchwarden and was duly elected. Having two churchwardens will greatly assist the smooth running of St. Michael's. Paul Clark has continued to provide valuable assistance and support for which we are most grateful.

Services were back to normal although certain changes which were adopted as we came out of covid remain in place. We were also able to reopen the church on a daily basis from April 2022 which was a welcome return to normality and it is perhaps worth remembering that it is open for you if ever you want a quiet moment of reflection.

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 Scott Gailer and our 'Home Team' of Kathy and Geoff in leading Morning Prayer and Family Services.

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

Throughout 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 we have also been able to resume 'Open the Book' which is always well received by the children. We continue to take great pleasure in spending time with the children and staff of Tadpoles Nursery including their visits to the church.

During 2022 there was two baptisms, four funerals, two burial of ashes, one memorial service and two wedding services.



Everyone was delighted that the Flower Festival was able to be held again from 8<sup>th</sup> July to 11<sup>th</sup> July the theme being 'The Queen - Seventy Years in Flowers'. We were also able to enjoy 'Fizz and Flowers' once again which is always a great success. We are indebted as always to our wonderful flower arrangers and of course to all those who helped run the event including those who provided refreshments. The festival also raises much needed funds to help maintain the fabric of the church.

We felt unable to hold any social and charitable events in 2022 but as we move through 2023, we are hopeful that we will get back to life as it was before covid. We were however able to hold our special 'Pet Service' in June last year 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 the repairs to the brickwork on the west gable wall and it is hoped we will be able in 2023 to complete the brickwork repairs to the east wall and baptistry wall.

In August 2022, the Quinquennial inspection was carried out and we were commended by Archdeacon Elizabeth for maintaining St. Michael's so well for the benefit of the whole community.



## St Michael's Church

A long term resident of the Robert Henry Falkner Almshouses sadly passed away earlier this year and it is anticipated that following some refurbishment and repairs we will be seeking a new resident in the coming months. We are so grateful for the continued well-running of the Almshouses by our Honorary Clerk, Angus Neale.



The memorial clock at St. Michael's 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.

The roof has been fully repaired and the internal repairs were also completed in 2022 following the lead theft. We are indebted to John Tompkins who has overseen and monitored the various works and repairs and was in attendance when the inspection for the Quinquennial report was 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.



the church gate was again kindly organised by James and Anne Rushton for which

We must also extend special thanks to Brian Cumming who stood down as chair of the Friends of St. Michael's after many years coordinating and assisting with the maintenance of St. Michael's. We are delighted that Gill Orford has stepped forward and has taken up the challenge. The work to maintain St. Michael's is never ending.

As previously reported but nevertheless appropriate to reemphasise again, we were so fortunate to have been donated a parcel of land to the southern boundary of our churchyard which is now incorporated with the existing churchyard. One only has to look at the number of burials which have now taken place in the churchyard extension to realise that without it we would have been in the invidious position of having to decline further burials. We are now in the fortunate position to be able to serve the needs of the local and wider community now and for future generations.

As 2022 came to a close, we were again able to hold midnight mass. A nativity tableaux inside

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. 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. You are assured of a warm welcome.



## Essex County Councillor, Maldon Division—Jane Fleming



How time flies. This year has obviously been dominated by the cost of living crisis and the impact of inflation on budgets and

the delivery of services.

In response, a Cost of Living Summit was held at County Hall in November last year, where ECC announced their latest plans to support families and households through the winter.

The plans announced detailed how over £8.6m from the Household Support Fund would be used to support those residents who may otherwise struggle with the cost of energy, to buy food, pay for household bills or to meet other essential living costs. Funding was directed to food support groups, the extension of food vouchers for free school meals for families, help with energy costs and grants for community and voluntary organisations. Support provided included: £3.75m for the provision of food vouchers for the December 2022, February and Easter 2023 school holidays for eligible children aged 4-19 and 2-4-year-olds who are entitled to pupil premium or attract free entitlement funding supplement, £1.8m towards the Essential Living Fund which enables vulnerable people to pay for essential items, £135,000 to fund warmth hampers for care leavers, £1m to support households where those with disabilities use assistive equipment to maintain their health and wellbeing and that requires use of electricity, a new £400,000 grant to schools to support vulnerable families in addition to the free school meal vouchers. Support was also directed to: £280,000 to the voluntary and community sector, £100,000 to the Citizens Advice Bureau to provide additional capacity, £300,000 to support Essex food

support groups, £300,000 to support a food education programme managed by Active Essex, £90,000 to support young carers, £100,000 to support the Winter Warmth Fund, £85,000 to support community winter resilience and hospital discharge

Essex County Council also produced a round-up of different Cost of Living help and an online hub where information is updated as and when new support becomes available. ECC also continued to provide the holiday free school meal vouchers scheme it has run successfully since Christmas 2020. Free school meal vouchers were made available to around 50,000 eligible pupils across Essex during school holidays thanks to renewed funding from the Department for Work and Pensions. The funding of £1.5m was allocated by the County Council from the Household Support Fund grant. The fund aims to support those in most need this winter with the cost of food, energy, water bills and other essentials. The Vouchers were sent to parents of eligible children and young people via their school, college or early years setting before the holidays started. They are worth £15 a week per child and can be used to buy food in most supermarkets. In addition, in December through the ActiveAte Programme, there were 223 clubs, trips and family Christmas experiences available, offering fun physical activity, food education and healthy meals with 48 of the clubs offering special support for SEND pupils or mental wellbeing support. These clubs were open to young people eligible for free school meals, as well as children from working families who may be struggling financially and require extra childcare support.

The ECC Locality Fund reopened for applications in May this year but with only £5k allocated per Division. I'm pleased to say that like last year,

every last penny of the funding specifically allocated for the Maldon Division Locality Fund, was spent. Projects that benefitted this year were St Peter's Hospital Café work to end period poverty, North Fambridge Village Hall installation of a disabled access, The Maeldune Centre in Maldon creation of a new website, and the Woodham Walter Allotment Group. My thanks go to the councils and community groups who approached me with their projects and for the hard work put in.

The remaining Locality funding was directed to a new fund – the Local Levelling Up Fund. This new scheme, gave all members a great opportunity to become involved in ECC's important levelling up work. Each County Councillor was attributed £5k and then asked to come together on a district basis, with fellow county councillors to discuss how to use the money together. This allowed for larger schemes across areas to be driven forward by the local members with funding. The money was directed to cohorts of people who were identified as a priority for levelling up. These were people with SEND, learning disabilities, or mental health conditions (children and adults), children on free school meals, working families on low incomes and young adults (16-25) who have not been in education, training, or employment for more than six months.

We (the ECC Division Members for the Maldon District) decided to direct funding specifically to help schools to purchase educational and pastoral care resources specifically to support disadvantaged and vulnerable children at Homework, Breakfast and Tea Time Clubs.

The projects that I put forward in the Maldon Division were Maldon Primary School, to purchase a chest freezer required to start their partnership with The National School Breakfast Programme; All Saints,

## Essex County Councillor—Jane Fleming



Maldon & Woodham Walter Primary, to purchase Chrome Books and pastoral resources to support their homework and afterschool club work, which will specifically concentrate on leaning outcomes for disadvantaged children. Other schools that benefitted in the District were St Mary's Burnham, Southminster CofE Primary, and St Cedds in Burnham.

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 [cldr.jane.fleming@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.jane.fleming@essex.gov.uk)

In February, Essex County Council agreed it's new Budget for 2023/24. The Council had a stark choice in balancing its budget - of increasing taxes or facing unacceptable cuts in services. The Everyone's Essex Annual Plan and budget was approved at Full Council and the net cost of services was set at £1,176.9million (m) for 2023/24 with the net revenue budget requirement set at £1,011.2m (net cost of services less general government grants) for 2023/24 and the total council tax funding requirement set at £799.0m for 2023/24.

Billing Authority	2023/24 Final Tax Base Band D Equivalent	2023/24 Gross precept £000
Basildon	61,230	88,794,199
Braintree	55,801	80,920,936
Brentwood	33,870	49,117,258
Castle Point	31,258	45,329,414
Chelmsford	70,763	102,618,220
Colchester	65,865	95,515,592
Epping Forest	54,884	79,590,550
Harlow	28,483	41,305,192
Maldon	25,892	37,548,208
Rochford	32,889	47,694,496
Tendring	51,050	74,031,179
Uttlesford	39,007	58,567,086
<b>Total for ECC</b>	<b>550,992</b>	<b>799,032,330</b>

The Essex County Council's element of the council tax was increased by 3.5% comprising of a 1.5% increase in general council tax and 2.0% adult social care precept. This spending supports the most vulnerable in our communities including older people, people with learning difficulties, mental health difficulties and physical and sensory impairments. This result-

ed in the Essex County Council element of the council tax being £1,450.17 for a Band D property in 2023/24. At Full Council, the Cabinet Member for Highways also announced an additional £9m for highways maintenance and the Chancellor of the Exchequer recently announced £250m for highways maintenance budgets nationally – this will equate to £5.4m of additional funding for Essex highways.

In February, ECC announced the trial of a booking system for all vehicles at Essex Waste Recycling Centre. This is an extension of the pilot booking scheme that ran at the nine van friendly site for large vehicles and at the Rayleigh Recycling Centre, where all vehicle booking was piloted. The pilot is being extended to all vehicles and all locations for 9 months from March 2023. Two online booking systems running will run in parallel: large vehicles with visit slots of 1 hour and small vehicles with visit slots of 15 minutes. The number of visit slots is set at location level based on current demand and safe operating practice. The booking process is being extended to all sites to help manage waiting

times, reduce congestion both in and around the sites, and improve the customer experience. The trial will be monitored, and amendments can be made as necessary. Any decision to retain a booking system in the longer term will be subject to further public engagement and decision. Blue badge holders and pedestrians do not need to book a slot and bookings can be made by telephone for those who do not have access to the internet.

The plans for the new Beaulieu Park Station took a big step forward this year after the contract between Essex County Council and Network Rail

was signed. The agreement allows Network Rail to enter into a construction contract with a delivery contractor with work on the highly anticipated station to commence early in the new year. The scheme together with the new Chelmsford North East Bypass, is progressing with £218 million funding from the Government's Housing and Infrastructure Fund and £34 million for the South East Local Enterprise Partnership and developer Country-side Zest. The new station, which will be the first built on the Great Eastern Mainline in over 100 years, will help to relieve pressure on Chelmsford Station, reduce car journeys into Chelmsford and support economic growth.

The Local Highways Panel work continued slowly this year, with delivery of schemes impacted by resource issues at Essex Highways. Schemes that I have submitted in the village include footway clearance on The Street and a 20s Plenty Scheme for Rectory Road around the school. Other schemes I've submitted for the Maldon District include: High Street, Maldon request for a change to kerb line and height at bus stop, Farnbridge Road, Maldon request for zebra crossing, Mill Road and Wantz, Maldon request for 20sPlenty, Park Drive, Maldon request for signage to football club, Latchingdon Road, Cold Norton, request for an extension of the 30mph, St Stephens Road, Cold Norton request for 20s Plenty, Maldon Road, Woodham Mortimer and Latchingdon Road, Cold Norton, request for footway clearance and improvement.

Throughout the year, I have continued to support residents with their concerns and to assist parishes with their issues requiring escalation. If you have concerns about an issue in the Division, please email me: [cldr.jane.fleming@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.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.’*

Another year of school life has passed and as the memories of learning in school during the pandemic start to fade, school leaders and governors have put considerable energy into continuing to delivering on the school vision.

It has welcomed a new group of children and their families into school who have completed 2 terms and we will soon be welcoming the next pupils to be admitted as part of their transition.



This year we have also welcomed Mrs Edlin into our school community as currently our Co Head of school alongside Mrs Dodd, but soon to be Head of School in a full time capacity due to the retirement of Mrs Dodd at the end of the academic year.

Mrs Dodd has been an outstanding servant to the Woodham Walter School community. She joined the school in 1990 and has fulfilled many roles: Early Years Lead, Advanced Skills Teacher, Lead for Pupil Premium, Deputy Head, Headteacher and Head of School. In addition to this she was Teacher of the Year in 2000 and led our links with Kenyan schools to the benefit of both communities. In each of these roles her mission was to improve the lives of our children: keeping them safe; supporting their learning; helping them to have fun; encouraging good behaviour; nurturing them in a Christian environment and, most importantly, helping them to envision what they can achieve. Many, many children who have passed through her hands owe her an enormous debt of gratitude.



## Woodham Walter Primary School—Philip Brown



So as the school brings about a smooth transition of leadership, our thoughts turn to everything we have achieved this year. Most notably the Governing Body have been committed to enhancing the facilities of the school and are delighted that we now have an additional teaching space in school. On Thursday 23rd March it was officially opened by the Rt Hon Priti Patel MP and the classroom is now occupied and provides a fantastic learning environment for the oldest pupils in the school.



This classroom project was achieved through the perseverance of school leaders but we could not have achieved this feat without the financial support of both members of the school community but also the wider community of Woodham Walter. What a difference that contribution is already making to young lives at the school and for that we are truly thankful.

Of course it also leaves additional spaces in school to further enhance teaching and we are already working towards our next project which is a school library and the opportunity to create more memorable learning experiences.

Similarly having given some field space over to teaching space we continue to explore ways of maximising the outdoor space available to us to ensure the children have access to the best possible sporting opportunities as well as the continued Forest School provision. Again the school cannot thank Lee and Lisa Carter enough for their continued support in allowing pupils access to the forest, teaching them how to problem solve and develop social skills as well as providing memorable learning experiences of a curricular nature, whilst also facilitating opportunities to develop pupil well being.

Our curriculum is something we are working on as a school at present. We believe that for our pupils to be successful we need to deliver on 4 things. Firstly, provide them with the fundamental skills of reading, writing and maths. Secondly, to provide them with a broad, rich curriculum in a wide range of subjects, in order to develop the artists, dancers, scientists, engineers etc of the future. Thirdly to develop life skills providing opportunities to become collaborative, empathetic, ambitious, happy citizens of the future. Finally with the context of our school, we believe it is vital that our pupils continue to have a connection with and a curiosity about protecting the natural world.



As a staff team we are creating a school curriculum that delivers on both the vision of the school but also what we passionately believe will serve the pupils of Woodham Walter both now and for the future as we continue to 'nurture lifelong learners'.

## Community Agents

### Part of the Essex Wellbeing Service

Community Agents provide support to individuals in order to maintain independence living in their own home. We can help anybody over the age of 18 that is in particular need of a home visit in order to source the support needed.

Community Agents can assist with:

- Equipment**
- Blue Badges & Bus Passes**
- Benefits**
- Social Opportunities**
- Transport**
- Meals & Shopping**
- Carers Support**

To refer yourself, family member, friend or neighbour to Community Agents.

**Please call EWS direct 0300 303 9988**

Please note you must have the person you are referring's permission. Lines open Monday to Friday 8am-7pm and Saturday 10am-2pm.



## Smoke Alarms Save Lives

We recommend that each floor of your home has a working alarm fitted. These should be tested regularly and batteries replaced if necessary.

We provide smoke alarms free of charge to all Essex residents, via our Home Safety/Safe and Well Service. To keep you and your family safe from fire, contact us today:

**Call: 0300 303 0088**

Email: [home.safety@essex-fire.gov.uk](mailto:home.safety@essex-fire.gov.uk)  
Online: [www.essex-fire.gov.uk/Book](http://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/Book)






## SERP- Driving With Confidence Course

The Driving with Confidence course is an individual driving course for people aged 70+.

Over the years, there have been changes in road traffic law, road layouts, traffic signs and vehicle design. The natural aging process can affect individuals in different ways, including eye sight, mobility and reflexes. A Driving with Confidence course provides an opportunity for drivers to update their knowledge, improve their hazard awareness and their driving skills.

It could be all it takes to give reassurance, increase confidence and ultimately help to keep people driving with confidence.

**Click the link below for more information and how to register:**



## Woodham Walter Common - Volunteer Warden, Chris Wheadon



**Essex**  
Wildlife Trust

I'm pleased to report that this past year has had a number (8) of very well attended Work Parties, consequently a lot of essential Conservation work has been achieved and on target in respect of the overall Management plan for the Reserve.

**PATHS:** - All the paths have been very well used, there are paths that have wet sections, although even those did virtually dry out as a result of the high Summer temperatures. A few fallen trees did cause temporary obstruction to two paths, those trees were chain sawed and paths cleared.

**BOGS:**- Both bogs remain healthy despite the prolonged dry spell, the fallen Birch ( as reported last year) was removed.

**HEATHS:-**  
“New Heath” The area looks really good, thanks two very successful Work Parties in this area, plus additional work by Catriona and myself, clearing invasive Silver Birch, some of these were quite substantial.



“**Rowan Hollow**” Another success!, Work completed only a month ago. At last we have managed to remove 90++ % of the invasive Silver Birch, **this was very hard work** , involved felling, pulling and hand digging by a number of Work Parties . This removal was **only achieved in the main by dedicated Volunteers**/Wardens; I cannot thank them enough for their efforts.

**HIMALAYAN BALSAM** I stated in last Year's Report that it would be interesting to see how many plants would appear in 2022. ( Reminder 155 in 2020, 11 in 2021) . Unfortunately for this year Catriona and I removed a total of 150 in the same area.. I can only guess that a combination of robust past seeding and perfect weather conditions were responsible

### **OTHER MATTERS**

**New Ride:-** I am pleased to report that the felled timber will now be used by The Trust at one of its Visitor Centres as a source of heating, actually effectively using re captured CO2. The timber will be removed when conditions permit and staff/transport is available.

We are encouraged by the fact that despite initial concerns at the time, the newly created Rides have not attracted any unwanted activity, by motorcyclists or quad bike users.

**Proposed New Walking Trail:-** This new initiative is currently at the planning stage. The proposed route will pass through Woodham Walter Common and other adjacent Essex Wildlife Trust Reserves.

**We welcome Volunteers.** We already have a number of hard working and dedicated Woodham Walter Residents who volunteer on the Reserve, we will always welcome more!

### **THIS IS OUR LOCAL NATURE RESERVE**

So, If you are reasonably fit, would like to play your part, and have a few odd hours to spare, keeping fit out in the fresh air, please call me 01245 225340 and I can then give you more details of what is involved, what we do, and where we do it.

**Chris Wheadon. (Volunteer Warden)**



## Waste & Recycling

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

The Parish Clerk keeps 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@woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk) or telephone 01245 373686.

We will have a stock of pink and green bags at the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 22nd May at 8pm in Woodham Walter Village Hall and we will also have them available for collection at the Walter's Third Thursday Café's.



Please note, the green food caddy liners have been out of stock since October, although we are assured that they will be available again soon.

### Other recycling facilities in the village:

**Glass bottles** – Bunsay Downs Car Park, Little Baddow Road, Woodham Walter, CM9 6RU

**Clothes & Textiles** – Woodham Walter Primary School, The Street, Woodham Walter, CM9 6RF

## MY RECYCLING CALENDAR 2022 2023

**INSIDE ▶  
WHAT GOES WHERE**

**THURSDAY ROUTE 7**

<b>NOVEMBER 2022</b>	<b>DECEMBER 2022</b>	<b>JANUARY 2023</b>
3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 30 <small>FRI</small>	5 12 19 26
<b>FEBRUARY 2023</b>	<b>MARCH 2023</b>	<b>APRIL 2023</b>
2 9 16 23	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
<b>MAY 2023</b>	<b>JUNE 2023</b>	<b>JULY 2023</b>
4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27
<b>AUGUST 2023</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER 2023</b>	<b>OCTOBER 2023</b>
3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26

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

● Pink Sacks, Blue Box and Food Waste **NO GARDEN WASTE**

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

■ Refuse, Food Waste - **NO GARDEN WASTE AS SUSPENDED TO ASSIST WITH CHRISTMAS CATCH UP**

### MY COLLECTION CHECKLIST:

- Out for collection on the right day by 7am
- All waste is in the bin with the lid shut
- Pink recycling sacks are securely tied and do not contain any contamination
- All cardboard kept dry in pink recycling sacks



## IMPORTANT CHANGES

at your recycling centres

From 13 March 2023, bookings will be required to visit an Essex County Council recycling centre in any vehicle.

For full details, visit [loveessex.org/bookings](http://loveessex.org/bookings)

Essex County Council  
Recycling and Waste

### Dear Supporter

School: **Woodham Walter**

is participating in the **Kids Just Recycle** textile recycling scheme which is a great way to raise additional funds for your school and also teach pupils about the importance of recycling to help keep our planet safe.

Please bring any of your pre-loved textiles listed below and donate them in the **Kids Just Recycle** outdoor clothing bin. We will then collect your **Kids Just Recycle** donations when the bin is full and weigh, sort, grade and redistribute your textiles giving them a second lease of life to less fortunate people who really need them.

**KIDS JUST RECYCLE**

Thank you!

Tel: 020 3903 9933 email: [enquiries@kidsjustrecycle.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@kidsjustrecycle.co.uk)



## Woodham Walter Parish Council - Party Tents for Hire

### Party Tents For Hire



**8m x 4m White**

**Party Tents**

£50 for one £75 for two

For bookings contact

Parish Clerk: Jacky Bannerman

01245 373686 (Mon-Fri before 6pm)

parishclerk@woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk

## Woodham Walter Parish Council - Youth Volunteer



Woodham Walter Parish Council are pleased 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—so far this year our volunteer has also re-varnished the notice-board and helped plant the new hedging plants. There's plenty to do.

For more information apply to: parishclerk@woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk

## Woodham Walter Litter Pick



Woodham Walter Parish Council organises an annual litter pick in February.

There were 17volunteers this year and we were able to litter pick pretty much the entire Parish of Woodham Walter.

Thank you to all of the volunteers at the weekend who col-

lected 26 bags of rubbish 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](https://www.maldon.gov.uk/info/20041/street_cleaning/9361/how_can_i_report_fly_tipping)



## Friends of St Michael's Church - Gill Orford



At the last AGM, Brian Cumming stepped down as Chair of the Friends after 10 years at the helm. I would like to thank Brian for all the work he has done over the years and has achieved so much. Thankfully, Brian remains our membership secretary. I have big shoes to fill!!

The Friends of St. Michael's Church is a non-religious group that is dedicated to the preservation and development of a beautiful and historic building and grounds. It's a huge part of Woodham Walters' history!!

We are very fortunate to have such a strong group of supporters who are happy and willing to support the future of the church building and grounds with their time helping in working parties or donating money. If you are not already a member, it would be great for you to join us, and to keep Woodham Walter the special place that we all love.

This year, we have had 3 working parties with a great attendance on all occasions. Probably the lure of



tea and cake and lunch in the pub afterwards helps!

With our donations we have repaired the front fence after it was damaged in a storm. This was mainly repaired using the original materials which has been great, and we have now preserved it too.



We have also had a new gate fitted on the extension churchyard, making it more secure too.



The notice boards along with the front bench near the church has been repaired and preserved for many a year.



We have also oiled and preserved the main entrance gate and fixed the latch. The very tall back hedge has been cut down bringing more light into the churchyard. Grass has been mown, trees trimmed, and the bench near the memorial garden has been preserved so it is now usable again. The memorial wall has been cleaned and tidied

and the path leading to the church has had a spruce up. The inner door latch to the church is currently being repaired to enable easier opening, with a new keep allowing a more efficient door mechanism.

The black metal fencing is next on the list for preservation, once the daffodils have finished blooming.

We are now looking into how we can manage the new church yard extension with an aim of encouraging wildlife and to sustain it for future generations.

Many villagers help within the Friends umbrella - many hands make light work! The support that I have had since I became Chair has been astonishing. Thanks team.

We will be having an AGM soon, where everyone is welcome. (I will put the date on the notice boards) We are always open to new ideas so if you are interested in joining us and meeting fellow villagers, please do not hesitate to contact me. We need our community to work together.

Gill Orford  
Chairman  
gill\_orford@hotmail.co.uk





## Tadpoles Nursery - Pam Seear

It has been another busy and full of fun year, now Covid is well behind us!

Summer term 2022 we were able to go on our annual outing for the first time since Covid restrictions were lifted! A great time was had by all, we travelled together on a coach to 'Call of the Wild' in South Woodham Ferrers where we saw lots of different animals including beautiful butterflies and cheeky meerkats !!

In July we held our Teddy Bears picnic on Woodham Walter school field, lots of friends and family came, we all had a race including mum's and Dad's. Mrs Thain and the reception children came to join us and year 6 children came to help!

We had a great time, we also had a sponsored Teddy Bear count and a raffle, we raised over £250 for Ukrainian families.



Also in July we said goodbye to our 'Big children who would be starting school in September, before they left we went to school to show them what it would be like. We did some P.E in the big hall, we had school dinners, they were yummy. We went to forest school with Mrs Parker-Druce.

We also went to Bell Meadow and helped to plant a tree for the Queen's jubilee, the people on the Parish Council gave us a mug.

During the Summer holiday we ran a few sessions, lots of children came and we did lots of dif-



ferent activities, including going to the new park on Bell meadow.

We have also been visiting the church, having stories and ringing the bells, we really enjoy ourselves, thanks to Reverend Julie and the ladies at the church for making us so welcome !

This year we had lots of visitors who came to see us and showed us what they do, some police people came they showed us pictures of what they do and shared activities with us.

The Diddidance lady came and showed us lots of different ways to dance and move to music, we loved it.

The Aunties are still teaching us lots of words to make with our hands including songs and rhymes, including ;Twinkle, twinkle little star!

As always, we raised money for Children in Need, we did this by encouraging everyone paying to dress, then we had a Red raffle and dressed up again for Comic relief wearing red noses too!

In November we had a visit from Ofsted who said that we were



'Outstanding' and how much everyone loved learning through play, the inspector really enjoyed being outside with us and watching us doing woodwork and playing on our water wall!

In December we performed our nativity in the church, so many people came to watch us.



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 how the Chinese celebrate this important tradition.

We celebrated Pancake Day by making our own pancakes, which we practised tossing in the air.

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

At Tadpoles we are looking forward to the Summer with lots going on especially outside! We

are currently sorting out our places for this coming September. If you are interested in a place or have any questions of any kind please contact Pam Seear 01245 222046 or via email [tadpolesnursery@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tadpolesnursery@hotmail.co.uk)





## Neighbourhood Watch - Gary Orford



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 re-

port 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 few crimes reported including: -

- Attempted robbery of a farm outbuilding.
- Actual robbery of an outbuilding of horse-riding equipment.
- Quad bikes driving dangerously around the village.
- Several suspicious vehicles in the village.

From my log this is the lowest crime level in the village since the Whatsapp group was started so I think all our good work of being nosey neighbours and warning villagers of potential situations is working.

### **PLEASE - DO NOT STOP REPORTING!!!!**

As part of my role of neighbourhood watch co-ordinator I receive crime information from neighbouring villages as well as all “minor” crimes reported in the Maldon and Chelmsford area. Where I think its relevant, I will put out a message for villagers to be aware and to take preventative action if possible.

We try to keep the Whatsapp group messages to a minimum however it has been good to see that the messaging system has also taken on an “up to date” community warning system.

Messages circulated last year included:- lost (and recovered) animals, potential door to door salesmen, blocked roads, lost keys etc.

If you get 5 minutes, can I suggest that you visit the Woodham Walter Parish Council website – <https://woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk/> where you can find “crime awareness links” under the heading “noticeboard”. Here there is much information about police advice, crime prevention, cybercrime advice etc.

Lastly I would like to thank all the neighbourhood watch co-ordinators for their work over the last year. It is really great when everyone does a little, and together we can do loads!! – we have proved it by keeping crime to a low level.

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





## Community Engagement Team - Nicola Syder

The Community Engagement Team are pleased to continue to work on behalf of Woodham Walter Parish Council to help look after the village and its residents.

Supporting the “Vision Zero” campaign to eliminate deaths and serious injuries on Essex roads by 2040, we work in partnership with the Safer Essex Roads Partnership to conduct speed enforcement patrols.

In the financial year ending 31 March 2023 the drivers referred to Essex Police for further action saw 32 drivers attending the speed awareness course and 1 driver being given a conditional offer, which means paying a fixed penalty charge and accepting points or attending court.

To find out more about Vision Zero please go to: <https://saferessexroads.org/visionzero/>

The team also carry out on street parking patrols around Woodham Walter School, at the beginning and end of the school day to keep the “School Keep Clear” area free from parked vehicles, ensuring safe passage into and out of school for pupils, parents, and carers.

We work in partnership with South Essex Parking Partnership to deliver the patrols and they have an initiative called 3PR which all schools can apply for to assist with safe parking during school times.

For more information about 3PR and how to get involved please access: <https://schoolparking.org.uk/>

Periodically the team check the parking at Hoe Mill Bridge.

Whilst in the village we also carry out a visual check at Bell Meadow for issues such as dog fouling/littering and on the play equipment. We also undertake a formal monthly inspection of the play equipment on behalf of the parish council as we have a ROSPA trained member of staff.

We are always happy to visit the parish and engage with residents, so if you see one of our officers and have any questions please do not hesitate to ask. Alternatively, your parish clerk can contact us on your behalf, or you can call us on 01621 854477 or via [www.maldon.gov.uk](http://www.maldon.gov.uk)

### TRUCAM Figures for 1st April 2022-31 March 2023

#### 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	33	33

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

32 drivers have been referred to the speed awareness course

1 driver given a conditional offer

Incident type	No of incidents reported	Action- info
School Patrols *	32	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
Bell Meadow including Playground	57	Regular inspections of the playground as part of the Parish Council's Health & Safety and insurance commitments. Also offer advice to dog owners, check for dog fouling and general checks around the village..

\* 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 runs 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:

<https://woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk/noticeboard/bus-services/>

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

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

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

Other stops are made on the route, these are highlights only. See timetable for full details.

# 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

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

## Woodham Walter

A timeless village set in the beautiful Essex countryside

Woodham Walter Parish Council | Planning Matters | Coronation | Noticeboard | Local Info | Walter's Third Thursday Café | Accessibility | Contact Us

### Noticeboard

Monday 24th April

**WALTER'S THIRD THURSDAY CAFE**  
 Next dates: 18th May, 15th June, 10am-12pm  
 26th July and every Third Thursday  
 Woodham Walter Village Hall

Free Tea, Coffee and Sweets

Community Hub with advice and information: Health & Wellbeing, Older and Young People, Digital Help, Home Safety, and so on from

Organised by Woodham Walter Parish Council  
[www.woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk](http://www.woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk)

- Get to know your neighbours
- Bring neighbours together
- Share welcome to those who are new to the village
- Get in a better and to meet
- Meet old friends and new
- Working here? Meet? Take a coffee break!

**UCI**

**Ford**

**RIDE LONDON**

CLASSIQUE CYCLE RACE

**Road closure information**  
 Weldon (including the town centre), Colchester, Froxtree and Chelmsford  
 Saturday 27 May 2023

**MALDON DIVISION MARCH/APRIL UPDATE**  
 Councillor Jane Rering

#### Photo Gallery Slideshow



#### Upcoming Events

- MAY 12.30 - 16.30  
**7** Woodham Walter Coronation Celebrations
- MAY 20.00 - 22.00  
**15** Woodham Walter Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
- MAY 10.00 - 12.00  
**18** Walter's Third Thursday Cafe
- MAY 20.00 - 22.00  
**22** Woodham Walter Annual Parish Meeting

[View Calendar](#)

#### Village Email Sign Up!

If you would like to receive regular village updates from Woodham Walter Parish Council please sign up here: <http://eepurl.com/dyAfPD> or send an email to [parishclerk@woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk) and request that we sign you up.

Friday 14th April

**St Michael's Church Woodham Walter**

**Flitz and Flowers!**  
 Friday July 14th  
 10-4pm

Tickets £10 pp  
 See Ganges by Barber & Fox

For tickets contact  
 Jan Weldon, [cock@gnost.com](mailto:cock@gnost.com)  
 01206 866517  
[barberco@btinternet.com](mailto:barberco@btinternet.com)  
 01206 822216

**WOODHAM WALTER CORONATION CELEBRATION**  
**BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC**

**WHEN**  
 Sunday 7th May 2023  
 12.30pm - 4pm

**WHERE**  
 Bell Meadow  
 Church Hill, Woodham Walter

**REGISTRATION** - The function of the Woodham Walter Parish Council with help from local residents. This is a free event but there will be some fundraising by selling tea and coffee and a raffle.

**FOOD BANK DONATIONS**  
 Colchester Food Bank  
 1000 High Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1JG  
 0206 2060000

**OTHER**  
 If you would like to be involved in the event please contact the Parish Clerk on 01206 866517 or email [parishclerk@woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk)

**RCCE Warbler**

**PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE**  
 We are looking for volunteers to help with the planting and maintenance of the Warbler garden. The garden is a beautiful and popular feature of the village and we are looking for people who are interested in helping to maintain it.

**NEEDER**  
 We are looking for volunteers to help with the maintenance of the Warbler garden. The garden is a beautiful and popular feature of the village and we are looking for people who are interested in helping to maintain it.

**FOOD BANK DONATIONS**  
 Colchester Food Bank  
 1000 High Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1JG  
 0206 2060000



## Bell Meadow Village Association—Robert Lee/Gary Orford



A committee of 4 people (Robert Lee, Nancy Lott, Nigel Cornwell and Gary Orford) was set up in 2022 with the aim of organising a Bell Meadow Day for 2022. As the event had not run for 3 years and as we felt that Covid could have a longer effect of the special atmosphere in the village we set out to “bring the community back together” as the sole aim of running the event.

A lot of organising was done prior to the event by the committee and the extended committee who stepped forward and gave up their time. Unfortunately, 2 days prior to the event Her Majesty the Queen sadly passed away. Many discussions were had between the committee and the Parish Council as to whether the event should go ahead. Considerations included respect to Queen Elizabeth, the large amount of work that had been done beforehand and the ability to notify the number of visitors expected to attend. As the Queen’s death was without any recent precedent a consensus was reached where the event went ahead with tributes paid to Her Majesty at various points of the event.

Set up was started a few days before and on the day stall holders, food trucks, exhibitors etc. arrived early and given the sad news it was great to see all the planning coming together.

The event was opened at noon by Jennifer Fowler raising the Union flag instead of the Bell Meadow flag as a mark of respect to Her Majesty.

Earlier on the day many villagers brought their entries to the competi-

tion tent ready for judging and a fantastic number of exhibits adorned the tent from art to photography and vegetable growing to cookery. The best in show was won by Fern Beighton with a fantastic multi coloured and layered cake.



The arena events started at 1pm with a fabulous dance display by Woodham Walter school. This was followed by a Woodham Walter tug of war challenge between the girls and the boys. With a score of 2 to 1 the girls kept their unbeaten record. After that the tug of war contest was opened up to the public and they did not disappoint!! – with their enthusiasm there was not any room left on the rope. This was followed by the ~~world English Essex~~ Woodham Walter famous Red Sparrows making a return after many years of absence – and they did not look a day older!!!. The many weeks of training and coordinating to music paid off with a near(ish) faultless display of precision flying.

The ever popular “Most Appealing Dog” show attracted many entrants of different ages, sizes and colours. This was followed by the egg throwing competition. It was so popular we ran out of arena space. A few entrants gave the crowd what they wanted – a mis timed catch and a person left with egg on their face!!

After the day event came to a close, we were entertained by Old Skool with some fantastic 80’s music. As a change from previous Bell Meadow Days we had a cinema evening as the sun went down. We were treated to the Greatest Showman – it was a surreal experience sitting on Bell Meadow under the stars watching a great film. It was a great ending to a truly fantastic day.

Even though we did not set out to make any money we did have a surplus that we shared out to 7 organisations in Woodham Walter.



The committee would like to thank the many sponsors to the event. Without them we would not be able to hold Bell Meadow but most of all we would like to thank everyone who contributed to the day by giving their precious time in setting up, running and putting away after the event. It was really great to see our fantastic village coming together as one. There will not be a Bell Meadow Day this year although there is potential for another one in 2024 however we would like to expand the committee and therefore look for volunteers to give as much time as they could afford to join us and take on specific roles– many hands make light work!! Have a great summer.



## Community Defibrillator —Gill Orford

Woodham Walter is fortunate enough to have our own village defibrillator, housed in the phone box outside Tadpoles, in the centre of the village. This was purchased by the Church community in 2019 after some fundraising, and I am now the defib guardian.



A defibrillator is a simple to use machine which is designed to be used in a very stressful situation. Our defib has been accessed twice this year.

As the guardian, I report on a monthly basis to Essex Ambulance Service that our defib is in current working condition. So I check the pads are in date and good condition and check that the battery is working. If the defib is used or removed from the cabinet, Essex Ambulance Service send me a notification that it has been used so that I can then take it out of service until it has been returned, potentially replacing the pads. The notifications are sent electronically so it can be done from anywhere.

I also sweep out the phone box periodically and remove the spiders!

### What to do in an emergency

- Dial 999
- If the operator advises you to get the defib, you will be given the access code.
- Follow the simple user-friendly verbal instructions from the machine.

If anyone would like any information about the defibrillator, 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@woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk)  
 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 & Crime/Neighbourhood Watch

Joanna Symons - Parish Councillor, Primary School Governor & Coronation 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@woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk](mailto:Firstname.lastname@woodhamwalter-pc.gov.uk)



## 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 22nd May 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 2023/2024

Monday 15th May 2023 8pm (includes AGM)  
 Monday 22nd May 2023 8pm Annual Parish Meeting VH  
 Monday 12th June 2023 8pm  
 Monday 10th July 2023 8pm  
 August—we only meet if there are urgent matters  
 Monday 11th September 2023 8pm  
 Monday 9th October 2023 8pm  
 Monday 13th November 2023 8pm  
 Monday 11th December 2023 8pm  
 Monday 8th January 2024 8pm  
 Monday 12th February 2024 8pm  
 Monday 11th March 2024 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 scan the QR code above with your mobile phone or visit our website to sign up. Don't worry there aren't too many emails and you can unsubscribe at any time!