



GREAT WARLEY LYCHGATE

August - September 2015



EDITORIAL TEAM:

Liz Francis
Tel: 07825 017056
Fiona Agassiz
Helen Burgess
Linda Beaney

STOP PRESS

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Sizzling Village Barbecue!



How lucky we were to enjoy fine weather for this year's Village Summer gathering. Squeezed between two of the wettest July days on record (with a month's rain in one day) and yet another damp grey day afterwards, around 100 people gathered at the Cricket Club for a wonderful spread and very enjoyable afternoon. Our thanks go to all those who gave up their time to erect the gazebos and move and set up furniture and the sound system etc. Not to mention the sturdy team who made and/or provided a range of delicious salads and deserts. Phil Smith and his merry band of helpers did a terrific job on the barbecue and there were many compliments about both the food and the relaxed and convivial afternoon. An additional and extra big "thank you" must go to Tommy and Lesley who provided a mound of delicious strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, cream and other salad items. Thank you all for your support, and we hope to see you again at the same time next year!

Linda Beaney

VILLAGE NEWS

Litter-Picking Sessions

Please join us on 8 August meeting at the Thatchers at 10.30am, to help clear litter and rubbish from the village roads and verges. We usually spend about an hour and a half before retiring to the Thatchers for a well-deserved drink. Hi-vis jackets, gloves, black sacks and pick-up sticks are provided, and your full bags can be left at the roadside and collected later by Phil Smith. Please come and help – the more people we have, the quicker it gets done!

Headley Common

There is a new seat on Headley Common which we hope people will enjoy using. It was erected by the warden and two other Monday work party members from Warley Place (photo below) and it replaces an old bench which had become worm-eaten and unsafe.

The bench is made entirely out of wood from an ash tree at Warley Place. The tree was at the bottom of the daffodil bank there, and it had to be felled because it had become dangerous.

A family of Canada Geese has made its home on Headley Common this spring and summer. The six birds have been constantly crossing Warley Gap between the pond and the main part of the common, and it is amazing that they have all survived. Thank you to all motorists who have stopped to allow them to cross!



GWCS and St Mary's Harvest Supper Celebrations

Our plans are to hold the Harvest Festival Celebrations at church on the 11th October, and our Harvest Supper, joint between the Conservation Society and the Church on 17th October. This will be an opportunity to see the hard work of all the volunteers at the Rectory Hall, and to enjoy the new look Hall as a community. Please pencil these two dates in your diaries and join us for both if you can.

WI

July has traditionally been the month when the Great and Little Warley WI hold their garden party. Every year we keep our fingers crossed for good weather, and this year the rain nearly did prevail but at the last minute the sun appeared to allow everyone to enjoy a super afternoon in May Humm's lovely garden. We held a raffle, a guess the weight of the cake competition, and had a bring and buy sale. President Jenny Wright read the minutes and notices of forthcoming events, and we all had a lovely tea. Next month we shall enjoy a fish and chip lunch at our meeting. Contact Jenny on 01277 220085 for more information.

Brentwood Community Print

Once again we would like to thank the staff at Brentwood Community Print who produce our newsletter in rapid time and to such a high quality. They can be contacted on 01277 849021 - speak to Tim or Tony. Their email is info@brentwoodcommunityprint.org.uk. The Keys, Eagle Way, Warley CM133BP

RECTORY HALL AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Refurbishment of the Old Rectory Hall

A huge amount of work has been done on the refurbishment of the Rectory Hall since the last edition of the Lychgate newsletter. There have been two large Saturday afternoon working parties, and several people have put in extra time on other days as well. The results are already spectacular, and I for one am delighted with what has so far been achieved.

All the work has been done by volunteers, and we would like to thank the following people for all their efforts: Mike Camfield and Pat Gilmore, Liz Francis and her daughter Elli, Chris McAllister, David and Rona Hawthorne, Steve Brabner, Helen Burgess, Linda Beaney, Eileen Fife, Jan Pound, Lawrence Miller, Steve Crisp, David Barlow, and of course our priest-in-charge, Rob Binks. Thanks also to Tommy and Lesley who provided some delicious fruit to keep us all going! If I have missed anyone out, please forgive me – I am relying on other people's memories, since I was not one of the volunteers on either occasion.

Inside the building, the walls of the main hall have had several coats of paint, the loft has been cleared, the partition in the toilet has been removed so that the toilet is now suitable for disabled users, the storeroom has been cleared and is being completely refurbished to become a second toilet, the kitchen cupboards have been cleaned out, and the entrance hall now has a new floor. The rubbish which was removed filled a whole skip, and we are grateful to Geoff Bowmer for providing this. New curtains are in the process of being made.

On the outside of the building, two sides have now been repaired and re-painted. Several of the wooden boards on the outside wall had to be replaced. We are very grateful indeed to David Cross (of Oaklands Decorating 01277 211436) and his assistant Daniel Binks for undertaking this work. The outside of the hall is now shiny black, and it looks very smart. A new sign will be made to go above the entrance door.

There is a lot more work to be done, including a new covering for the hall floor, redecorating the kitchen, and installing the second toilet. But it is amazing how much a group of volunteers can achieve in a short time. Thank you again to everyone.

We already have one new group who are going to use the hall on a regular basis, and we hope to soon have more. So if you know of a group or organisation which is looking for premises, why not give us a try?

Fiona Agassiz



Marriage

25th July - Rachel Russell and Nicholas Cook

Anniversary

We would like to congratulate Lawrence and Janet Miller on their forthcoming 60th wedding anniversary. Such an achievement for a wonderful couple who have been connected with the village for a very long time.

Church Cleaning

The annual church cleaning will be taking place on Saturday morning 12th September at the start of the Heritage Open Day weekend. Helpers will be heartily welcomed! Please arrive from 10am armed with brooms and dusters.

Helen Burgess

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

Date	Time	Service
2 August	11.00am	Morning Prayer
9 August	8.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion Holy Communion
16 August	11.00am	Morning Prayer and Baptism
23 August	11.00am	Morning Prayer
30 August	11.00am	Morning Prayer
6 Sept	11:00am	Holy Communion
13 Sept	8.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion Holy Communion
20 Sept	11.00am	Morning Prayer
27 Sept	11.00am	Holy Communion
4 October	10.30am	Licensing of Dr Adrian McConnagie at Christ Church - Please note NO service at St Marys

Summer concert by Bra-vissima

We were delighted to welcome this all ladies group led by Julia Wilson-James to St Mary's for an afternoon concert on 5 July. The church was full and we all enjoyed a packed programme of songs. The second half in particular was very entertainingly entitled 'Mrs Beeton's book - a music hall guide to Victorian Living' and was most enjoyable. Afterwards we all had Pimms and strawberries with cream in the church garden. The concert was in aid of DIS a charity run for disabled young adults and the group raised a nice sum for this worthy cause.



Concert by Reflection

The church was once again the venue for a performance on 11 July consisting of readings, and musical works by this very talented group. The title was 'Love Bade me Welcome' and all the chosen works reflected this. We all enjoyed drinks and some lovely snacks afterwards thanks to Eileen and David Fife.



Open Days and Heritage Open Day

The church will be open for visitors on 31st August (Bank Holiday) from 12-4. We are also taking part in Heritage Open Days on 12th and 13th September. The church will be open from 10-4 pm on the Saturday and 12 til 4 pm on the Sunday. Please spread the word! We continue to be open on Thursday afternoons from 2-4 until the end of October, and we are always willing to open up the church if you contact us.

Helen and Fiona (details below)

Churchyard

Regular visitors will notice that the whole of the church garden looks really spick and span at the moment. This is due to enormous hard work by a devoted team of gardeners, strimmers and edgers, together with a really generous donation of £250 from PERI. The Padfields were responsible for two wonderful 'strims' at the bottom end, supported by Daniel Binks, who not only understood the mechanics of the edging strimmer and got it working, but also set to and neatened all the grave edges. We continue to be wonderfully served by Alan and Carol, Lawrence and Fiona with coordinator in chief David. Many, many thanks to you all.

Clergy	Robert Binks	01277 220428	Rob.binks@me.com
Church wardens:	Helen Burgess	01277 227557	helen.burgess1@gmail.com
	David Hawthorne	01245 329284	david@hawthorne.myzen.co.uk
For visits and guided tours	Fiona Agassiz	01277 230436	fionaagassiz@hotmail.com

OUR SPONSORS & DIARY DATES

Dates for your Diary

August:

7 Friday 10-12am: Sewing bee
8 Saturday 10.30am: Litter picking
11 Tuesday 2-4pm: WI

September:

3, 4 & 5 Thu/Sat: 'Ellen's Love' by the New Venture Players at the cricket ground, Warley Road. Box office: 01708 754116.
4 Friday 10-12am: Sewing Bee
9 Wednesday 1pm: Ladies Lunch at Izumi
12 Saturday 10-4 & 13 Sunday 12-4: Heritage Open Days at St Mary's Church
15 Tuesday 2-4pm: WI

October:

17 Saturday 6.30pm: Harvest Festival Supper at the Rectory Hall

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DATE

Readers Letters

Open Garden 28th June

The Sharp Family would like to thank all those who attended, helped or made cakes for their Vintage Tea Party and Open Garden held on 28th June. We could not have managed it on our own and despite the rain it was a huge success raising £728 for St. Frances Hospice. The event was held in memory of our son Ben. The Hospice gave support for Ben and ourselves through a very difficult time in our lives.

We hope to make this an annual event in the village.

Carol, Alan and Tamsin Sharp



For Sale! - Lot 1 - Westbury Lodge

This year marks the 110th anniversary of a lesser known event in the annals of Brentwood and Warley – the last sale of Westbury Lodge as a private house. The Lodge was built in the early 19th century; *White’s Directory* of 1848 records the first occupant: “Henry Dearsley, Gentleman”.

In 1866 the property passed to James Biggs, J.P, who had it until 1904. In the 1860’s Westbury Road was laid out, from Kings Road to what was then called Brentwood Hill (London Road). What is today Westbury Drive was then a private carriageway leading to Westbury Lodge.

On Tuesday 20 June 1905 Westbury Lodge was offered for sale at a public auction held near the Bank of England. The land agent’s sale catalogue describes the house as “of pleasing elevation with castellated front... nicely covered with ivy, wisteria and magnolia trees... commanding extensive and varied views”.

Among the selling points were the Great Eastern Railway’s services to London. Today’s commuter may enviously note that (with perhaps some ex-

aggeration) the sale catalogue claims Brentwood and Warley Station (as it was then known) afforded “an exceedingly good service of express trains to and from Liverpool Street, the journey occupying only about thirty minutes”.

With an eye to interest an Edwardian gentleman with leisure time on his hands and an interest in outdoor pursuits, the catalogue also notes that the Meets of the Essex Union and Fox Hounds and the Essex Stag Hounds were within easy reach (the fox hounds met at Great Warley), as were several golf links.

It was a big property – over 13 acres, about half the size of Miss Willmott’s Warley Place. The house boasted ten bedrooms, three dressing rooms, a “capital entrance hall” with oak staircase, a library and a billiard room, morning and drawing rooms.

The “domestic offices” included the kitchen and a scullery complete with copper and sink (hot and cold water supplied) and a butler’s pantry. Nearby were the tradesman’s entrance and a yard with the servants’ W.C.

There were cellars for wine, beer and coal, stabling for three horses, plus a coachman’s cottage.

The grounds included a croquet lawn, two tennis courts, a park, two ornamental fish ponds, with a fountain fed by a natural spring, and a small farmery with cow shed, poultry houses and pig-gery.

The buyer was a long-serving British Army officer, Colonel de Pinna who renamed the house “La Plata” (‘The Silver’ in Spanish). Sadly, tragedy struck the de Pinnas ten years later when their son was died at Gallipoli. His widow carried on at La Plata until the estate passed to the Essex Police in 1937.

The house was used after the War as living accommodation for police officers. Today the Police Station stands where the double-coach house, the kitchen garden and the stables once stood. Police houses and post-war housing have replaced the croquet lawn, the tennis courts, the meadows and the wilderness walk.

But the house, La Plata, is still there, just behind the Brentwood Police Station.

Richard Osborne

PHOTOS FROM RECENT VILLAGE EVENTS

