

GREAT WARLEY

LYCHGATE

February - March 2016



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STOP PRESS

Next edition:
April/May 2016.
Please send all contributions by **26.03.16** to **GreatWarley Lychgate @yahoo.co.uk**

LYCHGATE BY EMAIL

If you would like a printed copy then please also let us know as we deliver all round the village.

GWCS Christmas Party



On 10th December over 40 people met at the Rectory Hall for the annual Christmas Party. The hall was looking very festive and beautifully adorned with decorations and tinsel. The tables were candlelit and everyone had crackers.

A buffet had been laid on by Phil and Claudine Smith which was delicious and plentiful. The amazing array of desserts ensured that no-one went home hungry!



The evening's entertainment was provided by Colin Hawkins who played his accordion for us as we sang along to Christmas songs, carols and other tunes. Everyone had a lovely evening and we hope more of you can join us at the same time next year.

Liz Francis

VILLAGE NEWS

Warley Place

Warley Place is open to the public every day of the year, so at this special season please feel free to walk round and enjoy the spring bulbs whenever you like (but without your dog, because it is a nature reserve). Donations to the Essex Wildlife Trust are much needed and will be much appreciated.

This year Warley Place will be holding 'Spring Bulb Spectacular' weekends every Saturday and Sunday from 27 February until 10 April, and Good Friday and Easter Monday as well, 10am – 5pm. On these weekends there will be volunteers on hand to welcome visitors and to man the car park, sending cars to the cricket club if the Warley Place car park gets full.

There will be guided walks starting from the gazebo every Saturday morning at 10.30am during this period, so just turn up then if you would like to know more about this very special and historic nature reserve. Suggested charge £3 per head for the guided walks.

Because the season is so early this year, there are already plenty of snowdrops on the reserve, and quite a number of the early types of daffodils are already flowering (see photo).

Logs are still available from Warley Place, and they are much better value than from other outlets. Please contact Fiona (phone 230436 or email fionaagassiz@hotmail.com) if you would like to know more about the logs or about the Spring Bulb Spectacular weekends.



Great Warley 'Ladies Lunches'

All ladies in the village are welcome to come to these lunches, which are held at IZUMI's. From now onwards they will take place at 12.50pm on the last Wednesday of each month, except when this day falls in the school holidays or half terms.

If you would like to join the lunch group, please phone Pat Fryatt (220206). The lunches are an excellent way to meet other village residents and to keep in touch with what is going on in the village. Many thanks to Pat for continuing to organise these enjoyable occasions.

WI

The members of Great and Little Warley WI were entertained by the speaker for January, Cynthia Ives. She had with her some of her collection of teddy bears of all sizes and ages. The eldest bear was a large gent who wore a crochet dress and a puzzled expression. Cynthia not only collects bears but also makes them. The talk was very entertaining, and Cynthia herself was a very funny lady. We never knew about the complicated assembly of joints and different types of stuffing materials. Overall it was a fascinating talk. New members are always welcome. Please contact Jenny 01277 220085.

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

The Hidden Gem On Our Doorstep

The residents of Great Warley have a great fondness for, and make good use of the grounds and gardens of the former Warley Place. However, the village has another local gem that vied with Warley Place for grandeur and prestige in their heyday, but through the twists of fate, has been virtually forgotten. Whilst Warley Place was famed for its immaculate gardens, Boyles Court, a mere half mile from the centre of the village, was famed for its architecture. The quality of the farm buildings and stables alone testify to the expense lavished upon the estate which stretched from the village to Nags Head Lane, bounded by Warley Road on one side and Dark Lane on the other. At 179 acres it included Stoney Hills Farm, 2 cottages on Nags Head Lane, and the 10 properties on Dark Lane. So how has it been so completely forgotten?

In 1938 the estate was acquired by Essex County Council and was leased to Plessey for 'Top Secret' research, (probably into Radar,) and the top of the hill behind 8,9 and 10 Dark Lane housed a searchlight battery. Since then Boyles Court Farm has been operated as an equestrian centre, the farm cottages and the old Boyles Court Lodge on Dark Lane have been sold and are now private residences. But the hall with its 'court' had been a borstal until the 1990s, and since then a 'Secure Unit' for minors and an 'Assessment Centre' for 'vulnerable' youths. Informal sources have linked two of its 'former residents' with the tragic death of the little tot James Bulger. Due to the sensitive nature of its use over the last 78 years, and the cloak of secrecy under which it operated, it is not surprising that the collective memory of local residents has been almost completely expunged regarding Boyles Court. The last three generations of Warley residents had been barred access from what had effectively become a prison until last year when it closed, and I persuaded the Administrator of the hall to allow interested members of the GWCS to view the old hall. My thanks to Fiona for communicating with, and coordinating the groups. Three groups of GWCS members were escorted around the old hall buildings with its grand rooms and commanding views of the grounds and surrounding countryside.

Boyles Court and its grounds have now been sold to a developer. It is proposed to create a residential development at the site and so the nature of the old

hall will evolve once again. In light of this I thought that Lychgate readers might like to know more of the history of the buildings as they now stand.

You enter the site by the 'new' driveway c1820/30 originally lined by 48 lime trees, (34 remaining), and into the open grounds behind the old hall where the drive becomes serpentine in nature. It is worth noting that the old hall building with its two, two-storey 'L' shaped side wings, was designed by Leverton and displayed at the Exhibition of 1776 but not built until a few years later. It was described as "newly built" in 1788. At that time the front of the hall faced south overlooking the 'court' of formal gardens installed between the two side wings with views towards the farm buildings and beyond to London. This explains the high degree of architecture and quality of building expended in the stables and barns of the farmyard. Entry to the hall was formerly via the straight drive to the farm, past the circular lake with 'Oak Island' at its centre, which would have been a most pleasing feature, and I'm sure would be again if the scrub were cleared away. The original drive was straight from Dark Lane to the existing farmyard with its attractive architect designed stables, and the timber framed barn ('White - 1774') with its ornate columned cupola, bell, and double facing clock. No expense was spared - even on the farm buildings, which are quite extraordinary. Jan has kindly permitted me to take photos, but please remember that the farm is now part of a private residence. The original drive to the hall turned right before reaching the farmyard, and swept into the grand gardens of the court with its lacework of paths between geometrically arranged flower beds. The court was framed on three sides by the main hall and two side wings on the north side, the tall red brick wall of the extensive kitchen garden to the west, and the large timber framed barn and coach house with its grand cupola, clock, and bell tower to the south. Formal access to the hall was gained from the court via a tall flight of external steps to a tall, curve topped doorway entering the first floor of the main building. Here the formal reception rooms are somewhat cavernous, with high, plaster moulded decorated ceilings, tall curve topped windows, and large fireplaces.

Unfortunately, nothing remains on the other floors to suggest the original usage of the other rooms as these have been heavily adapted and partitioned. The main part of the house stands on extensive vaulted cellars which I am told extend beyond the rear of the main house and form the raised terrace beyond the new front door.

READERS ARTICLES

Extending from the east side of the main building are two single storey utilitarian buildings that also testify to the wealth of the owners and their extravagant decoration. The two buildings face each other, each containing two rooms. One side housed the scullery and laundry and the other the 'smoke house' and the 'creamery' protected behind a wrought iron grill. The 3 terracotta plaques that frame the smoke house door with their sculpted images of 'Diana' the huntress, and hanging game, fish and poultry are anything but utilitarian. These plaques are signed and dated J M Witham 188?, 1890, and 1892. Their creation over an extended period of time suggests these were not commissioned but may well have been the work of someone living and working locally, possibly on the estate. The work is of exceptional quality and it is unusual to find such fine work of such a size (18 inches high) in this medium by a local artist.

The 'creamery' is finished internally, floor to ceiling with Delft tiles decorated with images of ships around the top of the walls but lower down the images are of game and fish on one side, and birds on the other.

In 1996 the rising ground between the old hall and the farm buildings, which originally contained the court and formal gardens, was excavated and levelled to provide the site for the secure unit. This now fills the southwest corner of the grounds.

My understanding is that the developer is proposing to redevelop the listed buildings of the hall creating 13 apartments, and intends to demolish the secure unit and build several residential homes within the footprint. No plans have yet been presented, but if sensitively executed this could provide a worthwhile reuse of what was once one of the areas grandest estates.

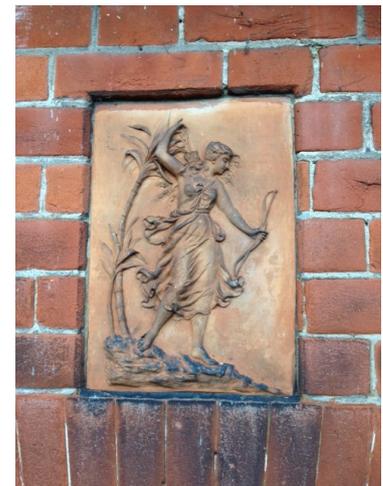
David Harold



The main building with its two side wings



The timber framed barn and coach house



One of the three terracotta plaques that frame the door to the 'Smoke House'



One of the six stable gable ends

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

Date	Time	Service
7 February	11.00am	Morning Prayer
10 February	11.00am	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion
14 February	8.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion Holy Communion
21 February	11.00am	Holy Communion
28 February	11.00am	Morning Prayer
6 March	11:00am	Mothering Sunday Morning Prayer
13 March	8.00am 11.00am	Morning Prayer Holy Communion
20 March	11.00am	Palm Sunday Holy Communion
25 March	12.00pm- 15.00pm	Good Friday Drop-in Meditation
27 March	11.00 am	Easter Holy Communion
3 April	11.00am	Morning Prayer

Christmas at Great Warley Church

We had a wonderful Candlelit Carol Service, and then sung like mad for the brief carol sing at The Squirrels, which was much appreciated by many residents. On Christmas Eve we had our second candlelit service, the Christingle with oranges, and singing, then to take us through to Christmas Day we had the mid-night mass, which was also candlelit, so the team effort to get all the candles in place was well rewarded, and added atmosphere and contemplation to all the services. The flowers were amazing and the Xmas tree sparkled like mad. Many thanks to Len, Eileen and David, Katie, Helen, Phyllis and Jenny.

Organ pumping

Did you know that we still had a pump for the organ? On 31st January we arrived at church to find there was a power cut, so, the congregation set to, lit candles, and Steve Barlow pumped the organ, so we could sing the hymns. We never knew the pump still worked!

Church Hall

Have you seen it yet in all its glory? We have a new "mulberry" carpet, to fit with the new curtains, and some of the chair coverings. The new loo, and the conversion of the old loo to be disabled friendly is well under way. We have 2 new window panes, so we are now fully waterproof. Many, many thanks to all the hard workers who got us back ready for the new term. We also have a new "Hoover", so no excuse for dusty floors!

Bra-vissima Ladies Choir

We are delighted to ask you all to save the date....7th May 7.30. Full details to follow.

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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
Church Address	St Mary The Virgin	Great Warley Street	CM13 3JP

DIARY DATES AND LOCAL EVENTS

Dates for your Diary

February:

5 Friday 10-12:

Sewing Bee at Rectory Hall.

9 Tuesday 2pm:

WI at Childerditch Village Hall. Call Jenny 220085

24 Wednesday 12.50pm:

Ladies Lunch at Izumi. Call Pat 220206

27 Saturday and 28 Sunday 10am-5pm:

Warley Place Spring Bulb Spectacular. Every Saturday and Sunday until 10 April. Guided walks on Saturdays start at 10.30am donation £3 each.

Fiona 230436

March:

4 Friday 10-12:

Sewing Bee at Rectory Hall

4 Friday 7.30pm:

Death of an MP. Murder mystery at Great & Little Warley Cricket Club. Linda 231265

8 Tuesday 2pm:

WI at Childerditch Village Hall

30 March 12.50pm:

Ladies Lunch at Izumi

May:

26 May 8pm:

GWCS AGM at Rectory Hall

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and the New Venture Players

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Friday 4th March 2016 at 7.30pm

Tickets from Linda Beaney on 01277 231265

or email lbeaneybtinternet.com

Bring your own food and drink

Great and Little Warley Cricket Club,
Warley Road CM13 3HX

READERS ARTICLES

Broadband Poor Service

Following a number of issues with slow broadband in our area David James and I organised a meeting last year with the head of the BT high speed broadband roll out team. We got together with all the residents of Church Lane and let her know our feelings and how restrictive the lack of high speed broadband has been for all of us. After what we believed to be a productive meeting we were issued with the following information:

- 1 - By Summer 2016 we would be offered a satellite alternative which would supply at least 2mb per second speed (originally agreed by the government to have been put in place by Summer 2015)
- 2 - We would have to apply for a voucher for free installation of the dish and take out a contract with a satellite provider (not BT)
- 3 - The speed of our current broadband is affected by the distance we are from our exchange
- 4 - The high speed fibre broadband would be rolled out for Great Warley area from July 2017-June 2018 (with expected speeds of 40mb per second plus)
- 5 - compensation for the slow speed/inability to use smart tvs etc would not be something they would be interested in looking at other than on an individual basis.

Since then a number of the residents have changed their contracts with BT and some have moved away from them completely.

David and I felt they should be offering more and that this was not the standard of service we expect from such a large firm. We kept on at BT with little understanding or empathy on their part.

We got fed up with waiting and established that we could already apply for the satellite dish straight away. We checked that the Essex Superfast (I kid you not) broadband rollout would not affect us until at least July 2017, which is almost how long it takes to download the average film in our Lane! Firms offer the satellite service now, we qualify for the fitting now. BT have not told us this, perhaps their email is taking time to travel down their super slow broadband.

Here are a few of the companies contracted to

offer satellite broadband;

Supplier 1 - ibub Communications - <http://www.ibub.co.uk/satellitescheme/> - 028 2522 0000

Supplier 2 - Digiweb - <http://www.digiweb.com/satellite/> - 0800 949 023

Supplier 3 - Primetech - <http://www.primetech-bduk.co.uk> - 08453 455734

Supplier 4 - Europasat - <https://www.europasat.com/lp/bduk-national/> - 01869 397 196

Supplier 5 - Avonline - www.avonlinebroadband.com - 0303 303 3131

We have made contact with a couple of the companies, one of which is the largest supplier of satellite broadband in Europe. They were helpful, polite and would cover almost all set up costs with installing the dish provided we had the voucher agreed (which is easy). What was disappointing was the monthly cost. Now knowing that this was just for broadband and does not include landline and telephone as that is covered through the phone provider..... prices start from £29.99 per month for the basic. David and I however download films and programmes and therefore needed more. The package offering the most download GB was 40 gb per month at a cost of £134.99 per month.

So all in all, if you are affected by the speed of broadband please use the Essex superfast broadband website to see when your address is going to be upgraded. If it seems like forever until you are upgraded your option is limited to a satellite dish on the side of your house (conservation restrictions may apply) and an increase to your monthly expenditure. The one piece of good news is that the satellite providers we contacted stated that we would get a speed of between 9 and 15 mb per second, enough to turn our dumb tvs back into smart tvs! So to end, having had endless phone calls emails and meetings with BT top dogs, Dave agreed that this sort of thing never went on "during the war" and we have tried to fix bayonettes and BT definitely don't like it up 'em!

Steve Mansell and David James

(Editors note: As you will know, in Great Warley, listed properties and those in the conservation area are not allowed to have visible satellite dishes)

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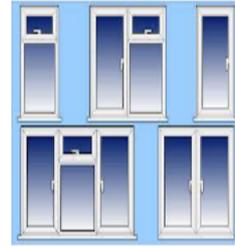


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Sunday 6th March 2016

Arrival from 12pm to be seated
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Adults
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To Start

Plum Tomato & Basil Soup, with a Swirl of Pesto
Ham Hock Terrine, Capers and Leaf Salad
Tower of Smoked Salmon, Classic Marie Rose Sauce
Rosemary Spiced Baked Camembert, Apricot Chutney & Warm Brioche

Main Course

Roast Norfolk Bronze Turkey, Chestnut Stuffing, Pigs in Blankets
Roast Rib of Beef, Yorkshire Pudding
Pacific Salmon Fillet, New Potato Cake,
a bed of buttered Spinach, Dill & Lemon Cream Sauce
Stuffed Coriander & Cous Cous Peppers, Topped with Mozzarella and a Sweet Tomato & Pepper Sauce
All main courses are served with a selection of seasonal vegetables

Dessert

Bramley Apple Crumble, Vanilla Custard
De Rougemont Manor Eton Mess
Chocolate Cheesecake, Vanilla Bean Ice Cream
Trio of Cheeses, Stilton, Brie, Cheddar Red Onion Marmalade & Celery

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