



GREAT WARLEY

LYCHGATE

December - January 2017



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STOP PRESS

Next edition:
February/March
2017. Please send
all contributions
by 28.01.17 to
GreatWarley
Lychgate
@yahoo.co.uk

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lage.

Harvest Thanksgiving

Fabulous autumnal flowers with fruits, corn and grapes with thanks to Ruth, Debbie, Jenny, Rona and Helen. A beautiful service thanks to Rob with the congregation in good voice. Great gifts, thankfully received by Brentwood food bank.



VILLAGE NEWS

Warley Place

Our special village nature reserve is now being tidied up ready for the wonderful display of snowdrops, some of which should be blooming there before the next issue of this newsletter is circulated at the end of January. Warley Place is ideal for a bracing winter walk in January, so please make the most of the opportunities which it offers. February is usually the best month for the snowdrops.

Everyone can visit Warley Place at any time, but dogs are not allowed. Donations to the Essex Wildlife Trust are always appreciated. Trail guides with maps are available beside the donations box as you go from the car park into the reserve. All enquiries to Fiona Agassiz (01277 230436, or fionaagassiz@hotmail.com).

Headley Common

Many thanks to the officers at Brentwood Council for replacing the memorial bench on Headley Common, which had been accidentally broken by one of their employees while mowing the grass earlier this year.

GWCS

As an addendum to the minutes of the GWCS meeting of 27th October we wanted to ensure everyone is aware of the date and details of the GWCS Christmas party which is on Friday 2nd December starting at 7.30pm at the Rectory Hall Great Warley Street. Please let Phil Smith (01277 226077) or me (231265) know the number of tickets you want. You're most welcome to bring friends and family along. As usual good food and company will be readily available. BYO drinks and tickets are £5 each.

Len Fryatt has asked if anyone who has

not paid their GWCS annual subscription of £5 pp could please send it to him asap at 5 The Dell, CM13 3AL. Some are still outstanding for last year as well.

Linda Beaney

Great & Little Warley WI

As the December meeting is always taken over by our Christmas lunch, it has become our tradition to spend the November meeting thinking ahead and producing something practical with a seasonal theme. This time the focus was on snowmen. With much hilarity and most people taking part insisting that they were not in the least artistic, there was soon a display of almost thirty very handsome characters sitting on the table, waiting to be taken home. Our thanks go especially to Sue and Eileen for providing the necessary white socks, plastic bags, sand and decorations together with the expertise and patience to demonstrate and give help when needed.

The Great and Little Warley WI meet every second Tuesday at the Childerditch Village Hall between 2-4pm. Visitors and new members are always welcome. Please call Jenny on 220085 for more information.

Thanks

At the end of another year, the editorial team would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Great Warley Lychgate newsletter. Especially we thank our team of people who deliver it to all parts of the village: Angela James, Jenny and Fred Cannon, Sue White and Stewart Cameron, Eileen and David Fife, Janice and Lawrence Grundy and Len Fryatt. We need more articles and photos, so please keep them coming. Meanwhile, we wish you all a very happy Christmas.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

The Great Warley Warriors of the 1914 – 18 War

With the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme, we thought it would be interesting to have some historical information about those involved who came from Great Warley.

Thanks to the services of the people at Essex Reserve HQ at Warley, we have been able to find dates and places of our eight young men (KIA) killed in action, who fought in the Essex regiments.

These were as follows:

Philip Nicholls 1 st Essex KIA Gallipoli	7/5/15
Henry G. Tyler 4 th Essex KIA France	5/7/16
Frank Bannister 9 th Essex KIA Somme	8/7/16
William Hart 4 th Essex KIA France	5/7/16
John T. Drake 10 th Essex KIA France	20/9/16
Charles E. Drake 2 nd Essex Died of wounds, UK	23/2/17
William J. Hanch 2 nd Essex KIA France	14/4/17
Arthur Bridges 3 rd Essex Died at sea on HMS Transylvania	4/5/17

We certainly did not forget those young men, who still lie today in those foreign fields. They were remembered on Sunday 13th November, when the church was packed for a lovely service led by the Rev. Rob Binks, with Helen Burgess and David Fife in full voice, and with Colin Hawkins playing the organ. A wonderful troop of young boy and girl soldiers later gathered on the green on a sunny day, where two wreaths were laid.

*David M.W. Wellings, Royal Signals.
National Service in British Army of the Rhine,
1958 - 60, West Germany.*

Service of Remembrance at Great Warley Church

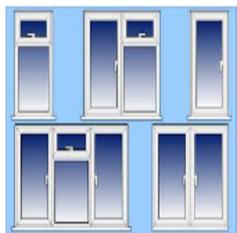
We were very pleased that the TA Cadets from Warley were again able to join us for the annual Remembrance Day service at St Mary's on Sunday 13 November. The church was full, and the two minutes silence was observed at 11am, with the Last Post and the Reveille being played on the organ by Colin Hawkins.

After the church service the cadets marched up to the war memorial on the village green. They were followed by most members of the congregation and other village residents joined us for a short ceremony on the green, during which two wreaths were laid by the cadets. A hymn was sung, accompanied on the accordion by Colin Hawkins. This was a very impressive occasion, blessed by bright sunny weather.



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DATE
USED:

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

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

Date	Time	Service
4 December	11.00am	Morning Prayer
11 December	8.00am 11.00am 6.30pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion Candlelit Carols
18 December	11.00am	Morning Prayer
24 December	5.00pm 11.30pm	Christingle Service Midnight Communion
25 December	10.30am	Holy Communion at Christ Church
1 January	11:00am	Morning Prayer
8 January	8.00am 11.00am	No Service Holy Communion
15 January	11.00am	Morning Prayer
22 January	11.00am	Morning Prayer with Baptism
29 January	11.00am	Holy Communion

Confirmation Service 2017

Following on from the very successful joint service at St. Mary's in October where we were joined by the folks from Christ Church Warley, our next joint Sunday service will be on Sunday 7th May, 10.30am at Christ Church - this will be for a Confirmation Service, led by Bishop John. If you would like to be Confirmed at this service please speak to Rev'd Rob, there will be some preparation get-togethers during the New Year for anyone who would like to be Confirmed and for anyone who would like to come along to find out about the significance of Baptism and Confirmation within the Christian faith.

Rev'd Rob

Christmas at St Mary's

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday 10th December at 10.00am. Please feel free to come and lend a hand. The main Christmas services for our church in Great Warley are listed below. Please put them in your diaries now.

Sunday 11th December 6.30pm

Candlelit Carol Service at which the Bravissima Choir will join us to make this a really special service. This choir has held two excellent concerts at St Mary's in the last two years, and we are delighted that they have offered to visit us again. This date is a week earlier than we normally hold our carol service and will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Saturday 24th December 5.00pm

Christingle Service. This is always popular with families.

Saturday 24th December 11.30pm

Candlelit midnight service for the start of Christmas Day. Members of the Christ Church congregation will again join us for this service.

Eileen Williams

We are sad to learn of the death of Eileen Williams, who used to live at Foxburrows in Beredens Lane. Her funeral service will be held at St Mary's on Wednesday, 7th December at 12 noon, and it will be followed by a burial in the churchyard where her husband John is buried. He died in May 2015.

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

CHURCH NEWS

Leaf Clearing in Great Warley Churchyard

An enthusiastic band of helpers, some from the Conservation Society and others from the church congregation, cleared a huge volume of leaves from the churchyard on the morning of Sat. 19th November. Many thanks to Phil Smith, Mike Camfield, Linda Beaney, Peter James, Stephen Brabner, Fiona Agassiz, Steve Crisp and David Hawthorne for taking part in this great effort. More leaves are falling, however, so there will be a second leaf clearing session on **Saturday 3rd December, 9.30am onwards**. Please, please come if you can – the more people that come, the faster it will be done. Coffee will be served!



Phil and Mike hard at work!



Peter, Linda and Steve doing a great job

St Mary's Churchyard

We are slowly trying to restore the beautiful grounds around Great Warley Church to their former glory.

We thank Daniel Binks for spending a large amount of time mowing between the graves, and to all the people who help to keep the churchyard tidy.

All planting and monuments associated with grave spaces are carefully regulated by the Parochial Church Council and the Chancellor of the Chelmsford Diocese.

Visitors and relatives are asked to refrain from installing fencing, edging, gravel or plastic flowers, as these are not permitted and are gradually being removed.

Applications for all monuments must be submitted in writing to the Parochial Church Council for approval.

Wedding

29 October - Jack Sims and Tamara Bliss
'Eternal God in holy marriage make your servants one'

Baptism

20th November - Felix James Bourne son of Iain and Zoe
'He is a new creation in Christ'



Rev'd Rob baptising Liliana, daughter of Karen and Mark on 18th September

DIARY DATES AND STORIES OF ELLEN WILLMOTT

Dates for your Diary

December

2 Friday 10-1pm: Sewing Bee at the Rectory Hall (Liz 07825 017056). We would like to welcome you to our group of sewers, knitters and crocheters who meet once each month at the Rectory Hall. £2 charge to cover costs.

2 Friday 7.30pm: GWCS Christmas Party at the Rectory Hall. BYO drinks £5 per person - all welcome. Contact Phil 226077 or Linda 231265.

3 Saturday 9.30am: Leaf clearing at St. Mary's followed by coffee.

10 Saturday 10am: Decorating St Mary's for Christmas. All help is gratefully received.

11 Sunday 6.30pm: Candlelit Carol service at St. Mary's with Bra-vissima. Followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

13 Tuesday 2pm: Great & Little Warley WI at Childerditch Village Hall

14 Wednesday 1pm: Ladies lunch at Masons. Contact Pat 220206.

24 Saturday 5pm: Christingle service at St. Mary's.

January

6 Friday 10-1pm: Sewing Bee at the Rectory Hall (Liz 07825 017056).

10 Tuesday 2pm: Great & Little Warley WI at Childerditch Village Hall

25 Wednesday 12.50pm: Ladies Lunch at Izumi (Pat 220206)

Stories of Ellen Willmott of Warley Place

Ellen Willmott was a famous Victorian and Edwardian gardener, and she was the last owner of Warley Place. She moved there with her parents in 1876 at the age of eighteen, and she died there in 1934. She had been a very, very wealthy woman, but she spent all of her money, and ended up penniless and slightly eccentric. Many stories have been told about her, and here are some of the best-known ones.

'Miss Willmott's Ghost' is the nickname for a species of sea holly, *eringeum giganteum*. The story is that

when Ellen Willmott visited the gardens of her friends in the Royal Horticultural Society, she used to take some seeds of this plant in her pocket and sprinkle them in the herbaceous borders when nobody was looking. The plant, which is blue-grey in colour and can become quite tall, grew up and flowered the next year or even several years later, to the great surprise (and perhaps annoyance) of the garden owners.

Ellen Willmott used to visit London often, travelling by train from Brentwood station. One night, towards the end of her life, she was returning from a grand function and walking back up the hill from the station to Warley Place when she sensed that someone was following her. Fearing that she could be mugged, she took off her tiara and hid it in the hedge. Next day she sent her butler, James Robinson, to retrieve the tiara.

A third story also occurred towards the end of Ellen Willmott's life, when she was caught shop-lifting in the Galleries Lafayette, a smart London shop. She was by this time becoming a bit vague and eccentric. When she was apprehended, she was told that she could make one phone call, and she phoned Queen Mary at Buckingham Palace! When the police said they would let her go, she insisted on spending a night in the cells, because she wanted to be treated like everybody else.

Ellen Willmott was a strict employer, and she only employed male gardeners. One of her gardeners asked her for the day off one Saturday so that he could get married. She refused permission, but he took the day off anyway. When he returned to work on the Monday, Miss Willmott sacked him.

Although Ellen Willmott was so strict with her male gardeners, she was quite indulgent with their children. The children used to scatter daffodil bulbs at random in the fields around Warley Place, and the gardeners had to follow along behind and plant them where they fell. These were the origins of many of the daffodils which are so abundant at Warley Place every spring.

Many stories about this amazing lady can be found in her biography 'Miss Willmott of Warley Place' by Audrey le Lievre. It is available from Waterstones in Brentwood, published by Faber Finds, and it costs £15.00. It can also be borrowed from Brentwood Library.

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