



GREAT WARLEY LYCHGATE YOUR VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

February - March 2024

EDITORIAL TEAM:

Liz Francis
Fiona Agassiz
Helen Burgess
Linda Beaney

STOP PRESS

Next digital edi- tion:

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Please send any
contributions by **23
March 2024** by
email to
[GreatWarley
Lychgate@
yahoo.co.uk](mailto:GreatWarleyLychgate@yahoo.co.uk)

HARD COPY LYCHGATE

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last printed copy
of the Lychgate.
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the above address
or subscribing to
the newsletter at
the St Mary's
website
No. 100

100th Edition of the Lychgate Newsletter!

This is the 100th edition of the Great Warley Lychgate newsletter in its present form. It is produced and edited jointly by the Great Warley Conservation Society and Great Warley Church, and it is printed six times a year, at the start of the even months.

The first edition was printed in black and white in August 2007, with Gill Clifton as editor. It featured our newest and youngest councillor, William Lloyd, on the front page. It also included a description of the Village Fayre held in May 2007, an article about the Conservation Society by its then Chairman Len Fryatt, an article about John Cannell's first Warley Place novel entitled 'The Wall', and a description of the Headley Common Trust by Michael Taylor, then Chair of the Headley Common Trustees.

Since 2007 the Lychgate has been delivered free to every property in the village apart from those who have opted for email. The seven family deliverers: Angela James, Sue White and Stu Cameron, Eileen and David Fife, Janice and Lawrence Grundy, Jenny and Fred Cannon, Len Fryatt, and Fiona Agassiz have remained the same for all 100 editions, which is remarkable. We thank them all most sincerely.

The future of the Great Warley Lychgate Newsletter

The 100th edition of this bi-monthly newsletter seems to be the right time for a change. More and more village residents are opting for email copies, so this will be the LAST edition to be delivered to every house for which we have no email address.

If you already receive the Lychgate by email, there will be no change at all. It will still be sent to you just as always by our editor. If you would like to start to receive it by email, please send your address to me at fionaagassiz@hotmail.com, or go to stmarygreatwarley.weebly.com and enter your email address in the pop up box.

IF YOU DO NOT REQUEST AN EMAIL COPY OR HAVE NOT ALREADY SUBSCRIBED TO OUR MAILING LIST, THIS WILL BE THE LAST LYCHGATE YOU WILL RECEIVE.

A few copies will be printed by the editorial team, and these will be available in the church porch. If you have a particular need for a printed copy, perhaps because you are not on email, please let Fiona Agassiz know on 01277 230436.

Village News, Diary Dates & Sponsors

Warley Place

The Warley Place Spring Bulb Spectacular weekends will start on Saturday 24 February and continue every weekend, including four days over Easter, until Sunday 7 April.

Come and enjoy a walk through our carpets of snowdrops, followed by our fantastic show of daffodils. You can of course walk round this special Essex Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve any day of the week, but dogs are not allowed.

The rota of volunteers is now being drawn up, and new people are needed to help with car parking or with welcoming visitors, so please contact me on fionaagassiz@hotmail.com if you feel that you could help, even just for one session. It would be so good to have more volunteers from the village.

The re-stabilising of the Conservatory is now almost finished, although the final lime mortar pointing has been held up a bit because of the cold weather. We hope it will be ready in time for the spring bulb flowering season.

GWCS

The Spring meeting of the Great Warley Conservation Society will take place on Thursday 16th May at the Rectory Hall commencing at 8pm.

Consideration is to be given to the potential of widening the focus and remit of the organisation to, of course, continue with the main aims of monitoring proposed developments, infrastructure and transport proposals to protect against negative impact on the environment and our community's health and welfare. As the Village has no community or civic organisation should the remit be widened to encompass additional community concerns?

Please do try and make the meeting to add your voice to the debate about where the Society's future aims should be and to debate our current strengths and weaknesses.

Village Litter Pick

The next community litter pick will take place on Saturday 2nd March. As usual, meet at The Thatchers Arms at 10am to pick up hi-viz vests, tongs and sacks and to agree and/ or be dropped off at the locations that unfortunately urgently need targetting.

Village Summer Picnic

Don't forget that following the success of the Jubilee and Coronation get togethers we're having a Summer community picnic at the cricket field on Monday May 27th May. 2-4 pm approx

Make sure the date is firmly in your calendar and do please let Linda (07957 258280) or Helen (01277 227557) know if you can help on the day.

**The Thatcher's Arms Public House,
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ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

Date	Time	Service
4 February	11.30	Morning Prayer
11 February	11.30	Holy Communion
14 February	20.15	Ash Wednesday Service Christ Church
18 February	11.30	Holy Communion
25 February	11.30	Morning Prayer
3 March	11.30	Holy Communion
10 March	11.30	Morning Prayer Mothering Sunday Posies
17 March	11.30	Holy Communion
24 March	11.30	Morning Prayer & distribution of palms
31 March	11.30	Holy Communion

Christmas at St. Mary's

First many hands decorated the church, fitted the candles, put up the Christmas Tree and changed the altar frontal to show the Nativity. Grateful thanks go to Mike and Pat, Debbie, Ruth, Jenny, Helen, and the Van der Lith family. Then, 100 plus people joined Bra-vissima who arrived (warmly dressed) to lead our magical candlelit 9 lessons and Carols service, followed by Mulled wine and mince pies in the Rectory Hall. On Christmas Eve we had a thoughtful candlelit midnight service



led by Rev Sue Goldsmith, attended by more than 40 people. Finally we celebrated Epiphany (the coming of the Wise Men and spreading the gospel to the world).

Memorial Service

12th January - Memorial Service for Stephen McAllister following Funeral service at the Herongate Wood Cemetery.

Where are we with the appointment of a new incumbent?

We are getting there! We had 7 applicants for the post of vicar of Christchurch and St Mary's (Amazing) We have short-listed 3 candidates, and will be interviewing them on 5th February. So, by the time of the next issue of the Great Warley Lychgate, hopefully we will be announcing a new vicar. Please think of Helen, Annie, the two Christchurch Churchwardens, Archdeacon Jonathan, and Rural Dean Rev Andy Smith as we meet.

Dates for your Diary

February

Friday 2 February 10am - Sewing Bee at the Rectory Hall. Liz 07825 017056

Wednesday 28 February 1pm - Ladies lunch at the Thatchers. Ann Hill 01277 214886

March

Friday 1 March 10am - Sewing Bee at the Rectory Hall. Liz 07825 017056

Saturday 2 March 10am - Village litter pick. Meet at the Thatchers Arms at 10am.

Wednesday 27 March 1pm - Ladies lunch at the Thatchers. Ann Hill 01277 214886

Printing of the Lychgate

We have been lucky enough to have Tony (formerly of Brentwood Community Print) to arrange the printing of our newsletters since the closure of BCP. We would like to thank Tony and recommend him for any of your printing needs.

Email: tonymerrittdesign@gmail.com

Church wardens:	Stephen Brabner	07764 203725	stephengbrabner@gmail.com
	Helen Burgess	01277 227557	Helen.burgess1@gmail.com
For visits and guided tours	Fiona Agassiz	01277 230436	Fionaagassiz@hotmail.com
Church Address	St Mary The Virgin	Great Warley Street	CM13 3JP

STEVE McALLISTER RIP

Steve McAllister RIP

Steve McAllister was a very well known figure in the village. We remember him with great affection, sitting outside the Thatchers pub whenever the weather was warm enough, reading his newspaper, chatting to everyone and watching the world go by. He was usually smoking his pipe until that had to be given up. He was always cheerful, and he had a lovely welcoming smile. When the weather was poor he was just as cheerful, sitting inside the pub.

Stephen Ian McAllister was born in Barking on 20th January 1947. The family lived in Hornchurch when he was young, and he went to Hornchurch Grammar School. After leaving school he worked in Carnaby Street. He became involved in buying and selling clothing, and he worked in several markets including Petticoat Lane. He had a van which was adapted for hanging clothes.

Later Steve worked for a transport company, and he then set up his own transport business, with his own lorries. In the 1980s he started his own development business, taking options on plots of land for future development, obtaining planning permissions, etc. He was reliable and he gave people confidence, and his opinions were usually correct. His son Daniel still carries on with this business.

Steve married Christine in 1967 when he was only 20 years old. They had three children, Sophie, Kate and Daniel. In 2001 they came to live at Blake House in Great Warley, just across the top of Dark Lane from the Thatchers.

Steve adored his children, and he had a huge influence on them. He encouraged them to learn all sorts of skills, and he always made them feel important. He taught them to stand up for themselves.

After the move to Great Warley, Steve took a great interest in the affairs of the village. He organised and paid for the cutting of the

grass on the village green, making sure in particular that it was always cut just before the annual Service of Remembrance each November. He also opposed the cutting down of the chestnut trees outside Chestnut Tree Cottage, and those trees are still there.

In 2018 Steve developed throat cancer. From then onwards he was only able to take food through a stomach tube, and he was only able to take a few sips of drink. He lost a great amount of weight, but he remained amazingly cheerful throughout all of his suffering.

Steve died on 12 December 2023 in Basildon hospital. He was buried in the green cemetery at Herongate on 12 January 2024, and his burial was immediately followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's church in Great Warley. The church was packed for the service, which was conducted by David Tee, and it was followed by a packed reception at the Thatchers.

We will all miss Steve enormously, and we send our sympathy to Christine and to his children and grandchildren. Thank you, Steve, for being such a great village character.



COMMUNITY PLANTING DAY AT HOLE FARM

Community Planting Day at Hole Farm

The 2nd December was cold. Very cold!

Notwithstanding the inclement weather, a small band of brave volunteers assembled in the barn at Hole Farm to take part in a day of community tree planting. The group, marked by the presence of employees from firms engaged on the project (and by the absence of residents from Great Warley) were briefed professionally by representatives of Forestry England, supplied with appropriate equipment and set to work.

The goal: to plant 800 trees by the end of the day.

I quickly counted about 20 in the group. OK so 800 divided by 20 meant 40 trees per person. So, two hours before lunch and two hours after implied 10 trees per hour per person. One tree every 6 minutes. Doable!

Bear in mind though 150,000 trees are planned of which 80,000 have been planted to date so expect a few more volunteer planting days to address the remaining 70,000. Hopefully in better weather conditions!

The trees being planted include black poplar, oak, hazel and hornbeam to take account of site geology, soil condition and climate. To orchestrate the volunteers' efforts, planting spots were colour coded so that clusters of like species formed part of an overall design. The saplings had certainly been well-nurtured and prepared in nurseries in readiness for planting.

The 100-hectare site is being developed as part of National Highways Lower Thames Crossing Project and will provide a mosaic of habitats comprising ponds, wildflowers, a network of paths for walkers, cyclists and horse riders and of course extensive woodland which will all assist with climate change and preservation of wildlife. It is an impres-

sive project for sure and appears to be well-managed.

But for those local residents who have enjoyed the view over undulating arable land to Great Warley Church, one can understand those who feel reticent about a 100-space car park off a busy Great Warley Street and a 'grab-as-you-go' cafe on what is essentially a rural site. With the local area under constant threat from the increasing volume of traffic arising from commercial and other developments every initiative has to be evaluated with caution and the implications factored into the decision-making.

But in the end, rural development is probably better than urban sprawl even if it does mean planting trees in freezing cold weather.

Fred Cannon



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VILLAGE PHOTOS & READERS ARTICLE



The Great Warley Ladies lunch club Christmas dinner at the Thatchers proved to be very popular!



Beautiful Christmas Flowers at St. Mary's



Scaffolding removal at Warley Place



Photograph taken by John Attiwell at Warley Place on 26 January which is very early in the year for a Red Admiral

Brentwood, oh lovely Brentwood

I have learned so much history about Great Warley and Essex since moving here in 2009, and no doubt you may have too. From the famous to the infamous, places of pivotal events and buildings, the cathedral and churches of varying denominations, the pilgrims, country parks, nature reserves, the vast rural spaces for all to enjoy the great outdoors, animal sanctuaries/farms and not forgetting tasty tea-rooms and eateries for all to enjoy a day or two at.

If you haven't already been to, another interesting place well worth a visit is The Brentwood Museum in Lorne Road, off Warley Hill, which is run by the Curator Mr John Fryer and his team of volunteers and entrance is free. The museum is based in the Sexton's Cottage and houses a rich history of how local people lived and worked in local industries, with posters, displays and artefacts dating back to the world wars. The exhibitions change yearly from 1st April to 31st October so there's always something new to see and this year's theme is about travel and features a now long gone local airport with flights to Paris and also taking a nostalgic glimpse at a local outdoor swimming pool, which is also now long gone. Does anyone remember?

Learn more about Brentwood's rich local history, future talks and events at:-

Brentwoodmuseum.org.uk and style your next adventure.

Susan Montanjees
Great Warley