

WALTHAM WINS THE CUP!!!

The Waltham Junior Football Team has had a very trying season this year, losing virtually every match after joining the Leicestershire League in a Division that has proved just too tough to crack from a standing start. However, their commitment has never flagged as they turned out week after week determined to make a breakthrough.

That strength and effort has now been officially recognised by the award of the John Peet Memorial Trophy for the team showing the most commitment in the entire Junior League. As this includes all 170 Under 13,14 and 15 teams in the county, this is an incredible achievement. And a big bronze trophy is theirs to remind them of it!

STOP PRESS The team has just gained its first League victory, 6-3 against Western Olympic from Newtown Lindford, with three more games to go to the end of the season. Lets hope it's the start of great things to come when they re-start next season in Division 'D'. Brilliantly done everyone!

JUNIOR CRICKET GOES STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Les and Wendy Firth have bid a fond farewell to the Waltham Junior Cricket Club this year, having bought a large guest-house in Mablethorpe. They thank everyone who has helped set the teams up over the last 18 months, especially their sponsors who helped the club financially, and wish the club the very best for the future.

Their good work has been taken over by Chris Dixon (tel. 852352) and Neil Jaggard (tel. 566005) who completed their coaching courses earlier this year. The season has been long underway already, with regular Sunday net practice at JohnFerneley High School under John Lincoln, a professional coach from Leicestershire.

All juniors from age 6 to 15 are very welcome to join and should contact Chris or Neil on the numbers above for further details. The club shows every sign of going from success to success this season after the great start that Les and Wendy have given it – we wish them every success at “Greyburns”, 78/80 Victoria Road, Mablethorpe, Lincs. (Old friends always welcome!).



WOTWATA

Waltham on the Wolds and Thorpe Arnold News

Issue 4 May 2001

Village Appraisal Launched for Parish

See inside for details of a survey that captures the past and present of a village and helps to plan for its future.

Hazel Fish of the Leicestershire Rural Community

Council gives an introductory talk at a

Parish Meeting, Tuesday May 15th 7.30

Waltham Methodist Chapel

Village web-site goes live!

Walthamonthewolds.com

WALTHAM FILM CLUB LAUNCHED

George Bateman got the Film Club off to a great start with a screening of the Oscar winning epic “Gladiator” last month. The 12ft x 9ft screen was just the right size for the Village Hall and George’s professional projection equipment performed flawlessly .

The next show is the family film

STUART LITTLE

with two screenings at **6pm** and **8pm** on **Tuesday 8th May.**

Parish Council News -

LETTER FROM THE HOME FRONT



There are some big changes brewing for the village currently. Some, like the traffic-calming scheme, are largely decided bar minor details and we await implementation later in the year. Some have been around for a while and are still hotly debated, like the affordable housing scheme on Bescaby Lane, which Peter Holbrook reports on in this issue. Others, like the village hall development plans, have been around for longer and have been through several phases seeking funding.

The Village Hall Management Committee is in charge of these plans but the Parish Council is part of the development team and is providing initial funds, which help to secure further funding commitments from the Borough and County Councils and other sources. After all, if the village isn't interested in putting money into the scheme, why should we expect other bodies to take it seriously?

This is the main reason that the Parish Precept element of our current Council Tax Bill has gone up this year. The total Precept has risen (for the first time in many years) from £9000 to £12000, an increase that averages out at about £8 extra per household for the year. This enables us to build up reserves to support the village hall development proposals.

Changes in Local Government organisation are also in the air. Such things may seem too remote to have anything to do with us, but current proposals could be of real significance for rural parishes. In addition, a process called a Village Appraisal is available for villagers to identify for themselves current needs and future changes for their communities. So please read the articles on pages 4 & 5 and see if you can help take control of the destiny of your village.

With warmest regards,

Peter Smith
Parish Council Chairman

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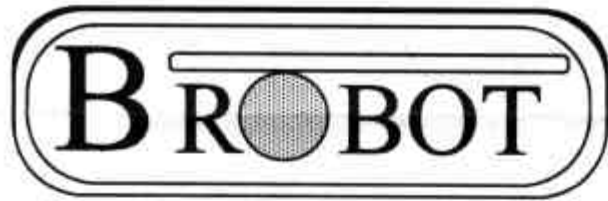
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Parish Council News -

WALTHAM WEB SITE

GOES LIVE.

Supported by the Parish Council the Waltham web site was launched on May 1st.

See the 'live' village diary where you can see future village events- and add your own—on line.

Free 'wanted' and 'for sale' section.

Visit the 'noticeboard' for the latest comments on the Clerk's hat and Cllr Holbrook's bicycle.

Download the latest Parish Council Minutes.

And much much more- send us details of your club, society or business activity.

walthamonthewolds.com.

THE FUTURE OF GOVERNMENT FOR VILLAGES

Whitehall is once again toying with the organisation of Local Government, and it seems increasingly likely that Regional Government, which has already arrived in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, will spread to the English Regions too.

You may not be aware that we already come under the East Midlands Development Agency, which is in effect a practice run at a regional chamber of government with a sizeable budget and range of powers. Our County Councillor, Byron Rhodes, is a member of the Regional Assembly, based in Nottingham with a number of outposts, one of which is in the Melton Council offices.

The intention is also to rationalise the layers of Local Government. Whether this means the abolition of District or County Councils is anyone's guess. In the tradition of the Great British Compromise, it will probably mean a merging and redistribution of the two. However, to make the system work, Parish Councils would take over some of the responsibilities of District Councils (if you are confused, I should explain that Melton Borough Council is a District Council!).

It is always important for Parish Councils to know and understand local needs and issues, and if Whitehall is serious about increasing their role and responsibilities, it becomes still more so.

Traditionally this has been done through personal contact and village meetings on single issues as they arise. But now, Leicestershire has introduced a village survey that captures the present state and future needs of villages, which goes a long way to filling this gap. Please read on about Village Appraisals

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VILLAGE APPRAISAL AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

. The purpose of a village appraisal is to discover what people want for the place where they live work by gathering facts and opinions on a range of issues. It allows a village to take stock of its assets, deficiencies and needs, and also recognise what makes it distinctive and unique. Staff from the Leicestershire Rural Community Council (LRCC) provide independent support and advice— an appraisal-

- ? Gives everyone a chance to have their say on local issues.
- ? Identifies potential threats to village facilities and services.
- ? Identifies what should be conserved and what needs to be improved or changed.
- ? Identifies the need for new initiatives for groups or sections of the community.
- ? Can be used as evidence to influence Local Government, the utilities, statutory authorities and other decision makers.
- ? Provides a policy statement for the Parish Council in making decisions e.g. on planning applications, promoting initiatives and generally trying to get things done and make things happen. And of course, stopping things from happening too, when appropriate.

At a Public Meeting on Tuesday May 15th at 7:30 in Waltham Methodist Chapel, Hazel Fish of the LRCC, who provides the back up to Appraisal Groups, will give an introductory talk. The intention is to form a Steering Group of at least ten people to design and carry out the Appraisal.

Ten is a good number to avoid overburdening individuals and we already have a number of volunteers (But if we cant get enough, the Appraisal simply wont happen!) A Key issue to resolve will be how to handle the two villages, Do we have one or two groups running one Parish Appraisal or two Village Appraisals?

So do come along from both villages with your ideas, whether you want to be in the Stering Group(s) or not.

To advertise, call John Kimber on 01664 464746

HOORAY FOR HERITAGE!

Elsewhere in this issue you will find a report from Alan Luntley, who has kindly volunteered for the role of Tree Warden for the Parish under a scheme fostered by the County Council. The Council is now also setting up a network of Heritage Wardens across Leicestershire and Rutland, to work within parishes to protect the local environment, including geology, nature conservation and archaeology.

The wardens will help to ensure that locally significant sites are recorded and protected, and will be provided with the latest guidance and up to date legislation on the issues involved. They will have access to a wide range of information and expertise for their own use and for villagers to tap into.

Training will be provided to give them the skills and knowledge needed, and the network of wardens will be fully supported by the Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service and will receive monthly fact sheets and quarterly newsletters.

Contact Peter (464357) or the Museums Service direct on 0116 267 1377 for more information.

RURAL TRANSPORT OPPORTUNITIES

The County Council is running a scheme that offers a grant of up to £10,000 over three years to assist public transport schemes in rural areas. It has been used, for example, to subsidise village mini-bus or village taxi service schemes for the housebound or carless, but is open for offers on any appropriate ideas.

If you have any ideas of benefit to the village and would like to know more about how to put them into action, please contact John on 464746.

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Future Events

8th May	Cinema Evening	Village Hall	6.00 & 8.00pm
12th May	Gala Race Night	Village Hall	7.00pm
15th May	Village Appraisal	Methodist Chapel	7.00pm
2nd June	Coffee Morning & Plants Sale	Methodist Chapel	10.00-12.00am-
1st July	Open Gardens Day.		

Printed and Published by Waltham & Thorpe Arnold Parish Council
 43 High Street Waltham on the Wolds.

Parish Council News -

YUCK! - PAVEMENTS CONTINUED.....

My diatribe against the dim-witted minority of dog owners who can't control their animals or clear up after, whilst out walking their own village streets doesn't seem to have had much impact, as they continue in their thoughtless determination to pollute their own immediate environment. Talk about fouling your own nest!

As reported in the last WOTWATA, this issue is the single biggest cause of complaint to Parish Councillors. It is not a joke and we take it very seriously. We are purchasing some dog mess bins for the two villages and making arrangements with Melton Council for their regular emptying, in order to encourage owners to take the issue equally seriously. Please use them when they go up, and make sure that children also know what to do when out walking the dog.

COUNTRYSIDE ALLIANCE -STEVE WINDOS.

Amateur runners - the famous one comes next - have raised over £50,000 pounds for the Alliance form sponsorship in the London Marathon. Those of you who don't feel up to running 26 miles can take part in a new charity road in London, 'Run London 10k' (6.2 miles by my calculator). Zola Budd will be leading the Alliance team, which is raising funds jointly with the 'National Farmers Union Supporting Farmers in Crisis', given the devastating effect of Foot and Mouth on rural communities. Those who want to walk/jog the event should call the race hotline on 01538 70 33 33. The race starts at the Hard Rock Cafe on Piccadilly and finishes opposite the London Eye. There are also details on the race web site at www.british10k.org. When leaving your details, please specify that you wish to run on behalf of the 'Countryside Team'.

For anyone affected by the Foot and Mouth crisis (farmers and others) the Citizens Advice Bureau have set up a confidential freephone hotline for financial advice on 0800 138 1647.

The Alliance has a new web site, <http://www.countryside-alliance.org>. It has all the latest updates on news stories, plus direct links to Foresight, Gone Fishing, Campaign for Hunting, Education and Alliance Policy.

Thorpe Arnold Action.....

PAUL JONES SCOOPS

KEN CHAMBERLAIN

Regular listeners of Radio Leicester's Colin Green's 'Green Light Programme' on a Saturday morning will have no doubt heard that last month's winner of the Ken Chamberlain Award was local man Paul Jones from Thorpe Arnold. Paul, owner of Pauls Soyfoods Ltd, situated on Snow Hill and based in Melton for over 20 years, was nominated having recently acquired a mobile oven which he bought over from Germany.

The competition recognises positive environmental initiatives and Paul's mobile oven clearly meets the criteria as it combines a number of useful ideas to teach us about the environment. For example, it is made of natural materials, i.e. metal, brick and glass, so it is 'appropriate technology'. It is fuelled by renewable energy in the form of waste wood and as a fuel, wood is 'carbon neutral', as opposed to fossil fuels which release carbon from the earth's carbon bank. In addition, operating the oven demonstrates food skills that have been largely forgotten with the industrialisation of food and farming - bread making - for which Paul uses only organic cereals from local and family based producers and the milling services of a local windmill. Paul's whole business aim is to supply and produce fresh, quality, organic food and where possible to use local suppliers, something he feels is particularly important in strengthening the local food economy. The competition is sponsored by Severn Trent, the Leicester Mercury and BBC Radio Leicester and his prize was a cheque for £100 which Paul kindly chose to donate to St. Mary the Virgin's Bell Appeal. At the end of the year the 12 monthly winners will come together for a further award of £1,000 awarded to the overall best project or individual enterprise - so we wish Paul every success.

N.B.

If you would like to see Paul and his mobile oven in action please support our Village Fete on Saturday 14th July - all proceeds to the Bell Appeal!

It remains to be seen, of course, whether the new equipment, which STW initially said it could not afford (and. was not needed) is actually fitted and whether it makes any real difference.

So, on the Chlorine front, I think. I had a measure of success.

Sadly, I had some thing less than that regarding the matter of supply reliability. STW admits to all of the failures I had reported, admits that it has all been totally unacceptable, but has assured me that it is confident that it has overcome all the difficulties of the past since its pipe replacement programme was completed last June. Unfortunately, it couldn't really account for all the failures we have experienced since then, but it is working hard and is sure that things will improve even further in due course (while I do not feel like being charitable, I freely admit that there are less water failures now than there have been in recent years).

STW has consistently argued that the problems revolve around the electricity supply and that moot of Waltham's water failures are the fault of East Midland Electricity because, after all, it is not the fault of STW if its pumps fail because there is no electricity. I have consistently argued, as have EME, that it is STW's responsibility and that the pumps should be fitted with automatic emergency generators, since water is an essential public commodity.

STW has advised that in this part of the East Midlands, it has some 63 pumps in operation, but that those at Waltham are the only ones that give regular problems and that for the company to instal emergency generators at Waltham and not at the others would be difficult to justify. That argument holds water no better than a newborn puppy and I countered that if Waltham's pumps are the only one's causing difficulties, common sense suggests that an exception be made at our site. STW refuse to accept this because it would cost £80000 - £100000 to instal (the real reason) and because, in its opinion, the benefit would not justify the investment. Decoded, the company means that the residents of Waltham do not merit a really reliable water supply because we are just not important enough in the overall scheme of things.

I pointed out that, according to its Annual Report & Accounts, STW's profits have been so substantial that, in the last ten years, it has given its shareholders in excess of £2 billion in dividends - a sum that even OFWAT is on record as saying is excessive. I also pointed out that STW, in 1999-2000, according to OFWAT, provided more customers with a substandard service than previously. All to no avail. STW do not like to recognise, far less acknowledge, unpalatable facts that contradict its cozy view of its performance and no response was offered.

OFWAT, while sympathetic, merely advised that it has no authority to direct STW to do anything. Apparently, it can only offer opinions to the water companies under its aegis although it assures me that these are usually accepted (whatever that means).

Your Clerk has again raised this matter with Severn Trent, who still say there is no real problem. If you think there is or could attend a public meeting with Severn Trent let me know - 464746.

In part two of WOTWATAS exclusive serialization Water Woes Glen Marlow continues with 'Excuses'

The excuses' that I was offered over the years for the continual water failures in Waltham included the following:

- a. Wild animals enter the system, and adversely affect the controls.
- b. Lightening affects the telemetry system (it does).
- c. The 'pump' at Waltham is set to automatically shut off at midnight to save electricity and, in consequence, if the gravity operated water tower is emptied before .6.00am and the pump fails to cut in, the tank cannot fill with water until the pump is manually switched on (more about all this later).
- d. The pump is so sensitively controlled that 'anything' can cause it to switch off, necessitating manual switching on.
- e. The telemetry system is worn out and needs replacing, but the £22000 necessary is not available.
- f. That there is a 'water gate' somewhere just outside Waltham and this is the real cause of all the problems.
- g. Fresh water shrimps breed in the underground reservoir at Waltham and these clog the system and cause problems.
- h. The water pump/s are not powerful enough to cope with supplying water to the thirteen villages they service.
- i. The electricity supply is unreliable in Leicestershire and Se vern Trent has no control over this.

Throughout that entire period, I was continually advised that this village receives its water from the water tower (it does not).

As the months trickled past and the stream of letters flowed back and forth, STW's facade of confidence began to wilt under the strain of repeated questions from myself, echoed by OFWAT, (I am under no illusions that I could have conducted this struggle even as far as I did without the intervention of the regulatory body. It's one thing for a private public utility to brush off its customers, but quite another to ignore its regulator - up to a point, at least).

The first sign of victory came when, after it had argued for seven years that there was nothing wrong with the taste of Waltham's drinking water -and that it was Euro approved, blah, blah, STW finally admitted last August that, after all, the water was over Chlorinated and nasty to drink and that, after all it would spend £60000 installing equipment to ensure that the Chlorine is reduced to a level where it is not only safe to consume, but pleasant to drink. Waltham is now scheduled, I am advised, to benefit from this from around .Easter 2001. Just think about it. No longer will you have to buy bottled water at an expense of hundreds of pounds per year in order to quench your thirst without feeling that you are lowering the pool levels at Waterfield.

Forthcoming Events in Thorpe Arnold

Sat 23rd June - Barn Dance & Hog Roast at Tumbledown Farm - Tickets - £10.00 - contact Andrea Lovegrove.

Sun 24th June - Garden Walk & Cream Teas - contact Maureen Williamson - Tel. M.M. 852880.

Fri 13th July - 7.00pm onwards - Opening of the Art Exhibition & Hand Bell Recital - Tickets - £5.00. **Sat 14th July** - 10.00am 'til 4.00pm - Village Fete, Art Exhibition & Open Gardens - **a great day out for all the family!**

Sun 15th July - 10.00am - Morning Service
- 11.00am - Art Exhibition in Church & Cream Teas.
- 5.00pm - Open Air Songs of Praise.

**For more information on any of the above events contact:
Andrea Lovegrove - Tel. M.M. 562595**

Regular Meetings.

Headstart Nursery School - Mon to Fri from 9.30am to 12.30pm for children 2!/2yrs. to 5 yrs. - in Thorpe Arnold Village Hall - contact Jane Jenkins - Tel. M.M. 501653.

Parents & Toddler Service - Thursdays at St. Mary the Virgin Church, Thorpe Arnold from 1.45pm to 2.45pm.

Trail Blazers - for children aged 7 - 11 yrs. meetings are held on a Thursday 6.00 - 7.30pm (during term time) in Thorpe Arnold Village Hall - contact Catherine Shenton - Tel. M.M. 565153.

Village Hall - Available for parties, meetings, etc. only £7.00 per hour -to book contact - Andrea Lovegrove.

Useful Contacts -

Village Hall - Andrea Lovegrove - Tel. M.M. 562595 Parish Council - David Lovegrove - Tel. M.M. 562128

TREE WARDEN REPORT –Alan Luntley.

TREES AND THE LAW

The law relating to trees is varied and can be complex. These notes are intended to provide awareness of the most commonly encountered issues. Individual situations will probably require specific advice and therefore possible



TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS (TPOs) are used to protect selected trees whose removal would have significant impact on the environment and its enjoyment by the public. The practical effect of a TPO is to prohibit felling, pruning, lopping and uprooting of trees without the consent of the Local Planning Authority (LPA) – Melton Borough Council Planning Department. The TPO is a legal instrument issued by the LPA, when the tree is considered to be in danger. The landowner must be provided with a copy of the TPO and the tree identified on a map. Normal planning type consultation and notification takes place.

In order to carry out work on a tree protected by a TPO the landowner or occupier must apply in writing to the LPA setting out the details of tree work they wish to carry out and stating reasons. No work on a tree can be commenced until written permission has been granted and then strict adherence to the conditions is required. Working on a protected tree without consent is an offence and it is open to the LPA to prosecute.

Unsafe Trees – No consent is required for the felling, pruning, lopping or uprooting of a dead or dying tree or a tree which has become dangerous, even though it may be covered by a TPO or in a Conservation Area. Low branches may be removed if causing a hazard to pedestrians and/or road users. The recommended clearance is 2.4M (8ft) over the foot-path and 5.2M (17ft) over the highway.

However, for all “unsafe trees”, unless the danger is imminent, the LPA should be given five day’s notice before work commences. Proof may be required regarding the condition of the tree; therefore prior consultation with the LPA is encouraged. Any person found guilty of cutting down or otherwise destroying a tree protected by a TPO may be liable to a fine of up to £20,000 per tree. Other damage to a protected tree incurs a lesser fine.

There are at present only six trees in Waltham having TPOs, two in one property on Melton Road and four in one property on the High Street. The LPA have no record of any protected trees in Thorpe Arnold.

To be continued.....

PARISH COUNCIL **GARDEN COMPETITION.**

Once again the Parish Council is sponsoring the Waltham & Thorpe Arnold best kept garden competition.

This year there will be two classes, Large gardens and Small Gardens with valuable cash prizes for the winner and runner up in each category.

There are no entry fees and there is no need to complete an entry form. Just keep your garden immaculate and the anonymous judges will surely spot the winners.

For more details contact Cllr Spencer—(563297)

MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS

A new mobile library containing over 3000 items is set to visit Waltham on Thorpe Arnold as this issue goes to press.

The new Library is larger, longer, has air conditioning, and disabled access.

Thorpe Arnold—fortnightly Thursday 4.40-4.30pm starting April 24th.

Waltham fortnightly starting April 30th 10.40-1.00pm— see noticeboard and web site for itinerary details.

AFFORDABLE

HOUSING

THE LATEST VIEW



A special update by
Councillor Holbrook
(Parish Council Vice Chairman)

To keep you all informed of the present position. The following are issues still being sorted out with the Melton Borough Council—Planning Dept & Housing Dept. as well as the Nottingham Community Housing Association, & G C Associates. if this project is to be to the benefit of our village.

- 1 The Conditions of Shared Ownership and the need for these houses.
2. Facilities for the disabled and older people (how many bungalows)
3. Conditions in the 106 agreement which is endeavouring to ensure that this development is for the benefit of our village and the immediate surrounding areas.

These are the points raised in our own village survey.

It must be right in all aspects

News from the Village Hall

Recently I was looking through old Village Hall papers. They made interesting reading. The earliest paper referred to the conveyance in 1922 of the land on which the present hall stands from the Duke of Rutland (Henry John Brinsley) to three others: Revd Bertell Smith, John Doubleday and William Dunmore. These three were the first trustees of the Village Hall.

Just over thirty years later the Revd Smith was the only trustee still living. He conveyed the land and hall to a group of villagers who became the managing trustees responsible for the day to day running of the Village Hall, and a year later the land and hall were vested in the Official Trustee of Charitable Lands of the Charity Commission. This vesting of the land and property in the Official Trustee overcame the need to create a new conveyance every time the trustees changed.

These first managing trustees and hence the first Committee members, included Harold Lord and Jean Hurton: both well known to us all and still active in the village.

The Village Hall was originally known as, and perhaps officially still is, the Waltham Village Institute.

It is good to feel that one is carrying on an enterprise for the good of the community which began many years ago. Hopefully we shall be able to pass on to future trustees a viable enterprise and a facility which meets the needs of the village.

Rummaging further, the minutes of the committee meeting of 17 March 1954 include, "The tenders for the new village hall were opened, the lowest being Messrs. W Geeson & Son in the sum of £1,509.15s.10d." I wish, I wish

We are making progress towards the target of £325,000 for our development. Next issue we should have some hard news for you.

Please support
our

Gala Race Night

in the Village Hall on Saturday 12 May at 7.00 pm
Tickets £5.00 cover admission and a fish, chicken or vegetarian and
chip supper

Tickets from Ron (464441) or Pat at The Cottage Salon (464821)

WALTHAM **PARISH** **CHURCH**



Village Songs of Praise

Following the success of the event last year, we are intending to hold the Year 2001 Village Songs of Praise on 8th July in the Church. Please fill in the enclosed form and return to the Rectory at 23 Melton Road, or to one of our Churchwardens, to vote for your favourite hymn. Or you can vote on the Village website at www.walthamonthewolds.com.

We also invite you to come earlier and have a picnic tea on the field behind the Church beforehand (or in the Church if wet).

Emmaus Course

The Emmaus Course that we started at Lent will continue for a further series of 5 meetings through May and June, the last session probably being a meal in the village pub. If you have any questions on theological issues, bring them along and see if Stuart can answer them! If you like to discuss things, please come along. Watch the Village Notice Board or the Village Voice for further details.

Services in Waltham Church

Communion at 11.00 a.m., 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays, Family Service 11.00 a.m., Evensong 6.00 p.m. on 4th Sunday. *Please contact Stuart or Judith on 464564 for further information on Church events.*

Contact Names for Organisations

Mothers' Union: Judith Samuel, 464564. Meets every 2nd Wednesday at 2.30 p.

The J Team Children's Group: Judith Samuel, 464564 Meets every Thursday during term time in Church at 3.30 p.m.

Forthcoming events:

9th May, 2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union- Tony Bates will talk about Waltham School

13th June, 2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union - AGM and Faith Tea

11th July, Mothers' Union Summer Coach Trip to Loughborough Central Railway. All welcome

8th July, 6.00 p.m. Village Songs of Praise

SCHOOL NEWS – Waltham C of E Primary School

Another busy term has just ended at Waltham. The whole school has been involved in the Vale Writing Project - 3 authors have now visited to talk about their lives, their careers and how they write their books. We enjoyed Paul Cookson's visit so much, we've invited him back to put on another performance for Parents and friends (May 15th, 7pm at the Village hall, tickets available from the school). The project also involved a trip to the Leicester Mercury, and we really enjoyed seeing our work published as part of the Vale of Belvoir School's edition of the Mercury on 7th March.

Class 3 successfully represented the school at the Colsterworth Music Festival, both singing and playing their recorders (and retaining the Duet Cup), and 10 children have just completed the Bikewise course, run by Steve Barber of Leicestershire Road Safety. We've also taken part in Red Nose Day, raising over £130.

We said our 'Goodbyes' to Mrs. Crow at the end of the term after nearly 3 years, and 'Hello' to Mrs. Triggs this term, as our regular part-time teacher. We hope she will have a happy and rewarding association with the school.

Our Annual Maypole dancing display takes place on May 22nd. All Villagers are most welcome to attend this traditional event, including a Barbeque.

Reminder: Now is the time for anyone wishing to enrol their child in September 2002 to make contact with the school. Please telephone us on 01664-464269