

# The Welwyn Magazine

with Woolmer Green



**March 2024**

*60p*

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Churchwardens

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March Hare

**MAGAZINE ARTICLES**

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**EDITORS' NOTES**

**Please submit articles by the 1st of the month preceding publication.** We aim to publish reports and articles that will be of interest to our local community. If you would like to suggest a theme or article please email: [magazine@welwyn.org.uk](mailto:magazine@welwyn.org.uk)

*The Editors reserve the right to shorten or omit articles or refuse advertisements.*

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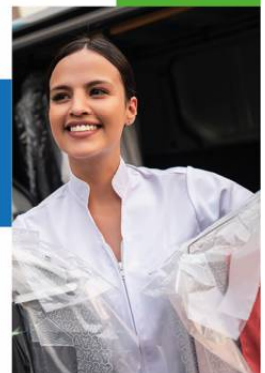
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# The Rector's *Letter*

Dear Friends

I always find leap years somewhat discombobulating. Every other year I rejoice in the symmetry of February and March, where the days of the week are the same for dates 1-28. This gets messed up in a leap year, and I am thrown. Of course, every April this changes as March has either two or three more days than February. This year those days are the most important of the church's year – Good Friday through to Easter Sunday.

Those who have thought about time have noticed how it has what you might call a linear and a cyclical component (bear with me) - in other words time in one sense is always moving forward, whereas the days of the week, the months and seasons of the year, are going round in circles. If you were a medieval peasant working on the land you would be far more concerned with the cyclical nature of the year – of ploughing, planting, reaping and harvesting – and one year would probably appear much like the next. In contrast the professional historian is much more concerned with the linear aspect of time, how a society changes over the years. One of the great philosophical questions for history is whether it is just 'one thing after another' (Arnold Toynbee) or whether



it has a continuous sense of purpose and progress.

For Christians this calendar year offers an answer to that question. February and March (if it weren't for that pesky leap year) go round in a cycle, but then a new age dawns in the last couple of days of March – Jesus dies, and is raised from the dead. At that point in history a new age has begun. So for instance, Christians have often referred to Easter Sunday as the 'eighth day of the week' – the idea that in the resurrection of Jesus something astoundingly new has occurred outside of the regular cycles of life. On March 31<sup>st</sup> - Easter day - a new age has dawned.

*David*



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## Jessie, the rectory dog

I've been very brave and yesterday I went for my 'jections. I go every year for my 'jections, and up-check, and I'm strangely and uncharacteristically submissive, and a little scared. But Mr Vet was very nice. When I say very nice, this is Labrador code for 'he gave me food.' The two phrases in Labrador speak are synonymous. Talking of which I went to my 'very nice' grandparents a while ago, who also said I was a very good dog. Again 'very nice' means 'they give me treats.' Which brings me to my next point – can anybody in their right mind please tell me the point of Lent? I am told by

Master that it is a period of 'fasting and self-denial.' In what way does that make any sense? Not only is food withheld by malign and possibly demonic forces, but you yourself decide not to eat something? I don't understand – no Labrador ever, has ever had a thought like this. Please can someone explain?



*Jessie*

## Welwyn Anglo French Twinning

### WAFTA QUIZ

Date: Saturday 20th April

Venue: Civic Centre, main hall

Time: 7:00 - 10:30pm

Ticket price: £15:00, to include fish and chips supper, or vegetarian alternative

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email address: [grahamhowat1@gmail.com](mailto:grahamhowat1@gmail.com)



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# Lent/Holy Week/Easter

## Lent course

You may not be aware but one of the most important collections of modern religious art in the world is held by the Methodist Church of the UK. It so happens that it is being exhibited at the Focolare Centre, AL8 6JG, in Welwyn Garden City over the period of Lent (from March 1<sup>st</sup> to April 7<sup>th</sup>). Our local ecumenical group is producing a Lent group to accompany the exhibition. This is a unique opportunity to see this collection locally and to reflect on it. All the material will be provided free of charge in both hard copy and electronic form. The groups around the team are listed in last month's magazine – do please feel free to join any of them, or if needed different ones on different weeks. It would be great to see you to study and think together. In addition we will arrange several visits to the exhibition, or you may wish to make your own arrangements to see it.

**Mothering Sunday is Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March this year**

**Concert by Mosaic Choir on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March at St Mary's Welwyn at 7.30pm**

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

### Palm Sunday – 24<sup>th</sup> March

8.00am St Mary's, Welwyn - Said Eucharist with distribution of Palms

9.30am St Mary's, Welwyn - Parish Eucharist begins at The Plain (end of School Lane) with the blessing of the Palms and procession to St Mary's. The service will include the reading of the Passion Gospel in dramatic form.

11.15 St Michael's Woolmer Green – Parish Eucharist Including procession, blessing of psalms and dramatic reading of the Passion

11.15am St Peter's, Ayot – Common Worship Parish Eucharist with distribution of Palms

6.30pm Evening Prayer at Welwyn

### Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March

9pm Compline at St Mary's Welwyn

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# Lent/Holy Week/Easter

## Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March

9.30am St Mary's, Welwyn – Eucharist with prayers for healing

8.00pm St Mary's, Welwyn – Taize Service

## Maundy Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

11am Chrism Mass at St Albans Cathedral

8.00pm St Mary's, Welwyn -

Sung Eucharist of the Last Supper with washing of the feet followed by the Watch until midnight

## Good Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March

9.30 – St Michael's Woolmer Green – All Age Stations of the Cross

12.00 – 1.30pm St Mary's, Welwyn – Good Friday devotions

1.30-3pm Liturgy of the Passion at St Mary's Welwyn

## Easter Day, Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> March,

Dawn services at Codicote and Datchworth

8.00am St Mary's, Welwyn – Said Eucharist

9.30am All age Eucharist St Mary's, Welwyn, plus Easter egg hunt

11.15am St Michael's Woolmer Green – Easter Service

11.15am St Peter's, Ayot - BCP Holy Communion  
plus Easter Egg hunt

NB No evening service

**NB BST Begins on Easter Day**

## Easter Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Pilgrimage to St Albans Cathedral

Meet for Breakfast at Welwyn at 8.30am.

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## Chinese concert pianist to perform in Welwyn on Saturday 9th March

The *'Second Saturday Recital'* on 9 March in St Mary's Church Welwyn will feature the outstanding pianist Ke Ma. The concert starts at 12 noon, lasts for an hour, and is free to attend, with a retiring collection for the artist's fee and church funds. All are welcome.

Ke Ma had the distinction of being the first Chinese pianist to give a recital in York Minster.

Ke was born in 1994 in China. She studied at the Royal Academy of Music in London, earning a Masters with distinction in 2017. She is currently pursuing doctoral study at Guildhall School of Music and Drama. She has won top prizes at international competitions including 1st Prize at the 2016 Concours Internationale de la vie de Maisons-Laffitte and 1st Prize at the 2014 Shenzhen Competition (China). In 2017 Ke made her debut at Wigmore Hall. She has given concerts across the UK, in France, Germany, Poland, the US and Canada. Recent

engagements include recitals at the Purcell Room, Kings Place, and the Chopin Festival at the Fisher Center in Bard College, New York.

A committed chamber musician, Ke Ma has given a recital at Wigmore Hall and recorded music by Vieuxtemps for Champs Hill Records with star violist Timothy Ridout.

Stephen Foster



Ke Ma





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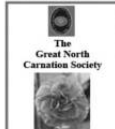
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# Welwyn Natural History Society

## MY LIFE AS A NATURALIST

27th March 8.00pm

TOM GLADWIN

...and, of course, Tom couldn't just say 'My Life' because he has at least two other lives that I know about, one as an ordained minister in the Anglican Church and the other, having written a book about it, as an expert on Welwyn Railways "A History of the Great Northern Line 1850 to 1986" - and then, "The Birds of Hertfordshire" in 1989...



I think Tom must always have been a naturalist having founded this society, together with Dr Oliver Dansie, 62 years ago in 1962 when he was in his mid-twenties. What a really great thing to have done – and it's still going! At that time, I believe, he was employed by Herts County Council in their Planning Department but, obviously the call of the wild must have been a bigger attraction and one that he could pursue with the very able help of his wife, Janet.

Tom is a Hertfordshire man through and through and only relinquished the presidency of the Natural History Society a couple of years ago. We are delighted that he has accepted our invitation to give this talk and really look forward to seeing some of his large collection of photographs on 27<sup>th</sup> March – Civic Centre 8pm.

Judith Watson  
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# New art gallery at Welwyn North Station

## COMMON ROOM PROJECTS

The Old Station Master's House at Welwyn North Station has taken on a new role – that of a contemporary art gallery called Common Room Projects. Historically home to the Station Master and his family, the rooms of this quirky timber floored Victorian house are now taken over with works by museum standard artists such as David Hockney, Paula Rego and Chris Ofili, alongside a selection of emerging artists, including local names Freya Pocklington, Lisa-Marie Price and ceramicist Gemma Smale.

Founders Kate and Matt Jones have extensive experience in art, having owned and run an arts business in London for over 20 years. Since moving to Tewin in 2011 they toyed with the idea of establishing a 'rural' gallery and following some art projects at Tewinbury Farm, they came across the Station Master's House and felt it was the perfect location with so many commuters passing through Welwyn North Station each day.

The gallery holds four contemporary art exhibitions each year and hosts art talks and tours. As well as offering an art consultancy service, there is also a framing studio on the ground floor (you can see it from Platform 1). Matt is a master framer who has advised on major exhibitions for public galleries including The Tate, The National Portrait Gallery, V&A and The British Museum.

The gallery is open Thurs – Sat 10am-3pm and the frame studio by appointment.

[www.commonroomprojects.com](http://www.commonroomprojects.com)

Kate Jones





**All ground work undertaken Patios – fencing – driveways –  
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**Email: [nickdarter.ncd@gmail.com](mailto:nickdarter.ncd@gmail.com)**

# Campaign to Protect Rural England



The countryside charity  
Hertfordshire

## Are you involved with an organisation which is looking for interesting and informative talks?

If so, please contact us. We are Hertfordshire's countryside charity, working across the county to stand up for our countryside and green spaces.

Some of the things our charity works to do are: promote the benefits of the countryside and our natural environment to everyone, wherever they live; raise awareness of the Hertfordshire countryside as a vital space for health and wellbeing; encourage care of our chalk streams, woodlands, fields and hedgerows to help protect landscapes and wildlife.

One of the ways we do this is by offering a variety of interesting talks on the following topics:

- Why we need to protect the countryside – CPRE Hertfordshire's role
  - Exploring Rural Hertfordshire – a walk along the Hertfordshire Way
  - Following the Swan – a walk of discovery down the Lea Valley
  - A Recent History of Hertfordshire – and how CPRE continues to campaign to protect the countryside
  - A Tour of some churches in Rural Hertfordshire
- Countryside Close to Home – some wildlife in a Hertfordshire garden, and how to attract wildlife to any garden

We can adjust the length of any talk to suit the requirements of your meeting. Many of our talks are illustrated with PowerPoint slides and our speaker can bring a projector; a screen or white wall available in your meeting place is helpful but we can provide a screen if needed.

Being a charity ourselves, we do normally ask for a donation which helps to support CPRE's work in the county. If your group has a small membership we can reduce this amount on request.

For more information or to make a booking, please contact us by email-  
ing [office@cpreherts.org.uk](mailto:office@cpreherts.org.uk)

## A Life, only one of many.



Just over two years after my identical twin brother and I entered the world our father died suddenly of a cardo-vascular condition; I believe without warning. Thereafter my mother's enormous resources had to be fully engaged.

Materially, there were obvious limitations, she did not re-marry and she never owned a car. But regarding things which matter, love, encouragement, ambition, boundaries, consideration for others, we lacked nothing.

Our father, a product of a northern town grammar school, as was our mother, played for the local cricket club. He said he admired those club members who had had a boarding school education. I like to think that what he admired was resourcefulness, responsibility, independence, breadth of interest, concern for others, not arrogance or entitlement, but I have no way of knowing. A conventional boarding school provision for the two of us was out of the question. However, my mother, advised by friends, was aware of an opportunity for those who passed the 11 plus exam to attend a state boarding school, with the boarding fee determined on a means tested basis.

Thus, it was that in September 1958 we entered Lancaster Royal Grammar School as boarders. Sensibly we were dispatched to different houses, being extraordinarily identical in both appearance and interests.

Outwardly, life was spartan: dire food, hard beds, TV allowed for just one or two hours each week, the cane a regular feature of life. But the school suited me and, so far as I could judge, most others. We found plenty to do and became resourceful at filling gaps. We got on with each other too, in the main. Few appeared self-obsessed, there was plenty of humour, much of it self-deprecating and there was no destructive bullying; this was the pre-electronic age. A key factor was that the school had real strengths in areas which interested me. The coaching of rugby and cricket was of an extraordinary standard, with results to match; music, art and drama were virtually non-existent, a situation which largely pertains today.

The teaching varied in quality enormously, the best brilliant, the worst dire. The contrast was much greater than anything I was subsequently to experience. Unsurprisingly, incompetent teaching accompanied by low expectations led to boredom and thus poor behaviour among the troops of whom I was no exception; conversely, good teaching bred interested, engaged boys, from whom, not a squeak! The convictions that quality of teaching varies far more than is generally admitted and that high quality teaching stimulates deep curiosity and lifelong satisfaction, remain with me to this day.

I was fortunate to be taught brilliantly when it mattered most, in the sixth form. Predictably I opted for the subjects where I had been best taught and was best at: maths, further maths and physics (with A

## A Life, only one of many.

Level General Studies thrown in). I was very far from 'best in class' but was always encouraged to aim high. In December 1968 the President of Corpus Christi College, Oxford wrote to say that the application to the College to read physics had been successful. Extra-curricular interests clearly influenced his decision. The President, a shy but highly respected man and a distinguished philosopher, had a frequently expressed intention to preside over a 'balanced college community' in addition to one with conspicuous academic prowess. Had today's criteria been applied then the application would have fallen short, by miles!

During the next few months, I came to realise that I did not have a deep interest in, or much love of, physics or mathematics. I was competent at the subjects because I had been so well taught. Moreover, while having spent many hours contentedly (in the main) solving, or trying to solve, pretty complex maths and physics problems, I had given no thought to art, music, literature, languages, history...., and was reading very little. The prospect of being seriously inarticulate and narrowly educated was becoming real. The tradition of early specialisation in English (but not Scottish) education was a problem then. It still is.

My solution was to ask the College somewhat apologetically whether I might read law. The response was remarkably understanding. Gist was: 'we are content for gentlemen (yes) to read whatever they choose and will endeavour to accommodate their wishes, assuming the choice has been

made thoughtfully', note the hint. Law was chosen to an extent on the basis that it was not a subject taught in schools and I would not therefore be at a disadvantage compared with others. That I now see as an unconvincing argument but the choice I did not regret then or now. I was taught by some genuine scholars and benefited from the unique Oxbridge tutorial system. Did I justify their expertise and that opportunity through commitment to study? In truth only in part. The appeal of competitive rugby and cricket at university level was compelling. I worked hard at times, generally in the morning and more in winter than summer. In year one during the Easter vacation, I was selected for the university rugby team's tours to Ireland (serious) and Sicily (hilarious). The next term the priority was to clear the year 1 exam, in Oxford parlance: 'Mods', never guaranteed, in fact it took two attempts. In year two rugby ambitions were thwarted by the arrival of a seriously talented contender for my position: full back. In the summer term however, there was no serious competition for the position of wicketkeeper for the University X1. I played in all the games that term at the University's delightful ground, The Parks, the tour at the end of it and the Varsity match at Lord's in July. Year 3 followed the same pattern though I had to miss a few games during term for finals and some late in the day preparation for them.

I had by then accepted an offer from a small, London firm of solicitors to commence articles in September 1969. However, in July that year Gloucestershire County Cricket Club offered a three-year



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## A Life, only one of many.

contract, starting immediately, with the team then at the top of the County Championship and without a wicketkeeper. Heady stuff, though the team won only one of the following five games, allowing Glamorgan to win the coveted County Championship. Then aged 22, a graduate with few commitments, the not to be repeated offer of professional cricket in the summer months was never to be declined. So, farewell the law!

The country then, as now, was experiencing a serious shortage of maths teachers, I accepted a post at King Edward V11 School Lytham for the two winter terms, with the lessons taught in the summer term by a man recently retired. That arrangement lasted for two years. It included coaching the school rugby teams during the week, refereeing on Saturday mornings and playing for Fylde on Saturday afternoons. Happy days!

The cricket season of 1970 was frustrating, yielding few 1st XI opportunities though it did include a signal one-day victory over the then great Yorkshire team. In 1971 I had an opportunity, playing for the first month, but didn't take it, becoming over-anxious and snatching at the ball, fatal in a wicketkeeper. Playing moderate level club cricket a few times a week was no preparation for the professional game. At the end of that season, I terminated the contract, choosing to seek a serious career in teaching.

King Edward's Lytham was not a well led school, then or since. There were some

outstanding, dedicated teachers but too many of limited ability and commitment with no discernible intention that they improve. It was not an ambitious environment. A year earlier one of the teachers at Lancaster, a former international rugby player, had moved to take up the headship of Framlingham College, Suffolk. With considerable flair and energy, he was transforming Framlingham from its sleepy ways into a lively, modern, ambitious school. Having been asked to join I was part of that community from 1973 to 1984, serving as Housemaster, Master i/c Cricket and Director of Studies. During the summer holiday I played minor counties cricket for Suffolk, appreciating the opportunity to play the game competitively to a good standard. Much of the appeal of cricket lies within the highs and lows which come with it. I experienced both. The lowest: Minor Counties v West Indies, Torquay July 1976. I managed to miss an easy catch standing back off the bat of Vivien Richards. In the second innings, when a responsible recovery was required, I took an unnecessary short single to Clive Lloyd, one of the world's great fielders, and that was that. No further communication from the Minor Counties!

And then I met Mary!

Stuart Westley

To be continued...



## **Protect your child against Measles**

Measles is more than just a rash. It can make children and adults seriously unwell and one in five children end up in hospital because of complications.

You may have heard on the news about measles cases in some parts of the country. Measles spreads very easily between people who are not vaccinated. You can catch it just by spending time in the same room as someone. This is why it is so important to make sure your children have had their MMR vaccinations.

As well as being very contagious, measles can also make children seriously unwell. Measles usually starts with cold-like symptoms, followed by a rash a few days later. Some people may also get small spots in their mouth. Measles can be serious for adults too. Catching measles while you are pregnant could harm your baby. As there is no medical treatment for measles, vaccination is the best protection. The MMR vaccine is safe, effective and provides long-lasting protection against three serious illnesses - measles, mumps, and rubella.

The vaccine is available free on the NHS. It is given in two doses, with the first offered to children at the age of one, and the second before they start school. You can have the MMR vaccination at any age, so if you or your child have missed out on a dose, it is not too late to get that protection. Evidence shows that the vaccine is safe and gives complete protection.

You can check if your child has had all their vaccinations by looking in their red book. If your child has missed their first or second dose of MMR vaccine, then get in touch with us at the practice as soon as

## Patient Participation Group *(Continued from p. 24)*

possible to book an appointment. If you think your child might have measles, check symptoms on the NHS website (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>). Keep your child at home and call your GP Practice. Find more information on the NHS website: [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

If you would like further information about the Bridge Cottage Surgery Patient Participation Group please email [ppgbridgecottage@gmail.com](mailto:ppgbridgecottage@gmail.com)

## Can you help?

The Church is looking for a volunteer or possibly a paid consultant/contractor who has knowledge of heating systems or buildings run by a building management system (BMS) or Ground Source Heat Pumps (GSHP). The Church's heating system comprises a new gas boiler, three GSHP and a Trend BMS. If anyone is interested, please contact Stuart Jenkin via the Church office - [secretary@welwyn.org.uk](mailto:secretary@welwyn.org.uk)



# WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

## Charity fundraising presentation to Mind in Mid Herts

As I reported last month, the Parish Council's chosen charity for Christmas 2023 was Mind in Mid Herts which had been nominated by a resident. We were delighted at the total of £555.78 raised. £168.84 was collected at Carols round the Tree on Christmas Eve and £386.94 was collected by Woolmer Green Band at several events in Datchworth, Burnham Green and the Woolmer Green pubs in the weeks before Christmas. Chairman of the Parish Council Andy Gribble, Andrew King from Woolmer Green Band and I were pleased to present a cheque to Emma from Mind in Mid Herts. Thank you to everyone who donated – what a great total was raised!



## Community Award 2023

Councillors also presented the Community Award 2023 to Chris Tyler in January for all his help in maintaining the playgrounds over a number of years. Chris is a volunteer who regularly inspects the playgrounds and carries out repairs when needed.



The Councillors and Woolmer Green appreciate all that Chris does for the village and he is the worthy winner of the Community Award 2023. Vice Chairman Phil Corke presented the award to Chris at the Hall playground and they are both pictured with Councillors Rob Horton, Tim Dix and me.

# WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

## Other news from the Parish Council

The Parish Council approved the budget for 2024/25 at its January meeting. Increases in costs over the last 2 years, particularly for staff pay and energy, have been significant. It was decided to increase the Hall rates from April 2024 to compensate for the rising costs and to bring the budget closer to break even.

The Council has been awarded another grant from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and has accepted a quote to replace the bark surface in the Garden Road playground with the funds.

Woolmer Green Market

2024 9-1pm

24 March

28 April

19 May

23 June

21 July

No market in August

22 September

27 October

24 November

8 December Christmas

Market 9-2pm

Sarah Hall  
Woolmer Green Parish Council  
sarah.hall@woolmergreenpc.org.uk

## WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL

Walking through the village with the dogs during the week I was struck by how busy a High Street we have, with a continuous turnaround of vehicles in the parish council's free-to-use carpark and a stream of busses depositing and picking people up. Parking spaces between the refurbished planters and on both sides of the road up to the Church are in constant demand.



This is great for our shops, restaurants and pubs of course and hopefully this Mothers' Day many of you will be giving or receiving flowers from Welwyn Florists or Suzzies in Oaklands or having a meal in one of the 11 options in our parish including, The White Hart, Roy's, The Taj Mahal, The Wellington, Rodi, The Rose & Crown, Lemon Plaiice, The White Horse, The Steamer and the North Star and Cowper

Arms in Oaklands and Digswell. If you've left it a bit late to book, another excellent option could be Laura Kate in the High Street who have a takeaway afternoon tea option or vouchers to use on another day. Also, while on a food theme don't miss out on a Katies Bakery Good Friday breakfast of hot cross buns, just one of their fabulous offerings.

Continuing our walk along Church Street we went and took a look at the damage that was caused by the tree coming down in the churchyard. The Parish Council's contractor has done a great job removing the tree, but one memorial stone is badly damaged along with a little damage to a storeroom roof and garage of the pub. As I mentioned in a previous article when a graveyard is closed (i.e. no more burials) maintenance responsibility passes to the council, in this case Welwyn Parish Council. So aside from dealing with fallen trees we undertake grass cutting, have recently repaired trip hazards in the paths and undertaken a memorial condition survey. The observant may have noticed a couple of gravestones with a yellow tag strapped to it which indicates that it has failed the "wobble test" – (there's actually a bit more to it than that. It's carried out by a specialist contractor) – and may need to be laid flat if the relatives cannot be traced to repair the headstone.

None of this is any fun for Brunel and Bernoulli who are eager to

*continued p29*

continue for a proper walk so we head off down Lockleys Drive and past the allotments, along the bypass to the underpass opposite Clockhouse Gardens before turning right immediately after the motorway bridge onto the footpath through Lockleys Farm. It's not until we reach the other side of the dip that we reach Lockleys Wood in Digswell, on top of the southerly railway tunnel, that the girls can be let off for a run around on squirrel chasing duties. Coming out of the wood, but still on top of the railway tunnel, there is a fantastic view south along the railway, over the viaduct and through to the Garden City, a great spot to watch the world go by.

With the dogs back on the lead we take a short walk down Harmer Green Lane past the station and the newly extended Welwyn North Stores, turn right under the railway and pop out at The Cowper Arms. The dogs now recognise these kinds of buildings as watering holes and so they eagerly drag me inside. The Cowper is very dog friendly and the girls soon pick out another red setter and shamelessly make a beeline for him, luring them back to the table with a bowl of water and some cheddar and chive crisps I manage to settle them down before enjoying a fine pint and peruse their excellent menu....

*Alex Bardett*

01438 716667

[office@welwynpc.org.uk](mailto:office@welwynpc.org.uk)

<https://welwyn-pc.gov.uk/>

## LENT



LENT IS A TIME FOR QUIET REFLECTION AND CONTEMPLATION



IT IS A SEASON OF ABSTINENCE AND FASTING



SOME CHRISTIANS GIVE SOMETHING UP DURING LENT



OTHERS CHOOSE TO CARRY OUT ACTS OF PENANCE

## Herts at War—free talks

This month's talk is WW2 related and is by Roger Yapp.

'Poles Apart' is the almost unknown story of three country houses where Polish wireless operatives, technicians and code breakers played a significant part in the effort to ultimately win WW2. The story traces the journey of the main characters from Poland, through Kazakhstan, to Persia, Egypt, Scotland and eventually to villages near Hemel Hempstead, where they secretly worked to monitor enemy communications.

Largely based upon the archives of Franek Rymaszewski, a young Polish radio operator the story uncovers Hemel Hempstead's association with the cracking of the German Enigma codes and dispels many local myths about what happened at three Hertfordshire country houses in WW2.

About the Speaker: Roger Yapp is a local Hertfordshire historian and is Chairman of the Abbots Langley Local History Society, He is recently retired and worked as an IT Programme and Project Manager in the Financial Services industry'

\*\*As always, our talks are at 7:30pm, on the 3rd Thursday each month in the Welwyn Civic Centre. Our talks are FREE, but if you enjoy them, cash donations are encouraged. We rely totally on them to cover our costs - venue, speakers etc.! Whenever possible a complimentary drink will also be provided.

More information about our project and events is available at [www.hertsatwar.co.uk/events](http://www.hertsatwar.co.uk/events).

Jonty Wild

### **Herts At War Project:**

Project Manager & Roll of Honour Research Coordinator

[jontywild@hertsatwar.co.uk](mailto:jontywild@hertsatwar.co.uk)

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## Just the job?



Last year the police reported that fifteen people in Hertfordshire had fallen victim to employment scams, losing a total of £79,000, with one unfortunate person losing more than £35,000. This is probably an under-reported crime so the true total could be considerably higher.

Fraudsters target jobseekers by posting fake job opportunities on social media or even messaging victims directly. The jobs they advertise are usually very attractive, either in terms of pay and benefits, or they are

positions that fit around child-care or have very flexible hours.

Criminals are usually hoping to steal money from the jobseeker, but there are also scams where they ask for details of documents such as passport, driving licence or NI number in order to steal your identity. Occasionally, victims find they have done unpaid work for non-existent employers.

In the most common scam, the victim is asked to make a payment to take the job application forward, sometimes for fees and expenses and occasionally for DBS checks. The scammers may also ask for bank account details to set up salary payments, which they can then use to access the victim's bank account.

Government advice is never to send money before starting a job, and not to share identity documents or your financial details until you are completely satisfied that the job offer is genuine.

The best defence against this type of scam is to do your homework! Research the employer and the individual who contacted you, bearing in mind that scammers sometimes impersonate real people. Check the company's website name and the format of email addresses to ensure that the person who has contacted you is a genuine employer. Don't engage if they are using a personal email address as the point of contact.

Being offered a job without having met a member of the employing company is automatically a red flag, and don't believe any excuses about secrecy or confidentiality. You should always meet your future manager face-to-face or online. An unusually high salary is another warning sign. As ever, if what's on offer seems too good to be true, then it probably is.

Valerie Richards and John Mitchell  
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# News From Ayot St Peter

## Hunting for the Easter Bunny at Ayot St Peter



Regular readers will know that we like to encourage wildlife in our churchyard, but you sometimes have to look carefully to spot evidence of our

shy animal friends.

Visitors frequently see our resident robin, and if you hang about there's a good chance that a nosey red kite will fly low over your head to see what you're doing. A group of pheasants often hide near the south wall, waiting until you are very close before flying up making a terrifying squawking noise. Fortunately, we have some sturdy benches for people to rest and recover from this nasty shock!

Other wildlife is stealthier. It's rare to see a mouse in the churchyard but there are little holes everywhere – especially in areas that once contained spring bulbs, which mysteriously fail to flower again. Bunches of roses lovingly arranged on a grave often transform into bunches of stalks overnight, with all their pretty heads neatly removed. Sometimes there are tiny telltale hoof prints to show this was the work of muntjac deer. The churchyard lawn is dotted with molehills – a perpetual challenge for the gardener. There is also a large rabbit warren, but the occupants

wait until all is quiet before venturing out to nibble the grass and any tasty plants they can find.

This month, the surviving spring bulbs will be putting on a good display – fortunately daffodils are safe from nibbling, as they contain an alkaloid that is distasteful to animals. There are wild primroses amongst the graves, which are poisonous to rabbits - luckily rabbits know this.

We have a number of special services to look forward to. Mothering Sunday is on 10th March and we have a delightful tradition that all ladies in the congregation are presented with a floral gift to mark the occasion.

The weekend before Easter is Palm Sunday (24th March), when we mark the start of Holy Week. Everyone in the congregation will receive a pocket-sized palm to commemorate Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

The Easter Sunday service will be followed by our traditional Easter egg hunt around the churchyard (or inside the church in the event of wet weather). This is suitable for everyone who is both young at heart and likes chocolate. All three services start at the usual time of 11.15am and will be led by the Rector, Rev'd. David Munchin.

Valerie Richards



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## Friends of Danesbury and QVM

I do hope that you managed to see the Valentine's Day window in our charity shop in Welwyn High Street. This was dressed by our shop manager Georgia with her usual flair – I was especially struck by the shocking red lingerie under a black leather coat but there were other more conventional items – hearts, bottles of champagne and various goodies which could be purchased in the shop. Georgia has a particular talent for window dressing and her displays are always worth looking at.

As many of you will know our shop has the huge advantage of having Brian King and Heather Knappett behind the counter. With a joint age of 174 they are truly amazing. Both have been selling in the shop for very many years in the different premises occupied by the charity in the High Street. Our other important resource which you may be less familiar with are our volunteers. They may be in the shop but are also often behind the scenes sorting out and pricing donations and making sure the shop is continually stocked with attractive high quality clothes, shoes, china and glass and other items. You may have noticed that there is always an excellent stock of items of jewellery under the glass counter in the shop – these items are sorted, cleaned and priced by a volunteer with long

experience in the trade and we are most grateful for her expertise. One of the special features of our shop is that there is always a wide range of different items of jewellery at very reasonable prices.

As the proceeds of sales in our shop fund the activities and items which we are able to provide for the patients in Danesbury and the QVM hospitals we are most grateful for your continued support in both donating and buying – a very ecological solution which benefits everyone. You may not appreciate that we rely totally on good quality donations from members of the public – as a small charity we do not have access to new clothes and other goods no longer needed by the larger stores.

As the days lengthen and the weather improves Spring is just around the corner. We wish you all a very happy Easter and hope to see in our shop soon.

**Jennifer Fowler**  
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## Mardley Heath WI

On a cold January evening, Mardley Heath W.I. enjoyed a talk by Joy Hall about Uluru and Dubai which are much warmer places than here in the UK! Her talk explained how both desert areas have developed in recent years, and although quite different they do have some similarities.

Uluru is the famous Ayers Rock (the name was changed a few years ago) which is in the centre of Australia – it is a large red rock 350 metres high – originally the area was inhabited by the Aborigines who had lived there for 20,000 years, living off the land by hunting various animals such as kangaroos, emus, possums etc. They used long spears which they made themselves and also supplemented their diet with vegetation such as bush tomatoes and plums. They had not developed their own written language but drew pictures in the rock showing their heritage. They built houses with straw and learnt fire management. Later they were herded into a small area and spent many years fighting for their land rights and it wasn't until 1995 that they were given back their land. The whole area is now a World Heritage site.



Today, climbing the rock is discouraged though you are able to walk around the base. The Aborigines consider the rock to be sacred. The Uluru surrounding area has been developed with tourism and facilities now include luxury hotels, sunset dinners, walking excursions and a night-time field of light.

We found out that Dubai had some surprising similarities. It is now a city but was only developed roughly 20 years ago from desert. (I actually visited Dubai some 50 years ago on business, and although there was the odd hotel and some roads to the industrial area; most of the traffic was by camel.) Dubai has a heritage based on markets and shops selling pearls, silks, gold and spices but following the discovery of oil more extensive building started. There are now luxurious hotels, restaurants, shopping malls, red bus tours and a metro system. In one of the



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# Mardley Heath WI

Continued from page 38

shopping malls, there is an area with snow where the children can play wrapped warmly as the whole area is air conditioned to be cold. They have also built hotels onto the sea by reclaiming land. This land looks like a palm tree from above. You can see some of the original landmarks and history of Dubai by visiting the city museum and The Dubai Heritage Village.

Joy's talk highlighted that Dubai and Uluru have great comparisons. We were most interested in looking at Joy's photographs and finding out about the growth of tourism in both places.



Mardley Heath WI would love to welcome new members. Come along and join us. Email our secretary at [mardleyheath@gmail.com](mailto:mardleyheath@gmail.com) for more details.

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# PARISH REGISTERS

## St Mary's Welwyn



### Funerals

3rd January	John Gardner (Burial St Giles Codicote)
25th January	Pat Lewis (Harwood Park Crematorium)
31st January	Margaret Neville (Harwood Park Crematorium)

## St Michael's Woolmer Green

### Funerals

26th January	John Brinkley (Burial only)
29th January	Rita Joyce Palmer

### Baptism

21st January	Brandon Ashley-Haylock
--------------	------------------------

## LENT SUPER SOUP LUNCH - MARCH 21st



Friends and I make a range of homemade soups which are then sold at a Super Soup Lunch in Church House. The lunch consists of a bowl of home-made soup, bread and butter. This has proved to be very popular. Every year we make over £400 which is sent to Christian Aid. Please come along this year. You will be very welcome.. See below

. Thursday March 21st 12.00pm to 1.30 pm  
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Sue Keach

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# Church Notice Board

## **ST MARY'S - Welwyn** [www.welwyn.org.uk](http://www.welwyn.org.uk)

Sunday	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday	9.30 am	Parish Communion / Junior Church
Sunday	6.30 pm	Evensong (2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays)
Wednesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
Wednesday	9.30 am	Holy Communion
Saturday	9.00 am	Parish Prayers

**Confessions** By arrangement with the Clergy.

*The Ministry of Counsel and Absolution is available to anyone who seeks it at any time.*

## **Clergy Surgery Hour**

Saturdays 10.00 am to 11.00 am

*A member of the team will be available in church for any enquiries. Mainly intended for Baptisms or Weddings, but not exclusively restricted to those matters.*

## **ST MICHAEL'S - Woolmer Green** [www.stmichaels-wg.org.uk](http://www.stmichaels-wg.org.uk)

Sunday	11.15 am
1st and 4th Sundays	Parish Eucharist:
2nd Sunday	Family Service
3rd Sunday	All Age Eucharist
5th Sunday	Morning Prayer

## **AYOT ST PETER** [www.ayotstpeter.com](http://www.ayotstpeter.com)

1st Sunday	11.15 am	Matins: ( <i>Book of Common Prayer, King James' Bible</i> )
2nd and 5th Sundays	11.15 am	Holy Communion: ( <i>Book of Common Prayer, King James' Bible</i> )
3rd Sunday	11.15 am	Family Service: ( <i>Common Worship, NRSV Bible</i> )
4th Sunday	11.15 am	Parish Communion: ( <i>Common Worship, NRSV Bible</i> )

## **EVANGELICAL CHURCH - Welwyn** [www.welwyn-evangelical.org.uk](http://www.welwyn-evangelical.org.uk)

Sunday	9.45 am	Bible Classes (All ages 7+)
Sunday	11.00 am and 6.30 pm	(Facilities for young children)
Wednesday	7.30 pm	Bible Study (except 3rd Wednesday)

## **ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH of the HOLY FAMILY - Knightsfield, Welwyn Garden City**

Fr Norbert Ferbandes T: 01707 323234 [www.wgc-catholics.org.uk](http://www.wgc-catholics.org.uk)

## **DIGSWELL VILLAGE CHURCH** [www.digswellvillagechurch.org.uk](http://www.digswellvillagechurch.org.uk)

Methodist/Anglican LUG	T: 01438 510391
1st and 3rd Sundays	11.00 am Methodist (1st Holy Communion)
2nd Sunday	11.00 am Anglican
4th Sunday	11.00 am Family Service
5th Sunday	11.00 am alternate Methodist/Anglican

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# MEDITATION

## Paul Tillich. Temptation and New Being

Paul Tillich (1886-1965) was one of the great Christian philosophers and teachers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Born in Germany, the son of a Lutheran pastor, he also became a pastor and then a professor of theology first in Germany and then in the US in the late 1930s, in the prelude to the Second World War. His experiences in both Germany and the US led him to develop what has been called an Existential Theology, based on thinking about our existence as the beings we are and how Christ comes to bring us something essential and radically new, our New Being.

In March we follow the story of Jesus in His temptations and journey to His death on Good Friday. In his writing on the temptations of Jesus, Tillich wants us to realise that, although Jesus had the closest relation to God as His Father, He also lived the life of a real man who could be tempted as we are. He could experience fear and anxiety over what He had to do.

Jesus had a strong sense of His unity with God as the origin and foundation of His existence. God is the ultimate concern that all should have, but Jesus realised that living in such close union with God would lead Him into conflict with religious and secular leaders. He had a personal vocation that would lead Him to His unjust death. His temptations, unique to Him, were to misuse His powers and influence on people to avoid that necessary vocation to death. But He resisted such temptation and in remaining true to His vocation, He was involved in making possible our potential to have a new relationship to God and new relationships with the world, that overcome all the destructive and self-centred tendencies that do so much to ruin lives. Because of Jesus as the Christ, we may become new beings - newly remade people, with all that is best and good and true.

*Jesus who overcame temptation and died for us all,  
Create in us a newness of life, leaving behind the old selfish self, remade in your  
glorious and everlasting love.*

Colin Hull

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## SCHOOLS

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Woolmer Green St Michael's Primary School .....	London Road, Woolmer Green SG3 6JP .....	01438 813267
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Tenterfield Nursery School and Children's Centre .....	London Road, Welwyn AL6 9JF .....	01438 714564
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**WELWYN MAGAZINE** e:mail: **magazine@welwyn.org.uk**

**All articles and information for the magazine to be e:mailed to the magazine address above or placed in the 'Magazine' pigeon hole in St Mary's Church. Publishers are the Churchwardens.**

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - March 2024

1st Mar to 7th Apr			Lent/Holy Week/Easter <i>See pages 7 and 9 for details.</i>	
6th	2.00pm	Welwyn Floral Group	A Bright New Year - Barbara Collins <i>joycefurssedonn7@virginmedia.com</i>	Civic Centre Welwyn
9th	12 noon	St Mary's Church Welwyn	Second Saturday Recital <i>See page 13 for details.</i>	St Mary's Church Welwyn
10th			Mothering Sunday	
12th & 26th	11.00am / 2.00pm	Dementia Friendly Community Cafe	Dementia Friendly Community Café <i>Contact: Jane Andrews 01707 240 650 jane.andrews@homeinstead.co.uk</i>	Digswell Hall 30 Harmer Green Lane, Welwyn
12th	2.30pm	Fellowship St Mary's Welwyn	'Walking El Camino de Santiago' - Peter Davis <i>marcia.khan.emk@gmail.com</i>	St Mary's Church House Welwyn
14th	8.00pm	Garden Club Welwyn	The Creation of Lokkelebery Vineyard - Hannah Buisman <i>tonycoxall25@gmail.com</i>	Civic Centre, Main Hall Welwyn
16th	7.30pm	St Mary's Church Welwyn	Mosaic Concert <i>See page 42 for details.</i>	St Mary's Church Welwyn
17th	11.00am	Rubbish Action Group Welwyn	Rubbish Action Group Collection <i>Contact: Sarah Butcher 07885 875977 welwynrubbishactiongroup@gmail.com</i>	Car Park opposite Welwyn Drs Surgery
21st	10.00am	Danesbury Fernery and Nature Reserve Work Group	Fernery: gardening and maintenance Nature Reserve: clearing and habitat Mgmt <i>chairman@danburyfernery.org.uk</i>	Nature Reserve, Fernery Field (top North Ride) Welwyn
21st	7.30pm	W.I Mardley Heath	Chair Yoga - Jackie Turner <i>Alison Barrett - Secretary mardleyheathwi@gmail.com</i>	Oaklands Primary School Welwyn
21st	7.30pm	W.I Digswell	Tony Tutton's Life in Music <i>kate.stabler@talktalk.net</i>	Village Hall Digswell
21st	7.30pm	Herts at War 'Free' Talks	'Poles Apart' - Roger Yapp <i>See page 30 for details. jontywild@hertsatwar.co.uk</i>	Civic Centre Welwyn
24th	9.00am	Village Market Woolmer Green	Food and Craft Village Market <i>https://www.facebook.com/farmersmarketwoolmergreen</i>	Village Hall Woolmer Green
27th	8.00 pm	Welwyn Natural History Society	My Life as a Naturalist - Tom Gladwin <i>watson.winfield @bopenworld.com</i>	Civic Centre Welwyn
Tuesdays	10.00am / 12 noon	Community Café	<i>Contact: Liz Hesketh 07825 093855</i>	St Mary's Church House Welwyn
2nd Weds of month	2.30pm/ 3.45pm	Afternoon Book Club	<i>Contact: Joan Spruce 01438 840821</i>	St Mary's Church House Welwyn
Thursdays	2.00pm/ 3.00pm	Arpeggio Bell Ringers	<i>Contact: Marcia Khan 01438 716625</i>	St Mary's Church House Welwyn
Thursdays	7.00pm / 10.00pm	Welwyn Bridge Club	<i>Contact: Cheri Pemberton 01438 360522</i>	St Mary's Church House Welwyn
Saturdays	10.00am / 11.30am	Café	<i>Contact: Maggie Varco 01438 715450</i>	St Mary's Church House Welwyn