# The Welwyn Magazine



December 2021 / January 2022

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meetings occurring in Welwyn village and the immediate areas, If any reader would like to submit an article on local matters then please send the details by email to: magazine@welwyn.org.uk or contact St Mary's church office on 01438

840964.

### **PRINTERS**

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### **EDITOR'S NOTES**

### Articles by the 1st of the month preceding publication, see details above.

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

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### **Dear Friends**

Christmas 2020 as we remember all too well was an exceptional one. Just as it arrived, all talk of 'saving Christmas' disappeared, and we entered a new lockdown. Many people were not able to see loved ones at Christmas, and many events, including those at the church, were cancelled or curtailed.

Hopefully I won't be writing too soon, to say that we hope that this year things will be different – and albeit carefully – Christmas will be a bit more like 'normal.' Maybe some will even be looking forward to an 'extra special' Christmas to make up for reduced celebrations last year. Of course, most of us could do without some of the excess and perhaps one too many Christmas parties and events, which we cram into December, but nearly all will be looking forward to gathering with loved ones at some point over the Christmas season. These are rightfully thought to be an important time in the life of a family and community.

In Jesus Christ coming amongst us, we see an affirmation of that. God might not have been all that into zoom calls (another sign of his infinite wisdom perhaps ...) but he was into meeting up. That's the point of the incarnation. And

it isn't as though he hadn't tried other stuff – he'd sent the prophets, had worked with and through the nation of Israel, he had given gifts in creation, he'd given his people the



Scriptures – he'd tried the equivalent of 'virtual' stuff of its time. And of course like virtual stuff today, it was quite good. It was useful and often got the message through: people listened to the prophets (sometimes), and read the Scriptures. But just like a zoom call with loved ones at Christmas, it wasn't quite the same as going 'in the flesh.' So that's what God does in Jesus at Christmas – he comes as 'Word make flesh.'

Such an approach also has its disadvantages – he only knew a very few people, and only in a radius of a few miles from his place of birth. He was only around for 30 odd years. Being flesh is very limiting, but there is no substitute for it. Who'd have thought we'd be remembering that 30 odd years, in Welwyn 2000 years later? And before we have to talk again about 'saving Christmas' remember that in fact it's Christmas which saves us... but that's a whole other letter.

David

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# JESSIE - THE RECTORY DOG

### **Christmas list:**

- Turkey (alive is fine, it won't be for long if I'm let off the
- Pigs in blankets (actually whole pigs in actual blankets are fine).
- Salmon (alive is fine, Labradors were bred to retrieve fish
- Christmas pudding (on fire with brandy is fine),
- Not that interested in veg (but smother it in gravy and cranberry sauce, and I'll give it a go),
- Bread sauce (actually just give me the loaf of bread, I'll do the rest),

\*

- Cheese yes there has to be a LOT of cheese
- Crackers don't be ridiculous, I don't have opposable thumbs, look stupid in a hat, and if I chewed it, it would explode.

Jess

# **Parish Registers**

# St Mary's Welwyn

### **Funerals**

7th October Linda Louise Warren Grove Service & Cremation 12th October

Barbara Anne Hill Service & Burial

# **Ayot St Peter**

# **Baptism**

10th October Emilia & William Hamilton

# St Michael's Woolmer Green

**Baptism** 

17th October Bonnie Appleby



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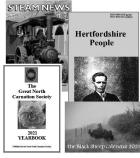
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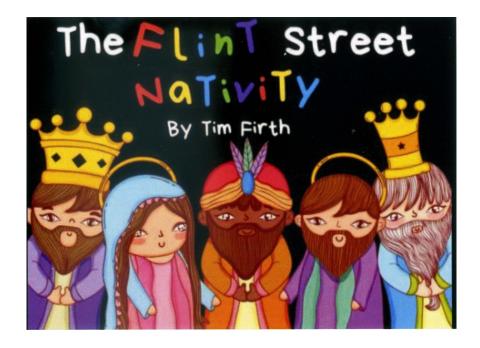
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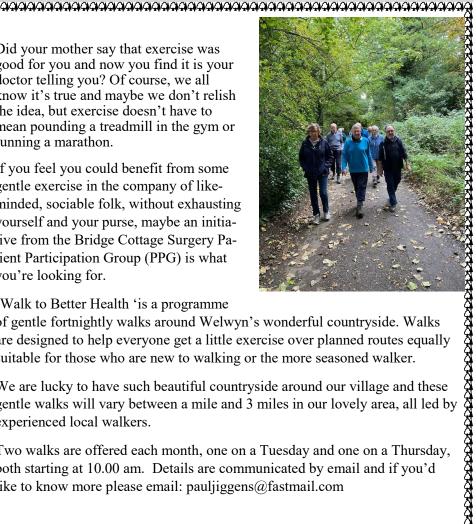
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# WFLWYN WALK TO BETTER HEALTH

Did your mother say that exercise was good for you and now you find it is your doctor telling you? Of course, we all know it's true and maybe we don't relish the idea, but exercise doesn't have to mean pounding a treadmill in the gym or running a marathon.

If you feel you could benefit from some gentle exercise in the company of likeminded, sociable folk, without exhausting yourself and your purse, maybe an initiative from the Bridge Cottage Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG) is what you're looking for.



'Walk to Better Health 'is a programme of gentle fortnightly walks around Welwyn's wonderful countryside. Walks are designed to help everyone get a little exercise over planned routes equally suitable for those who are new to walking or the more seasoned walker.

We are lucky to have such beautiful countryside around our village and these gentle walks will vary between a mile and 3 miles in our lovely area, all led by experienced local walkers.

Two walks are offered each month, one on a Tuesday and one on a Thursday, both starting at 10.00 am. Details are communicated by email and if you'd like to know more please email: pauljiggens@fastmail.com

Paul Jiggens &

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# MAKING LIFE BEAUTIFUL

No matter what time of the year, caring for and enjoying plants does wonders for our sense of wellbeing. Even on a wintry day, a few minutes in the garden pruning roses or planting up containers can lift your mood several notches, satisfy creative urges and leave you feeling contentedly productive. I recognised this and was the founder of Making Life Beautiful, 'probably the smallest and most unique nursery in Hertfordshire'.

I set up the nursery in my large garden just outside Codicote to nurture both plants and people. A community interest company run with the help of enthusiastic volunteers, the project combines my career in social work with my passion for horticulture. We offer a tranquil haven for anyone facing challenges in life. People come to help out and learn new skills in a friendly environment surrounded by the therapeutic benefits of nature. We also have quite a lot of fun!

We sell our wares at the nursery at 1 Drivers End, Codicote, SG4 8TR from Tuesday to Sunday between 10.30am to 4pm. In addition regular weekend popup stalls appear at pubs and churches around North Herts. These include every Friday at St Martins, Knebworth between 8.30am to 12.30pm; every Saturday at the Goat in Codicote from 9am to 1pm; every Sunday at the Boot in Kimpton between 9.30am to 2pm and every Sunday at the Lytton Pub between 9am to noon.

There's always plenty of tempting seasonal plants and expert advice on hand at the nursery, plus the added bonus of spotting Cedric the 10ft metal giraffe and his family. Currently on offer are colourful cyclamen, winter-flowering pansies, plants for autumn colour and a large variety of shrubs ideal for planting now, as well as spring bulbs including 21 varieties of tulips, 10 of daffodils, and alliums for late spring.

We'll also have Christmas wreaths, door garlands, table arrangements and gifts for gardeners, all at economical prices.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for the opening of our Christmas Grotto, where there'll be a small free gift for children.

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# PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

# The 12 Ailments of Christmas - Common winter illnesses and symptoms

Although Christmas is supposed to be a joyful time of year it can, unfortunately, also be a time of year that can take a toll on our bodies. This is a list of 12 common ailments you're more likely to pick up, along with some ideas on how to prevent them, so you can hopefully enjoy a germ-free Christmas or holiday season.

The Common Cold	A common cold is a mild viral infection, it can cause anything from a runny nose, cough or sore throat to full blown sinus infection.  Medication wise, your best option is Paracetamol and lots of fluid (the watery sort rather than the alcoholic), and the illness will usually end within a week or so.
The Flu	The flu will have similar symptoms to the common cold, but they will be more intense. While a bout of flu will usually affect the fit and healthy for no more than a week, flu can be very dangerous to the elderly and infirm, so make sure elderly relatives have had their flu vaccine.
Christmas Tree Syndrome	The symptoms, which include a runny nose, watering eyes, coughing and even asthma attacks in those predisposed to asthma, are thought to be caused by the mould that sits on the Christmas Tree and thrives in the nice, warm environment of your living room. Like most other allergies, treat sufferers with antihistamines and perhaps next year opt for the artificial version!
Chilblains	Chilblains are small, itchy swellings which affect the body's extremities, namely toes, fingers, ears etc and are caused by damp, cold temperatures. Typically they cause a burning sensation and the affected skin can turn red or even blue. The best prevention is not letting your hands and feet get cold in the first place. If you think you're susceptible to chilblains, warm up your gloves and shoes. Equally importantly, don't rush to the radiator when you're cold, as heating skin up too quickly is one of the main causes of chilblains.
Dry Skin and Eczema	Those who are afflicted by this common and often chronic skin condition may experience flare-ups during winter months, as this is another condition exacerbated by sudden changes in temperature. Going from a raw, cold wind to a centrally heated house can bring on an attack of atopic dermatitis, commonly known as eczema, which causes the skin to become red, itchy, very dry and cracked. If you think you've just got a case of ultra dry skin, try applying a thick, non-scented moisturizing cream.

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# PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

# Continued from page 15

S.A.D	Seasonal Affective Disorder has only recently been recognized as a genuine condition, characterized by ongoing feelings of depression during the winter months, irritability, lethargy and a craving for carbs, which in turn helps you put on weight. Levels of serotonin, which affect our moods, appetite and sleep, are thought to be lowered by the shorter sunlight hours, and this stops the hypothalamus, the part of our brain which affects our moods, from working properly. While a trip to the Caribbean might sound like the obvious remedy, cheaper treatments are on hand. Make a point of getting as much natural sunlight as you can.	
Alcohol Poisoning	Alcohol is a diuretic meaning it removes fluids from your body, and it is this dehydration which causes those familiar feelings of sickness, room-spinning dizziness and bad headaches following a night of drinking, commonly known as the hangover. If large quantities of alcohol are the order of the evening, then at the very least alternate each glass with a glass of water, try not to drink on an empty stomach, and always try to finish a pint of water before bed.	
Indigestion	The holidays aren't the holidays without an overload of food, be that mince pies, Christmas pudding, brandy butter or mountains of chocolate, which are all things we probably wouldn't have at any other time of year. So it's hardly surprising that the poor stomach will complain every so often with the odd bout of indigestion. Over-the-counter remedies can relieve the pain, but if you're getting regular bouts or experiencing other symptoms such as loss of weight, persistent vomiting, difficulty swallowing or blood in your vomit or stool, see a doctor.	
Ear Infection	Most ear infections occur when an infection such as a cold leads to a build-up of mucus in the middle ear. Typical symptoms include earache, fever, vomiting, lethargy and occasionally slight hearing loss. Most ear infections clear up within 3 to 5 days but antibiotics may be needed if the symptoms persist or are particularly bad.	
Norovirus	Of all the holiday ailments, this is the one you really want to avoid passing around. Also known as the winter vomiting bug, norovirus is highly contagious, causing severe vomiting and diarrhoea. While this shouldn't last more than 2-3 days, it can leave you feeling lethargic and exhausted so keep up your fluid intake and take paracetamol to sooth the aches and pains. Prevention is most definitely better than cure in this instance so wash your hands frequently.	

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# PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

Continued from page 17

Sore Throat	Sore throats are nearly always the result of a viral infection which means antibiotics won't be of any use. There is usually no need to seek medical help, unless you are getting them very regularly and are taking a long time to recover, which may imply a weakened immune system. One of the easiest home remedies is to gargle warm salty water and take paracetamol to help relieve the pain. Over the counter medications such as throat lozenges will not cure the illness, but they can help with painful symptoms and often taste great so they make the sore throat bearable. They are often extremely high in sugar content though, so be careful not to overindulge!
Frostbite and Hypothermia	Cases of frostbite and hypothermia are rare in the UK. Frostbite is caused by exposing skin to temperatures below freezing for a length of time. The symptoms begin with affected parts (usually the extremities: hands, feet, ears, nose and lips) feeling cold and painful. This gradually turns into pins and needles as the area becomes numb. Once numb, this is an early sign that first degree frostbite may be taking hold. Taking the person affected into a warm environment as quickly as possible will limit the effects of the injury and progression into second, third and fourth degree frostbite. Ideally you should seek medical advice at this early point, as the frostbitten area should be warmed up by a healthcare professional, usually by immersion in warm water

Information taken from Isabelhealthcare.com

If you would like further information about the Bridge Cottage Surgery Patient Participation Group please email ppgbridgecottage@gmail.com.

# **WELWYN FLORAL GROUP**



Meetings of the Welwyn Floral Group have re-started at the Civic Centre. The AGM will be on the 1st of December at 7.30 pm and will include a professional demonstration on a Christmas theme (Entrance £5)

From the 2nd of February meetings will be held in the afternoon on the first Wednesday of the month. Doors will open at 1.30 pm. For details of future meetings see the back cover of the magazine.

Joyce Furssedom joycefurssedonn7@virginmedia.com

# Parkinson's UK Welwyn Hatfield Branch

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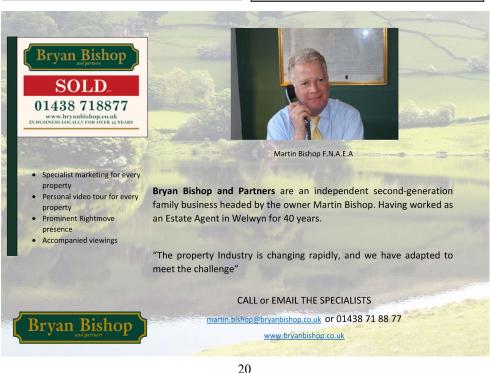
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# **NEWS FROM AYOT ST PETER**

# **Christmas arrangements**

We are very proud of our talented "flower ladies" at Ayot St Peter. They create beautiful floral arrangements all year round, and any readers who visited our open day in September will have seen their wonderful harvest display. The end of the year seems an appropriate time to record our appreciation for this hardworking and creative group – so "thank you" Debbie, Jenny, Karen, Sally, Sarah, Sarah-Jane and Sheila.

Apart from being talented, our ladies try hard to be "green". They minimise the use of flower arranging foam, which is not recyclable or biodegradable, and maximise the use of home-grown flowers. Many of the lovely flowers and foliage used in church even come from their own gardens.

One of the unusual aspects of our Christmas floral decorations is that they do not normally include any flowers! The arrangements are created using only winter foliage and berries and many candles. The result is wonderfully atmospheric, and evocative of village Christmases in times past. Sadly, my picture cannot do justice to the lovely effect – you will just have to come and see for yourselves!

Our Carol Service is the perfect start to a traditional country Christmas and this year is on Sunday 12 December, at the usual time of 11.15am. This is always a popular service and last year the need for social



distancing meant we had to hold two carol services to fit everyone into the church. Depending upon the Covid restrictions at the time, it is possible worshippers will need to book seats again this year. You can check the latest situation by visiting the diary page of our website www.ayotstpeter.com. If you do not have internet access, the church office at St Mary's will advise you.

Our traditional crib service will be on the following Sunday, 19 December, also at 11.15am. This is a very charming service, especially for children and the young at heart, but the Rector always makes it an entertaining morning for everyone. The children in the congregation fill our beautiful vintage crib with the nativity characters, as we tell the Christmas story and sing traditional carols.

On Christmas Day our service will be Holy Communion at 11.15am – why not walk to the church to work up an appetite for that lunch?

Wishing all our readers a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Valerie Richards

# 150 YEARS OF THE PARISH MAGAZINE

Issue 3 of the Welwyn Parish Magazine dated December 1871 was priced two pence, which in today's money would be just over 50p. The current price is 60p so there has been virtually no inflation over 150 years - there won't be many other things you can buy today that are such good value!

Issue 4 concerned itself with a review of the previous year – do you recognise any similarities in the following extract?

"We promised to give a short review of the chief things which, during the past year, have occurred within the circle of our parish life. These things may not have appeared very important, even at the time, to ourselves; they may not have exercised any visible effect upon the world; they may not have done much, to use a fashionable phrase, towards making history; but, however insignificant they may be, they have helped to form and mould the individual life of each one amongst us: they have been the circumstances in the midst of which we were placed, and by our use or misuse of them, our conduct for the year will be estimated.

In the first place, we may notice the removal of that terrible scourge – which in previous years had attacked so many households and caused so much suffering – the fever. The precautions which, after too long a delay, we were alarmed into taking, aided, perhaps, by the coolness of the summer, seem to have been successful. The untimely death of the late Rector brought the danger home to everyone; and the recent illness of the Prince of Wales has given a terrible significance to the warnings against some of the dangers of modern civilization, which our own experience has brought to our notice. The scarlet fever, which is more common and therefore looked upon with less awe, but is perhaps not less fatal to children than the typhoid type, has carried off four within two months. It is not too much to say that the evil has been increased, and spread by culpable selfishness, and careless neglect of the most obvious precautions of quarantine and disinfection. After almost unaccountable delays, a new system of drainage is in a fair way to be completed; and when this is done, we may hope that Welwyn will regain its character for healthiness."

# 150 YEARS OF THE PARISH MAGAZINE





You certainly needed very good eyesight, or a magnifying glass, to read it!

Jane Carr

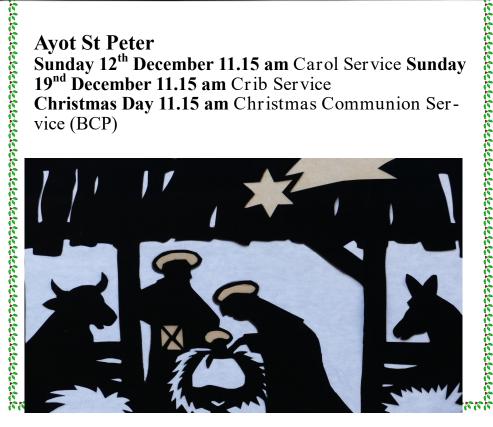
# FATHER CHRISTMAS IN WELWYN

Father Christmas in Welwyn will be out on his sleigh doing his rounds of the village on the evenings of Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> and Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Watch out for details of his route and times on his Facebook page. Once again he will be collecting for the Welwyn Festival charities so please be generous!

# **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**



Ayot St Peter Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December 11.15 am Carol Service Sunday 19<sup>nd</sup> December 11.15 am Crib Service Christmas Day 11.15 am Christmas Communion Service (BCP)



# **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

St Mary's Welwyn

Sunday 28th November 6.30pm Candellit Advent

Carol Service + Confirmation

Wednesdays 1st, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> December 9pm Candlelit Compline

Sunday 5th December 3.30pm Christingle Service Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December 9.30am Parish Eucharist with Nativity Play

**Sunday 19th December 6.30pm** Candlelit Christmas Carol Service

Christmas Eve 3.30pm Crib Service,

**Christmas Eve 11pm** Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 8am Holy Communion,

Christmas Day 9.30am All Age Christmas Eucharist







# St Michael's, Woolmer Green

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December 4pm Christingle Service Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December 4pm Christmas Carol Service Christmas Eve 3.30pm Crib Service followed by Carols round the Pond

Christmas Day 9.30am Parish Eucharist for Christmas Day

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 11.15am Parish Eucharist for Epiphany

# **HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS - Part 6**

Turn right at the Church...

In years past, a traveller may have stopped in Welwyn High Street (or Fore Street, or Front Street, or Bedford Road depending upon the year) and asked for directions to Stevenage. He would have been told to turn right at the Church along Church Street (or Fore Street, or North Fore Street, or North Road depending upon the year) and soon he would have left the village.

Along his way he would have passed few roads but today there are more on this route from the village. In 2021 we would first come to Holly Hall Court, a modern development built in 1997 behind Holly Hall and named after it. A house has stood on this site since 1463 and the present house dates from 1770. Early occupiers included two curates, before the house was sold to grocer William Wellingham in 1843. The well-known Wellingham's Stores operated in the shop attached to Holly Hall until it closed in 1970.



Wellingham Stores

This route in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century would have passed Lockleys Drive, although at that time it was the Hertford Road. It passed from Welwyn in front of Lockleys House and on to Hertford. But the occupant of Lockleys in 1720, Edward Searle decided to move the road away from his house and constructed a new road from the White Hart running along Prospect Place and onwards through what is now the Parkside development. The original road became quite literally the drive to Lockleys, although its usefulness was curtailed in 1926 when it was cut in two by the new bypass. The road to Hertford would be moved twice more before settling to its current line in front of the Fire Station in 1907.

Until 1990 the traveller leaving Welwyn would have passed another of Welwyn's grand houses on his right. This was Wendover Lodge which gives its name to another Welwyn road – Wendover Drive, built in the grounds of the house in 1938. The name Wendover probably derives from the plot of land upon which it was built – Windover. Wendover Lodge was built around 1810 and

was home to a number of Welwyn's fine families, notably that of Sir Alfred Scott-Gatty who came to



Wendover Lodge

# HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS - Part 6 continued from p26

the house in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Sir Alfred was Garter Principal King of Arms; his life-long career was the study and practice of heraldry. He was also an accomplished composer and created a number of pieces for memorial services for Welwyn men lost in World War I, including his own son Charles. After his death in 1918 his widow continued to live in Wendover Lodge for a few years. In the 1930s it was divided into flats and remained a village landmark until being so badly damaged in storms that it had to be demolished in 1990. A modern block of apartments now stands on the site, aptly named Wendover Lodge.

A little further north along Church Street another modern development takes its name from one of our old houses – Welwyn Hall Gardens. Welwyn Hall, built around 1870 replaced an earlier house and was part of the Danesbury estate. It had a number of occupants before being used as the dower house of Danesbury. Mrs. Henrietta Blake, widow of Colonel Frederic Rodolph Blake spent her last years there, where she died in 1895.



Welwyn Hall

Subsequently the house was let to Riversdale Grenfell followed by William Tindall Lucas, a Hitchin banker who remained until just before World War II. At the outbreak of war the house was used as a research centre by ICI for 15 years. A number of other companies used the building until the last, Digital Equipment, left in 1988. The Hall stood empty for 4 years until a fire in 1992 led to it suffering the same fate as Wendover Lodge and it was demolished in 1995, with the building of Welwyn Hall Gardens and Church Place starting in 1996.



The swimming pool at the Clock

Before leaving Welwyn we come to the controversial Clock House Gardens. Built around 1929 the Clock Hotel was a familiar sight to travellers on the A1 until it closed and in 2010 another fire removed another of Welwyn's landmarks. The Hotel was remembered for its iconic clock but how many people remember its swimming pool?

Paul Jiggens

# THE FRIENDS OF DANESBURY

Happy holiday greetings! I hope our newsletter finds you all well and in the throes of festive spirits. The Friends have had a rather whirlwind end of year, recently having had our AGM at which the accounts for 2020 were presented. These show that we are in excellent financial health. Throughout the period in which the shop was closed during 2020 we ran a click and collect service, sold donations through eBay and other forms of social media. All these proved popular and profitable. We also gained two new trustees this year, and our Halloween festivities were well received by those who came out and supported Welwyn village increasing the footfall through the village. It's so nice to see the community pulling together.

Now, we are all geared up for the Christmas festivities and we hope you are too. Our shop is starting to look more like Santa's grotto with each day that passes, and everyone seems to be getting into the Christmas spirit – after last Christmas we definitely have some catching up to do!The shop is holding its annual Christmas raffle and if you are passing by do come in and support us, the draw is due to be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> December.



No doubt our festive window displays will be a highlight in the village, thanks to our very talented Georgia Shaw. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers. Without their hard work and commitment we would not be able to run our shop and support Danesbury, the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital, the work in the community and other units within Herts.

The work our managers and volunteers do is invaluable and is much appreciated by the trustees, patients and staff. Again, this year we have been able to support the units in several ways, from providing personal care items, clothing, shoes, physio equipment, radios for patients and the list goes on.

From all of us at the Friends of Danesbury & QVM to all of you, we wish you and your family a happy and healthy 2022. May the year ahead bring you peace, love and much laughter. Our website (danesburyqvm.co.uk), has lots of information about who we are and what we do. You can also support us by doing some of your online shopping via Easy Fund Raising at:

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# STAY SAFE FROM SCAMS







Scammers are criminals who make money by tricking people, usually by posing as someone else. They are often very convincing and scams are increasingly sophisticated, which is why victims are taken in by them.

Criminals clone telephone numbers so that a call or text appears to have come from your bank. They design emails with the correct logos, and set up authentic-looking websites for victims to input their details.

Successful scams usually play on people's emotions. Threats from the tax authorities or law enforcement agencies frighten people into believing they've done something wrong. Offers of high investment returns from various schemes are, sadly, often attractive to those struggling to make ends meet. Romance scams target lonely people and are an under-reported crime as victims are too hurt and ashamed to admit what has happened.

A lot of scams try to rush you into acting impulsively, to avoid prosecution, take advantage of a special offer, or sort out a computer problem. Another common aspect is secrecy – victims are encouraged not to discuss matters with others. Both these features are "red flags". If you are ever unsure, speak to the police or someone you know and

trust.

You will help others by reporting attempted scams. Texts should be forwarded to 7726 (for most phones, press on the text and find the option to forward). Send emails to report@phishing.gov.uk and for telephone scams, ring 0300 123 2040 or visit www.actionfraud.police.uk. Action Fraud have already removed almost 60,000 scams.

If you have been the victim of a scam, please remember you are not alone. It is important crimes are reported, and the police will be sympathetic. You should also contact your bank or credit card provider immediately.

Your personal information is valuable, even if criminals do not steal money. You could be a victim of identity theft or targeted by future scams, and this should also be reported to the police.

Citizens Advice provide helpful information on their website www.citizensadvice.org.uk (search for "scam"). You can also call our local branch on 01707 280417 (office hours) or meet them in Welwyn library between 2pm and 4pm on Fridays.

John Mitchell and Valerie Richards www.owl.co.uk/herts





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# MARDLEY HEATH W.I.



Last year our annual Produce Show was 'virtual', with entries submitted by photographs, so it was good that on the 21st October 2021 we could again contribute to and enjoy a live show. Fifteen different classes (in Food, Flowers/Plants, Craft, Photography) encouraged us to make an effort, generally stretch ourselves and compete. With the deadening effect of the latest lockdown lingering on, some found the effort needed to enter quite challenging, but nevertheless responded. The resultant colourful show raised all our spirits. The prizewinners will be named in next month's

report. Penny Stephens and Lynda Martin, the judges, were applauded and presented with garden vouchers.

The speaker this month was Deirdre Swede, a registered Nutritional Therapist, with a talk entitled Optimum Nutrition for Health and Wellbeing. She stressed the benefits of a happy family life and sharing in community activities, alongside watching what we eat, as a way to healthy ageing. We are living longer now than our parents did, but are not necessarily healthier than they were.

We should drink lots of water, not sit down for too long, go for a walk half an hour after a meal - having stopped eating when feeling 80% full! We should eat lots of colourful vegetables and for fibre eat wholegrain versions of bread, pasta and rice. Not too much fruit, but 'an apple a day' helps you retain muscle mass. Eat less meat and more fish, beans, nuts and seeds. Limit cakes and biscuits, but don't beat yourself up if you have the occasional binge!

Thank you, Deirdre, we'll try harder to adopt a healthier lifestyle after your inspiring talk.

President Jean Stephens reported on the recent Herts WI Annual Council Meeting in St Albans, where Nick Bailey was the guest speaker, and after sanitising the surfaces we all went home.

Marjorie Sandiford

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# ST MARY'S NEW DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Pavlos Triantaris joined St Mary's Church as Director of Music on October the 1st.

### Pavlos writes:

I was born in Greece in 1993, and thenceforth I saw little of my town of birth. I was the son of a Hellenic Air Force officer and of a schoolteacher, and we moved around a lot. When I was four years old the family made their permanent residence in Almyros – a mainland town which holds no importance for any Englishman, nor for most Greeks.

As it turned out, even such a humble town boasted of a conservatoire of its own, and soon enough – to the chagrin of my parents, who had to endure the most unholy of noises several times a week for the next twelve years – I developed an immense passion for classical music, despite the complete absence of any musical blood in the family.

Piano lessons were followed diligently and magazines and CDs on the great classical masters were bought with religious dedication (back in the days when the Internet was almost an abstract idea). I thus, over the years, became somewhat of a classical jukebox. My guilty pleasure consisted in me awkwardly "conducting" invisible orchestras whilst listening to symphonies alone in my room.

At some point, my attention was drawn to articles concerning a strange, foreign contraption producing a variety of sounds which captured my soul like no other. This led to an awakening which at the time I scarcely understood. It was, of course, the Organ, the indomitable King of Instruments. Alas, living in a country with ca. 1.2 working pipe organs per million population, and with a father who was anything but travel-happy, any possibility that I might get to know that impressive instrument remained in the realm of science fiction. The most I could do was listen to CDs featuring Christmas carols and Bach preludes, while daydreaming preposterous delusions that one day I may become a church organist.

Fast forward to my second year in University. Having armed, over the years (ISDN connections be thanked), with an enthusiastic, albeit theoretical, understanding of the function of organs, I stumbled upon one of the few which reside on Greek soil, and took my first steps upon a long sought-after path (the horrible tone of the mid-70s instrument notwithstanding). I started to attend a Presbyterian church, and there I was granted my first organist post. There is a rumour that their acquisition of an electronic organ to replace the woefully inadequate clavinova resulted from my mulish nagging. For the first time I was

Continued on page 36

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#### ST MARY'S NEW DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Continued from page 34

exposed to the evangelism of Christ, imbibing the message as dry earth absorbs autumn rain.

In 2017 I secured a UK PhD position and proceeded to discover a whole new world of unique organs and organists. I benefited from the tutelage of artists such as Mr. Jonathan Price, and became ever immersed in the (quite literally) enchanted world of the Anglican tradition, giving recitals, and even getting to accompany the choir of Chingford Parish when they sung, as a guest choir, in cathedrals.

At the same time, those first saplings of the Christian faith grew over the years, and thanks in part to Messrs. C.S. Lewis and Vishal Mangalwadi, I realised the immense importance and power of musical creation; that all music in Christian worship, up to the very last note, ought to faithfully serve the revealed word, in honour of the supernal Word and that music, joined with the arts of visual beauty and the spoken word, whether exalting, evangelising, or edifying, ought to create a majestic multi-faceted work of art which is greater than the sum of its parts – a *Gesamtkunstwerk*.-

It is my hope and joy that I shall dutifully aid the Welwyn ministry team to offer for (and with) the faithful an artwork of praise unto God for many years to come.

**Paylos Triantaris** 

#### WELWYN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Face to Face meetings have been resumed. We meet at 19.45 at the United Reformed Church Hall, Church Street in Welwyn Garden City.

We missed our 60th anniversary celebration due to Covid and will now be having a celebration and an exhibition at the Mill Green Museum about the society in March. Details to be finalised.

Meetings in December and January are as follows:

10th December Speaker and subject not yet arranged

21st January Iron Age brooches and radio carbon dating

Sophia Adams—British Museum

Ruth Halliwell ruth.halliwell@ntlworld.com



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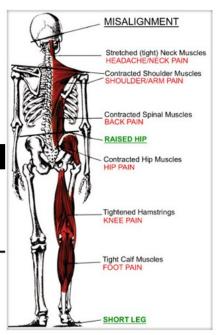
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#### **WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL**



It doesn't seem possible that I am writing this article at the end of October for the Christmas and New Year Edition of the Welwyn Magazine. Where has 2021 gone? It has been lovely to see businesses and private residents once again decorating their premises for Halloween. Of course, it isn't just children who enjoy the spooky feel as they walk around the Parish; I know some adults who enjoy it just as much.

This is the time of year when Bill Morris and his volunteers prepare the lights which help to make our Parish look so festive. When you read this, we hope you will have enjoyed the switching on of the lights and the Christmas Market. Welwyn Parish Council is pleased to have supported all the hard work by the Welwyn Festival Group to make this a special day.

The winner of our Christmas Card competition will have been asked to switch on the lights which is the start of the Christmas Spirit in the Parish. The children try really hard with their Christmas cards, they are so enthusiastic that I find it very hard as one of the judges. I know I will be delighted to be able use the winning card as this year's Welwyn Parish Council Christmas card.

Many businesses in our Parish have found the last two years to be difficult financially and the Parish Council is no exception. Not having the revenue from hall hire but still having our ongoing costs has made balancing the budget difficult. We are now really pleased to welcome back our hirers. At this time of year we are preparing for next year's budget. We have to consider revenue and capital expenditure for 2022/2023, keeping a prudent level of reserves to allow for unforeseen expenses while setting aside an amount to contribute to the cost of replacement assets and maintenance. We also have to allow for capital projects. We have for several years been concerned about the Parish Council offices. The structure makes it feel like a greenhouse in summer and an ice house in winter. Whilst we have made every effort to support the staff with heaters and fans we are very aware that a decision needs to be made about the way forward. Whatever we decide it has to be a solution which is agreeable to our staff, convenient for residents to visit and a building with Climate Change in mind. Thank you to all our staff for working so hard in not ideal conditions.

We have been delighted with the Civic Centre Art Wall. Anneli Boon's paintings have really helped to make the foyer look welcoming with pictures in her signature bright colours. You will have read in the Welwyn Parish Community Newsletter that we would love to display work from other local artists either in

Continued on page 40

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#### **WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL**

Continued from page 38

painting or photographic form. Please don't be shy, visitors to the Civic Centre would love to see and appreciate your work. Contact Jasmine, Deputy Clerk at 01438 716667 or email <a href="mailto:office@welwynpc.org.uk">office@welwynpc.org.uk</a> We look forward to hearing from you.

A lot of people work hard to keep our Parish of Welwyn Village, Digswell, Oaklands and Mardley Heath very special. Thank you to everyone. We are very privileged to live here.

I send my best wishes to you all for a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Marj Otty Chairman, Welwyn Parish council

#### **WELWYN NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

And so here we are at the end of a momentous year – one which will never be forgotten. We have had some fascinating talks virtually on Zoom and then recently, to our delight, live talks in the Civic Centre.

It has been the tradition for our meeting in December to be a "Member's Evening" with a light-hearted quiz followed by trying to eat our way through a table of Christmas goodies and to drink some Christmas cheer. Actually, by becoming a member you would save a large amount of cash so ... something to think about? Our new year starts in March next year when it would pay to become 'one of us'!! Before that we have, in February, another insect-based talk, this time on bees – both solitary and bumble - to be given by Josh Wells. We seem to have focused an awful lot on insects this last year – what will it be in 2022?

So, as they say: "Have a good Christmas and see you next year."

With all our best wishes from the Committee and the Members...

Judith Watson 01438 813897/07884946565





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#### Woolmer Green Market and Christmas Fair

The Woolmer Green Market and Christmas Fair is on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December from 9.00am to 2.00pm. The market is always a good place to meet and shop for local food and treats but the Christmas Market has become a real highlight of the year.

There are lots of fabulous food and craft stalls booked as well as activities for children - wooden reindeer making (£3.50), cookie decorating with the elves (£4.00) and (from 10.15-11.15am) a giant elf on stilts will be running a circus skills workshop (£5.00).

#### **Queen's Green Canopy**

This is a tree planting initiative to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people to plant a tree for the Jubilee. Woolmer Green Parish Council is keen to be involved and is looking for locations to plant new trees in the village. Ideas are welcome so please get in touch with the Clerk if you have a suggestion clerk@woolmergreenpc.org.uk

Carols round the Pond

It is hoped that Carols round the Pond will be able to take place again this year. To ensure that it is safe, the Parish Council will make an application to close a small section of New Road from 4.00pm to 6.00pm on Christmas Eve.

#### **Other Updates**

I updated on the issue with the swings at the orchard playground and the Parish Council is liaising with the playground company but we continue to wait for the necessary parts to repair them. We hope they will be repaired soon but the swings at Garden Road playground are available in the meantime.

As noted last month, Covid precautions are still in place at the Village Hall but bookings for events and parties are welcome again. For booking enquiries please contact

bookings@woolmergreenpc.org.uk

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#### **WELWYN ST MARY'S FOOTBALL CLUB**

Welwyn St Mary's first game in October was at home to Potten End First in the Hertfordshire FA County Cup. Despite a slow start in the incessant rain, Welwyn took the lead as Danny Russell dispatched the penalty sending the opposition 'keeper the wrong way after Michael Chehade had been felled. The lead didn't last long however, as Potten End capitalised on a defensive mix up to equalise and went in at half time with a deserved 2-1 lead following a controversial penalty. St Mary's upped the tempo in the second half and Harvey Okafo's glanced header levelled the scores. However St Mary's were unable to replicate their run in the previous County Cup as two late goals from Potten End decided the tie which ended 4-2.

Next up was a home game vs last seasons league runners up, St Albans Romans First. Romans started the game well but were soon down a goal as Tommy Taylor linked with Archie Ariss to fire home early in the first half. Romans continued to apply pressure but stand in 'keeper George Ariss and the defence managed to keep the score at 1-0. Just before the half, a long switch from Tyler Brunt was knocked across the 6 yard box first time by Luke Sullivan for Dammy Oluwadamilola to keep up his fine start to the season. A few minutes later Dammy returned the favour for Sullivan to open his account for the club. A quick free kick from Danny Russell in the second half onto the head of Tom Reason rounded off a 4-0 win and a first clean sheet of the season.

A difficult encounter on a bobbly pitch against Zimbabwe Stevenage followed. Welwyn struggled to get into their passing rhythm but took the lead as Dammy nodded over the keeper after a flick on from Tommy Taylor. Zim fought back and went in level at half time with a long range wonder strike. Zim continued to look strong on the counter attack with goalkeeper Brad Cook keeping Welwyn in the game. Zim took the lead with 10 minutes to go but Welwyn managed to salvage a late point as Dammy coolly slotted home after Tom Owen won the ball in opposition territory.

October ended with an 8-2 victory at home to St Albans Romans Reserves. It was 5-0 at half time with Dammy (2), Tom Reason (2) and Jason Fung blowing the opposition away. Romans pulled two back in the early second half but St Mary's upped the tempo with Nnaemeka Asil Maduka (Mizi) scoring his first goal for the club before Fung bagged his second and Archie Ariss completed the rout.

Michael Chehade

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#### www.welwyn.org.uk

#### ST MARY'S - Welwyn

Sunday 8.00 am Holy Communion

Sunday 9.30 am Parish Communion / Junior Church Sunday 6.30 pm Evensong (2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays)

Wednesday9.00 amMorning PrayerWednesday9.30 amHoly CommunionSaturday9.00 amParish Prayers

Children

Mondays 3.30pm Craftea (1st and 3rd Mondays during term time)

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#### **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

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

1st Sunday 11.15 am Matins: (Book of Common Prayer, King James' Bible)

2nd and 5th Sundays 11.15 am Holy Communion: (Book of Common Prayer, King James' Bible)

3rd Sunday 11.15 am Family Service: (Common Worship, NRSV Bible)
4th Sunday 11.15 am Parish Communion: (Common Worship, NRSV Bible)

#### **EVANGELICAL CHURCH - Welwyn**

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Sunday 11.00 am and 6.30 pm (Facilities for young children) Wednesday 8.00 pm Bible Study (except 3rd Wednesday)

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#### **MEDITATION**

#### A camel's tale.

I felt honoured to be chosen for the journey – I was proud, maybe arrogant, even a little boastful. I was one of a dozen selected from hundreds of camels to carry the "seers" on their journey to honour a new king. I was on my best behaviour – fit, primed, ready to go.

But the journey was long and tedious. Plodding on day in, day out; week in, week out; month after month...... Wise men – that was a joke! They didn't even know where they were going. They were following a star – didn't they know that there were thousands of the wretched things – why was one so special? Did they not realise that even camels have to eat and drink and rest?

I became tired, disillusioned, bad-tempered and went back to my normal camel behaviour – hissing, spitting, refusing to kneel down or get up when told. I took out my bad mood on all around me – kicking and biting the other camels when I got chance, diverting from the path to steal a leaf from a tree or food left behind by previous travellers.

Finally, we reached the great city, Jerusalem - surely here we would find this so-called king but no-one had even heard of him. Wasted journey. All that effort for nothing. We were re-directed to a small town, to a grotty little stable behind an inn, to sheep and goats and a child in a manger.

Then I looked in to the Child's eyes and I saw and understood. The greatest gift of all..... I am loved, I am forgiven, I am free. No more striving, boasting and competing. No need to fight or rebel. I, a lowly camel, am loved and cherished, I am free to serve the Servant King. I have a purpose and a meaning. I do not need to follow all the rules, behave better than other camels or keep myself pure but I want to – I want to be the best camel I can be – carrying other camels' loads, doing as I am bidden, helping and serving others.

So I knelt by the manger, unbidden, and worshipped.

Jo Fozzard