

# The Welwyn Magazine



**June 2021**

*[www.welwyn.org.uk](http://www.welwyn.org.uk)*

**60p**

# CONTENTS

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The Rector's letter .....	3/5
Community Café.....	5
Neighbourhood Watch.....	7
Men's Breakfast.....	9/11
Patients' Participation Group... ..	13/15
Welwyn Garden City Youth Football Club.....	15
Jessie—The Rectory Dog.....	17
Welwyn Natural History Society.....	19/21
St Mary's Welwyn Football Club.....	22/23
Highways and Byways of Welwyn.....	24/25/26
St Mary's Walking Group.....	27
News from Ayot St Peter.....	28/30
Subscriptions .....	32
Beatitudes for a pandemic .....	32
Woolmer Green Parish Council.....	34
Welwyn Parish Council .....	36/38
Any Other Business.....	38
Friends of Danesbury and QVM.....	40/42
Thank you, Roger Ford.....	42
Church Notice Boards.....	44/46
Meditation.....	48

**Editor Note**

We normally publish reports on activities and meetings occurring in the village but these activities have inevitably been cancelled due to Covid-19. Hence, therefore, there is little to report!

We would welcome any articles on local matters from our readers. Please send details by email to:

**[magazine@welwyn.org.uk](mailto:magazine@welwyn.org.uk)** or contact St Mary's church office on **01438 840964**

**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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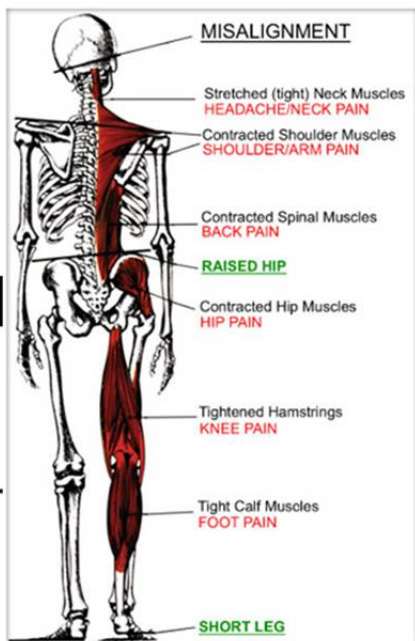
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# The Rector's Letter

## Dear Friends

Perhaps in school you might have looked at those diagrams of the human eye in biology – the ones where the eye looks a bit like a pin hole camera, and the pupil is the pin hole. If you follow the lines that the light travels along you will notice a puzzling thing – the image on our retina at the back of the eye is upside down. So how is it that when we look at everything we see it all up the right way? The answer is of course that from birth the brain gets used to reinverting the image so that it is the right way up. The brain is so good at this, that experiments have been carried using inverting glasses – glasses which invert the image before it meets the eye. Predictably adults stumble around for a few days, but surprisingly quickly the brain learns to invert the image, so we see things the right way up once again. Of course when the experiment is over and the glasses taken off, the people have to readjust again to 'normal' vision.

I say all this because after more than a year of 'abnormal' life, all being well, this month life will be returning to something a bit like 'normal.' Now as I've said before I don't think it's been entirely helpful to second guess what

the 'new normal' will be – and in fact the 'new normal' is a phrase I find a bit irritating.

What I do think is true, is that a year is easily long enough to adapt to certain new ways of living. That in some ways – just like living in odd institutions or families – we will have got used to living a certain way and will have adapted to it. And sometimes it is a shock suddenly to come out of it. Now sometimes that shock occurs even when we are swapping something bad for something good – coming out of captivity, or an abusive relationship, can often need readjustment which is not easy. And sometimes as we know, sadly people are scared to leave prisons or bad relationships for that reason.

So I want to suggest that there may be three types of things which will change over the coming months. Firstly there will be things we simply can't wait to get back to normal – bicycle events, social gatherings, going to the pub for me – oh and church services. Secondly there will be perhaps new things we've got used to which we might like to keep – for instance we might have got used to zooming with family and friends, who we don't see very often, and now we've learnt that new skill we will keep



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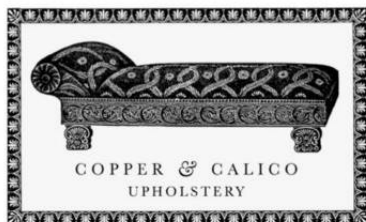
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## RECTOR'S LETTER (Continued)

Rector's letter continued from page 3

it up. But there will be a third category – and I think this is where we may need a little of God's help. Things that it will be good to get back to normal, but that secretly we are a bit apprehensive about. Now for each of us that will be different. However I want to suggest that this is where God might come in. The Bible is full of stories of people being stuck in some way or another, in a place where it isn't easy for them to be stuck. God rescues the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, but in the wilderness a proportion want to go back. God rescues them again from the Babylonian exile, but when they come back many of them find it hard to readjust. Jesus comes as the fulfilment of their hope of a Messiah, and he is rejected and crucified.

Sometimes in the next few months we are going to have to be a bit brave about coming back to things. But God in the Bible constantly calls people to do 'new things.' We ask him in prayer for the wisdom to know which are those things which secretly make us anxious, and ask him to be with us, as we seek to overcome them.

*David*

## Community Café

The Community Café was delighted to be able to re-open on Tuesday 18th May after Covid restrictions were eased on Monday 17th. Look out for the new banner and do come along if you can. The Café will be open, as usual, every Tuesday morning from 10.00 until 12.00.

There will, of course, continue to be measures in place to ensure the safety of the volunteers running the café and the people who are there to enjoy the food, drink and company. Please adhere to the guidelines—they are there to keep you safe and well.



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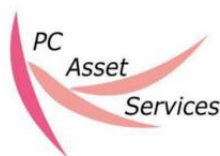
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## Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)



If you were going on Mastermind, would you choose The Welwyn Magazine as your subject? Possibly only an editor would do that! So we hope we can safely revisit a topic last covered in November 2019 without every reader yawning and quickly turning the page.

ASB continues to be among the top three most reported crimes in Welwyn. The definition is very broad. ASB could include nuisance, rowdy or inconsiderate neighbours, vandalism and graffiti, street drinking, littering, fly-tipping and dumping cars, begging and vagrancy, fireworks misuse, threatening behaviour and inappropriate use of vehicles.

One aspect of ASB for which the police are not the first port of call is noise complaints. This is the concern of WHBC's Environmental Health Department who can be contacted on 01707 357242 or [e.health@welhat.gov.uk](mailto:e.health@welhat.gov.uk). They can send letters to noisy neighbours, issue noise abatement notices and fines of up to £5,000. If you have a smartphone, did you already download "the noise app" they ask you to use to gather data about noise levels? This takes just a few minutes and once installed uses less of your phone's capacity than the BBC weather app.

During lockdown, most of us will have been spending more time than usual at home, some of us working. People report being more sensitive to noise and being more aware of birdsong, though we've not heard of people claiming to hear the grass grow. Was that back in the sixties?

Several times during the various lockdowns, OWL members in Welwyn East received advice about garden bonfires, initially prompted by complaints from people with pre-existing breathing difficulties shielding at home. Garden bonfires (like noise) are the concern of Environmental Health and concerns about bonfires should be reported to them in the same way as for noise. At the time of writing this in April we have experienced an extremely dry month, and this will have been of concern to the Fire Service too. They don't want to have their engines diverted to deal with garden bonfires getting out of control.

John Mitchell and Valerie Richards  
[www.owl.co.uk/herts](http://www.owl.co.uk/herts)



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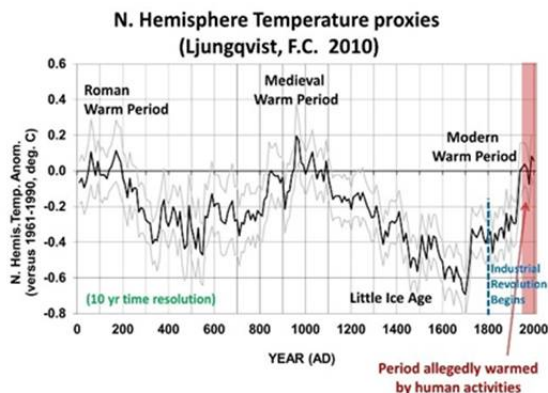
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## On-Line Men's Breakfast 10<sup>th</sup> April 2021

### “Climate Change – the need for Debate” – Ian Cunningham



After a minute's silence to pay tribute to the Duke of Edinburgh's lifetime of devotion to his country and Queen, we welcomed Ian Cunningham who is a long-term resident of Ayot Green. He has also lived in Orkney and enjoys walking, photography and birdwatching. Ian has had a distinguished career in science. He obtained a first-class degree and a PhD in organic chemistry at Glasgow University. He then won a Royal Society European Scholarship to do two years post-doctoral

research in Switzerland. He joined ICI Pharmaceuticals as a medicinal chemist, moved to ICI Agrochemicals as Head of Chemistry and then to Glaxo where he was Senior Vice President. He established a weather station in Orkney and though not a climatologist, he has retained a keen interest in science and how it is conducted and reported.

He is concerned that a climate emergency has been declared and people, especially in politics and the media have made up their minds without a proper examination of the science. Debate has been stifled and a crude categorisation of believers and deniers has been made. People often confuse weather with climate.

Weather changes daily but climate changes are changes in weather patterns over 30-40 years. It is undeniable that the climate is warming and greenhouse gasses, particularly CO<sub>2</sub> are increasing. But the question is do rising temperatures increase carbon dioxide levels or vice versa? History shows that they are not always correlated. The graph shows the temperature record over a period of 2000 years starting with the Roman period which was warm, followed by a cool period and warming again in the mediaeval period.

Climatically this was a very benign period; it was a time of plenty and the construction of many of our oldest buildings began then. There then followed a mini-ice age in the 1700s. It was a time of storms, droughts, floods, famines and disease. It has now warmed up again. None of this was due to man-made CO<sub>2</sub>. While recently there has been an increase in atmospheric levels of CO<sub>2</sub>, the IPCC, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, states that from 1950 when CO<sub>2</sub> started to rise more rapidly, temperatures actually fell or stagnated for three decades.

How reliable are climate change computer models? There are over 100 of them. Most predict large increases in temperatures due to greenhouse gasses which greatly exceed



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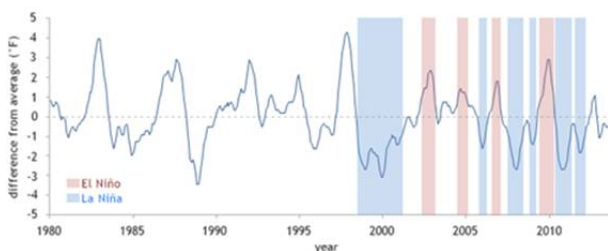
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## Men's Breakfast Report (Continued)

what is actually happening. Those which come closest to actual measured temperatures are those that show the least sensitivity to CO<sub>2</sub>. So, could some or indeed most of the rises in temperature in recent times have been caused by natural factors such as happened in the rest of the earth's history? As the climate models are so unreliable, should we base our whole energy and economic strategy on them and spend trillions of pounds on projects which would be better directed to adapting to climate change and relieving world poverty?

El Niño/La Niña index since 1980



Global temperatures are now measured by satellites but we only have data for 40 years. These show a correlation with the release of heat from the oceans. When El Niño in the Pacific (red on the graph) is most active global temperatures are raised and they drop when La Niña (blue) when surface water is colder, predominates.

The media like to report on

extreme weather events and now nearly always link them with man-made global warming. The IPCC says that global data for storms, floods and droughts show no increase either in frequency or severity over the last century. Whilst there has been recent warming in the Arctic, records show that this also happened a century ago and then reversed. In the Antarctic there has been no overall change in the last seven decades. Bleaching of coral reefs occurred in the 19th century long before the recent warming and evidence from the Great Barrier Reef shows coral can recover. Another little-known fact is that abnormal cold kills 17 times more people than abnormal heat so perhaps a bit more warming may be a good thing! Our food supply is now greater than ever and the world is greening due to higher levels of CO<sub>2</sub>. CO<sub>2</sub> is not a pollutant it is essential for human and plant life. Too little CO<sub>2</sub> causes crop failure.

Just like the myth of polar bears dying out, the claim that 97% of scientists agree that global warming is man-made and dangerous has been completely debunked, but the media don't tend to report this.

Global warming over the last 150 years has been slow and manageable whilst living standards have risen dramatically. Most projections of warming and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have been far too high. There is no scientific evidence that CO<sub>2</sub> added by the human population has had any significant adverse effect on the human population, and of course reducing CO<sub>2</sub> will have little effect on temperatures rising due to natural causes during this cycle of global warming.

Ian had a very favourable response to his arguments from the audience. If you would like to hear the talk, whether or not you are a subscriber to the Men's Breakfast, you can hear it on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5NhzCWHpQUM>

Our next talk is on the 5<sup>th</sup> June and the speaker is the excellent Geoffrey Hollis on "The 1951 Festival of Britain". Please contact Jim Read [jimread55@gmail.com](mailto:jimread55@gmail.com) if you would like to join the Men's Breakfast mailing list.



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Women also lose bone strength rapidly in the first few years after the menopause. Women are more at risk of osteoporosis than men, particularly if the menopause begins early (before the age of 45) or they've had their ovaries removed. However, osteoporosis can also affect men, younger women and children.

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- having or having had an eating disorder such as anorexia or bulimia

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- not exercising regularly
- heavy drinking and smoking

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## Patient Participation Group (Continued)

### Preventing osteoporosis

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- taking regular weight bearing exercise to keep your bones as strong as possible
- healthy eating – including foods rich in calcium and vitamin D
- taking a daily supplement containing 10 micrograms of vitamin D
- making lifestyle changes – such as giving up smoking and reducing your alcohol consumption

If you have any concerns about osteoporosis then please contact your GP surgery.

Information taken from [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) and <https://theros.org.uk/>. If you would like further information about the Bridge Cottage Surgery Patient Participation Group please email [ppgbridgecottage@gmail.com](mailto:ppgbridgecottage@gmail.com)

## Welwyn Garden City Youth Football Club

Welwyn Garden City Youth F.C is looking for players for the U16s for the 2021/22 season.

The squad is called the Tornadoes and we will be playing division 3 in the MHRML (Mid Herts Rural Minors' League).

Before lockdown last year we made it to the final which unfortunately was never played because of Covid restrictions. We are now back and raring to get going with our very talented squad. Outfield players and a dedicated Goalkeeper are needed to join our friendly team of local lads who share a passion for playing the best football they can. Call Coach Lloyd **07525 088472** to arrange to come down and join us for one of our weekly training sessions.



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## Jessie—The Rectory Dog

The reason Master and I get along – generally – is that we are creatures of habit. But sometimes we fall out because I am even more of a creature of habit than he is. I have very clear guidelines and goals for a) walks, b) food, c) when I am allowed on the sofa d) how much of the day my humans should spend paying me attention e) what beds and toys belong to me, and I should be allowed to arrange them exactly as I choose.



However around this time of year we hit a bit of a snag. Because in the month of June comes mid-summer. Now in December the afternoon walk has to be done and dusted by about 3.30pm if we want to come home in the light – and given my reputation for going off and eating stuff, you really need to walk me in the light. But of course come June, it's often quite hot (as I write this it's an absolutely freezing start of May) and Master points out we could easily walk at 8pm. The trouble with this plan is firstly I have no idea what time it is – or rather I do, but I have no idea of deferred gratification. As far as I am concerned every day from 2pm onwards is walk time. Furthermore walk time is closely connected with food time, and for Labradors food time can never be delayed. It is simply the end of the world if it is. And we are strangely able to communicate that 'this is the end of the world' feeling in a really annoying way.

Jess







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## WELWYN NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

### ***All about Anguillids: Conservation, Ecology and some Eely Horrible History***

Yes! You are right! It's a talk about EELS.. These are surely the animal about which the least is known, so we are in for a revelatory evening at the end of June. I have only had three encounters with eels; the first was during the war when my mother and I visited my father who was billeted in Huyton, Liverpool. We stayed in a house which had a swimming pool in the garden, "Don't go near that, Judith, it's got eels in it!" Secondly, I gave my teenage sons eel for their supper – that didn't go down too well, and, thirdly, when we visited my husband's brother in Limerick and found that the River Shannon was one of the major producers of eels and exported them to Europe.

I am sure  
that things  
have  
changed  
immensely  
since those  
days and I'm  
so looking  
forward to



hearing what David Johnson has to say. I believe the eel population has fallen rather drastically and we are now being dissuaded from eating them – is this 'goodbye' to jellied eels then? But seriously, their life cycle sounds to be amazing with them migrating thousands of miles, living as long as we do, spending a lot of energy on sex, having some of the attributes of fish and some of amphibians... I could go on but we have an expert waiting to tell us all.

Yesterday, I logged into our Zoom talk about the introduction of beavers

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## Welwyn Natural History Society (Continued)

to the River Otter in Devon. If you didn't manage to hear that let me know and I can send you the link to the recording.. it was a fascinating evening and a heartening one too; beavers can do the most amazing things to mitigate the problem we have with climate change. Which makes me wonder if eels can do the same?? Too long have we thought that we know best – perhaps, or probably, we have been wrong all along.



**David Johnson**, our speaker, is Fisheries Technical Officer for Hertfordshire and North London. He has a Master's Degree from Hull and a wider interest in aquatic ecology with extensive experience in surveying fresh water fish, amphibians, water voles, badgers, bats and otters as a freelance ecologist. This picture shows him holding a chub. The Zoom link to join our meeting at 8pm on Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> will be posted a couple of days beforehand on our website and Facebook pages.

[www.welwynnaturalhistorysociety.co.uk](http://www.welwynnaturalhistorysociety.co.uk)

Welwyn natural history society (Facebook)

We very much look forward to seeing you.

Judith Watson

[watson.winfield@btopenworld.com](mailto:watson.winfield@btopenworld.com)

07884946565

## St Mary's Football Club

The football season resumed in April for Welwyn St Mary's FC with a condensed fixture list and the cancellation of Cup competitions. Welwyn's first game back was a tricky encounter against last season's league winners, Soul Survivor of Watford. Welwyn dominated the ball with George Ariss instrumental throughout, however there were no chances of note in the first half for either team. The second half began with Soul Survivor taking the lead via an unfortunate pinball-style own goal off captain Tom Reason's knee, with Brad Cook's goal not having been troubled until that point. A second Soul Survivor goal was disallowed with 20 minutes remaining for offside and from the restart Tom Robinson's long through ball was poked in off the post by a jubilant Archie Ariss. Welwyn pushed for a winner and should have had a penalty with 5 minutes remaining as Michael Chehade was taken down in the box with the referee unsighted. Carl Webb, Archie Ariss and Robinson all came close in the dying moments. The game ended 1-1.

April also included a back-to-back top of the table clash against St Albans Romans Firsts. The home fixture started slowly, with St Mary's having most of the ball but Romans, creating the only chance of note though centre-back Callum Russell, did well to put off the opposition striker following a teammate's error on the edge of the Welwyn box. The introduction of Webb at half time was the catalyst for St Mary's second half domination. Webb hit the crossbar from 35 yards and came close to scoring twice from close range before Jim Stevens's whipped corner curled in the top corner helped by the Romans big centre half clattering into his 'keeper. Welwyn survived some late pressure to take home three points.

The return fixture was an all action match, with Welwyn dominating the opening 20 minutes before Reason curled in from 20 yards after midfield teammate Robinson rammed his way through four heavy challenges before laying the pass to Reason. Romans hit back immediately, scoring a scrappy goal from a long free kick. St Mary's should have gone ahead



## St Mary's Football Club

again as Reason hit the crossbar from the penalty spot after Dammy Oluwadamilola was cleaned out in the box. Minutes later Dammy was slotted through again by George Ariss and slotted a composed finish under the opposition keeper. Half time substitute Harvey Okafo put Welwyn 3-1 up glancing a Webb corner in, before Romans were awarded a controversial penalty which was brilliantly saved by Brad Cook. Romans had the ball in the net moments later though the flag was up for a clear offside. They did pull another back with minutes remaining though Welwyn managed to hold on comfortably.

Michael Chehade



St Mary's Football Team

## Welwyn Highways and Byways (Part 3)

### Where is the School?

Our last journey through Welwyn's streets ended at 'The Plain', an old name for the area at the junction of the High Street and School Lane. This was once the village green – hence the naming of 'The Green' nearby and had a pound for stray animals – hence Pound Cottages. But before looking at some of the street names in this part of the village a question needs to be answered. School Lane is clearly named after a school – but look as you might you will only find a very recently added nursery school at the bottom of Whitehill. The answer is really very simple, the school after which School Lane is named is now long gone.

Welwyn's first school was opened in 1714 by the Rector, Francis Offley. Upon his death in 1730, the next rector, Edward Young and his successors continued to run the school on a piece of land behind Church House and the Rose and Crown. By 1830 this schoolroom was in a state of ruin and a new National School was built – in School Lane. After 20 years increased numbers had again made a new school necessary and in 1858 the foundations of St. Mary's School were laid on a plot of land opposite 'The Steamer'. School Lane lost its school, but the building still stands near its junction with Whitehill as a private residence.



*Welwyn's first National School*

On their way to the school, pupils would have passed very little in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, just a few cottages near the bottom of Hobb's Hill. To the north stood the Manor House, in use as the Rectory. This house was built around 1813 on glebe (an area of land used to support a priest) known as Elmoor Land, hence today's Elmoor Avenue and Glebe Road. In

## Welwyn Highways and Byways (Part 3)

front of the Manor House originally ran a road to Kimpton, roughly along the line of Ellesfield, which also takes its names from a nearby plot of land – Elle's Field.

Next to that first National School stands a grand house in the grounds of which modern houses have

been built. This house was built in 1878 by Phillip Webb, a partner of



*The Old Rectory or Manor House*

William Morris, for his brother Harold, a surgeon and GP. At that time the house was pretty much 'out in the sticks'. We now know this small cul-de-sac as New Place, after the house, which itself was possibly named



after the 'New Place' for the village school.

Nearby, a very old road branches off towards Ayot Green. This is Whitehill and its name reflects a very old feature of Hertfordshire landscapes. Chalk pits are common in our county and a number could be found around Welwyn, here a chalk pit, now a car park sat at the bottom of Whitehill and gives this road its name. The Tithe Map lists this area as White Well Close.

## Welwyn Highways and Byways

Development along School Lane took place slowly but by 1939 there were a few houses near the junction with Whitehill and further along towards the QVM Hospital. The biggest development came post-war when the



Hawbush Estate was built. This area of land is marked as Bush Field on the Tithe map and as Haw Bush on maps from the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The Haw

presumably refers to Hawthorn, a plant which grows all around the area. There are two other roads on the original estate – Wilshere Road, named after the Wilshere family of the Frythe and Wilga Road derived from Welwyn's ancient Old English name 'welig' (willow) or 'welge' as in the Domesday Book.

Between Wilga Road and Elmoor Avenue it is possible to cut through a pathway to an often forgotten small road of bungalows. This is Wingate Gardens, named after Edward Wingate who after fighting on the wrong side in the Civil War, retired to end his days at Lockleys.

The latest name to come to this part of Welwyn also remembers a village worthy – Christopher 'Kit' Trevena, headmaster of St Mary's School from 1957 to 1977. This naming shows the modern trends of street naming, which we will see more of next time, but how fitting that Trevena Gardens opens onto School Lane!

Paul Jiggins

# St Mary's Walking Group

## RE-START MONDAY 21 JUNE

At last, the group can re-start! We did manage a few walks last year but are really pleased to get going again on a regular basis.

I am handing over the organization to Louise and David Hughes who live in Welwyn and already act as Secretaries to the PCC. Louise has been a member of the walking group since 2019 and as well as having plenty of experience of organizing groups, she is a keen cyclist and walker.

Over the years we have covered a wide area of East Herts, Mid Herts and North Herts and been amazed at the beautiful scenery. We may lack the hills of some counties but Hertfordshire is extremely pretty and provides relatively easy and varied walking.

The group started with 12 members in May 2006 and membership increased rapidly so that we now have about 20 to 25 walkers on the third Monday of each month. Members volunteer to choose a route and lead the walk each month, an arrangement which spreads the load and does ensure that we have a wide variety of walks. Membership is limited to people who are members of St Mary's or any of the other churches in the team or who live in or around Welwyn. It is an excellent way to get to know people as well as meeting friends and keeping fit. We all have happy memories of interesting walks, chats and various pubs.

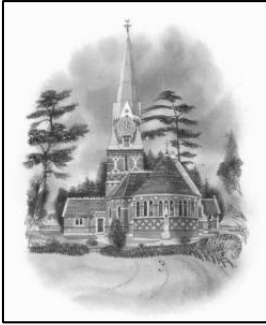
If you are interested, do please contact Louise or David on 01438 718965. You will find it a very friendly group!

Joy and Robin Whitten





## NEWS FROM AYOT ST PETER



Ayot St Peter has very special church bells known as

"Ellacombe chimes", which can be rung by just one person, rather than the team of bell ringers that people expect. In a traditional bell tower, ropes control the bells, and the bells swing, which makes them chime. In an Ellacombe tower the bells are static, and each one is struck with a hammer. The hammers are controlled by ropes, which go down the bell tower into a frame in a room below.

Ellacombe Chimes were invented in 1821 by Revd. Henry Thomas Ellacombe, while he was curate at St Mary's Church in Bitton, south Gloucestershire. His idea was that all the bells could be rung by one trusted person without involving a band of unruly and drunken bell ringers. At the time it was quite common

**Happy birthday to our bells!**





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## NEWS FROM AYOT ST PETER

Continued from p 28

for bell ringers to be paid for their service in beer.

Ellacombe Chimes fell out of fashion and have been removed from a number of church towers. We are most fortunate that our apparatus has been carefully maintained over the years, and that generations of local bell ringers have used the Ellacombe Chimes to mark many special occasions.

Expert bell ringers have sometimes been dismissive of Ellacombe chimes, especially in churches like ours where there are only six bells. However, during the pandemic, traditional bell towers have struggled with social distancing – a problem that does not affect the sole ringer of Ellacombe Chimes.

This year is the bicentenary of Ellacombe Chimes. The official birthday is 26 June and churches around the world will be ringing their bells. The chimes will start in New Zealand, and include Australia, South Africa, Canada, the United States and Ireland. Around 36 churches across the UK will be joining in. At present, we are the only church in Hertfordshire involved.

At Ayot St Peter the church will be open from 11am to 2pm on Saturday 26 June and the bells will ring from 12 noon, after the clock chimes the hour. Visitors can admire the beauty of the church interior and our history expert will be on hand to answer any questions. We are all keeping our fingers crossed for a fine day so that people in the churchyard can enjoy the chimes. We will also be selling our popular home-made preserves. Do join us!

Valerie Richards



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# Subscriptions

We are very grateful to our band of over 50 willing volunteers who deliver the Welwyn Magazine to subscribers. In 2020 we were not able to deliver the April, May, June, July/August issues although we did produce digital issues. For the same reason we did not collect subscriptions last year. This month our distributors will be knocking on doors to collect your subscription for both last year and this. To keep things simple for everyone we will ask you to pay £10 (which is 40p more than the cover price for the two years).

The Magazine is produced entirely by volunteers and all profits go towards the running costs of St Mary's and St Michael's churches. Despite the pandemic we were still able to donate £6,500 in 2020 split equally between the two churches, which aside from anything else will help to pay the considerable heating costs. We have bound copies of every magazine produced since 1871 and are grateful for your continuing support in continuing to purchase it.

## BEATITUDES FOR A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

BLESSED ARE THOSE  
WHO STAY INDOORS



FOR THEY HAVE  
PROTECTED OTHERS

BLESSED ARE THE  
UNEMPLOYED AND THE  
SELF-EMPLOYED



FOR THEIR NEED OF  
GOD IS GREAT

BLESSED ARE THE  
CORNER SHOPKEEPERS



FOR THEY ARE THE  
PURVEYORS OF SCARCE  
THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE DELIVERY  
DRIVERS AND THE POSTAL  
WORKERS



FOR THEY ARE THE  
BRINGERS OF ESSENTIAL  
THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE HOSPITAL  
WORKERS, THE AMBULANCE CREWS,  
THE DOCTORS, THE NURSES, THE CARE  
ASSISTANTS, AND THE CLEANERS



FOR THEY STAND BETWEEN US AND  
THE GRAVE, AND THE KINGDOM OF  
HEAVEN IS SURELY THEIRS

BLESSED ARE THE  
CHECKOUT WORKERS



FOR THEY HAVE PATIENCE AND  
FORTITUDE IN THE FACE OF  
OVERWORK AND FRUSTRATION

BLESSED ARE THE  
REFUSE COLLECTORS



FOR THEY WILL SEE  
GOD DESPITE THE  
MOUNTAINS OF WASTE

BLESSED ARE THE  
TEACHERS



FOR THEY REMAIN  
STEADFAST AND  
CONSTANT IN  
DISTURBING TIMES

BLESSED ARE THE CHURCH  
WORKERS; THE DEACONS,  
PRIESTS AND BISHOPS



FOR THEY ARE A COMFORTING  
PRESENCE IN A HURTING  
WORLD AS THEY CONTINUE TO  
SIGNPOST TOWARDS GOD

BLESSED ARE THE SINGLE  
PARENTS.



FOR THEY ARE COPING  
ALONE WITH THEIR  
RESPONSIBILITIES AND  
THERE IS NO RESPIRE

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO  
ARE ALONE.



FOR THEY ARE CHILDREN OF  
GOD AND WITH HIM THEY  
WILL NEVER BE LONELY

BLESSED ARE THE  
BEREAVED.



FOR WHOM THE WORST HAS  
ALREADY HAPPENED. THEY  
SHALL BE COMFORTED

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO  
ARE ISOLATED WITH THEIR  
ABUSERS



FOR ONE DAY - WE PRAY -  
THEY WILL KNOW SAFETY

BLESSED ARE ALL DURING THIS TIME WHO HAVE PURE HEARTS;  
ALL WHO STILL HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE; ALL WHO  
WORK FOR PEACE AND WHO MODEL MERCY



MAY YOU KNOW COMFORT. MAY YOU KNOW CALM. AND MAY THE  
GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND  
THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE WITH US ALL. AMEN





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# Woolmer Green Parish Council

The Parish Council year ended on 31 March and we have looked back over a challenging year. All our community events had to be cancelled as the country went into lockdown and the Village Hall has been closed for much of the year. However, the community stepped up to help others and kind volunteers offered to help with shopping for those who were shielding. The Parish Clerk matched requests for help with offers to ensure everyone who asked had help. The Parish Council embraced technology and moved its meetings online with all the usual issues that regular users will recognise - 'you're on mute!' and patchy broadband signals. We are still holding our meetings online but expect to be back in the Hall very soon. The Parish Council normally relies on income from hall bookings for about two thirds of its income so the financial consequences of the lockdown were felt quickly. The Parish Council immediately sought to save costs and reduce expenditure to just essential items. Over recent years, the Parish Council had built up some reserves and these were available to cover some unavoidable costs, but many activities were stopped in order to conserve funds. The Parish Council used the Government Job Retention



Scheme for the hall staff and this has been a valuable scheme that has helped considerably. Unfortunately, the main boiler failed during the year and was beyond repair but County Councillor Richard Smith generously gave the Parish Council a considerable sum from his Locality Budget to cover this. At the end of the year, in March 2021, the Council received an Additional Restrictions Grant of just over £10,000 and this has been very welcome after such a challenging year. This grant turned an anticipated deficit for the year to a surplus, meaning that the reserves were not required to be used.

We hope that 2021/22 will be a better year and that we will be able to reopen the hall fully and to run some community events later in the year but nothing has been planned at this stage while we wait to see how the restrictions are released.

**Sarah Hall**

**Woolmer Green Parish Council**

**[sarah.hall@woolmergreenpc.org.uk](mailto:sarah.hall@woolmergreenpc.org.uk)**

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## Welwyn Parish Council



I hope you are all staying safe and well and looking forward to lockdown restrictions being eased. The shops, pubs and restaurants in the village have been doing an excellent job at keeping their businesses going with online orders, outside dining and takeaways. I hope everyone will show their

appreciation by supporting them when rules allow. We have erected a temporary fence for safety on the border of the Rose and Crown land and the cemetery. This will remain until we can have the church wall rebuilt. May is the end of our Council year. The Government would not extend legislation to allow us to continue with our Zoom meetings which means, we will have our meetings in the Civic Centre where we can socially distance. It will be good to be able to see other and have a better forum for discussion. By the time you read this we will have elected a Chairman and Vice Chairman for the coming year, reviewed our Action Plan and will be looking forward to our work in 2021/2022. We held our Annual Parish Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> April. Thank you to the members of the public who joined us for this Zoom meeting.

We have now received and assessed all the responses from the Neighbourhood Plan. We will be sharing these with you as soon as possible. For me, some of the highlights were that the majority of residents felt safe, enjoyed the village atmosphere, walking in the woods and countryside and overall were satisfied with living in the Parish. Traffic issues, parking and concern about future development were the main negatives. What I did realise from some of the responses was that many people, understandably, do not know which council is responsible for taking care of which areas. Every quarter Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council sends out a magazine which has a page showing its areas of responsibilities and those of Hertford County Council together with useful phone numbers. As an example, some of the responsibilities of the Borough Council are planning, waste and recycling collections, fly tipping, graffiti, anti-social behaviour. The County Council's responsibilities include highways and transportation, street lights, traffic lights,

*continued on p.38*

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## Welwyn Parish Council (Continued)

potholes, gritting and road repairs. The Parish Council has responsibility for all the land that we own, including the allotments, cemetery, the car parks we either own or lease from the Borough Council, the playing fields and playgrounds, the halls including the Civic Centre which we lease from the Borough Council. We would expect, and generally are, to be informed and involved in discussions on anything to do within our Parish.

Talking to residents I am still hearing about dog mess in the Parish; in particular dogs fouling pavements and footpaths and owners who use bags and then hang them on trees, fences etc. This cannot be acceptable anywhere. We try to keep the area clean, tidy and attractive and expect everyone to do likewise. Please act responsibly.

Enjoy the rest of Spring and stay well.

Marj Otty

Chairman, Welwyn Parish Council

### ANY OTHER BUSINESS



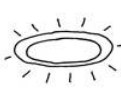
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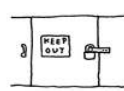
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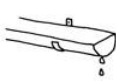
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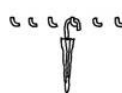
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UMBRELLA?



HAS  
ANYONE  
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## FRIENDS OF DANESBURY & QVM HOSPITAL

There is a buzz around Welwyn village as life comes back to some sort of normality. The shops are open again and slowly, as the weather starts to warm, people are starting to venture out and about a little more. We are pleased to have people popping into our charity shop to make purchases, as well as donating some lovely items. If you haven't visited the charity shop yet, please do pop in for a browse.



At Danesbury & QVM it is business usual, we are pleased to report that Danesbury no longer has any COVID patients, however at QVM they still have one or two COVID patients residing there. Thanks to your generosity we have been able to help the hospitals by providing some clothing for patients who, less fortunate than ourselves, have come to the hospital with nothing more than the clothing they were wearing when admitted. They have no family or friends so the Friends have helped where we can. We have also provided the



physios with items to help with patient rehabilitation.



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# FRIENDS OF DANESBURY & QVM HOSPITAL (Cont)

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Our website ([danburyqvm.co.uk](http://danburyqvm.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 @ [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/danburyqvm](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/danburyqvm).

We thank you for your continued support.

## Thank you, Roger Ford

Many of our readers may have noticed, this month, that we have a new writer for the News from Ayot St Peter. RF (Roger Ford) has been providing an article for the magazine for at least 18 years. We would like to thank him for all his interesting contributions over the years and wish him all the best in his “retirement”. “

As an aside

Did you hear Roger on the Today programme on Radio 4 and also on BBC1 on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May, when he was explaining the reasons why high speed trains built by Hitachi were having to be checked for cracks and their temporary withdrawal from service?



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# Church Notice Board

*Worship has resumed in our churches.*

*Please continue to follow the social distancing guidelines,  
use of hand sanitiser and the wearing of face coverings is mandatory, unless you are exempt.  
Details about Virtual Church, which continues at 9.30 am each Sunday, can be found at:*

**[www.welwyn.org.uk](http://www.welwyn.org.uk)**

## Sunday Services

	<b>ST MARY'S - Welwyn</b>
8.00 am	Holy Communion
9.30 am	Parish Communion / Junior Church
6.30 pm	Evensong (2nd , 4th & 5th Sundays)



	<b>ST MICHAEL'S - Woolmer Green</b>
11.15 am	Parish Eucharist (1st & 4th Sunday)
	Family Service (2nd Sunday)
	All Age Eucharist (3rd Sunday)
	Morning Prayer (5th Sunday)



## Weekday Services

### ST MARY'S - Welwyn

Current week's services are on the notice sheet  
in church and on the website [www.welwyn.org.uk](http://www.welwyn.org.uk)

Tuesday	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (St Mary's)
Wednesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer (St Mary's)
Wednesday	9.30 am	Holy Communion (St Mary's)
Saturday	9.00 am	Parish Prayers (St Mary's)

***Common Worship used at all Communion Services except where stated***

## Children

### ST MARY'S - Welwyn

3.30pm Craftea (*see Diary on back cover for dates*)

## 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

Saturday 10.00 am to 11.00 am

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# Church Notice Board *continued from p44*

## **ALL SAINTS' DATCHWORTH**

Sundays	09.30 am	Holy Communion
1st Sunday	09.30 am	Sacred Space
4th Sunday	11.15 am	Family Service
Thursday	17.00 pm	Evening Prayer

## **ST PETER'S TEWIN**

Sundays	09.30 am	Holy Communion
3rd Sunday	11.15 am	Family Service
3rd Sunday	18.30 pm	Holy Communion
Monday	17.00 pm	Evening Prayer

## **AYOT ST PETER**

1st Sunday	11.15 am	Matins: <i>(Book of Common Prayer, King James' Bible)</i>
2nd Sunday	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>
5th Sunday	11.15 am	Holy Communion: <i>(BCP, King James' Bible)</i>

## **ST GILES CODICOTE**

Sundays	08.45 am	Holy Communion
1st Sunday	09.30 am	Worship 4U at Peace Memorial Hall
2nd & 4th Sun	10.30 am	Informal Worship
3rd Sunday		Informal Worship with Communion
Tuesday	08.30 am	Morning Prayer

## **EVANGELICAL CHURCH WELWYN**

Sunday	09.45 am	Bible Classes <i>(All ages 7+)</i>
Sunday	11.00 am	<i>(facilities for young children)</i>
Sunday	18.30 pm	Ditto
Wednesday	20.00 pm	Bible Study <i>(except 3rd Wednesday)</i>

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## **DIGSWELL VILLAGE CHURCH**

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## MEDITATION

Have you ever wondered how and why the Christian Church still exists, let alone how it has been so successful? If we look at what perceived wisdom says is needed for a movement to be successful, Christianity should have fallen flat on its face more than a millennium ago.

Christianity breaks all the rules for success that we accept as given. Yet these rules have been successfully applied to other great religions. If you want to make a name for yourself:-

You need to get the great and the good on your side. You need credibility, the credibility that comes from a good education. You need to build a following in the major cities of the world where there are large populations. For that success to continue, you need to establish a following who will fight to maintain your gains. Finally you need to have a good death, that sets your reputation for generations to come.

So let's look at how Christianity fits with these and make some comparisons with two other great religions, Islam and Buddhism

Very far from getting the great and the good on his side, Jesus wound them up to the point where they had him put to death. Jesus never had a proper education. He learned to read and write as all Jewish boys did and that was the limit of his education. Galileans, of which He was one, were looked upon as the country bumpkins of Israel. Jesus never visited any of the major cities of the Roman Empire. The only city he visited was Jerusalem, which was viewed as the back of beyond. Far from standing up to defend him, most of his followers ran away. There is no way crucifixion can be classified as a good death.

Let's contrast Jesus with the founders of two of the other great religions: Mohammed and Buddha. When Mohammed died - he left an empire and a powerful army in place to defend it. By the time the Buddha died, he had enlisted the nobility of Nepal in his cause. When Jesus died, his followers fled from Jerusalem, back to fishing in Galilee. When Mohammed died, he had ministered a good 20 years. He left a book that he had dictated - "The Koran". When the Buddha died his teaching spanned 45 years and he too left his "Writings". Jesus' ministry lasted for just three years and he wrote nothing - and of course at the time of his death none of the books of the New Testament had been written.

When Mohammed died he had set up a state machinery to continue the religion he had founded. When the Buddha died he lay in state for seven days before a state funeral after which his body was cremated with great honour in Nepal. Jesus was put on trial on trumped up charges and crucified. His followers fled and left him to it. They fled back to Galilee and became pacifists. That should have been the end of it. In short, Jesus had all the hallmarks of a man whom it wouldn't take too long to forget.

Now human wisdom would say that this is not the way to start a world religion. But then God does seem to have a rather interesting way of turning human wisdom on its head.

John Burnapp