

# The Welwyn Magazine

with Woolmer Green



**Queen Elizabeth II**  
**1926 - 2022**

*October 2022*

*60p*

# CONTENTS

October 2022

## PUBLISHERS

St Mary's and St Michael's  
Churchwardens

## COVER

Queen Elizabeth II during her visit  
to HMS Ocean at Devonport 2015

*Copyright::*

*Joel Rouse (Ministry of Defence)*

## MAGAZINE ARTICLES

Send by 1st of preceding month.

Include your contact details.

Email [magazine@welwyn.org.uk](mailto:magazine@welwyn.org.uk)

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Queen Elizabeth II - 12 days in September.....	3/9
The Rector's letter.....	11
Harvest Festivals.....	13
Keeping the water running.....	13/15
Are e-Scooters legal?.....	17
Osteoporosis - PPG.....	19
Conservation in Action .....	20/21
Oberammergau - a personal experience .....	22/23
Caroline Applegarth and her little school.....	24/26
Welwyn's Own Vineyard.....	26
Mary Westley - Outstanding Head.....	27
A Paraprosdokian .....	28
Never get lost again!.....	29
Welwyn Parish Council.....	30/32
Food Table.....	32
News from Ayot St Peter.....	34
Snippets.....	36
Jessie - The Rectory Dog .....	36
Mardley Heath WI .....	38
Woolmer Green Parish Council.....	40
Friends of Danesbury and QVM .....	42/44
Parish Registers .....	44
Church Notice Boards.....	46
Meditation.....	48

## EDITOR'S NOTES

Submit articles by the 1st of the month preceding  
publication, see details below.

We aim to publish reports and articles that will be of  
interest to our local community. If you would like to  
suggest a theme or article please email

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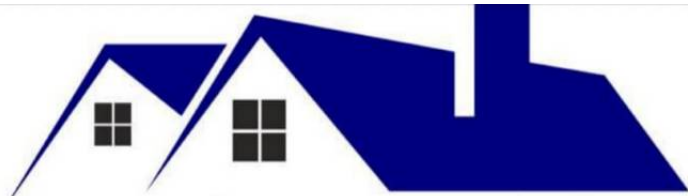
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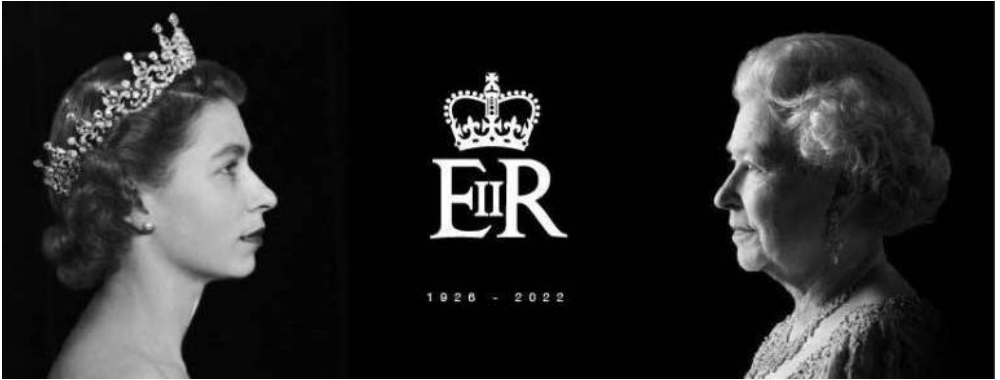


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## Twelve Days in September

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September the lunchtime news implied doctors were concerned about the health of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, but when the news of her passing came a matter of hours later, it was a shock. For just over 70 years she had been our constitutional monarch and, whilst politicians and governments come and go, she had provided the continuity and experience valued by so many.

The words “London Bridge has Fallen” were disseminated far and wide and in today’s world that happened quickly. ‘Operation London Bridge’ was the plan first drawn up in the 1960s that would ultimately lead to the Queen’s funeral; it continued to be reviewed and updated three times a year by officials and broadcasters. The plan swung seamlessly into action. As the Queen died in Scotland this needed to run concurrently with the Scottish plan known as ‘Operation Unicorn’, and ‘Operation Spring Tide’, concerning the accession of the new King. Close members of the Royal Family travelled to Balmoral, although sadly not many arrived in time.

On Friday His Majesty King Charles III travelled to London with the Queen Consort, Camilla. By now people and flowers were amassing outside Buckingham Palace and they greeted mourners during an unscheduled walk-about. Meanwhile, the flight plan of the RAF C-17 Globemaster, the aircraft which was later to return the Queen’s body to London, showed it had made a return trip departing RAF Northolt to Aberdeen at 4 am that morning. It can be surmised this was to take the lead-lined English oak coffin, crafted 30 years ago, to Scotland. The Queen’s body lay in the Ballroom at Balmoral for family and household to pay their respects privately. That evening King Charles III met Liz Truss, the new Prime Minister of four days, and then made a television broadcast where he pledged lifelong service and to uphold Britain’s constitutional principles. During that broadcast he made William and Catherine the Prince and Princess of Wales. Prayer services were held in cathedrals and churches across the land.

*continued on p5*

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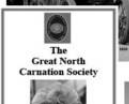
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For the first time we sang the new words to the National Anthem.

On Saturday morning at St James's Palace King Charles formally acceded to the throne during a Proclamation Ceremony attended by dignitaries and some 200 members of the Privy Council. On this and many of the coming days, Charles and Camilla and other working royals spread themselves out to visit many cities across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. They greeted members of the public, many of whom had found the Queen's passing very emotional, often unexpectedly so.

On Sunday, Queen Elizabeth's coffin was taken by road from Balmoral on a six-hour journey to the Palace of Holyrood House in Edinburgh, followed by the Princess Royal and her husband. Mourners paid their respects along the way.

On Monday the King addressed both Houses of Parliament in Westminster Hall and then flew with Camilla to Edinburgh for a service at St Giles' Cathedral. The cortège moved slowly from the Palace along the Royal Mile, followed on foot by the Queen's four children. Later that afternoon the King addressed the Scottish Parliament. During the next two days some 33,000 people paid their respects during the lying-in-state at St Giles' Cathedral.

On Tuesday evening the Queen's coffin was flown to RAF Northolt accompanied once again by Princess Royal and her husband. It was taken by road to Buckingham Palace in the new state hearse, finished in the black and claret colours favoured by the Queen. By now the numbers of people on the streets was increasing and the Royal Parks had advised that dedicated areas had been set-up for floral and other tributes in Green Park. The short film shown during the Platinum Jubilee of the Queen taking tea with Paddington Bear encouraged people to leave marmalade sandwiches (for later) in her honour.

On Wednesday at 2.22 pm precisely, a procession stepped off from Buckingham Palace conveying the Queen's coffin on the George Gun Carriage; the military was now in charge. Arriving at Westminster Hall the coffin, covered by the Royal Standard, was lifted onto a catafalque of purple. On top lay the Imperial State Crown and the Orb and Sceptre, known as the *'Instruments of State'*. A continuous vigil was kept with over 320 service personnel taking part, with changing of the watch every 20 minutes. At 5 pm the 24-hour lying-in-state opened to the public. Long queues were forming with a designated route from Southwark Park along the River Thames, across Lambeth Bridge to Westminster Hall.

On Thursday nominally King Charles had a day of rest at Highgrove but spent much of the day speaking to Commonwealth and World leaders. For a man of 73 who was mourning his beloved mother, the pace and pressure had been relentless. Camilla looked sad and drawn but was always by his side.

*continued on p7*



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King Charles would still continue to have the thorny issues of his brother Andrew, and son Harry and his wife Meghan, to navigate.

Friday brought warm sunshine and tens of thousands of people continued to descend on London where the atmosphere was upbeat but reflective. The extensive number of tributes being left meant an additional area had been set-up in Hyde Park. The organisation was exemplary with designated one-way walking routes enabling all the main places to be visited. There were volunteer stewards, welfare tents and lots of porta-loos. Some 22 miles of barriers had been installed to keep people safe. Grateful thanks should go to all the unsung heroes who kept London looking and working as it should. The queue for the lying-in-state was suspended for several hours as by now people were waiting up to 20 hours in line for their moment to file past the coffin. This resulted in a queue to join 'The Queue'. The wait overnight had been cold, but friendships were forged and there was no complaining. The Queen's four children took their turn standing vigil by her coffin at 7 pm.

On Saturday those invited to the state funeral were beginning to arrive in London. These included foreign royals, commonwealth leaders and heads of state. Also included were holders of the George Cross and Victoria Cross and some 200 who were yet to attend their honours ceremony. At 6 pm the Queen's eight grandchildren took their turn in vigil by the catafalque, the youngest was 14 and the oldest 43.

On Sunday, services for the Queen were held across the land with a two-minute national silence at 8 pm.

In Welwyn the church was full. Eventually 'The Queue' closed as the lying-in-state was to finish at 6.30 am on Monday morning. Over 250,000 people had paid their respects.

The State Funeral took place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September. The coffin, borne as it had been on each occasion, by the same eight young men from the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Grenadier Guards, left Westminster Hall on a gun carriage pulled by 98 members of the





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Sovereign Guard with 40 additional guards acting as a brake. The procession was followed on foot once again by the Queen's children and other male members of the Royal Family and those closely associated with the royal household. Men and women from the Royal Navy formed the Sovereign Guard and were meticulous in their duty. Westminster Abbey was full of 2,200 guests to witness the funeral of this diminutive woman who was known and revered globally. The music was glorious and the 9 year old and 7 year-old great-grandchildren, now second and third in line, behaved impeccably. Afterwards the gun-carriage proceeded to Wellington Arch in a procession involving some 4,500 personnel. Then on to Windsor in the state hearse.

In Windsor, thousands lined the Long Walk as the cortège made its way to St George's Chapel for the Service of Committal attended by 800 people. The final act before the coffin was lowered to the vault was the removal of the '*Instruments of State*' which were laid on the high altar. The Lord Chamberlain snapped his Wand and the King laid the Queen's Company Camp Colour on the coffin. Lastly, the Queen's Pipe Major played a poignant lament as he left the confines of the chapel. Later the Queen was laid to rest in the vault alongside her husband, parents and sister in a private family service.

Queen Elizabeth II will be remembered for her service and duty. Aged 96 she appointed her 15<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister two days before she died.

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*Jane Carr*

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# The Rector's Letter

Dear Friends

Religious festivals, certainly within Judaism and Islam, as well as Christianity, commonly remember an event within that tradition's history, *Passover in Judaism*, the escape from Egypt, and *Eid al-Adha* in Islam, the Sacrifice of Isaac. In Christianity, Christmas remembers the birth of Jesus, and Easter his resurrection from the dead. There are, of course, many other examples of these and other faiths.

These festivals mark a linear view of history i.e. they mark a particular one-off event in history which was of significance within that religious tradition. However, these faiths, and indeed others, also have a second 'cycle' of festivals, which mark not a particular point in history, but a particular point in the year. Most often these are associated with events in agriculture: the *Jewish festival of Weeks* (rebranded by Christians as *Pentecost*) is the celebration of the first fruits of the harvest. In Christianity as well as the traditional harvest festival, there were other festivals such as *Lammastide*, again a festival of the first fruits of the harvest. There are also the festivals of *Plough Sunday* and *Rogationtide*.

As we have moved away from lives closely associated with the rural calendar, most of these festivals have disappeared, perhaps apart from *Harvest*

*Festival*. Though in some rural areas of this country these festivals are still celebrated with great enthusiasm.



Most of us probably think more of time as a progression through the ages as we move from childhood to adulthood, to continue to expect our lives to change and progress, in terms of family and career. And of course to a certain extent that has always been true. However, for many rural communities in the past, the annual cycle was far more important, and also was pretty much unchanging. Agricultural labourers expected to be doing much the same sort of work year in year out for most of their adult lives.

This year we all know that sadly food is more scarce and expensive than usual. War in one of Europe's 'bread baskets', Ukraine, has meant not only terrible suffering for their population, but also a grain shortage which may well affect large parts of the world.

It is very easy to take full supermarket shelves for granted, but these events and these festivals, remind us how fragile the supply chain is, and what labour and effort is required to keep us fed. Let us think and pray along those lines this Harvest-tide.

Yours

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "David". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.



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**St Mary's Church Welwyn**  
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will be at 9.30am on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2022.

All are welcome.

If you are able to bring some non-perishable items for the 'Codicote food bank' that would be absolutely wonderful.

Thank you

***The Rev'd Dr. David Munchin***

**St Michael's Church Woolmer Green**

Our Harvest service will be at 11.15am on 11<sup>th</sup> October.

It will be a family service.

The collection will be for the 'Bishop's Harvest appeal' which this year will be supporting the 'Tear Fund-Not Forgotten Appeal'. The appeal is supporting people in Mozambique who are affected by war and conflict.

Any donated food will be given to the 'Codicote food bank'

The service will be followed by a 'Bring and Share' lunch.

***Susan Keach***

## KEEPING THE WATER RUNNING

### **River Beane Restoration**

At the **Natural History Society** we try to have as varied a programme as possible and sometimes things go wrong! We were due to have a talk about work on the River Beane, one of the feeders to the River Lea, in April. However, when April arrived, the work had not started so we postponed the talk until now, and of course, the whole situation has changed... DROUGHT!

In the Welwyn area we are all very

conscious of the problems when there is not enough water flowing down our rivers, whether it be because there has been too little rain, or too much has been abstracted.

The River Beane, although in East Herts, is really quite close to us, flowing through Watton at Stone. Hopefully, Lauren Naish, from the Environment Agency will be talking to us about keeping the water running. Lauren is an expert on the

*continued on p15*

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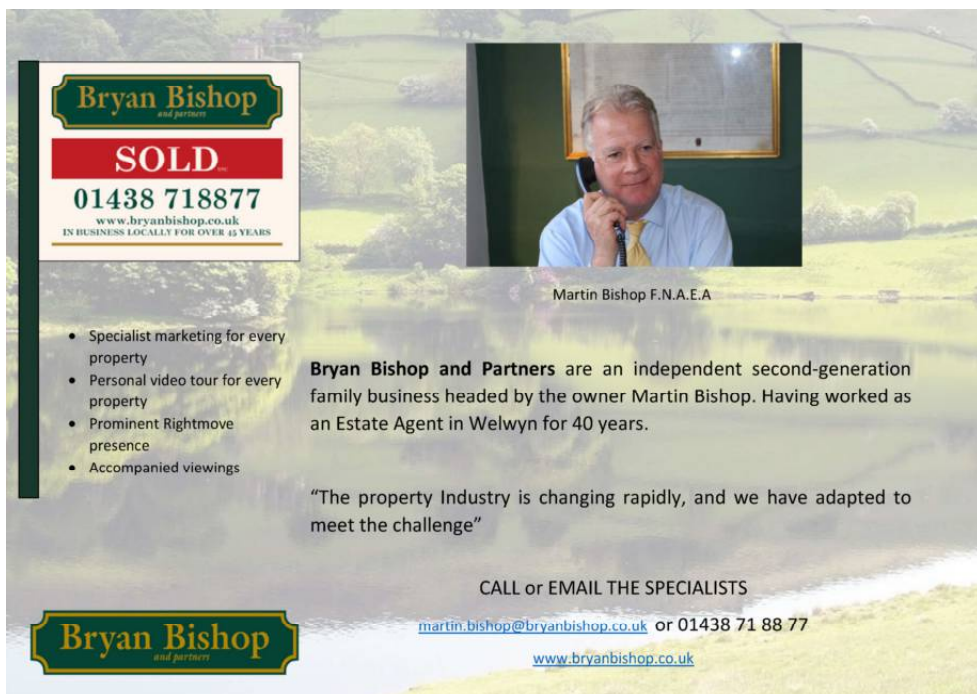
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## KEEPING THE WATER RUNNING *continued from p13*



winter recharge of rivers when the chalk aquifers fill up over the winter with, hopefully, enough water to keep our rivers flowing throughout the summer. However, as we all know, we are in the middle of a disastrous drought period; the aquifers have not filled, and there is little water in many of our rivers. The picture below is looking downstream from the bridge at Aston Ford where the Beane is the most at risk of drying up. When this happens, the reed bed, which can be seen in the picture, spreads right across the river channel, slowing the flow of water and causing silt to be deposited. Prolonged wet weather during October and December enables the river to cut a channel through the reed bed once more. It would seem that there has to be plenty of water

at Walkern for it to flow through the upper aquifer and maintain the surface flow in the river. If it drops too low the river disappears below ground, and reappears north of Watton.

I am afraid I do not have an update on the rather disastrous scenario facing our rivers in the coming months but, like you, I have been reading in the press of the big problems that are coming our way if the drought persists. I am looking forward to an expert's analysis of the situation, and I hope you are too.

Do join us at the Civic Centre at 8pm on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October.

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## ARE e-SCOOTERS LEGAL?



The government has announced plans to create a new low-speed, zero-emission category of vehicles as part of a new Transport Bill. This will allow for the legalisation of private e-scooters on UK roads.

The new Bill is expected later this year. Until then, private e-scooters can only be used on private land with the land-owner's permission. It is an offence to ride them in public places – including on footpaths, pavements and roads. However, the government is currently supporting e-scooter rental trials in various cities, meaning that rented e-scooters can be used on public roads in those locations. Our nearest trial is in London where you need to be aged 18 or over and have a driving licence to hire an e-scooter.

The Transport Bill will set safety conditions for e-scooters, expected to include maximum speed limits and lighting requirements, meaning that all e-scooters for sale will adhere to the same standards.

The new rules are also likely to include a minimum age for riders, insurance requirements and mandatory helmets. Users may need to hold a driving licence. It has been recommended that speed

limits are set at 15.5mph to keep e-scooters roughly in line with cycling speeds. It is also expected that e-scooters will only be allowed in places where bicycles are permitted, so pavements and similar locations will remain illegal.

Riders caught using a e-scooter illegally can be issued with a fixed penalty notice and have penalty points on their licence. The police have the power to seize the e-scooter under the Road Traffic Act.

If you see someone riding an e-scooter in a public place in the Welwyn area, this is illegal as we do not have a rental scheme. Try to get as many details as you can, and you can report the rider to the police using the non-emergency number 101.

If you are thinking of buying an e-scooter, it makes sense to wait until the new regulations are finalised, to ensure you buy a compliant model. If you already own an e-scooter, make sure that it is only used legally.

*John Mitchell (Welwyn East)*  
*Valerie Richards (Welwyn West)*  
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# OSTEOPOROSIS

Osteoporosis is where your bones lose strength, making you more likely to break a bone than the average adult.

Losing bone strength is a normal part of ageing, but some people lose bone faster than others. Women can lose bone strength more rapidly in the first few years after the menopause, making women more at risk of osteoporosis than men, particularly if the menopause begins early (before the age of 45) or they have had their ovaries removed.

However, osteoporosis can also affect men, younger women and children.

Other factors can also contribute to the risk of developing osteoporosis, including:

- *taking high-dose steroid tablets for more than 3 months*
- *other medical conditions such as inflammatory conditions, hormone related conditions, or malabsorption problems*
- *a family history of osteoporosis*
- *long-term use of certain medicines that can affect bone strength or hormone levels, such as anti-oestrogen tablets that many women take after breast cancer*
- *having, or having had, an eating disorder such as anorexia or bulimia*
- *having a low body mass index (BMI)*

- *not exercising regularly*
- *heavy drinking and smoking*

To help minimise the risk of developing osteoporosis, you can take steps to help keep your bones as healthy as possible. This may include:

- *taking regular exercise*
- *healthy eating, including foods rich in calcium and vitamin D*
- *consider taking a daily supplement containing 10 micrograms of vitamin D (please discuss this with your pharmacist first)*
- *making lifestyle changes such as giving up smoking and reducing your alcohol consumption*

If you are worried about osteoporosis, or any of the risk factors mentioned above, please seek advice from a medical professional.

## **Bridge Cottage Surgery Patient Participation Group**

If you would like further details about this group please email  
***ppgbridgecottage@gmail.com***



## CONSERVATION IN ACTION

Volunteering at Whipsnade Zoo gives me many opportunities I would not otherwise have, and one of the best is to get news of new arrivals before the general public. So I was delighted, when I arrived for my shift on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August, to be told that a baby elephant had been born just two hours earlier to Donna, and that mother and baby were both doing well.

Baby D, as she is currently known, weighed in at a mere 113kg (the same weight as Anthony Joshua the heavyweight boxer) and was able to walk within four and a half minutes. Managing the 100,000+ muscles in her trunk will take rather longer; she will not establish full control of that appendage until she is about six months old. At the moment, she even trips over it occasionally when it gets in her way! She is feeding well from her mum and drinks about three to three and a half gallons of milk a day.



Baby elephants stay with their mothers until they are at least four years old but are generally weaned at about the age of two or three. All of the cows in a herd help raise a new baby and certainly our “girls” are all very protective of the new arrival. It is heart-warming to watch as

Kaylee and Karishma, Lucha and Donna all rush over to help the new baby find her feet again whenever she falls over or stand over her while she sleeps.



Kaylee is the new baby’s grandma, Karishma is the mother of our previous baby, Elizabeth, who is now six years old and Lucha is the matriarch along with Kaylee, both having reached the age of 40.

Elizabeth is tremendously excited by the new arrival and had to be segregated from her for the first couple of weeks. She was simply too boisterous for the baby to manage. She was first allowed into the paddock with Baby D, very carefully watched by the keepers, on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September. She took her favourite toy, a small steel beer keg, with her and kept offering it to Baby D to play with. Kaylee and Karishma seemed to be worried that Elizabeth might hurt Baby D with the keg and made very sure that she never got too close. When Elizabeth tried to sneak around them, they roared at her and chased her away. Eventually, Kaylee confiscated the beer keg and used it to stand on to reach a hay net more easily! Asian elephants are under pressure in the wild, not so much because of the poaching

## CONSERVATION IN ACTION *continued from p20*

from which their African relatives suffer, but because of habitat loss and conflict with human beings. Elephants can be extremely destructive animals. They can destroy fields and crops in a very short period of time, leaving farmers and villages devastated.

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) of which Whipsnade is a part, is working with conservationists and villagers in the Indian sub-continent to try to alleviate some of these pressures and the elephants at Whipsnade Zoo have been playing a part in this work. Heat sensitive cameras have been installed in the elephant house at Whipsnade and have recorded thousands of hours of footage of our elephants. This has enabled the cameras to learn to recognise an elephant's heat signature. This information has now been uploaded to cameras in India so, instead of the conservationists having to sift through thousands and thousands of photos in order to find pictures of elephants, the computer-linked cameras can do it automatically and can then "ping" the location of elephant herds to those who need to know. Villagers can thus be warned of approaching herds or roaming bull elephants and can defend their fields by putting up barriers or with noise and lights, driving off the elephants, without causing them physical harm. It is said that elephants never forget and it would appear that this is based on fact. The herds which do best in the wild are the ones with the oldest matriarchs. They remember routes, water holes and other vital information which they can pass on

to the rest of the herd. In times of drought, for example, they remember the one water hole which didn't dry up last time they encountered those conditions. They also remember where there are trees which yield their favourite fruits and when they will be ready to be eaten and can guide the herd to those locations at the proper time.

There are fewer than 55,000 Asian elephants left in the wild and they have been restricted to less than 15% of their original habitat. Their habitat has also been fragmented leading to in-breeding because the bulls can no longer roam widely to seek out cows unrelated to them. It is therefore vital that zoos and conservation groups such as ZSL successfully carry out breeding programmes with elephants in captivity and work with people living in the areas where elephants are at risk. In this way it is hoped to "re-wild" some tracts of land and enrich the gene pool of wild elephants with those bred in captivity. Without the intervention of conservation charities such as ZSL it is possible that there will be no wild Asian elephants by the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, which would be a tragedy.

**Rita McNeill**



## OBERAMMERGAU - a personal experience

It was 1959 and while Canon Edmunds was preparing a class of 12 year old girls for confirmation, he told them about a *Passion Play* that was to take place the following year.

This play had been performed by the townsfolk of Oberammergau in Bavaria for centuries. The Thirty Years War (1618-48) was laying thousands of German villages to waste, people were starving and the plague was raging in Europe. In 1633 the villagers of Oberammergau sought refuge in prayer. They vowed ***“If the dying stops, every ten years we will stage the play of the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*** From the moment they made their pledge, nobody in the village died.

The girls were captivated, my friend Anne and I amongst them. As a romantic teenager I promised myself that in 1980 I would go to experience this spectacle for at 33 I should be the same age as Christ when he was crucified. When that time came, I was far more occupied with the birth of my second child and my vow forgotten. Suddenly in 2019 I realised the *Passion Play* was due in 2020, a ‘now or never’ opportunity.

My husband and I booked a trip to Oberammergau and The Castles of Bavaria, but then another plague got in the way! This time we humans put our faith in vaccines rather than God. Has this worked? *Readers please ponder this further at your leisure!* Finally our trip went ahead... The delayed *Passion Play* opened in mid-May 2022. It ends this October 2nd, after over 100 performances, each one for an

audience of over 4,000 people. It is like a military operation for this small town, the actors (there are two for each part) must grow their hair and beards (men) for two years beforehand and all must have lived in the town for a number of years. Hotels and guesthouses in the town and surrounding villages are all booked up for the audiences. Each ticket includes overnight accommodation, and shuttle buses bring people into the town. A large auditorium, like a stadium, is erected at the edge of town, while the stage is set in the open so one sees the trees and mountains behind the Roman portico that dominates the set.

At 2.30pm on Friday August 5th we took our seats, way back in row 47. This was slightly disappointing for I had not realised that with category two tickets, binoculars would have been sensible. However, helpfully we had all been given a book with the text in English, as of course, the play is in German. But I need not have worried, I was soon caught up in the amazing spectacle. A huge choir set the scene, with a tableau of the *Expulsion from Paradise*, then the actors appeared, all amateurs, as are the choir, soloists and musicians, yet it was sublime and very professional. The youngest actor was 2, the eldest 93. There were Romans on horseback, crowds of people of Jerusalem in the Temple, with sheep and goats, and at one point a camel – yes a live one – on stage, and doves which flew into the heavens. The choir and some brilliant soloists presented each new scene with a fantastic tableau of a story from the Old Testament. Each of these was cleverly woven into the play which, although starting with Jesus' entry into

## OBERAMMERGAU *continued from p22*

Jerusalem (yes there was a donkey, of course) used many quotations from Jesus' earlier words, especially from the *Sermon on the Mount*, to excellent effect in dialogue with his followers and accusers.

This production put the historical situation centre stage, with the occupying Romans very evident, we had a Judas who was passionate about Jesus – he hoped He would be their leader against this occupying force and thus became an easily betrayed traitor, deceived by Caiaphas about the consequences of handing over Jesus.

At 5.30pm came the Interval – we stumbled out of our seats, dazed by the performance so far. Following an incredibly moving depiction of the *Last Supper* we had left Jesus arrested in the *Mount of Olives*. Dinner awaited in a nearby hotel, and after a leisurely break with time to explore a little more of the village, we were back in our seats at 8pm. To our amazement as the scene opened there was a real thunderclap, rain fell briefly on the stage. What a coincidence with the drama to follow. The choir and soloists opened part two, this time with a tableau of *Daniel in the lion's den* with a huge protective angel above. It was a struggle to keep up following the text with a book-light, but some scenes needed no translation, for example the suicide of Judas, so realistic and horrifying – the silence of the audience was palpable. Then there was the realistic humiliation of Jesus, the crucifixion, and the tragic taking down of the body from the cross; I felt the tears on my face. Then it all seemed to be over, we didn't see Jesus again. Two Marys went

to the tomb, found only a cloth and then encountered an angel who told them Jesus would ascend to his Father. Magdalene rejoiced, then the choir sang a wonderful final *Hallelujah*, after which all actors and singers drifted off the stage and the applause was tremendous.

Back to reality, we had been sitting enthralled for three hours and now we noticed that yes our seats had been rather hard but it had all been worth it. I felt overwhelmed as I waited to file out behind hundreds of other spectators. As I looked around, it struck me that there had been about the number of people who had attended the *feeding of the five thousand* or been at the *Sermon on the Mount*. Had we all shared a similar experience?

Back home after the trip, I phoned my old school friend Anne who had visited Oberammergau the week before me. She had experienced an excellent view from row 2 in a category one seat! My envy subsided when she told me she had developed Covid afterwards. Did any of the people of the town of Oberammergau suffer during this latest plague, I wondered? I never had the opportunity to find out.

If you want to plan to see the *Passion Play* yourself, take German classes for the next eight years, save up for a category one ticket, then book to visit **Oberammergau** in 2030.

**Vernonne Allan**



## CAROLINE APPEGARTH AND HER LITTLE SCHOOL



*Ivy Cottage  
decorated for the  
1902 Coronation*

1826, when it was kept by Thomas Fox and his wife, Mary. They were certainly at Ivy Cottage in 1841, when the census shows them living next door to Henry Ambrose, publican of The Wellington. At this time, they

Of a number of schools recorded in Welwyn over the years, one which has a slightly unusual claim to fame was that run by Miss Caroline Applegarth in the Grade II listed Ivy Cottage, next to the Wellington Inn. As anyone who reads Blue Plaques will know, that claim to fame was that Miss Applegarth employed Anne van Gogh, sister of the more famous Vincent, as an assistant. Anne worked in Welwyn from 1875-76, when it is suggested she lived in Rose Cottage. As many will also know, her brother was at that time working at a school in Ramsgate, and that poverty forced him to walk to Welwyn in order to visit his sister. Vincent is now remembered in Welwyn by his recently installed bust on a plinth by the river.

This little school appears to have existed, probably in Ivy Cottage, since

had one teacher, Mary Hughes, living with them along with five children, presumably pupils, aged from 6 to 15.

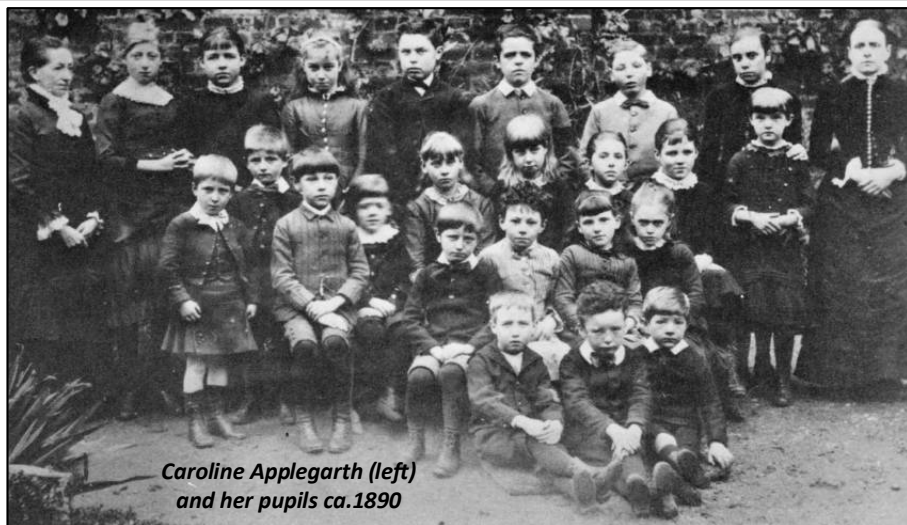
At this time Thomas was already around 65, but he seemed to have been made of firm stuff, as he continues to run the school for at least ten more years but with only one boarding pupil alongside one teacher and a domestic servant.

By the middle of the 1850s Thomas and Mary had gone and the school was run by a Miss Eleanor Prior as a 'Ladies Day School'. After a short time in the possession of a Fanny Boulton, the school passed to Caroline Applegarth.

Caroline Applegarth was born around 1830 in Hull and remained running her school, and unmarried, until her death in 1900.

Caroline's younger sister, Catherine, had come to Welwyn earlier. In 1855

## CAROLINE APPLGARTH *continued from p24*



*Caroline Applegarth (left)  
and her pupils ca.1890*

she married George Stothard in Sheffield. Initially Caroline lived with them at their home in Boston, Lincolnshire but in the 1860s they moved south. At this time George was Stationmaster at Welwyn Station. It seems they probably came to Welwyn by way of Dunstable as three of their children were born there. Whilst George was only a Clerk in Boston, he was clearly ambitious and successful as only ten years after being the Station Master he became a Coal Merchant employing 3 men, including his eldest son, George. His links with the railway, however, continue in his capacity of 'Parcels Agent for the Great Northern Railway'. At this time George and his 4 children lived next door to Caroline's School in Ivy Cottage. George finished his days living at Fulling Mill, until his death in 1899,

after which his daughter Kate took his role as a Parcels Agent for a short time.

William Branch Johnson wrote in 1967 of Caroline Applegarth in his *Welwyn, by and large*, describing her as '*a prim and perhaps slightly formidable lady.....of middle height and very straight backed, yet by no means devoid of humanity*'.

This little school operated until between 1890 and 1895, after which the property was owned by a John Blowery Davis. In 1891 Caroline seems to have been working as a housekeeper in Hackney to artists Alfred and William Hunt.

Caroline died in 1900 and is buried in Welwyn Cemetery along with George and Catherine's children Kate (d 1907), Carrie, George (1860—1937) and his wife Emily (d 1936).

*continued on p26*

## CAROLINE APPEGARTH *continued from p25*

George seemed to inherit his father's ambition and did well commercially. Starting as a Clerk in his father's Coal Merchants business, he also laid claim to being a 'Bee appliance maker', a trade he had maybe learnt at Blow's Bee Hive factory. Indeed on his marriage certificate from 1889 he claims to be an apiarist. In later life he

moved back North to become Postmaster of Bingley, but returned to Oakhills, Welwyn and died at Hill End Hospital, St. Albans on 6th September 1937. His industrious life showed dividends as he left his estate, the very considerable sum of £2,355/0/1d, to his spinster niece Florence Sturgess.

*Paul Jiggins*

## WELWYN'S OWN VINEYARD

One Saturday in September, and rather than spending three hours or so trying to hit a little white ball into a small hole, I spent the time more wisely with my wife, visiting Welwyn's 'Lokkelebery', a quite superb new vineyard on the edge of the village.

We were greeted by Farmer Hannah and her mother together with some friends of theirs in a small marquee in which was served coffee and delicious cake etc. In addition, Hannah had on display for visitors lots of information about the history and development of English wine as well as a "simple" quiz and a tasting feature to try to educate us on the various flavours in wine.

Hannah then took us on a tour of the vineyard itself and explained in simple yet detailed terms the setting up of the vineyard and what this involves and believe you me it is not an easy task and requires expert advice that was given her by a leading authority on viticulture.

The vineyard was planted in May with

twenty five thousand vines all beautifully trained on the wire trellises and even at this early stage looks outstanding.

Two styles of Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier and Chardonnay are the grape varieties planted and these are the grapes used largely for the making of Champagne.

Hannah hopes to start producing wine in about three years' time, initially white and rose, and possibly a small quantity of red, while after a further couple of years she hopes to produce a sparkling wine.

As someone who worked in the wine trade for more years than I care to remember, Hannah and her family deserve all the luck in the World and I wish them every success in the years to come.

From time to time volunteers are required to assist with the running of the vineyard and both my wife and I have already put our names down.

*Alan Gowans*

## MARY WESTLEY - Outstanding Head



Mary Westley has been an outstanding head in our parish for over twenty years, initially at Woolmer Green, moving to Welwyn St Mary's thirteen years ago.

Welwyn St Mary's Primary School has been judged excellent by SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools - inspections under section 48 of the Education Act 2005), and 'outstanding' by OFSTED. Mary herself has become a SIAMS inspector and has also helped other schools which were struggling. It has been a great honour to be her chair of Governors for the past few years. We are told as governors that we are to be critical friends – and honestly it has been easy to be a friend, and believe me I have tried,

but the critical bit Mary has not made easy. It is not that we have shied away from difficult questions, it is just that Mary has been across so much in the school and with unflappable kindness. She has such high expectations of herself that this is reflected in the expectations of the school community, everyone wants to do well, because they have a model of that in Mary. Mary will always say it is a team effort, and believe me we all recognise that. However, great teams and strength in depth does not happen by accident, it happens because someone like Mary has been at the helm.

I and all the governors wish Mary a long, healthy, prosperous and adventurous retirement, but first perhaps a rest.

We are delighted that Emma Phillips, Welwyn St Mary's Primary School Deputy Head, has agreed to take on the role of Acting Head for the coming year, whilst the governors go through the process of appointing a new permanent Head for our 'Outstanding' School.

*The Rev'd Dr David Munchin*

## A PARAPROSDOKIAN

A paraprosdokian is a sentence or statement with an unexpected ending. It means “against expectations” in Greek, and typically puts the first part of the sentence in a new and humorous context.

Will glass coffins be a success?  
**Remains to be seen.**

What’s the difference between a hippo and a zippo?  
**One is really heavy and the other is a little lighter.**

Hear about the new restaurant called Karma?  
**There’s no menu - you get what you deserve.**

I went to buy some camouflage trousers yesterday,  
**but couldn't find any.**

What do you call a bee that can't make up its mind?  
**A maybe.**

I tried to sue the airline for losing my luggage.  
**I lost my case.**

Is it ignorance or apathy that's destroying the world today?  
**I don't know and don't really care.**

I wasn't originally going to get a brain transplant,  
**but then I changed my mind.**

Which country's capital has the fastest-growing population?  
**Ireland. Every day it's Dublin.**

I saw an ad for burial plots, and I thought:  
**“That’s the last thing I need!”**

Need an ark?  
**I Noah guy.**

You're not completely useless,  
**you can always serve as a bad example.**

I broke my finger last week.  
**On the other hand, I'm okay.**

Don't spell part backwards.  
**It's a trap.**

Did you hear about the guy who got hit in the head with a can of soda?  
**He was lucky it was a soft drink.**

To the mathematician who thought of the idea of zero.  
**Thanks for nothing!**

Son: "Dad, can you tell me what a solar eclipse is?"  
**Dad: "No sun."**

## NEVER GET LOST AGAIN!

Have you ever wondered how you would describe where you are if you:

- had a fall whilst out on a walk in the middle of nowhere, anywhere in the world?
- witnessed an accident or become unwell in an unfamiliar location?
- were adrift in a boat in the middle of the ocean?
- or simply wanted to meet up with friends in a crowded place?

If you have a Smart Phone it is well worth downloading the free **what3words** app from your App Store. It is not only endorsed by the Emergency Services, but they positively encourage its use.

The app developers have divided the entire world into three metre squares and assigned each square a unique combination of three words such as:

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If you need to know where you are, open the app on your phone and it will show your **what3words** address. You can then share it with someone else via text or WhatsApp to enable them to pinpoint where to find you. It is easy to see why all the emergency services find this incredibly useful as it shows them exactly where an incident is.



**Once you have the app on your phone:**

- tap the search box at the top of the screen and type in **drip.mixer.moss**
- tap 'navigate' at the bottom of the screen and choose one of the maps it offers
- see where it takes you ..... answers on postcard!

**It's free!**

*Jane Carr*

**Editor's note:**

*'What3Words' was used to enable people to locate the end of the Queen's lying-in-state queue.*

## WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL



I hope you are all safe and well?

In my last article I mentioned that the Welwyn Parish Council intends to start a **Digital Inclusion Course** at the Parish Offices, Lockleys Drive.

Councillor Bill Morris has asked me to give you the information and to ask if any of you would be able to help?

**Could YOU help someone who is struggling with IT?**

The Parish Council is looking to organise some free weekly sessions for those who are worried about their lack of knowledge, or lack of confidence concerning modern digital technology. These will probably be in the afternoon, during November and held at the Parish Offices at Lockleys Drive. To do this, we need some volunteers who can help deliver the sessions. You do not need to be an expert or qualified in any way – just able to operate a mobile (smart) phone, tablet or PC (laptop or desktop) and be able to communicate your knowledge to others. We plan to cover: setting-up

devices; installing apps, taking, sending and saving photos, using the Internet for shopping, banking, NHS Online; drafting and formatting documents in Word, Excel and PowerPoint; printing and sending via e-mail; staying safe and secure online; all in a friendly informal environment with a cup of tea and cake!

If you would like to be involved in this worthwhile venture to help others who are missing-out currently, please contact the Parish Office by telephone **01438 716667** or e-mail [clerk@welwynpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@welwynpc.org.uk)

I have mentioned the **Neighbourhood Plan** in several of my previous articles and we were delighted with the support we received on our first Open Evening in July. At this meeting we discussed our proposed policies on Planning, Development and Housing, Crime and Security, Shopping, Work and Employment. We are planning a further session to discuss Transport and Travel, Environment and Health, and Wellbeing. This second Open Evening will be held on 19th October in the Civic Centre. The doors will open at 7.00pm. The session will start at 7.30pm and last for approximately 2 hours with tea and coffee available. Please join us to find out what is being proposed and help shape the plan for your parish.

*continued on p32*

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## WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL *continued from p30*

**The Craft and Farmers Market** is proving to be very popular. It is held at the Civic Centre from 10.00am until 1.30pm on the second Sunday of each month. Our stall holders come from the local business community and offer fresh produce, cheeses and cured meats, locally distilled spirits, baked goods, home décor, jewellery, children's books and games, plants and so much more. There is a community café in the small hall where you can enjoy tea, coffee, cakes, biscuits and breakfast rolls. We look forward to seeing you there.

As autumn approaches the Council is once again looking towards Christmas. Shortly, Councillor Bill Morris and volunteers will be inspecting the Christmas lights with a view to putting them up in November. In my next article I will be giving you information on the lights switch on.

Thank you for all the support you give, not only to the council, but for all the various charities in the community including the food banks to which you are very generous.

*Marj Otty*  
*Chair, Welwyn Parish Council*

## FOOD TABLE

The congregation at **St Michael's Church** in **Woolmer Green** have set up a '**Food Table**' at the church to which people can make donations.

Anybody who is struggling with feeding themselves or their families is very welcome to help themselves from the table. No referrals are required to take advantage of this facility.

This is not a 'food bank' since we are unable to provide regular balanced food parcels. Surplus food from the table is given to the '*Codicote food bank*' which also supports people in need in Woolmer Green and the surrounding villages.

If people need more support than our St Michael's 'Food Table' can provide, then please be advised to contact the '*Codicote Food Bank*' on 07507 295627 which makes regular deliveries of basics and fresh food.

*Susan Keach*

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## NEWS FROM AYOT ST PETER

### We care for God's Acre

This summer, our churchyard became the first in Hertfordshire to be recorded by the charity '*Caring for God's Acre*'. Caring for God's Acre is a national charity that promotes the conservation of burial sites to preserve the monuments and to nurture and encourage wildlife. The charity was established in 2000 with the then HRH Prince Charles as president. The patrons are senior figures from horticulture, conservation, the church and the arts, including Sir Roy Strong, Professor Stefan Buczacki and the Bishop of St Albans.

The charity employs qualified ecologists and conservationists to advise on the management of grassland, and recommends policies that enhance and support wildlife and varied plant species. Over the past year, some of the untended stone-edged graves in our churchyard have been turned into small flower beds. These have been planted with a range of species that attract butterflies, bees and other pollinators, including lavender, foxgloves, roses, poppies, cornflowers and oregano. If any local readers would like to adopt an untended grave, then please get in touch via our website [www.ayotstpeter.com](http://www.ayotstpeter.com) or through St Mary's Church office.

Earlier in the year, one of our kind donors contributed some sunflower seedlings that we planted against the east wall of the church. In summer they produced a lovely display, with some plants reaching well over six feet in

height. They have been quite a talking point amongst our visitors and also popular with the local bee

population! My picture shows the Reverend Philip Waller, vicar of Codicote, admiring the sunflowers during the long hot summer.

This year's drought was a difficult time for wildlife, and it was especially gratifying to see so many bees and butterflies enjoying the plants in the churchyard. It was less pleasing when deer got through the gate and ate all the shoots from one of our lovely new rose bushes, but presumably they enjoyed the snack!

We hope to build on our success in future years by adding more wildlife-friendly plants and improving the churchyard as a habitat for insects, birds and small mammals. We also hope to host some bird families in our new nest boxes!

If you would like to know more about '*Caring for God's Acre*', see their website [www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk)





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### **Community Defibrillators**

Since our last magazine issue, we have been advised that Woolmer Green has an additional Defibrillator. Not only is there one at **The Red Lion**, 26 London Road, Woolmer Green but there is another at the **Village Hall**, Hall Lane, Woolmer Green SG3 6XA. You do not need training to use a Defibrillator, when in need, just ring 999 and you will be talked through the process.

## **JESSIE - THE RECTORY DOG**

At last! A religious festival that I can understand. Babies are very nice and all that, but the best thing about Christmas is obviously left over turkey!

Resurrection, if your dead is probably also a good, if slightly rare, thing, but Easter eggs are obviously the best bit (*Obvious warning – you should never feed a dog chocolate however much we might say we want it!*)

As for Pentecost, Corpus Christi and Trinity Sunday I have absolutely no idea why Master should get excited by these.

As for fasts! Lent, Advent and fish on Friday – what on earth is that all about? Never met a Labrador religious enough

to show any enthusiasm for that sort of thing.

So enough of these celebrations of 'significant events in salvation history' and 'abstract ideas' (yawn) –

Harvest is the only time I feel my soul stirring in praise of its creator – one big celebration of .... FOOD! This is the sort of thing that Labradors can, for once, understand.

**Jess**



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## MARDLEY HEATH WI - Garden Meeting

August is the month when Mardley Heath WI holds its meeting in a member's garden. This year we gathered at our Treasurer Beryl Hill's house near Stevenage. It was the day after that torrential thunder storm, and as we sat under sun umbrellas we exchanged tales of woe the day before, one of us was drenched in Kew Gardens and had driven home in soaking clothes through flooded roads!

Not much 'business' was done, although there were reminders about autumn's 'Produce Show' and orders for next year's calendars. So as we consumed delicious refreshments provided by our brilliant committee our chat included reminiscences of July's outing to Sulgrave Manor, Northants. This was built in 1539 by Lawrence Washington, a wealthy wool merchant and direct ancestor of George Washington, first President of the United States. It was extended in the 18th Century but still has a really 'homely' feel about it; as we moved from the dining hall to the kitchen and on to the bedrooms we could imagine the lives of the generations who had lived there. We noticed

unfamiliar cooking utensils, family card games and children's beds built to slip out from under each other to save space.

In the grounds we studied a bronze head of George Washington. This was presented to the Manor by the Americans in 1976 to mark the second centenary of their independence. ( I was in Washington DC then and still have the bicentenary scarf). Before leaving, we enjoyed tea and cakes.

The coach journey itself was great. Soon after leaving the M1, heading towards Oxford and Peterborough, we went through, or espied in the distance, lovely villages with yellow-stoned houses and cottages, bringing to mind a half remembered essay starting "*Villages of England, nestling beneath smooth downs or lifted high on breezy hills ...*"

Returning to our garden meeting, the laughter and chat went on as we examined the water lilies and goldfish in the pond. Before departing, the President Jean Stephens gave Beryl a Dracena plant in appreciation of her hospitality.

*Marjorie Sandiford*

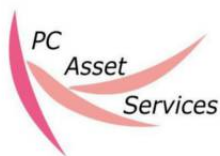


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# NEWS FROM WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

## Village planters

Once again we have some beautiful planters around the village thanks to the work of volunteer, Jenny Hawkins. They have a Jubilee red, white and blue theme this year and have looked fabulous despite the very hot dry weather. Jenny works very hard to keep them maintained and watered and we are very grateful for the cheery welcome they give to everyone visiting or passing through the village.

Thank you Jenny!



## The Red Lion Charity Bike Ride

The Red Lion took over running of the annual August Bank Holiday charity bike ride this year after being run for many successful years by Nick and Marian at *The Chequers*. A group of cyclists, dressed up as cops and robbers, cycled a circular route around local pubs fundraising for Macmillan Cancer Support at the Lister Hospital. The fun continued back at The Red Lion later with activities, live music and a charity

auction. Congratulations and thanks to Jackie and the team for a great day, and for an impressive £2,740 raised by the end of Monday.

## Tennis Court

The resurfacing works started slightly earlier than expected at the start of September so we look forward to a fully refurbished court for 2023.

## Farmers Market

Woolmer Green Farmers' Market has four more dates this year:

*25<sup>th</sup> September*

*23<sup>rd</sup> October*

*27<sup>th</sup> November*

*11<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Market*

There are always lots of local food and craft stalls as well as hot drinks and bacon rolls and there are often activities, demonstrations or live music too so it is well worth a visit.

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

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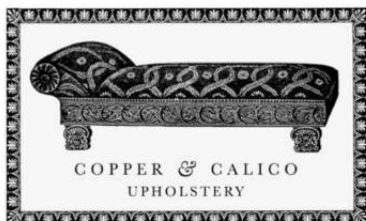
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## FRIENDS OF DANESBURY AND QVM

Well, I was hoping for a hot summer and so far we have had some cracking days of blistering heat – think I got more than I bargained for! Hope you are keeping well and staying cool. With the mini heatwave in July, Djokovic having won Wimbledon after a rather entertaining match against Kyrgios, and who knows who is running the country presently, we, *the Friends* have had a really good July. Welwyn village was able to hold its annual weeklong festival where we are pleased to say that at the street fair, and the Singlers Marsh event, our stalls raised nearly £700. Not to mention the takings in the shop were also up. This is so wonderful as the money raised will allow us to support both Danesbury and QVM hospitals in so many ways.

We are hoping the gym at Danesbury will be able to undergo a cosmetic refurbishment in due time. We have also been able to help fund some much needed training on some of the more specialized equipment the occupational therapists use on the patients to help with their rehabilitation. Some specialized wheelchairs are also being ordered which can be altered to meet individual patient needs.

We are sad to say goodbye to Head Matron, Rachael Ellis, who has been a true inspiration and dedicated member of the team at Danesbury and QVM. We wish her all the best in her new job.

*continued on p44*





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## FRIENDS OF DANESBURY AND QVM *continued from p42*

We welcome Justine Fraser who is taking on the role of Head Matron, and will manage both Danesbury and QVM Hospitals. Good luck in your new role Justine and we look forward to working with you.

In the shop, we are looking to 'jazz' things up over the coming months so do keep an eye out for the 'new' and hopefully more well displayed charity shop on the Welwyn High Street. During these hard times where everything and anything seems to have trebled in price, we are keeping our

prices low which seems to be attracting more clients into the shop. Our quality items are at extremely reasonable prices. Our refurbishment should help us to display our wares better, so you the clients can find what you want, or find items you never knew you needed in a more organised fashion.

Thank you for your continued support and wishing you a wonderful autumn!

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### Parish Registers

#### St Mary's Welwyn

##### Baptism

21st August 2022

21st August 2022

21st August 2022

Faith Estelle May Mupemphi

Max David Lawrence

Hendrix Vincent McDonald

##### Funerals

11th August 2022

19th August 2022

Isabel Rose Thompson

Janae Michelle Winpe

#### Ayot St Peter

Nil registers to list.

#### St Michael's Woolmer Green

Nil registers to list.





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# Church Notice Board

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sunday	9.45 am	Bible Classes (All ages 7+)
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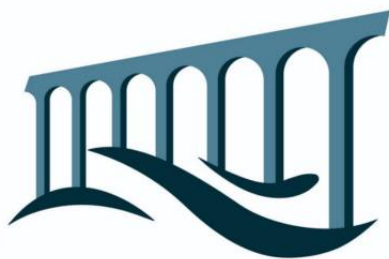


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# MEDITATION

## Virtually lost

I have been concerned to hear recent discussions on Radio 4 of the pros and cons of “virtual relationships”. The former involves pre-recorded recollections and thoughts of a dying person whereby they can speak from “beyond the grave”; the latter the creation of a “virtual” robotic friend or partner with whom to socialise.

Whilst the creators of both “apps” have the best of intentions, my concern with the former is that misunderstandings could arise (through differences of opinion or inaccurate recollections) resulting in unresolvable hurt and that the latter trivialises relationships, and thereby humanity, by creating one-directional interactions without the “other” requiring help or forgiveness.

As a socially-obligate species, we are designed to be inter-dependent, giving as well as receiving. These “virtual” friends and relatives may partially fulfil our need for companionship or aid our recollection and knowledge of the departed but we can not bring them joy or relief.

Humans are designed to problem solve and provide physical, educational

and emotional support for each other through exchange of knowledge, information, wisdom, food, shelter and companionship. We are designed to share and to provide for each other (relatives, friends, colleagues, clients / customers, strangers and those in need). It is in so doing that we fulfil the essence of our humanity.

Recent advances in technology and relative prosperity have led us to a state where we have become detached from nature, reality and true community. With the forecasted “cost of living crisis” looming, I fear that we are ill-prepared for the potential hardship ahead with a lack of both basic knowledge and ability to provide for life’s fundamental necessities (washing, cleaning, cooking etc.) without the aid of technology and that we lack the emotional resilience required to cope with hardship.

I hope and pray that the forthcoming “crisis” will enable us to rediscover fresh opportunities to share our abilities and resources with those in need, and allow us to fulfil our God-given privilege to bring joy and relief to each other.

*Liz Tilson*