

The Welwyn Magazine

with Woolmer Green



November 2023

60p

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EDITORS' NOTES

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

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The Rector's Letter

Dear Friends

November is all about remembering. All Saints and All Souls (1st and 2nd of November – Halloween is actually a version of 'All Hallows Eve') begin the month – times when we remember those who have died. Also, on the second Sunday of November (12th) we have Remembrance Sunday when we remember those who have died in war. November 5th is also of course a time of remembrance – we remember the plot of Guy Fawkes to blow up parliament in 1605.



The latter is interesting because it shows us that how we remember things both matters and changes over the years. Guy Fawkes was part of a Catholic plot that was trying to assassinate the Protestant King James I and his Parliament. Indeed, there was often a marked anti-Catholic feeling in subsequent festivities (and indeed in some areas there still is), and the effigy on the bonfire was not as in commonly assumed Guy Fawkes (a penny for the Guy) but the Pope.

In these ecumenical days we no doubt – happily – are often not aware of the detailed origins of the festivities, which are just seen as a bit of fun. However, it reminds us that as we recall our past so that shapes our present and also our future.

For Jews and for Christians (and indeed for many other religions) the re-presenting, the again making present, of memories is something which forms us here and now. Whether it is Muslims thinking of the flight to Medina, Jews at Sukkoth (Feast of Tabernacles) living in shelters to remind them of their time in the wilderness, or Christians eating bread and drinking wine so that Christ is again made present with his modern day disciples – each of these is about taking the memory of the community and forming us today.

How we use those memories is therefore an important question. That's possibly why the means by which we remember our own country's past has become such a politically sensitive question. Not only what we remember, but how we remember, and most importantly how it forms us in the present.

Yours

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

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Jessie the Rectory Dog

As I look over Master's shoulder, I see that his letter this month is about memories. Life for me is divided into three memory categories: remembered, forgotten, pretending I've forgotten.

Some examples may help:

Remembered: That dog that looked at me funny five years ago, that place I found a banana skin three years ago, the face of that squirrel I very nearly caught, every vet in the world ever.

Forgotten: It is not right to bark at or try and chase cats, those shoes belong to humans, my place is not on the bed, I am very dirty and smelly and no one wants me near them.

Things I pretend I've forgotten: I don't beg, I've already had my dinner, I've already had enough treats, I'm not really sure Master loves me and I need a cuddle.

Jessie



WAFTA Wine Tasting with XO Wines of Welwyn

WAFTA (Welwyn Anglo-French Twinning Association) is holding its annual wine tasting on Saturday 4th November 2023 in the Civic Centre small hall at 7:30pm. Gobind Singh, of XO Wines of Welwyn, will be presenting six wines, three reds and three whites (one of each will be entry level, one good and one excellent) along with two surprises. There will also be light refreshments, a raffle and a voucher for 10% off any purchase at XO Wines before 1st January. All this for only £17:50. Book your tickets, in advance only, from Graham Howat on 07801 747 777 or via grahamhowat1@gmail.com

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Woolmer Green Parish Council

The Parish Council met again in September after its summer break and picked up on some ongoing actions. The crossing near the new shops has been approved by Highways and is with Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council to follow up and ensure that it is installed as soon as possible. Since the last meeting, the Parish Council had responded to the planning application for 200 houses in Knebworth with the proposal to close Swangleys Lane to through traffic. The Council raised concerns about the increase to traffic that would arise in New Road, Mardleybury Road and London Road as a result.

A regular area of work is the maintenance of the Village Hall. With all the press coverage of the use of RAAC in buildings of a similar age, the Council discussed the structure of the Hall and noted that it is a conventional brick and block structure with timber roof joists and board. It therefore concluded that, to the best of its knowledge, RAAC was not present in the building. The issue of the leaks in the guttering and water damage to the Hall gutter soffits has been a concern for some time. With the dry weather in early September, this was tackled and the guttering and framework have been replaced and sealed so the Hall is ready for the autumn rain now.

The tennis court has been well-used since its refurbishment and it remains open and free to use. The Council had noted in the summer that the wood edging around the court was loose and patchy and it would have been nice to replace it with new wood or with a rot proof composite. Sadly, the cost of this was decided to be prohibitive at this stage with the continued uncertainty around rising prices and the cost of energy. Maybe there will be sufficient funds or a grant available to do this work next year.

Over the summer the Parish Council was approached by an organisation that manages clothes banks. They suggested that a clothes bank could be placed in the Hall grounds and that it would be emptied weekly with the Council receiving 30p per kilo of clothing collected. The Council agreed to trial this proposal and hopes it will get good use and save waste from landfill.

The Woolmer Green Farmers' Market is also back after a summer break - please come along and support your local traders.

26th November

10th December Christmas Market

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HRH The Princess Royal visits Digswell Place Group RDA

As President of Riding for the Disabled Association, HRH The Princess Royal visited Digswell Place Group stables to mark their 50th year as an RDA group. The Princess Royal met volunteers from across the Group, including co-founders Sue Jenkins and her mother Pat, and heard how the Charity grew from two borrowed ponies to the



organisation it is now, helping up to 100 people a week with purpose-built

facilities. During a tour of the stables, ponies Albert and Freia were presented with long service awards in recognition of their dedicated service with the equine team at the Group. Following a ridden drill display by some of the riders, The Princess Royal presented commemorative rosettes and unveiled a plaque to mark her visit to the Group. The



Princess also met some participants and their parents and carers to hear about the benefits of being involved with Digswell Place Group. Sue Clarke, Chair of Trustees at the Group said, "It was a proud occasion for all of us; marking our 50th year in such a special way and sharing with The Princess Royal and County dignitaries, the wonderful community that makes Digswell Place so special for everyone involved."



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HRH The Princess Royal visits Digswell Place Group RDA

About Digswell Place Group RDA Digswell Place Group RDA is a member group of Riding for the Disabled Association and aims to provide riding opportunities to children and adults with disabilities in the local area. Digswell Place RDA relies entirely on fundraising and 130 volunteers deliver its services. 14 horses and ponies deliver rides from the purpose-built facilities in Digswell, Hertfordshire. Digswell Place Group RDA is a charity registered in England and Wales (No: 1163233). To receive approved images please contact Emmie Musk;



emmilia.musk@digswellplacerda.org.uk

About Riding for the Disabled Association Riding for the Disabled Association Incorporating Carriage Driving (RDA) is dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities through the provision of horse riding and carriage driving. Through a network of over 500 volunteer groups throughout the UK, RDA provides opportunities for therapy, achievement and enjoyment, improving health, wellbeing and self-confidence, and benefiting mobility and co-ordination. · RDA brings together more than 500 volunteer groups throughout the UK · More than 28,000 adults and children enjoy the benefits of riding or carriage driving · Each year more than 18,000 dedicated volunteers give a total of more than 3.5 million hours of their time · RDA is a member of the British Equestrian Federation (BEF) RDA is reliant on voluntary help and voluntary donations to deliver its services. RDA is a charity registered in England and Wales (No: 244108) and Scotland (No: SC039473).

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Pass Wide and Slow National Campaign

On the 16th and 17th September there was a National Pass Wide and Slow Campaign, where hundreds of horse riders, walkers and cyclists across the country either organised or took part in a ride to raise awareness to drivers on how to pass vulnerable road users safely. The Highway Code now states you must pass a horse at a maximum of 10mph and 2 metres apart.

Brookbridge Livery Yard, in Datchworth, organised a Pass Wide and Slow ride on 16th September. The route consisted of Datchworth Green, Mardleybury Road and Bramfield Road, before finishing off at The Horns where rosettes and certificates were handed out to each participant. It included horse riders from Brookbridge, as well as other riders from neighbouring villages. The ride also had police officers from Hertfordshire escort them, a lead and rear escort vehicle and a professional photographer.



With a constant increase in traffic on roads as well as the rise in popularity of electric vehicles, which are difficult to hear, the campaign aims to make it safer for everyone to use roads and educate drivers on how to pass safely.

Amy Matthews and Emilie Barnett are two riders from Brookbridge who ride out on a daily basis. They have both been involved in incidents with vehicles being driven too fast and their experiences encouraged them to organise the Pass Wide and Slow Ride, in the hope they can help get the message across and make the local roads safer for everyone.

Many riders have resorted to wearing helmet cameras. Footage of reckless driving can instantly be sent off to the police and incidents recorded for future reference. Riders and horses are sadly killed every year on roads due to people driving too fast. Amy and Emilie urge drivers to slow down when overtaking and if the road is too narrow then to give riders time to find a safe place to pull in and let them pass. It takes seconds to slow down. It takes seconds to save a life.

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PCC meeting 20th September 2023

The Chairman opened the meeting in the customary manner. Apologies for absence were noted. The minutes of the meeting of 17th July were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Moving to **finance** Jackie Davis reported that St Michael's had received a positive response to the appeal letter with giving to the church increased. On the other hand their main source of income in recent times, The Romanian Orthodox Church, has reduced because their priest has been transferred to Chelmsford, as a result of which their congregation are holding fewer services at St Michael's.

Turning to St Mary's the treasurer reported that the deficit for the year to date stood at £19,550. The deficit remains the main problem facing St Mary's. Efforts to raise income must be continued through fund raising activities. The PCC approved Maggie Varco's proposal to create new stewardship leaflets to include information about legacies and to encourage the uptake of the Parish Giving Scheme.

Various other fund raising suggestions were considered including

- A "music day" but needs someone to organise it.

- A "giving day" – agreed by the PCC and decided to hold it on 11th and 12th May 2024 with a coffee morning and pledges on the Saturday.

- Launch an appeal for funds in the community.

- Offer a will writing service, but this would depend upon being able to identify a willing solicitor. Could this be you?

- The purchase of a payment card reader for St Michael's church was discussed and will be progressed.

- The idea of St Mary's having its own stall at next summer's Welwyn Festival selling merchandise was suggested.

Turning to **church fabric** Jackie Davis noted that at St Michael's roof tiles continue to shed (shaling). Stuart Jenkin has inspected the roof and concluded that the roof is generally sound and the shale problem is not widespread. In his view a permanent fix, that is replacing affected tiles, would be expensive and that until it becomes unavoidable the solution should simply be to place a cordon around the north wall of the church where debris may fall together with a notice warning of possible falling debris.

Good news at St Mary's – the collapsed eastern cemetery wall has finally been rebuilt by the parish council. They are now due to carry out repairs to the footpath between Church House and St Mary's main entrance through the churchyard to get rid of the tripping hazard. They will also be surveying a tree, or trees, in the churchyard and the cemetery itself – checking for loose headstones etc. Sadly there is no news at present regarding rebuilding the collapsed north wall of the cemetery.

Housekeeping – it was agreed that a skip should be hired and unwanted 'stuff' in lofts, cupboards and outside the rear of the church should be disposed of.

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PCC meeting 20th September 2023

It was also agreed that a new Wi-Fi router should be purchased to replace the faulty one at St Mary's. The question was asked as to whether there are any grants available from the diocese to assist with meeting net zero carbon targets. The Chairman replied that St Mary's is not eligible.

Turning to **Rector's items** the Chairman reported that "Craftea" (children's after school club) is up and running once again (following shutdown due to Covid-19) with a programme and helpers. It is hoped that the number of attendees will increase over time.

It was also noted regarding church finances that some progress has been made but more is needed.

In order to trial an informal, non-Eucharistic, 'family' style of service the Rector circulated his proposed changes to the pattern of services at St Mary's. He is seeking music resources. Possible start date in the New Year.

A request for another memorial bench to go in the churchyard has been received. The PCC needs to consider whether there is a need for an additional bench or whether one of the existing ones that has passed its use by date should be replaced. The lack of maintenance of these benches remains a problem. The Chairman requested that a wish list be created in order that gifts to the church can be matched to the needs of the church.

The Chairman volunteered to update St Mary's health and safety policy. This can be done online and doesn't take long. Indeed it was done within a day or two of the meeting!

There were no **safeguarding** matters reported but the Chairman reminded the meeting that should there be any concerns they should be raised with the safeguarding representatives.

Appointments – Christopher Harvey has been appointed as a governor of St Mary's school. One more governor is needed.

Any other business – Church group Time for God has changed its name to Time for Reflection.

The recent Archdeacon's audit resulted in a clean bill of health for St Mary's. The churchwardens are to be commended for adhering to all guidelines and good record keeping. The situation was not quite as satisfactory at St Michael's as the keys to the door were not available at the time of the Archdeacon's visit. She will revisit in due course when Sue Keach has kindly offered to assist.

David Hughes



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St Michael's Heritage Day

On 23rd September St Michael's held a Heritage Day to showcase their beautiful Arts and Crafts building. There were fascinating talks by Francesca Weir and Geraint John about the architecture, and music from the era played by Malcolm Scott. A highlight for many local people was the display of works by Harry MacDonald the woodcarver who built his model village in Woolmer Green. Harry's carvings of



his dog Pickles caused much reminiscing amongst our visitors. We were treated to delicious refreshments



courtesy of the Red Lion and raised a much needed £500 for Church funds.



Local MP Grant Shapps took a keen interest in the displays when he visited on the preview evening.



Gill Blewett

Welwyn Natural History Society

There's something very English about standing at the bank of a clear stream, looking into it, and seeing a trout almost basking in enjoyment of his life.



And this is what I will be imagining on 22nd November when Rob Mungovan's talk is entitled "Trout Ecology and River Restoration". He is the Conservation Officer East for the Wild Trout Trust (www.wildtrout.org) which holds training courses for river trusts, wildlife trusts, volunteer groups, fishing clubs, etc.. He has been responsible for conservation and habitat enhancement recently, including the Mimram at Panshanger.

So lovely to have someone with local knowledge giving us a talk.... Rob is the son of the former chairman of the Tewin Fly Fishing Club... I wonder if he will give us a demo on tying flies? It seems very strange that this will be our last lecture of the year – where has the time gone?

Do come along! Only £4 if you are a visitor ... and, of course, children are very welcome and don't have to pay.

8pm, Wednesday 22nd November 2, Civic Centre, Welwyn

Judith Watson

A Year of Fellowship

I was invited to write a short update on Fellowship since my article in December 2022/January 2023's edition.

Our Christmas "Surprise" was snowfall, but a small group of us braved the weather to meet up in Church House for hot drinks, tasty mince pies and Stollen.

January's lunch was very enjoyable and we will be distributing the menu and booking form for our lunch on 9th January 2024 at our meeting on 14th November, as bookings and payment need to be made at our 12th December meeting.

2023's talks have included "Butterfly Volunteers at Lister Hospital", "The History of Bread", "Life with Ukrainian Guests", "Painters in their own Pictures?", "Living in Norway" and our delicious Strawberry Tea took place in July.

Details of future meetings are usually posted in Church pew sheets and on the back cover of the Welwyn magazine, together with my contact details.

Everyone is welcome to join us for our meetings, which are followed by tea and cakes. We request a £2 donation per person towards refreshments, a raffle and donation to charities.

Marcia Khan

Remaining meetings for 2023:

14th November

12th December

Tewin Green's Market Garden



Summer has been manic to say the least. But as autumn begins and the days begin to shorten I am unable to sow anymore seeds. So tidying up, mulching and prepping begins for spring. This also means I'm able to get a bit of head space to think about the summer season just gone.

It's difficult to know where to start. This has definitely been the most successful season so far. Apart from the early heat wave the weather has been great for growing, a good balance of rain and sun has helped everything grow well. Of course that does mean more weeds but we are slowly creating strategies to handle this.

As always there have been lots of successes and of course lots of failures, but I think the constant learning is one of the reasons I love what I am doing. No day is the same and you never know what Mother Nature has in store for you.

I'd like to list out a few highlights from the season:

Nick joined the TG team. In order to stand a chance managing the plot this year I made the decision to bring someone on board to help me. Nick joined the team in May and has been an invaluable addition. His previous experience in the Black Isle veg growing has really helped push the garden forward this year.

More volunteers have joined this year and again without their input the garden would not be where it is now. With their help, thousands of seeds have been sown and planted in the ground, a new polytunnel has been built and of course hundreds of thistles have been pulled up from the ground. Many thanks to Deidre, Ginnie, Naomi, Raul, Viv, Kevin, Charlie, James and JJ for their help this year.

We've continued to grow our wholesale offering, pushing more fresh produce into the [Cowshed](#) restaurant at Tewinbury farm as well as providing local catering company [Soka food](#) with lots of fresh salads and tomatoes throughout the season.

Tewin Green's Market Garden

We have also just secured contracts with [Hertford House](#) and [Anexo](#) in Hertford, so we look forward to working with their chefs.

Our salad growing has improved 100% this year. We didn't run out of any and also managed to make it through the heat without too many bolting, which means they start to taste very bitter. This year we ran trials with several different varieties and have now narrowed it down to five which we will use in the coming season to go in our mixed salad bags. Salad is one of our most valuable crops so I'm keen to keep improving this side of the business.

We've also improved our flower farming. This year we've sold many more bouquets than previous years and I've really enjoyed the experience of growing, cutting and selling them. So look out for more flowers next year. Thanks to my wife Nicola for creating the beautiful bouquets.

We have a second tunnel! It was a huge effort but finally we have a second tunnel up. Huge thanks to all who helped in doing this. It's a great new growing space and is already filled with winter salads, spinach, herbs and Asian greens. This will make a massive difference to our winter growing going forward.

There are many more things I could write about, but for now these are a few highlights for the season.

I want to thank the continued support of customers. There are those that have supported me from the very beginning and new customers who have joined this year. It's always a pleasure getting to know people and building the Tewin Green's community. Apologies to those not able to get a veg box yet, we are doing our best to increase the offering so please bear with us. In the meantime please come down and visit. Occasionally we have a glut of some veg which we can sell.

Finally I'd just like to mention our pumpkins:

This year we created a dedicated pumpkin patch and the weather has been so good that we have no small pumpkins just large and extra large ones.

Tewin Green's Market Garden

The farm is open **Thursday 11am - 1pm** and **Saturday 1pm - 3pm**. All pumpkins are £5, there is a limited amount, but if you'd like to come down and pick one for eating or carving you'd be more than welcome. Our pumpkins are grown organically so perfect for soups, pies and lots more.

I'll leave you with a few pictures from the summer:



Thanks for reading

All the best

Lloyd

To find us →→→→→



New Shop for the High Street

Sadly, Belinda and Box of Delights, on Welwyn High Street, are leaving the village, but we wish her all the best with her future plans.

‘Change is often good’, so they say, particularly if you are are a 4-Legged Local! Coming soon to Welwyn High Street is **IMOGEN’S CANINE THERACARE** ~ offering a range of specialist dog treatments, rehabilitation and management of conditions, including:

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For further information / general enquiries and to book, call Imogen Pattison (07788239207) alternatively please email: Imogenscaninetheracare@outlook.com at **IMOGEN’S CANINE THERACARE**

Opening January 2024

Tony Rook 1932—2023



In the early 60s Tony and Merle Rook, with their daughter Kate, moved to Welwyn and lived at the Lodge at Lockleys School. Their second daughter, Sylvia, was born there. Tony was the Head of Science at Sherrardswood School, and the Lodge house came with the job. In 1973 Tony resigned and they were obliged to move from the Lodge. They moved into the Old Rectory in the heart of the village. Once in Welwyn, Merle continued teaching and Tony became a mature student, researching the 'Design and Operation of Domestic Roman Baths' for his Master of

Philosophy (MPhil).

His interest in archaeology stemmed from childhood, and he set up the Lockleys Archaeological Society (which was later renamed the Welwyn Archaeological Society) in around 1960. The story of how he found the Welwyn Roman Bath House and managed to get it preserved under the A1(M) is a story often told and well documented, and full details can be found in the Bath House itself, along with sculptures of Tony and Merle. The preservation of the Baths required a huge amount of fundraising. This was not something that the Council was going to pay for, although they did agree to match the money raised by Tony and the charitable Trust which he set up in the 70s. The fact that he managed to preserve such an amazing building, which was going to be obliterated by the motorway, is a true testament to his dedication and passion. The bath house was covered by a corrugated steel structure, and opened in around 1972, staffed entirely by volunteers. It took a while before the County Council came fully onside, and they now run the site as part of the Museum Service.

For Tony, archaeology was not a job, it was a passion, and throughout his life, and well into his 70s he arranged, and carried on archaeological digs in the local area, ably assisted by a small team of volunteers, who would give up their Sundays to uncover sites of interest. The excavations took place as far afield as Datchworth, Watton-at Stone and Bennington, but he was well known for 'digs' in the village, in particular, Dicket Mead, The Grange Cemetery, the Hawbush Rise Burials and the QVM grounds. As he moved into his late 80s, age dictated that the only digging he did was in his extensive and impressive vegetable plot, but his passion for archaeology was undimmed, and he still had visits from people young and old, who had found something 'interesting' in their garden.

Tony Rook 1932—2023

He was an integral part of the village, and people looked forward to seeing him in his Santa regalia each December, as he was called on to be Father Christmas in various places, including Tenterfield, the Library, Mill Green Museum and for the Beavers. He performed Santa duties from mid-1984. Tony didn't just live in the village, he really cared about it. He researched all the buildings, finding out many interesting facts, particularly how many pubs there have been over the years! In around 1976 he began doing his Rook's Tours, and since then, each year in Welwyn Festival Week, he has conducted two tours. He was really sad to have had to hand over the reins to a new team in 2019 but at the ripe old age of 86 (almost 87), the 3+ hour walk around the village was a bit much for his ageing bones. The Rooks Tour has been immortalised as the Welwyn Heritage Trail, with numbered points around the village and leaflets in local shops,

For many years the Rook's Talk was also a feature of Welwyn Festival Week. He told audiences about his life as an archaeologist, and fascinating facts about the history of the village and the surrounding area.

Tony was not just 'famous' locally - he appeared on television programmes as the 'expert' archaeologist, including 'In the Bath with Rory McGrath', 'Mysteries of Lost Empires', and 'What the Romans Did for Us'. He wrote numerous books, both novels (e.g Strange Mansion), reference books such as 'Roman Building Techniques' and books of local interest such as "Welwyn Beginning", "The History of Welwyn Church", "History of Hertfordshire", "Welwyn Garden City through Time", and "The River Mimram". His contribution to archaeology was recognised by the Royal Society of Antiquaries, who made him a Fellow, and the University of Hertfordshire, who awarded him an Honorary Degree (to add to his BSc and MPhil). Over the years he made regular appearances in the Welwyn and Hatfield Times.

Tony was awarded a special Welwyn Oscar in 2019. Had he known he was to be awarded this distinction, he would have immediately said that none of this would have been possible without having Merle by his side until her death in 2012. She allowed him to follow his passion and he would have wanted to ensure that she shared the credit for everything he achieved.

Tony moved to a retirement home close to his daughter, Sylvia, where he celebrated his 90th birthday in July 2022.

Welwyn mourns the death of a local legend. (Photos on page 42) Sylvia Rook

Welwyn Parish Council



The start of October proved inexplicably hot with temperatures in the 20s so I thought that I'd best stop for some water before taking the girls on a lunchtime walk in the north of the Parish. Brunel and Bernoulli were disappointed that this didn't involve a visit to Gareth's Butchers, nestled between Mardley Stores and the Post Office at Oaklands shops. I had to remind them that they are just dogs.

We are lucky to have the nature reserve of Mardley Heath in the Parish and the dogs and I meandered there up Hangmans Lane. It's a huge 37 hectares of woodland, glades and ponds, roughly square in shape and loosely bounded by the A1M, the B197, Oaklands and Woolmer Green. Heath Road bisects the heath east to west and has ample parking if you need to drive to get there.

If you haven't been there it's definitely worth a visit for a stroll through the woods, or giving the dog a run and some new sniffs or perhaps a bike ride. Apparently in the middle ages Mardley Heath was common land used for grazing and firewood collection until the 19th century when it was largely enclosed. More recently between the 1930s and 60s it was used for gravel extraction creating a north and south pit either side of Heath Road. As anyone who went to the 2nd Welwyn Scouts will know (the scout hut is there. If you're interested in joining or helping out see <https://2ndwelwynscouts.org/>) The south pit has some majestic trees and leafy valleys while in the northern and eastern areas there's lots of evidence of the gravel extraction that took place all those years ago. The north pit is far quieter than I remember it from the late 1970s and 80s. At that time "youth" from the surrounding villages of Oaklands, Woolmer Green, Knebworth and Welwyn would arrive at "The Pits" or "Rabley" (incorrectly named after Rabley Heath nearby) on mostly unroadworthy motorcycles handed down from older siblings and cousins. It was in effect an unorganized motorized scrambling youth club. Those coming from the slightly more distant village of Welwyn had first to get to Danesbury avoiding the omnipresent cycling village PC, John Batcock. Having done that the route for the motorbikes was along the unpaved Danesbury Park Road and over the motorway bridge (apparently!), in the 1990s the owners fenced the north pit off, creating the beginning of the nature reserve that we enjoy today... I digress, the north pit is a little flatter, has some lovely open glades with a number of bridle paths, one of which can take you through a very narrow subway underneath the motorway towards Potters Heath Road. We met some horses coming the other way and the sound of hooves echoing sent the girls running for cover so we didn't venture further.

Welwyn Parish Council

While Mardley Heath is owned and maintained by Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council (WHBC) – the maintenance is paid for by all of us in Welwyn Parish. This is part of the special expenses that you may have seen on your Community Charge (CC) notice. The 2023/4 cost to you is £5.80 per household so you may as well use it. Incidentally for those readers from Woolmer Green there is no charge applied to your CC for Mardley Heath by WHBC.

After a long walk we retired to the dog friendly North Star pub for a bowl of water for the thirsty dogs. They offer a nice selection of doggie treats. Brunel selected a venison chew stick which kept her occupied for a while. Bernoulli went for the unusual choice of doggie ice cream. This initially absolutely bamboozled her but after some encouragement, and perhaps some doggie brain freeze, she got the hang of it and wolfed it down. I settled for a refreshing lager in the Parish's most northerly pub.

Alex Bardett

01438 716667

office@welwynpc.org.uk

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

Parish Registers

Ayot St Peter

Burial of Ashes:

24th September Ronald Maddox (Died 14th November 2018)

St Michael's Woolmer Green

Wedding:

1st September Philippa Hardy and Greg Corbett

Memories in Stone at Ayot St Peter

Many years ago, there was a back gate into our old churchyard, and a footpath that led across the field to a spot close to the Victorian rectory. Sadly, this footpath has disappeared, but the gateposts in the old wall still exist, and as recently as 1999 a small wooden gate remained. In the last decade or so, the wall either side of the old gateway collapsed and walkers on the remaining footpath across the field (footpath 8) were greeted by a sorry sight.



Last year we managed to accumulate a small fund to finance repairs to this section of the wall. It took a long time to find a builder with the skill to rebuild the brick and flint structure, but in August the wall was finally repaired by Paul and Jake Hart. We are delighted with the result and very grateful to our two county councillors, Tony Kingsbury and Sunny Thusu, as well as the civil parish of Ayot St Peter, for making this work possible.

The wall was completed using materials salvaged from fallen parts of the old wall. Whilst hunting for building materials, the broken remains of a nearly 300-year-old gravestone were discovered under the leaf mould. This remembers former Ayot St Peter rector, Charles Horne, who died in 1727. Although some parts of the stone are still missing, the inscription would have read something like this: - "*CHARLES HORNE, Rector of Eyot St Peter in Hertfordshire for above 40 years, Died October 6th 1727, Aged 76 years*". The pieces of stone have been removed for safe keeping, whilst we work out an appropriate way to display them.

Another stone, attached to the wall inside the current church, remembers Reverend Horne's first wife, Elizabeth, who died in 1688. Reverend Horne arrived in the village on 7 September 1686 and was the Rector when parish registers were first introduced. Tragically, his young wife and baby daughter were the first people recorded in the burial register.

On Remembrance Sunday we will gather round our lovely newly-restored war memorial to remember the twenty men from the village who lost their lives in the Great War, together with the WW2 volunteer whose ashes are buried in our churchyard. The Remembrance Sunday Service is on Sunday 12 November and begins at 10.50am. Do join us!

Valerie Richards



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Mardley Heath WI



Welwyn Harmony a capella chorus performed at our meeting – eight ladies dressed in white trousers and royal blue blouses singing barbershop quartet. The only time most of us have previously heard such singing has been by men.

They started in harmony with a Fleetwood Mac improvised song called, ‘Don’t Stop Thinking About Tomorrow’, the harmony was excellent.

We were also shown slides, including a photograph of the original barbershop group called ‘Sweet Adeline’ from Tulsa, America which started in 1945 and is still very active today. A similar group started in England in the 1970s.

Welwyn Harmony formed in the 1980s and it is still the only women’s barbershop choir in Hertfordshire.

Enough of dates and figures, what is barbershop music? It is made up of four different voice sounds i.e. leaders, baritones, tenors and basses and each group combines to sing together to give the beautiful harmony. The starting note is given by a pitch pipe and the leader presses the correct button (hopefully) and the starting note comes out when blown for the choir to follow.

Welwyn Harmony rehearses every Tuesday in Welwyn Garden City and their next show will be on the 15th December.

It was interesting to hear about the harmony group and we wonder if any of our members will go along to a rehearsal and if they will join.

Most meetings are held at Oaklands School on the third Thursday evening of the month. New members and visitors are most welcome.

Email us at mardleyheathwi@gmail.com if you are interested in joining us.

Joyce Norfolk



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Friends of Danesbury and QVM

There is a definite nip in the air now and as we pass from summer and autumn into winter we have been working hard in our Welwyn charity shop fundraising for our two hospitals. You may have noticed that earlier in the summer the shop underwent a face lift with new carpets and a redesign of the back area with fresh paint and new fitments. I hope you enjoyed our Halloween window and were able to find things in the shop for the 31 October for you and your little ones.

Our sales figures have continued to be most gratifying with ladies' wear being particularly popular. So thank you to all our customers and donors. Your continued support during these difficult times is much appreciated. In case you do not know, an extra easy way to support our charity at no cost to yourself, if you shop online, is by way of Easyfundraising. Go to [easyfundraising.org](https://www.easyfundraising.org), if this does not take you straight to the Friends of Danesbury and QVM Hospital page, then enter the charity name in the 'Search for cause' field; click on 'Support this cause'; create an account or if already registered 'login' and then start online shopping.

We always welcome and need good quality donations. All donations are received in the yard behind the shop where you will find a table, but space is limited so it is best to bring anything you wish to donate in the morning. The shop is open between 10am and 4pm Monday to Saturday so please do pop in. Unfortunately we do not have facilities to accept furniture.

The clocks have now changed, so that means we are well and truly heading towards Christmas. The Friends are hoping to benefit from all the seasonal goodwill. The Welwyn shop has a great selection of inexpensive gift ideas together with a range of Christmas cards using different designs. By buying anything from the Welwyn shop you are helping us to support the work of Danesbury and QVM. And of course, we also hold a selection of the latest fashions and accessories.

Jennifer Fowler

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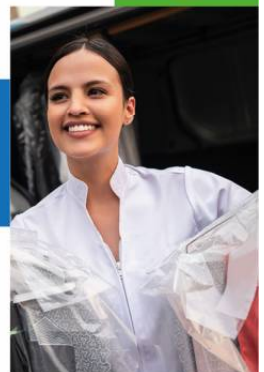
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A djinn and tonic pantomime!

It really is a genie-ous pantomime!

This year's offering from St Mary's Drama Group brings you 'Aladdin Trouble'. This much-loved tale is full of magical moments, sparkling costumes and songs that will stay in your memory long after the final curtain. The tale is told by Scheherazade who fervently wishes to keep her head attached to her shoulders by keeping her new husband, the Sultan, happy, a reasonable wish by any standards. She alights on the idea of a pantomime and it all kicks off. In keeping with tradition, Aladdin 'muddypants' is the son of Widow Twankey who runs the local launderette and he has two twin siblings, Wishy and Washy. They are among the poorest of the poor. Aladdin falls in love with Princess Jasmine whom he meets when she is posing as a villager. On the scene comes the evil Abanazar who, in his search for the Lamp of Unlimited Power, has been told by the Oracle (a large rock) that only the pure-of-heart Aladdin can enter the Cave of Wonders to retrieve the lamp. Abanazer manages to get Aladdin to the cave but Aladdin is far from compliant. Frustrated, Abanazer leaves Aladdin to stew in the cave, to teach him a lesson. Aladdin then unwittingly rubs the lamp and enter the Genie. In a later scene, Abanazer steals the lamp back, but is outwitted by Aladdin, Jasmine and others. All ends happily ever after, with a wedding and a final foot-tapping chorus. The pantomime was originally written for a cast of 60 plus, a school production, by

Out of the Ark Music. Performing licences have been purchased and the script (with permission) has been re-written to suit the much smaller cast (about 15) of St Mary's Drama Group and a more adult audience. We have retained the music, and the catchy songs are a delight. Rehearsals began at the beginning of August, on every Tuesday evening. The team is amazingly hard-working and dedicated and every rehearsal has its element of fun. Each year we are grateful to welcome new people and this year has been no exception. Every year, too, the pantomime raises thousands of pounds for charity. Last year the profits from the production went to Ukraine and towards the purchase of an ambulance. This year, however, we are aiming to reduce our own church deficit. Please do come along and enjoy, while supporting this most worthy cause. Performances are as follows: Tuesday 28th November 7.30pm; Friday 1st December at 7.30pm; Saturday 2nd December at 3.30pm and 7.30pm. Prices are: £10 Adults; £5 for 16 or under; Under 5s free. Cash or cheques accepted but if paying by cheque please add £1.50 to the ticket cost. To book, email Stuart Jenkin at secretary@welwyn.org.uk. Collect from Stuart Jenkin or from Danesbury shop in Welwyn. Tickets do sell out for certain performances. This pantomime promises to be the most colourful and fun one ever, so be sure to get your ticket early. For further details you are welcome to email usha.hull@me.com



**All ground work undertaken Patios – fencing – driveways –
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Email: nickdarter.ncd@gmail.com

'Time for Reflection'

This friendly group meets every third Friday of the month in Church House from 9.30am (for coffee) - 11am. Activities vary and include discussions, visiting speakers, films, study and Bring and Share lunches. We invite anyone in the community who is interested, to join us - church goers and non church goers!

So if you have time once a month on a Friday do come along. You will be most welcome.
01438 487851 for further information

Herts At War Free Talks – November 16th- The Welwyn Civic Centre**

This month's talk is WW1 related and is by Steve Chambers on **Mapping the Old Front Line (The Western Front)**

Steve authored many books including Gallipoli - Gully Ravine, Anzac The Landing, Suvla: August Offensive, Anzac: Sari Bair, Uniforms & Equipment of the British Army in World War One and during the Great War centenary Stephen, with co-author Richard van Emden, wrote Gallipoli: The Dardanelles Disaster in Soldiers' Words and Photographs. His latest books are guidebooks to Walking Gallipoli, and Krithia were published in 2020/2021. He is currently working on a Cambrai book.

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



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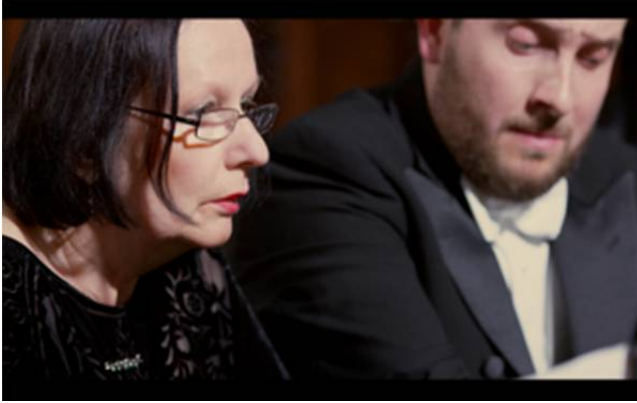
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Two famous pianists to perform in St Mary's Welwyn on Saturday 11th November



The November concert in the 'Second Saturday Recitals' series at St Mary's features Tessa Uys and Ben Schoeman, who will perform music for "Four Hands on One Piano". The concert is on 11th November at 12 noon and will last for one hour.

Tessa and Ben will play one of the greatest of all works written for this combination – the Fantasia in F minor D940 by Schubert. This is a monumental work, composed towards the end of his short life. The concert also includes a transcription by Scharwenka of Beethoven's Symphony 8 in F major.

These two London-based international multi-award-winning concert pianists have joined forces to perform and record all nine Beethoven symphonies transcribed for piano duet by Xaver Scharwenka (1850-1924). The complete cycle of Beethoven's symphonies has never before been presented in this format. Leading publications such as the *BBC Music*, *Gramophone*, and *The Sunday Times* have unanimously praised Uys and Schoeman for their "enthraling" and "ground-breaking" recordings of these beloved works issued by the SOMM record label.

A review in *The Sunday Times* of the CD containing Symphonies 2 and 7 stated: "As with the previous volumes, the third disc offers dual delights: you can easily feel you are listening to entirely new works and experience moments when your response will be along the lines of 'Ah yes, that bit'. Both are richly rewarding".

The concert is free and everyone is welcome to attend. There will be a retiring collection for artists' fees and church funds.

Stephen Foster



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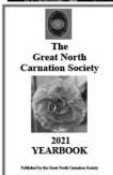


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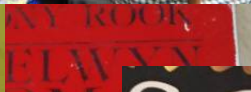
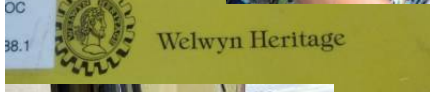
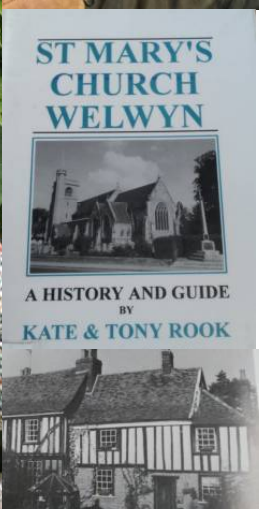
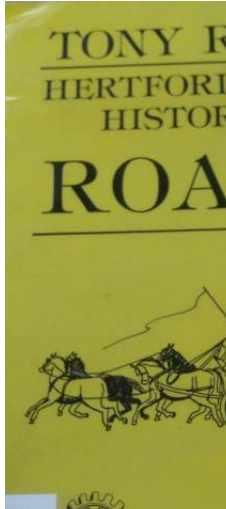
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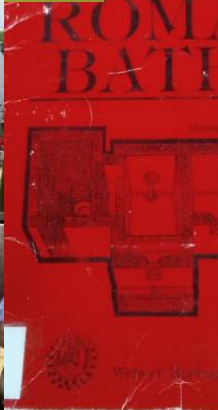
Contact - Steve or Anne Vine on 01438 717105

31 Wilga Road-Welwyn-Herts-AL6 9PT

Tony Rook 1932—2023—Photos



16. The Old Rectory, Welwyn, home of the author. Originally the moated manor house, extended in the Georgian period, when the tall windows were added.



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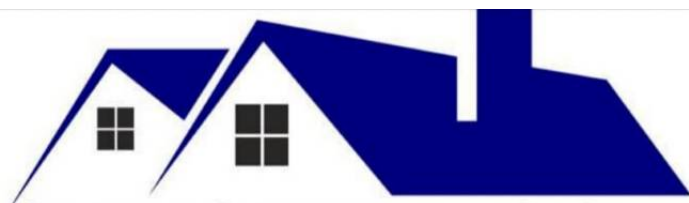
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Retail Crime in Welwyn



For many weeks we've been reading in the national press about a surge in shoplifting. This has been attributed variously to difficulties faced by individual households challenged by increases in the cost of living, drug users needing to fund their addiction, and organised gangs looting with a view to resale in pubs, clubs etc. Coupled with this surge it has been suggested that police have been slow to respond to 999 calls or even decline to attend and

investigate cases.

During the four months from April to July this year, there were 34 cases of shoplifting reported to the police in Welwyn and Woolmer Green. None of these cases has yet resulted in a prosecution though five are still under investigation. In all but one of the other cases which have been closed, no suspect was identified. One suspect who was identified was unable to be prosecuted.

In the same four-month period during 2022 there were just three cases of shoplifting reported. In the one case where a suspect was identified it was not possible to prosecute.

Reasons why prosecutions are not possible are not recorded, but we believe this is usually due to the state of evidence or unwillingness of witnesses. Most stores where shoplifting has been reported in Welwyn and Woolmer Green have CCTV in place, a potential source of evidence, though intending shoplifters will usually wear hoodies to make identification difficult.

The stores most likely to be subject to shoplifting include Tesco Express in Welwyn High St and in Woolmer Green, and M&S Simply Food/BP on the outskirts of Welwyn. The latter has made up the bulk of reported cases, albeit without any prosecutions.

As a result of the national outcry about unsolved cases, the College of Policing has told officers that they must investigate every crime report with a reasonable lead such as CCTV. And ten of Britain's biggest retailers (including Tesco) have agreed to fund Project Pegasus whereby CCTV of shoplifting in stores will be run through the Police National Database which includes facial recognition technology. Here's hoping we'll see the benefit!

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

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Church Notice Board

ST MARY'S - Welwyn www.welwyn.org.uk

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

Confessions By arrangement with the Clergy.

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

Clergy Surgery Hour

Saturdays 10.00 am to 11.00 am

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

ST MICHAEL'S - Woolmer Green www.stmichaels-wg.org.uk

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

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

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

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DIGSWELL VILLAGE CHURCH www.digswellvillagechurch.org.uk

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

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Meditation

Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost". Instil in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace. Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarrelling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam!
Amen.

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Fellowship	Marcia Khan.....	01438 716625
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Oaklands JMI School.....	Great North Road, Oaklands, Welwyn AL6 0PX	01438 715278
<i>Head teacher - Mr Tom Hassan</i>		
Tenterfield Nursery School and Children's Centre.....	London Road, Welwyn AL6 9JF.....	01438 714564
<i>Head teacher - Mrs Vicky Beare</i>		

WELWYN MAGAZINE e:mail: magazine@welwyn.org.uk

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

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	Nita Gowans.....	01438 717609
	Peter Branchflower.....	01438 717965
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	Tony Keach.....	01438 716657
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	Helen Thompsett.....	adverts@welwyn.org.uk.....
	Rita McNeill.....	01438 880488
Treasurer	Tony Keach.....	01438 716657

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - November 2023

1st	2.00pm	Welwyn Floral Group	Glitter, Glitz and Glam - Gill McGregor <i>joycefurssedonn7@virginmedia.com</i>	Civic Centre Welwyn
4th	7.30pm	WAF TA	Wine Tasting XO Wine Merchants of Welwyn <i>lindacurie128@yahoo.co.uk</i>	Civic Centre Welwyn
7th & 21st	11.00am / 2.00pm	Dementia Friendly Community Cafe	Dementia Friendly Community Café Contact: Jane Andrews 01707 240 650 <i>jane.andrews@homeinstead.co.uk</i>	Digswell Hall 30 Harmer Green Lane, Welwyn
9th	8.00pm	Garden Club Welwyn	The History of the Node in Collicote - Mike Creasey <i>tonycoxall25@gmail.com</i>	Civic Centre, Main Hall Welwyn
11th	12 noon	St Mary's Church Welwyn	Second Saturday Recital See page 38 for details	St Mary's Church Welwyn
12th	10.00am / 1.30pm	Welwyn Craft and Farmers Market	Craft and Farmers Market <i>clerk@welwynpc.org.uk - 01438 716667</i>	Civic Centre Welwyn
14th	2.30pm	Fellowship St Mary's Welwyn	Shelterbox <i>marcia.khan.emk@gmail.com</i>	St Mary's Church House Welwyn
16th	10.00am	Danesbury Fernery and Nature Reserve Work Group	Fernery: gardening and maintenance Nature Reserve: clearing and habitat Mgmt <i>chairman@danburyferner.org.uk</i>	Nature Reserve, Fernery Field (top North Ride) Welwyn
16th	7.30pm	W.I Mardley Heath	Songs of Nostalgia - Steve Forward <i>Jean Stephens 01438 714693 mardleyheathwi@gmail.com</i>	Oaklands Primary School Welwyn
16th	7.30pm	W.I Digswell	The dawn of Islam - Barry Northrop <i>kate.stabler@talktalk.net</i>	Village Hall Digswell
19th	11.00am	Rubbish Action Group Welwyn	Rubbish Action Group Collection Contact: Sarah Butcher 07885 875977 <i>welwynrubbishactiongroup@gmail.com</i>	Car Park opposite Welwyn Drs Surgery
22nd	8.00 pm	Welwyn Natural History Society	<i>watson.winfield @btopenworld.com</i>	Civic Centre Welwyn
26th	9.00am	Village Market Woolmer Green	Food and Craft Village Market <i>https://www.facebook.com/ farmersmarketwoolmergreen/</i>	Village Hall Woolmer Green
Tuesdays	10.00am / 12 noon	Community Café	Contact: Liz Hesketh 07825 093855	St Mary's Church House Welwyn
2nd Weds of month	2.30pm/ 3.45pm	Afternoon Book Club	Contact: Joan Spruce 01438 840821	St Mary's Church House Welwyn
Thursdays	2.00pm/ 3.00pm	Arpeggio Bell Ringers	Contact: Paulline Anderson 01438 716783	St Mary's Church House Welwyn
Thursdays	7.00pm / 10.00pm	Welwyn Bridge Club	Contact: Cheri Pemberton 01438 360522	St Mary's Church House Welwyn
Saturdays	10.00am / 11.30am	Café	Contact: Maggie Varco 01438 715450	St Mary's Church House Welwyn