

The Welwyn Magazine



November 2021

www.welwyn.org.uk

60p

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NOVEMBER 2021

PUBLISHERS

St Mary's Churchwardens

COVER IMAGE

Soldier in a poppy field
Stuart Carnegie

MAGAZINE ARTICLES

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Editor Note

We normally publish reports on activities and meetings occurring in Welwyn village and the immediate areas, If any reader would like to submit an article on local matters then please send the details by email to: magazine@welwyn.org.uk or contact St Mary's church office on **01438 840964**.

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The Rector's Letter

Dear Friends

I am writing this in the middle of the fuel delivery crisis. I realise that by the time you read it, it might all be over, but as I say in one of my videos, it reminds me of one of the most famous pieces of religious anthropology – ‘cargo gods.’

In the late colonial era, very small and remote, often Pacific island communities, were governed by one man (it usually was a man). He would have an office and a telephone line. Obviously, he needed things for himself and the island community, and so he would phone them up to order them, and a ship, or sometimes a sea plane would deliver them. He would rarely leave his office, and took no part in the work of the islanders, which was generally various forms of subsistence farming.

Christians believe that God created the universe *ex nihilo*: out of nothing. To the islanders these governors seem to do the same. They did not really seem to do any work as the islanders knew work, and yet all sorts of cargo arrived, food and other more luxury items. Such island communities, therefore, came to the not unreasonable conclusion that this man was some sort of god.

Before we dismiss this as foolishness,

we should remind ourselves how modern shopping centres are often consciously designed to resemble churches or temples. And then of course

there is the great high delivery god of ‘Amazon’ for whom we wait at home for hours on end, in eager expectation and petition. Ask any shopper to look in their basket, and tell you where everything came from, how it was transported to the store, and how many people and places were involved in that process, and they would **a)** think you are mad, and **b)** have no idea of the answer. Just-in-time supply logistics are incredibly complex, and take acres of super computer power to achieve, not to mention human labour.

The gods of this magical mystical world have now been disenchanted: in the fuel crisis, and other shortages related to COVID and Brexit, we begin to understand what lies behind it all: farmers and factory workers, pickers and packers, sorters and loaders, drivers and unloaders, warehouse and retail workers: thousands of them, mostly low paid. There are no cargo gods, and we shut ourselves off from the truth if we fool ourselves that there are.

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Jessie — The Rectory dog



Yes I know you all read my letter first, but this time, just for once you must go and read Master's letter at the front of the magazine. I can see what he is saying about cargo gods, but for us

Labradors, and indeed for many other breeds, we have truly met our gods, and they are our Masters and Mistresses.

Like those cargo gods, we can plainly see that generally they do no useful work. I have never seen Master dig, run after a

ball, beg for food, raid the kitchen counter tops with his tongue, or chase a squirrel. And yet he meets all my needs. Somehow big bags of food arrive, and after much pleading, supplication and petition, tiny portions are dished out to me, to stop me from starving. Sometimes he will open the doors to the Elysian fields, where I can run, and fetch ball, and chase squirrels. Once on a very great day, just using a computer he built a sofa which arrived on a truck, I have been lying on it ever since. All this can only mean one thing – he is some sort of divinity.

Jess 

WELWYN HIGH STREET RECOVERY SURVEY

Earlier this summer Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) invited residents to complete an online survey about the changes made in a number of locations across the County in response to Covid-19. This covered the period after most of the barriers had been removed and the planters installed in Welwyn.

We were invited to join the second online meeting of the 'Recovery Board' which comprises councillors from the three councils and officers from HCC. We were asked to represent the views of the community and businesses and we did this after discussions with and feedback from many people. We were concerned that the survey had asked the same questions for each location, despite significant differences from one place to another in terms of what is possible. The survey was quite difficult to complete and this is reflected by the low number who responded (238). Whilst the planters are

appreciated by some, the majority would rather they were removed. There was a general appetite for a 20 mph limit or zone in Welwyn Village, although people are concerned how this would be enforced.

HCC has now published the results of the survey which bears out what we had heard from local people:

Respondents said they:

Most Liked:

less traffic and more pleasant environment.

Most Disliked:

less accessible with concerns this impacts negatively on local businesses.

*They thought **Improvements** could be made by reducing the speed of vehicles and more space for pedestrians and those with different mobility requirements, or by removing the temporary changes made.*

Respondents' views on keeping the changes for an 18 month trial in

continued on p42



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MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Austin 7

Britain's Car for the People

After eighteen months of on-line Zoom meetings, we finally met again for breakfast in Church House on 11th September 2021. Our five on-line sessions had enabled us to keep in touch with around 25-30 friends during the lock-downs and gave us the opportunity to enjoy some excellent illustrated talks on a wide variety of subjects.

Breakfast was "Covid safe". A continental breakfast was served at spaced out tables. The speaker, Nick Salmon is the former Chairman of the Letchworth Garden City Classic & Vintage Car Club. He is a classic car enthusiast. His specialist subject is Austin Sevens. He replaced Alan McNab who in April 2020 was due to do a classic car talk on restoring Bugattis which had to be cancelled. Nick is a great friend and began with a slide show of some of the beautiful classic cars which attended a rally in Aston to celebrate Alan's 80th birthday.

Nick arrived in his Austin "Chummy" and

because it is so small, he was able to drive it through the church gate, along the footpath and park it in front of Church House so everyone could look at it. The "Chummy" dates from 1923 but the Austin "Seven" was introduced in 1922 and remained in production until 1939. Almost 300,000 were built, of which 10,000 are known to survive worldwide. Built at Longbridge, Birmingham, it was intended to provide affordable four-wheel transport for the working man and his family. Austin produced tourers, sports cars, saloons and van versions of the "Seven", while specialist coachbuilders such as Swallow - the forerunner of Jaguar - used the chassis as the basis for their own cars. The "Seven" was exported across the world and produced under licence in Germany by BMW.

Herbert Austin, a farmer's son was born in Little Missenden. In 1894 he emigrated to Australia and he worked in an engineering company where his uncle was General Manager. In his spare time, he attended Art School to improve his drawing skills.

He moved to various engineering companies before joining Frederick Wolseley at the Wolseley Sheep Shearing Machine Company, in Sydney. In 1893 they moved manufacturing to Birmingham. It was a seasonal business so Austin started making bicycles and designing three-wheeler cars.

When Wolseley sold the



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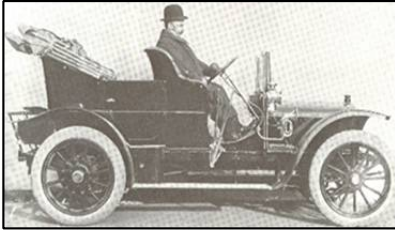


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MEN'S BREAKFAST *continued from p7*

company to Vickers, Austin managed to raise £37,000 (£4.5m today) and started his company in Longbridge.



By 1908 seventeen models were being produced, mainly large cars. During WW1 the company produced munitions. In 1917 Austin was knighted for war service and he became an MP in 1918. After the war the company struggled and went into receivership in 1921. Austin rescued the company by identifying a need for a small, simple car that ordinary people could afford. He picked a 17 year old draughtsman Stanley Edge from the drawing office and between them in the billiard room of Austin's house, they designed an engine, gearbox and a simple "A" frame chassis.



The new car was launched at Claridges in 1922 at a price of £165. It was an immediate success but sales were slow to start. However, the company increased sales by producing a whole range of different versions and licencing the Austin 7

design to other manufacturers - in Germany, under the Dixi brand (which later



became BMW), in France as Rosengart and in the USA by the American Austin Company as Bantam (which went on to produce the first Jeeps). The cars were also claimed to be copied, without license, by Nissan/Datsun of Japan.

The car was very economical to run. Spare parts were easily obtainable and it was simple to service. In 1947 an electric version was produced. The range of versions included pick-up trucks, racing and hill climbing cars, tourers and many specials.

In 2022 Austin 7 owners from all over the world are planning to visit the UK for the centenary celebrations. The seven was the

forerunner of so many small "Peoples" cars and has made its mark in the history of transportation. The next Men's breakfast at Church House will be on Saturday 20th



November when Richard Darby will talk about the Ward Beadles of the City of London.

Please contact Jim Read on

jimread55@gmail.com if you would like to join the Men's Breakfast Mailing list.

Peter Lee



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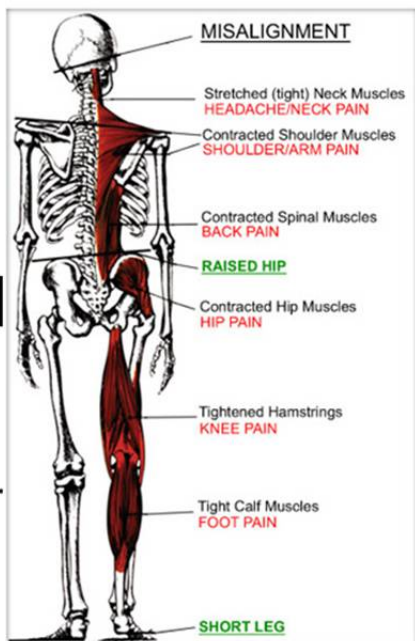
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“We met in the Reading Room at the British Museum”

Jane Rowland is an active member of the community of Welwyn and can often be seen speeding her way through the village on her bicycle. She comes from a large family, her grandmother had 36 grandchildren and when Jane was born, Alexander, the eldest of her four brothers, who already had two sisters said “*Oh no, not another girl!*”

Jane’s first home was in Wellingborough where her father was Headmaster of the local grammar school. It was during the War and her family was asked to take in a German/Jewish girl, Olga Levy, who arrived by train in the *Kindertransport* which brought almost 10,000 Jewish children out of Nazi occupied Europe to the United Kingdom. Jane’s mother had studied the flute at

the Musikhochschule in Berlin and heard Hitler give one of his ranting speeches, which appalled her. When she was five, Jane moved to an “upmarket” nursery school in Oxford, where another of the pupils was Sally Poole who later married the Aga Khan.

When she was fifteen Jane’s family bought a 12-bedroom house with two cottages for a bargain price, as the house was near the very noisy American Airbase at Brize Norton. She was a keen rider and her horse was called *Festival Filly*, born in 1953 the year of the Festival of Britain. When the railway was closed and her father could no longer travel by train to his work in Oxford, he went into the Church, first as a lay reader and then a vicar. He retired in 1970 and



Jane, Olga and Monus

continued on p13

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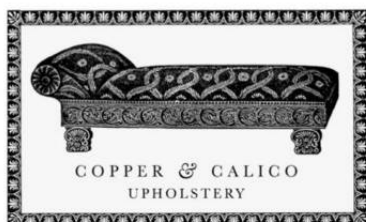
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he and his wife were offered a wing in Gestingthorpe Hall in Essex where Laurence Oates, later the explorer Captain Oates, who took part in the 1912 Antarctic Expedition, had lived as a child.

In 1956 Jane met Harry S. Truman, former President of the United States, at a tea party in Worcester College, Oxford University, after he had been awarded an Honorary Doctorate. Jane’s father was a member of the awarding panel. In the early 1960s in Oxford she met another Truman, Freddie Truman the prominent cricketer, after a match in which he had played against the University.

Jane attended a secretarial college in London, where she met an American couple who invited her to Long Island in the United States to act as nanny to their young son, Virgil. One day the car that she was driving was hit by a lorry which had overshot a red light and she was badly hurt, although Virgil escaped unscathed. After a month in a coma in hospital she eventually travelled back to England.

Aged 24 she was again invited to America, this time to New Jersey, to another childminding/housekeeping position. She did not stay long, however, as the mistress of the house had impossibly high expectations of cleanliness which Jane considered ridiculous!

Her next move was to New York. She shared a 2-bed flat with two girls, one of whom was a night nurse. As there were

three girls and only two beds, the night nurse slept in one of the beds during the day leaving the bed free for Jane to use at night! She had a job in Bloomingdales, the large department store.

Unfortunately she was sacked having only made two sales in as many weeks.

Back in London she worked from 6pm to 9pm in the Reading Room at the British Museum searching out and delivering books ordered by students working there, one of whom was a certain Monus Rowland, who had noticed the young lady in the striking red cloak. Jane still has a very individual style of dress!

They were married in 1968 on the Isle of Wight. Money was scarce so, unable to afford a new wedding dress Jane wore a dress she had previously worn as a bridesmaid. Her mother, however, did manage to buy champagne for the occasion and the local Plymouth Brethren supplied the flowers. They spent their honeymoon in Portugal. Back home they shared a flat with a friend. His presence was necessary to help pay the rent.

They eventually bought a flat on Parliament Hill near Hampstead Heath and later moved to Ealing, where they lived for 25 years. After Monus retired in 1998 they moved north to Cumbria and bought a house close to Hadrian’s Wall. After 17 years they moved to the Codicote Road in Welwyn where they now live.

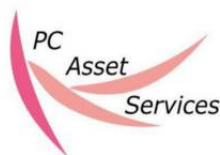
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Migraines

A migraine is usually a moderate or severe headache felt as a throbbing pain on one side of the head.

Many people also have symptoms such as feeling sick, being sick and increased sensitivity to light or sound. There are several types of migraine, including:

- **migraine with aura** – where there are specific warning signs just before the migraine begins, such as seeing flashing lights or cloudy vision for a short time
- **migraine without aura** – the most common type, where the migraine happens without the specific warning signs
- **migraine aura without headache** – also known as silent migraine – where an aura or other migraine symptoms are experienced, but a headache does not develop

When to get medical advice

Simple painkillers, such as paracetamol or ibuprofen, can be effective for migraine. Try not to use the maximum dosage of painkillers on a regular or frequent basis as this could make it harder to treat headaches over time. You should also make an appointment to see a GP if you have frequent migraines (on more than 5 days a month), even if they can be controlled with medicines, as you may benefit from preventative

treatment. You should call 999 for an ambulance immediately if you or someone you are with, experiences:

- paralysis or weakness in one or both arms or one side of the face
- slurred or garbled speech
- a sudden agonising headache resulting in a severe pain unlike anything experienced before
- headache along with a high temperature (fever), stiff neck, mental confusion, seizures, double vision and a rash

These symptoms may be a sign of a more serious condition, such as a stroke or meningitis, and should be assessed by a doctor as soon as possible.

Causes of migraines

Some people find migraine attacks are associated with certain triggers, which can include:

- starting their period
- stress
- tiredness
- certain foods or drinks

Treating migraines

There is no cure for migraines, but a number of treatments are available to help reduce the symptoms. These include:

- **painkillers** – including over-the-counter medicines

continued on p17

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PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP continued from p15

- like paracetamol and ibuprofen
- **triptans** – medicines that can help reverse the changes in the brain that may cause migraines
- **anti-emetics** – medicines often used to help relieve people's feeling of sickness (nausea) or being sick during an attack, many people find that sleeping or lying in a darkened room can also help

Preventing migraines

If you suspect a specific trigger is causing your migraines, such as stress or a certain type of food, avoiding this trigger may help reduce your risk of experiencing migraines. It may also help to maintain a generally healthy lifestyle, including regular exercise, sleep and meals, as well as ensuring you stay well hydrated and limiting your intake of caffeine and alcohol.

If your migraines are severe or you have tried avoiding possible triggers and are still experiencing symptoms, a GP may prescribe medicines to help prevent further attacks.

Medicines used to prevent migraines include the anti-seizure medicine topiramate and a medicine called propranolol that is usually used to treat high blood pressure.

It may take several weeks before your migraine symptoms begin to improve.

Information taken from <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/migraine/>

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

WELWYN AMATEUR THEATRE GROUP

*The newly formed **Welwyn Amateur Theatre Group** is putting on the pantomime **Welwyn** has been waiting for (oh yes it is!). **Cinders, The True Story**, their inaugural production is written by David Tristram and directed by Stuart Carnegie. Expect a fun-filled outing on your own doorstep with laughs aplenty and fun for all the family.*

Cinders, The True Story is playing at Welwyn Civic Centre on:
Saturday 13th November at 2.30 pm and 7.30 pm
Saturday 20th November at 2.30 pm and 7.30 pm
Sunday 21st November at 2.30 pm

Tickets are available from the website at £10 for adults and £8 for under 16s.

www.welwyntheatre.com



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THE FRIENDS OF DANESBURY AND QVM

The festive season is now truly underway, and the volunt-elfs in our shop have been working hard going through all your lovely donations, sorting out any items fit for the festive period. No doubt there will be various amazing window displays throughout the weeks ahead. Welwyn on a whole is hoping to generate a higher footfall by holding various events, and we hope you will come and support the shops in the village as we need your business to keep our shops afloat.



One of our Autumn window displays

We are also hoping to bring some festive cheer to both Danesbury and QVM. However, this may prove to be rather challenging as the NHS are still under full COVID restrictions, and the seasonal weather will no doubt be rather unfavourable to be doing much of anything outdoors!

At the end of October, we held our AGM, which identified that under the given circumstances our charity shop in Welwyn is doing well and that is down to all the hard work of the Managers and volunteers and your support.

We would love to increase sales back to pre-pandemic levels to ensure we can keep supporting all the units within the Herts & Essex area at the level we have done in previous years. Hopefully the events organised by Welwyn Business Alliance will see more footfall in the

village and we hope you will all pop in to see the wonderful goods we have on sale. Everything we sell has been donated.

During the Covid period we have been supporting the units (Danesbury & QVM in particular), with smaller items such as garden items, hand cream, a range of personal care items, clothing, updating

of TVs/TV services in the patient and day rooms, radios and Christmas supplies just to mention a few items.

If you are interested in volunteering at the charity shop on the High Street, Welwyn then please do pop into the shop or call 01438 840 769 and have a chat with Heather Knappett.

Thanking you all for your continued support.

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REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICES



***Sunday
14th November 2021***

Remembrance Day Services

St Mary's Welwyn

*8.00 am Said Eucharist
9.30 pm Parish Eucharist
10.55 am Act of Remembrance at War Memorial
11.15 am Parade Service in Church*

St Michael's Woolmer Green

9.30 am Remembrance Day Family Service

Ayot St Peter

*10.50 am Act of Remembrance at War Memorial
11.15 am Remembrance Day Service*

NEWS FROM AYOT ST PETER



***Remembrance
Service at
Ayot St Peter
begins at
10.50am on
Sunday
14th November***

The congregation around the war memorial in front of our church and the names of the twenty men who lost their lives in the Great War are read aloud.

In addition to the men recorded on the war memorial, we hear the name of Patricia Dora Adam, a Second World War ATS volunteer, buried in a family plot, the only official war grave in our churchyard.

The reading of the Roll of Honour is followed by the clock striking 11 o'clock and two minutes' silence. Then wreaths are laid on behalf of both the civil parish and the church. Family members and residents often lay their own little wooden crosses to remember loved ones who died in any conflict. This is always a very touching service and everyone is welcome.

Short biographies of the men recorded on our war memorial appear on our village website, which shows that ten were killed in 1916 during the Somme offensive. There are two pairs of brothers amongst the dead, and another two men had been brought up

together as the adopted and fostered sons of an Ayot Green resident. We would always be interested to hear from family members of any of the men.

After the First World War, the Wilshire family erected a plaque on the wall of the house opposite the church, which at the time was called West Lodge. This listed all the men who worked on the Frythe Estate who had fought, with the names of the dead marked with a cross.

The image on the adjacent page shows a transcription of the list, but sadly the plaque itself disappeared when the house was renovated around 1990. Extensive enquiries have failed to locate this unique piece of local history. If any readers know the whereabouts of the plaque, then please help us solve this mystery!

Those of you who enjoy walking in Ayot St Peter may be interested to know that the annual clear-up in the old churchyard is planned for late November. The churchyard makes a nice destination for a winter walk, and the graves and inscriptions are visible once the vegetation is removed. Clearing the woodland floor also allows the bulbs to thrive and we hope for a wonderful springtime display.

Valerie Richards

Copy of the Memorial Board, formerly affixed to West
Lodge, opposite the Church of Ayot St Peter

FOR KING AND COUNTRY
MEN FORMERLY LIVING ON THE ESTATE OR
OTHERWISE CONNECTED WITH THE FRYTHE

George Allen	Stephen Hattin
Lionel Allen	Arthur Harwood
Percy Ambrose	+ Randall Harwood
+ Alick Luther Baker	Cecil Harwood
John Boston	Albert Harwood
+ George Butterfield	Albert Hawthorn
James Day	+ Walter Lawson
Frederick Farr	Frank Mayer
Joseph Henry Fitt	Charles Mardell
+ Ernest George Fitt	Frank Nickerson
Septimus George Fitt	Henry Preedy
Francis Arthur Fitt	Albert Usher
Arthur Freestone	John Webb
Walter Freeman	

GOD DEFEND THE RIGHT

PARISH CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING



*15th September 2021
St Mary's, Welwyn
St Michael's, Woolmer
Green*

It is satisfying to be able to report that this meeting took place in person in Church House once again. Prior to beginning the PCC meeting a brief extraordinary general meeting (to which all parishioners were invited but none attended) was held to formally appoint a new independent examiner of St Mary's and St Michael's financial accounts. The appointment of Mr Chris Burton FCA was unanimously approved by those present. The Rector, as chairman, then opened the PCC meeting with a welcome, a prayer and proceeded to the business of the council. The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved without objection. There were no matters arising therefrom and the Rector duly signed them.

The council then proceeded to financial reports and an update January to August 2021. Treasurer, Maggie Varco, had circulated her report prior to the meeting and therefore focussed attention on the Parish Giving Scheme. This is a scheme to help churches increase regular giving by means of direct debit. The cost of running the scheme is borne by the diocese so it makes good sense to adopt it – known as a 'no brainer' in colloquial English. Those already paying by standing order will not be asked to transfer to the

new scheme and their existing standing orders will be maintained for the avoidance of disruption. The scheme was approved by the PCC and the PGS will be asked to commence operation on behalf of St Mary's. It is anticipated that St Michael's will join the scheme in due course.

Maggie went on to inform the meeting of her research into a debit/credit card reader system to provide a cashless means of making donations and payments. Having researched the subject extensively she recommended 'Sum Up' and 'Give A Little'. A card reader offering choice of payments will be mounted on the wall inside St Mary's church where the WiFi signal is good. Receipts can be sent electronically and payments can also be made online; a useful additional function given VirginMoneyGiving is ceasing operations at the end of November. Details will be made available once the new system is up and running.

Sue Keach thanked Jackie Davis for faithfully and diligently keeping the books for St Michael's (not the hymn books).

Under the heading of fabric the matter of fire safety is presently being addressed both at St Mary's and St Michael's. Certainly various replacements and improvements are required at St Mary's while the need is not as great at St Michael's, the building being of a more straightforward nature.

The contractors who installed the new

PARISH CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING *continued from p26*

boiler at St Mary's earlier this year still have a few aspects to finish and therefore have not yet presented their invoice.

The council then turned its attention to The Renewal of Ministry and Mission. The Rector has written and had printed a booklet on the topic that is ready to be distributed. A discussion ensued regarding the most appropriate time to publish it. The PCC agreed that they should be issued as soon as possible because life is returning to normal and parishioners want to be uplifted. At the time of writing it has already been circulated with St Mary's weekly email bulletin and will be available on St Mary's website.

At last (the suspense has been almost unbearable) the Rector was in a position to announce the name of the new curates – Christie and Ryan Gilfeather have been appointed to serve their curacies in the Welwyn Team Ministry. Christie will be a stipendiary minister and Ryan will be serving on a self-supporting basis, based mainly in Codicote. They are due to start on 3rd July 2022.

The list of 'Responsible Persons' has been reviewed, up-dated and was approved at the meeting. These are people who have duties or responsibilities towards the running and maintenance of the church. It does not mean that if your name is not on the list you are deemed not to be responsible.

The Church of England issued a 'new' safeguarding policy for promoting a safer church. The PCC has adopted the policy for St Mary's and St Michael's and it is due to be displayed on the church noticeboards.

School Governors at St Michael's Foundation School – Toby Baxendale and Susan Gray have kindly agreed to extend their terms in office. One vacancy remains to be filled due to the retirement of Keith Thompson.

Under the heading of **Any Other Business** it was pleasing to hear that usage of Church House for social activities is on the increase after a very quiet year last year when almost no income was earned from hire fees. The PCC secretary was particularly pleased that Welwyn Bridge Club has resumed playing in Church House. She enjoyed three very pleasant evenings with them and can thoroughly recommend it.

The PCC was advised that the Rural Dean, acting on behalf of the Archdeacon of Hertford, recently made a routine inspection of St Mary's formal documents, policies of insurance, registers, property logs, etc. All were found to be in order and up-to-date.

Finally, dates of subsequent meetings were noted, the Rector led grace and closed the meeting.

David Hughes

HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS - Part 5

Tinker, Tailor, Watercress Grower

Every settlement has places where the 'ordinary' folk live and for Welwyn this was always in the area we now know as Mill Lane, Mimram Walk and Mimram Road. These were the areas of highest population, filled with people in any number of occupations. In 1881 Mill Lane alone was home to over 50 households with well over 200 inhabitants. Its residents worked as Gardeners and Blacksmiths, Dressmakers and Shoemakers, Tailors and Teachers (but surprisingly only one Watercress Grower!).

Whilst we now know this road as Mill Lane, it was originally called Back Lane in contrast to Fore Street or Front Street – now the High Street. The

modern name of course comes from the Mill, which still stands, although a substantial part has been demolished leaving only the Mill House. Welwyn Mill dates from the time of the Norman Conquest and the first miller is recorded here in 1290. The Mill was rebuilt in 1754 and flour was ground until 1912 when the last miller, James Chalkley died, and the mill itself was removed.

A business or trade can often give a street its name, as with Mill Lane. It can then be no surprise that at times Mill Lane, or parts of it, was known as White Horse Street after the pub which is still serving beer. Although probably residents of today's Orchard Road are grateful that the Council closed the ultimate recycling site at the end of their road and they no longer live in



HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS - Part 5 *continued from p26*

Sewage Road.

The Old Rectory in Mill Lane was the first building to house Welwyn's Rector, who was also the Lord of the Manor, and dates from 1450. All around the Rectory was his farm and garden covering the area from Mill Lane to the High Street – the Rector's Moor, and the house was surrounded by a moat.

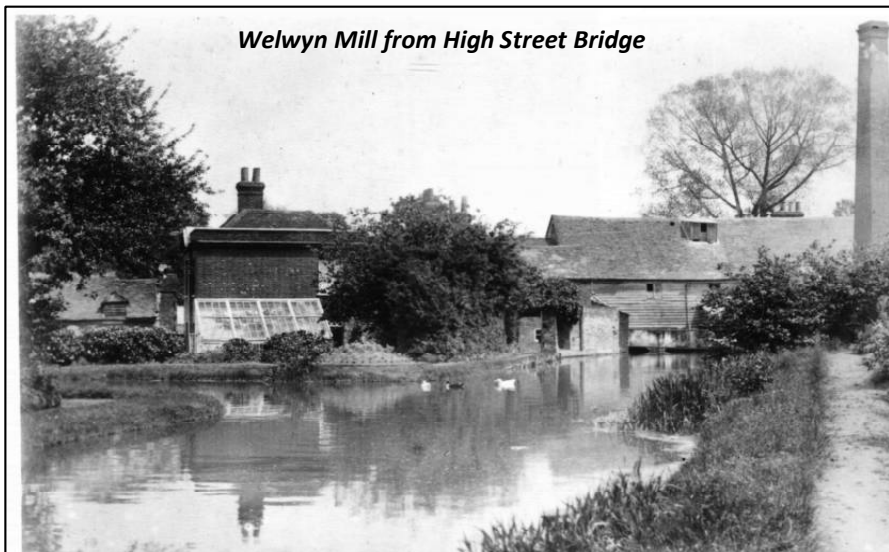
In the early 19th century the Rector's Moor began to be built over, firstly by the cottages in Mimram Road and by the thoroughfare we now call Mimram Walk. These names obviously come from the proximity of the River Mimram, but the area's past resounds with names from today and the not too distant past. A row of cottages off Mimram Walk is still called Moors Cottages and until 1918 you could

partake of a pint of McMullens ale in a pub on the corner in Mimram Road called the Moorhen.

The Moorhen was originally the very start of Mimram Road and the whole of the thoroughfare from the High Street to Mill Lane was known as Farm Yard, reflecting its position on the old Rectors Farm or Moor. This seems archaic now but what we now call Mimram Walk was still referred to as Farm Yard on Ordnance Survey maps as late as 1964, and my grandfather, who was bought up in Moors Cottages, never called his childhood home anything but 'down the Farm Yard' (an expression which completely baffled me as a child).

The cottages to the east of Mill Lane were built by 1821 on land which was originally Vine Farm, held by Samuel

Welwyn Mill from High Street Bridge



HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS - Part 5 *continued from p27*

Knott, licensee of the Vine in Church Street. The Vine was one of Welwyn's main coaching inns and stayed in business as a pub until 1964, and still stands but as a private house. That cannot be said



The Moorhen, Mill Lane, Welwyn

of Vine Farm, of which no trace remains. It is now under a car park, a Scout Hut and an interestingly named road which many modern day residents may not even know exists – Titmus Yard.

The name Titmus had been well known in Welwyn since Francis Adams

Titmus married local girl Sarah Balls in 1870. Francis Titmus was the night mail van driver from Ware to Welwyn, which bought him to the village and Mill Lane.

Francis rose to prominence in the village, carrying out various businesses such as fishmonger, greengrocer,

second hand furniture dealer, beer retailer and haulage contractor before his death in 1922. His descendants continued to be involved with the business life of Welwyn until after the Second World War and his name lives on in the name of the street where his business thrived.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Those were the days

Last month we were enthusing about the introduction of the **OWL app** for our smartphones so this month we are reflecting on how things have changed since both your authors became involved with Neighbourhood Watch some 25 years ago. That was 10 years before the introduction of **OWL**.

In those days, the police encouraged groups of neighbours to get together to form a “watch”. Newsletters about crime and crime prevention were created, typed, printed and circulated by volunteers. And signs were purchased to display on lampposts, or on trees in the more rural neighbourhoods where street lighting did not (and still doesn’t) exist.

Do you still have one of these early signs, a threatening beady eye? Look out burglars - this neighbourhood is occupied by curtain-twitchers!

In some neighbourhoods, rooms were hired for public meetings with speakers. Booking of rooms, purchase of signs and printing of newsletters needed to be funded of course, sometimes with grants but also by subscriptions or donations being collected door-to-door.

After the introduction of **OWL**, it

became possible for potential members to register online without anyone knocking on their door to collect contact details. As the years have passed, most members are able to receive information by email. But we still have a few who rely on voicemail messages on their landlines. We are pleased that our PCSO Anne Devine routinely does this. As far as we know, none of our neighbourhoods still issues newsletters. And signs for lampposts are now available without charge.

So do we still need volunteers? You bet we do! Potential members need to be told about **OWL**. And when members move without remembering to let **OWL** know, someone in their street needs to notice they have gone. We are currently looking for volunteers in Broom Hill, Firway, Two Oaks Drive, Lancaster Way, Norman Road, Saxon Road, Tudor Road and Windsor Road amongst others. And at the neighbourhood level, there are vacancies for volunteers to oversee Oaklands and Mardley Heath and Digswell. You can check whether volunteers are needed in your own street or neighbourhood by logging into your **OWL** account and opening your Local tab.

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

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MARDLEY HEATH W.I.

On 16th September, 21 members emerged from their hidy-holes to attend Mardley Heath's first indoor meeting in more than a year. They were richly rewarded by Anna Conti's joyous talk on Stained Glass, a craft that goes back for more than a thousand years. Her interest dates from childhood when she collected old coloured glass bottles from a wayside dump. Then fast forward to the Chelsea College of Arts via a course in Industrial Design. She is now an established expert in the art, and teaches groups and individuals nationwide.

Anna showed many photographs of her work in Europe and America - windows, doors etc. in traditional and contemporary designs - and displayed small decorative artefacts made from off-cuts of glass. She demonstrated how to cut glass and solder pieces together. One of her lovely designs is shown below.

W.I. Business included the Secretary's Annual Report, delayed from May, and the Treasurer's Financial Statement covering the year to February, presented by Brenda Thomas and Beryl Hill respectively. Membership has fallen during the pandemic as people have aged or moved away. New members will be very welcome. Visitors can turn up without commitment.

Our Produce Show on 21st October when Deidre Swede will speak about Nutrition for Health and Wellbeing, could be a good time to venture into something new. Call President Jean Stephens for details on 01438 714693.

The usual refreshment time over (with cakes by Diane Jenkin), the unusual task of sanitising all surfaces was undertaken before members departed.

Marjorie Sandiford





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CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

September was the first re-scheduled meeting since the COVID-9 restrictions. We hope these meetings will continue and we can become active again.

John Burnapp came to the meeting to talk about the Masonic Organisation. This is not a religion and is not a secret society. It is an organisation of hundreds of years of Masons at work. The handshake was the passport for the progress of the apprenticeship because none of the apprentices could either read or write.

It was only during the second World War that the organisation was kept secret because if there had been a different outcome, the NAZI regime would not have tolerated such an organisation.

It is possible to get all the information about the Masons from

books or on-line, so there is no secrecy only for certain personal reasons.

Many charities have benefitted from generous donations from the Masons and this comes from the members. It is never advertised except for a small symbol of recognition.

Questions were asked about the regalia which was on display. The apron is a badge of honour and white gloves are worn during the meetings. To be a member can be very time consuming and very rewarding, members will support members in times of need.

There are Lodges for Ladies, which was surprising.

We had a good attendance and precautions were taken against Infection. Everyone was very relaxed and very pleased to be meeting again.

Marjorie Lyon

UPDATE ON SINGLERS' MARSH VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATION

The public consultation ended on 12th October. It is hoped the overwhelming body of evidence that residents and others have enjoyed unfettered access to the marsh for at least the last 20 years will pave the way for the application to be approved.

The **'Save Singlers' Marsh'** team is grateful to over 1,000 people who completed the questionnaire and provided photographs showing how **Singlers' Marsh** has been used. Testimony was received from organisers of *Welwyn Festival*, the

Welwyn 10k, Walking to Better Health Group, Welwyn St Mary's School and Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Brownies etc, all of whom have used the marsh extensively over the years.

In September, the infamous duck race, organised by *Welwyn Scouts*, took place on the river by the bridge raising £1,750 which was split between the *Welwyn Festival* charities and *Scouts*.

We await the outcome from Hertfordshire County Council and will let you know as soon as we hear.

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WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL



As I write this article at the end of September it is a cold wet day. By the time you read it in November we will once again be looking forward to Christmas. This year *Welwyn Parish Council* has teamed up with the Welwyn Festival Group to host a spectacular Christmas Market event for all the family to be held on:

Saturday 27th November 2021

4.30pm – 7.30pm

with Christmas Lights

being switched on at 5pm

Codicote Road will be closed to host the event with stalls, a live band, singing from our local primary school choirs and there will also be plenty of delicious food and drink from our local pubs and restaurants. Many of the High Street and Church Street shops will be staying open late to join in the festivities.

Key Stage 1 and 2 children will be able to enter a competition to design a Christmas card that the Parish Council will use to send season's greetings to Council partners. Prizes will be awarded for each age group with the overall winner being asked to switch on Welwyn's Christmas lights. Please see our Parish Council Newsletter for more details or contact the Deputy Clerk ***office@welwynpc.org.uk*** or telephone

01438 716667.

In September we were sorry to say goodbye to Councillor Tim Hogan. Tim had been a councillor for two years and we thank him for his contribution to the work of the Council. We now have a vacancy and are looking to co-opt a new councillor. Welwyn is a large Parish and councillors and staff work together as a team to serve our community. We have different backgrounds, enthusiasms and interests and we believe that diversity is our strength. The *Parish Council* can make a unique response to the needs of our community with a sensitivity that is more difficult for principal authorities to achieve. I would encourage you to consider standing as a councillor. You do not need to know anything about Parish Councils but will need a willingness to attend training, join in discussions and be prepared to try to make a difference for the residents of our Parish. Individuals must meet the eligibility criteria and complete an application form which, together with more information, can be obtained from the Parish Office in Lockleys Drive or viewed on our website.

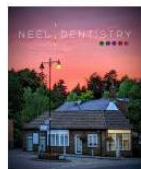
Councillors have been discussing planting a tree in the village, as part of the **Queen's Green Canopy**, to celebrate the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee**. We have decided to do this in the grounds of the Civic Centre and are currently looking at, and asking for advice on, the appropriate type of tree to plant.

Our Community Engagement *continued on p38*

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WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL *continued from p36*

Committee is very busy and provides a platform for groups and individuals to come forward with ideas and projects that *Welwyn Parish Council* can support, offer guidance, expertise and funding information. We are always happy to help develop sustainable projects, particularly schemes that will benefit children and teenagers in our Parish. The Council is still very involved in the

outcome of the Local Plan and are working with the Welwyn Planning and Amenity Group. As soon as the Inspector reaches a decision on the number of houses that need to be built in the Parish, residents will be informed.

Look after yourselves and each other.

Marj Otty

Chairman, Welwyn Parish council

WELWYN NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Oh well ... sometimes things go wrong and that is what has happened with regard to our November meeting. I will explain. Each year, in November, the Welwyn Natural History Society holds a joint meeting with the Herts Natural History Society to honour the memory of Gerald Salisbury who died in 2015 and was one of Hertfordshire's outstanding naturalists. The Welwyn Group book the large hall at the Civic Centre and the Herts Group provide a speaker. It is quite a special occasion.

However ... when we enquired of the Herts Group as to who would be speaking, we were told that, because of Covid, they were not holding any meetings! And we only knew about that a couple of weeks ago. Not to worry, we thought, we will get Christopher Benton back to give us the second half of his talk on spiders that we had in September. It was an absolutely fascinating talk – he brought some of his spiders with him, and those were joined by a jar full that had been

brought along by an enthusiastic young man. It was so good to be 'live' again instead of on Zoom – isn't it amazing how we have missed people?

Anyway, I had to get this small bit of text in to the editors and, although we have been trying, we cannot get in touch with Christopher. So, it might be him on 24th November, 8pm in the Civic Centre, or it might be something else but something will definitely be happening. I will put the information on our website and on our Facebook page and will try to get as many posters out round the village as I can. I am sure Leo will make sure there is one up on his board by the Post Office. Perhaps it will turn out to be a very special meeting – of course it will be – you will be there!!

Judith Watson

01438 813897/07884946565

watson.winfield@btinternet.com

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WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

A very big 'THANK YOU' to everyone who contributed towards the new defibrillator for the village.

It was a privilege to join the unveiling ceremony for the new defibrillator at The Red Lion on 18th September 2021. The unveiling was carried out by Welwyn Hatfield Mayor, Councillor Peter Hebden and Deputy Mayor, Councillor Barbara Fitzsimon, along with several of the Woolmer Green Parish Councillors. It was a brilliant community effort and provides a life saving device in the middle of the village. There is also a defibrillator at the Village Hall. If you ever need to use either of them then call 999 and quote the code on the box.

Thanks to Jackie Castle and the team as well as everyone who contributed towards the fundraising effort – the total was achieved within a week!

Special thanks must go to:

- *Jackie Castle and the Team at The Red Lion*
- *Sarah McGuinness for her advice in buying the defibrillator and for training residents to use it*
- *Maintenance Services Ltd, electricians who kindly donated their time to fit the defibrillator on one of the wettest days ever*
- *The Chequers for their donation*
- *The Parish Council was also pleased to support with a grant towards the cost*
- *James Payne for the raffle prizes, his donation and help with the collection buckets*

Also to everyone else who donated raffle prizes including:

- *Gareth's Butchers*
- *Keith Jones Butchers*
- *Co-op*
- *Tesco*
- *Inkredible Cutz*



Other News

The Parish Council is continuing to seek a repair to the Orchard swings and is investigating funding options and equipment to improve the ball skills court at the Village Hall. Covid precautions are still in place at the Village Hall and it has been good to see many regular users back, as well as the return of bookings for events and parties.

For booking enquiries please contact **bookings@woolmergreenpc.org.uk**

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



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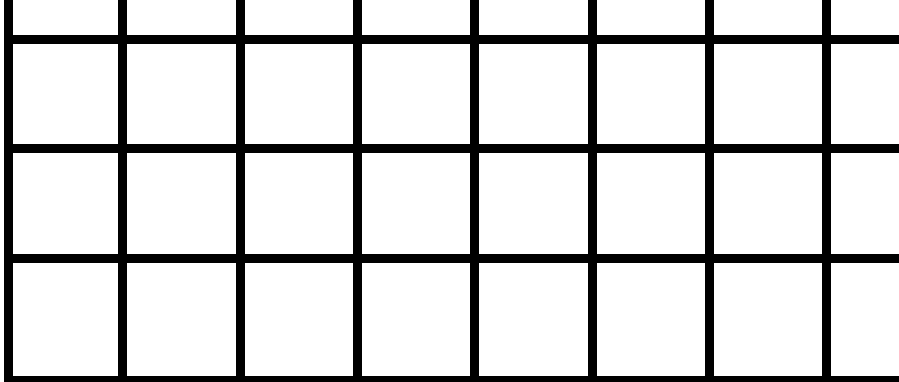
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L U R A I N Y C O L D

O T V S T H G I N R E G N O L

C U E T A positive impact: 38%

K M S T S O U P I N

S N O T A negative impact: 24%

G R F O G G Y A E A
O thought measures had had:

B S E G A S U A S R M
A in Weylyn High street respondents

C R I S N
K R E B O T C O N O V E M B E R I

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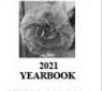
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WELWYN ST MARY'S FOOTBALL

Welwyn St Mary's Football team returned to the field after the summer break to defend their unbeaten title winning season. *Welwyn* started the away game to Cornerstone , Stevenage, slowly and found themselves a goal down early on. The opposition capitalised on a lose back pass to score past Bead Cook. The lead was short, Dammy Oluwadamilola's pace exposed the opposition's defence to score a brilliant hat-trick before Archie Ariss completed his own hat-trick of assists allowing Jason Fung to add a 4th goal. *Cornerstone* persevered and managed to score two late goals ending in a 4-3 victory.

Despite several players missing for the second game of the season at home to

Soul Survivor of Watford, *Welwyn* dominated the opening 30 minutes and got the opener with Dammy scoring a bullet header off the post after Julius Madepi ran through two fouls to whip in an undefendable cross. *Soul Survivor* pulled one back before half time . The second half continued in the same manner with *Welwyn* playing some brilliant football but unable to beat the opposition keeper who pulled off four incredible saves. *Welwyn* pushed forward but were caught on the counter attack by a long ball in the last minute. The opposition came away 2-1 winners despite being limited to only a few shots in the entire game.

Michael Chehade

Parish Registers

St Mary's Welwyn

Wedding

18th September

Roxanne Mann & Decland Speede

Funerals

1ST September

Valerie Renshaw Scott

Cremation

13 September

David Haslam

Cremation

27 September

Audrey Aves

Burial

30 September

Rita Hill

Ayot St Peter

Baptism

26 September

Joshua Christopher Stephenson

Burial

17 September

Ruth Fulford

St Michael's Woolmer Green

Baptism

19th September

Sophie Mollie Julie White





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ST MARY'S - Welwyn

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

Children

Mondays	3.30pm	Craftea (1st and 3rd Mondays during term time)
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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
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A member of the team will be available in church for any enquiries. Mainly intended for Baptisms or Weddings, but not exclusively restricted to those matters.

ST MICHAEL'S - Woolmer Green

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

AYOT ST PETER

1st Sunday	11.15 am	Matins: <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>

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MEDITATION and be thankful.....by Liz Tilson

A good friend told me recently that Amazon plans to sell “home-robots” within 10 years, able to fetch and carry for us, bringing objects from around the house at the touch of a button. Who knows, maybe we will be able to order a cup of tea, breakfast in bed, cook a meal all without moving from out of the chair and in front of a computer, mobile phone or TV. But what effect will that have on us?

Anyone who knows me will know that I love living in Egypt. I love the weather, the life, the people, the sense of community. I love the fact that life in Egypt is much more down to earth than that in the UK and I love it because it makes me thankful. I appreciate the fact that I have “sweet” water in my house (which can be drunk without being boiled or treated), brought to me by treasured friends so that I do not have to carry it up a 40-metre hill. I am ridiculously grateful for a lift into town so that I do not have to cycle 3 miles against the wind. I am in awe of the cleaner who ensures that my house is spotless when I arrive. I treasure well-cooked tasty food provided. I was told many years ago that; **satisfaction = experience – expectation** If we expect less then we appreciate it more, and for me, the more something costs then the more I value it.

I also love windsurfing and admit that, even after 22 years, I am still not the best windsurfer on the planet but can achieve enough to have fun. Whilst some people have the right physique, strength and natural talent to progress fast, the rest of us improve slowly, little by little, step by step. It takes effort, courage, perseverance and endurance. I am grateful for the time, effort and patience of the people who have

taught me. For Goharry who rigs my sail every day, for every gust of wind that sends me skimming across the water and for every time that I can turn around without falling in! With that feeling of gratitude comes a feeling of happiness.

In real life in Egypt, there are many problems and difficulties. These are overcome either by individual effort or, more often, by people sharing knowledge and resources. It is noticeable that personal hardship brings about generosity, a willingness to help others, compassion, empathy and a community spirit. A restaurant owner in Kalkan in Turkey told me how thankful he was each morning when he awoke that he and his family were still alive and his house still intact. Regular earthquakes prevented him from assuming, that that would be the case.

In the restaurant talking to my friend, I observed 4 tables of people sitting on the beach playing with their mobile phones. They were not enjoying the background music, the noise of the sea, the beautiful breeze, the wonderful food, the ambience, or even each other's company. They may have been communicating with others far away but were not communicating with those sitting at their own table. I fear that they were missing out and that technological advances were detracting from rather than enhancing their lives.

I fear for the future if we can obtain what we want just by pressing a button, instant acquisition of need with no effort. It detracts from what makes us truly happy – community, meaningful relationships, problem-solving with each contributing their individual resources, skills and, most importantly, **thankfulness.....**