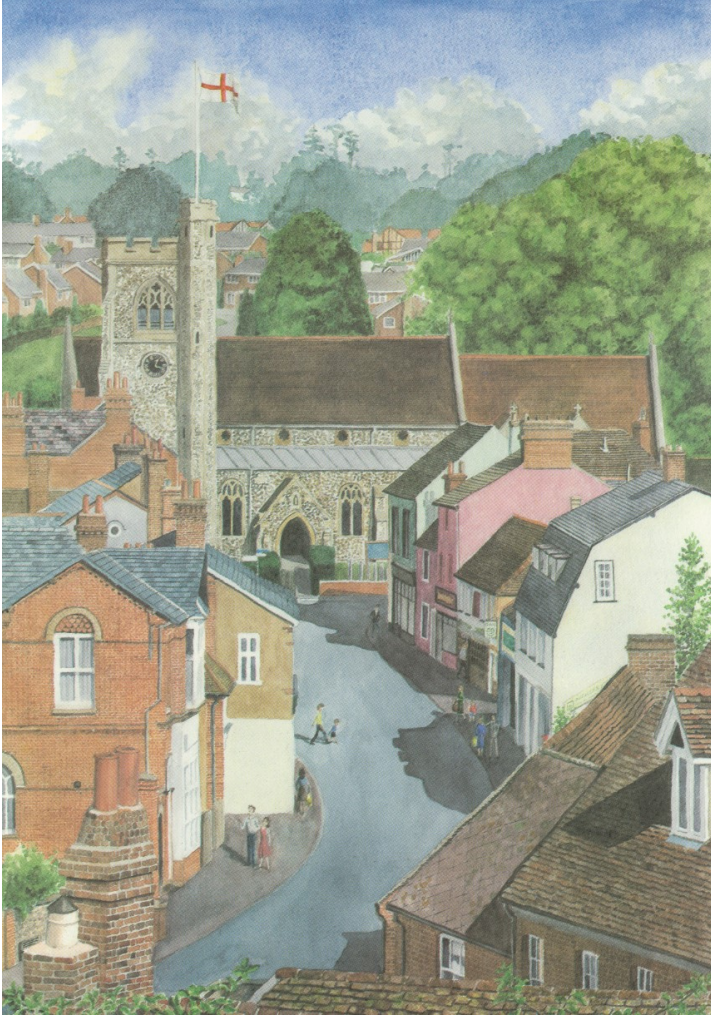


The Welwyn Magazine

with Woolmer Green



September 2022

www.welwyn.org.uk

60p

CONTENTS

September 2022

PUBLISHERS

St Mary's and St Michael's
Churchwardens

COVER

Watercolour c.1985
by the late Kate Rook

MAGAZINE ARTICLES

Send by 1st of preceding month.
Include your contact details.
Email magazine@welwyn.org.uk

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Triographics Printers Limited
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Herts SG3 6EX
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The Rector's letter	3
Parish Registers	5
Time for God group	5
Notes from the PCC.....	7/9
Welwyn Crime Solved!	11
Mardley Heath WI	13
Beyond the farm gate	15/17
Ukrainians in Welwyn	19/21
Farewell to the Welwyn Wailers	22/23
The refurbishment of the courtyard	24
Fellowship	25
Wonder Zone Holiday club.....	25 & 29
The Danesbury Fernery	26/27
Snippets	28/29
Welcoming Ukrainian refugees	30—32
Jessie the rectory dog.....	32
Theatre club	32
Friends of Danesbury and QVM	34
Church open day, Ayot St Peter	36
Alzheimer's Disease PPG.....	38
Welwyn Parish Council.....	40
Welwyn Festival Results.....	42/44
Tony Rook at 90	44
Village Day and Jubilee Picnic WGPC.....	46
Ants: World rulers in waiting!.....	48
Church noticeboards	50
Meditation	52

EDITOR'S NOTES

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

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

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

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The Rector's Letter

Dear Friends

I don't have children and I don't work directly with children, in for instance a school, but I can't help thinking that on September 1st I start my new school year. Of course, in one sense I am involved in our lovely church schools, and we have various children's activities in church which return after the summer break, so I can't help but think of September as the start of a new year.

I sometimes wonder whether those who really do have nothing to do with younger children, lose this feeling entirely. Or does our childhood conditioning mean that however far we get into life, we still get that back to school feeling. My money is on the latter.

School terms used to be named (and some Universities still do this) after various Feasts in the Christian year. The Autumn term was known as Michaelmas term because on 29th September we celebrate the Feast of St Michael and All Angels (incidentally the dedication of our lovely church in Woolmer Green). The Spring term used to be called Hilary term because on the 13th January the church remembers a slightly obscure saint called Hilary of Poitiers. The summer term was then

called the Trinity term – Trinity Sunday varies with Easter but is generally somewhere around the beginning of June.



Research shows that lots of people do indeed take up things in the Autumn, perhaps particularly because of the not so good weather, and the nights drawing in. So I wonder what if anything you are going to do this year? Is there some activity or project that you've procrastinated about, and this is now the time to start it?

The God of the Bible gives us a lead on this. Unlike, say the Greek conception of God, God was not an unchanging perfect being, a little like the perfect diamond which can never change – rather the God of the Bible is a passionate God who reaches out to us in love, and is always saying 'Behold I do a new thing!' (Isaiah 43). This is your chance to join in.

David



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Parish Registers



St Mary's Welwyn

Baptisms

17th July

Ava May James-Playford
Archie Michael James-Playford
Claire Playford
Cheryl Oliver
Arthur James McNeill Koobarawa

Funerals

13th July

Joan Ivy Woodward

19th July

Peter Leslie Davies

Weddings

2nd July

Oliver Cummings and Joanna Coghlan

16th July

Stephen Flain and Lisa Dawes

22nd July

Jamie Leach and Samantha O'Grady

23rd July

Daniel Reshat and Rachael Christodoulou

Holy Family Church (Welwyn Garden City)

Funeral

26th July

John Edward Blackburn

Time for God

This meeting takes place on the third Friday of the month from 9.30am - 11am in Church House. Time for God is held once a month and is a friendly and informal group. Activities include discussions, visiting speakers and study. Do come along and join us.

Mavis Francis
mavisfrancis01@gmail.com

Dates September 16th; October 21st; November 18th; December 16th

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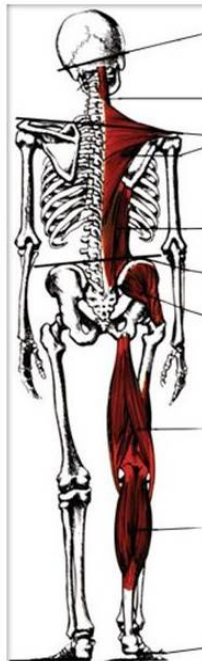
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General aches and pains

Notes from the PCC 18th July 2022

Welcomes

The meeting was opened with the customary prayer and welcome. But on this occasion there were named welcomes to Christie Gilfeather, the new curate and Crystal Lam as a new recruit to the PCC.

Appointments

The council approved the following appointments; Maggie Varco as treasurer, Sue Keach as vice chairman, Louise Hughes as secretary and the co-opting of Liz Hesketh.

Matters arising

A less expensive insurance policy has been negotiated for St Mary's with Trinity Insurance. St Michael's will remain with Ecclesiastical Insurance.

Finance

Maggie Varco had circulated her finance report prior to the meeting. The quinquennial survey will be conducted by our nominated architect, Francesca Weal, in September. Stuart Jenkin (Fabric Officer) remarked that old buildings will always have issues but he doesn't foresee anything fundamentally wrong with the fabric of St Mary's and that the cost of any repairs required can be spread over a period of time.

Fabric reports

St Michael's – With reference to unidentified white flaking and discolouration of some ceiling beams Sue Keach is waiting for Francesca Weald to examine. In the meantime Sue and Stuart Jenkin will inspect the ceiling beams to determine their condition for themselves and whether any rot is present. If

necessary a specialist will be enlisted to take a sample for investigation.

The good news is that the grass in St Michael's churchyard has been cut and the hedges trimmed and look much better for it.

Penny Howes, organist at St Michael's, has asked Norman Hall & Sons to proceed with the necessary repairs and suggested improvements to the organ.

St Mary's – Stuart Jenkin had circulated his report prior to the meeting. The new fire alarm/safety system is now completed. A fire evacuation drill for the church is being planned to take place immediately after one of the services. Beware, the alarm is LOUD.

An information guide is now provided for the attention of any/all contractors engaged to carry out any work at St Mary's. This will be kept with the health and safety policy and all contractors will be expected to read it. A signing-in book has also been provided for them which they will be asked to sign on arrival. It will be the responsibility of the person accompanying the contractor or Tina to ensure that these points are taken care of.

Rector's items

Director of music – following the resignation of Mr Triantaris the PCC unanimously approved the appointment of Mr Robert Milner as Director of Music. He is expected to take up the post at the beginning of September. He does not play the organ or piano but is happy to take charge of the choir. Mr Milner has an extensive C.V. with long experience of

continued on p9

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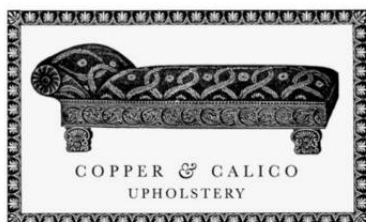


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Notes from the PCC (Continued from page 5)

managing various different choirs. His previous role was at St Helen's, Wheathampstead. He volunteers his time and, as such, does not take a salary. He will be happy to manage junior choir and visit the schools too – after the safeguarding check and training has been carried out.

Whether to seek a full time organist or continue with a pool of volunteers paid on a week-by-week basis remains under review.

Summer Evensongs will have taken place over six weeks by the time this issue lands. This year the theme is/was Kings and Queens in celebration of our Queen's platinum jubilee.

Holiday Club – this year's theme was based around science. A good number of children were booked to attend.

Colouring Club – volunteers ran a children's colouring club.

Children's corner – The Rector distributed a proposal, described and costed, for a new children's corner in church. Space could be found by relocating one pew, dismantling and storing another. This proposal was approved by the PCC.

Regular renewals

The Council unanimously approved the re-appointment of Debbie May and the appointment of Christie Gilfeather as governors of St Michael's school.

Safeguarding – Susannah is doing work on safeguarding with Vicky Jenkin and Rachel Wadey to ensure that appropriate policies are in place and up-to-date. All the clergy are up-to-date with their training administered via the diocese.

Health & Safety – No issues were reported. Mavis Francis was pleased that Stuart Jenkin had repaired an unsafe depression due to a broken corner of a ledger stone in the floor of St Mary's.

Appointments and resignations – Karen Tasker, retired nurse, has been appointed as a governor to St Michael's school. Evelyne Welch has been re-appointed for a further 4 year term as a governor to St Mary's school.

Any other business – Stuart Jenkin proposed investigating lockable caster wheels for the choir stalls so that when they need to be moved that can be done without scraping them across the floor risking damage to the floor and/or choir stalls. It was agreed that this should be done.

Crystal Lam has developed a plan to assist folk needing to arrange care for their elderly or dependents. It was agreed to hold over discussion on this topic and make it an agenda item for the next meeting.

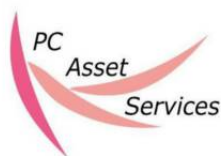
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Welwyn Crime Solved!

If this was a headline in our local paper, the exclamation mark would surely be justified. Rarely do we hear of criminals being brought to book for local thefts and burglaries. Each year we summarise in one of our articles the trends in Welwyn crimes, but never before have we considered how investigations into these crimes have been concluded.

We're accustomed to reading in the national press how few crimes have been solved. Recent headlines your authors both read have included "suspects charged in just 6% of reported crimes"; and "no suspect identified in a million burglaries as victims are let down".

In the local press or on OWL, we occasionally read that a gang dealing in drugs has been convicted, but rarely do these reports refer to crimes that have taken place in Welwyn. We've therefore gone back through some of the categories of Welwyn crimes recorded in 2021 to check the outcomes. Incidentally when we refer to Welwyn, we include Woolmer Green.

Of 43 vehicle crimes recorded (theft of or from vehicles), there were just two instances where charging of suspects is still being pursued through the courts. Readers will no

doubt be aware what long delays there are in cases being brought to trial. Of the remainder, in 38 cases there was no suspect identified, in two instances it was not possible to prosecute an identified suspect, and in one instance no data is available to us because the theft took place at Welwyn North station, which comes under the British Transport Police.

Looking at burglaries in 2021, the picture is ever so slightly better. Of the 35 burglaries in Welwyn, one offender has been given a caution! In two other cases suspects have been identified and the cases are ongoing. In the remaining 32 cases, no suspect was identified and investigations have been closed.

As the likelihood of any stolen property being recovered following a burglary or theft is remote, we all need to implement any advice we read or receive about safeguarding our property; and keep our insurance policies up to date.



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WI Stall at Welwyn Festival

Diana Holt, our speaker this month, was a plus
A talk on "Gardens and Gardening in Literature" inspired us
You journeyed from Adam in the Garden of Eden, with Eve looking on
Stevenson, Stott and Sackville-West all took us further along

Oh, and Pam Ayres had her garden too, where "pilgrims came to stare"
For she dreamt of her beauteous garden whilst "sitting in a chair"

Sulgrave Manor in Northants gave us a lovely day out
Under a blue sky twelve of us wandered happily about
Marvellous architecture with much to see and enjoy for all
Made this a day to remember, our ladies had a ball!
Eagerly we look forward to more treats through summer days
Remember, the WI reaches out to friends in a million ways!



WI at Sulgrave Manor

Most meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm at the Oaklands Primary School, Gt North Road, Welwyn. For any additional information, please contact our Secretary by e-mail at: secretary.mhwi@gmail.com New members and visitors are always welcome.

Brenda Bigland CBE



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Beyond the Farm Gate

As harvest ends, the new arable year begins

Welcome back beyond the Farm Gate. Firstly, a note of thanks to those who have mentioned that they are enjoying these articles. It is wonderful to know that they are being well-received.

I write to you at the busiest time of year on the farm. We have just finished harvest, the most exciting season for me as a young farmer. For me, there is nothing like long hours on my favourite tractor bringing in a year's worth of work, seeing it pile up in the barn and smelling the beautiful and nostalgic smell of freshly cut oats, wheat and barley.



This year, however, could have gone one of two ways, and that is due (as usual!) to the weather. Many have asked me, and rightly so, how have you been affected by the heat? Put simply: farming is always affected by the weather, and this is no exception! As many of you with gardens or allotments will know, the weather can have the best and worst consequences on the growth of our plants and the farm is no different. The heat this year has been unlike any we have ever experienced on the farm. In the vineyard, for example, we measured temperatures of over 43°C.

As for our poor crops there were many dangers afoot, most notably, fire and drought. It was heart-breaking to hear about machinery and field fires around the country. Fire can be caused by many factors; a machinery fault or contact with a stone or piece of glass for example. It does highlight another reason why it is vitally important to take everything home with you when walking in the countryside. Even a small piece of plastic could heat enough in such temperatures as we have recently seen, thereby causing a devastating fire.

As for the fear of drought, there is not much to be done apart from irrigation, but this is something which we do not operate at our farm. Our most affected crop has been our grass. Every year we cut the grass on our pastures for hay (dried grass), which is then used for animal feed. Last year we had a huge crop,

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Beyond the Farm Gate

Continued from page 15

this year our yield was down by nearly 65%. This is purely due to lack of rain in the growing season, leaving the grass short and thin. Naturally, this has financial implications which we will feel throughout the next year; not ideal with the rocketing costs of essentials on the farm, such as diesel and fertiliser.

However, it is not all doom and gloom. Despite our concerns, we have had a successful cereals harvest, in particular a strong wheat crop. We judge the quality of our wheat by its moisture (which was around 12-13%), colour, 'feel', cleanliness and uniformity. In the field, the wheat looked lovely and uniform, with very few empty patches and a clear height across the crop. The colour was a burnt gold into beige, and the ears of the corn were surprisingly well-filled given how little rain we have had. The grain also yielded well given the conditions (there was a good quantity harvested). You may see this wheat in your digestive biscuits in the future!

In addition, the vines are shooting up despite the heat. There is an argument to suggest that the early stress they are under now may force the vines to root deeper into the ground in search of water, thereby establishing a stronger vine for the future. I do hope this is the case! Either way, while they are doing well, a good, steady rain is much needed across the whole farm.

We are soon to begin the new arable year which means ploughing and drilling (planting) once again. If the ground is too hard/dry, the new seed will really struggle to establish, so with any luck the heavens will soon open for a truly British summer!

Join me again next time as we venture beyond the farm gate.

Farmer Hannah

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Vineyard information: www.lokkelebery.co.uk

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Ukrainians in Welwyn

We are Nadiia and Mariia from Kyiv, we have been living in Welwyn for three months, and we will be happy to tell you a little about our homeland. In Ukraine, thatched roofs (called “strikha” in Ukrainian) were also popular and, like you, we used to to plant bright mallows near houses. Ukraine is the largest country in Europe with its mountains, sea, forests, fields, coal and other minerals and the best black soil in Europe. Now everyone knows that Ukraine is especially famous for sunflower oil, sugar, honey and grain, but the greatest wealth is our hardworking and peace-loving people.



Ukrainians, like the British, are Indo-Europeans. The Celts and Saxons passed through our territory and left their geographical names and blood here before they reached England. Art on the territory of Ukraine began with the Upper Paleolithic (petroglyphs inside the caves of Kamyana Mohyla). The Ukrainian state originated in the 9th century, and Christianity in the 10th century. Ukrainian blood flows in the veins of the royal ranks of Europe. The daughters of the Kyiv prince Yaroslav the Wise from the Rurik family (Northman) became the wives of the powerful kings of Europe in the 11th century, as it was prestigious for both parties. Elisiv of Kyiv became the wife of the Norwegian king Harald Hardrada. Anastasia of Kyiv became the wife of the King of Hungary, Andrew I the White. Third daughter, Anne of Kyiv, married King Henry I of France and, what is interesting, she was the ancestor of Queen Elizabeth II at about 33 generations.

The fate and geopolitical mission of Ukraine is predetermined by the fact that it is a junction of polar civilizations. We live between the democratic West and the authoritarian East, and when conflicts occur between them, it usually happens on our territory and at the cost of our people. The Tatar-Mongols did not reach Europe because they were stopped by Ukraine. Hitler was stopped on the eastern front, and the German army advanced no further. You can only imagine how interesting and at the same time dangerous it is to have such different cultural and value elements of two opposite civilizations in one country and in every person.

A few words on our adventure: mom works as a teacher at a linguistic university, and daughter was involved in projects that promoted democratic reforms in Ukraine. The daughter understood what would happen in February 2022 and she met the war in Western Ukraine, and her mother had to spend nine days in a bomb shelter in Kyiv. It was difficult for my mother to believe in the reality of the threat of war and she is more attached to the house. In order not to be worried every day whether a bomb will fall on you or not, and in order not to see the destruction of our beloved

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Ukrainians in Welwyn

continued from p19

country, we decided to move while continuing our impact in Ukraine.

We always respected the United Kingdom. When the “Home for Ukrainians” program started, it seemed too good to be true and we thought for a long time whether to apply or not. When you leave blindly and under stress, it is difficult to realize whether you are making the right decision. Since at the political level we saw from Great Britain the full support of Ukraine, we decided to take a risk. The fact that we know the English language also plays a role and we knew thanks to this we would be able to navigate. When we arrived and after a while we realized that this is a paradise.

We were very positively surprised when we got into the family of Gay and Mike Carpenter. We were given complete freedom and autonomy in their home, which is unusual when strangers from different cultures with different mentality and habits begin to live together in their adulthood. The Carpenters listen to us with full empathy and trust us, and we trust them. Trust is the main thing when you live in the same house and we really appreciate their democratic approach and exceptional hospitality and delicacy. We are also very grateful to David, Beverly, Fran, Fiona and Rowena, Juliet and Andy, Simon, John and Clara, Peter and Mary, Mary and Stuart, Peter and Patricia, Lorraine and Malcolm. We are also grateful to all members of the Welwyn community for the support and help, and for their smiles in the streets that make us feel completely safe and welcomed.

We love Ukraine very much and the current events have only strengthened our identity. We are in touch with our friends in Ukraine and help them as much as we can. We hope that we can do something good and useful for both Britain and Ukraine. Moreover, we regularly brainstorm how to recreate a new democratic Ukraine with its economy, science and other institutions after the war. Together we will win!

Nadiia and Mariia Pashkova,
who live with Gay and Mike Carpenter,
who every day remind us that we are one family

Farewell to the Welwyn Wailers!

Resulting from the Covid lockdowns, our inability to produce shows for the last two years, and reduced support to run the group, we have made the painful decision to end the long-running Welwyn Wailers Dramatic Society and shows. This is particularly sad when you consider how long ago we started.



In 1973 Dr Roger Aubrey was thinking of ways to support cancer charities. He held a small meeting in his home and The Welwyn Wailers was formed. In 1974, they produced a pantomime called Dick Twittington, directed by Ford Shaw, followed the year after by Alice in Welwynland. They continued with pantomimes for five years and donated their proceeds to local charities.

After a three-year break, the Wailers were resurrected in 1982, producing Olde Tyme Music Halls under the direction of Brian King. He found the songs, choreographed the steps (yes, they were choreographed), and we rehearsed for six months!



In one early show, the Rector, Terence Wenham, played the villain and Sheena, his wife, was strapped to the railway line. Of course, she was saved! Dr Aubrey was, of course, the doctor in many of the sketches.

There are so many happy memories. Who can forget the Andrews Sisters, Barbara Conroy's solos and the Pheasant Pluckers! The painting of Welwyn High Street by Peter Boggon on the back wall of the stage will be a lasting reminder.

For all his hard work, Brian King was later rewarded with an MBE for his services

Farewell to the Welwyn Wailers!



to charity. He was thrilled to meet the Queen.

Supported by our audiences, local businesses and friends who helped behind the scenes and front-of-house, we have raised £232,626 for local charities. We have made notable contributions to The Danesbury and QVM Hospital, Isabel Hospice (we gave

the very first cheque to Macmillan nurses 40 years ago) and the Sue Ryder Home. As well as our full annual shows, we performed mini shows for the hospital patients and clubs for the elderly and disabled.

We are grateful to so many people for helping us support local charities: the local businesses, the Parish Council, the Wailers cast, our accompanists and the support team that made each show possible. Of course, we especially thank Brian for his dedication and patience with us over the 40 years he has directed us and for the fun and laughter along the way. But by far our biggest supporters have been chiefly yourselves.



Thank you all for the chance to entertain and support the people of Welwyn.

Welwyn Wailers

Refurbishment of the Courtyard in Church House

Many of those who have used Church House recently will have had the opportunity to sit or to gather in the Courtyard and to enjoy the warmer weather from there. They, and indeed all of us, will have noticed the improvement in the appearance of the Courtyard and will be very grateful to those who, in various ways, have helped to bring that about.



Some time ago, John Swift very kindly donated a new bench in memory of his wife, Margaret, a very loyal, long standing member of the Church community whose service included some fifteen years as Secretary to the Parochial Church Council (PCC). The bench has recently had an application of oil and now looks splendid.

More recently, Liz Hesketh and other members of the Community Café team, have donated and very discreetly encouraged donations from others in memory of loved ones to fund additional furniture which considerably enhances the appearance and the attraction of the Courtyard. Those who contributed include Joyce Davis who donated in memory of Tony Edwards, her brother-in-law, and Mary Bridges whose donation marked the deaths of her husband and daughter. We should also record with appreciation Ann Harper's care for the Courtyard. In addition to keeping the Memorial Garden and other surrounding areas of the Church neat and tidy, a major undertaking, Ann has an eagle eye for weeds in the Courtyard and attacks them promptly with determination.

Thank you all.

Diane Jenkin and Stuart Westley.
Churchwardens

Editors' note: The very successful Community Café in Church House is open to all on Tuesdays from 10 am to 12 noon. If you haven't been before do come along!

Fellowship

On a very warm afternoon in June, we listened to Barry Northrop reading from the writings of Gertrude Bell and Freya Stark.

Dame Freya Stark was a British-Italian travel writer. She wrote many books about her travels as well as autobiographical works. Her writings were about living and travelling in the Middle East and the difficulties of that time especially for a woman. She was born in 1893 and died in 1993 just after her 100th birthday.

The attendance was smaller than usual perhaps because of the warm weather.

The meeting ended as usual with questions, a presentation to Barry, refreshments and a few notices.

The July meeting has been a Strawberry Tea - a popular event - and it was enjoyed again this year.

First of all, we had a concert. Cathy England and Daphne Skinner entertained us with a programme of songs and piano music. Cathy sang some very appropriate summer related songs and Daphne accompanied her then she played some very well-known piano music. All this took place in the Church and was enjoyed by everyone.

The Strawberry Tea was in Church House. The tables were decorated with flowers and pretty serviettes and everyone enjoyed plenty of strawberries and cream with scones and jam.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 2.30 pm in Church House. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 13th September when the topic will be experiences with Hearing Dogs.

For more information contact mavisfrancis01@gmail.com

Marjorie Lyons

Wonder Zone Holiday Club St Mary's Church

As hosts of Ukrainian mother and daughter, Anna and Tereza, we would like to thank everyone who helped make the holiday club at St. Mary's Church during the first week of the summer holidays, so enjoyable..

It was well organised and all the helpers put in so much effort to inspire the children to explore Science alongside Christian beliefs.

On the back cover of the booklet that was provided for all the children was written, "Get ready to make some amazing discoveries. Explore the wonders of the world and discover how the God behind all of it wants to get to know you." I'm sure the helpers as well as the children learnt many new things. As an onlooker, I can say I did. Who else knew that the rainbow which is of course a sign of hope for so many, is round? It is of course the Hope that is so needed around the world, and especially now.

As Tereza is still unsure of new surroundings, and with little English, her mother, Anna or I had to stay with her for the 2 hour sessions, but she woke up each day

Continued p.29

The Danesbury Fernery

The Team Worked so hard

Once again, we were organising a Fernery Open Day on Thursday 30th June under the Welwyn Festival Banner. The beds had been watered well for two days as there had been very little rain for so long. We had weeded, added more gravel to the paths, and the grotto rockwork had been restored.

Everything was Ready

We had a drinks' stall ready as well as a plant stall this year, and the volunteers were in place. We had erected an extra marquee in case of need for shade or a shower. (That turned out to be good planning and foresight!).



Then - the Beginning of the end!

It was rather cloudy and not the best looking weather-wise, and at 3pm we did indeed have a short sharp shower. But, despite that, people started arriving in numbers and about 120 people had come through the gates, some bringing their own chairs to await the choir. The water feature was running and people were enjoying themselves. Besides the rumbling of thunder in the distance, the choir could be heard warming up at the bottom end of the field.

The Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield, Cllr Barbara Fitzsimon, arrived and as we were having a brief chat the clouds opened up and torrential rain came down, and the paths quickly became rivers.

The thunder and lightning were directly overhead, and stayed overhead, and we had no other choice than to cancel the event at that point for reasons of public safety.

Conclusions

Having taken over from John Roper, my first event as FODF Chair definitely did not go to plan, but we have loads of memories of this event, although sadly only a few photographs. So a 'Big Thank You' goes to all those who attended and for their understanding of our reasons for having



The Danesbury Fernery

to abandon the event as we did.



Our Treasurer has been pleased to report that despite the extreme weather conditions forcing us to close the event much earlier than planned, we still managed to raise around £300 to help fund our ongoing costs of planting and maintenance for the year ahead.

We also offer huge thanks to the Welwyn Festival Committee who have since made an

extremely generous award to the FODF, resulting from their magnificent, and legendary, fundraising activities within the community.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who braved the weather to attend and who supported us so generously, and we look forward to seeing you all again.

Breaking News

The Friends of Danesbury Fernery have been invited to open as part of the National Garden Scheme in 2023. So, please watch for details on our website.

Sara Donatantonio.

07717 940069

chair@danburyfernery.org.uk



Music for Fun!

A mixed bag – a man with a double bass – children from the school – pop songs with a guitar accompaniment – a clarinet – the rector singing – those bugle calls.... do you know which is which: should I get up or go and have dinner? Plus a number of other people doing a number of other things!

***Looking forward to seeing you at St Michael's Church,
6.30pm on Saturday 17th September.***
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If you have a glut of fruit or veg on your allotment or garden your local Food Bank in Codicote would be very happy to make use of it!

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Donations can be delivered to 119 High Street, Codicote SG48UA between **6pm and 7pm Thursdays**. If needed, a collection can be arranged. Please contact Gillian on 07790 409148. Please note fresh food goes out on Friday so deliveries/collections appreciated on Thursdays only.

The Foodbank is always very grateful for donations; **non perishable** food can be left in the porch of St Mary's in Welwyn or at Belvoir Estate Agents on Welwyn High Street. For further details regarding other ways of donating please email codicotefoodbank@gmail.com or telephone 07507295627.

Many thanks for your support!



Community Defibrillators

A new public defibrillator (AED) is now available 24/7 outside the Parish Council Offices in Lockleys Car Park. You do not need training, just ring 999 and they will talk you through it. You cannot do any harm and a quick response may save a life. The full list as far as we are aware is:

Welwyn AL6

- Opposite the church: Church Street
- Parish Council Offices, Lockleys Car Park
- Sports & Social Club: Ottway Walk
- Welwyn Tennis Club, Ottway Walk
- Digswell Village Hall, Harmer Green Lane
- Digswell Tennis Club, Digswell Park Road
- Welwyn North Station
- Meadow View Childcare, 14 Great North Road, just before The Avenue
- Scout Hut, 40 Canonsfield Road
- Burnham Green Village Hall, Orchard Road, Tewin

Woolmer Green SG3

- Red Lion, 26 London Road

If you know of any others in Welwyn or Woolmer Green, please let us know.

Wonder Zone Holiday Club St Mary's Church *Continued from p. 25*

looking forward to each morning, and has been singing the songs she learnt, constantly, since the first day. The whole experience seems to have made her more confident, and we are really so pleased she was able to attend and even earned some of the points for the Uranus Team. It made her feel part of her new community.

We are especially grateful to Jean and Crystal who led that team, for looking after Tereza and for their understanding of the subject and even more for their patience and concern that all the children of mixed ages got the most out of the subject in a fun way.

But we want to thank all the ladies and young men who generously gave up their mornings to make it so successful, and where surely some seeds were sown for future scientists and beliefs strengthened. Congratulations to all.

If you know of any Ukrainian families living in the area who might need help or friendship from Anna who has been living in UK for nearly two months, or from us as hosts, please do get in touch as it would be a pleasure to pass on any information and help that other hosts have so kindly given us.

Our number is 01438 718778.

Derek and Angela Coldwell and Anna Kuzma

Welcoming Ukranian Refugees: Beverley's Viewpoint

We were shattered by the TV news coming out of Ukraine in February and like many others put our minds to what we could do to help. After much consideration, my husband and I decided that we would offer our two spare bedrooms and a bathroom to a family in need. Having put out feelers via local connections we were put in touch with Maryana by email, and then as Friends on Facebook which allowed us to learn something of each other's families. To help prepare we reached out locally and were astonished by the support we received from friends and family. There was a lot of paperwork to complete including Visa applications and home inspections. I spent hours each day emailing companies asking for free or discounted tickets and memberships for Maryana and her family when they arrived.

Meanwhile we set about clearing our home to make room!

After nearly two months of arduous travel, Maryana and her children arrived late on 15th April. Some members of the church in Welwyn and friends and family had offered to pay their air fares. However Maryana was concerned that any spare money should go towards better military clothing for the men in their country, and so opted to travel by train and on foot. I was nervous and excited at the same time to meet them at the station. The language barrier wasn't too bad and translation apps on the phone were a help.

The oldest two children, teenagers, were accepted into one school whilst the youngest went to another.

This was odd for them as in Ukraine they all attend one school. I was busying myself sorting uniforms, school dinners, after-school clubs, swimming lessons and then music and dance classes and football lessons. I soon became a new mother again! From the word go the youngest taught words of Ukranian to his classmates and made lots of friends. The children did drawings to send to Ukraine with words of good luck messages.

Once school was sorted I set about helping Maryana with her finances, benefits, meetings, new bank account, mobile phone and sim card, as well as registering the family at the GP Practice. Then there were English lessons, a biometric residence permit, job-hunting as well as birthday parties and days out during the holidays.

Our families get along well together and they are now very much a part of our family and will remain so.

There are many people that we would like to thank but our special thanks go to Becky Done and Olga Mrinska, who was instrumental in making it all happen.

Beverley Piggott

Maryana's Viewpoint

My name is Maryana and I am from the capital city of Kyiv in Ukraine. This is my journey and thoughts so far. I have been in this wonderful country for four months but the past has not been forgotten. In 2014 Russia had invaded Crimea and Donbas. This was the beginning of the destruction of our beautiful country. Nobody heard our screams for help and by February 2022 the war was a powerful force which was uncontrollable.

On April 15th 2022 I arrived in Welwyn Garden City after travelling through eight countries as a single mother with three children and our luggage. The journey was not only tiresome but I felt I was heading into the unknown. I kept a positive brave face for my children as my goal was to protect them as mother, yet my inner self was scared and anxious. My beloved husband insisted on sending us to safety but decided to stay and fight for the country. A proud gesture in my eyes but it also caused us to be separated. I remember I had asked him, "Where are we going?", "How is it going to be?", and he said: "To the bright future". I remember these words and I now question what is "reality" and what is imaginary" In Budapest after a month of waiting for our forms to be approved and to find sponsorship our journey had now started. We were met by the lovely Beverley at the train station whilst holding our Ukrainian flags. She greeted us "Hello Buchko family". We were welcomed with love and generosity by the amazing Piggott family. I had never spoken to my hosts except by email but my uncertainty vanished with the love that was showered upon us. I cannot express my

gratitude; it is an overwhelming feeling. The Welwyn community has treated us with kindness and humility. As I settled into this country as fast as I could, I noticed so many differences. The weather was a shock and the characteristics of the English people. In the morning we were greeted with a smile and good morning and everybody was very polite. In Ukraine you would never bother



to converse with anyone and I was unfamiliar with this hospitality. I liked these positive vibes and I embraced this. The school system was alien to me. In Ukraine, children go to one school from the ages of 6 -18 years and there is no separation with gender or divisions between primary and secondary. Furthermore in Ukraine learning is done through books so you have vast amounts of homework and late-night studies. My children are happy to go to

Maryana's viewpoint *Continued from p.27*

school here and feel independent in that they can choose the subjects they want to study. Finally I am trying to learn the English language with frustration and tears. Unfortunately, my children also find this a barrier. They want to be able to express their thoughts without being misunderstood. I am forcing myself to learn quickly so I can get a job. My ego is hurt as I was a successful business woman in Ukraine with a retail shop and now I have to start again from the beginning. Sometimes I am not sure of my existence. I

Speak every day to my husband, holding back my tears from him and my family. I feel not only their sadness and sorrow but also my loneliness. I take every day as it comes and I truly believe that God is doing what He feels is right for me. I have been asked many times, "are you happy"? Yes and no. I am grateful, but not truly happy. Home is where the heart is and my heart is Ukraine and that is where I am "happy".

Maryana Buchko

Jessie, the rectory dog



As you know Master tries to stay out of politics, and above all out of the Brexit debate However I have no such qualms. So as we plan to head to France in a couple of weeks, I would like to say how much I am looking forward to sitting in a queue which, when Master went to a wedding in Canterbury on Saturday, stretched back six miles past Canterbury. I'm also really glad we've left the Pet Passport scheme which cost £70 for three years, and replaced it with a scheme whereby you pay £200 for every trip. Without these opportunities Master would just be left with too much time and money. And being a dog I do not in any sense have a developed sense of irony.

Jess

Theatre club

In Autumn Sue Knowles is moving to Cornwall and therefore will no longer be able to run the theatre club for St Mary's Welwyn. She needs to hand over the reins to someone to continue with this club. She can provide all the guidance needed to do this so please think about this role.

There have been many wonderful trips to Milton Keynes to see lots of amazing theatre. It would be a shame if this couldn't continue, so please think about this role.



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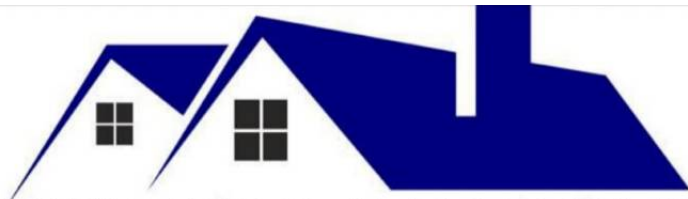
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Friends of Danesbury and the QVM

What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness.”

– John Steinbeck

The 31st of August marks the official end of



another summer, and those of us with kids will be getting them ready for another academic year as we brace ourselves for shorter days, and maybe not quite just yet dusting off those lightweight coats in preparation for the

colder mornings and evenings.

Here at Danesbury and QVM Hospitals summer allows for the patients to do more outdoor activities, such as gardening in the purpose-built plant beds or just enjoying being outdoors in the lovely gardens watching the wildlife. However, at QVM with the refurb still ongoing there, this has not been much of an option as a lot of the patients are ward bound until the refurb is completed. The recent Andy Trotter award we received allowed us to purchase some book trollies for QVM Hospital, so that the patients would still be able to access reading material within the comfort of their wards.

At Danesbury there has been another outbreak of COVID, which meant patients were bed bound and not a lot of rehabilitation could be carried out during the summer, until both staff and patients were fully recovered. Unfortunately, I think as we are all aware, COVID is still very much around and has become something we all

have to get used to living with. With more rehabilitation being carried out within the patients' homes, we have been able to help provide additional equipment for the occupational therapists and physios to take out with them to help with this aspect of their jobs.

The summer months tend to be quieter at the units as we all try to enjoy the summer holidays, however that is not to say that the usual business of looking after our patients and the general running of the units is not carried out, as this is without a doubt a priority. The care and hard work that is put in by all the staff working at Danesbury & QVM should not go unnoticed. With shortages in staff and long hours, this job is not for the faint hearted.

If you would like to support us but find it difficult with the increase in daily living costs, then you could do so without actually spending any more than you already do! If you sign up with www.easyfundraising.org.uk (choosing to support The Friends of Danesbury & QVM) then whenever you shop with Amazon, Argos, Sainsburys, John Lewis, Boots and hundreds of other companies who have signed up to be part of the Easy Fundraising scheme, when you make a purchase with any of these companies do so using the Easy Fundraising site and they will donate a percentage of your shop to our charity. No matter how small, it all adds up! So simple and so very effective.

Wishing you all well,
Friends of Danesbury & QVM

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Church Open Day 10th September

Ayot St Peter church is a long-standing participant in the Heritage Open Days scheme, where important heritage locations around the country are opened to the public without charge. The scheme takes place each September, organised by the National Trust. At the time of writing, our church is the only participating property in Welwyn Hatfield, although there are 3,137 in the whole country and 38 in Hertfordshire.



Our Open Day this year is Saturday 10th September. The church will be open from 10am to 5pm, and will have been prepared for the Harvest Festival service, which takes place the following

morning. The harvest décor is always delightful, with traditional arrangements of flowers and produce. The display includes a beautiful harvest loaf and also adorable bread mice that are hidden amongst the foliage for young hands to find. These are a popular addition to the harvest theme, despite concerns that they may encourage their real-life cousins to squeeze into the church and start nibbling.

Our award-winning preserves expert has been busy preparing delicious home-made jam, chutney and marmalade, which will be for sale on Open Day in aid

of both the church and the Hertfordshire Air Ambulance. Our visitors are always impressed by the range of recipes available, and some customers return each year hoping to find their favourite flavour.

As usual, our Open Day will coincide with the annual sponsored Bike and Hike for the Herts and Beds Historic Churches Trust charity, when hikers and cyclists are sponsored to visit as many churches as possible to raise money for this worthwhile charity. If you would like to know more about participation, see the Trust's dedicated website www.b-n-h.co.uk.

Those of you who have visited our church on previous occasions, may notice some significant improvements since your last visit. Earlier this year the interior lighting was upgraded to use low wattage bulbs with a softer colour and the beautiful painted chancel ceiling has been re-lit to show the pictures in greater detail.

In the churchyard we have a splendid new bench in memory of William Albert Tillson who died in 2020, a descendent of the Jakings family. A more significant change is the installation of our wheelchair-accessible compost loo which has, perhaps surprisingly, become quite a talking point amongst our visitors!

Valerie Richards



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Alzheimer's Disease



World Alzheimer's Day takes place on 21 September and is part of World Alzheimer's Month. This year, it is focussing on the power of knowledge.

Alzheimer's causes a gradual decline in memory, thinking and reasoning skills.

In the early stages, the main symptom of Alzheimer's disease is memory lapses.

For example, someone with early Alzheimer's disease may:

- forget about recent conversations or events
- misplace items
- forget the names of places and objects
- have trouble thinking of the right word
- ask questions repetitively
- show poor judgement or find it harder to make decisions
- become less flexible and more hesitant to try new things

There are often signs of mood changes, such as increasing anxiety or agitation, or periods of confusion.

If you're worried about your memory or think you may have dementia, it's a good idea to see a GP.

Other organisations that can provide support and information include Dementia UK and The Alzheimer's Society.

We are also fortunate to have a dementia friendly community cafe that runs regularly in Digswell offering activities, guest speakers and an opportunity to socialise. For further information please visit www.homeinstead.co.uk/welwyn.

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

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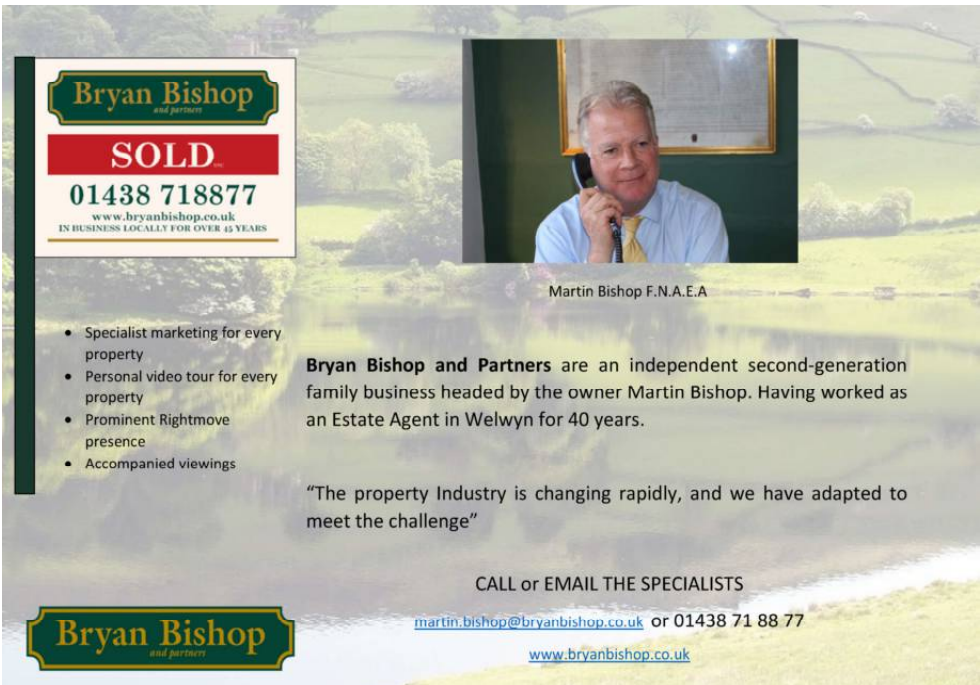
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Welwyn Parish Council



I hope you have all enjoyed the summer and that the dry weather didn't do too much damage to your gardens. In July we received the very sad news that Councillor John Blackburn had died suddenly. John had been a councillor for 19 years including his time as Chairman. He represented Welwyn Village and took his role very seriously, always having a point of view on what was best for residents. His sense of humour,

common sense and caring attitude will be greatly missed. Over his 19 years John had served on many committees. He wasn't vociferous but listened and when he did have an opinion his contribution was always worthwhile. John was an excellent support to me and I have already missed him in many ways. We will always keep him, Winifred and their family in our thoughts.

John's death leaves a vacancy for a councillor to represent the Village and we hope to be able to appoint someone soon.

Thank you to Councillors Benson and Siva for being the judges of the annual allotment competition. This is always a difficult task due to the enthusiasm of the plot holders and how well they manage their plots. The winners are given certificates and also vouchers to spend at the 'allotment shed'.

I mentioned in a previous article that, with financial help from Welwyn 1st Scouts and the Welwyn Festival Group, Welwyn Parish Council had agreed to have a defibrillator on the exterior wall of the Parish Offices. This is now in place and is probably the rare occasion when money is spent on something we hope won't need to be used.

The Terracycle receptacles at the Parish Centre and Civic centre are still popular. Although cheese wrappers and crisp packets are no longer recyclable for this scheme, Marigold gloves and blister packs are welcome and we now have a receptacle for pens. We are aware that the areas surrounding the planters had become untidy. We have now had them cleaned and tidied and I hope when you read this article they will be looking a lot better.

At our Full Council Meeting in July we agreed to start operating a pilot series of Digital Inclusion Courses. These will be designed to help those who have difficulty in using IT equipment (smart phone, tablet, laptop, desktop, printer, scanner etc.) We recognize that there are people who feel helpless in this IT age and hope that the sessions we are proposing to hold will help them. Councillor Bill Morris will be the lead on this and will be giving more details soon.

Take care of yourselves and others.

Marj Otty
Chair, Welwyn Parish Council



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Raised £16,000 for charity

After a two-year pandemic hiatus this year's Welwyn Festival was back with a bang and raised a fantastic £16,000 which has been allocated to local charities. Representatives from the charities outlined just how important this kind of support is at a presentation evening held at Welwyn Sports & Social Club on 27th July.

Essex and Herts Air Ambulance

In March 2022 alone it accomplished 222 missions using helicopter and rapid response vehicle teams. Costs £750k a month to operate and only receives limited Government support.

Hertfordshire Disabled Cricket Organisation

An inclusive organisation for everyone with physical and learning disabilities helping them to reach their full cricket potential.

Herts Domestic Abuse Helpline

Has this year received a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service for the amazing work it does in supporting women and men, signposting them to places they can receive further help.

Herts Young Homeless

Focuses on preventing homelessness for those aged 16 – 24 through education in schools and mediation. Amongst other things it empowers and gives young people confidence to be able to deal with difficult situations.

Isabel Hospice

Cares for hundreds of people with life-limiting conditions each year at home, in community hubs or its in-patient unit.

The Inclusion Project

Runs activities to promote a healthy social and active lifestyle for young adults with learning disabilities, helping to integrate them into the local community.

QVM & Danesbury Hospitals

The Friends Association provides funds to enhance the well-being of the patients in the 25 rehabilitation beds at the QVM and 18 neurological beds for adults with long-term conditions at Danesbury House, as well as the 14 beds for those needing short-term care.

Digswell Dementia-Friendly Café

Held twice a month in Digswell Village Hall, the café provides social interaction for the elderly, those with dementia and their carers, including arts and crafts and other fun activities.

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Danesbury Fernery

In 2015 a group of volunteers set about restoring the abandoned and overgrown Victorian Fernery in the Danesbury Nature Reserve. It has since become a much-appreciated local amenity.

PoetsIN – The Creative Mental Health Charity

Supports people of all ages with mental health illness and issues using a unique and creative programme of support www.poetsin.com

The Festival Team is to be congratulated and grateful thanks extended to all those who took part in raising funds in their own individual ways, particularly the Welwyn 10k for donating £5,500 from their run. The weather was mostly kind, except for the deluge and thunderstorm which unfortunately curtailed the evening at Danesbury Fernery. (see the report on p.26)

If you'd like to get involved the Festival Team is always looking for new members. Contact committee@welwynfestival.org.uk to find out more!

Jane Carr

Tony Rook at 90!



Congratulations to Welwyn legend Tony Rook on his 90th birthday, celebrated in the middle of July. As many of you know, Tony has moved into a retirement home close to his daughter Sylvia in Warwickshire so that he can be well looked after.

We miss seeing Tony out and about, often dressed appropriately. Some said he looked more like Father Christmas than Father Christmas himself! The informative Rook's Tours during Welwyn Festival have been an institution since 1974 and continue in his name, and we have had to find a new Father Christmas.

Our cover image this month is a water colour painted by the late Kate Rook in the mid-1980s. There were a number of copies of the print in Tony's house, which Tony and Sylvia have kindly donated to the Church; these can now be found in the Danesbury Shop and St Mary's Church House if you would like a copy for a small donation.

Over the years Tony, often together with Kate, published numerous publications on local history which will continue to be useful resources for generations to come, including a guide to St Mary's Church. Tony, together with his late wife Merle, founded the Welwyn Archaeological Society and was instrumental in discovering the Roman Baths in the 1960s. Now run by the Borough Council's Museums Service, the site provides a fascinating insight into life in 250 AD. More information can be found at www.welwynromanbaths.co.uk We wish Tony well in his "retirement". If anyone is passing through Kenilworth and would like to stop off for a cuppa, he would welcome visitors - just contact Sylvia. We can put you in touch.

Jane Carr

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Woolmer Green Village Day and Jubilee Picnic

As I write this at the end of July it seems a long time since we saw any real quantities of rain but it was a nervous week of weather watching with a forecast of heavy rain for Sunday of the Jubilee weekend when Village Day and a picnic were planned. Fortunately it was just a cool damp day and the rain held off until the end of the evening so the event was well attended again and it was great to be back together after a break since 2019. There were 20 dogs lined up to compete in the pet competition and they all behaved very well as they were judged. The baking competition had several spectacular entries from all age groups and was a tough one for our judges who had to try them all! The Woolmer Green Band played and there were dance displays in the hall. The finale was a Jubilee Picnic in the evening with live music finishing with our local police officers, who had joined us for some of the event, on the stage for the National Anthem.

Thanks to AWD Scaffolding, who erected the stage free of charge, to Councillors Phil Corke and Grant Pinney for all their work to organise and host the event, to the judges of the competitions, to the performers and to everyone who participated. Plans have started for 2023 already!



Tennis Court

The Parish Council has focused attention again on the tennis court refurbishment after some delays. The trees and shrubs around the court have been cut back from the fencing now and some of the broken fence posts have been replaced. The Parish Council agreed at its June meeting to proceed with the resurfacing works and this is expected to happen in September. After much consideration of options for a permanent metal 'net', it was decided to opt for a conventional all-weather net as it is lower cost and gives the flexibility to remove it to allow other games to be played on the court. We look forward to a fully refurbished court for 2023.

Sarah Hall

Woolmer Green Parish Council

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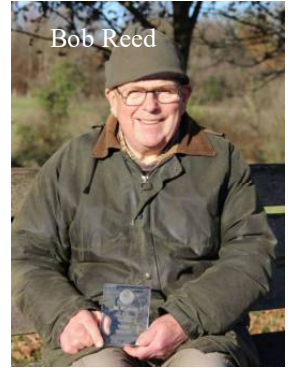
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Ants: World rulers in waiting!

Welwyn Natural History Society

I had a bit of a shock when I googled 'Bob Reed' to find that he is a prolific American author who has written astonishing science fiction books about ants taking over the world! And then I thought a bit – no, it can't be that Bob Reed – and, of course, it isn't, but one of the most prestigious naturalists in Hertfordshire; I think we are in for a treat.



I have always been amazed by ants – they are so organised, much better organised than we humans. To me, an ant hill is a metropolis in the middle of a desert –



magnificent creations that I have seen in Africa and Australia. And think how they care for their sick – carrying them away to safety. An interesting thing happened to me a few years ago: one of those humid summer days and my living room was suddenly overtaken by a massive swarm of flying ants, and I mean

'massive'. It was all hands to the pump to get the windows opened quickly before I had to start eating them for my supper. Which again reminds me of living in Africa: the flying ants there were a few sizes bigger than the ones we have here and the people in Zimbabwe would immediately go out with nets to catch the 'sausage flies', squeeze their abdomens, collect the contents in a dish and cook it as a sauce to go with mealie meal porridge. I am ashamed to say that I couldn't bring myself to try it.

Bob has spoken to our society before and, as a former school teacher, he knows how to make his talks fascinating; I wonder if he will be bringing some ants with him? We had a good selection of reptiles at our last meeting. Whatever... do join us!

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3rd Sunday	11.15 am	Family Service: (<i>Common Worship, NRSV Bible</i>)
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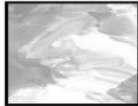
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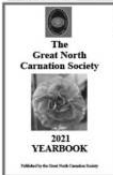
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Meditation

We love an Aunt Sally. In case you haven't heard that before, it's an expression that means "a person or thing set up as an easy target for criticism". Whether it's a political party, a union, an obnoxious individual, a lifestyle, another religion, or even a different take on our own religion, we bask in the knowledge that we are better than that. Have you ever wondered why the Geresenes chased Jesus out of their area when he healed the man possessed by demons? Luke chapter 8v37. Perhaps he was their Aunt Sally, so now they no longer had one. That would mean they had to examine their attitudes.

When asked how one might pray for a government with a contentious leader like Trump, American clergy gave interesting answers: "I pray that his eyes will be opened"; "I pray that his colleagues will mitigate his worst excesses"; "I just say to God, I don't know what to pray, except HELP". The important point here is not so much the how, although I really like the "help", it's that there is no criticism, just acceptance.

I don't think Jesus wanted us to set up Aunt Sallies to justify our views. His message was "love your enemies". Mull over several things: Am I missing information? (very likely - they may have been diagnosed with cancer, loved ones might be dying or in trouble, they may be struggling); Have I looked with intelligence at their point of view? (even extreme views usually have some good points, and the less extreme lots of good points); Have I prayed for them?

Love your enemies, love your friends, love yourself. Say good morning to strangers and watch their pre-occupied faces turn to a smile (OK not always!). Thank people when they do even the tiniest good thing. Rejoice in our wonderful outdoors. Pray.

Stephen Jupp