

# THE WELFORD BUGLE

Issue No 275  
June 2020

Next 'Copy' Deadline  
24 July 2020

## Notes from Welford Parish Council

- At the Parish Council meeting, Dr. Martin Gorrod was elected as Chairman of the Parish Council and Nigel Brotherton as Vice Chairman of the Council
- The children's play area remain closed for the foreseeable future during the lockdown. During the closure essential maintenance work will continue.
- Phase 2 of the LED lighting project was completed in May with 12 lights installed in Avon Fields, Butchers Close and Woodford Glebe. The LED lights are more cheaper to run than the sodium lights and need less maintenance
- The damaged bench seat near to the lay-by on the A5199 will be removed in the coming weeks as it is not economical to repair.
- The Parish Council continues to meet on a monthly basis using Zoom. Residents are welcome to listen to the proceedings either on the internet or by phone. Details of the meetings are posted on the village website at [welfordvillage.org.uk](http://welfordvillage.org.uk)

*Ian Kelly, Clerk to the Parish Council*

## **Welford Church Fete 2020**

It will come as no surprise to you all that we have decided to cancel this year's Church Fete at the end of June. Social distancing will still be in operation and it would just not be the same. We will go all out for a "bumper fete" next year.

Due to the ongoing coronavirus situation we are issuing the Bugle as an online only edition this time. Please help us to reach as many people in Welford as possible by sharing the link:

<https://www.welfordvillage.org.uk/>.

Any help you can give helping the non-internet users around the village would be appreciated.

We will print off some hard copies and leave these in the shop and a few other strategic places around the village. If you would like a printed version, or know someone who would then please contact Sheila on 01858 575784.

For our advertisers please be aware we are not charging for advertising in this edition.

Hopefully normal service will be resumed soon.



The tennis courts are OPEN!

As the covid restrictions are gradually lifted we are now able to play tennis!

Membership is as low as £20 per family, and £10 for an adult!

Non-members are not permitted on the courts.

To join please contact Teresa Read (575977)



**POLICE: 101 or 999**

## **EMERGENCY NUMBERS**

**STREET DOCTOR: 0300 126 1000, (select option 4)**

'Copy' and advertisements for the next Bugle should be sent to: [welfordbugle@outlook.com](mailto:welfordbugle@outlook.com)  
Or directly to Sheila Scullion, 32 Wakefield Drive, Tel: 575784, Andrew Parsons, 2 Northampton Rd, 571258  
John Nicholas, 25 High Street, Tel: 575422 Susie Bevin, West End Farm, Tel: 575226  
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Advertisements and Donations handled by Andrew Parsons, 2 Northampton Rd, 571258, [welfordbugle@outlook.com](mailto:welfordbugle@outlook.com)

## Welford Bugle The Revd Canon Miranda Hayes

Hello to you all.

We are still living in an unfamiliar world, and remain caught up in circumstances we could never have imagined – only now, many weeks after the beginning of the lock-down, are we being gradually, carefully, and for some almost unbearably slowly, released from the regulations and restrictions that have been governing our lives. This will, perhaps, be the most difficult stage of all: how we exit the lock-down. As many have said, it is much easier to impose blanket regulations, than to progressively lift them.

Alongside all the other constraints on daily life, church buildings across the country have been closed, worship has taken place “virtually”, and digital communication has become almost the norm. How quickly some of us have adapted to mobile phones and computers, when not so very long ago we’d decided they weren’t for us! Of course, there are many who still rely on the telephone, and certainly I have enjoyed some really good conversations with friends and parishioners – conversations that I probably wouldn’t have had otherwise.

I do hope that you are, if not exactly flourishing, at least coping with day to day life in these strange times, and conscious of God’s presence with you. To that end, you may find this a helpful prayer:

O God,  
help me to trust you,  
help me to know that you are with me,  
help me to believe  
that nothing can separate me  
from you love  
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

If you would like to speak to me, do get in on 01858 525342, or email: [rector@nasebygroup.org](mailto:rector@nasebygroup.org)  
Alternatively, contact one of our Benefice lay ministers:  
Kairen Ball 01858 575331; Trevor Lake 07785 242904;  
Diane Parton 01858 880972; or Gordon Temple 07990 887635.

For up-to-date information and resources, including details of groups that are meeting virtually and any services of worship, go to our website: [www.nasebygroup.org](http://www.nasebygroup.org)



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### Donations

The editorial committee would like to thank the following people for their donations to help keep the Bugle bugling:

- Val Jackson
- Janet Francis Flores

### WELFORD ON THE WEB

You can read The Bugle on the Welford Web Site, as well as all sorts of interesting things about the village, by clicking onto : - [www.welfordvillage.co.uk](http://www.welfordvillage.co.uk)  
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## Covid-19 Response in Welford – no-one left behind

At the start of the lockdown, a network of volunteers was set up in the village to ensure that everyone who needs it has a point of contact and support during this difficult and uncertain time. We have been pleased to be able to help out those of you who have already contacted us and many ongoing support relationships have been established.

### What support are we offering?

<b>Daily phone calls to maintain social contact</b>	We're determined that everyone in the village gets to have a phone conversation every day. Even if you have friends and family who will call you, this might be a nice chance to get to know someone new in the village and bring us closer together as a community.
<b>Someone to procure supplies on your behalf, including medicines.</b>	If self-isolation prevents you from leaving your home and you're unable to secure a delivery, there will be people available to get supplies on your behalf, including trips to the surgery to pick up prescriptions. We try to coordinate these to Tuesday and Thursday pick-ups only but can of course go at other times too. It seems that supermarket delivery slots are now easier to come by and many stores also offer a click-and-collect service. Plenty of smaller, independent shops have also started delivery services but if there is anything else you need then we are happy to help.
<b>Dog walking</b>	If you're too unwell to walk your dog, we'll strive to find someone who is happy to walk your dog for you.

### How to get support?

We are so thankful that so many people in the village have friends and family close by who have been helping when needed, but if you ever need additional help then **please call the person who is coordinating your part of the village using the phone numbers below**. They will make sure that we've got your phone number and details of any assistance you might require. If you cannot get through for some reason, please call any of the other contacts on the list and they can assist.

Area	Name	Contact Number
Roundhouse Close/Millers Road	Abi Kirk Niamh Bland	07742 434321 571174 or 07837 579550
Browns Meadow	Lucy Stawt	07725 848231
Newlands Road	Laura Tann	575259 or 07901 871168
High Street lower (shop to bottom of hill), Orchard Terrace	Sue Nicholas	575422 or 07879 852849
High Street upper (shop to Church Lane), the Paddocks, Abbey View	Lee Gravestock	07954 417817
Northampton Road/ Woodford Glebe	Mandy Cant Hannah Collins	575536 or 07944 516439 07736 939993
Church Lane	Sheila Scullion	575784 or 07484 883433
West Street and West Court	Tania Hall	575917 or 07713 255696
Wakefield Drive	Rebecca Sandercock	575941 or 07586 574622
West End, Hall Lane, Hemploe View	Hannah Bedard	07493 638762
Salford Close, Dovehouse Close	Suzanne and Isabel Howells	575411 or 07775451148
The Leys and Christopher Court	Kathy Cox	575806 or 07738274201
Westfield Crescent	Kayleigh Riley	07564 991015
Avon Fields	Ruth Leddington	07496 029016
The Hemploe, Court Lane, Elkington Road (off Court Lane)	Bob Finch	07733 326700
Sulby	Andrea Tuck	07960 616150
Naseby Road	Helen Nicholas	571215 or 07917222376

If your area is not listed, or you have any questions please contact Hannah Bedard.

Let's get through this together!

**Hannah Bedard 07493 638762**

**[hannahbedard@gmail.com](mailto:hannahbedard@gmail.com)**

## Thank you all

During this strange time of lockdown we have so much appreciated the kindness of friends and neighbours. Our co-ordinated helper, Hannah, has been invaluable collecting prescriptions and doing Post Office errands. Neighbours have given us delicious pate, bread and milk, and friends opposite have stepped in and done shopping for us when our usual online source was overwhelmed, as if they didn't have enough to do themselves. Fortunately we are back on the delivery rota now, and the butcher also delivers welcome supplies. The Good Neighbours coffee morning surprised us with Easter treats, and more unexpected treats came from the Lunch Club, as well as real beautifully decorated Easter Eggs from another neighbour. All very cheering in our isolation. We have enjoyed joining in the online services every Sunday Morning, and seeing all the other names in the congregation. It does provide a welcome link with the outside world and a way to worship when we can't go to our church. Many thanks to Miranda for uplifting services and to all the providers of tech to make it possible. The most 'normal' contact we have had was on VE day, when the village made a real effort to put out the flags, and our end of the street had a most enjoyable distanced street party, and as the weather was kind we sat outside chatting for a couple of hours - otherwise it's been a brief chat across the road when out walking, or a wave when we clap for cars, which has been very well supported in West End. So, as we wonder how brave to be as we enter the next phase, thank you so much to all those who have made these long weeks easier for us oldies who have been unable to be as fiercely independent as usual. I'm sure I speak for many people in Welford in saying how grateful we are to live in such a supportive community.

Susie Bevin

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WELFORD  
  
**WILDLIFE**  
 SURVEY

**CALLING ALL WELFORD WILDLIFE DIARISTS**

Now is your chance to get some last minute entries in your wildlife diaries ready for their completion in July. Doesn't matter how much or how little you have recorded - it will all count and it all matters. I will be collating and analysing all the information in the coming months and will share the findings as soon as I can.

Completed diaries can be popped through my letterbox: 25 West Street, or get in touch and I will come and collect it from you.

*Helen Dyson*

**Peter Hetzel**

**Many people will remember Peter and his family. They lived in West End until 1977. Peter was latterly in a care home in Scarborough and died on 8th May. We extend our condolences to his family. There will be an account of his life in the next Bugle.**

**THANKS**

I would just like to say a big thank you to all the many people who sent me cards, texts, e-mails, phone calls and best wishes following my recent accident at home which resulted in my week in hospital and three weeks respite. I am safely back home and making good progress albeit slowly. Even in these difficult times Welford has proved yet again what a great village this is – so grateful for the offers of help that have been made to me.

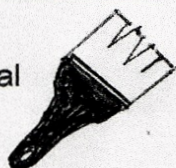
Hopefully I should be able to dispense with the zimmer and crutches before too long.

Val Jackson

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## Welford Handicap Run

A monthly handicap run around the village and surrounding countryside of Welford.

**First race:** 18.30 on 3rd June (then July 1st and the first Wednesday of the month thereafter)

**Start/finish location:** Outside the Wharf Pub

**Cost:** FREE!

**Qualifying criteria:** If you can at least walk or limp around the 4.5 mile course then you can enter (and you will still stand as equal a chance of winning as anybody else!)

**How it works:**

- We all set off at different times according to our individual ability and run the set course.
- The time you start is based on your previous times (this is your 'handicap'). The handicap changes each month as you improve/decline and is based on your average time of your last few runs.
- This means that everybody has an equal chance of coming home first, and everybody has somebody to chase down (except the first person to set off), and somebody to keep off their tail (except for the last person to set off).

If nobodies time changes, then we all finish at exactly the same time!

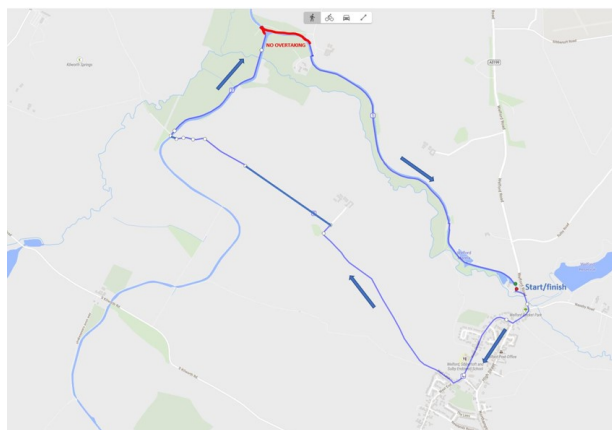
The course is a circular 4.5 mile route starting and ending at The Wharf pub. So there will be a chance for plenty of refreshment to replenish your electrolytes and toast your success afterwards!

The use of fitness trackers, watches and apps etc is discouraged so that participants have the challenge of pacing themselves. Plus it is sometimes nice to exercise without being tethered to technology.

**Route:** A clockwise loop through the village, up Hall Lane and across to the canal. Then follow the canal back to the Wharf.

There is a dodgy section of footpath at the canal junction where we have deemed it highly unwise to overtake whilst running, so it is a rule of the run that no overtaking is allowed in this section.

**Corona Virus considerations:** By its very nature, a handicap race is socially distanced with everybody separated by at least 20 seconds. Please socially distance at the start and end of the race.



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### *School News from WSSSES...*

School life has been very different from usual over the past eight weeks, as the doors of WSSSES have been closed to all but essential key workers' children and the majority of our pupils have been continuing their learning at home.

Everyone has had to adjust to this new and unknown way of working – children having to keep their motivation to learn at home without their teachers being there to explain things, parents having to adjust to supporting their children with home learning as well as managing working from home and caring for other family members, and teachers providing activities that all pupils can access and understand without face to face teaching.

The communication from our families has been overwhelmingly positive, and we've had lots of emails every week from children and their parents sharing what they have been doing at home which has been fantastic and really kept us in touch with our community. We have still been publishing a weekly online newsflash to keep families up to date with the latest news from school, and to share comments and photos from our 'home learning superstars'.

### *A few photos from our home learning superstars...*



### **Artsmark**

Although school has been closed, there has been lots of hard work going on behind the scenes, and we are pleased to be able to share some good news! Over the past two years the school has been on its 'Artsmark journey' – developing our commitment to and involvement in the arts. In amongst all the upheaval at the end of last term we were adding the finishing touches to our final Artsmark application and we are delighted that we have been awarded our Silver Artsmark Award. The Artsmark Award is the only creative quality standard for schools and education settings, accredited by Arts Council England. It supports settings to develop and celebrate their commitment to arts and cultural education. We are all very proud of this achievement and can't wait to celebrate with lots of fun arts activities when we get back to school!



**Artsmark  
Silver Award**  
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## A South American Odyssey

These are testing times for cruise ships, as you may have noticed from media reports of passengers locked down in quarantine on ships, and similar horror stories. My wife Andrea and I got caught up in one of these situations, when booked on two consecutive cruises in South America, the first from Buenos Aires to Rio (for the carnival) and back, calling at various Brazilian and Uruguayan ports, with three days in Rio. The second took us from Buenos Aires to Cape Horn, then through the Beagle Channel to the Chilean fjords, ending at San Antonio, Chile, from where we would travel to Santiago to fly home. 28 days in all, during which I was booked to give 10 talks on various maritime history subjects. My talk on the Falklands conflict was vetoed as “too sensitive” in view of the number of Argentinians onboard, and I gave an alternative talk. We visited some amazing places in the ten ports of call. The biggest highlights were Rio, in full carnival mood, Ushuaia, on the Beagle Channel, with unforgettable scenery and wildlife, and of course rounding Cape Horn (where we were spared the infamous storms).

All went well until we reached San Antonio on the final day of the second cruise. We were due to berth at 7am, but at 2.30am the ship received a message saying that we could not dock. A cruise ship in another Chilean port had reported a small number of coronavirus cases, and the authorities had reacted by barring all cruise ships from Chilean ports. We had no reported cases of coronavirus onboard. Then ensued two days of negotiations and diplomatic wrangling, in which the Chilean president and the US government were also involved (we were on an American ship and half of the passengers were American). The ship remained anchored offshore and it transpired that the Chilean government was prepared to let provisions, medical supplies and fuel be brought out to the ship in barges, but would not let the ship dock. However, the trades unions and the mayor of San Antonio refused to co-operate and we had to try to find another, more amenable, port. The global situation was changing rapidly: by this time ports around the world were banning cruise ships, and this soon included all of those in South America. This was the most uncertain and, for some, stressful part of the odyssey. We did not have enough fuel or provisions to get back to an American port. Were we destined to drift aimlessly on the seven seas like a latter-day *Marie Celeste*?

Fortunately, agreement was reached for us to restock at another Chilean port, Valparaiso, offshore without docking. Apparently, there was rivalry, and no love lost, between the ports of Valparaiso and San Antonio, which probably helped explain Valparaiso's decision. Restocking was a slow process, taking three days. Eventually we sailed – heading north through the tropics and across the equator to dock at San Diego, the nearest US port, after ten days sailing, a distance of over 5,000 miles. We sailed over calm seas in balmy temperatures, under sunny skies. We were not in lock-down and were able to enjoy the full facilities of our luxurious ship, so for most it was certainly no hardship. “Buy one cruise, get one free!” was the joke, as most passengers enjoyed the extra 15 days on the ship, with free drinks, free laundry and free wifi, as well as the usual meals, entertainment, pools, gym, etc. A few passengers were desperate to get home as they had jobs to return to, or perhaps had caring responsibilities for others. (Continued Over)



Andrea and I had spent 43 days on the ship, which had covered over 15,000 miles. We made some good friends (two from Toronto and two from Texas) with whom who we played cards and dined each day. I had given an additional six talks. Before disembarkation we had to complete a medical questionnaire, declaring that we were well, and had our body temperature taken. We were given face masks and plastic gloves, plus a packed lunch, and bussed to Los Angeles airport.

The cruise company had booked a charter flight from Los Angeles to take all the British and some European passengers back to Heathrow, where we landed on 31 March. Arriving home, as we approached our drive in a taxi, neighbours' children cheered and let off party poppers, which was an unexpected delight. We then had to self-isolate. Fortunately, our daughter had arranged a supermarket delivery: we now have enough kitchen roll to last beyond Christmas!

However, over 100 South American passengers were still stuck on the ship: they were not permitted to enter the USA, and their countries had closed their borders, even to their own citizens. The prospects for these people, and for the crew, many of whom were in a similar situation, hung in the balance. A day after getting back Andrea developed the first symptoms of coronavirus, and was soon very poorly. There were reports that 76 passengers had tested positive for the virus after arriving home, as had some of the crew and passengers left aboard the ship. The figure of 76 was surely an underestimate since we were not contacted to report how we were. Fortunately, I did not develop any symptoms, and as I write this, seven weeks after getting home, Andrea is nearly fully recovered.

**Paul Brown**

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## WELFORD RAINFALL IN MILLIMETRES



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JAN	59.0	41.5	46.5	58.0	119.0	59.5	81.0	59.0	68.0	26.0	51.5
FEB	52.0	54.0	23.5	42.0	74.0	41.0	43.0	59.5	29.0	31.0	121.0
MAR	40.5	7.5	27.0	62.0	43.5	27.0	78.5	54.0	166.5	55.5	35.5
APR	27.5	5.5	155.0	22.5	31.0	25.5	50.0	10.5	65.0	15.0	35.0
MAY	26.5	31.5	55.5	75.5	109.0	54.0	45.0	80.0	85.0	46.5	10.0
JUN	49.0	59.0	135.5	41.5	69.0	26.0	77.5	52.0	1.0	148.5	
JUL	47.0	41.0	99.0	92.0	31.0	81.5	19.0	71.0	14.5	125.0	
AUG	143.5	53.0	94.5	51.0	95.5	53.0	56.0	78.5	52.5	79.0	
SEP	53.0	20.0	51.5	26.0	8.0	50.5	45.0	79.0	36.0	89.0	
OCT	46.0	35.5	72.0	113.0	73.0	60.0	35.0	21.5	46.0	153.0	
NOV	49.5	36.0	127.5	39.5	82.0	65.0	79.5	44.0	40.5	132.0	
DEC	22.0	64.5	135.5	51.5	54.0	75.0	24.0	100.5	67.5	100.0	
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### FLAGS

#### JUNE 2020

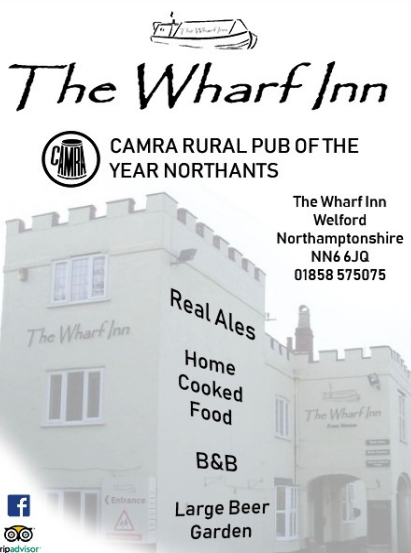
- 2nd Coronation Day
- 10th Duke of Edinburgh
- 13th Queens Official Birthday
- 21st Duke of Cambridge

#### JULY 2020

- 17th Duchess of Cornwall

#### AUGUST 2020

- 4th Duchess of Sussex

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### BUGLE NEWS

The Bugle is here to let everyone in Welford know what is going on in the village and appears early in February, April, June, August, October and December.

Letters and articles for inclusion are always welcome.

It saves paper and some time in putting the issues together if articles are presented if possible as emails. They can be sent as attachments in MS Word and can then be easily used.

However don't worry if hand written paper is your preference, it is still welcome. So, if you have an item which you would like published, if possible email it to:

welfordbugle@outlook.com

If you are unable to e-mail then you can find our postal addresses on the front page.

Please ensure any articles are received by the copy date on the cover. Thanks. AP

### BELL RINGING PRACTICE :



1st. and 3rd. Monday each month, 7.30pm. to 9.00pm.

New ringers always welcome.

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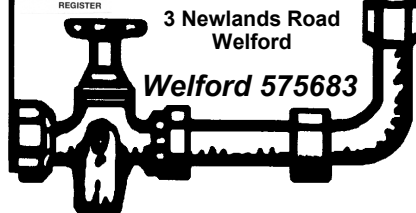
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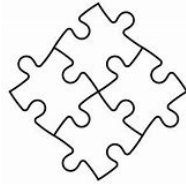
CAR SALES



The WI has book boxes and sells books for £1, proceeds to Kettering Special Baby Unit (SCBU).

From next week we would be willing to deliver a book box for perusal if anyone is interested.

We are also in the process of setting up a jigsaw swop service as well.



Please contact Jane Cottrell on 575549

Or email: [janec456@hotmail.com](mailto:janec456@hotmail.com)

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It would be lovely to have more of a Welford presence on Facebook because love it or hate it, it is a great way to spread community news and discussions. So, we have decided to phase out the Welford Facebook page as it isn't particularly user-friendly and have instead created This Is Welford - a group for all Facebook-using residents of Welford and the surrounding area. So please join us (do a search for This Is Welford in groups and we'll also put a link on the Welford Facebook page).

*Hannah Bedard and Lucy Parsons*



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## Elderflower Cordial

The elderflowers are out and I am making my usual brew, which I would be selling at the Church Fete. If anyone would like to buy a bottle and donate to church funds please phone 575226 or email [susiebevin142@btinternet.com](mailto:susiebevin142@btinternet.com) and I will deliver to your doorstep. £3 a bottle.

Susie Bevin

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## **WELFORD BABES AND TOTS**

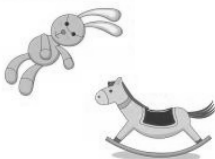
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Fridays, 9.30am – 11.00am

Welford Youth and Community Centre

£2.00 first child, 50p additional children,

free for pre-crawlers and adults



 Welford Babes and Tots  
Contact: Lucy on 07891287626  
or Claire on 07837852364  
or Helen on 07585669897

## **WELFORD EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

The Welford Educational Trust exists to promote education, (including social and physical training) of persons under the age of 25 years, who are resident in the Ancient Parish of Welford and who are in need of financial assistance.

The Trustees meet in September and February each year.

In the past, students have received financial help towards the cost of books for college and university courses. Students wishing to apply for a book grant must complete an application form available from the Secretary, Ms. S. Barlow, 5 Westfield Crescent, Welford, Northampton. NN6 6HY, 01858 575748. Completed forms should be returned to the above address by **1<sup>st</sup> September 2020**. Late applications cannot be considered. Please note that book grant applications will only be considered at the September meeting each year.

At both meetings the Trustees will also consider applications from individuals and youth groups to provide financial assistance towards education, training and other needs. Applications by letter to the Secretary by **1<sup>st</sup> September/1<sup>st</sup> February**.

## **CAR TRANSPORTERS USING THE A5199 THROUGH WELFORD & HUSBANDS BOSWORTH**

For many years Welford and Husbands Bosworth have seen a huge increase in the numbers of car transporters travelling to and from Bruntingthorpe Proving Ground (BPG), in spite of planning conditions limiting them from doing so. Welford Action Group (WAG) campaigned tirelessly liaising with C. Walton Ltd (CWL) managing group and regular users of BPG i.e. Mannheim, with varying degrees of success.

In January, this year Harborough District Council (HDC) granted CWL an extension to their existing operations at the car storage and distribution site. A representative from WAG raised concerns with councillors as operators had not adhered to previous planning, this was acknowledged by the councillors who conceded operators had failed to control transporters travelling through the two villages. The new Operations Plan shows clear routes to be taken by drivers, a reporting process for residents and warning of disciplinary actions should drivers not comply.

March 2020 saw an announcement from Cox Automotive UK who had just completed the acquisition of vehicle services provider at CWL securing Cox a 100% share of the capital of CWL. With new operators at BPG it is hoped the terms within the Operational Plan would be adhered to and correctly enforced.

A WAG member recently noted a transporter and followed the reporting process, a positive email was received from Martyn Rose, Bruntingthorpe Transport Manager apologising. The site is currently closed with no regular vehicle movements in or out, the reported vehicle was essential deliveries for a repossession company. Action has been taken to inform the company of designated routes following an oversight.

To ensure the Operational Plan is adhered to residents are asked to help, anyone spotting a car transporter ignoring regulations should make a complaint either by email:

**[tptcomplaints@bruntingthorpe.atlassian.net](mailto:tptcomplaints@bruntingthorpe.atlassian.net)** or telephone: 0116 2799323.

Complaints should include as many of the following as possible. State the nature of the offence, time and direction of the offence, transporter branding, registration number and ideally a photograph. The operators should respond within 5 days and will take disciplinary action against drivers and hauliers that break the rules.

*Welford Action Group*



**The Welford Youth and Community Centre is available to hire.** Located on Welford Park it is a perfect venue for groups to hire and for any type of family gathering. Recent bookings have included **Birthdays parties, Wedding receptions, Dance practices and Presentation evenings.**

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## **Nature Notes**

What extraordinary weather! The sun has shone almost continually throughout lockdown, and where we were desperate for it to dry up then, we are now in real need of some rain, preferably warm, gentle rain at night!

The dry weather gave a wonderful start in life to the lambs which are growing ever sturdier in the fields, and the cattle that have been turned out locally look very contented with the sun on their backs. As for the people, we have been busy in our garden and appreciating a very early and luxuriant season. The bluebells in the Hemploe woods were glorious, and the ash leaves were appearing at the same time, slightly after the oak leaves. The swallows arrived on 11th April, all two of them, though there are slightly more now. The garden and countryside have been full of birdsong. I've noticed chaffinches in the hedgerows, and lots of blackbirds, wrens, robins and various tits in the garden, along with jackdaws, which really appreciate our birdbath. They have a comical way of drinking, taking a sip and then stretching their throats so that their beaks are vertically in the air as they swallow. Less welcome are the pigeons. They make messes in the water, and actually plonked some so-called good luck on my head the other day, necessitating a quick hair wash! That's before they start wreaking havoc on the crops in the fields and in the vegetable garden.

There were a couple of latish frosts, which caught the potatoes and the strawberries and raspberries, which are all now recovering. The apples seem to have escaped, and the trees are loaded with fruit. I think I shall have to help the June drop along or the branches will be overloaded.

Taking my daily walk the blossom has been better than I ever remember. The hawthorn hedges were smothered in creamy flowers, and the cow parsley (keck) was very pretty too. We have never seen so many people walking along West End and nature and the glorious weather have made this routine a real pleasure.

Our solar panels seem to have been much more efficient than usual, even allowing for the amount of sunshine. We think it is due to the lack of pollution at the moment, with so few planes and vehicles about, and the sky a clear blue with almost no vapour trails.

As for the garden, it has become almost too hot and dry, specially in the greenhouse. We're having to do lots of watering, and the lawn is burning up before summer has officially begun. The compensation is an amazing early display of roses, lupins and peonies. Soon gardens will be open for us to visit, but meantime we have been quite happy working and eating outside in our own.

Susie Bevin

## Pre-school in lock down ... the story of the little boxes and a snake!

The little boxes appeared overnight! First came the Easter boxes, filled with salt dough shapes to decorate, then came the wild flower seed bombs and lastly the sunflower challenge. We look forward to seeing how tall they have become and if the ones planted in the Pre-school little garden are as tall as yours.

We hope that they have brought a little bit of fun into your daily walk—it's been wonderful to walk down the road at the end of the day and see that they have all gone. We have enjoyed seeing photos of our lovely pre-schoolers and what they have done with them.




Once we have finished painting, cleaning and re-organising the Pre-school mobile in preparation for returning they will take pride of place on our wall.

Thanks to Lucy Hunt, Welford now also has its very own "Covid snake". Please add your decorated stone and see how long our snake can grow.

We hope to see you all soon. Stay safe and keep well.

All the Pre-school Team.



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# WHAT'S ON IN WELFORD

(All currently subject to the situation relating to the Corona virus)  
REGULARS - weekly, unless stated otherwise

## MONDAYS

Welford Pre-school 9.00am-3.00pm PSM  
Yoga for All 10.00-11.30am VH(MH)  
Bell-Ringing 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> week 7.30pm CH  
Rainbows 5-7 years 5.15 - 6.00pm WYCC  
Brownies 7-10 years 6.15 - 7.30pm WYCC  
Guides 10-14 years 7.30 - 9.00pm WYCC  
Table Tennis 7.00-9.00pm VH(MH)  
ISE Group (Stitch & Expression) VH(BR)  
10.00-4.00 2nd in Month  
Welford in Harmony 7.00—9.00pm WSF  
Cricket Nets from Monday 27th Feb  
(Hard Ball Teams) 6.15 – 7.15 GUIL

## TUESDAYS

Welford Pre-School 9.00am-3.00pm PSM  
Doctor's Surgery 9.00-11.30am VH(BR)  
Pilates 9.30-10.30am WYCC  
Pilates 7.30-8.30pm WYCC  
GN Coffee Morning 1st week VH(MH)  
Short Mat Bowls 7.00-8.30pm VH(MH)  
Bridge 7.30-10.00pm (1st and 3rd weeks) VH(BR)  
Cricket Nets from Tuesday 1st March  
U15s & U19s 7.00-8.30pm LS

## WEDNESDAYS

Welford Pre-School 9.00am-3.00pm PSM  
Welford Watercolourists 9.00am-12.00 VH(BR)  
Ladies Fellowship 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> week 2.30pm CSR  
Welcome Club 2<sup>nd</sup> week 2.00-4.00pm VH(BR)  
Yoga for All 7.30-9.00pm VH(MH)  
Gardening Club 2nd week 7.00-9.45pm VH(BR)  
P.C. Planning Com. 6.30pm 2nd week VH(BR)  
Tennis Club Night 6pm WTC  
Football — Welford Vets 7:30-8:30pm WSF

## Hockey Training

Y8+ (U14s/Badgers) & Adults 6.30PM-8PM RC

## THURSDAYS

Welford Pre-School 9.00am-3.00pm PSM  
Doctor's Surgery 9.00-11.30am VH(BR)  
Dancing for Fun 9.45-11.30am VH(MH)  
Pilates 6.00-7.00pm WYCC  
Parish Council 4<sup>th</sup> week 7.30pm VH(BR)  
Women's Institute 2nd week 7.30-10.00pm VH(MH)

## FRIDAYS

Welford Pre-school 9.00am-3.00pm PSM  
Babes and Tots 9.30-11.00am WYCC  
Beaver Scouts 6-8 years 5.00-6.00pm WYCC  
Cub Scouts 6.15-7.15pm WYCC  
Scouts 7.30-9.00pm WYCC  
Dancing for Fun 7.00-8.30pm VH(MH)

## MONDAY - FRIDAY

7.45am - 8.45am Breakfast Club PSM  
3.15pm – 6.00pm After School Club PSM

## SATURDAYS

Football – reception & Yr 1 9.30-11.00am WSF

## SUNDAYS

### Hockey Training

Juniors (up to Yr 7 age) 10.00-11.00am NPF  
Explorer Scouts 14-18 yrs 7.00-8.30pm WYCC

## EVENTS

### VENUES:

RC Rugby College, Technology Drive, Rugby  
CH St Mary's Church  
CSR Chapel School Room  
PSM Pre-School Mobile  
SCH Welford School  
VH(BR) Village Hall Billiard Room  
VH(MH) Village Hall Main Hall  
WSF Welford Sports Field  
WYCC Welford Youth and Community Centre  
LUT Lutterworth College  
MH3G Market Harborough 3G  
GUIL Guilsborough School Hall  
LS Lawrence Sheriff School  
NPF Naseby Playing Fields  
WTC Welford Tennis Courts

For further information or to have your dates listed please contact Geoff Newman on Tel 575335  
Keep up to date with events or advertise on [www.welfordvillage.co.uk](http://www.welfordvillage.co.uk) or follow @Welfordvillage on twitter