

THE WELFORD BUGLE

Issue No 297
February 2024

Next 'Copy' Deadline
22 March 2024

"Coffee & Cake"

..... and tea!

Raising funds for Pre-Eclampsia
Research & Family Support.

Saturday 10th February
10am - Midday

in The Billiard Room, Village Hall



Books and jigsaws for sale too!

ALL proceeds go to Action on Pre-Eclampsia.



QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 9th MARCH 2024

Welford Youth & Community Centre

Teams of up to six £7.50 per person to include supper. Bar open from 7pm, first question at 7:30pm

To book, please email james.e.bland@gmail.com or call James on **07772 605303** confirming the captain's name and the size of team

WSSSES SCHOOL ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

CASINO ROYALE

A BOND THEMED CASINO NIGHT
PROFESSIONAL CROUPIERS | COCKTAILS | CANAPÉS

7.30PM | SATURDAY 2ND MARCH
WELFORD YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

DRESS CODE: DRESS TO IMPRESS

Early bird ticket offer: **£20 per person** to include welcome drink, canapés & initial playing chips. Extra chips can be bought on the night and the winner is the one with the most chips at the end. Fantastic raffle prizes on offer, including an overnight stay!

After 16th February tickets increase to £25.

FOR TICKETS, PLEASE EMAIL: WSSSES_PTA@OUTLOOK.COM



IMPORTANT NEWS FROM WADS

On March 27th, 28th, & 29th we are presenting the play "We Happy Few" written by Imogen Stubbs. It is based on a true story of a group of women, from various backgrounds, who came together to take excerpts from classic plays around the country, during WW2. It is very funny, but also has moments of sadness. It is 10 years since we last presented a straight play. We hope you will support us. It will be a great evening's entertainment. Mailing list tickets go on sale on 26th February. If you want to be added to our mailing list, let Chris know on chrisbrownny55@hotmail.co.uk Or 01858 575494

Read online at: <https://www.welfordvillage.org.uk/>

'Copy' for the next Bugle should be sent to: 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 **TO ARRIVE NO LATER THAN THE 'COPY' DEADLINE MENTIONED ABOVE**

Advertisements and Donations to Andrew Parsons, welfordbugle@outlook.com

Bin Collections

Date	Food	General	Recycling	Garden
08/02	X		X	
15/02	X	X		X
22/02	X		X	
29/02	X			X
07/03	X	X	X	
14/03	X			X
21/03	X		X	
28/03	X	X		X
04/04	X		X	

Notes from your Parish Council

Dear Residents,

Happy New Year from your Parish Council and your new Clerk, Clare Valentine.

Very best wishes on the retirement of Ian Kelly who did a fantastic job for the Parish Council (he left me an extremely tidy office).

Whilst I am writing, may I please remind you that there are three Councillor vacancies on the Council, and we would be delighted to hear from anyone who may be interested.

Please refer to the website www.welfordvillage.org.uk for the latest information. My email address is clerk@welfordvillage.org.uk and mobile 07767 976448.

Kind regards, Clare Valentine

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Welford Movie Night Update

We've now had Saturday evening Movie Nights running on the first Saturday of the month, since we returned in December 2022

All films have been well received and our numbers have been building up – our last night at the beginning of January was "A Haunting in Venice" and there were 39 people in the Village Hall to watch it.

Here is our schedule for the rest of Spring 2024:-

- Saturday 3rd February – The Great Escaper
- Saturday 2nd March – My Sailor My Love
- Saturday 6th April – To be decided
- Saturday 4th May – To be decided
- Saturday 1st June – To be decided

Put these dates in your diary (!) and then keep your eye on the Village Noticeboards or the "This is Welford" Facebook page for details of future films to be shown etc

Doors open at 7:00pm, and the show starts at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Tickets are £7 on the door, payment by cash or card, please.

After these dates, we then have a break for the Summer before getting back together for our Autumn schedule which starts on Saturday 5th October.


If you want to join the Welford Movie Night mailing list and book tickets or have a vote for which films we show in the future, please email me your contact details, and I'll be in touch.

Thanks very much in anticipation of an avalanche of responses!!

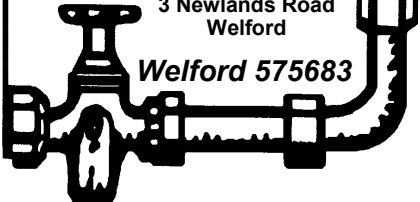
Take care and regards, Chris Brown Treasurer

Welford Village Hall chrisbrownny55@hotmail.co.uk

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Donations

The Bugle is dependent upon the kind generosity of its donors and advertisers to cover the costs of producing the Bugle. In order to make best use of the donations received we recognise them here. The editorial committee would like to thank the following people for their donations to help keep the Bugle bugling:

- | | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| • Pitcher | • B&S Sneath | • D Smith | • Goodfellow | • T Cutt |
| • P McSharry | • A Bott | • P Morris | • T Eames | • Beeson |
| • J Gammage | • A & B Barber | • C Miller | • Welford WI | • V Perkins |

Please send any donations to Mr A. Parsons, 2 Northampton Road, NN6 6HP. Thank you

Correction

Due to a printing error in the eulogy for John Wilford, the dangerous country mentioned was printed as Columbia (which is in the USA) when it should have read Colombia (which is in South America).

Thank you.

Maureen Wilford

A Gentle Reminder

If you should lose a loved one, and do not want a church service, I am offering my help with arranging the funeral and organising the printing of your order service. I have had nearly 5 years' experience and have led the service for several Welford inhabitants working along side most local funeral directors.

I feel there is such a thing as a good funeral, and it is heartwarming for the bereaved if they feel they have said goodbye in loving way.

John Nicholas (575422 or
john.nick@btopenworld.com)

Come and Sing Carols 2023

Many thanks to those who flocked to the church on Christmas Eve to support this annual fundraising event in aid of Cynthia Spencer Hospice and The Children's Society. The church was full, the singing as enthusiastic as ever and the choir of 21 was, as always, a privilege to work with. Thank you to all those who donated to the magnificent collection of over £620 collected on the night. Further donations have meant that cheques for £450 have been sent to each of the charities. What a generous village we live in!

Alan and Ann Barraclough

A huge thank you to the Welford girl guides for organising and distributing the Christmas boxes, and to whomever it was that nominated me as a recipient.

Also, thank you to all my relatives, friends, and neighbours for the wonderful Christmas cards that I received throughout the festive period.

Audrey Bott

WELFORD in HARMONY

The recent Welford in Harmony concert held on 10th December 2023 in Welford Congregational Chapel raised the sum of £453.22. The Members of the Choir would like to thank all those who attended and who gave so very generously to enable us to split the sum between our two chosen Charities, the Chapel itself and the Springbridge Driving for the Disabled Group.

We are most grateful to the Chapel for allowing us to hold our weekly rehearsals in their lovely building with its excellent acoustics and to Lynne and Rachel who helped with the refreshments following the Concert..

Some of you may not know what Springbridge do, they are a purpose built complex based in Willoughby Waterleys which is run by two couples who devote themselves to giving those with disabilities the opportunity to drive a carriage, which can take a wheelchair if necessary, around the countryside. All the ponies and the carriages have been passed as fit for purpose by the governing body, Riding for Disabled (RDA) as have those who accompany them in the carriage. Currently there are about 6 ponies qualified under the RDA and there are other retired ponies who live in great luxury after having given years of service. Facilities include a large outdoor school, a covered walker so the ponies can be exercised if the weather is inclement, a comfortable club room with a kitchen and views over the fields and in the summer, outdoor seating with planters ablaze with flowers.

I first came to know of the group just over 20 years ago when my son died abroad in an accident. At the time he was working for BP and they gave a substantial sum in his memory. Patrick had always loved driving his pony and in his university holidays used to help at another Group, so hearing that Springbridge were seeking to start up a group and improve their facilities, the money went to them and the Clubroom has a plaque in his memory. HRH The Princess Royal formally opened the premises on 6th June 2005. Since then I have gone weekly when possible to help clean the harness. Springbridge is always pleased to see visitors so if anyone would like to visit them (bring your children as well) please contact me and I will be pleased to give you a guided tour. Perhaps wait until the summer so you can enjoy the flowers!

Maureen James. 575300. mhajames@gmail.com

An Update from Welford Guides: February 2024

Since the last round-up in October's Bugle, Welford Guides have continued to have lots of fun, all whilst building friendships, developing confidence, self-belief and team-work skills. Some highlights from most recent months include:

- Learning about binary code and making bracelets containing cryptic binary messages
- A Halloween party, with fun activities such as apple bobbing, eating donuts from a string without using hands and the classic chocolate on a plate game!
- Making and decorating Christmas ornaments with wonderful local potter, Lisa
- Making dioramas depicting scenes from the Nativity for entry in the competition organised by Church
- A Christmas party with plenty of festive food and some party games
- An ice skating trip at Whilton Locks Garden Village

One of the most important activities that the girls took part in before Christmas was the distribution of over 40 Community Christmas Boxes. Together with two parent helpers (and one leader who had the cushy job of transporting the boxes in the car!) ten Guides spent an afternoon walking around the village in chilly, drizzly weather, delivering boxes of festive goodies to those who had been nominated. The girls did a brilliant job and we're so proud of them for giving up their free time to help out in the local community. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed a box.

The new year has gotten off to a flying start with girls exploring the mechanics of keyhole surgery in our very first meeting of 2024. The girls were tasked with designing and creating an implement to retrieve a very small item from a cardboard box with two small holes cut into it: one through which to insert the implement, and the other through which to shine a light. They rose to the challenge and all groups successfully retrieved the item!

On Monday 15th January we welcomed Hilary Hunt from Trees for Welford and the girls took part in an informative workshop concerning the plans for tree planting within the village. They played the role of 'Tree Time Travellers' and considered where best to plant trees in order to protect the 'Guides of the Future' from the inevitable effects of the climate crisis we are facing.

The girls have many more fun activities planned this term, including exploring the science of baking and a trip to Flipout trampoline park at the end of March with other Guides from across the county.

Do you have a daughter aged between 4 and 14 (Rainbows, Brownies and Guides) who would like to join the Girlguiding adventure? Or would you like to get involved as a unit helper or leader? If so, please get in touch: welfordguides@gmail.com

It is so very rewarding to work with these wonderful girls each week and we are always looking for new members of the Girlguiding team, across Rainbows, Brownies and Guides.

Please see opposite for details on how you can help.



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Tel: 077144 89218 / 01858 575639
Email: kaslsmith64@outlook.com

FOCUS ON WELFORD BABES & TOTS



We meet every Friday morning at the Youth and Community Centre and offer friendly support (and lots of toys for our littlies) over a cuppa. Please come and join us.
Open 9.30-11am Entry £2 per child and 50p for siblings. FB page Welford Babes and Tots

Guitar Lessons Available

Experienced, friendly, affordable teacher & composer offering guitar lessons in Welford.

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or email Prelude42@hotmail.com

CharlieJamesGuitar.bandcamp.com

Can you help Welford Guides?

Janet Roberts and Jackie Hewes have been running Girlguiding units in Welford for the past 40 years. Originally, they ran the Brownie unit and then transferred to run Guides in 1998 when Betty Barlow retired and volunteers were found to run Brownies, but not Guides. It is now time for them to step back and hand over the weekly meetings to a new generation of leaders.

Niamh Bland has been leading the unit alongside Janet and Jackie for the past year, but we need new volunteers to work alongside her. You may have been reading the regular Bugle articles and are aware of all the brilliant things she and the unit have been doing over the past year.

Guides meet on Monday evenings during term time, from 7.30 to 9pm for varied activities with lots of laughter, fun and friendship.

Could you volunteer to join the leadership team and help keep these opportunities alive for current and future girls and young women living in and around the village?

Support and training is given to all volunteers, and Janet and Jackie will remain members of Girlguiding. They will be on hand to use their 80 years of combined experience to support the Guide, Brownie and Rainbow units in the village with help and advice, and will readily step in to provide cover at meetings when necessary.

Please consider giving something back to our wonderful community and volunteer to help keep Welford Guides alive

For more information contact: welfordguides@gmail.com

Janet Roberts: 07817 634066 | Jackie Hewes: 07796 333833 | Niamh Bland: 07837 579550

Churchyard extension mowing

As Spring approaches, it will not be long before we have to start mowing the church yard extension again.

Thanks to all our volunteers, I hope you all will continue with a similar slot to last year. It should be much easier this year with our new mowers.

A big thank you goes to Tony Perry for doing the opening mow probably in March to be followed by the rota of volunteers. If you feel you are no longer able to mow, then please let us know and thank you for your efforts over the past years. On the other hand, if you would like to join the happy band you would be very welcome. You can either do the whole area just once in a 2-week time period (this will take you 7 – 8 hours) or mow a quarter section usually 3 times in a 5-week period. Once we have got all the names for this year Sue will sort out the rota. You do get a sense of satisfaction when you have done your mow, and the nice comments we get from people visiting loved ones does make it the more worthwhile.

If you need to call us, we are on 575422, or Sue's email is s.e.nicholas@btopenworld.com

Josephine Gammage



Jose was born in Welford in 1944 and lived here for all of her 79 years. Many thanks to all the relatives and friends who came to her funeral on the 24th November.

Thanks go to Rev. Tony Avery for taking the service, and to Stamps the undertakers for their help.

Also a big thank you to Darren and his team at the Wharf for hosting everyone afterwards. Also, thanks to everyone for their cards and letters, from George Gammage and family.

Dave Thomas



Sadly Dave died suddenly on 4th January 2024, aged 77. He lived in the Leys about 30 years ago and was a frequent visitor to the Wharf and The Shoulder of Mutton. His daughter Sharon wanted to let those people who remember him know of his passing.

Bill Friend



Bill lived in Avon Fields for many years until he moved south to be nearer his family. He passed peacefully away in hospital with his family by his side, he was 89.

On a wet day just before Christmas, a group of young ladies from the First Welford Guides walked into the shop and bought a few sweets. One could have thought it was an excuse to stay out of the rain but it wasn't! They were bringing me nicely wrapped up Community Christmas box full of nice goodies.

I'd like to thank you girls for walking round the village in the rain to do good deeds. May I also thank the kind person(s) who nominated me, it was much appreciated.

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support. It's always a pleasure to serve you in the shop and the Post Office -or should I call it the Bank these days!!

Here for you all, Evelyne – Springfields shop



FREE Village

CPR & Defibrillator Training

With small donation to LOROS Hospice

15th February 2024

6.30pm – 8pm

@ Welford House, West End

Please sign up by calling

Danielle Measom:

07776262540

All are welcome from the village!



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Fridays, 9.30am – 11.00am

Welford Youth and Community Centre

£2.00

first



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



TREES
FOR WELFORD

In January, over 80 youngsters discussed, played games, shared their knowledge about trees and climate change, and created designs to plant trees on the Playing Field. Welford Explorers, Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies and Rainbows all actively participated in the consultations Trees for Welford held for them during their meetings at the Youth and Community Centre. All these youngsters regularly use the Playing Field for a few hours a week as groups, as part of their Scouting / Guiding activities. We challenged them to become Tree Time Travellers and imagine themselves in 50 years' time – they all had a coloured hat to wear, to help this transformation. Their task was to design a tree-planting scheme based on our professional arboriculturist's proposals, to transform the Playing Field into a space fit for Scouting and Guiding outdoor activities in 50 years when our weather will have become hotter, drier, wetter and stormier.

We have presented their ideas to the Parish Council, as part of the full evaluation of last November's consultation on planting trees in Welford's few spaces accessible by the public.

Contact: trees@welfordvillage.org.uk



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Green Welford

The Green Welford committee aims to champion our community's sustainable future. Below is a short summary of our latest endeavours and if you want to get involved, please email us: greenwelford@gmail.com

The Big Plastic Count

We would like to encourage as many households as possible in the village to take part in this year's Big Plastic Count. Nearly 100 billion pieces of plastic packaging are thrown away by UK households every year, but only 12% is recycled here in the UK. By taking part in the Big Plastic Count, you can help send a powerful message to the government asking them to get serious about tackling the plastic crisis.

To take part, simply register via the website (thebigplasticcount.com) to receive your free pack. Then from 11th-17th March, you'll need to tally all the plastic packaging you throw away during that week before submitting your results. This information will then be collated and used to inform future policies on single-use plastic. Thank you!

Recycling bin update

Thank you for continuing to use our recycling bins in the bus shelter – it's amazing how many packets of crisps Welford gets through in a week! We're also delighted to share that we have now raised over £300 for Doctors Without Borders via the printer ink recycling scheme.

Unfortunately, we have not yet found another scheme to recycle pill packets or medicine blister packs. This is incredibly frustrating as these were probably our most popular bins in the bus stop and on Newlands Road. We will continue to research options and update the village as soon as we have found an alternative waste stream.

Please remember that Terracycle have made some important changes to the Personal Care recycling scheme. From now on, we are only able to recycle make-up product packaging (e.g. eye shadow compacts, mascara tubes and wands, lipsticks, lip glosses and lip balms). Please do not drop off any hard plastic bottles (e.g. shower gel/shampoo bottles) or glass perfume/after shave bottles – these can simply go in the usual WNC blue-lidded household recycling bins. Any other flexible plastic packaging will need to go in your WNC black-lidded landfill bin.

Partnership with WSES

Our partnership with the School Eco Squad is going from strength the strength and it was wonderful to have 21 children join us for our most recent Eco Club session, where the children made pinecone birdfeeders and bird-friendly kebabs. They've hung them up around the school grounds to attract more birds ahead of completing the RSPB's Big Bird Watch later in February.

The Eco Squad have also come up with a brilliant motto that will continue to shape our partnership together:

"Let's unite and do what's right!"

EcoFika coffee morning

Every other Friday morning, we host a coffee morning in the Billiards Room at Welford Village Hall. We're open from 10am until 12pm, serving tea, coffee and a selection of home-made cakes.

These coffee mornings are the perfect opportunity to come and spend a couple of hours with fellow villagers, and perhaps chat about various eco themes if you so wish.

Upcoming dates are listed below:

9th & 23rd February

8th & 22nd March

5th & 19th April

Our coffee morning coincides with a visit from Rita the Refill Van – bring along your empty containers to buy anything from pasta, herbs and flour to shampoo or even washing up liquid. You'll be amazed at what's carried on board!

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Green Welford

Calendar of Events 2024

FEBRUARY

- 4th Vegan Sunday Lunch with Farrinheights @ WYCC 12:30-13:30
- 9th Rita The Refill Roadster & Coffee Morning @ VH 10:00-12:00
(THIS IS A RECURRING EVENT HAPPENING EVERY TWO WEEKS)

MARCH

- 9th Clothes & Toy Swap Event @ WYCC 10:30-12:30

JUNE

- 8th KIDSFEST 3.0 @ Welford Playing Field 10:00-15:00
- 21st Evening Wine Tasting Event with Duncan Murray @ Sportsfield
- 30th Clothes & Toy Swap Event @ Village Hall 10:30-12:30

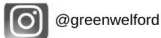
SEPTEMBER

- 22nd Clothes & Toy Swap Event @ Village Hall 10:30-12:30

DECEMBER

- 1st Christmas Swap Shop @ WYCC 10:30-12:30

For more information about any of these events, or to be added to our mailing list, please contact us on greenwelford@gmail.com



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Welford Youth Centre

New beginner slots starting on a Tuesday evening. Please enquire for further information.

Tuesday 9.30am
Intermediate - 2 spaces

Tuesday 5.45 & 7pm limited spaces

Wednesday 10am beginner full

Contact Anne: 07738119606
anne@simplybepilates.co.uk



Welford Rainfall



KEY:	Highest monthly rainfall					Lowest monthly rainfall					* Up to 25th
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jan	119.0	59.5	81.0	59.0	68.0	26.0	51.5	117.5	20.5	49.2	56.7*
Feb	74.0	41.0	43.0	59.5	29.0	31.0	121.0	47.0	89.0	7.0	
Mar	43.5	27.0	78.5	54.0	166.5	55.5	35.5	46.0	41.5	115.5	
Apr	31.0	25.5	50.0	10.5	65.0	15.0	35.0	9.0	23.5	56.0	
May	109.0	54.0	45.0	80.0	85.0	46.5	10.0	141.0	51.0	37.0	
Jun	69.0	26.0	77.5	52.0	1.0	148.5	66.0	43.5	34.5	44.0	
Jul	31.0	81.5	19.0	71.0	14.5	125.0	63.0	59.5	5.0	92.5	
Aug	95.5	53.0	56.0	78.5	52.5	79.0	140.0	40.0	22.0	39.2	
Sep	8.0	50.5	45.0	79.0	36.0	89.0	28.5	50.0	52.0	69.5	
Oct	73.0	60.0	35.0	21.5	46.0	153.0	153.0	84.0	119.2	115.2	
Nov	82.0	65.0	79.5	44.0	40.5	132.0	62.0	42.0	114.7	68.7	
Dec	54.0	75.0	24.0	100.5	67.5	100.0	139.0	81.0	48.7	110.7	
Total Rainfall (for year)	789.0	618.0	633.5	709.5	671.5	1000.5	904.5	760.5	621.6	804.5	56.7

Well, I think we can all agree that we saw considerable rain in the latter part of 2023 - December was the second wettest on the records we have. With December being exceptionally wet (110.7mm versus an average of 69.1mm), and 2023 being above average until then, the whole year ended well above average with 804.5mm of rain for the year against an annual average of 714.6mm. The rolling averages for the previous 4 and 10 year periods now show a marked up-tick in October and December rain levels compared to 'all-time' averages - we've had wetter ends to years.

Stuart Chadwick



The Welford Youth and Community Centre is available to hire.

Located on Welford Playing Field at the heart of the village 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.**

The comprehensive facilities include a modern kitchen that has just been refitted. It has a cooker and dishwasher, toilets including a disabled toilet, baby changing facilities and a separate meeting room. All of this at a very reasonable hourly rate.

Presently available: Daytimes – Monday, Tuesday pm, Wednesday pm, Thursday (except 3rd Thursday of month), Friday pm and Weekends.

Evenings – Saturday. During school holidays Friday to Monday evenings are available to hire.

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I have been driving local people for over 4 years now and it is a rewarding job, meeting and chatting to lots of people who are grateful for your help. Please help if you can.



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Experience new and exciting activities, whilst learning important life-skills, helping the community and making new friends! Anyone aged 8-11 is welcome!

Contact Stu (07540053712) or Issy (07775451148) for more details!



Where? Welford Youth & Community Centre

When? Friday 6-7:25
(term time only)

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Also, our 5* score for our kitchen
from environmental health

Nature Notes

Where are we in the year you might ask. We've had floods and frosts, dreary dull days and glorious bright sunny ones, ferocious winds and calm, peaceful interludes, and temperatures have varied widely too. Nature doesn't know where it is! Wallflowers have been unseasonably in flower, and all the usual spring flowers are blooming early, aconites are shining yellow, little cyclamen, daffodils in fat bud, crocuses and hellebores, all cheering a walk round the garden. Someone mentioned possible blizzards in February so maybe they've all taken the wrong cues from conditions.

As I write we are approaching Candlemas day, the 2nd February, a day that marks the return of light. The Christian festival commemorates the presentation of Jesus at the Temple in Jerusalem, referring to him as the light of the people of Israel. It is traditionally the 40th day of, and the conclusion of the Christmas-Epiphany Season. Some people leave their Christmas trees up until Candlemas. The days definitely are getting noticeably lighter both morning and evening. The flower that symbolises this festival is the snowdrop, and of course these are gracing our gardens at the moment. Studied closely the buds of snowdrops, like candle flames, can resemble hands clasped in prayer, making them a very appropriate symbol for this festival.

The winds have taken their toll. Garden fences have suffered, but a walk in the Hemploe woods shows just how many branches and trees have fallen. Even so, among the debris the occasional tiny bluebell leaf is appearing, a promise of glories to come.

It's the time of year of the Great British Bird count, and I have been watching the feeders and the skies. Lots of blue, long tailed and coal tits, robins, sparrows, wrens, blackbirds, jackdaws, pigeons, the occasional magpie and sailing the skies pairs of red kites. Nothing particularly unusual. I have seen field fares locally, though these are less numerous than usual. So many hedges are neatly trimmed, opening up the view, but depriving the birds of berries and shelter.

The fields and lanes have been very squelchy. Every time it dries up a little we get more rain, hiding the potholes and muddying the verges. Let's hope that February fill dyke doesn't live up to it's name and we can start to garden in earnest in the coming weeks.

Susie Bevin

Stamps for Bone Cancer

Thank you for all the stamps put through my letter box. I'll be posting them off in a couple of weeks, so if you have some to offer there is still time. Bring them to 5, West End.

Susie Bevin

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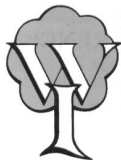
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BELL RINGING PRACTICE :



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

New ringers always welcome.



WELFORD W.I.

DECEMBER 2023 MEETING

30 members attended the December meeting which took the form of the Christmas Party. After the singing of Jerusalem, the President, Denise Bott, introduced Mr. David Tomkins, a Ventriloquist and Magician who entertained us with baffling tricks and singing ventriloquism with Roy Orbison, a dog, Abba, and an hilarious voice throwing to member Debbie Green. He finished with Elvis Presley and left to enormous applause. He was thanked by Denise Cattell accompanied by her dummy, Jane.

Members were invited to bring a sharing plate of food and the table was groaning with both savoury and sweet items. While members helped themselves to food and a glass of wine or cordial, Jane read out the November minutes which were signed as correct. Thanks were expressed to Christine O'Reilly for organising an evening meal at Casa Nostra in Market Harborough, to Pauline Underhill for organising the coffee club at Emerson and West and to Lynne Sharpley for laying our wreath at the Remembrance Service. The next craft afternoon will be on the 29th January and the coffee club will be Wednesday the 24th January (venue to be decided). There are six spare tickets booked for Singing in the Rain in August at Kilworth House. Anyone interested should contact Christine O'Reilly. There is a County walking tour of London from Euston to The Angel Islington on the 20th March and an outing to Middleton Hall on April 17th. The raffle organised by Pauline Underhill was won by Mary Crowther, Lynne Sharpley and Jane Cottrell. The meeting closed at 9.30.

The speaker in January is Caroline Bendix with a talk entitled Bound to Learn – A brief history of bookbinding and the competition is 'An Old Book'. Everybody welcome.

JANUARY 2024 MEETING

President, Denise Bott, welcomed 22 members and wished them all A Happy New Year. After the singing of Jerusalem the December minutes were read and signed and Denise thanked all who had contributed to the success of the Party. It was agreed that our nominated charity would receive £1,100, leaving a small amount to go forward to next year's choice. A card went round for suggestions for this, to be voted for in February. Lists also went round for 2024/2025 duties and Committee.

Julie Newman then read out short details of the four suggested resolutions to be voted on with buttons in a bowl, one of which will go forward to the National AGM. The winner was Dental Health Matters with 9 votes. Christine O'Reilly has booked the Pytchley for a lunchtime meal on Thursday 11th April, and the next coffee meeting will be in February (date and venue tbd). There are still 6 tickets spare for Singing in the Rain on 17th July. County outings include a walking tour in London, Middleton Hall and the National Flower Show. A skittles evening has been arranged on Thursday 25th January at Sue Walton's house in Sulby.

Our speaker, Caroline Bendix, then gave an informative and very entertaining talk about the history of bookbinding with many beautiful slides and fascinating facts. She was enthusiastically thanked by Alison Pryce.

Delicious refreshments were provided and served by Debbie Green, Gloria Hart and Sue Walton. The competition for an old book organised by Catherine Digby was won by Alison Pryce, 2nd Jane Cottrell and 3rd Julie Newman. The raffle organised by Ann Thorington for Christine O'Reilly, was won by Julie Bentham, Sue Wilson and Pauline Matthew. The meeting closed at 9.25.

The speaker for February is Susie Lickman 'Care of Houseplants' and the competition is A Plant Pot. Everybody welcome.

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Harborough Woodland Community Volunteers (HW)

South Leicestershire has a woodland coverage of 3 – 4% (Surrey's is 25%) and it is decreasing with Ash dieback.

Harborough Woodland is a not for profit community group set up in February 2020. It's aim is to increase woodland cover by planting trees and hedgerows and to reduce the risk of flooding through natural flood management (NFM). NFM schemes use vast numbers of trees and hedges. The roots, soil and fungi of one metre of mature hedge is a live sponge that can hold and slowly release 3 to 5m³ or tonnes of potential flood water (hedgelinek.org.uk)

Since February 2020 the group has:

- Planted trees and hedgerows at 30 sites over including schools, farms, private landowners, community reserves and pub gardens;
- Planted 34,000 trees equivalent to about 7 kms of hedgerows;
- Given 20 presentations to community and charity groups;
- Instigated 12 large area natural flood management schemes;
- Won three national environment awards, Coronation Champion, Leicestershire Award (Community Environment Project) and River Champion.

Over 400 volunteers have taken part in the planting, including individuals, families, school groups, Scouts and Guides groups. The "Greener Schools Group" set up through HW is supported by 30 schools, both primary and secondary, where over 600 trees were planted in December 2022 at no cost to the schools.

Events planned for 2023/24 include plantings at: Shoulder of Mutton in Foxton; Welham Lane (2 events); Belton in Rutland; Welford; Great Bowden farm; Primary schools/academies including Meadowdale, Lubenham and C of E on Fairfield Road. Should anyone want to get involved as a volunteer with admin or any of the planting events further information can be found at the following:

- Facebook: Harborough Woodland Community Volunteers, Friends of River Welland Catchment, Natural Flood Management UK;
- Instagram: Harboroughwoodland;
- Twitter: @harboroughwood1;
- Website: harboroughwoodland.com;
- E-mail: info@harboroughwoodland.com



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WHERE DO I SIGN UP?

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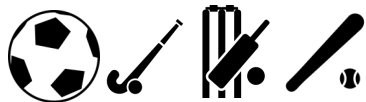
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WELFORD WORLD OF SPORT...

UPDATES FROM THE SPORTS FIELD ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER CLUBS



CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT RAISES JUST UNDER £300 FOR CALM

A charity quiz night at the clubhouse on Friday 1st December raised £289.50 for the Campaign Against Living Miserably, a charity that aims to prevent suicide amongst men.

Written and hosted by our Welfare Officer, Josh Towers to coincide with the end of Movember, about 30 players, committee members and partners took on rounds inspired originally by A Question of Sport, but eventually incorporating music, popular culture, general knowledge and even spot-the-ball.



Although a raucous (riotous, even), occasion, the night conveyed the hugely important message that speaking about emotions and mental health is not a weakness, quite the opposite in fact. In a poignant and emotional half-time interval, two videos were shared from members of the FC family who have been through (and come through) mental health issues in the last couple of decades. Their message: it's okay to not feel okay, a problem shared is a problem halved and – as a Football Club community – we are here for anyone who may be struggling.

The final total included very generous donations made directly to CALM by two committee members and the prize money that the winning team kindly put back into the pot. The Football Club donated bar profit from the evening as well

CHARITY CALENDAR RAISES NEARLY £900

With just ten of our charity calendars left to sell, we have raised £887 for PSC Support. If you want to help us get closer to the magic £1,000, you can find details on our website:

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The fixture computer at the Northampton and District Youth Alliance League threw up an interesting one for us on the first Saturday of December, pitting our U8s Sky Blue team at home against our U8s Maroon team. (Or was it the other way round? We can't quite be sure). Both teams are new to the club this year, having grown out of our wonderful Wednesday training group. They play each other again in April after their planned fixture in January fell foul to the wintry weather (and a frozen pitch)

League positions as at 22nd January 2024

Welford Victoria (Leicestershire)
Leicestershire County Football League
Division 1

2nd place P12 W8 D1 L3



Welford Victoria (Northamptonshire)
Northamptonshire Combination
Division 3

7th place P18 W8 D2 L8



Welford Victoria (Veterans)
Northamptonshire Sunday Combination
Veterans League B

8th place P8 W1 D1 L6





2024 SEASON

SENIOR CRICKET

Adults & 16+ (with existing junior cricket experience)

8 x Sunday Afternoon friendly matches now confirmed starting Sunday May 12th. Full details are on the Club's Facebook page with further matches to be confirmed. Open to both men and women; new players very welcome

INDOOR NET PRACTICES

Seniors, Youths & Juniors

Currently on hold pending changes to external booking arrangements at Guilsborough Academy Sports Hall. Further details to follow.

OUTDOOR NET PRACTICES

To start at Welford Sportsfield on Friday 19th April at 6.00pm for Seniors/Youths aged 16+ (with existing Junior Cricket experience). U11 & U13 'Hardball' coaching sessions tbc and will be dependent upon the level of interest registered with us over the next few months

ECB "ALLSTARS" (ages 5 to 8) and "DYNAMOS" (ages 8 to 11) SOFTBALL PROGRAMMES

Will run in conjunction with Yelvertoft/Houlton CC again on Saturday mornings at Yelvertoft Playing Fields from early May to the end of July. Full details including how to sign up, costs and personalised kit (provided) will be confirmed in February.

To register interest or for any further information about any of our initiatives for the 2024 season please contact:

- Robin (Bennettrobinb@aol.com) **07774 839299**
- Chris (chris_sheldrick@hotmail.com) **07869 294032**

2024 SEASON CRICKET FIXTURE LIST

- 🏏 Sunday May 12th vs Crick Lions CC (Home)
- 🏏 Sunday June 2nd vs Abington Phoenix CC (Home)
- 🏏 Sunday June 23rd vs Crick Lions CC (Away)
- 🏏 Sunday June 30th vs WVFC (Home)
- 🏏 Sunday July 14th vs Bourton & Frankton (Away)
- 🏏 Sunday July 28th vs North Kilworth CC (Home)
- 🏏 Sunday September 8th vs Willoughby CC (Away)



WELFORD SPORTS FIELD ASSOCIATION

NOTICE OF SPORTSFIELD AGM

All are invited to the annual general meeting of Welford Sports Field Association:

When: Tuesday 27th February 2024 at 7:30pm

Where: Welford Sports Field Club House

If you'd like to come along to find out about our plans and even get involved, we'd love to see you there. The bar will be open.

100 CLUB DRAWS

Thanks to all members for their continuing support

November

£150 Jane Bland (15)

£50 Julian Howell-Jones (58)

December

£300 Stacy Hall (51)

£100 Geoff Harris (33)

January

£150 Catherine Digby (59)

£50 Ant Raisbury (70)

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One of our biggest fundraisers is our 100 Club, where for just £5 per month you get 10 chances to win £100 or £50 and two chances to win £300 or £150 over the course of 12 months. Entry to the club is open every July and January, so we are accepting new members for the New Year now. The funds from the 100 Club help us keep the facility in good working order and available, so every member's contribution is hugely appreciated.



Please email 100clubwsfa@gmail.com



WELFORD SPORTS FIELD ASSOCIATION

JOIN OUR CLUBS

HOCKEY

Training (from September 2023)

KS1: Sunday 09:00 -10:00
@ Naseby Playing Fields

KS2 & Secondary:
Wednesday, 19.00-20.00
@ Lutterworth Academy

16+ & Adults: Wednesday,
20:00-21.00
@ Lutterworth Academy

welfordmhc@hotmail.com
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ROUNDERS

The ladies Rounders team's season runs from April to August inclusive, with matches or training typically on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday evenings

EllieScullion@outlook.com

FOOTBALL

Welford Victoria Football Club's season runs from August to May but training is all year round on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evenings. Junior teams play Saturday morning, adult teams play Saturday afternoons and Veterans (35+) play Sunday mornings

info@welfordvictoria.com
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CRICKET

Seniors play from April to September, with matches on a Sunday and net practice on Friday evening. Other sessions outlined on previous page

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14th Ash Wednesday

MARCH 2024

1st St Davids Day

10th Duke of Edinburgh

13th Commonwealth Day



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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

Yoga for All 10.00-11.30am	VH(MH)
Bell-Ringing 1 st and 3 rd 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)
Welford in Harmony 7.30—9.00pm	CPL

TUESDAYS

Intermediate Pilates 9.30-10.30am	WYCC
Intermediate Pilates 6.00-7.00pm	WYCC
Intermediate Pilates 7.15—8.15pm	WYCC
GN Coffee Morning 1st week 10-12.30	VH(MH)
Short Mat Bowls 7.00-8.30pm	VH(MH)
ISE 10.00-4.00pm 2nd in Month	VH(MH)
Bridge 7.30-10.00pm 1st & 3rd of the month	VH(BR)
Mending Circle 7.30-9.00pm 2nd of the month	VH(BR)

WEDNESDAYS

Welford Watercolourists 9.00am-12.00	VH(BR)
Gardening Club 3rd week 7.00-9.45pm (September—May)	VH(MH)
Welcome Club 2 nd week 2.00-4.00pm	VH(BR)
Football U9s (Y4 & below), Colts (16+), Vets (35+) From 6.15pm	WSF
Beginners Pilates 10.00-11.00am	WYCC
Set the pace fitness club 7pm-8pm	WYCC

Hockey Training

KS2 / Secondary 7.00-8.00pm	LUT
16+ / Adults 8.00-9.00pm	LUT

THURSDAYS

Parish Council 4 th week 7.30pm	VH(MR)
Women's Institute 2nd week 7.30-10.00pm	VH(MH)
Village Hall Meeting 4th week 3.30pm	VH(BR)
Yoga with Carla 7pm-8pm	WYCC

FRIDAYS

Babes and Tots 9.30 - 11.00am	WYCC
Bosworth Tots 9.30 - 11.30am	HBVH
Beaver Scouts 6-8 years 5.00-6.00pm	WYCC
Cub Scouts 6.00-7.30pm	WYCC
Scouts 7.30-9.00pm	WYCC
Rita the Refill Van & Coffee Morning 10am-12 alternate Weeks, starting 2/9/22	VH(BR)

MONDAY - FRIDAY

Welford Pre-school 9.15 - 3.15pm	PSM
Breakfast club 7.45am - School start	PSM
After School Club. End of School - 5.30pm	PSM

SATURDAYS

Blockhead Quilters 9.15am-4.15pm 2nd of the month	VH(MH)
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SUNDAYS

<u>Hockey Training</u>	
Juniors (KS1 9.00-10.00am)	NPF
Explorer Scouts 14-18 yrs 7.00-8.30pm	WYCC

EVENTS

FEBRUARY

10th Charity Coffee & cake morning	VH(BR)
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MARCH

2nd Casino Royal Casino night	WYCC
9th Sportsfield Quiz Night	WYCC
9th Clothes and Toy swap	WYCC
27th—29th WADS - We Happy Few	VH

VENUES:

CAGC	Cold Ashby Golf Club
CH	Church
CPL	Chapel
PSM	Pre-School Mobile
PP	Pocket Park
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
WW	Welford Wharf
RC	Rugby College
NKA	North Kilworth All weather
NSC	Naseby Sports Court
WTC	Welford Tennis Club
YPF	Yelvertoft Playing Fields
NPF	Naseby Playing Fields
HBVH	Husbands Bosworth Village Hall

For further information or to have your dates listed please contact us on welfordbugle@outlook.com Keep up to date with events or advertise on www.welfordvillage.co.uk or follow @Welfordvillage on twitter.