

# The Welwyn Magazine



**November 2020**

*[www.welwyn.org.uk](http://www.welwyn.org.uk)*

**60p**

# CONTENTS

## November 2020

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St Mary's Churchwardens

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Send by 1st of preceding month.

Include your contact details.

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

or place in the 'Magazine'

pigeon hole in St Mary's church

marking items 'Magazine'.

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The Rector's letter.....	3
Jessie the Rectory Dog .....	5
Patient Participation Group .....	5/7
Welwyn Natural History Society .....	9/11
Remembering Margaret Swift .....	13- 19
Magazine Subscriptions.....	19
Neighbourhood Watch.....	21
Welwyn Parish Council.....	22/23
Ethiopia, Part 1.....	24/25
We're back!.....	26/27
Halloween wordsearch.....	28
The Cassock (A cartoon by Dave Walker) ....	30
Parish Registers .....	32
Beatitudes for a pandemic .....	32
News from Ayot St Peter.....	34
Woolmer Green Parish Council.....	36/38
Friends of Danesbury and QVM .....	40
Presentation to Dominic .....	42
Church Notice Boards .....	44/46
Meditation.....	48

### Editor's Note:

We normally publish reports on activities and meetings occurring in the village but these activities have inevitably been cancelled due to Covid-19. Hence, therefore, there is little to report!

We would welcome any articles on local matters from our readers. Please send details on e:mail to:

[magazine@welwyn.org.uk](mailto:magazine@welwyn.org.uk) or contact St Mary's church office on **01438 840964**

### EDITOR'S NOTES

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

*The Editors reserve the right to shorten or omit articles or refuse advertisements.*

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# The Rector's Letter

Dear Friends,

Just over a year ago I was staying in and cycling around the Vosges mountains in Alsace, France. It was a wonderful two weeks holiday, and a return to an area I had ridden through on my way to Rome the previous year. Both now seem an age away, as yet another return to the region was cancelled a couple of months back. And yet although an age away, the memory is still very present. As with most strong memories one can remember a large amount of details, about the sights, smells and sounds as one rode along – and if I sit back and recall them now it is almost as if I can transport myself there.

Whilst riding around last year I was reminded that of course the region was not always so untroubled – I came across the stark reminder of several war cemeteries when Alsace was on the front line of twentieth century conflict. Of course I could have no direct memory of those terrible times, but standing looking at the graves, and imagining what it must have been like fighting in that hard mountainous terrain, particularly in the depths of winter.

Those two faculties – memory and imagination – are far more developed in human beings than in any other creature. And as we use them we

probably rarely take the time to appreciate what extraordinary faculties they are. In particular the ability we have to transport ourselves to another time and

place, and indeed to put ourselves in the place of another human being. For those of us who read, and can get totally immersed in a book, the power of literature is that it even allows a third party to take us and place us in someone else's skin, merely through the power of words written on a page. It is extraordinary.

November is a month of remembrance, both generally of the departed and also in particular of those who have died in war. Few of us – thank God – have direct memory of conflict, but alongside what memories we do have, we have imagination, faculties, which allow us to be truly grateful, and perhaps most importantly to offer us the determination to use the gifts of peace and freedom wisely and well.



David



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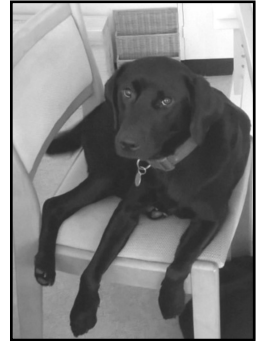
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## JESSIE—The Rectory Dog

If you thought October was good with all those windfalls, and harvest festivals etc .... Just you wait until we get until November. By that time the few windfalls which I haven't already discovered and eaten, will have done something marvellous at the hands of mother nature – they will have fermented. Yes that's it, the apples etc. will have become a rather unrefined form of cider. As you may know animals have a much lower tolerance of alcohol, so whilst master is quite clear that giving any form of alcohol to me is a very bad idea, the mere smell or taste of it foraged in the woods is enough to send me slightly tipsy. However you will be reassured to know that at that point I act like a responsible adult, and although I usually drive to the woods, I hand the keys over to master to drive us home...

Jess



It is really important that people do not neglect their general health during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. At the moment it can be hard to know what to do if you're unwell but it is vital to get medical help if you need it.

Bridge Cottage Surgery are still carrying out face to face appointments when needed following an initial telephone consultation. You will be asked by the reception team to give a brief description of the nature of the issue you wish to discuss, which will help them book the right person in the right time frame. Patients are asked to call at 8am for a morning call back and 12noon for an afternoon one. If the clinician decides you need to be seen face to face, they will arrange to see you. Many issues can be dealt with quickly and safely over the phone, saving you an unnecessary trip to the surgery and reducing the risk of spreading Covid-19 to you and the



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Surgery staff.

Advanced booking is available with Bridge Cottage Surgery nurses with Face to face appointments for baby immunisations, blood pressure checks, B12 injections, coil checks, dressings, ear syringing, hormone injections, pneumonia vaccinations, shingles vaccinations and smear tests.

**During this time do not put off having any immunisations or screenings that you are eligible for. Bridge Cottage is operating in a COVID safe manner.**

If you are unwell or need assistance then contact the surgery on 01438 715044 or use the eConsult service (accessible <https://www.bridgecottagesurgery.nhs.uk> ) Bridge Cottage Surgery is open for patients to be able to collect any relevant paperwork that has been instructed by a clinician. They ask that patients continue to drop any samples or paperwork via the black front door letter box rather than bringing to the reception desk and to telephone the Surgery instead of entering the building. This will protect both patients and staff of Bridge Cottage Surgery against unnecessary exposure to the virus.

If you do have an appointment please do not attend if you, or anyone you have had close contact with, develops a continuous cough, a high temperature or loss of taste or smell.

This information was accurate as of 28th September 2020.

If you would like further information about the Bridge Cottage Surgery Patient Participation Group please email [ppgbridgecottage@gmail.com](mailto:ppgbridgecottage@gmail.com)

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# Welwyn Natural History Society

## *Of course, I got it wrong last month!!*

After hoping that we could actually have a 'live' meeting, the committee then decided that it was not safe and that we would proceed on Zoom. So far, so good, but then the speaker cancelled due to illness ... apologies to all those who were ready and waiting. We are very grateful nevertheless to Claudia Harflett for offering to host these Zoom meetings and I am really hoping that the October one will have taken place on 28<sup>th</sup> by the time you read this. Should you get this magazine in time, please use Claudia's contact details for access: [claudia.harflett@gmail.com](mailto:claudia.harflett@gmail.com) (preferred) or 07754145029 (after 7pm). In case you have forgotten, Harry Bott, who farms in Benington will be telling us how farming has changed through the ages – and no doubt emphasising how this has affected the wild life in our surroundings.



It has been decided that these Zoom meetings will be open to all, whether you are a member or not. Hopefully, this will persuade all who are not presently members to become one next year?



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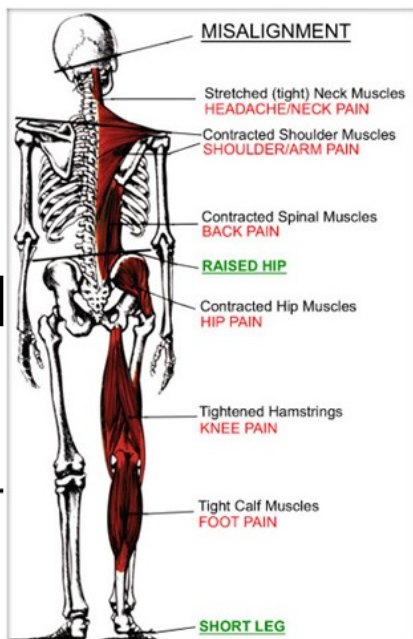
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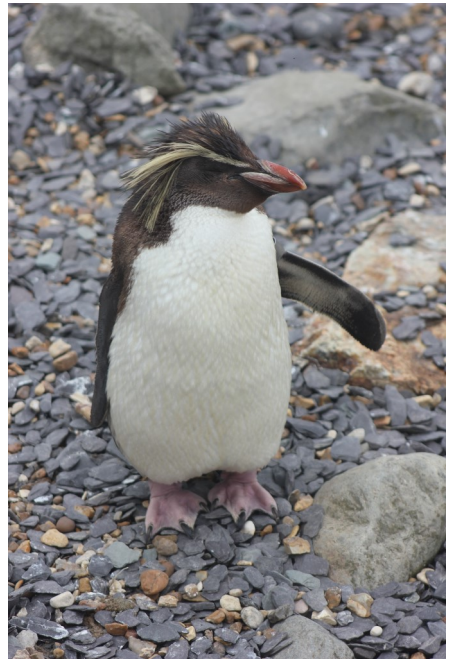
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## WNHS (continued from p 9)



Following that, on November 25th, we are delighted that Robin Cole will again be appearing on Zoom to tell us about what he describes as 'the best holiday of my life' when he went to Antarctica last year in particular to get acquainted with the penguins. I know that he has already given this talk elsewhere and he tells me that there are a number of video clips included. ... it sounds to be fascinating.



Please contact Claudia as above to join the meeting if she hasn't already got your details.

The December meeting, when we normally get together with Christmas Goodies and try our hands at a quiz will sadly be cancelled. I wonder if it will be able to go ahead next year? And so, to our AGM on 27<sup>th</sup> January.... a date for members' diaries.

If you need to check anything ...

1. Our website: [welwynnaturalhistorysociety.co.uk](http://welwynnaturalhistorysociety.co.uk)
2. Our Facebook page: Welwyn Natural History Society

Judith Watson

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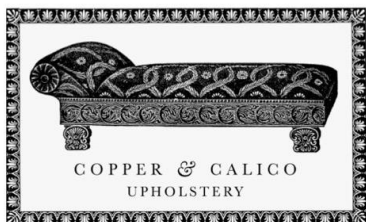
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## Remembering Margaret Swift

Firstly, may I thank all who sent so many cards and messages.

Margaret was a very private person and quite reticent and very modest about her achievements and qualities. I only wish I could sit down with her and we could read them together – they speak volumes.

Thank you.

I also say thank you to Isabel Hospice and the Community Nurses here in Welwyn, who, working together and with Bridge Cottage Surgery, provided invaluable help in the last week of Margaret's life, enabling Margaret to be at home. We are very blessed to have such services and such dedicated, professional and caring people here in Welwyn.

Margaret was born in 1940 in the early years of the War in Knotty Ash, yes, amongst the Diddy Men and Jam Butty Mines of Ken Dodd's fantasy. Indeed, Ken and his Dad delivered coal to the Adams' household and Margaret's Dad used to engage Ken, then a

triloquist, for the firm's Christmas parties and

Masonics. Dad was an industrial chemist, specialising in leather, and their Mum was a dressmaker and teacher. Her paternal Grandfather in 1878 was a founder shareholder of Everton Football Club – you can't beat



that for a pedigree can you.

Margaret transferred from St John's Junior School in Knotty Ash to an Independent Church of England School on the other side of the City called St Edmunds (a daily 40-minute bus and tram ride in those days). She prospered there and won a much-prized Lancashire Scholarship, giving her a choice of independent schools. She elected to stay at St Edmunds into the senior school.

Now this is very significant as the family moved in 1951 to the leafy suburb of Mossley Hill to be nearer to the school. The real significance is that they moved to No. 11 South Mossley Hill Road. Now at No. 16 South Mossley Hill Road there



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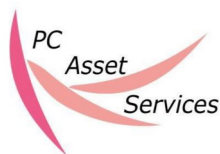
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## Remembering Margaret (Continued)

lived a rather pesky young lad, called John Swift, and he and his mates saw the arrival of two girls with pig-tails as providing excellent target practice for snow balls (we had proper winters in those days), a bit of hair-tugging and general teasing – and so it was.

Margaret was in the Girl Guides (and I always had an interest in the Girl Guides), we were in the Church Youth Group together, the church pantomime run by her Father and had a number of mutual friends.

So over time our relationship changed somewhat and we became one another's "best friend" for 65 years – quite remarkable really. We shared an interest in music, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society, a love of the Lake District (our spiritual home), travel, a close group of friends and, although not a sportswoman herself other than swimming, she shared my interests in soccer, rugby, tennis, golf, squash and, more latterly of course, horse racing.

Margaret and sister Jen enjoyed a close family life with their parents, her favourite Aunt Win and other close relatives and friends and they had many fun holidays.

Margaret continued to prosper at school, she was quite studious and read at an incredible speed and became a Prefect. After A levels, she went to teacher training college in Becketts Park, Leeds – a 2-year course

in those days – so I got to know the A62 over the Pennines very well.

Margaret returned to Liverpool and taught geography and dressmaking in junior and secondary schools. She was very dedicated to her work, highly regarded by successive Heads and became Head of Department. Seeing the development of individual pupils gave her great satisfaction. Out of school, she also taught at Sunday School and ran a brownie pack as Brown Owl.

Dress has always been very important to Margaret - always smart and appropriate and never to excess or over-stated. She found it difficult to part with things and her wardrobe at the end was really a social history of fashion – some lovely things which I remember well. She also liked "make-do and mend" – a wartime/post-war trait I think.

Margaret had a great sense of humour and a ready smile and laugh. We rarely had a dull moment.

We were married in Mossley Hill Church in 1965. In time, Richard and Colin arrived and we began a very lively and fulfilling family life. I must pay tribute to Margaret as I had a career which was demanding of time and involved much travel and Margaret took

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## Remembering Margaret (Continued)

much of the load of family life and organisation. I couldn't have done what I did without her. She contributed much to Richard's and Colin's upbringing. Family was the centre of Margaret's life and we enjoyed much fun on holidays in North Wales and the Lakes in particular.

In 1979 we moved to Welwyn, just as house prices took a leap and there were very few houses on the market. Not knowing Hertfordshire at all, we scoured the district in proximity to Welwyn Garden and I recall someone saying that St Mary's School in Welwyn was good. We came to a service at St Mary's one Sunday morning and we immediately felt "at home". We went to an estate agent that day and he had just received instruction for a house in Carleton Rise and that settled that. So, St Mary's played a major role in our decision.

We settled to family life here in Welwyn, Richard and Colin going to St Mary's School and then on to St Albans.

Margaret settled into St Mary's, taught in the Sunday School in the AMM building (now Holly Hall), served as PCC Secretary for 15 years with Terence Wenham and Geoffrey Tristram, managed the adverts for the Parish Magazine (in the good old cut and paste days), served coffee in Old

Church House and at the back of church and on occasion made up the numbers in the choir at weddings (she regarded herself as a cardboard cut-out!!).

During all of this, Margaret and Jen spent much time caring for their parents in Liverpool who both endured long illnesses. It was a necessary, devoted but very demanding time for them both over a long period.

Margaret again gave me much support in the various things I have been involved in at St Mary's – choir, church wardenship, building of New Church House, men's breakfasts and concerts - She helped me in all of these things and again I couldn't have done them without her.

I think it all adds up to a life of genuine service to family, friends, young people and successive schools and churches and huge support for me.

In the late 90s, we had the opportunity to live for a few years in California and Florida. We enjoyed this experience so much and particularly when family joined us for their holidays. It was a very special time.

We have been blessed with four Grandchildren, Hannah, William, Molly and Jack and they have brought us



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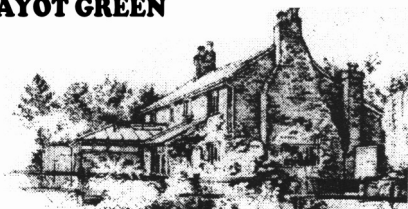






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## Remembering Margaret

great joy. Margaret revelled in seeing them, playing with them and hearing of their activities and achievements. She was a very natural and loving Grannie.

The last decade was difficult for Margaret, battling a number of health issues which were very frustrating and restricting for her. We tried to keep things as normal as possible and, even in latter days, we had many very enjoyable occasions. Family has been so important and Margaret and I are very proud of them all. Sister Jen has given such valuable help also.

When hearing of the activities and

achievements of our sons and grandchildren, Margaret at times remarked “You know, we must have done something right”.

Well Margaret did a lot that was right and we give thanks for all her love and for everything she gave and meant to us. To say we miss her is a huge understatement but she is now in God’s good hands, living on, in the love of us all.

Amen, John

## THE WELWYN MAGAZINE—Subscriptions

We are pleased that from September we have resumed printing and distributing the parish magazine. We shall continue publishing it on the Welwyn web site for the remainder of this year. As we explained earlier we should have collected subscriptions back in May but lockdown prevented this being done. We have decided to postpone asking for subscriptions until May 2021 when we will be asking for £10 which will cover magazines which will have been distributed up to May 2021 plus the year’s subscription for the magazines to be distributed from May 2021 onwards. The individual magazine price will remain at 60p. We hope that this will be acceptable.

The Magazine Committee

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## Welwyn Miscellany

Well how is that for a word? Not Welwyn, the other one! Pulled from the same drawer as compendium and probably used just as infrequently these days.

Though older readers would be considered more likely to fall victim to scams, younger readers who are generally more “savvy” are not immune. Having more on their plates than their elders, they may have less time to consider emails, texts and calls before responding. And they may be more influenced by social media. It’s been reported recently that thousands of pounds have been lost by young people betting on foreign exchange (FX) trading platforms, an activity that’s run from outside the UK and consequently slips through the net of the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). Bingo seems tame by comparison.

Other frauds have occurred when older people have searched online for “best savings accounts” and been misled into investing in fraudulent funds or bonds. A sense of urgency can be felt when favourable rates of interest are stated as ending soon. The status of institutions can be checked using the register on the FCA’s website before parting with any cash. That’s [www.fca.org.uk](http://www.fca.org.uk).

Did you read during August in the national press that “thefts fall by half during lockdown”? That headlined an article derived from crime reported during April and May in England and Wales, though in the actual article it said that thefts were “*almost* half the level recorded last year”. In Welwyn we like to be different, don’t we? Not part of the herd. Here during April to July, thefts *increased* to 33 from 19 in the same period of 2019. Not quite twice the level but approaching that.

Commenting on her recent appointment in place of Sgt Ian Smith, our new Safer Neighbourhood Sgt Emma Francis said that she wanted to bring a victim-focused approach to policing. She appears to have plenty of scope for that. During lockdown, the number of people accessing Victim Support Services nationally increased by 31%. Reflecting the national trend, Violence and Sexual Offences reported in Welwyn in July this year were 33% higher than the same month in 2019.

John Mitchell and Valerie Richards

[www.owl.co.uk/herts](http://www.owl.co.uk/herts)

## WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL



I hope you are all safe and well as we continue to help ourselves and each other during this difficult time.

I write these articles every month but I did wonder if our residents actually know what we do and are responsible for. Welwyn Parish Council provides and manages local services and buildings in the Parish.

These include the sports pitches and play areas in Ottway walk, Welwyn Cemetery, free car parks at Lockleys Drive, High Street Welwyn, Titmuss Yard, Broomfield Road, Ottway Walk and the lower and upper car parks at the Whitehill Centre. We provide the land for the allotments on Lockleys Drive and hire out the facilities at the Civic Centre, Whitehill Centre and the Pavilion. The Civic Centre has discount community and resident rates and we also consider grant aid for local groups. From September the Council has been able to open the large hall at the Civic Centre and one hall at the Whitehill Centre. A risk assessment has been done to ensure the safety of all our hirers and of course we are following Government guidelines. The Council is also responsible for the grass cutting at Welwyn Cemetery and at St Mary's Closed Churchyard.

The above are our day by day responsibilities but we are involved in many issues in our Parish. We work with the Welwyn Planning and Amenities Group (WPAG), the Welwyn Parish Planning Group (WPPG) and also the Digswell Residents Association (DRA) to ensure that we are doing all that we can for the Parish Residents.

Many events that we would normally be holding at this time of year will, unfortunately, not take place this year due to the Pandemic. Our Christmas lights will again be lighting up the village, Oaklands/Mardley Heath and Digswell but we will not be able to have the ceremony that we all enjoy at the beginning of December. The competition we hold for the children will have to be changed to keep within the Covid guidelines but, as I write this in October, we are working on the best way to do this.

When you read this in November our children will be aware of our competition plans and will, hopefully, be keen to take part.

In recent articles I have written about the Neighbourhood Plan. We had

hoped to get the survey out to residents by now but, due to the cost, we need a grant to get started. We have been frustrated at the delay in being able to apply for this but the application has been completed and we hope every resident will soon receive a copy of the survey.

Our meetings are still taking place via Zoom. We miss the face to face interaction and discussion but, like many others, are finding that Zoom is better than not being able to meet. Our Community Engagement Committee provides a platform for groups and individuals to come forward with ideas and projects that Welwyn Parish Council can support, offer guidance, expertise and funding information. We are always happy to help develop sustainable projects, particularly schemes that will benefit children and teenagers in our Parish. Our Climate Emergency Group is working hard to achieve our aim of getting the Parish Carbon Neutral by 2030. We hope to move this forward more quickly, when the Pandemic allows.

I would like to thank all the Parish Council Staff and of course the councillors. The work we do would not be possible without the commitment and support we receive from them. It has been a challenging time for our staff but they do a wonderful job. Caroline, our Clerk, is working incredibly hard to learn her new role, train Alex our new Deputy Clerk and cope with the difficulties that Covid 19 has brought. Alex is also working hard to get up to speed in her new job. We thank them and John our groundsman, Susan our Administration Officer and Sue who looks after the Whitehill Centre. MPS takes care of the Civic Centre for us and also offer advice when needed.

As always we welcome constructive comments and ideas from residents and business owners. If you would like to get involved with any issues please contact our Clerk, Caroline Williams at [clerk@welwynpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@welwynpc.org.uk) or telephone 01438 716667.

Thank you for reading this article. We have to follow the Government Guidelines which sometimes means changes may have to be put in place at short notice. I apologise if this results in any of the information which, correct at time of writing, is now different. Keep well and stay safe.

Marj Otty, Chair Welwyn Parish Council



# ETHIOPIA. Part 1. The historical background



Ethiopia is a large, land-locked country about six times the size of the British Isles. It is surrounded by five other African countries: Sudan, Kenya, Somalia, Djibouti and Eritrea. Much of the country is high plateau with mountains, making travel tedious and often difficult, although today, internal flights are rapid and efficient. It can be divided into three areas: the historical north, the Rift Valley, which starts from the bottom of the Red Sea and runs diagonally across the country, scattered with beautiful lakes and abundant wild life and the mountains and caves in the south.

Ethiopia is very tribal with about 83 languages or dialects. The official language is Amharic, seen on notices and heard over loudspeakers. The people themselves vary greatly, ranging from those in the north with almost European features (and beautiful smiles) to those more typically of African origin in the south. Children learn three languages at school – Amharic, their own dialect and English. In the extreme south, where the old form of tribal life continues, it is often difficult to get the children to school – let alone stay sitting and listening to a teacher for a few hours.

The modern capital is Addis Ababa, a thriving metropolis. Gonder was the old capital and Lalibela is well-known for its 11<sup>th</sup> C AD rock-cut churches. There is a cathedral at Addis Ababa, with a most beautiful altar of carved wood. Wonderful wood carvings abound in many buildings and the artwork often depicts legends of Ethiopian fables. In the grounds of the cathedral there is a museum dedicated to Haile Selassie, who ruled for the best part of sixty years until he was



overthrown in 1974 by a military coup. His pre-coronation name was Ras Tafari Makonnen, from which the Rastafarian cult in Jamaica got its cause and impetus. Also in the grounds was a monument to Sylvia Pankhurst and her son, Richard, who both lived in the country for many years. Richard was a lecturer at the local university.

In the 4<sup>th</sup> C AD, Axum (Aksum) was the centre of a vast Axumite empire, incorporating countries on both sides of the Red Sea. Prior to this, trade between Asia and Europe had to take the long sea route around the Horn of Africa, but with the opening up of the Red Sea, goods could travel across country from Asia and then up to the Mediterranean via Sudan and Egypt. Trade included ivory,

incense, gold, silks, dyestuffs and exotic animals.

At the centre of Axum are several huge stelae, inscribed with an ancient language, marking the burial sites of early kings. There is also a large, quite modern cathedral with a very tall, separate bell-tower. Inside, it has a sense of openness, with brightly coloured murals.



Christianity was introduced via the Coptic religion and was declared the state religion in 330 AD by King Ezana.

There is an early reference to an Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8; 26- 36 which begins 'Like a sheep he was brought to the slaughter and like a lamb, silent before its shearer'. There are a few Roman Catholic and Evangelical churches, but the majority practise a form of Eastern Orthodox religion. Popular biblical readings are taken from the Book of Mary. There is also quite a large Muslim following, the centre of which is at Harar, a city towards the east.

Before Christianity, Judaism was practised as the Ethiopians firmly believe that their Kings date back to the time of Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. It is possible to visit what is claimed to be the remains of the Queen of Sheba's palace, situated at the top of a windy plateau just north of Axum. There is also a pool in which she is supposed to have bathed. Also just north of Axum is a small church believed to hold the Ark of the Covenant, which was brought from Jerusalem for safe keeping when the son of Solomon and the Queen returned from a visit to his father.

Part 2 to follow: The countryside and its people.

Daphne Skinner

## We're back!

After what seems like forever, we are finally back, singing in church. The choir, well a tiny part of the choir, has returned at last. Of course, it's not the same but it is a small step in the right direction and we are very grateful to be able to get back on duty.

So, what has changed? For the choir and Linden – a lot.

Firstly, choir practice has to take place in the chancel and it is limited to a maximum of one hour. We usually rehearse for an hour and a half every week, so this is a considerable reduction in time. Also, the lighting in the chancel is a bit patchy, so some people can see their music beautifully, others struggle because of where they are sitting and, of course, moving your seat is strictly forbidden. Each chorister has his or her seat and the position of that seat has been carefully worked out so that it is at least two metres from every other seat in all directions. It can be quite chilly up there, too.

Secondly, there is no robing, no processing and access to the choir vestry is limited to one chorister at a time. We enter by the door beside the organ, collect our books and other music and exit by the door near the High Altar to go and sit on our allocated chair. Then the next chorister can enter the vestry. There are no cosy chats in the vestry before or after the service and no warm ups or last-minute rehearsals before the service. We always used to rehearse the anthem and any tricky hymns at 9.15 to warm up our voices before the service started. That is no longer possible. Also, remembering to whip our masks off in time to start singing is sometimes not as easy as you might think, especially when singing parts of the liturgy rather than the hymns or the anthem.

Thirdly, we are now behind the chancel arch. This makes it really hard to project the sound of our voices out into the congregation. It also means there is a time differential between when we hear the organ and the congregation hears the organ. It may only be a short time delay, but it can mean that the choir appears to be constantly lagging behind the organ, or alternatively, that the organ is running on ahead of the choir.

Fourthly, we are strictly limited by the space available to a maximum of ten choristers. At the moment that is divided into four sopranos, three altos, one tenor and two basses. If anyone is away for any reason it has a huge impact on what we are able to sing. If Colin can't come (tenor) Stephen

## We're back! (Continued)

(bass) ends up sight reading the tenor line and Geoff (bass) has to manage by himself. We ladies are somewhat luckier, although dividing into first and second soprano or first and second alto can be tricky. With only ten voices producing a big sound is hard, so singing with the organ is challenging. Linden accompanies us as well as she can (and we are lucky to have such a talented organist) but sitting right under the organ pipes, round the corner, the other side of the chancel arch, she wouldn't be able to hear us properly even if there were twice as many of us. At the time of writing we have only sung two services, so we are learning and improving all the time, but it can be quite disheartening when we are told "I couldn't hear you over the organ" or "You were out of time with organ" by members of the congregation. We really are doing our best and it will get better as we learn to adapt.

What is the future? We have no idea.

For now, we are continuing to record hymns and anthems as the virtual choir, to ensure that those choristers who can't sing at the services are still involved. Each Sunday there is a mixture of live singing and the virtual/recorded choir. We are already recording music for Advent and Christmas but as yet, have no idea what form those services might take, and we will do our best to continue to enhance the regular Sunday worship at St Mary's with hymns and anthems which Linden carefully selects not only to suit the liturgy and season but also the varied vocal talents of the few singers available to her.

Thank you to everyone who has welcomed us back with kind words and we look forward to the day when we can all raise our voices together and "make a joyful noise unto the Lord".

R. McNeill



# WORDSEARCH

H	A	L	L	O	W	E	E	N	Q	W	E	E	R	T	T	S	O	H	G
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C	W	E	E	N	T	A	R	G	N	I	B	B	O	B	E	L	P	P	A

Find these 16 words. They can go in any direction, but always in a straight line.

HALLOWEEN	WITCH	ZOMBIES	APPLEBOBBING
GHOUL	SPIDER	PUMPKIN	TRICKORTREAT
GHOST	WARLOCK	SCARY	BAT
COBWEB	WIZARD	GARGOYLE	BROOMSTICK

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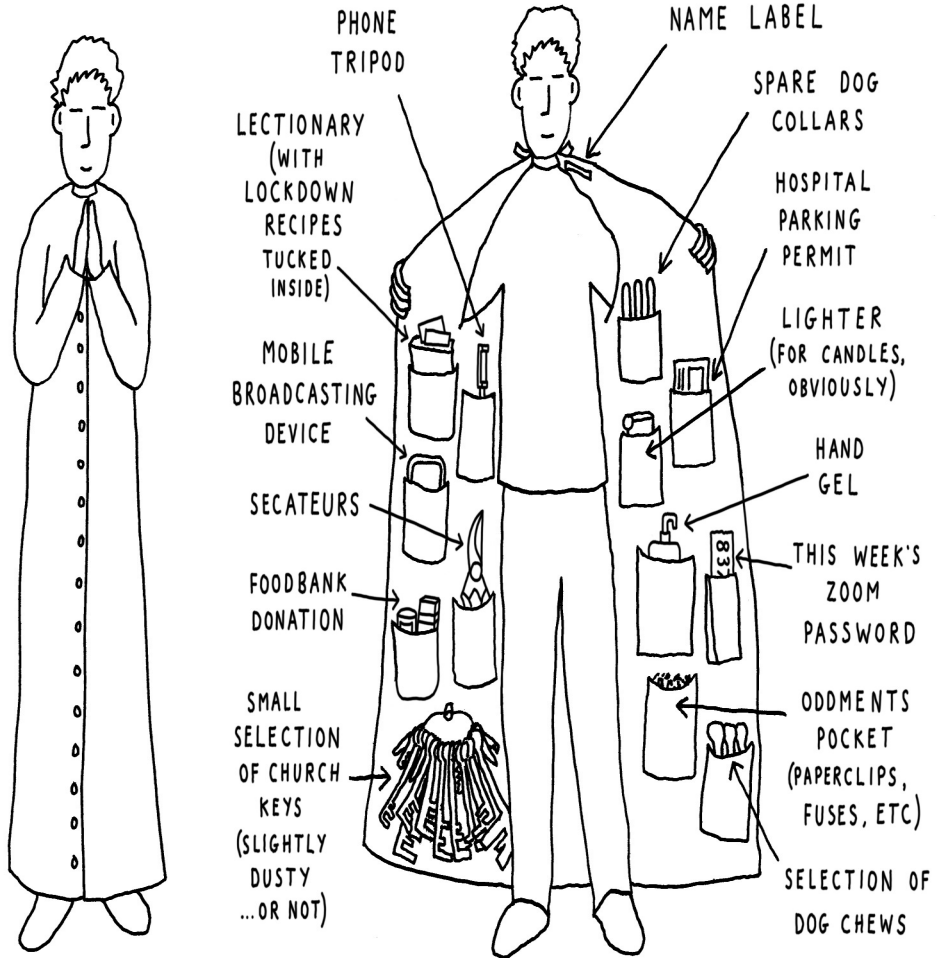
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# Parish Registers

## St Mary's Welwyn

Baptisms

6th September  
20th September

Theo John Allen  
River Thomas Ball



## Harwood Park Crematorium

Funeral

9th September Sheila Emily Copeland

## St Michael's Woolmer Green

Funeral

30th September Sylvia May

## Ayot St Peter

Wedding

14th September Amy-Rose Watts and Michael Clarke

# BEATITUDES

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BLESSED ARE THOSE  
WHO STAY INDOORS



FOR THEY HAVE  
PROTECTED OTHERS

BLESSED ARE THE  
UNEMPLOYED AND THE  
SELF-EMPLOYED



FOR THEIR NEED OF  
GOD IS GREAT

BLESSED ARE THE  
CORNER SHOPKEEPERS



FOR THEY ARE THE  
PURVEYORS OF SCARCE  
THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE DELIVERY  
DRIVERS AND THE POSTAL  
WORKERS



FOR THEY ARE THE  
BRINGERS OF ESSENTIAL  
THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE HOSPITAL  
WORKERS, THE AMBULANCE CREWS,  
THE DOCTORS, THE NURSES, THE CARE  
ASSISTANTS, AND THE CLEANERS



FOR THEY STAND BETWEEN US AND  
THE GRAVE, AND THE KINGDOM OF  
HEAVEN IS SURELY THEIRS

BLESSED ARE THE  
CHECKOUT WORKERS



FOR THEY HAVE PATIENCE AND  
FORTITUDE IN THE FACE OF  
OVERWORK AND FRUSTRATION

BLESSED ARE THE  
REFUSE COLLECTORS



FOR THEY WILL SEE  
GOD DESPITE THE  
MOUNTAINS OF WASTE

BLESSED ARE THE  
TEACHERS



FOR THEY REMAIN  
STEADFAST AND  
CONSTANT IN  
DISTURBING TIMES

BLESSED ARE THE CHURCH  
WORKERS; THE DEACONS,  
PRIESTS AND BISHOPS



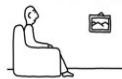
FOR THEY ARE A COMFORTING  
PRESENCE IN A HURTING  
WORLD AS THEY CONTINUE TO  
SIGNPOST TOWARDS GOD

BLESSED ARE THE SINGLE  
PARENTS,



FOR THEY ARE COPING  
ALONE WITH THEIR  
RESPONSIBILITIES AND  
THERE IS NO RESPIRE

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO  
ARE ALONE,



FOR THEY ARE CHILDREN OF  
GOD AND WITH HIM THEY  
WILL NEVER BE LONELY

BLESSED ARE THE  
BEREAVED,



FOR WHOM THE WORST HAS  
ALREADY HAPPENED. THEY  
SHALL BE COMFORTED

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO  
ARE ISOLATED WITH THEIR  
ABUSERS



FOR ONE DAY - WE PRAY -  
THEY WILL KNOW SAFETY

BLESSED ARE ALL DURING THIS TIME WHO HAVE PURE HEARTS;  
ALL WHO STILL HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE; ALL WHO  
WORK FOR PEACE AND WHO MODEL MERCY



MAY YOU KNOW COMFORT. MAY YOU KNOW CALM. AND MAY THE  
GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND  
THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE WITH US ALL. AMEN



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## NEWS FROM AYOT ST PETER



How would the Covid-19 restrictions affect attendance we wondered, as the church opened on Heritage Open Day? Weather, of course, plays

couldn't be sure that everyone had signed the HOD attendance sheet. But this year we had to comply with the Covid-19 regulations which included keeping a 'test and trace' form which everyone had to complete before they could look round the church. We had to keep the form for the regulation 21 days before it could be destroyed. Happily no cases of infection were reported.

an important role. In 2016 when it was very wet, we only just got over 50 names on the visitors sheet. And even in the good years numbers have been dropping off since the early days of the scheme as those interested in old churches have been there, seen that and if not 'got the T-Shirt' at least got the guide-book.

But Saturday 12th September was blessed with glorious weather. People were clearly in need of a day out after weeks of lockdown and at 153 the number of visitors was close to an all-time record. It helped, of course, that fewer buildings were open this year. And that total does not include the cyclists taking part in the Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust fund raising event. This event had gone paperless this year, for obvious reasons, which meant we didn't have a record of how many included St Peter's in their itinerary.

In previous years the number of visitors has been a bit vague, because you

However, there was one noticeable side effect of the pandemic. In previous years some visitors had made long journeys to see St Peter's, often attracted by the write up in 'England's 1000 best churches'. This year almost everyone came from Welwyn and the surrounding area. There were several visitors from the new homes at Wilshere Park in Welwyn coming to see St Peter's for the first time.

As usual Claire had her jams and chutneys on sale in the church. Claire's display had sold out at an event during the summer and despite restocking, her stall was cleared before lunch-time. With these sales, where the proceeds are shared between St Peter's and the Herts Air Ambulance, plus donations and sales of guidebooks, the open day raised around £400.

RF

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# Woolmer Green Parish Council

## Woolmer Green news

**Local Plan** – the Parish Council’s planning consultant has been asked to respond to the Planning Inspector arguing that housing numbers could be reduced following the latest projections which would enable the Green Belt in Woolmer Green to be removed from the Local Plan

**Opening the Hall for events** – some regular activities have returned and bookings for permitted new activities have been accepted. Any request that is not clearly within permitted activities will be considered on a case by case basis. The Parish Council will adapt should the rules change for gatherings.

Although the Hall is open and the staff have returned to work, **Parish Council Meetings** will continue to be held virtually over the coming months. Members of the public can join the meetings by contacting the Clerk.

The lack of bookings for the Hall will continue to place a strain on finances but the Parish Council has maintained reserves from previous years which should cover shortfalls for a few months.

## Woolmer Green Farmers’ Market

The Woolmer Green Farmers’ Market has a calendar of events for the coming months up to Christmas. Please come along to your local market and support the local traders.

The Market is operating both indoors and outdoors now with a one way system in operation and a sign in/QR code scan point at the main Hall doors.

If you want to book a space for your child to participate in the events advertised please book using the website link

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*John Spinks*

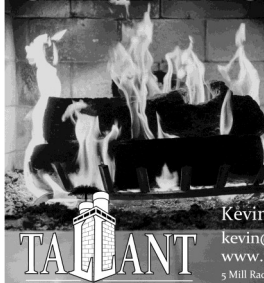
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# WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL



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**November 22nd**  
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**December 13th**  
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The first few weeks since the shop opened have been, at best 'experimental'. The footfall has not been as high as normal as there are, as anticipated, far fewer people on Welwyn High Street in general and people do not have the 'stamina' to queue outside the shop. We have found that it is practical to increase the number of customers in the shop to three, which has meant that customers have not had to wait so long. This will, of course, be more beneficial as the weather turns more inclement.

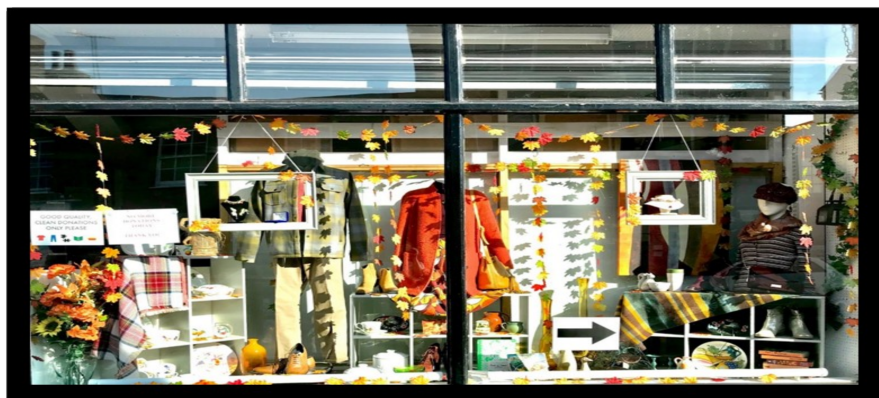
Notwithstanding the above, we are delighted to report that the Welwyn shop is running at a small operating profit, augmented by eBay sales. Once again the shop window is looking wonderful, having been decked out (as shown below) in Autumn Glory by Georgia Shaw and her husband.

Once again this year we will be selling our own charity cards in the run-up to Christmas. We are appealing to all artists to submit designs to adorn this year's Christmas cards. The design can be anything: a hand-drawn cartoon, a sketch, a painting or a photograph but the image should, of course, resonate with the Christmas period. If you would like to find out more, please get in touch with us at the following email address:

[danburyqvm@btconnect.com](mailto:danburyqvm@btconnect.com)

or pop into the Charity shop. We would stress that the image must be your own original work and not subject to any copyright restrictions. A member of our board of Trustees, who runs the art therapy group at Danesbury, will choose several designs to adorn the Christmas cards.

Given the above-mentioned reduction in our income, we are now looking at new ways of raising money. These will be covered in subsequent articles in this publication and will also be well publicised. Do help us to support this important local charity at a time when the NHS needs your support more than ever. One new idea is that a lady in Stevenage has started making face masks for sale in our shop at £4.00 each. This idea alone has already added £140 to our funds. If you are in need of a cloth mask, do drop in and buy one.





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## Presentation to Dominic

As a result of computer problems it was not possible to publish a photograph of the presentation made to Dominic when he left our parish. The glitches have now been resolved, so we are pleased to be able to print the photo this month.



Dominic and Daniel are settling into their new life and home and the picture is already hanging on the wall in Dominic's study.

As a humorous footnote, it was very recently noted on Facebook, that Daniel and Dominic had become "Grandparents" as their guinea pigs have just had babies ...

We wish all of them (human and animal) all the very best for the future.



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## Church Notice Board

*Worship has now resumed in our churches.*

*Please continue to follow the social distancing guidelines,  
use of hand sanitiser and the wearing of face coverings is mandatory, unless you are exempt.*

*Details about Virtual Church, which continues at 9.30 am each Sunday, can be found at:*

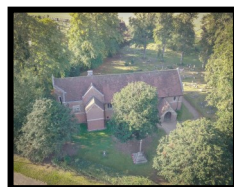
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### Sunday Services

	<b>ST MARY'S - Welwyn</b>
8.00 am	Holy Communion
9.30 am	Parish Communion / Junior Church
6.30 pm	Evensong (2nd , 4th & 5th Sundays)



	<b>ST MICHAEL'S - Woolmer Green</b>
11.15 am	Parish Eucharist (1st & 4th Sunday)
	Family Service (2nd Sunday)
	All Age Eucharist (3rd Sunday)
	Morning Prayer (5th Sunday)



### Weekday Services

#### **ST MARY'S - Welwyn**

Current week's services are on the notice sheet  
in church and on the website [www.welwyn.org.uk](http://www.welwyn.org.uk)

Tuesday	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (St Mary's)
Wednesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer (St Mary's)
Wednesday	9.30 am	Holy Communion (St Mary's)
Saturday	9.00 am	Parish Prayers (St Mary's)

#### **ST GILES - Codicote**

Tuesday	8.30 am	Morning Prayer (St Giles)
---------	---------	---------------------------

***Common Worship used at all Communion Services except where stated***

### Children

#### **ST MARY'S - Welwyn**

3.30pm Craftea (see Diary on back cover for dates)

### Confessions

By arrangement with the Clergy.

The Ministry of Counsel and Absolution is available to anyone  
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### Clergy Surgery Hour

Saturday 10.00 am to 11.00 am

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# Church Notice Board *continued from p44*

## ALL SAINTS' DATCHWORTH

09.30 Sundays Holy Communion  
 18.30 1st Sunday Sacred Space  
 11.15 4th Sunday Family Service  
 17.00 Thursday Evening Prayer



## ST PETER'S TEWIN

09.30 Sundays Holy Communion  
 11.15 3rd Sunday Family Service  
 18.30 3rd Sunday Holy communion  
 17.00 Monday Evening Prayer



## AYOT ST PETER

11.15 Sundays  
 1st: Matins:  
*(Book of Common Prayer, King James' Bible)*  
 2nd: Holy Communion  
*(Book of Common Prayer, King James' Bible)*  
 3rd: Family Service  
*(Common Worship, NRSV Bible)*  
 4th: Parish Communion  
*(Common Worship, NRSV Bible)*  
 5th: Holy Communion *(BCP, King James' Bible)*

## ST GILES' CODICOTE

08.45 Sundays Holy Communion  
 09.30 1st Sunday Worship 4U at Peace Memorial Hall  
 10.30 2nd,4th Sun Informal Worship  
 3rd Sunday Informal Worship with Communion

## EVANGELICAL CHURCH WELWYN

09.45 Sunday Bible Classes *(All ages 7+)*  
 11.00 Sunday *(facilities for young children)*  
 18.30 Sunday *ditto*  
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## MEDITATION

Remembrance, why is remembrance of those who died in combat in the World Wars important? Those people died a long time ago. We don't remember those who died in the Crimean War, Boer War or any others before 1914.

There were 12 major conflicts involving British forces between 1920 and 1939, we don't remember the members of the British forces who died in those. British forces have been used in 30 conflicts since 1945 very few of those are widely known and even fewer remembered. Yet still we have Remembrance Sunday every year.

There are two reasons people Remember those who have died in conflicts.

One of those is the grief over the loss of a family member, friend, or comrade. It is specific to those grieving their loss. I served in the RAF during what was probably the quietest period since the second world war, (only 9 conflicts) yet I still lost eight comrades either during that period or shortly afterwards and although they died some years ago, I still remember and grieve quietly for them on Armistice Day/Remembrance Sunday and the 2<sup>nd</sup> September when six of them died. This type of Remembrance dies with those who knew the people being remembered. The other reason for remembrance particularly for the two World Wars is of course to commemorate the sacrifice of those who gave their lives for their country, but also to remind us that world war is madness. It is vital that we keep this type of remembrance going, the combined loss of life on all sides both military and civilian due to the two world wars was in the region of 98,000,000. Surely this must never be allowed to happen again. But governments start wars that armed forces have to fight and civilian populations suffer the loss, so what can we as individuals do? It seems as though there is nothing we can do, but there is. We have to keep the remembrance going. When the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts were going, a lot of people wore poppies, now those are over, many have stopped wearing a poppy, Yet how can we keep that remembrance going without the very visible symbol of the poppy.

John Burnapp