

Welford and Weston Local History Society

www.welfordandweston.org.uk

'The History of Welford'

A 'talk' presented by Brad Plimmer

26 November 2021, at 7:30 pm

Instead of the usual format of a talk, in this instance we will be showing a DVD made a few years ago. It covers the history of Welford and the local area from Roman times to the present day. This meeting will be delivered via Zoom. Unfortunately despite our best efforts, we haven't as yet succeeded with our Hybrid approach, to a sufficient quality for both a face to face meeting in the Memorial Hall & simultaneous availability via Zoom at home.

It's not easy to describe a DVD in words, so instead, at the end of this Newsletter are a few photos of Welford and Weston, taken at random from the Society's archive.

The DVD is of high quality and content, and will give you a snapshot of the local history of this area.

Some admin for the talk.....

As a member of the Society, you will receive an email inviting you to join this meeting about a week before the meeting itself. This email is being sent to all members who have renewed their membership, and new members who have joined recently. At the time of writing this newsletter, we once again have a membership of over 100. Thank you for joining the Society.

On the evening of the talk you will be able to join the meeting from 19:00. The talk itself will start at 19:30. If you are fairly new to Zoom I would encourage you to join the meeting early, so that if you experience a problem, you'll have time to call Karen Dickinson (on 07970 179821), and get it sorted out before the talk itself starts at 19:30.

If this is your first Zoom meeting, and you would like the opportunity of going over the basic functions of Zoom ahead of the meeting, you should contact Karen Dickinson on the number given above or Brad Plimmer on 750716.

This is the second meeting of the 2021-2022 season. I hope you'll be able to join us by Zoom on Friday 26th November 2021.

Brad Plimmer 29 October, 2021.



Weston on Avon Farm Scene -1890



Weston on Avon Cottages - 1900



Running repairs outside Ten Penny Cottage, Boat Lane, Welford (1900s)



New Bells at St Peters Church (1960) – note the former Lychgate in situ



River Carnival in Welford (1951)



Mr Noakes (pointing on the right) supervises the operation.

Working on the Maypole – prior to repainting (1987?)

RIGHT A BIT, LEFT A BIT AND DOWN SHE COMES . . .

TAKE one giant maypole, a dozen willing helpers, plenty of ingenuity and what have you got?

The answer is the best free show in south Warwickshire.

And so thought hundreds of people who turned up at Welford-on-Avon to see the village's 15ft. maypole lowered to the ground.

For years, villagers have been trying to get their red, white and blue pole re-decorated but the Royal Engineers at Long Marston could not help them. A commercial company wanted £200 to get it down but the village could not afford that.

But then parish councillor Mr David Noakes, who is a lecturer in electrical engineering at Birmingham University, decided to have a go himself at masterminding the lowering of the pole.

With the aid of scaffolding, ropes, blocks and pulleys, the giant pole, one of the tallest and most famous

in Britain, was gradually eased on to makeshift supports ready to be carried away to be painted.

And as it finally came to rest, the audience burst into a spontaneous round of applause. Later the pole was taken on a trailer to Mr Stewart Bryant's yard to be painted.

The local law, in the shape of P.C. Geoff Hands, stood by just to make sure that no suicidal child walked under the pole as it was being brought to the ground.

He stopped all the traffic which had to pass within a few feet of the pole for several minutes.

After the pole is painted, Mr Noakes and his stalwart band have just one more job to do — they've got to put it back up again.

"I'm told it is much easier to put up than take down," he said.

The text to accompany the photo, from the Stratford Herald. The late David Noakes (seen in the right foreground pointing) was in charge of the work. The late Dick Bird (with a cap) standing next to David looking on somewhat pensively. The late Stuart Bryan on the other side of David is also a bit unsure. The late Peter Waldron (with his back to us) is in the left foreground with Graham (?) Ollis on his left.

I'm sure that many of you will recognise several other people from the village in this photo.

If so please contact Brad Plimmer.



An earlier maypole painting session, with three generations of the Bryan family taking part. Alec Bryan in the middle of the photo, with his father Sam, also painting, whilst son Stuart looks on with interest. (no date)



Young girls in their Sunday best. Perhaps at Flower show in Welford (1890s?)