

**Welford and Weston Local History Society**  
**[www.welfordandweston.org.uk](http://www.welfordandweston.org.uk)**

**Newsletter 10 - March 2014**

Thank you for supporting our last meeting **Brief history of some Welford Houses** on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January. Altogether there were seventy eight people packed into the Memorial Hall, including nineteen visitors. One thing we discovered is that, with an audience of that size, it is difficult for everybody to hear especially if the speaker is quietly spoken. We'll be investing in some equipment to alleviate that problem.

Our next meeting is on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March**, at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall, when the subject will be:-

**The restoration of the  
Perseus & Andromeda Fountain at Witley Court**

**An illustrated talk by Derek Clarke RIBA**

Abandoned by the owners in 1937 as a result of a major destruction by fire, and then following extensive damage by trophy hunters and vandals, the grounds and their important landscape features have stood in decline, until English Heritage mounted a project to undertake significant restoration.

This initially restored and put back a fountain into full working order, with the complete recreation of the South Parterre gardens. Subsequently the works continue with the re-establishment of the East Parterre.

The presentation relates to the Fountain and South Parterre garden works, and deals with the difficulties of restoration to such fine and unusual features.

Derek Clarke is a retired Conservation Architect who has been the Project Architect for a number of major repair contracts to some of the nation's finest historic buildings. His talk will be presented using pictorial images of the actual works undertaken, with an interesting narrative to highlight not only an explanation of the projected image but also other aspects of the work. Derek has already given talks in Welford on the Old Naval College at Greenwich, and the Birmingham back-to-backs.

We look forward to welcoming you to this talk.