

The Welford and Weston Local History Society

(www.welfordandweston.org.uk)

Newsletter 106 September 4th 2026

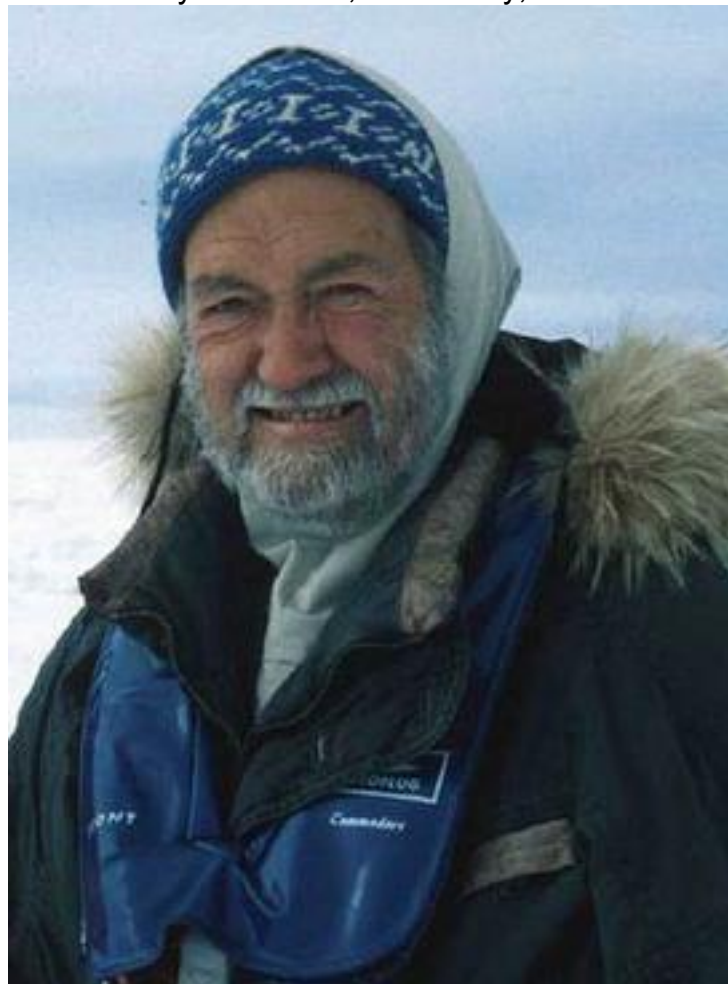
The Polar Explorer and the Mouse

(and other recollections from the life of Welford Resident Jean Stone)

~ a talk by Karen Dickinson

Friday 25 September 2026, at 7:30

In her history of Welford, Gilda Gray, the rector's wife, states that Welford "has never



had any famous or notorious inhabitants. It has pursued "the even tenor of its way". In this talk I am hoping to tell you that an "ordinary life" can in itself be "extraordinary" and that without the personal friendship and recollections of Jean Stone, we would know little about Welford resident and polar explorer, Sir Wally Herbert.

In addition, Jean can tell us about her family's contribution to the First World War, and how they left in pursuit of opportunities in Birmingham and then returned. Jean was also very involved in village life, notably with her founding of the over 60's and her involvement with the Methodist Chapel. History is recorded and passed on in many ways and I will be drawing on parallels between Jean's aural

recollections and stories from Gilda Gray's hand written history of Welford.

I referred to Gilda Gray's history of Welford as there is much excitement within the committee due to the new capabilities of AI. You will know that Brad Plimmer has continued work done by previous Welford history enthusiasts and has spent hours collating and indexing our archive, and now Dave Holmes is rapidly digitising that

with tools available through a new scanner and a program called Claude recommended to him by Phil Smith.

This talk will be available to people attending in person in Welford Memorial Hall. Doors open at **7pm**. To ease pressure on the evening I would strongly encourage you to renew your membership prior to the talk by following this link <https://www.welfordandweston.org.uk/Membership/>