



# WELLS IN WORKING KING

FREE SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

# WELLS IN WOKING



## 150TH ANNIVERSARY 1866 - 2016

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# 150 years ago

...one of the nation's greatest literary talents and public intellectuals was born. H.G. Wells moved to Woking in May 1895 where his writing gathered pace as did his ascent to fame and fortune.

He made Woking infamous in the late 19th Century by choosing Horsell Common as the location for his Martian invasion in his science-fiction serial, *The War of the Worlds*.

Wells in Woking is a celebration of the Borough's connections with H.G. Wells and a page-turning tale of inspiration, imagination and success that is as much about the person as it is the place. Visit Woking, in the heart of Surrey, to walk in the footsteps of this great author. With every twist and turn of the Wells trail discover his points of intrigue, the local landmarks and public art that are the Wells in Woking legacy.

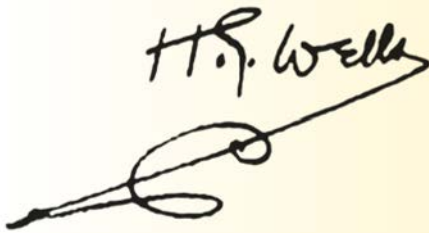
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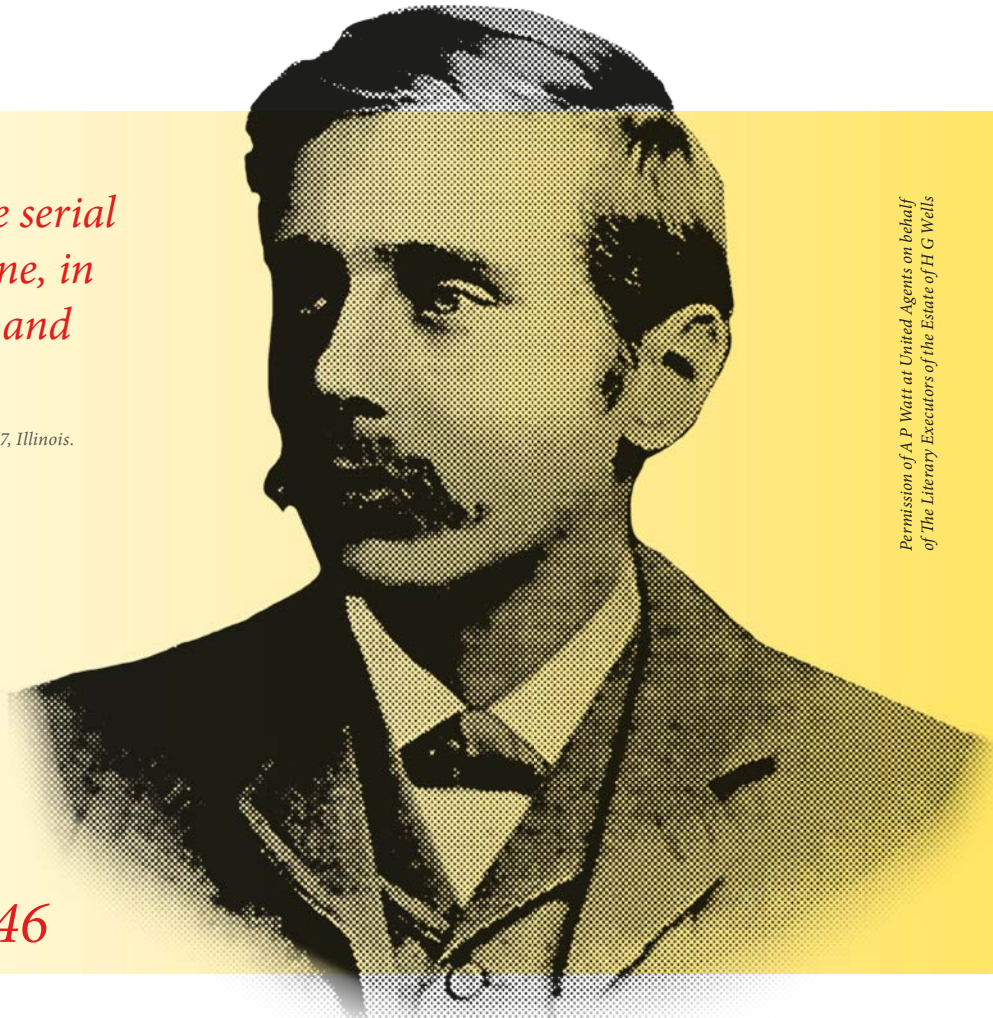
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*“I’m doing the dearest little serial for Pearson’s new magazine, in which I completely wreck and destroy Woking.”*

Source: Wells to Elizabeth Healey, n.d [May 1896], WB78/7, Illinois.



*H.G. Wells 1866–1946*



Permission of A.P. Watt at United Agents on behalf of The Literary Executors of the Estate of H.G. Wells

## Wells: the story of

Herbert George Wells was born on the 21 September 1866 in Bromley, Kent. Called “Bertie” by his family, he was the fourth and last child of small time shopkeepers, Joseph Wells and Sarah Neal.

**Aged eight, an accident left Bertie bedridden with a broken leg so to pass the time his father would bring him books from the local library to read. He soon became devoted to the characters and exciting new worlds that the likes of Dickens gave him access to.**

Bertie had discovered he could go anywhere he wanted to and travel beyond the confines of his room by simply using his imagination. This stimulated his desire to write and four years later, aged 12, he wrote an illustrated comic book, *The Desert Daisy*.

His literary ambitions were put on hold however when he had to help support the family. Between 1880 and 1883 Wells worked as a draper’s apprentice in Windsor and Southsea, and served in a pharmacy in Midhurst.

A brief spell at Midhurst Grammar School in Sussex then followed, and from there, a scholarship to the Normal School of Science in London in 1884 (now Imperial College, London). He studied biology under Thomas H. Huxley, one of the most influential scientific thinkers of the Victorian age, responsible for popularising Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution, however, Wells’ interest in his studies faltered, and in 1887 he left without a degree.

Despite not having any formal qualifications he secured a string of teaching roles including one at Henley House where he taught A.A. Milne, the creator of the Winnie the Pooh stories. Wells returned to his studies in 1890 and was awarded a B.Sc. (Hons) degree in Zoology and Geology from London University, and a teaching diploma.

He settled in London, married his cousin Isabel Wells and worked as a teacher in a correspondence college. In 1893 illness forced him to give up teaching whereupon he decided to become a professional writer, initially as a journalist.

In May 1895, aged 28 and divorced from Isabel, Wells moved to Woking with student Amy Catherine Robbins, otherwise known as ‘Jane’. They married in the October and resided happily at Lynton, (now 141 Maybury Road).

Soon after his arrival in Woking, Wells’ first science fiction novel, *The Time Machine*, was published. He spent his mornings at Lynton dealing with correspondence or enjoying the surrounding countryside with Jane. Afternoons and evenings were spent writing and revising proofs.

Wells’ stay in Woking, although lasting less than 18 months, proved to be an extremely creative period, perhaps the most productive of his whole writing career.



While living in Woking he planned and wrote *The War of the Worlds* and the *The Invisible Man*, completed *The Island of Dr Moreau*, wrote and published both *The Wonderful Visit* and pioneering cycling novel, *The Wheels of Chance*. He began writing *When the Sleeper Wakes*, another science fiction story, and started on *Love and Mr Lewisham*. By his own admission, Wells had been working “at a ghastly pace”, and “writing away for dear life” to make his name and fortune.

Reportedly, his literary earnings in 1896 were £1,056, equivalent to £118,000 in today’s money. He reflects in his autobiography that by the time he left Woking his career as a full time writer was “fairly launched at last” and that he and Jane were “getting on” in life. Later that summer, the pair moved from Woking to a larger house in Worcester Park, near Kingston upon Thames.

Within two years, health reasons saw Wells return to Kent. It was while living in the coastal retreat of Sandgate that his two sons George Phillip (Gip) and Frank Richard were born. As well as the improvement in his health, the family’s stay in Sandgate was generally a happy one and Wells and his sons would invent war games that were played out on the floor. Wells even found time to explain the rules in two booklets called *Little Wars* and *Floor Games*.

A successful author and respected writer of non-fiction, Wells’ influence as a public intellectual was also growing. In 1906 he travelled to the USA where he met President Theodore Roosevelt and became an active member of

the Fabian Society, a British socialist group. He was also appointed as the first president of the Royal College of Science Association, an organisation he helped to set up.

In 1909 Wells’ daughter Anna-Jane was born to Amber Reeves, the daughter of one of his Fabian Society associates. A self-confessed “Don Juan among the intelligentsia”, Wells’ utopian ideals of free love, combined with his reputed attractiveness to women, resulted in numerous love affairs often conducted with famous and much younger women.

At the outbreak of war in 1914, Wells was involved in a love affair with Rebecca West, a young journalist aged 26 and soon to be mother of his third son, Anthony West.

In the third volume of his autobiography, published posthumously in 1984, Wells alleges that his second wife Jane had accepted his extra-marital activities. She died in 1927 but despite the string of companions that followed, Wells would not marry again.

His only enduring interest was political theorising, which between 1920 and 1935, would see him travel to the Soviet Union to consult with both Lenin and Stalin respectively, stand as a Labour Party candidate, and visit the USA again for an audience with President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Having lived in Central London throughout the Second World War, Wells died in Regent’s Park, London on the 13 August 1946 aged 79.



# Wells: the writer

Called the 'father of science fiction', Wells' success and rise to fame is inextricably linked to Woking, where he was inspired to write some of his most ground-breaking and popular works. Local historian, Professor Peter Beck, reviews three Wells classics that have a Woking connection.

## The Time Machine: an Invention (1895)

Relating a visit to the Time Traveller's house in Richmond upon Thames, the narrator reports his story about a recent journey into the far future on a time machine. Expecting to find a more advanced civilisation, the Time Traveller discovered that in evolutionary terms by the year 802,701AD, humanity will have degenerated, not progressed. Subsequently he went on another journey but failed to return.

*The Time Machine*, Wells' first book of fiction, was published in May 1895, soon after he moved to Maybury Road, Woking. The book's success launched his career as a writer, and enabled him to switch increasingly from journalism to authorship.

Highlighting Wells' ability to link literature and science, and his Darwinian mindset, the book is central to claims that he was the founder of science fiction, especially as his time machine has figured in numerous literary works, comics and Hollywood films.

## The Wheels of Chance (1896)

Set during the late Victorian 'cycling craze', *The Wheels of Chance* is set around a long bicycle ride beginning at Putney. Passing through Surrey en route to the Sussex coast and Hampshire, the story, which included a fictional heroine resident in Surbiton, offers readers charming portrayals of the Surrey countryside, most notably of places like Ripley and Guildford. Wells, a keen cyclist and a former draper's apprentice, represented the appeal of cycling through the trials and tribulations of Hoopdriver, an apprentice draper on holiday. For more thoughtful readers, *The Wheels of Chance* illuminated broader themes concerning personal liberty, the oppressive nature of retail apprenticeships, class and personal relationships, and the controversial issue of women cyclists.

Generally regarded as the first cycling novel *The Wheels of Chance* was written and published while Wells was living in Woking, and hence reinforces the town's cycling heritage, even if Hoopdriver's route avoided the town.



## The War of the Worlds (1898)

Published during the late Victorian period, *The War of the Worlds* tells the story of an abortive Martian invasion of Earth set in the near future. Woking, and particularly Horsell Common, figure prominently as the places where the Martians first land; build their encampment; show the power of their weaponry, the Heat Rays and all that; fight the first-ever interplanetary battle; and destroy the town en route to attack London. In the end, the Martians are defeated, but only because of their lack of immunity to terrestrial bacteria.

Like *The Time Machine*, this book is a key part of the case for Wells as both the founder of sci-fi, especially for alien invasion stories, and the principal inspiration for films like the Steven Spielberg/Tom Cruise movie released in 2005. Apart from proving a page-turning story, *The War of the Worlds* also illuminated major elements in Wells' thinking, such as its Darwinian and anti-imperialism character.

The serialised version published in the Pearson's Magazine in 1897 was wholly written in Woking during 1895-96. The book includes additional material written following Wells' move to Worcester Park.

Writing to his mother in October 1895 about the success of *The Time Machine*:

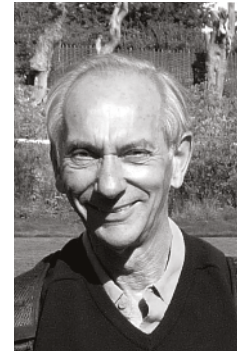
*"My last book seems a hit – everyone has heard of it – and all kinds of people seem disposed to make much of me ... Already I'm invited out tonight and every night next week except Monday and Friday. I've had letters too from four publishing firms asking for the offer of my next book but I shall, I think, stick to my first connection. It's rather pleasant to find oneself something in the world after all the years of trying and disappointment."*

Source: Wells to his mother, 13 Oct 1895 in H.G. Wells, *Experiment in Autobiography: discoveries and conclusions of a very ordinary brain* (since 1866), vol.1 (Victor Gollancz and Cresset Press, London: 1934), p.400

NO ONE WOULD HAVE BELIEVED  
the last years of the nineteenth century  
that this world was being watched

## Our guest reviewer

Peter J. Beck, is Emeritus Professor of History at Kingston University and has lived in Horsell for over 40 years. A published author himself, Professor Beck's latest book *The War of the Worlds: from H.G. Wells to Orson Welles, Jeff Wayne, and Steven Spielberg and beyond*, is due to be published in September 2016 by Bloomsbury Academic.



## Other recommended reads

### The Wonderful Visit, 1895 (satire)

The tale of a fallen angel who struggles to comprehend Victorian society.

### The Island of Doctor Moreau, 1896 (adventure)

A story about the adventures and discoveries of a shipwrecked gentleman.

### The Invisible Man, 1897 (science fiction)

A scientist called Griffin creates a serum to turn himself invisible.

### When the Sleeper Wakes, 1899 (science fiction)

Deep sleeper Graham wakes up 200 years later and has to get to grips with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

### Love and Mr Lewisham, 1900 (romance)

Mr Lewisham is forced to leave his teaching role because of a romantic liaison then struggles to re-establish himself.

### The First Men in the Moon, 1901 (science fiction)

Two men with different motives embark on an expedition to the moon.

### A Modern Utopia, 1905 (science fiction)

Two travellers fall into a space-warp and emerge to find a utopian Earth.

### Kipps: The story of a simple soul, 1905 (humour)

The hilarious transformation of a poor draper's apprentice into a wealthy gentleman.

### The History of Mr Polly, 1910 (comedy)

A downtrodden shopkeeper bungles his own suicide only to become master of his fate under another identity.

### The Shape of Things to Come, 1933 (realistic fiction)

The journal of a deceased diplomat is found to contain visions of future world events.

## GILVY'S OBSERVATIONS

Although Wells' stay in Woking was brief, it was the most productive period in his whole career, writing an estimated 7,000 words per day!



# Wells: the inspiration

H.G. Wells made Woking infamous in the late 19th Century by choosing Horsell Common as the location for his Martian invasion in his science-fiction serial, *The War of the Worlds*.

Much of the early action in *The War of the Worlds* takes place in Woking and nearby villages. The narrator - the person telling the story - lived in Maybury, Woking; most likely on Maybury Hill.

Horsell Common, the initial landing site of the Martian invasion force, is an extensive open area close to where Wells was living when writing the story.

"At that time I was living in Woking, and one day walking on Horsell Common there came to me suddenly a vivid picture, clean into my head, of the invaders just arrived in one of those inter-planetary cylinders which I borrowed from their inventor, Jules Verne. What planet should I choose? came next. Well, Mars, of course, as being the only one at all like the Earth, older than the Earth, and so likely to contain more advanced creatures. From that other facts followed necessarily."

Source: *The Scientific Novel. A talk with Mr. H.G. Wells*, *Daily News*, 26 Jan.1898.

'Very early in the morning poor Ogilvy, who had seen the shooting star and who was persuaded that a meteorite lay somewhere on the common between Horsell, Ottershaw, and Woking, rose early with the idea of finding it.'

Source: H.G. Wells, *The War of the Worlds*, Book 1, chap.2, page 13 (Penguin, London: 2005)

"Find it he did, soon after dawn, and not far from the sand pits. An enormous hole had been made by the impact of the projectile, and the sand and gravel had been flung violently in every direction over the heath, forming heaps visible a mile and a half away."

Source: H.G. Wells, *The War of the Worlds*, Book 1, chap.2, page 13 (Penguin, London: 2005)





“The heather was on fire eastward, and a thin blue smoke rose against the dawn. The Thing itself lay almost entirely buried in sand, amidst the scattered splinters of a fir tree it had shivered to fragments in its descent.”

*Source: H.G. Wells, The War of the Worlds, Book 1, chap.2, page 14 (Penguin, London: 2005)*

## GILVY'S OBSERVATIONS

Today Horsell Common is a place of tranquillity maintained by the Horsell Common Preservation Society. Visit the sandpits, walk the many footpaths and hide amongst the tall pine trees, (see pull out trail).

[www.horsellcommon.org.uk](http://www.horsellcommon.org.uk)



## Wells: the artist

From a young age Wells harnessed the power of imagination and by the time he was 12, had written his first illustrated comic book. He drew hundreds of small sketches (picshuas), to amuse his second wife Jane and wrote in his autobiography that he could picture scenes from *The War of the Worlds* so vividly that they would recur to him as though they were memories.

*Source: H.G. Wells, The Works of H.G. Wells, Atlantic Edition, vol.III (T. Fisher Unwin, London: 1924, pp.ix-x.*



Winning artists, David Dragon (left) and Neville Godwin (right) with their commissioned designs.

**Proving the vision and creativity H.G. Wells brought to Woking is still very much alive today, two, limited edition, original screen prints have been commissioned as part of the Wells in Woking celebrations.**

Selected as the winning designs by a panel of judges, the original pieces from local artists, David Dragon and Neville Godwin, capture the essence of Wells' vivid imagination.

Working under the tutelage of directors Julie Hoyle and Annee Robson, the artists, as part of their prize, have hand printed their designs at the Ochre Print Studios in Guildford. The limited edition silk screen prints, which are signed and numbered by the artists, are available to buy at selected galleries across Surrey.

**Catch them on display at The Lightbox in Woking from Saturday 26 March up until Sunday 1 May, when they will be exhibited alongside a selection of the other Wells themed entries received as part of the commission.**

### Look Up! By Neville Godwin

Originally sketched out from memory on a Post-it note, Neville explains the creative thought process behind Look Up!

"From listening to the Orson Welles radio adaptation at school to the Jeff Wayne musical, to modern day movies, *The War of the Worlds* is something I've grown up with. Having lived in this area most of my life, I'm proud of the local association, especially now as my home backs onto Horsell Common.

"I wanted to include elements from different ages to reflect the longevity of *The War of the Worlds*. In my mind I saw 1950s film posters, 1970s comic books, b-movies, Robbie the Robot and the quite recent Tom Cruise film of the story. I wanted to create a classic invasion poster but with a geometric, contemporary slant. This is why I placed the 'fighting machine' centrally and made the main heat-ray fan out to hit the bottom corners. This not only gives the image structure but acts as a tractor beam for the eye drawing you up to the alien's Tripod.



"I've used Benday dots to create a pulp fiction/comic feel. And then found an old comic of a running crowd to again hark back to old style invasion comics and films. To bring it up to date I've included two recognisable buildings from modern day Woking to sit behind the looming towers that creates the background for a screaming woman. So a pulp fiction image with a contemporary twist is my idea to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of the H.G. Wells. I hope you like it."

Neville lives in Horsell with wife Michelle and runs his own graphic design and marketing agency. He has a degree in fine art printmaking from Maidstone College of Art and his ambition is to have a solo exhibition at The Lightbox. He is an avid collector of music and is currently planning his next series of prints based on his top ten album covers and 7inch singles.

### The Visionary By David Dragon

The winner of a previous commission to commemorate World War One, David's latest design, *The Visionary*, adopts his familiar stylised figurative approach.

David's bold, graphic style originates from a long and varied career spent in the creative industry. Now painting and printmaking full-time, he takes much of his inspiration from figures and events in popular culture.

Talking about *The Visionary* David explains: "Each new adaptation of *The War of Worlds* has often reflected the time in which it has appeared to make it more relevant to a contemporary audience. I chose to combine elements of H.G. Wells' original vision, as represented in the portrayal of the Martian, with a stylised portrait of the author. The guns set the piece around the time *The War of the Worlds* was written."

David is retired and lives in Guildford with his wife and two sons, who like their father, have carved out careers in graphic design. David spends his time painting and latterly printmaking. He has been a member at the Ochre Print Studios for the past four years.





Mural by West Byfleet Junior School.

## Wells: the teacher

Between 1883 and 1893, H.G. Wells occupied both sides of the classroom flitting between zoology student and biology teacher. Fuelling his intellect, Wells was taught by Thomas H. Huxley, one of the most influential scientific thinkers of the Victorian age and personal friend of Charles Darwin. H.G. Wells' own star pupil would turn out to be A.A. Milne, creator of Winnie the Pooh, who he taught at a small public school in Kilburn, called Henley House.

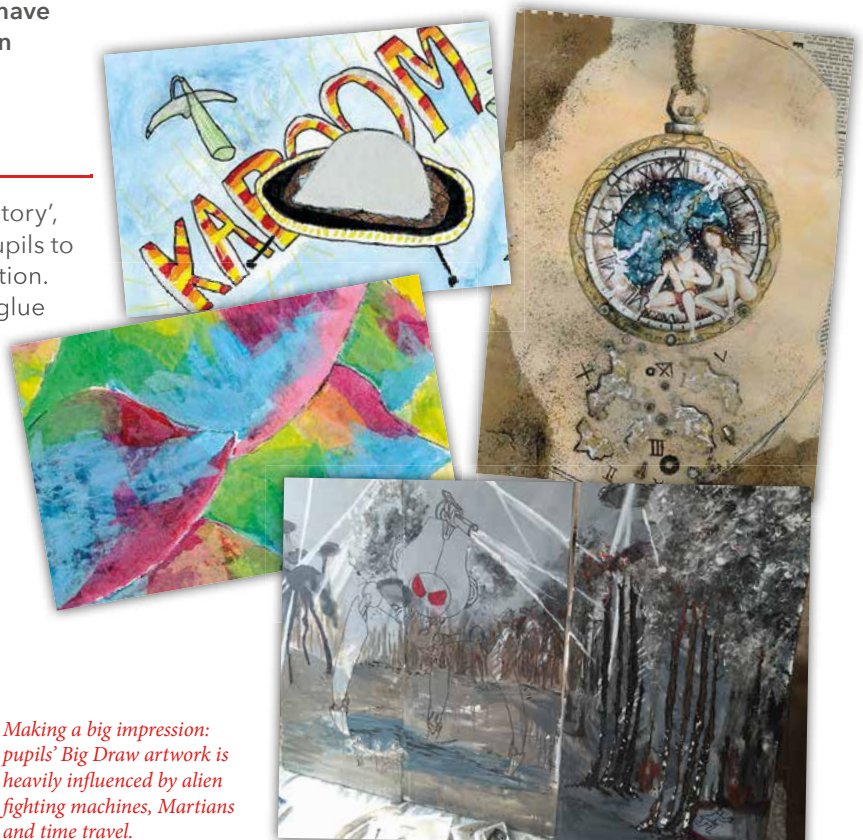
Today Wells continues to inspire in the classroom. Children and young people across the Borough have been learning about Wells and the science fiction genre through a number of creative workshops.

### Every drawing tells a story

The Big Draw 2015 theme, 'every drawing tells a story', gave schools an opportunity to introduce their pupils to H.G. Wells and to explore his popular works of fiction. Pupils picked up their paints, pencils, chalks and glue sticks for the chance to have their Wells inspired artwork exhibited at Woking's sci-fi Party in the Park event on Saturday 9 July 2016.

Participating schools:

- Beaufort Community Primary School
- Freemantles School
- Halstead Preparatory School
- Horsell CofE Junior
- LinkAble
- New Monument Primary Academy
- St Andrew's School
- Surrey Choices
- The Park School
- West Byfleet Junior School
- The Winston Churchill School
- Woking College



*Making a big impression: pupils' Big Draw artwork is heavily influenced by alien fighting machines, Martians and time travel.*

## Marvellous Murals

As a permanent reminder of the celebration, five schools have worked with artist Lucy Jackson to create detailed murals.

For the past 17 years Lucy has worked extensively with children and community groups to help bring their ideas alive in the form of murals, large sculptures and animated films.

The individual murals at West Byfleet Junior School, Kingsfield Primary School, Horsell CofE School, Freemantles School and Beaufort Primary School, are visual interpretations of the stimulated mind, made up of the elements from Wells' classic novels that captured the imagination of the students involved.

## Looking through the lens

Students from St John the Baptist School enjoyed a workshop with local photographer Richard Booth, looking through the lens at the relationship between photography and science fiction. Richard's niche is visual art, creating images that evoke power and movement. He is famed for his portraits of Britain's 2012 Paralympic athletes. Sharing his professional know-how, he delighted students with a field trip to Woking Town Centre to photograph the Martian sculpture.



Photo taken by Callum Guyer, St John the Baptist School.

## Pick up a Penguin

A key objective of Wells in Woking is to get people across the Borough reading more. Reading for pleasure has positive benefits for both children and adults. As well as improved literacy and academic success, benefits included better relationships, increased self-esteem, reduced stress and anxiety, and greater understanding of other cultures.

Working with Penguin Books, schools and colleges could purchase 16 H.G. Wells classics at a generously discounted price. Titles available included *The Time Machine*, *The War of the Worlds* and *The Invisible Man*. There was a good take up by schools with Penguin reporting an increase in sales during the offer period.



Thinking outside the box with Stewart Ross.

## A way with words

H.G. Wells wrote and published over a hundred books, essays and short stories in his lifetime. In recognition of his vast and varied output, a number of schools across Woking are taking part in the Wells in Woking short story competition. Helping students exercise their creative writing skills, Stewart Ross has been encouraging them to think outside the box, connect with Woking's heritage and find inspiration in their surroundings.

One of Britain's most popular and versatile writers, the *Soterion Mission* author explains: "During the course of this academic year I have had the pleasure and privilege of working with a wide range of schools across the Borough of Woking. What an experience it has been! Enthusiastic students from Reception to A level have been exploring the wonder of words, and how best to put them together to make a captivating story. And why? Because literacy and creativity matter of course; but also to prepare these young writers for the wonderful Wells in Woking short story competition launching later in the year. For a town with a Martian standing proud in its centre, the theme for the competition just had to be Alien, didn't it?"

Speaking about Stewart's visit to St Andrew's School in Horsell, Ms Jackie Wheeler, Head of English and Drama, said: "The children at St. Andrew's clearly enjoyed the short story workshops immensely. Stewart has the ability to engage children in a humorous and exciting way, challenging them to explore new ideas and shape their thinking. It is wonderful to have an author visit the school who can both reinforce what is taught in the classroom and inspire them to write creatively."

**The competition is open to writers of all ages who live, work or study in the Borough. The deadline for Alien themed entries is Wednesday 20 July 2016. For details of how to enter and to read the short story compiled by students at Maybury Junior School, turn to page 23 and 24.**



Chertsey Road 1895.

## Wells: the local man

H.G. Wells' moved from London to Woking in May 1895 due to ill-health. The relative quiet and surrounding countryside offered Wells the rest and relaxation he needed and he would spend his mornings either walking or cycling with Jane.

### Wells writes in his autobiography:

"Our withdrawal to Woking was a fairly cheerful adventure... We borrowed a hundred pounds by a mortgage on Mrs Robbins' house in Putney and with that hundred pounds, believe it or not, we furnished a small resolute semi-detached villa with a minute greenhouse in Maybury Road facing the railway line, where all night long the goods trains shunted and bumped and clattered - without serious effect upon our healthy slumbers.

"Close at hand in those days was a pretty and rarely used canal amidst pine woods, a weedy canal, beset with loosestrife, spiræa, forget-me-nots and yellow water lilies, upon which one could be happy for hours in a hired canoe, and in all directions stretched open and undeveloped heath land, so that we could walk and presently learn to ride bicycles and restore our broken contact with the open air. There I planned and wrote *The War of the Worlds*, *The Wheels of Chance* and *The Invisible Man*."

Source: H.G. Wells, *Experiment in Autobiography: discoveries and conclusions of a very ordinary brain* (since 1866), vol.II (Victor Gollancz and Cresset Press, London: 1934), pp.542-3, p.546.



H.G. Wells cycling, and paddling on the canal, with wife Jane. Images courtesy of the Rare Book & Manuscript Library, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

### Woking in Wells' Time

In 1895 Woking was small but developing rapidly. The coming of the railway (1838) and the opening of Brookwood Cemetery (1854), Woking Prison (1860), Brookwood Hospital (1867), and Inkerman Barracks (1895) brought a wealth of employment opportunities to the Borough and by 1901, Woking was home to some 14,000 people.

Progress in other areas however was patchy. Although the Woking District Gas Company supplied 100 homes and the Electric Supply Company lit the growing number of shops and businesses in the vicinity, market gardens, farms and pasture still largely encircled the town. The railway station opened southwards onto orchards and gardens and from Heathside Road, footpaths led across fields beyond Hoebridge Farm.

Entitled *Woking in Wells' Time*, the Surrey History Centre and The Lightbox have combined resources to provide a fascinating glimpse of what Woking would have been like in 1895. The display at the Surrey History Centre reveals the events and everyday occurrences that would have influenced Wells' thinking and contributed to his most industrious writing period.

**This free display at the Surrey History Centre on Goldworth Road, Woking, runs from 1 September to 1 October 2016. Suitable for Wells fans of all ages, visit the website for more information and opening times. [www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreyhistorycentre](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreyhistorycentre)**



*“No one would have believed, in the last years of the nineteenth century, that this world was being watched keenly and closely by intelligences greater than man’s and yet as mortal as his own.”*

Source: H.G. Wells, *The War of the Worlds*, Book 1, chap.1 (Penguin, London: 2005), pp.7.



## Wells: the global influencer

By the 1920s, Wells was not only a famous author but a public figure whose name was rarely out of the newspapers. He briefly worked for the Ministry of Propaganda, stood for Parliament as a Labour candidate and sought to influence World leaders. Convinced that nothing less than global unity was needed if humanity was not to destroy itself, Wells’ books were publicly burnt by the Nazis and in the same year, 1933, he was banned from visiting Fascist Italy.

Source: Patrick Parrinder, *The War of the Worlds*, Biographical Note, (Penguin, London: 2005), pp.xii.

**Science-fiction writer and Vice-Chair of the H.G Wells Society, Stephen Baxter, explains why H.G. Wells rose to international prominence and the importance of celebrating this influential visionary.**

In the year he lived in Woking, a peaceful English suburb a short train ride away from the greatest city on the Earth, the young H.G. Wells completed the first draft of *The War of the Worlds*, a book that would resonate through the century to come.

The talent of the early Wells lay in his unflinching ability to reject comforting lies, as suggested by late Victorian science, about mankind’s position in the universe. In *The Time Machine*, he rejected the complacent idea that evolution will inevitably be an upwards progression. And in *The War of the Worlds* he rejected the notion that change in the future will be orderly and comfortable.

As a result of this insight, it is Wells’ extraordinary achievement that in the pages of his novel he brought together themes that would define the coming century: homeland invasion, the convulsive shock of global technological warfare, and the loss of moral innocence. And it is remarkable how as early as the 1890s, Wells

appeared to foresee not only the first of the World Wars but the more remote second. Here is Wells’ vision of the advancing Martians (Book 1, Chapter 12): *“Their armoured bodies glittered in the sun as they swept swiftly forward upon the guns, growing rapidly larger as they drew nearer ... At the sight of these strange, swift, and terrible creatures the crowd near the water’s edge seemed to me to be for a moment horror-struck ...”* Such might have been the reaction of the populations of the invaded countries to the Blitzkrieg, or later the flight of the Germans from their own cities when the Allies’ counter-invasion came. When researching my own novel of the *Second World War* (Weaver, 2008), I found that many eyewitnesses referred to Wells’ books as a comparison for their experiences: *“It’s like something out of H.G. Wells.”*

That young man in Woking not only previsioned the century to come, but provided some psychological anchoring for those who were its victims.

*Speaking at the H.G. Wells Society Conference in July (see Events Diary), Stephen Baxter is the author of *The Time Ships* (1995) – a sequel to Wells’ *The Time Machine* (1895). He is currently working on a continuation of *The War of the Worlds* (1898), provisionally titled *The Massacre of Mankind*.*

*“As men busied themselves about their various concerns they were scrutinised and studied, perhaps almost as narrowly as a man with a microscope might scrutinize the transient creatures that swarm and multiply in a drop of water.”*

Source: H.G. Wells, *The War of the Worlds*, Book 1, chap.1 (Penguin, London: 2005), pp.7.

## Wells: the visible man

Quietly contemplating the world around him, a bronze sculpture of H.G. Wells has been commissioned as part of the Wells in Woking celebration and will be unveiled on Wednesday 21 September 2016 – the 150th anniversary of his birth.





**A permanent tribute to the man who made Woking famous, the creation by sculptor Wesley Harland is the only public memorial to H.G. Wells in the World. Wesley reveals why he applied for the commission.**

"I am a professional sculptor based in Woking, Surrey, specialising in figurative sculpture. As I am also a keen H.G. Wells fan and a member of the H.G. Wells Society, I was delighted to be chosen as the successful artist.

"Since the removal of the mural in Bromley, Wells' birth place, there's very little public recognition of his work, so I am very excited to be responsible for this celebratory memorial.

"My piece '*Novelist and Thinker*' reflects H.G. Wells in a thoughtful, contemplative seated pose. While he is best known as a famous novelist and giant of science fiction, I also wanted to reflect his importance as a political thinker in the design. His portrait and figure is based on the author during his late 20s, the age he was when he lived in Woking, writing some of his most significant work.

"I've been a sculptor for 18 years. I've worked on everything from art commissions to film props and scenery for TV shows. My main interest however is portrait and figurative sculptures. Working for Madame Tussauds I've covered a range of subjects including Mozart, Prince William and a 15ft sculpture of the Incredible Hulk!

"My work often includes elements of the unusual and extra details. For this piece I have included subtle nods

to a number of different novels within the sculpture. Including the favorite sphere spaceship from *The First Men in the Moon*, held within his hand; climbing red weed on the base and towards the chair legs from *The War of the Worlds*; and the date that the time traveller in *The Time Machine* travels to and meets the Morlocks and Eloi in Earth's future on the back of the chair, 802,701AD.

"The sculpture, which will be installed on Christchurch Way by the subway, will be slightly larger than life size. This is a common approach to many public sculptures and improves the presence and monumental feel to the piece in an open setting.

"I've proposed that the figure is cast in bronze, a robust and long lasting material. This will be coloured with a grey patination and the favorite sphere plated in silver to provide an interesting textural contrast. The use of a grey patination is a less traditional colouration for a bronze sculpture, but provides a lighter look and a more modern appearance, attracting interest and reflecting H.G. Wells' futuristic and forward thinking. The colour of the favorite sphere provides a focal point for the sculpture and also reflects similar material used for the nearby 'Martian' sculpture."

**Keep up to date with Wesley's progress at [www.hgwellsstatue.com](http://www.hgwellsstatue.com).**

**The sculpture will be unveiled on Wednesday 21 September 2016, H.G. Wells' 150th birthday, from 12.45pm, Woking Town Centre.**

## GILVY'S OBSERVATIONS

One of Wesley's more unusual commissions was an 8ft tall sculpture of Bertie Bassett, displayed in Trafalgar Square as part of an advertising campaign for Tebor Bassett!





# PARTY IN THE PARK

SATURDAY 9 JULY 2016

## A short time ago in a lush green park not very far away....

more than 15,000 people attended Woking's biggest and best outdoor party!

Woking Park will once again feel the force of celebration as it gets set to host one galactic-sized birthday bash in honour of H.G. Wells!

From 12noon to 9pm, families can enjoy a meteoric day of time travel, space-age fun, live performances and the return of the Ambassadors Big Screen, showcasing the people's choice of sci-fi blockbuster.

This universe of free entertainment will stretch across two fields ensuring there is something to excite and delight all ages. The Time Zone will provide an immersive experience for those wishing to explore the world of H.G. Wells at a gentle pace. Visitors can browse displays from the Surrey History Centre, themed art exhibitions, and travel through the ages with classical sounds from Woking's antique bandstand.

The more intrepid traveller can make the jump to light speed in the Futuristic Field! Blasting off from the Morrisons' Main Stage, the Star Wars parody, *Sci-Fi Band*, will have you singing along to hit covers such as Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody* and AC/DC's *Back in Black*, while Dance Woking troupes will entertain and light up the party. Younger explorers can find their time machine at the funfair, build their own rocket or take part in storytime in one of the many tents crammed full with children's activities.

The journey to the final frontier however doesn't end there as the stars of the silver screen come out for Woking's only outdoor cinema experience. Grab your crew and find your landing spot for the first instalment of George Lucas' classic sci-fi adventure trilogy - *Star Wars IV: A New Hope*.

More information at  
[www.celebratewoking.info/partyinthepark](http://www.celebratewoking.info/partyinthepark)



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# Wells: on stage

A celebration of the work of H.G. Wells through cinema and theatre at The Ambassadors Woking

Enjoy a fortnight of performances from Woking Drama Association, talks, travelling shows, and a thrilling summer of cinematic sci-fi adventure, and more, at The Ambassadors Woking.

*Various performances, 18 to 30 September. For programme information, prices and start times visit [www.atgtickets.com/woking](http://www.atgtickets.com/woking)*

*The Ambassadors, Peacocks Centre, Woking, GU21 6GQ*

## FEATURED EVENTS

### The Time Machine: an invention

Nunkie Theatre Company

1895. In a suburban garden, beneath a waning moon, a man lies dazed beside a remarkable machine. He has a story to tell. A story of darkness and light, of fire and fear, of Eloi and Morlocks. An unbelievable story about our future that Robert Lloyd Parry's character insists is true. Is it a joke, a prophecy or a dream? This one man show is heralded a "Triumph of Time Travel" by The Morning Star.

*"I have lived such days as no man has lived before..."*

### Talks by Dr Keith Williams

University of Dundee Senior  
Lecturer in English



### H.G. Wells and the Cinema as Time Machine

Friday 23 September 2016

*The Time Machine (1895)*, H.G. Wells' most famous scientific romance novel, anticipates cinema as a vision machine for virtual journeying through space and time. Keith explores the connection between this work of fiction and early cinema through the patent for a Time Machine 'simulator', which Wells devised with R.W. Paul, one of Britain's first film-makers, but also how the cinematic qualities of the novel have been realised on screen.

### The camera of the heat ray: prophetic vision in *The War of the Worlds*

Saturday 24 September 2016

A discussion on how Wells' vision of alien invasion is narrated through a prophetically 'camera-eyed' style. Not only is the Martian heat ray continuously compared to a camera or projector (which 'spectacularises' everything in range), but the story itself is visualised through a method anticipating the dynamic mobility and dramatic changes of perspective, which would characterise cinematic epics. The talk will show how *The War of the Worlds* came to inspire film-makers, not just for its theme, but its innovative form.



# Wells: the founding father

While H.G. Wells was making a name for himself internationally, his influence was no less significant at home. In an exclusive interview, animator and film director, Simon Wells, reveals that his great grandfather's passion for science continues to run deep within the family and how Herbert Wells' rags to riches story inspired him to pursue his interests.

## Did you ever meet your great grandfather?

No, sadly he died in 1946, just after the end of World War Two. I wasn't born until 1961.

My aunt Robin, who lives in the North of England, is the last person in the family to have known Herbert Wells personally. She was a teenager when he died.

## Your great grandfather was a household name and a prominent global figure. What impact has he had on yours and your family's lives?

In some ways not a great deal. He's a distant relative now who died 70 years ago. We still have a few items that belonged to him. There are things about his life however, that I draw upon on a regular basis.

He came from very humble origins. His parents were originally a gardener and a housekeeper, who then became small time shopkeepers. Herbert Wells was not cut out for any service industry. The thing he was really good at was studying.

He earned a scholarship with the Normal School of Science in Kensington, which leapfrogged him into a world where he could actually make a living with his intellect and his imagination.

Herbert Wells escaped a life where his future was literally the shops around him, and if he was lucky, he might get married and have kids. He discovered how to break out. As a life lesson, I've always found this interesting. It shows you that you can find ways to make a living out of the things you're really passionate about doing.

I think my whole family has been very lucky in that we've continued to have that same attitude of, follow the things that you're really excited about doing, and you'll find some way to monetise it, and somehow of making it into a living.

I always drew pictures. From the age of three, that's all I really wanted to do. I occasionally write and direct movies but my bread and butter existence is drawing pictures!

## You say not a great deal but there are a lot of scientists in the Wells family!

Herbert Wells had two strings to his bow - the imaginative writer and the serious scientist. He also had two sons, George, known as Gip, and my grandfather, Frank.

Herbert Wells wrote *The Science of Life* with his eldest son, Gip, who by that time was a professor of Zoology, and Julian Huxley, grandson of Herbert Wells' former tutor and brother of Aldus Huxley who wrote *A Brave New World*. Published in 1930, *The Science of Life* was the definitive biology textbook for quite some time.

Frank had two children, my Aunt Robin, and my father, Martin. Like Herbert Wells and his uncle Gip, my father Martin studied biology at university and then also became a zoologist. He is still one of the World's leading experts on octopi!

Adding to the long line of scientists, my elder brother Dominic went to Cambridge where he originally qualified as a vet and then went back and did a PhD in muscle physiology. Today, he leads a research team looking into treatments for muscular dystrophy.

I however went off into the world of animation and from there into the film business.

## Which of H.G. Wells' lesser known works would you encourage people to read?

I actually rather enjoy his short stories. Most are just a couple of pages. You can get collections of these short stories that are enormously varied and tend to be about a wide variety of ideas and topics.

I can remember reading one about a man who figured out how to make a diamond but it involved building an apparatus that you had to keep very hot for a very long time. The man uses his entire fortune during the process but he does eventually produce a huge diamond. However, he's left dirt poor and living in a tiny hovel so no one believes he could possibly own a gemstone of that value and no one will buy it from him!



### In the 70 years since his death, which scientific developments would have excited your great grandfather and inspired him to write his next book?

He would have loved the whole linking of the World together through the internet, and the level of communication and sharing of knowledge. His book called the *World Brain* anticipated a system of sharing knowledge across the World. The fact that this has actually come into existence would be enormously exciting to him.

### You directed a film version of *The Time Machine*.

Yes, I directed a version that was released in 2002 [starring Guy Pearce]. There were things about the movie that I really enjoyed doing. I loved the fact that we got to design and build the time machine and I'm very proud of that as a piece of design.

And a lot about the movie I think is really very good, although we strayed quite a long way from the book. But then so did George Pal's 1960 version. His Eloy were beautiful blonde, innocent people but the Eloy that H.G. Wells' time traveller discovers in the future are these tiny, barely human sort of creatures.

There is no romance or relationships in H.G. Wells' book. His book is entirely about man's place in evolution, and about how tiny and insignificant we are in the universe. Films however, are always about people and people's relationships because that's what we actually care about and buy into.

*Simon Wells, director of The Time Machine and great grandson of H.G. Wells.*

### Would you say this was a career highlight?

So far, my favourite experience has to be the last movie I worked on. My wife and I wrote *Mars needs Moms*, which was a wonderful experience and I got to work with one of my all time heroes, Bob Zemeckis. I'd worked with him previously on *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* and on *Polar Express*, but actually getting to write a script under his direct tutelage was pretty special.

Simon Wells lives in Hollywood with his wife and two daughters. His movie career began as a supervising animator on *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* in 1988. As a story artist for Dreamworks he has worked on *Antz*, *Chicken Run*, *Shrek*, *A Shark's Tale*, *The Polar Express*, *Madagascar*, *Over the Hedge*, *Flushed Away*, *Kung Fu Panda* and *The Croods*. *The Time Machine* is being screened at The Ambassadors as part of the Wells in Woking programme (see page 19).





*Image copyright of Karen Hatch Photography.*

## Wells: the storyteller

Bedridden with a broken leg, a young H.G. Wells would read books from the local library to pass the time. He soon became devoted to the characters and exciting new worlds that the likes of Dickens gave him access to, which stimulated his desire to write.

### Reading between the lines

Helping inspire the next generation of could-be writers, professional voice over artist and Horsell resident, Lorraine Ansell, shares her top tips for bringing a story to life and making reading fun.

#### Get some time in

Put aside at least ten minutes of story time each day. By having reading as part of your daily routine, it will become second-nature for your child to read.

#### Get engaged

Point out the words and pictures in the story. Ask your child to describe what they see. Ask questions, suggest new ideas and create a world from the story which you read.

#### Get involved

Use your hands and face - as well as your voice - to animate the story. Make the story fun, enjoy it - if you are having fun then so will your child.

#### Get vocal

When reading use your voice to make sounds, such as animal sounds like woof, growl and hoot. Ask your child to repeat them after you, so that they can learn to vocalise the sounds. If there is a tiny little character, then perhaps it has a thin soft voice; a giant might have a deep voice. Try out some character voices to give the story some colour.

#### Get others to join in

Stories and rhymes can be shared with the whole family so why not invite siblings or other family members to join in?

#### Get out and about

Use the story when out and about: ask your child to imagine the characters and what they might get up to when in the park, supermarket, shops or on the way to school.

#### Get arty and crafty

Your child can draw or make the characters from the story or even put on a play about their favourite character.

#### Get started

With short story *The Final Myth*, written by pupils at Maybury Junior School with the help of creative writer and *Soterion Mission* author, Stewart Ross.

# The Final Myth: A new Greek legend

## By Year 4, the Ants, Maybury Junior School

In the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, there is a tiny island called Sanop. Here, long, long ago, there lived a hideous, revolting lady called Zugip. She was monstrous, with terrible green, faded-orange and bright pink spots; her hair was as black as midnight yet as shiny as the sun. She had a braid of ribbon on the right side of her shoulder that gleamed in the sunlight. Her clothes were dull and old-fashioned: dark, boring crimson, red and maroon. It was like wearing a potato sack as a dress - ugh! Her eyes looked black but actually they were extremely dark navy blue. She had three husbands. One was fat, one was slim and one was like a scarecrow. She didn't like them - except when they brought her birthday presents!

Believe it or not, Zugip was not always a hag. When she sang - "la-la-li-la-la!" - she turned into the pretty and strong Amirona, with blonde curly hair and a princess hairband. Her eyes were like shimmering diamonds. She loved everybody in the world - including her three husbands! She loved the gods too. She wore brown boots and a rainbow dress with purple and yellow flowers on it. She was so elegant, like roses and daisies. She had pale, clear skin and she had no spots on her face! While she was spinning and singing, her hair grew longer. When people saw her they fell madly in love with her.

Sadly, Amirona could not sing all the time. Every day at midnight, she turned back into the hideous and gross Zugip. She felt really embarrassed about the wrinkles and spots all over her face. "Maybe I shouldn't go outside again," she thought. "I look like the oldest and ugliest woman in the universe." If you had seen her, you would have fainted in terror! But she looked so lovely when she sang and became Amirona that, if you had been there, you would have imagined she was an angel. "If only I could sing for ever," she sighed, "then I would be beautiful for ever."

One day, a passing dove heard Zugip crying on a rock. The white soft dove wiped Zugip's tears and whispered gently, "Zugip, please don't cry! I have a plan!"

"What is it?" asked Zugip, sniffing. "There is a magician called Quello who I think can help you with your problem," continued the dove.

"Where does he live?" Zugip asked quickly.

"Quello lives on the island of Hanora! If you like I can carry you there."

"Yes please," cried Zugip.

"Then hop aboard," cooed the dove. "Hold on to my legs, and off we go!"

Off they went over the blue ocean, flying high above everything. They were travelling to find help and advice.

Suddenly, an island appeared. "That is it!" cried the dove.

"Thank goodness we have arrived," called Zugip cheerfully as they landed.

The island of Hanora was rocky and bleak. The trees were deep crimson with leaves of yellow and brown, shaking in the wind and quivering like a squirrel's tail. The poisonous vegetation fluttered constantly in the breeze. Soon Zugip came across a large, deep, gloomy, twisting cave. In it were frogs' eyeballs perfectly preserved in jars full of deep-green vinegar. "Is anyone there?" shouted Zugip. There was a big echo but no reply. Walking further into the cave, Zugip discovered a huge amount of elephant intestines hanging from the ceiling, and red snakeskins lying on the shelves. Deer antlers were tied to the ceiling too, and water dripped down from them.

This place is disgusting, thought Zugip as she crept along. Finally, she crawled into an opening in the cave and there sat the magician, Quello.

"I have a problem," sighed Zugip.

"Tell me about it," said Quello.

"Well, when I sing I turn into the beautiful Amirona. But when I stop singing I go back to being like I am now, the revolting Zugip. I want to be beautiful all the time. The dove says you can help me. Oh please tell me that you can help me!"

"Hmm," muttered Quello. "Not sure."

Zugip begged and begged until Quello replied, "OK. I will agree to help you, but on one condition: you must bring me the beating hearts of your three husbands."

"What!!! I... I... I... don't know if I can!" stuttered Zugip. "They are the only husbands I have. A lady like me could never do that. I'm weak! I have no power to do such a horrid thing."

Quello got very cross. "I can only do the magic if you give me the hearts, OK?" He shouted, "GO GET ME THE HEARTS. NOW!!!"

Zugip answered, "I won't. They are my husbands, and I will never be able to kill them."

Quello replied, "Do you want to be Zugip for ever or not? You don't do you?"

"No! I don't!" babbled Zugip.

"THEN GO!" Quello screamed.

"OK," Zugip said finally.

She set off. Outside the cave, she realised she needed a weapon. Yes! She found a knife in the grass, but it wasn't deadly enough. So she scraped it on a stone until it became sharp enough to cut through steel. Zugip called



for the dove. "Here!" she cried. "Please come here!" The dove swooped down, picked up Zugip and dropped her off back at the island of Sanop.

Zugip acted normal to her three husbands. "Urgh!" they cried when they saw her. They were not interested in their hideous wife. At that moment, Zugip began to sing. Before long she had turned into the beautiful Amirona, and the three husbands fell in love with her all over again. When she saw this, Amirona slowly took out her knife while still singing. Amirona stabbed the three men one by one and reached in for their hearts.

W... W... What are you doing?" gasped dying husband number one.

"Why are you doing this?" croaked dying husband number two.

"How could you?" squawked dying husband number three.

Amirona did not reply. What was the point in talking to dead people? When she had the hearts, she stopped singing and became Zugip once more. She put on some gloves, placed the crimson beating hearts on a golden tray, and called the dove again to take her back to Hanora. While she was waiting for the dove she thought to herself, what have I done?

Holding the golden tray under her arm, Zugip returned to Hanora.

"Here! Take them, mister magician" Zugip said to Quello as she handed him the tray of hearts. "Now, please turn me back into the glorious Amirona" she asked.

Quello looked at the hearts and smiled. He kept his promise. He used his magic key to unlock a magic scroll from a locked box. He murmured, "Make this lady as beautiful as a princess - all the time!"

The magic was as amazing as a box of indoor fireworks. Zipity-zip! Wippity-wip! Wackity-woo! Cockadooodle-doo! And in an instant Zugip turned into the amazing Amirona, spinning around in relief. "I'm back to normal!" she cried. She danced and looked at herself in the mirror. "Wow! It's a miracle!" she yelled with joy. "I'm so beautiful again! So, so

beautiful! Thank you, Quello. I'm so happy that I am not Zugip anymore. I'm Amirona! Yes, this is the best day of my life! No one will call me ugly ever again."

Now Zugip had changed into Amirona, Quello could not believe his eyes. "Oh my goodness, you do look awfully beautiful," he gasped. "Will you marry me?"

Amirona was so grateful to Quello that she agreed at once. "Of course I will."

The dove was too small and weak to carry the couple over the sea to Sanop, so Quello made a spell with his magic scroll, whispering, "Bigger, bigger dove! Get bigger and stronger."

And the dove grew.

When they arrived at Sanop, the people were so happy to see Amirona. "Yay! Amirona is back!" they yelled.

"But who is that with her?" asked a young villager from a stable.

"I'm Quello the powerful magician!" said Quello.

On the day of the wedding Quello conjured a beautiful wedding dress for Amirona. "I am so happy and so excited," she cried. The dress was white and flowing, like the dove flying in the sky. Her skin was as white as snow, her lips as red as blood.

"You look so beautiful, Amirona," whispered Quello. Everyone stared at her gown and at her face. She was wearing beautiful sky-blue eye shadow and her long eyelashes were jet-black. On her wedding day, the guests scattered her with flowers. The island held a special Greek Olympics as well, just for Quello. Everyone had a great time.

Quello and Amirona still live on Sanop. The sun always shines there, too, and the people say it is because the sun is really Amirona smiling. And so our story ends in great happiness.



## Wells in Woking alien themed short story competition

Woking survived one heavyweight Martian attack; it can handle another round of extra-terrestrial tales! Free to enter, wordsmiths have until midnight on Wednesday 20 July 2016 to pen their masterpiece and challenge Wells for Woking's science fiction crown.

**Categories and prizes:** 1st Prize = £50, 2nd Prize = £25, 3rd Prize = £10

1. Primary school children (Reception to Year 3) - max 500 words
2. Primary school children (Year 4 to Year 6) - max 750 words
3. Secondary school children (Years 7 to 11) - max 1,000 words
4. Further education (18 and under) - max 1,500 words
5. Adults over the age of 19 - max 3,000 words

**How to enter:** Download the entry form and T&Cs from [www.wellsinwoking.info](http://www.wellsinwoking.info). Email your story and entry form to [celebratewoking@woking.gov.uk](mailto:celebratewoking@woking.gov.uk) with the subject line: **Wells in Woking Short Story Competition**. Limited to one entry per person. Prize winners will be notified by 1 September 2016.





# Wells: the message from beyond

Standing sentinel over Crown Square in Woking Town Centre is a seven metre high Martian tripod. The chrome and electropolished stainless steel fighting machine, designed by sculptor Michael Condon, is a symbol of the town's Wellsian literary heritage and place marker for 'where modern science fiction took off'.

The War of the Worlds inspired sculpture is a striking and innovative piece of public art, installed in 1998 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the book, published in January 1898 by William Heinemann, London.

Complementing the imposing tripod sculpture and, further bringing the story to life, is the nearby cylindrical pod, which resembles the crafts in which the book's space invaders arrived from Mars. The pod is depicted ploughing into the ground as Wells described, and patterns in the surrounding pedestrian paving represent the shock waves resulting from the pod's landing.

Furthermore, several embellished paving slabs representing the bacteria responsible for eventually destroying the Martian invaders can also be seen. One 'broken' bacteria slab is situated under one of the tripod's legs, which portrays the bacteria creeping upwards to destroy the seemingly invincible invader.

Wells was a man that wanted to change the world. In *The War of the Worlds*, Wells draws parallels between the Martian invasion and the aggressive expansion of the British Empire: "And before we judge them too harshly, we must remember what ruthless and utter destruction our own species has wrought, not only upon animals, such as the vanished Bison and the Dodo, but upon its own inferior races."

Source: H.G. Wells, *The War of the Worlds*, Book 1, chap.1 (Penguin, London: 2005), pp.9.

He encourages the reader to consider imperialism and the right to rule with arrogant superiority over another race.

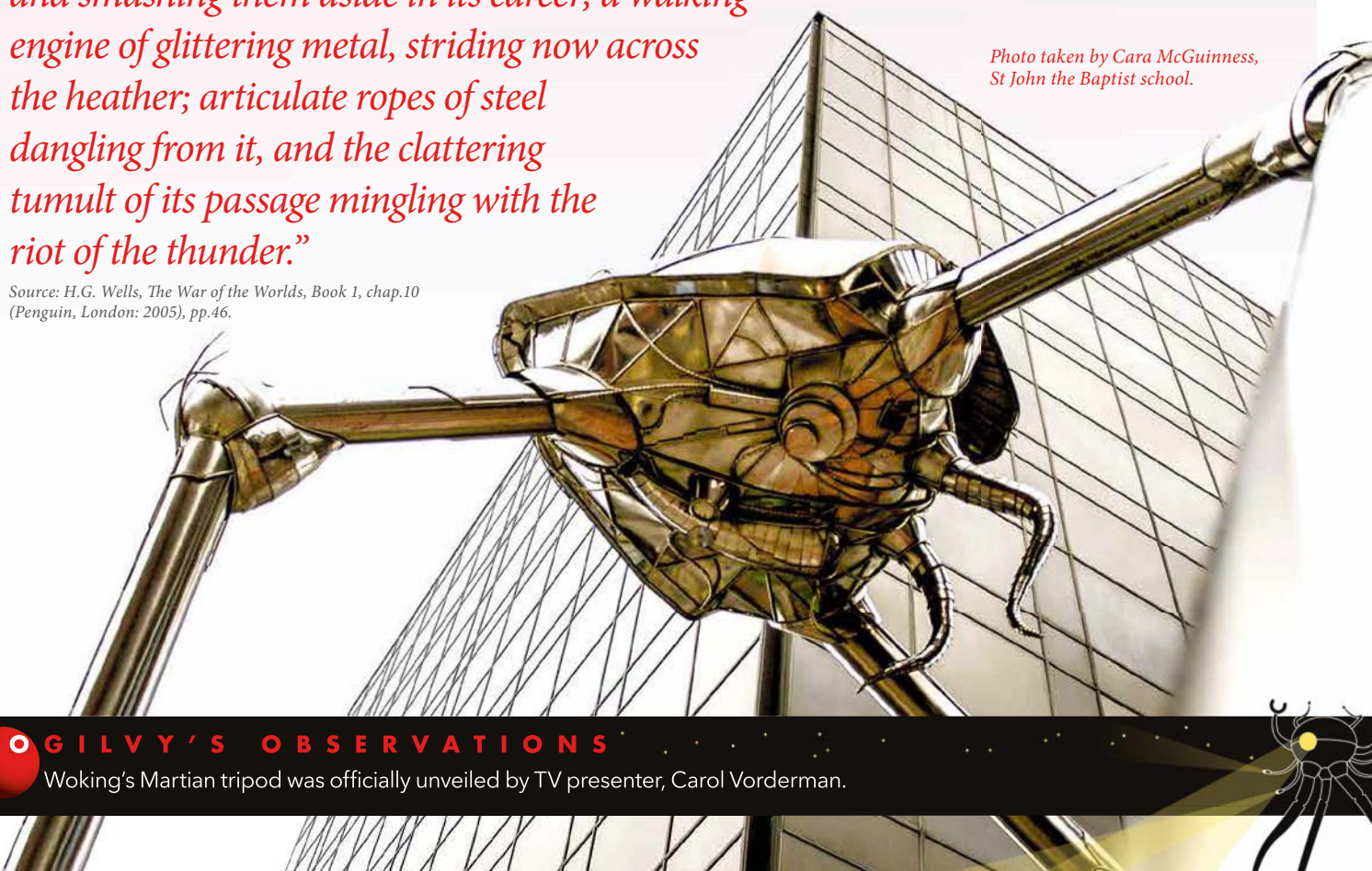
Wells warns that Man is merely the survivor, not the victor, in this interplanetary tale and that the threat of invasion by more intelligent life-forms is ever present. "The destruction of the Martians is only a reprieve. To them, and not to us, perhaps, is the future ordained."

Source: H.G. Wells, *The War of the Worlds*, Book 11, chap.10 (Penguin, London: 2005), pp.179.

*"And this Thing I saw! How can I describe it? A monstrous tripod, higher than many houses, striding over the young pine trees, and smashing them aside in its career; a walking engine of glittering metal, striding now across the heather; articulate ropes of steel dangling from it, and the clattering tumult of its passage mingling with the riot of the thunder."*

Source: H.G. Wells, *The War of the Worlds*, Book 1, chap.10 (Penguin, London: 2005), pp.46.

Photo taken by Cara McGuinness, St John the Baptist school.



# Wells: the feminist

Wells' prophetic imagination was first displayed in his pioneering works of science fiction but later he became an apostle of socialism, science and progress. His controversial views of sexual equality and support of women's rights were laid bare with the publication of *Ann Veronica* (1909), in which the female heroine asserts her independence by rebelliously defying her father.

Another headstrong female, looking to push the boundaries of modern day space exploration and go where no female has gone before, is Mars One hopeful, Clare Weedon.

From nearby Addlestone in Surrey, Clare aged 28, is among four Britons shortlisted for a one-way trip to Mars and could become one of the first people to walk on the Red Planet.

More than 200,000 people initially applied for the controversial, privately funded, £6bn Mars One project, which aims to set up a permanent human settlement by 2024.

Miss Weedon, a systems integration manager for Virgin Media, said: "I want to go to Mars because it's the ultimate experience of a lifetime. I want to achieve the best, I want to do amazing things, this would be the icing on the cake.

"It's so exciting, I'm an adrenaline junkie and to me this is like waiting in a queue for a rollercoaster. You're terrified but excited. To possibly go and do something that no-one has done before and go down in history and make amazing discoveries to help with the future of humankind, it's absolutely incredible. My family is really supportive and really excited for me."

In total, 50 men and 50 women have been shortlisted from around the world, including 39 from the Americas, 31 from Europe, 16 from Asia, seven from Africa and seven from Oceania. Dutch entrepreneur Bas Lansdorp, co-founder of Mars One, said: "These aspiring Martians provide the World with a glimpse into who the modern day explorers will be."

There will be eight or nine unmanned trips to Mars, before the first group of four astronauts are scheduled to be launched into space in 2024.

Miss Weedon added: "The first year of the mission will be crucial as we will be learning and researching how to live with limited resources and making sure the living environment is sustainable. There are climate problems on Earth. We can hopefully teach people that we don't need all this stuff and give people hope for the future."

*"There is every reason to suppose that the surface of Mars is occupied by living beings."*

Source: Report of a debate, *Science Schools Journal*, Nov.1888, p.58, quoted Bernard Bergonzi, *Early H.G. Wells* (Manchester Univ. Press, Manchester: 1961), p.123.

Image: NASA/JPL-Caltech.

Before she blasts off into space Clare hopes to complete her goal which is to go storm chasing through Tornado Alley. For more information about this next giant leap for humankind visit [www.mars-one.com](http://www.mars-one.com)

*Article supplied by Woking Advertiser, written by Charlotte Talbot and David Stubbings.*

# Allies at work

A passionate band of individuals joined forces with Woking Borough Council to develop the Wells in Woking programme. Much like H.G. Wells they could see things ahead of time.

*“The Martians, dead!...Slain, after all man’s devices had failed, by the humblest things that God, in his wisdom, has put upon this earth. ...There are no bacteria in Mars, and directly these invaders arrived, directly they drank and fed, our microscopic allies began to work their overthrow. By the toll of a billion deaths man has bought his birthright of the earth, and it is his against all comers; it would still be his were the Martians ten times as mighty as they are. For neither do men live nor die in vain.”*

Source: H.G. Wells, *The War of the Worlds*, Book 11, chap.8 (Penguin, London: 2005), pp.168.

The union started with two Horsell residents, Tony Kremer and Professor Peter Beck, who envisaged a period of celebration in honour of Woking’s greatest author. In 2013 they launched their takeover. They infected others with their enthusiasm, drew them in, cultivated their ideas and by the beginning of 2016, Wells fever had spread through the Borough.

Woking Borough Council extends its thanks to:



**Professor Peter Beck**  
Author, historian and Horsell resident



**Peter Hall**  
The Lightbox



**Barrie Higham**  
Surrey History Centre



**Cllr Beryl Hunwicks**  
Elected member for Horsell West



**Tony Kremer**  
Horsell Residents’ Association



**Hannah Lane**  
Horsell Common Preservation Society



**Riëtte Thomas**  
Woking Borough Council



**Ann Tilbury**  
Journalist

# Wells' time travelling journey

## Published works

1895 The Time Machine, The Wonderful Visit

1896 Island of Dr. Moreau, The Wheels of Chance

1897 The War of the Worlds serial in Pearson's Magazine

1897 The Invisible Man

1898 The War of the Worlds (WOTW)

1899 When the Sleeper Wakes

1900 Love and Mr. Lewisham

1901 The First Men in the Moon

1904 The Food of the Gods

1905 A Modern Utopia, Kipps: The Story of a Simple Soul

1908 The War in the Air

1909 Tono-Bungay, Ann Veronica

1910 The History of Mr. Polly

1911 The New Machiavelli, The Country of the Blind, Floor Games

1913 Little Wars

1914 The War That Will End War

1920 The Outline of History

1927 The Complete Short Stories of H.G. Wells

1930 The Science of Life, co-written with J.S. Huxley & G.P. Wells

1933 The Shape of Things to Come

1934 Experiment in Autobiography

1938 World Brain

## Life and times

1866 Born 21 September, Bromley, Kent

1891 Marries Isabel Wells (cousin)

1895 Moves to Woking, Surrey

1895 Marries Amy Catherine Robbins (Jane)

1896 Moves to Worcester Park, Surrey

1898 Moves to Sandgate, Kent

1901 Son George Phillip Wells is born

1903 Son Frank Richard Wells is born

1905 Einstein publishes his theory of relativity

1906 Meets President Theodore Roosevelt

1909 Daughter Anna-Jane is born to Amber Reeves

1914 Son Anthony West is born to Rebecca West

1914 Outbreak of World War One (1914 - 1919)

1920 Meets Vladimir Lenin

1927 Death of Jane, his second wife

1934 Co-founds the Diabetic Association (Diabetes UK)

1934 Meets Joseph Stalin

1935 Meets President Franklin D. Roosevelt

1938 Orson Welles radio broadcast of WOTW

1939 Outbreak of World War Two (1939 - 1945)

1946 Dies 13 August aged 79

1953 First film adaptation of WOTW

1960 First film adaptation of The Time Machine

1961 First man in space

1963 First woman in space

1969 Man walks on the moon

1978 Jeff Wayne's WOTW musical

2002 Remake of The Time Machine by Simon Wells

2005 Remake of WOTW by Spielberg and Cruise

2008 Frozen water confirmed on Mars