

## *In appreciation: Alan Tuplin*

**Many** of our dedicated followers will have noticed that Hackthorn school did not feature in the August or September issues of Welton **NEWS**. Sadly, this is because Alan Tuplin, our school reporter, passed away during the summer months. Alan had struggled with his health over the past two years and, on several occasions, seemed to be confounding the medical staff. Unfortunately, the fight proved too much.

I know many of you enjoyed Alan's school recounts. He had his own unique, often quirky, style. He was so passionate about education but didn't always agree with the government's decisions and I often had to 'rein him in!' Nevertheless, no one could fault his love for Hackthorn school.

We are hugely indebted to him for his dedication as a governor, an ex-parent and a friend of the school. He was a regular attender at Friday Good Works assemblies and enjoyed celebrating the children's and staff's achievements.

Alan was a great role model for all the governors. He cared passionately about the school and invested so much time attending governors' meetings, assemblies and maths subject monitoring visits. He took his duties seriously. Meetings will not be the same without him.

We will also miss his presence at school productions, when he would go to great lengths to produce the best recordings of the children.

As a keen musician, Alan ran a ukulele club for the pupils and even attempted to teach staff the guitar! He also enjoyed teaching coding club.

His main contribution was running the school website. Despite his poor health, he worked hard to set up our home learning blog, in response to the COVID pandemic.

Our condolences go to his wife and son. We will be conducting some form of memorial service to honour him and purchasing a permanent memorial for the school premises. If Alan has impacted your life and you would like to contribute towards this fund, please drop your donations into the front office but you will need to wear a mask!

***Karen Appleby  
Headteacher  
Hackthorn CE Primary School***

*Editor's note: Alan was a regular contributor to the NEWS for a number of years. His pieces were always interesting and provided a warm and realistic view of the life of a school that he so clearly loved.*