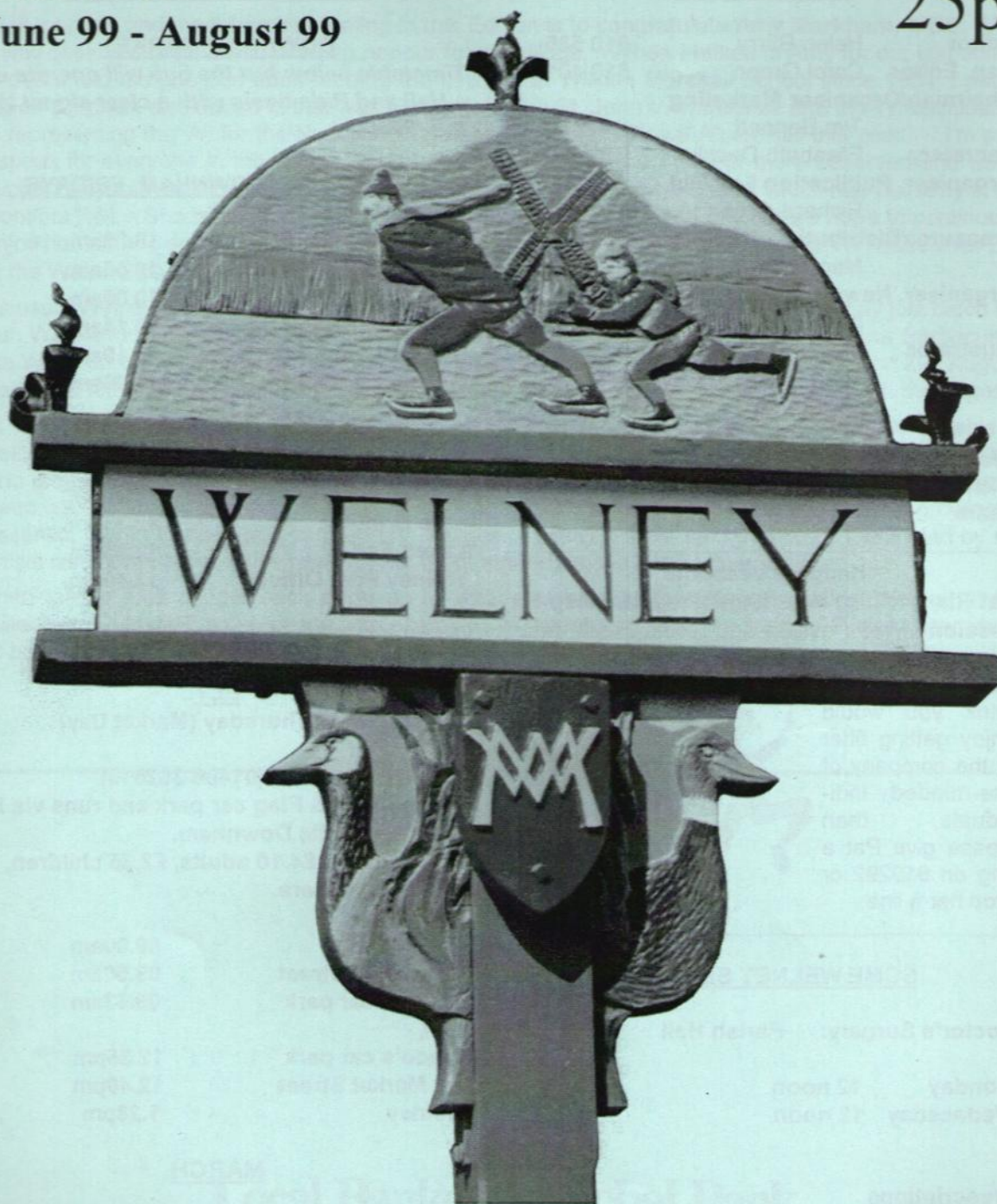


Issue N° 11
June 99 - August 99

25p



NEWS

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Distribution: Peter & Charlotte Cox, Pat Rix, Michael Dickinson, Tom Fisher and the Editorial Team

Keep Fit sessions

Pat Rix is hoping to arrange a regular Keep Fit session in the Pavilion and would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in taking part in this. If you think you would enjoy getting fitter in the company of like-minded individuals, then please give Pat a ring on 610292 or drop her a line



SOME WELNEY SERVICES

Doctor's Surgery: Parish Hall

Monday 12 noon
Wednesday 12 noon

Prescriptions

Can be collected from the Post Office (inform the doctor at the time) Repeat prescriptions can be left and collected at the Post Office

Wet Fishmonger calls at:

3.00pm Chestnut Avenue and
3.15pm at the Post Office every Friday

WELNEY BUS SERVICES

DOWNHAM MARKET

Timetable below but the bus will operate on a Hail and Ride basis with a clear signal to the driver.

WELNEY TO DOWNHAM: FRIDAYS

Welney Post Office	10.00am.
Lakes End	10.06am.
Lots Bridge	10.08am
Nordelph Bridge	10.14am
Salters Lode	10.19am.
Downham Market	10.26am.
Downham Market	12.15pm
Salters Lode	12.22pm.
Nordelph Bridge	12.27pm.
Lots Bridge	12.33pm.
Lakes End	12.35pm.
Welney Post Office	12.40pm.

(Fare: £1.70 single, £2.20 return)

ELY

Every Thursday (Market Day)

Cavalier Coaches (01406 362518)
Starts Lamb & Flag car park and runs via Py-moor and Little Downham.
Fare: Return £4.10 adults, £2.35 children, £3.20 pensioners.

Welney	09.00am
Ely Market Street	09.50am
Tesco's car park	09.53am
Tesco's car park	12.35pm
Ely Market Street	12.40pm
Welney	1.28pm

MARCH

FACT (Fenland Association for Community Transport) operate a "dial a ride" service **from door to door** to March every Wednesday. The service leaves Welney 9.00-9.30am and returns 12.30-12.45pm. In addition, once a month 'specials' run to places like Peterborough and King's Lynn. To use the service you must become a member of the Association, which costs £1 per year. The return fare to March is £3.00. For further details phone: 661 234

EDITORIAL

Well, our first and most heartfelt feeling in this Edition is to congratulate **Amy Markham, MBE**. What a well deserved honour and what an honour for the village. When I talked to Amy for our last edition and she told me she had been feeding the children at William Marshall School since 1954, I nearly fell off my chair, and added to that was her work for the St. John's Ambulance and the WI culminating in representing the WI for the National Annual Meeting at the Royal Albert Hall this year. I'm sure I speak for everyone in the village when I say that never was an honour more deserved and we all support a system which acknowledges the integrity and genuine hard work which has put **Amy** in the Honours Roll. She may have retired from feeding the children each day but we hope to continue to enjoy her tea and scones at the Mini market and at the Water Gala - last year the WI raised over £50 at the Water Gala **Amy, we salute and congratulate you.**

As usual Welney News brings you loads of news of what's on in the village. You may just catch the Fun Weekend at the Playing Fields, ending with a Cricket Match on 27th June, there's a Barbecue at the WWT on 17th July, the Church Fete on 7th August and the Water Gala and Dance on 29th August. You'll find lots of other events that individual groups have arranged as you read through the pages.

At a time when there is a concerted effort to get the Playing Field going again, it is suitable to welcome Denis Booth to the **Day in My Life** series - Denis was one of the enthusiastic footballers who propelled the Welney team forward in the late 1940's when he was de-mobbed from the army. Read about him on pages 6 and 7. Then the second instalment of the story of the growing of Essential Oils in Welney and surrounding villages. Many people said they were fascinated by our article last month on how this new development started, so we hope you enjoy that.

Then take a look on the back page as to what you can do towards celebrating Welney at the Millennium. Myself, as someone with examples of tapestry all over the house, I think I know where I'll be helping. Anyway, as usual, thanks for your support.

Helen Barry



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WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL

The New Parish Council was elected on Thursday 6th May. The full result was:

Timothy Bennett	66 votes	
Denis Booth	116 votes	(elected)
Alison Burrows	85 votes	(elected)
Charlotte Cox	103 votes	(elected)
Richard Green	74 votes	(elected)
Steven Harvey	95 votes	(elected)
Martin Kyne-Lilley	85 votes	(elected)
Pauline Pullum	85 votes	(elected)
Patricia Rix	100 votes	(elected)
Sandi Short	65 votes	
Ian Warrington	77 votes	(elected)

The Parish Clerk is Mrs. Pat Copeman Tel: 620 226, fax 610 418.

The first Parish Council of the newly elected members took place on:

Tuesday 11th May 1999

The meeting opened with a warm welcome and congratulations to the newly elected Parish Council. Apologies were received from Cllr Warrington, who was not able to be present. All Councillors signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and Mrs. Pat Rix was appointed Chairman, and Mrs. Charlotte Cox was appointed Vice-Chairman.

The proposed footpath at March Road was discussed and it was agreed to consider a date before the next meeting in July so that we can ask the Highways Department to come along and do a road user census along the stretch of road from New Road Corner to the Hurn Drove Entrance to the Playing Field to ascertain whether there is sufficient usage by pedestrians to push our case for a foot path a step further.

The Wash Road was again discussed and it was confirmed that letters had been received from all representatives and committee and party leaders on the Norfolk County Council confirming that they are looking into the two options as outlined, and it was agreed that the pressure will be kept on them. The question of 5b funding was also raised with a possibility of the cycle path and footpath coming under the Head of Tourism, which may be eligible, and this matter would be put to the Norfolk County Council.

The Village Notice Board was discussed at length and it was agreed that it would be necessary to have a metal board approx. 4ft long and 2ft 6ins high and that an ideal place for it would

be on the front of the Parish Hall, subject to agreement by the Hall Committee and any other interested parties. Several brochures were studied and two Councillors agreed to look after this project.

A further sum had been received from the Borough Council relating to recycling credits from the bottle bank and the paper bank and, as this money was intended to be used to for the benefit of the whole village, it was suggested that maybe it could be used to pay for the Notice Board, which would be a board for the use of the whole village, and also to include a section on Tourist Information.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the Annual Audit was fast approaching and the accounts for the year to 31st March were confirmed and signed in preparation for the Audit - the notices for which have been displayed in the village.

Pat Copeman
Clerk to Welney Parish Council

NEXT MEETING
TUESDAY 13th JULY 7.30pm
WELNEY VILLAGE HALL

Parishioners are very welcome to attend where they can monitor proceedings, comment under public participation and raise any matters that are causing concern.



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DIARY DATES

JUNE JUNE JUNE JUNE JUNE JUNE JUNE JUNE JUNE JUNE JUNE JUNE JUNE

Fri	25th	7.30 - 9.30 pm	Bingo	Village Hall
		7.00 pm - 11.00 pm	Midsummer Dance	Pavillion
Mon	28th	10.00 am - 12 noon	Playbus	Village Car Park
Tues	29th	2.00 pm	Friendship Club	Village Hall
Wed	30th	6.00 & 7.00 pm	Carpet Bowls	Pavillion
		7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall

JULY JULY JULY JULY JULY JULY JULY JULY JULY JULY JULY JULY JULY

Fri	2nd	10.00 am - 12 noon	Parents & Toddlers	Village Hall
Sat	3rd	10.00 am	Mini Mart	Village Hall
Mon	5th	10.00 am - 12 noon	Playbus	Village Car Park
		7.30 pm	Gala Meeting	Village Hall
Wed	7th	10.30 am	Teddy Church	Church
		7.00 - 8.00 pm	WI Monthly Meeting	Village Hall
		6.00 & 7.00 pm	Carpet Bowls	Pavillion
Thurs	8th	7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall
Fri	9th	9.30 am onward	Mobile Library	Usual locaiton
		10.00 - 12 noon	Parents & Toddlers	Village Hall
		7.30 pm	Line Dancing	Pavillion
Mon	12th	10.00 am - 12 noon	Playbus	Village Car Park
Tues	13th	2.00 pm	Friendship Club	Village Hall
		7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Wed	14th	6 & 7 pm	Carpet Bowls	Pavillion
		7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall
Fri	16th	10.00 - 12 noon	Parents & Toddlers	Village Hall
		7.30 pm	Line Dancing	Pavillion
Sat	17th	6.30 pm onward	Barbecue - WWT	Welney Wildfowl Trust
Mon	19th	10.00 - 12 noon	Playbus	Village Car Park
Tues	20th	To be announced	Friendship Club Outing	Flatfarm Mill & Southwold
Wed	21st	6 & 7 pm	Carpet Bowls	Pavillion
		7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall
Fri	23rd	10.00 - 12 noon	Parents & Toddlers	Village Hall
		7.30 pm	Line Dancing	Pavillion
Tues	27th	2.00 pm	Friendship Club	Village Hall
Wed	28th	6 & 7 pm	Carpet Bowls	Pavillion
		7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall
Thur	29th	1.30 pm	Summer Fayre & Sports Day	William Marshall School
Fri	30th	7.30 pm	Bingo	Village Hall
		7.30 pm	Line Dancing	Pavillion

AUGUST AUGUST AUGUST AUGUST AUGUST AUGUST AUGUST AUGUST AUGUST AUGUST

Wed	4th	10.30 am	Teddy Church	Church
		6 & 7 pm	Carpet Bowls	Pavillion
		7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall
Fri	6th	9.30 onward	Mobile Library	Usual Location
Sat	7th	2.00 pm	Summer Fete	Village Church
		10.00 am	Mini Mart	Village Hall
Tues	10th	2.00 pm	Friendship Club	Village Hall
Wed	11th	6 & 7 pm	Carpet Bowls	Pavillion
		7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall
Sun	29th	2.00 pm onward	WATER GALA	Village Hall/Car Park

NB Playbus finishes on 19th July for the summer break and recommences on 6th September

Parents & Toddlers finishes on 23rd July for the summer break and recommences on 10th September

A NEW FRAGRANCE IN THE FENS

(Part 2)

In our last edition Ken Goodger told the beginning of the story of the new venture in the Fens Essential Oils in which he and seven other farmers had begun to market the oils from camomile. He ended the story in 1998 when the venture had just got off the ground, and we promised more of the story in this edition.

The world of the Essential Oils market is a very small one and word quickly spread in 1998 that we had a small, experimental yield but a very high quality product. After selling our crop in 1998, we had encouraging signs from a number of firms and so we decided to expand the venture.

Apart from the essential oil, there are those toiletries which can be made from the by-products of the distilling - soap, shampoo, toilet water, cosmetics. Last year we sold to a firm making hand-made soap, but we plan eventually to make and market these products ourselves as Norfolk Essential Oils soap, conditioners, shampoo etc.

In terms of size in 1998 we devoted 35 acres to camomile, two and a half acres to German camomile, two acres to yarrow and we ran an experimental trial on angelica root oil. This proved to be a very interesting experiment, we dug it by hand - six of us dug it by hand just before Christmas on Richard Johnson land - and we put it through the still. The tests we've had done on it shows very high quality angelica root oil which has a value to us of about £800 a litre, which is quite considerable.

Now we are starting experiments in lavender, rosemary, and some English peppermint. These are small area trials, probably about 5000 plants each of those. They'll go through the still to extract oil and we'll then send that away to be analysed and people in the trade will get small sample bottles and then we'll get feedback and then do cost analysis to see if we'll run with those another year.

This year we have devoted 110 acres mostly to camomile, which is where we have had our experience and success.

Anyway, let's talk about this year's 110 acres. First of all, these are crops which are labour intensive: planting, hand weeding. We're talking about crops which are in the ground five or six years so we have to be careful about root weeds creeping in, things like thistle patches.

Some weeds produce oil and if they're allowed to grow among the crop, they contaminate the final product. But the beauty of it is that we are all small farmers, so we can provide that attention to detail - the wife can go out and spend an hour or two in the plot. That may sound bad but it's quite nice work in the summer.

What we think - and there are nine of us now - is that we did the right thing by letting the venture grow slowly as we gained experience and as we came to recognise that Fenland is a good place for essential oil crops.

We could have launched into a high acreage plan involving 'state of the art' stills and huge grants from the EC, which would have had to have been matched by our money, which we didn't have. As it is we have joined FACT, which works with Norfolk County Council and Cambridgeshire to fund new crop technology in the area. They help us with grants, but we also pay back a levy each year to promote other, new developments.

We've developed as we have seen the need. Last year we rented a boiler for the still at £250 a week: that imposes a great pressure to get everything through in the shortest time. This

year we've invested in a boiler of our own which has cost £9,000: we've had our still modified - we had two vats which hold two tons of material but we only had one lid last year so we could only use one vat at a time, so this year

we've bought another stainless steel lid and various other alterations have added another £9,000 - £10,000 - so with our original investment, we shall have a £50,000 still by the time we've done

We've developed as we've gained experience and tested the market and seen how we could invest our own money and take advantage of grants at a reasonable pace and without overextending our own resources and the jeopardising the traditional farming crops which are our current livelihood. For example this year our still will cope with the 110 acres we have planted and with the experimental crops we are growing but only if we work twenty four hours a day, because when you get something like fourteen or fifteen tons an acre of material with two tons per vat, taking something like two hours - well, work it out - that's about two acres a day, so



we've got over fifty days flat out. So if we decide to go over that 110 acre limit next year - perhaps even to 140 acres, then we need to invest in another still. All our grants run out in April next year, so a decision must be made very quickly on how successful we will be this year, and how far we should expand from that success.

We are, in a small way, creating employment; the staff at the garden centre at Doddington to produce our plants, the people making the home-made soap and - although it's only part time work - those we need in that intensive time at the distillery.

Another decision we must take this year is how far this new crop can encroach on our traditional farming crops. So far all the land for the essential oils has been 'set aside' land on all the farms - this is allowed as it is a non-food crop. If we extend the 110 acres next year then each of us will have to turn over acres now devoted to wheat or root crops. There is a fine balance here, and one which is not only a financial decision but a turning point on new crop technology in this area, and industries which can grow from that.

As I made clear in the last edition, a major part of the crop of essential oils in the past had come from South America and the Eastern European countries, then behind the Iron Curtain. Manufacturers here are very interested in English crops where they can see an official analysis done by people they trust, and where they can inspect the still and the growing crop. We aren't the only group of farmers in England that are experimenting in this way - but the manufacturers are interested in all of us.

Really, to sum up, we've found that we can grow essential oils here in the Fens to a very high quality. All nine of us run small farms in a very small radius around Welney and we all hope that both the oils and the by-products will create new workshops and jobs in the area. Aromatherapy is a growing industry and the toiletries and soap making could grow too.

We are launching our first products "The Camomile Range" at the Norfolk Show on the 30th June. And we shall have a stall at the Water Gala on 29th August - so come along and see soap, shampoo, conditioner, bath oil and many other products all made from plants grown locally under the banner of "Norfolk Essential Oils"

Ken Goodger

(from an interview with Helen Barry)

WELNEY VILLAGE HALL

Most of the activity of the Village Hall Committee has been centred on future fundraising in order to renew the entire floor of the Hall. The under-structure has been examined and it seems it is badly rotted and needs replacing; possibly we may have to replace the surface of the floor itself. There is no danger yet but obviously it must be repaired as soon as we can raise the money. It is a major project and the Committee has asked for estimates from local builders.

In addition the Committee has been concerned, with the Playing Field Committee, to organise the Water Gala, to drum up support for the stalls and games, get good events going and raise sponsorship for the Raft Races and the event itself.

Part of the fund raising in the future will come from the new **Lottery Club** (see the page inserted in this edition) and we hope you will consider joining this as a regular contribution to keeping the Hall in a good state of repair and covering the maintenance costs.

Marlen Moss-Eccardt (Chairman)



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WELNEY WATER GALA



This is a photo twenty or thirty years ago which they have in The Tuns. Can anyone identify the date?

This year the Village Hall Committee and the Playing Field Committee are organising a bumper time on

SUNDAY 29TH AUGUST FROM 2.00pm

GRAND RAFT RACES

CHILDREN 8-14

Sponsored by Giles Landscapes

BIG KIDS AGED 15 AND OVER

Sponsored by Howard Kent Transport

RULES

- 1 All rafts must be home made
- 2 All rafts must be human powered by oars or paddles - sails, motors, water wheels are not allowed
- 3 Maximum overall dimensions are 6 feet wide and 8 feet long.
- 4 Two people per craft
- 5 All entrants must be able to swim
- 6 Sense of humour essential.

Entry forms from Sylvia Kent at The Three Tuns or from Wendy at The Post Office.
Try and get entry forms in by the previous day, last entrants 1.30pm on 29th Gala Day

ENTERTAINMENT

STALLS GAMES REFRESHMENTS

FIRE ENGINE

ICE CREAM

BARBECUE

STALLS (INCLUDING BOTTLE STALL)
GAMES AND REFRESHMENTS
TEA AND HOME MADE CAKES PROVIDED
BY THE WI

ALL PROCEEDS TO THE VILLAGE HALL
AND TO THE PLAYING FIELD

WELNEY GALA DANCE

SUNDAY 29TH AUGUST 1999

MUSIC TO TJ COUNTRY

LICENSED BAR 7 - 11PM

Tickets: £2.50 from Sylvia Kent at The Three Tuns or at the Post Office.

CHURCH NEWS

Officially summer has finally arrived and many a heart should be gladdened - the rain will surely stop its seemingly steady stream and the earth will no doubt be parched again come the next issue of Welney News! Hopefully, we shall all be bemoaning the fact that it is rather too hot and once again the water companies will be declaring drought conditions.

Faint echoes of the song from Porgy and Bess "Summertime and the livin' is easy. Fish are jumpin' and the cotton is high" serve to remind us that summer is a time for at least some rest and relaxation. Time to take stock of life and spend just a little extra time with the folks around us.

For many though we shall continue the frantic rush of life and do our best to ignore family and friend - maybe even our doctor - telling us to take things just a little easier, to add a little more leisure time to our lives.

'How can I take time-out when there are so many things to do' is not an unusual cry. It comes from all quarters; parents with young and not-so-young children; people with jobs to do; those who have retired and wonder how they ever found time to go out to work. All with a 'to do' list that never seems to get any shorter aren't there always so many people depending on us.

Yet as the summer stretches before us, let us take stock, for we all need times of refreshing; it makes us happier healthier people, all the better able to carry on.

So, this summer take time-out to go with the easier side of the flow of life. Follow your true 'summer-time thoughts' and you might live little easier and who knows we might all become a little easier to live with!

Sheila Tooke (Rector)

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CHURCH SERVICES

<u>June</u>		
27 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
<u>July</u>		
4 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
11 th	11.00am	All Age Worship
18 th	9.30am	Holy Communion
25 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
<u>August</u>		
1 st	9.30am	Holy Communion
8 th	11.00am	All Age Worship
15 th	9.30am	Holy Communion
22 nd	9.30am	Morning Prayer
29 th	11.00am	United (Christchurch)
<u>September</u>		
5 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer

CHURCH SUMMER FETE SATURDAY 7TH AUGUST

Bottle stall, cake stall, plants,
games and a raffle

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MY LIFE IN A DAY

Denis Booth was born in The Lamb and Flag in 1920 - his grandmother was the licensee - because his grandfather was bedridden for twenty years - and his mother helped run the pub. His father was a master butcher in the shop next door, he employed three or four men and took his wares in a pony and trap around the village, no motor cars then.



When Denis was 8, he and his family (a brother and two sisters) moved to the Eagle Tavern (the house where he still lives with Edie, his wife). Denis's mother had serious lung problems at this time and was told she would live the rest of her life in a wheel chair, but she defied the doctors, brought up her family, ran the Eagle Tavern, took in fishermen, and carried on until the brewery closed the pub in 1962, and lived on until she was 72. She must have been a formidable woman.

Denis remembers walking to William Marshall School then coming home to his mother cooking and looking after them at the back of the Tavern - they were never allowed to walk through the bars in the front. But he remembers - sleeping above the bars - hearing in summer the men singing with their fiddles - the different men with their different songs. He says he knew by the singing who they were. He says that earlier, as the men arrived, the children would watch through an alcove door and see them hang their guns up - five, maybe six guns hanging behind the door, all loaded but with

safety catches on. Then if someone was lucky enough to see an otter in the river, he'd just put his head in the pub door and say he'd seen an otter and the pub would empty, men and guns after an otter for four old pence a pelt.

Denis did his usual stint in the holidays working in season on the farms, but he was never interested in agricultural work. That might have been his lot, but he showed considerable acumen in the early thirties, when he was thirteen, in getting friendly with a builder from Leicestershire, who came with his family to the Tavern for a fishing holiday. He invited Denis back for a holiday and from that began Denis's career in the building trade. At fourteen he went to be an apprentice bricklayer and builder and lived with the family whom he still calls mother and father Charlie. He earned 16/6d a week, gave 10/- for board, sent half the rest to his mother and spent some of the rest on buying a Raleigh cycle on HP. He also learned bookkeeping from father Charlie's son and stayed there until after the war broke out in 1939.

The building trade was exempted from call-up at the beginning of the war but Denis could see that there were three married men on the work force, as well as himself and with little work, so he told father Charlie that he would come back to Welney.

Three months into the war Denis and his father were working on Waterbeach aerodrome, cycling into Littleport and getting the bus from there. When that job was finished Denis was offered civilian work elsewhere but he and his mate said it was time they 'went into uniform'. So he went into the Engineers in the army and his sister joined the RAF. From 1940-44, Denis was in the RE's, he went on the D-Day landings on D-Day plus two, mostly working on minefield clearance with he says, modestly, 'a bit of action'.

He went through with the attacking force to Brussels and then saw a notice for soldiers below a certain age to volunteer for paratroop training to help win the war in the Far East. Denis applied and was sent to do his training in India at Rawalpindi, concentrating on a drop to liberate Singapore. Then the Americans dropped the atomic bombs in Japan and the war came to an end. Denis stayed in India until his demob came up in 1946.

Denis came home - having now travelled and got the taste for it. He'd been away from



Welney since he was 14 and his thoughts at 26 were that he'd make for South Africa or Australia. He'd got the wanderlust and the training behind him to support himself. But his sister was very ill and eventually died, his brother had been

stalwart at home during the war whilst his mother was still coping and Denis felt his place was to support his mother now, so he stayed.

And has stayed on and become a central figure

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in the village.

He went back into working in the building trade but his first great contribution to the village was to get a football team together with Eric Smart and Ron Stokes. When the old football club had disbanded they owed £10.19s on repairs on the goal posts, so that had to be raised first before they could get the goal posts back from the local chippy. Then they had to raise a team, persuade a farmer to let them have a field to play in and themselves travel by bike or motor bike to the fixtures. They also had to raise funds - one day with a fete and a dance in the summer they raised £142 - an incredible amount in the late forties.

Eddie James became Mrs. Booth in 1951, after riding pillion on the motor bike to football matches - and elsewhere - presumably! Denis

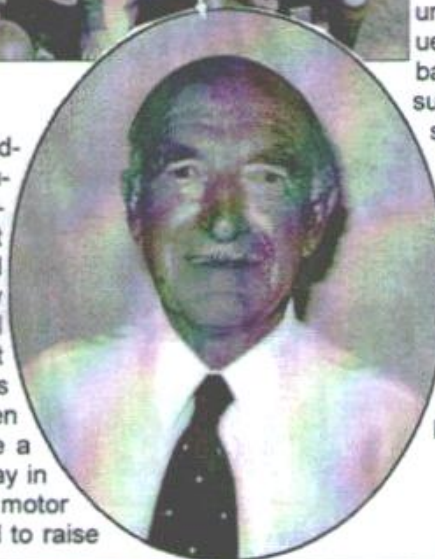
says he thinks in those days the motor bike may have been more the attraction than him. Edie is a local lass, too, and was at school with Denis. While he was in the army, she worked on the Land Army. They lived in Chestnut

Avenue for the first years of their marriage and then moved back to the Eagle Tavern when it became a private house in 1962 - the brewery sold it and Denis managed, with a loan, to raise the money to buy it. Their children grew up there, with Angela going to Cambridge and Sean to Brunel University. Denis prospered in his building trade.

But all the time - playing until he was 42 - he continued his interest in the football team. He was persuaded in the early sixties to stand for the Parish Council and still, in this year's elections, topped the poll for re-election. He is a Trustee of The Marshall's Charity and Secretary of the Welney Angling Club and a Bailiff. He is not only a stalwart of the village but he and Edie are part of its history.

Denis Booth

in interview with
Helen Barry



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LETTERS

Dear Editor

On 25th May I went with a group of toddlers from Christchurch playgroup on a visit to Mulberry Farm Park near Wisbech. We all had a wonderful time and I thought it would be of interest to your readers as an enjoyable day out for anyone with children or grandchildren to entertain. There is a café, though you are also welcome to take your own food. There is an enclosed play area within the café to entertain the younger children.

Outside are ride-on toys, trampolines, adventure playground, table tennis, playhouses, a large sandpit, and a small basket-ball court. Within the play area are rabbit and guinea pig enclosures. If you can drag the children away from all this, there are all the animals waiting to be fed and petted. There are alpacas, pigs, ponies, goats, pygmy goats, chickens, ducks, chipmunks, more rabbits and guinea pigs, turtles and terrapins. Our children loved feeding the animals, and stroking at least some of them! The time flew past and most of us were determined to visit again soon.

The farm park is open every weekend from 10-30am to 6-00pm and every Wednesday from 4-30pm to 6-00pm during April to October, and all school and Bank holidays from 10-30am to 6-00pm. It will also open at any other time of year by arrangement for groups or birthday parties. I highly recommend this family day out.

Holly Goodwin,

White Roses, Main Street.

To get to Mulberry Farm Park, take the A47 from Wisbech or the A141 from March towards Guyhirn, and follow the signs to Murrow. On arriving in the village, look for Back Road. Admission is £2-50 for adults and £2-00 for children. Groups of six or more booked in advance can get in at a reduced rate of £1-75 per head. There are also special birthday party rates and a number of special events during the year, the next being an egg hunt on 25th July, and a murder mystery day on 9th August. For more details or bookings, ring owners Robin and Sandra on 01945 700464.

~WATERWAYS~

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Amy Markham MBE

Was our feature on Amy in the last edition of Welney News a premonition? Did we know something? No, we didn't, but wasn't it fortuitous. We were celebrating Amy's life in the village, with her 45 years feeding the children at the school and her work with St John's Ambulance. Her Presidency of the Welney WI and her trip to the Albert Hall for their Annual General Meeting also featured in our article.

What Amy hadn't told us (and my! can she keep a secret) is that she had been invited to Buckingham Palace for a Garden Party and nominated for an M.B.E. for her service to the community over the last half century. We can be proud of Amy and we can all aspire to the standards that she has set.

Congratulations from us all!



LETTERS SUMMER BARBECUE AT WELNEY

Fancy an evening out? Come and join the **Friends of Welney** at our Annual Barbecue on **Saturday 17th July** at the WWT Welney Centre. The evening starts at **6.30pm** so there will be time for short stroll over the road to the Reserve (free entrance) to visit some of the hides, before food is served at about **7.30pm**. The main hide is easily accessible with plenty of information about the Reserve.

From here you can see summer birds (record numbers of avocets have bred this summer), the cattle grazing on the wash and appreciate the tranquillity of the reserve. Wheelchairs are available if needed. After all the fresh air, have a sit down, enjoy a good helping of barbecue food and a complimentary glass of wine or beer. During the evening there will be a raffle and games to play and if you feel like fishing there are two pond-dipping area (nets provided).

Tickets are on sale now at the WWT (01353860711) at £5 per adult and £3 per child. Tickets must be purchased before 10th July to allow for catering. We look forward to seeing you.

WELNEY PLAYING FIELD

Having applied to Dulux for free paint for the outside of the Pavilion, we now have to wait until the end of June to find out whether we have been successful. By the time you read this, we should have repainted the inside, and done other little jobs in the Pavilion and around the field.

The preparations (as I write) for the dance and fete on 25th and 26th June are well under way, and a **friendly cricket game is being organised for 27th June, so come along and support the teams, which are Over 40s v Under 40s.**

The Carpet Bowls team have played 3 matches in their Summer League, winning the first, but losing the next two. But they were enjoyable evenings with the non-players supporting the players.

Three of the junior members of the village, Lee Harvey, Colin Kennedy and Craig Williams, did sponsored circuits of the Playing Field to raise money for the Pavilion, and some sports equipment that they could use. The total amount hasn't been collect yet, but it was a very satisfactory amount from three willing volunteers. The Playing Field Committee are very grateful. Thanks lads.

Kevin Scarffe is doing a sponsored skate on the day of our fete (**26th June**) from March to Welney to raise money for the Pavilion. He will start from March at 10.00am and should arrive back at Welney about an hour later, hopefully to a warm welcome by friends and well wishers, and the Committee, of course.

Our next big fund raising occasion will be at the **Water Gala**. All profits there go equally to the Playing Field and the Village Hall, so come along and spend for both of us. You'll find the details in this Newsletter - see you with your pockets open on **29th August**.

Pat Rix (Secretary, Playing Fields)

Wendy Gilchrist



The Wigeon Tea-room

Open 10am - 4.30pm



Visit our charming tea-room at one of the most important nature reserves in the area
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PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

The parent and toddler group is now, at the time of writing, into its 8th week of existence with fairly constant numbers of ten or twelve children at each session. There have been one or two new faces recently too. The children enjoy the freedom offered by the space in the hall, and the sessions are loosely structured, with a refreshment break between play sessions and a sing-song at the end. Some of the funds raised from entry fees have been used to buy a number of child-size chairs and tables, which are used for colouring, jigsaws etc., and these have proved a popular addition.

As well as the toys which are brought along to share at each session, the group also has a small stock of toys and books which have come from donations and a couple of trips to car boot sales. Any donations of childrens' books, toys, or dressing-up clothes for the group would be much appreciated, and could be left with Karen Fleming at Bridge House, Bedford Bank West, or brought along to the Friday morning sessions – doors open at 10-00am at the village hall.

As regards the future of the group, several of the parents were in a meeting recently with an advisor from the Early Years Support Network, a local charity which exists to provide advice, support and training opportunities for those running under 5's groups. It was concluded that the next natural step is to make our group a formal one with a committee and constitution. We would then be in a position to apply for grants and take advantage of training schemes such as those offered by the Network.

Consequently we intend to hold an inaugural AGM, with election of committee, in the village hall on the night of Tuesday 10th August at 8-00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. We are also hoping to have a number of fundraising events during the summer, so watch out for details being posted around the village!

With grateful thanks to the William Marshall School for letting us borrow their digital camera to take the pictures accompanying this article.



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SMALL ADDS

We would like to offer space for local people to advertise anything they want to sell.

We must specify that this is not for trade adverts but for private sales.

Whatever you have we can probably accommodate it, including small photographs or sketches of the article for sale. Please send the advert details to:

Richard Green, Old Crown House, Suspension Bridge Welney, PE14 9TN
(you can telephone the details to me on 610401)

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Yard Sale

UPWELL, OUTWELL AND DELPH WARD ELECTION RESULTS

David Peter Barnard (Rural Independent) and Vivienne Marie Spikings (Conservative) were elected councillors for the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk. The full results were:

David Peter Barnard	372	(Rural Ind)
Frank John Emmet	140	(Lib Dem)
Albert Edward Feary	294	(Ind Con)
Linda Eileen Keer	344	(Lab)
Roger Parnell	302	(Lab)
Vivienne Marie Spikings	903	(Con)

GRANTS FOR MILLENNIUM TREE PLANTING

Grant aid could be made available for planting specimen trees, avenues, hedges, copses or even woodlands to celebrate the millennium.

For further details call Gerry Barnes of the Countryside Team at County Hall on 01603 222770

The team can offer a comprehensive advice and design service.





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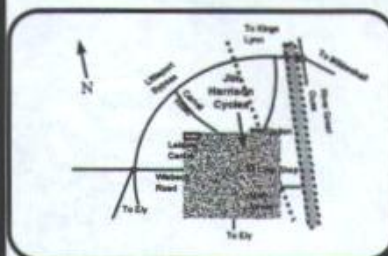
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WELNEY HOMEWATCH

The week of 19th - 26th June was National Neighbourhood Watch Community Safety week. Unfortunately the publicity material for this came to me too late for anything to go in the last issue of Welney News, so here at least is a summary of the information in the package.

The Theme of the Week was the promotion of property marking, with a day devoted to each of a number of property types: Saturday 19th was Wheels Day - if it moves, mark it! - and other days covered sports equipment, office and workplace, school, places of worship, the home, pets and animals, and gardens and allotments. The police constantly stress the value of property marking both as a deterrent and as an aid to recovery of stolen or lost property. When a burglar is arrested with property in his/her possession, if it cannot be proved that items belong to somebody else (i.e. by a postcode mark or photograph) then the burglar could actually end up keeping those items.

There are many methods of marking; the easiest is the UV pen though the mark will fade and needs to be renewed every six months or so. Etching or stamping kits can be used where appropriate. Sometimes a combination of methods is useful, e.g. a postcode mark and a photograph. Pets can be tattooed or microchipped, and photographs can be kept too. Relatively new is the microdot system, approved by the police. This comes in kit form from DIY centres and one example is the "Alphadot" kit. This comprises; a registration form which is sent off to a database, a selection of highly visible warning stickers for doors, windows, etc. and sufficient marker for up to 40 items. The microdots are extremely hard to detect with the naked eye, virtually impossible to remove, but can easily be found by the police with special "reading" devices. Items such as antiques, which cannot be marked, can be photographed and written descriptions can be kept detailing any special features. When photographing an item, remember to place a ruler beside it to show the size of the item.

To illustrate the effectiveness of property marking, a systematic marking campaign in Manchester last year resulted in a staggering 82% reduction in incidents of burglar. So, consider marking at least some of your valuables - it is well worth the effort.

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WILLIAM MARSHALL SCHOOL

There were over 5000 "Computers for Schools" vouchers saved for the school this year; more than enough to purchase a flatbed scanner. The school now has an Internet link too, which means virtually limitless access to educational material, and to communications with other schools or other organisations. These additions will be of great benefit to the children who can become familiar with some of the most up-to-date computer technology. There was also a good response to the "Free Books for Schools" token collection with over 9700 tokens collected so far; the school has already received two lots of new books, some story books and some reference, and there will be more to come.

The school took part in the Small Schools' Netball Tournament recently, and were runners-up in a very close final match in which they were equal on points and lost only on goal difference.

On the 29th June is the school's Summer Fayre and sports day, and everyone is welcome to attend these events. The Fayre will open at 1-00pm with stalls for cakes, cards, and games, and there will be cream teas. The sports day will follow on from the Fayre. On the 19th July is the annual prize giving, with book tokens and shields being presented for various special achievements.

All the Year Six children will have an opportunity to visit Downham Market High School for a day before the end of term.

Finally, there will be end-of-term farewells to Amy Markham, who as many will know has been school cook for an amazing 45 years, and to Mrs Neeve, the infant teacher, who will be moving to Malawi to join her husband.



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DOG SHOW AND FETE

Marifa Lodge: Sunday 11th July

It opens at 12 noon and admission is free; with a variety of stalls including plants, cakes, a bottle stall, and games. Judging at

the dog show begins at 1-00pm. There will be pedigree classes and novelty classes, and entry for these will be £1-00 per dog per class. There is lots of space available for anyone wanting to do a car boot - cost £5. All profits will go into the Residents Fund, which is primarily for day trips and entertainment for the residents. For further information, please ring 610300.



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FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The guest speaker at the meeting on 20th April was Mr John Seaman, who was brought up on the Sandringham estate at Flitcham. He gave an interesting account of his early life on the estate and showed a film taken in the area. He had also brought along some old photographs of life and work on the estate. He later worked for the GPO and in broadcasting, and returned to Sandringham to help "wire up" the house itself for the broadcast of the Queen's speech. On the 4th May was the trip to the African Violet centre and Springfields. The trip was very much enjoyed by all, especially the spectacular floats from the tulip parade. At the time of writing, Club members are looking forward to their next outing to Lowestoft in June, with its double attractions of seaside resort and working fishing port.

UPWELL SCOUTS AND CUBS

Have you ever been interested in joining a Cub or Scout group? Do you; have time on your hands, want to meet people your own age, want to have fun and learn at the same time? Then read on. Upwell Cubs is open to boys and girls aged 8-11, and meets in Upwell Primary School Hall from 6-00pm to 7-30pm on Mondays. The Scouts meet on a Wednesday in Upwell Methodist Chapel Hall between 6-30pm and 8-30pm; this group is for boys and girls aged 11-16 years. There are indoor and outdoor games at the meetings, and the Cubs and Scouts also work towards various badges of attainment. The Upwell group have recently been preparing for the Handyman and Scientist badges. There are organised trips and days out during the year too - at half term there was a train trip to Ely Cathedral.

Upwell has the nearest Cub and Scout group to Welney. There is no waiting list at present to join either group, and new members are always welcome. Anyone interested can just turn up at one of the meetings, or you can ring first for more information. The Cub group is run by Amanda King who can be contacted on 01945 772716, and the Scouts by Steve Hallgarth, telephone 01945 773889. Watch out for more information on Cub and Scout activities in future editions of Welney News.

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Welney - a portrait of a village
A Millennium Arts Project

A hundred years ago, farriers, eel catchers, wild fowlers, weavers and ferrymen lived and worked in Welney. We would like to create a record of people here today. This combined photography and textile project would record some of the changes which have taken place in the village during the past century and act as a celebration of our community today.

The photographic project involves taking the portraits of every household in the village. The portraits would show some indication of people's occupation. The 200 or so prints would form part of an exhibition including the map (*see below*) which would be displayed in Welney and thereafter touring around the county or further afield throughout the region.

We would also to take a group photographic portrait of the entire village - of all of us in all our glory. If possible we'd like to put all of this on the Internet. Welney on the world map.

We've started work on creating the textile based map of our village. The idea is to show on the map all our landmarks and places of interest including buildings in a wide variety of crafts. These would all be stitched or attached in some way to a fabric base that will hang in a decorated case. It'll be big - about 8 feet high and 12 feet wide.

In order to make it more enjoyable we are organising some short craft courses starting in autumn. These are for anyone who is interested in coming along, perhaps learning a new skill and making a part of the map. The course will be of six separate evening sessions held in the village and led by professional artists. Depending on demand weekend courses could be organised too.

If you would like to know more about joining a course please fill in this form and give it to Wendy at the Post Office as soon as possible. Dates and times will be worked out nearer the time.

Thank you for your interest.

..... *please cut along line*

I am interested in craft evening courses in Welney and would like to have a go at:
(tick ✓ as many as you like):-

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Tapestry weaving - making woven pictures or patterns | ☐ |
| Felt making - making your own fabric from recycled fibres | ☐ |
| Stained glass - making small hanging designs | ☐ |
| Ceramics - making flat decorative pieces that could be hung from the map | ☐ |
| Papier mache - like ceramics but making them out of paper & card | ☐ |
| Fabric painting - painting using dyes and resists on silk | ☐ |
| Other ideas? - do you have any other suggestions? | ☐ |

.....
I am generally interested in helping with the making of the map ☐
evenings / weekends would be best for me to attend (please delete)

Name Phone

Address

.....

The Welney LOTTERY!

The Parish Hall in Welney is a centre for social activities, cultural events and formal meetings such as the Parish Council. It is run for the community by people who live here.

We get a small grants from local authorities and local charities. In addition, many people help by raising funds. Unfortunately, these are not enough to cover either the day to day running costs or occasional building works to the hall. For example, the floor will soon need attention - it bounces like a trampoline at the moment.

The **Welney Lottery** is a way of raising funds to keep this important resource going and to have some fun - after all **you** may win!

People pay £1.00 per ticket (same as the National Lottery) to enter for a draw which takes place on the last Friday of every month at the regular

Bingo night in the Parish Hall. 50% of the total takings will be allocated for prizes and shared amongst 4 winners - much better odds than the National Lottery!

The more people who join in the bigger the prizes. This way our parish hall is also helped. Like the National Lottery you can buy as many tickets as you wish for each draw.

Details of prizes and the winning tickets (but not people's names) will be posted on the parish hall noticeboard. Within the next fortnight, lottery collectors will call back to see if you're interested in joining in. Their names and addresses will be posted on the parish hall noticeboard.

Contact: John Waring on 01354 610332 (Promoter) or Martin Kyne-Lilley 01354 610502 (Treasurer)