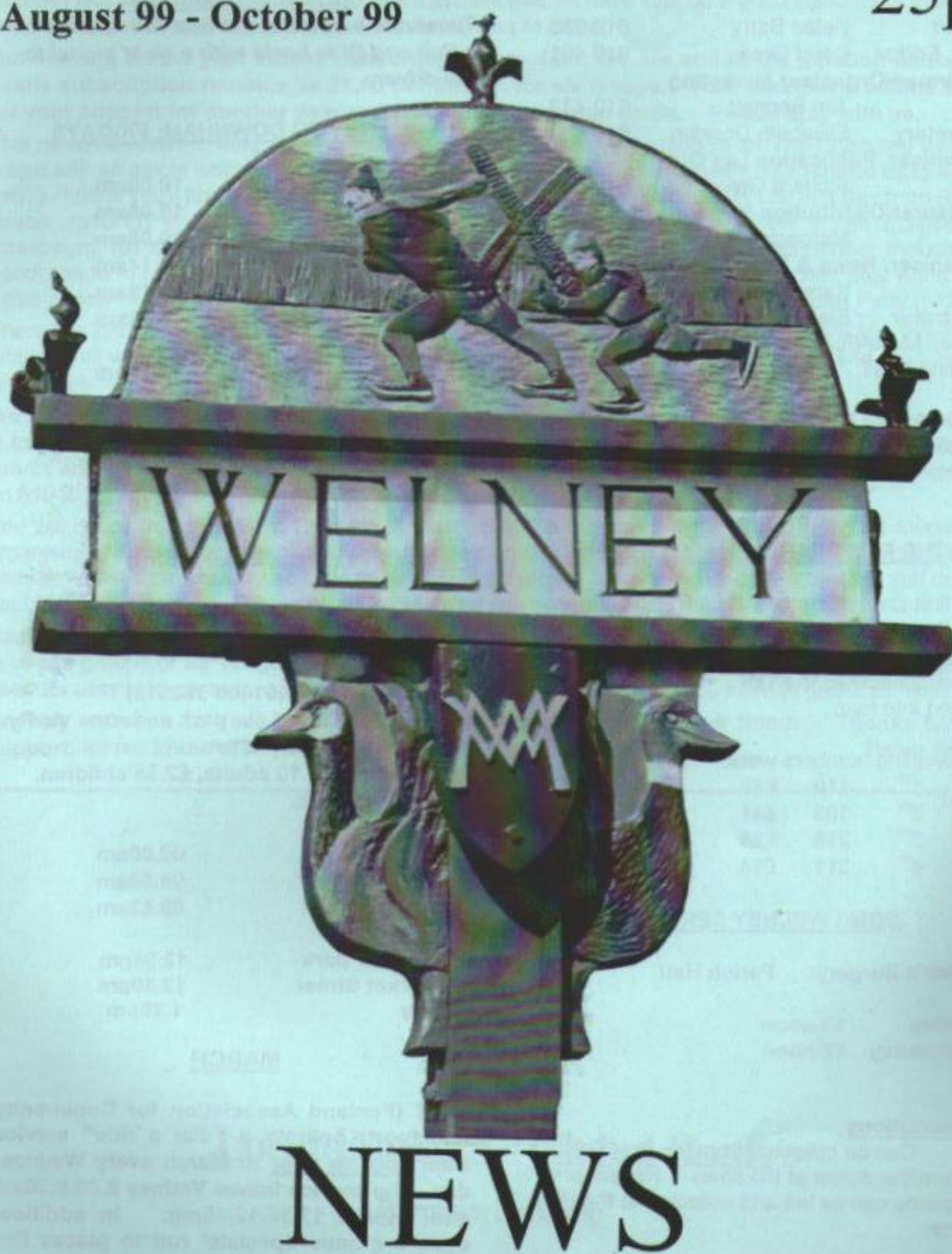


Issue N° 12

August 99 - October 99

25p



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Illustrator	Elaine Sweetman	638 287
Marlen Moss-Eccardt		610 344
Sheona Snell.		

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

RESULTS OF THE FIRST PARISH HALL LOTTERY

The first draw of the new Parish Hall Lottery was drawn at Bingo night on 30th July. Tickets sold amounted to £276. The prize money amounted to £138 divided into four.

The winning numbers were:

1 st	110	£55
2 nd	109	£41
3 rd	239	£28
4 th	211	£14

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

Hey-Ho and in we go to our **third year of Welney News**. So sucks and boo to those who said we wouldn't last six months. Most of you seem to think that we have kept up a good standard of interesting information and there's lot's of news and new articles to come.

But starting a new year means subscriptions are due: we are still at 0% inflation and so our yearly subscription remains as £1.50 per annum for six issues. Your distributor will be asking for your support for another year and issuing membership cards. Please stay with us.

This month we have a wide variety of issues. A précis of the WI's Report on 'The Changing Village' is linked with an article written for 'The Times' by Libby Purves, which she has kindly allowed us to re-print. (p6/7) I think you'll find a good deal of it is relevant to Welney. We have My Life in a Day from Richard Green, (p10/11) and an account by Richard and Carol Green of their view of the Eclipse from Strasbourg. (p16) There's a whole page on the end of term at William Marshall School, including the goodbyes to Amy Markham and Mrs. Rosie Neeve and a welcome to the new teacher, Mrs. Anna Wynn - plus a view of Amy in her finery on the day she went to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party. (p12/13)

There are photos and short biographies of three of our Parish Councillors - and we'll 'do' three every edition until we've covered them all! Then there is all the regular news from groups and organisations with all the information on the Water Gala and Dance on the 29th August.

We've changed the format of the Diary and put it on the back page so you can tear it off and stick it to the fridge. We have re-designed it and we would like your views. We can include more events and we hope it makes it simpler for you to pick out what you want to know. Contact Carol Green on 610401 with your comments.

You will notice that the Whist Club is not meeting at the moment. This is because Rita Sweet, who organises it, is just out of hospital and isn't sure when she can get going again. But the Whist will start sometime and they are very anxious to have new players. You don't need a partner but you must be able to play the game. **Rita is on 610 291** if you are interested.

Just to reiterate what I've said on page 7 about village life - we do try to advertise where help is wanted in village groups or for village projects as a whole and the response is not good. There is a genuine need for people to come forward and not feel shy. However little time you have to give it all helps.

Anyway we're on to Year Three with all our enthusiasm still in full flood. Thanks for your support, let me know of any ideas you have. **Helen Barry**



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WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL

The Council comprises: Mrs. Pat Rix (Chairman) Mrs. Charlotte Cox (Vice Chairman), Mr. Denis Booth, Mrs. Alison Burrows, Mr. Richard Green, Mr. Steven Harvey, Mr. Martin Kyne-Lilley, Mrs. Pauline Pullum and Mr. Ian Warrington.

Parish Clerk: Mrs. Pat Copeman (610 226: fax 610 418)

Parishioners are very welcome at the Parish Council Meetings, where they can monitor proceedings, comment under public participation and raise any matters that are causing concern.

Parish Council Meeting: 13th July 1999

The newly elected District Councillors, Mrs. Spikings and Mr. Barnard, were welcomed as visitors to the meeting.

The speeding of traffic through the village was discussed and it was agreed to see if it would be possible to have equipment installed to register the traffic and their speed.

Permission had been received from Elgoods for placing Dog Waste Bin on their property near the Parish Hall: such a bin will be obtained from the Borough Council.

Mrs. Charlotte Cox agreed to be a Representative Trustee from the Parish Council on the Bishopton Charity.

Details were received from Elgood & Sons relating to the Transfer of the Licence of the Lamb and Flag Public House to Ms. G.T. Webb, with effect from 19th July.

It was agreed to send a donation of £50 to the Downham Market Community Playbus.

A copy of the Environment Agency Plan First Annual Review of the Old Bedford Washes was received and circulated among the Councillors.

Details were also received of a Temporary Traffic Order affecting two sections of the A1101 between 19th July and 8th August. The areas affected are from Suspension Bridge to Gold Hill and from Chestnut Avenue to Clayton's Corner: there will be a 2 metre width restriction.

Two Councillors (Pat Rix and Alison Burrows) agreed to attend a Borough Meeting at the Town Hall on 22 July, to gain an understanding of the recently adopted King's Lynn and West Norfolk Local Plan.

Proposed new footpath, March Road: it was agreed to ask the Highways Depart-

ment to carry out their survey on 25th October between 3 and 5pm to ascertain if we are likely to obtain enough points for this proposed footpath and to receive further consideration from them.

Wash Road: A letter was received from the N.C.C. stating that they are still looking into the possibility of funding for the work required to raise the road surface. It was also agreed to investigate the possibility of funding a cycle route across the Wash Road in co-operation with Sustrans.

The Rural Transport Partnership was discussed and it was agreed to pay the sum requested from the Borough Council and to ask the Partnership to forward full details to us after each meeting.

The siting for the new Village Notice Board was agreed and the design and layout of the board was confirmed. This will be ordered and put in place on the front of the Parish Hall before too long.

Congratulations were expressed to the Playing Field Committee for the success of their Fun Weekend and details were given of the painting programme for the Pavilion.

Millennium Arts Project - A display board was studied with details of the Project (organised so far by Martin Kyne-Lilley and Phillipa Mitchell) and a sub-committee was set up to work on the project and endeavour to obtain funding.

Village Strategy - A possible Village Strategy was discussed and it was reported that this had come about following on from the Village Appraisal, as a method of finding out what the requirements and objects of the residents are. It was agreed to look into this further.

It was also reported that it was proposed to do a brief profile with photographs of each of the Councillors (*see page 5: Ed*) and that three Councillors could appear in each of the next three copies of Welney News.

Pat Copeman: Clerk to Parish Council

Next Meeting: 14th September: 7.30pm

Parish Hall

Satanta Boarding Kennels

Siberian Husky Specialists - but ALL dogs welcome!

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CAMBS PE14 9SN Tel: 01354 638595 - Proprietor: Dorreen Carter



Ian P V Warrington

Age 37. Single. Born Harrogate, England. Educated St. Martins School near York and Ratcliffe College near Leicester. He started work for Barclays Bank in Yorkshire in 1980. In 1986, he joined the Ministry of Defence, based in Harrogate. In 1990, he took up a three year posting in Washington D.C., U.S.A, working for the Royal Navy within the US Department of Defense. He returned to Harrogate in 1993. In 1995, his office transferred to RAF Wyton, near Huntingdon, at which point he settled in Welney. In 1997, Ian took up a diplomatic posting at the British Embassy in Kuwait. Ian has just returned from Kuwait and has quickly settled back into village life. Ian was elected Parish Councillor in May 1999. His hobbies include: scuba diving, computers, gardening, cycling, horse riding and deep-sea fishing.

Pauline Pullum

Wren Cottage, Main Street, Welney - Tel: 610538

I moved to the Welney area in 1986 with my husband and two daughters. For the first 8 years we lived at Tipps End and in 1993 moved into the house in the heart of the village which we built ourselves.

This gives me first hand experience of the problems and benefits of living both in the village and on the outskirts. By being a member of the Parish Council it gives the opportunity to contribute to keeping the village and the surrounding area in "good working order"



Martin Kyne-Lilley 01354 610502

I moved from Cambridge with my partner, Elisabeth, to Welney a year ago and have both been slowly changing the Old Chapel in Main Street into a house. We have found that living in Welney provides a wonderful contrast to our life in Cambridge where we knew very few of our neighbours.

Welney is a genuine community. I feel that part of living in a real village involves contributing to its life and helping (I hope!) to develop the work which has already been done. I'm not sure in what direction Welney should go - I feel part of my job is to listen to what people who already live here have to say.



Thank You - Derek Robertson

Derek has been a Postman for 21 years, the last 19 as the Welney Postman. Now he has retired from the job there is the opportunity to thank him for his work and to reflect on all the things he has done for the village and the community.

He has organised village outings to France and Germany, which I personally can vouch as being a great success. He has also organised fund-raising activities along with dances and other functions in the Village Hall.

But the one thing he has done without recognition or reward is act as a social worker, policeman on the beat, neighbourhood watch, security patrol and friend and neighbour to all on his rounds.

I'm sure he knew every person in the village by name and knew all those who had problems with getting around or just getting things from the shop. He was always willing to help, by passing messages, by watching out, and by calling in on those who might be in trouble.

I am writing on behalf of the Parish Council and myself when I say Thank You Derek for all you have done.

Richard Green

KEEPING WELNEY ALIVE

I think everyone in Welney will be interested in 'The Changing Village': this is a Report published in July by the National Federation of Women's Institutes. It is based on information from 6,000 rural branches.

It rings true for us in Welney both in what we have lost or might lose in the future and in what we must continually fight for.

The list of closures in villages over the past ten years includes, among many others, 474 post offices, 178 pubs, 98 churches, 55 surgeries, 29 mobile shops and 24 newsagents. On the plus side Roy, our milkman, will be delighted to know that 97% of villages still have a milk delivery.

The report found that the village shop is an important social centre for the village and those that haven't got one try, with all manner of schemes, to get one going again.



The needs of all villagers in this report sound amazingly familiar. They want better bus and taxi services, they want

buses to run regularly and late at night and at weekends to nearby towns. They complain of high speed levels and the number of lorries on rural roads: many, like us here in Welney, have no police presence, a police station many miles away, a hospital within 30 miles, but no direct



bus route to it. There is no lower cost housing to enable young couples to stay in the village.

On the plus side 240 new parish halls have

been opened and 216 been refurbished with Lottery money.

The WI Report has been sent to John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, whose Ministry will be drawing up plans for rural Britain for a White Paper this autumn.

The day after the WI Report was published **Libby Purves**, (herself a villager in Suffolk) commented on it in her column in **The Times**.

Her initial point was that as taxpayers we have a



contract with the Government. We pay over our money - the great majority of taxpayers work from January to April just to pay tax - and our part of that contract is that Government provide us with good and efficient services wherever we live.

Libby related that to the WI Report and village life and has kindly allowed us to reprint her views.

"What is so interesting about the WI survey on dying villages, and the emotions it arouses, is that it offers a perfect microcosm of the contract and how it fails. Villages, real mixed villages where people live full-time, are extraordinarily resourceful organisms. They look after their old, but also let the old contribute; they rally round and run their own emergency services when floods or snowdrifts threaten the weakest. They make their own entertainment with a village hall that is theatre, election hustings, play-group, bingo hall and dance hall in turn. They have mysterious, not wholly legal economies whereby half-a-dozen eggs from an untested but perfectly healthy hen are swapped for a pot of jam from a kitchen which does not meet environmental health regulations owing to the cat snoozing by the stove. Real village gardens are not all flowers, but feature half-restored motorbikes, hencoops and cabbage patches bearing evidence to ingenuity and inspired frugality. Villagers are not anachronisms, but scratch livings in a variety of modern ways, often in the nearest town; but the essential human ecology of the small-scale, cut-off community endures, refined over time. A village is a concentrated version of any community, bent on getting through its own day with reasonable good humour and providing for its own."

Yet villages are declining, and every reason for their decline reflects the wider shortcomings of the citizen-government contract. Insensitive centralisation threatens them; the business rate rise of the 1980's killed off hundreds of small businesses from motorbike mechanics to village shops. Failure of infrastructure threatens them: if there are no buses and no shops then the old and the poor cannot live decently. If the school closes in the name of 'efficiency', then young families cannot be there either.

On top of all this, Government has failed to defend villages from marauders, both physical and economic. Local policemen are such a rarity that most country children only ever see the one who turns up to give a school lecture before vanishing 30 miles up the road for good; so crime rises. Country lanes are cavalierly



Villages do not want pampering or featherbedding, still less haranguing or rebranding. Just due consideration of their real daily circumstances, a fair share of services, and a minimum of harassment. The same things that we all want, really: the things that would be in the contract if we had one."

Well, that seems to me a pretty fair picture of Welney and our needs in a social contract with Government and local authorities.

If we are to fight for more buses, a taxi service, a police presence and housing at a cost young people can afford, then more people must come forward and be prepared to work for these things.

Many people tell me in Wendy's or the Parish Hall or in the street that Welney News is great and has increased communication in the village, but it is a sad fact that few people respond when we raise a point that helpers are needed in certain area. Only one or two responded to Tim Bennett's plea for ideas on public transport when Norfolk County Council had money to give away; few people have responded to Pat Rix's plea for more Committee members for the Playing Field.

If we are to retain the facilities we have and to increase them, then people must act. Which reminds me that as Secretary of the Parish Hall Committee, I must have another go at the Lottery Board for help towards our new floor.

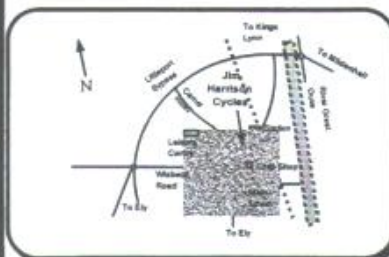
Helen Barry

We're quite well off with our shop and Post Office with Wendy and Peter providing a splendid social centre for chat and notices of all that's going on in the village, and Peter delivering our newspapers. Let's support them and not become another statistic in the villages that have lost a local shop. We have our School and Church - with thanks to William Marshall (God rest his soul) who still provides many thousands a year for their upkeep.

We have a thriving Parish Hall with groups from Parents and Toddlers, to



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CHURCH NEWS

Last time I was suggesting that some of us perhaps need to slow down and simply allow ourselves time to enjoy all the good things in our lives. Maybe some of us have, and other of us still need to take stock of why it is that we rush around quite so much and is it all really necessary.

If you miss out this year, perhaps it will be simply because you blinked. No, I have not taken leave of my senses but share a small fact with you - you blink twenty-five times every minute. Each blink takes about one-fifth of a second. There, if you take a ten-hour car journey at around forty miles per hour, you will drive twenty miles with your eyes closed!

Another surprising (or maybe not) fact is that some people seem to go through life with their eyes closed. They look but never really 'see' - they observe the surface but miss what it's really all about. Images are seen but issues are missed. Vision is present but perception is absent.

If life were a painting, colours would be seen but the genius in the strokes of the brush would be missed. If it were a car journey none of the wonderful scenery would be seen, only the road.

If it were a meal, they would eat and drink but would overlook the beauty of the china and the delicate touch of wine in the sauce. If it were a poem, the print would be read but the passion of the poet missed.

Without insight and life is reduced to mere existence with frequent flashes of boredom and indifference.

No criticism is intended to those who cannot go deeper, but maybe we all need to think about whether or not we cannot, or simply will not.

A particular example - a boatload of disciples. Jesus had just miraculously fed thousands of people with a few loaves and fishes - they then went out on to the Sea of Galilee and a storm blew up. Panic in the boat! Jesus calmed the sea and their fears and **Mark has this to say:**

'they were greatly astonished, for they had not gained any insight from the incident of the loaves, but their heart was hardened'

It was not that they were unable to understand, but that they did not want to understand!

Parents with insight usually raise children that are secure, fulfilled, relaxed, free to forge out ideas and to think.

Teachers with insight create an atmosphere conducive to learning.

Bosses with insight develop employees and remain sensitive to surroundings needs.

Students with insight learn far more than the re-

quired subject.

Perhaps we all need to rise to challenge ourselves - to open our eyes! To think! Apply! Listen! There is a lot of difference between necessary blinking and unnecessary blindness.

Sheila Tooke Rector

CHURCH SERVICES

August

1 st	9.30am	Holy Communion
8 th	11.00am	All Age Worship
15 th	9.30am	Holy Communion
22	9.30am	Morning Prayer
29 th	11.00am	United Service (Christchurch)

September

5 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
12 th	11.00am	All Age Worship
19 th	9.30am	Harvest Service
27 th	9.30am	Holy Communion

Church Fete 7th August

Despite the weather the Church Fete was a great success - some of the games moved under the shady trees and still did good business, but most stalls moved into the church. There was a really good atmosphere inside with chance to sit down between buying. The total raised was over £600.



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A Day in the Life Richard Green

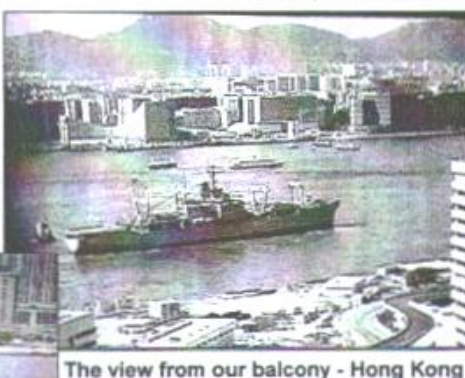
From Black Sheep to ????

I was born in Skegness in 1951 and grew up there in a town full of holiday makers. I was considered a bit of a black sheep by the rest of the family, who all went to university or Teacher Training College. I joined the army after a miserable year spent at Strathclyde University in Glasgow, I always said "it's safer in the army than being a sassenach in Glasgow".

I married Carol in 1974, she was almost the girl next door, living just a couple of streets away in Skegness. We have 2 sons, Dickon and Wesley. Dickon is 22 now and is a Croupier in a casino near Strasbourg. Wesley is currently living in South Wales.

We travelled around quite a lot during my 22 years in the Royal Engineers and have had homes in Farnborough, Ripon, Waterbeach, Chatham, Rainham, Rochester and Nottingham whilst in this country. We have also lived in Hong Kong and Germany, and I have seen extended tours in Cyprus, Kenya and Bosnia.

The time spent in Hong Kong was wonderful, with 3 1/2 years spent living on the 17th floor of a block of flats overlooking the harbour. I was Maintenance Surveyor for the military estate on Hong Kong Island and looked after 700



The view from our balcony - Hong Kong



Going to work by helicopter

married quarters, 4 barracks, a dockyard, a whole island in the middle of the harbour and several small installations dotted around the outer islands that could only be reached by helicopter. Our children were at boarding school in England and flew out every holiday to be with us. Wesley, the younger boy, travelled nearly a quarter of a million miles during that time.

I spent an amazing time in Kenya, working in

Nairobi and the northern desert area and was there for 7 months. I was very lucky in that I got the opportunity to fly Carol and the kids out for a long Christmas holiday (for them at least, as I was still working for most of it). They flew out in



14,500 ft up on Mount Kenya

a Tristar that was going to pick up troops that had been on exercise and discovered that they had the plane almost to themselves. It is no exaggeration to say that the kids ran all the way to Kenya, as they skipped up and down the isles of the empty plane. We saw all the game we could wish for, including getting closer

to elephants than Dickon thought good for him (about 12 feet) when we stayed at the Bantu Lodge high on the slopes of Mount Kenya at nearly 11,000 ft above sea level. When they left, the temperature at Nairobi Airport was just touching 40°C and when they landed at RAF Brize Norton it was -9 °C. Carol was so cold that tears streamed down her face, and the RAF Corporal that was supposed to take the fare felt so sorry for her that he let them all go for free.

The time spent in Bosnia was somewhat different though. I flew out to Split Airport in a Hercules Transport plane



Big boy's toys!



Working with the United Nations in Cyprus

on flight N° 4 of that whole operation; the second day of Op Grapple. My task was to manage the rebuild of Divulje Barracks in Split, part of which the British Army took over as the main transit and headquarters camp for the operation. We needed to replace every roof sheet and over a thousand windows as well as fixing the plumbing, heating, sewage and electricity supply. The tricky bit was that I was given just one month to complete the work using

local contractors.

I also covered work areas into Bosnia, particularly Tomislavgrad. I found that winter in Bosnia was the coldest place I had ever been, with temperatures steady at -35 °C. Water sprayed into the air froze before it hit the ground.

I finally left the Army having completed my full service as a Warrant Officer Class 1 (same as an RSM but different job) in 1994 and started work with Anglian Water. We were able to move straight to Welney as we had bought Crown House at Suspension Bridge some time before. I soon became the Engineering Safety Adviser, having completed my NEBOSH Certificate when still in the Army. I have since completed my Construction Safety Certificate.



Accident investigation is part of the job

I now provide safety advice for the whole of the Anglian Water region for construction projects, many of which run to several million pounds. My patch goes from the Thames to the Humber and from the coast at Lowestoft almost to Oxford. It is the biggest region of all the water companies. I get to advise on some of the strangest things, such as how to get a diver safely into an 18 m deep tank of sewage sludge (you can't, it isn't safe).

I also see some really dangerous situations and it was one of these that led me to invent a new safety cover. Anglian Water is reducing the pollution problems caused by storms by building huge storage tanks to hold the flow until it can go through the sewage treatment works. These tanks can be more than 20 m deep and one particular one was as deep as a 9 story building. The covers that allow access are about 1.5 m square and open upwards like a hatch cover. This is like standing on a roof parapet and trying to lift something up that is hanging over the edge.

The dangers to the operatives were high, so I set to and designed a cover that would open safely. The result is a cross between an up-and-over garage door and a pivoting window. It keeps the operatives safe and is easy to open.

The real surprise is that no-one had ever done one before. Anglian Water financed patenting

the design and we share the profits. The really nice bit was the letter from the Patent Office starting "Dear Inventor"

Richard Green

GRAHAME SEATON

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AMY GOES TO THE PALACE

On 13th July, Amy Markam, MBE, accompanied by her sister Blanche, went to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

But first she went to the School, where she has cooked the meals since 1954, to show the children how the Queen would see her.



Then Amy and Blanche set off for the Palace. After their coach trip to Victoria Station and a fifteen minute walk to Buckingham Palace, they first had to queue to get in. Through two rooms in the Palace they walked onto a balcony overlooking a long marquee for the guests and another one for the Queen's Party and officials.

There were tables and chairs outside the guests' marquee, but still a lot of standing if they were to make the most of the visit. When they went to see the Queen walk along a marked row between the guests - with splendid Yeomen of the Guard placed at intervals - Amy and Blanche found themselves behind a crowd six deep in front of them.

The Queen made a leisurely journey talking to some (selected) guests in the front row, so this gave Amy and Blanche time to walk to the end of the crowd where they had a good view of Her Majesty. They were there for two hours in the beautiful gardens - an unforgettable experience for them both (though rather hard on the feet!).

Marlen Moss-Eccardt



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WILLIAM MARSHALL SCHOOL

The last two days of the Summer term were even more eventful than usual at the school. On 19th July, we said good-bye to Mrs. Rosie Neeve who, with her husband, is following a calling to a post in Malawi.

After the youngest children had entertained us with acted songs, Mrs. Marjorie Frost presented the prizes which were awarded not only for academic and sporting achievements but also for effort, for progress: for courtesy, consideration and helpfulness. Ken Sorensen gave two prizes for a Tournament organised in his weekly chess class.

Mrs. Frost then thanked Mrs. Neeve for all the excellent work she had done in her three years at the school. She will be much missed but has promised to stay in touch and tell us about her work and life in Malawi, so we can look forward to news from her in future editions of *Welney News*.

20th July - the last day of term, and Amy Markham's grand leaving party after 45 years as cook at the school! Norfolk county LEA had organised a sumptuous buffet lunch, including a large cake shaped and decorated like a tiled kitchen floor with a cupboard against which leaned a bespectacled figure looking uncommonly like A.M. Over this hung balloons saying: "Happy Retirement, Amy Markham, MBE".

The children, who were well behaved throughout, collected their plate-fulls first, and then all the guests - colleagues and other staff past and present (including Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Turner), governors, friends and family - enjoyed the food and drink. Mr. Chris Cope, Head of Norfolk County Council Catering Services, gave his speech and presented Amy with her employer's gift. Mrs. Golson (Headteacher) gave her the School's present and other people handed her their cards and presents. It was altogether a very happy occasion, albeit tinged with sadness at Amy's leaving.

M.ME

Looking ahead to the new school year

The new infants' teacher is Mrs. Anna Wynn, she is married with

three children and lives in Littleport. She is seen here with the children in a 'getting to know you' supply day in July.

New books

Thanks to the efforts of all the villagers who collected 10,450 tokens for the 'Free Books for Schools' over a three month period the school will



have at least fifty new books for the new school year.

Very grateful thanks to everyone and a special word for Ken Sorensen who cut out thousands of tokens from the crisp packets handed in!

New Computer ware

Grateful thanks, too, to all those who collected over 5,000 'Computer for Schools' tokens which gave a flatbed scanner to the School, which now has a digital camera and an Internet link - another great start for the children in September.

Adult helpers

(A request from the School Governors)

As the number of parent helpers in the School has dropped considerably recently, the Governors wondered whether there are any adults living within the Village and surrounding areas, who might be prepared to give up a small amount of time each week to come into the School and help the class teacher either in the Infant or Junior classes by possibly assisting with the Art and Craft classes, listening to the children read etc. The work is very important and it also allows the children to meet and communicate with a wider section of adult people.

Contact the School on 610212



PLAYING FIELD

Let me start off with a big **Thank you** to everyone who helped to make the Dance and the Fete a success. The final total raised from the weekend was just over **£500**. A marvellous achievement for a first effort and we are very grateful. We made mistakes admittedly, and hopefully we've learnt from them, so next year's event should be an improvement.



Well done, too, to Kevin Scarffe!

He completed his sponsored skate from March in 58 minutes and raised £145 from his sponsors, another marvellous achievement.

As Adrian and myself are busy with personal commitments when the Water Gala is due, we have decided that to be fair to the Parish Hall Committee, they should keep all the money raised this year. We will help when and where we can, but it will only be a very small input from the Playing Field Committee this year.

The Carpet Bowls group are still enjoying themselves although they aren't having much success in their league games, but they are learning a lot from them. The Junior bowlers have lost ground a bit, the team has shrunk from 6 to 3 now, so if any children over the age of 10 want to play, you are very welcome to come along on Wednesday nights between 6 and 7pm. and join in for 50p. We have ordered our own equipment now.

The Line Dance Classes are still going on Friday nights at 7.30pm: £2 fee per class. Beginners are always welcome because each dance is taught in separate sections until you are sure of the steps, and it is planned to make the first part of the session for beginners to learn the steps and gain confidence. Tea or coffee is provided half way through the session for 20p.

The Juniors want five-a-side goalposts, so we are looking at the cost of these as football seems to be their main interest at the moment.

I have been in touch with Yvonne Day about Keep Fit and she is willing to come any day except Wednesdays. If you will let me know which days you would prefer and whether you'd prefer evening or daytime, I'll organise something and put up a notice in the Post Office. The sessions would last about 1 hour and cost £2. We can always have a cup of tea or coffee after. These are not aerobic exercises and are reasonably gentle so that all ages can manage and enjoy them.

Pat Rix (610 292)

Secretary, Playing Field Committee

Now that we have completed 2 years with the magazine everyone on the committee wanted to thank Philip High at King's Lynn. He is the person who actually prints the magazine, and we all feel that he has done a wonderful job.



J.D.L.

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NEW FACES AT THE LAMB AND FLAG



Georgina Webb (Gina) is the new landlady at The Lamb and Flag, with her partner Dennis Birch. They have moved here from Buckingham where they ran the Woolpack pub together for 3 years, also with them is their youngest child Annie (11 months) and there are four more children up to the age of 21.

Dennis has worked in the pub/hotel trade for the past 30 years and is a trained chef who loves to cook traditional British fare but also specialises in superb Indian food. They are hoping to continue to build upon the food trade and the accommodation side of the business. They are also hoping (with support from Elgoods) to develop the beer garden area and to improve the car park. Gina very much values the traditional standards of the typical 'English Pub', which is, unfortunately, slowly disappearing from towns and villages, to be taken over by the big national companies and turned into what she calls 'plastic pubs'. She extends a warm welcome to all locals and travellers alike and hopes that The Lamb and Flag can become and remain a very important part of Welney and its surrounding areas.



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VILLAGE LINKS

I've received information about a 'Village Links' organisation, currently running in Wiltshire, which aims to provide on-going support within villages.

This Link Scheme aims, by using volunteers, to offer a good neighbour service to local people who are in need because they are elderly, disabled, single parents or temporarily in need because of illness. Volunteers receive mileage expenses and are covered by insurance.

At the moment you may not be aware but we do have a scheme in Welney for hospital or surgery trips for those without transport. The volunteers receive 10p a mile from the Council and the patient pays an equivalent sum. Wendy organises this.

But the Wiltshire scheme seems to go further. They say: 'Link volunteers can provide transport for appointments at hospitals, social outings or shopping trips and can undertake a variety of tasks such as changing library books, calling in for a chat or changing light bulbs.'

I'm investigating this Link scheme further because it seems to involve Council money, Lottery money and lots of voluntary effort. I'm passing the information on to the Parish Council and will report further. Anyone who wants to help me pursue this, please ring me.

Helen Barry 610 585

ECLIPSE FEVER

We were caught, like so many other people, by Eclipse Fever. We had decided some time ago that we would travel to see the spectacle, but hearing Cornwall would be "full", Europe was an alternative venue. As luck would have it, our son lives in Nederbronn Les Bain, a town close to Strasbourg in the Alsace region of France, and even luckier, Nederbronn was under the path of greatest totality. So off we went to share experience and atmosphere with our first-born.

We left Welney on Monday morning, and stopped overnight in Brugge. We continued on Tuesday, across Belgium, through Luxembourg, took-in part of Germany and arrived in Nederbronn at 8.00 pm. Our son met us and, having handed over the cheddar cheese, Marmite, Branston Pickle and baked beans, we spent an enjoyable evening with his friends, who had cooked us a lovely meal, and were insistent that we sample the Alsace wines and beers. They assured us that they were the best in France, and therefore the best in the world!

On Wednesday morning our son thoroughly enjoyed telling us off, for not bringing jaunty cardboard sun glasses, and took even more pleasure from buying some for us, as we were obviously not capable of looking after our own eyesight.

But bless him, for he had arranged with a local farmer that we could drive onto a clover meadow, high above the town, so that we could see the beauty of the area, and have an uninterrupted view of the skies. It was indeed, very beautiful. The meadow sloped steeply, overlooking the town, rolling farmland, small farms, and densely wooded areas, over which eagles soared, and deer grazed on the far hillside.

However, it was very overcast, with just the occasional patch of clear blue sky being revealed through scurrying clouds. Though disappointed because we realised that we would not see the sun's corona at the moment of totality, at least we were able to look at the sun through the haze and did, in fact, observe the great black shadow of the moon obliterating the sun. And this was without jaunty cardboard sunglasses, to the disgust of our son.

From noon onward, it began to darken but it was not at all spectacular. It was like the darkening experienced when heavy clouds are overhead. As it continued to slowly darken I watched as a herd of cows below us, who had been grazing, all lay down. But I also observed that another herd, slightly higher than us, did absolutely nothing at all! So much for the phenomenon having strange effects on livestock. Some large daisy-like flowers in the meadow closed their petals. But then the exhibition "hit" very suddenly indeed. It went from gloomy to almost dark in a matter of a few moments and we felt very small indeed in the greatness of the natural phenomenon we were experiencing. It did, indeed, go silent (apart from the whirring of the camera). The crows had stopped cawing, the cows above and below us had stopped lowing, and the cloud of midges which had been hovering around us had disappeared. It was not completely dark; there was some reflected light from far away, bright, backlit distant clouds – this was where it

was still relatively light, outside the path of totality. With astonishing suddenness, it started to get light and yes – this is true – as the speeded-up dawn began, a cockerel crowed. We all started to laugh. It was a release of the tension and awe we had all felt.

But the moment was brief. We had another lovely meal with

Alex and his friends and then hit the road for the long journey back to Brugge. You no doubt saw the reports on British TV about the traffic problems experienced by those leaving Cornwall. Well, let me tell you, that was NOTHING! The path of totality was

within easy travelling distance for the entire populations of France and the low countries, and they had all gone to see it. They had travelled down (or up) over a period of a couple of days but once the eclipse was over they all headed home at the same time. We joined a 140km traffic jam, and arrived in Brugge 9 hours later. But it was worth it.

Carol Green



PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

The group has been on its summer holidays since the end of the school term, but some of the parents have been busy 'behind the scenes'. In June we held a sponsored bike ride: a relatively modest excursion to Christchurch and back via some quieter back roads and even a green drove, but an adventure nevertheless for most of us, who had not been on a bike for - er - quite some time. Not only did we all have a wonderful time, but we also raised over £250 for the Parent and Toddler Group. Grateful thanks are due to Philippa Mitchell, whose idea it was; to Carl Mitchell, Toby and Hew for being our support team, and to all of you who so generously sponsored us. Some of the money has already gone to good use in the purchase of equipment and toys, from a playgroup which had recently ceased to operate. At the time of writing a number of further fundraisers are being planned; dates and other details yet to be confirmed, but the plans include a coffee morning and a family disco.

The parents also had a stall at the Playing Field's Summer Fete; this raised just over £50 with the total to be divided between the Toddler Group and the Playbus.

We are running the Toddler Group twice a week, from **Friday 7th September 9:30 - 11:30** in the Parish Hall - see Diary.

PLAYBUS

Welney Mums, with the stall at the Playing Field Fete and a coffee morning at one of the Mum's home, raised £50 towards the running costs of the Bus.

The starting date for the Monday morning sessions is uncertain at the moment. Please phone **Karen Fleming (610 523)** after 3rd September for more information.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Meeting dates are in the Diary on the back page, but there are two coach outings for which tickets are still available.

24th Aug: London plus a Thames river trip.

14th Sept: Trip to Felixstow

Details from Cissie Bedford (610 206)



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COFFEE BAR AT THREE HOLES

A new coffee bar has recently opened at Three Holes. Though part of a small caravan and camping site, the coffee bar is open to the general public, and families and young people are welcome. There is a separate room with a pool table, and in the main room is a pair of 'Cyber Cycles' with a computer-simulated race-course. There are some friendly resident ponies to talk to, and there are plans to add to the attractions for younger children on the site in the near future, including a permanently sited bouncy castle and other play equipment. The coffee bar is open from 10-30am until 'late' everyday, and there is car parking available. To find your way there, look out for a white house on the right hand side of the A1101 just before you get to Three Holes village hall.

There is currently a major promotion by the company marketing Cyber Cycles, with cash prizes for competing successfully with the computer on the race-course - anyone wishing to enter or know more can ring the proprietor Mr. David Deeking on 01945 773459, or simply turn up.

'FAMILY DAY OUT' PLANET ZOOM

THE

venue this time was much closer to home - a group of us went to Planet Zoom, an indoor adventure playground in Ely. Planet Zoom is inside the Strikes Bowling Complex just near the Tesco store on Angel Drove. It opened relatively recently and is well designed with both fun and safety in mind. The main three-dimensional maze is

on three levels with slides, crawl tubes, interesting variations on the ladder, two giant ball pits, and many other features. There is a separate toddler area with lots of ride-on toys, giant lego, and smaller toys as well as gentler 'toddler-size' versions of the slides and climbing equipment for the older children. There is a comfortable refreshment area alongside the maze, with hot and cold drinks and snacks at reasonable prices. Be prepared for your children needing to recharge batteries between play sessions - we found that after half an hour or so of intense activity ours were much in need of a drink and something to eat. Being fully aware of this situation, the snack bar offers a child menu too.

The children, without exception, enjoyed Planet Zoom; this type of play area is great for letting off steam and is so physical, giving children a chance to really use their bodies, yet is not too daunting for them. Many children also create their own fantasy scenarios within the mazes - there is plenty of scope for the imagination here! Ours, having recently seen Peter Pan on video, were being hotly pursued by pirates and crocodiles....

Planet Zoom is open seven days a week from 10-00am to 7-00pm. Admission is £2-25 for toddlers up to 4 and £2-75 for children of 5 and over. There is a membership scheme, which gives a discount on admissions. Sessions cost 25p more on weekends and in school holidays. Birthday party visits can be arranged.



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AND TO COOL OFF AFTERWARDS; THE NEW TODDLER POOL AT PARADISE LEISURE CENTRE, ELY.

At the end of May the Paradise Swimming Pool re-opened, complete with new toddler pool and new mixed-sex changing areas. The new pool really is a nice one, with a very shallow, gently-sloping end allowing the youngest children to keep their feet, and a deeper area, wide enough for older children to practise their swimming skills.

There is even a Jacuzzi- style area which the children love. The much-talked-about unisex changing facilities seem to be OK, with a high degree of privacy, but it has to be said that we were there at a quiet time of day. My least favourite feature was the showers - there don't seem to be enough of these, they are cramped, and you have to walk through them to get to the pool. Not fun if someone is using the cold showers.

However, it's all well worth it from the point of view of the children. Ours had a lot of fun and obviously felt very safe, playing and swimming with far more confidence than in more conventional, deeper training pools.

Holly Goodwin and Karen Fleming

WELNEY HOMEWATCH

Welney has had four reported incidents in June and July; tools were stolen from a vehicle in March Road, and machinery and tools stolen from a garage; tractor windows were smashed on one farm and an attempted break in farm sheds in Toll Road.

However, the Police are very concerned over the recent spate of armed robberies of local Post Offices in the Wisbech area and around the borders of Cambridgeshire and Suffolk. Post Offices in Friday Bridge, Leverington, and Northwold have been raided by groups of 3-4 men with shotguns. The Post Office at Stoke Ferry has been attacked twice. There seems to be more than one group involved. In each incident, stolen vehicles are used and then dumped so that there is no link with any one vehicle.

The police ask that anyone using their local village Post Office be on the lookout for anything at all that seems out of the ordinary. The groups are likely to be observing Post Offices in advance of an attack and are probably very skilled in doing this unobtrusively so it is even more vital that the slightest thing be noted and passed on to the police, using the 999 code if necessary.

Karen Fleming

THE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAUX IN NORFOLK

are looking for volunteers. We need volunteer advisers as well as volunteers who are interested in helping with administration, computer work, social policy work and becoming management committee members. Volunteering is an excellent way to meet and help other people and also gain valuable work experience which may ultimately help you to get a job. Maybe you are retired and have some spare time or you are a single parent or carer who would like an opportunity to meet other people. Nationally, there are 27,000 CAB workers and 90% of these people are volunteers. The work is challenging, constructive and rewarding. Full training is always given and reasonable travel expenses are reimbursed. Some bureaux offer a contribution to child care costs. **Please phone our free-phone line on 0800 283683 for more information. The phone line is open Mon-Fri 9.30-4.30.**

CAB managers are available to talk to village groups who may be interested.

ANNE SCOTT

R.I.P

Welney Church was full on 9th June for the funeral of Anne, who died on 1st June after a heroic battle with cancer.

Anne was a well known and much loved member of Welney Village. She first came as a child with her parents and brother to stay and fish at Pisces, when Hilda David ran it. Anne remained a close friend to Hilda. Then Anne, and her husband Alf, came for the fishing and finally bought a home in New Road.

Anne did not push herself forward but she was a loyal and loving friend with a delicious sense of humour. She loved doing practical things - making cupboards and shelves - and loved her garden. She was ecstatic when she had her first greenhouse last year. And could she play the piano, and her portable electric organ. How many of us have enjoyed listening and singing to her on festive nights when she and Alf came to The Three Tuns.

Everyone who knew Anne gained something from knowing her and had a good laugh in her company. We miss her and sympathise sincerely with Alf who has lost his loving wife.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
22 AUGUST	23	24 Friendship Club trip to London	25 	26	27  	28
29  Water Gala & Dance	30	31 SEPT➡	1 WI  	2	3  	4 
5	6	7 	8 	9	10 	11
12	13	14  Friendship Club trip to Felixstow	15 	16 Harvest Supper Village Hall 7.30 pm 	17 	18
19	20	21 	22 	23	24  	25
26	27	28 	29 WI  	30 OCT➡	1  	2 
3	4	5 	6 	7	8 	9
10	11	12 	13 	14	15 	16
17	18	19  Birthday	20 	21	22 	23



Parents & Toddlers
10 - 12 Noon Village Hall



Friendship Club 2.00 pm



Carpet Bowl 6 & 7 pm
Pavilion



Bingo 7.30 pm
Village Hall



Mobile Library from 9.30
Usual locations



Water Gala - 2 pm
Dance - 7 pm Village Hall



Line Dancing 7.30 pm
Pavilion



Mini Mart 10 - 12 noon
Village Hall



Parish Council Meeting
7.30 pm Village Hall



Teddy Church
10.30 am Church

WI

7:00 pm Village Hall