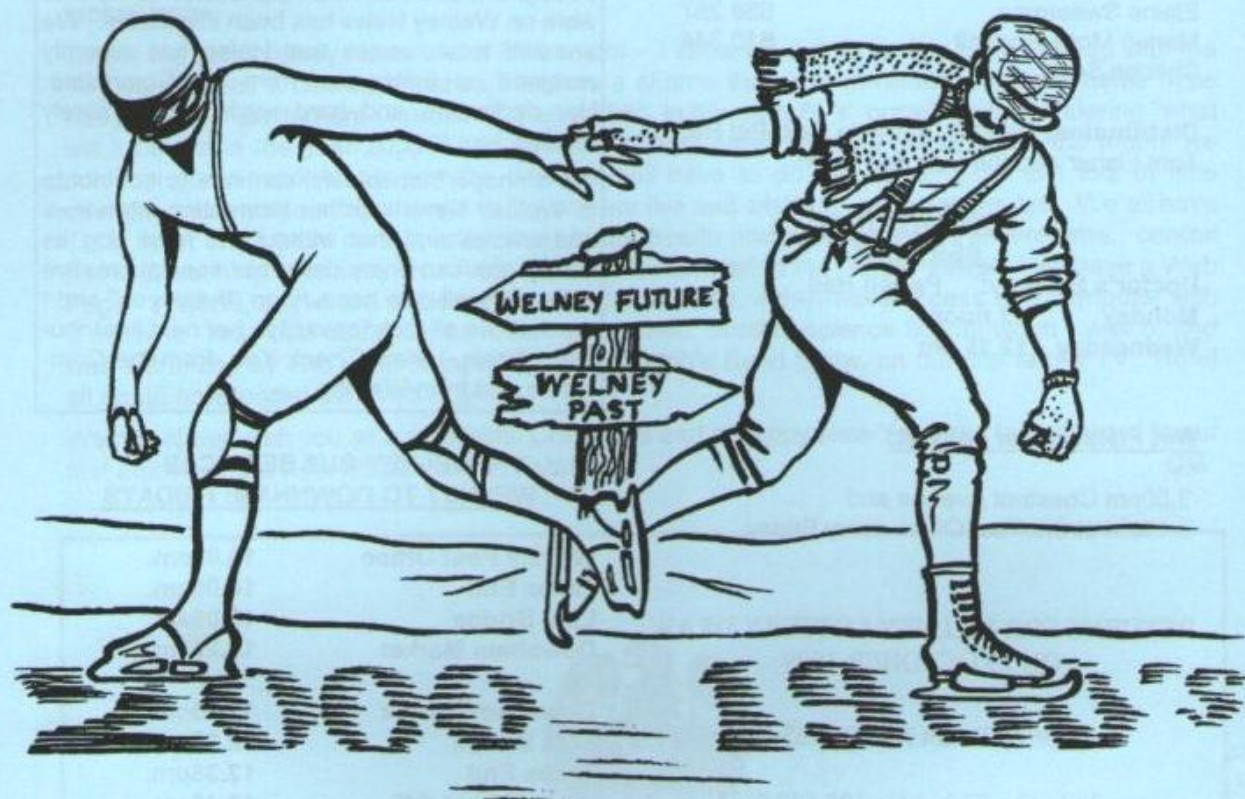


Issue N° 14

December 99 - February 00

25p



WELNEY NEWS

Editorial Team

Chairman/Treasurer/Distribution Manager	
Margaret Levesley	610 272
Organiser Marketing	
Tim Bennett	610 433
Secretary	Elisabeth Deckker 610 498
Organiser, Publication Lay-Out	
Richard Green	610 401
Organiser, News & Events	
Karen Fleming	610 523
Elaine Sweetman	638 287
Marlen Moss-Eccardt	610 344
Sheona Snell,	

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

SOME WELNEY SERVICES

Doctor's Surgery: Parish Hall
Monday 12 noon
Wednesday 12 15 pm

Wet Fishmonger calls at:

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

RETURNS FOR WELNEY LOTTERY DRAW ON 29 OCTOBER 1999

1st prize Ticket No 303 £63.00

2nd prize Ticket No 188 £47.00

3rd prize Ticket No 88 £32.00

4th prize Ticket No 164 £16.00

RETURNS FOR WELNEY LOTTERY DRAW ON 26 NOVEMBER 1999

1st prize Ticket No 379 £64.00

2nd prize Ticket No 253 £46.00

3rd prize Ticket No 221 £33.00

4th prize Ticket No 72 £19.00

THANK YOU, HELEN

Welney News is now on issue number 14 and is a permanent fixture in the Welney Year. It is generally considered a great success, as a professionally produced, informative and interesting reflection of our village life. Helen Barry has been our Editor since its inception, and she was very much the driving force behind the initial launch and all subsequent issues.

Her professionalism and enthusiasm has shone throughout and her help and advice to all who work on Welney News has been invaluable. We are sad to announce that Helen has recently resigned as Editor and from the Committee. Her dedication and hard work will be sorely missed.

We all hope that she will continue to contribute to Welney News with her interesting interviews and articles and that without the hard slog as Editor, she can enjoy using her special creative skills. We all owe her a huge "thank you" and I am sure we all look forward to her next contribution. Again, Helen, Thank You, from the Committee and from Welney.

WELNEY BUS SERVICES WELNEY TO DOWNHAM: FRIDAYS

Welney Post Office	10.00am.
Lakes End	10.06am.
Lots Bridge	10.08am
Downham Market	10.26am.

Downham Market	12.15pm
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)

This service no longer starts in Welney Village. The nearest pick-up point is at Gold Hill.

Efforts are being made to ensure that the bus will travel from Welney again, but there are no promises. We will keep you informed of progress.

Editorial

I can barely believe how quickly this edition has come around. We seem to have hardly finished on the last one! Again, we have been delighted with the responses from the Welney Community, and others, (thank you), and hope that at least some of the articles are of particular interest to you. There has been so much to put in, this time, that we have had to stretch to 24 pages!

You are almost certainly aware of the proposed Wind Turbine Scheme, and whilst it falls outside the Welney Parish, it will change our skyline. As with all new developments, it will have an impact on our community, and for this reason, we have devoted some of our space to it, with information and comment from interested parties both inside and outside the Village. Welney News will be happy to publish any comments you might have on this and, indeed, any other local topical issue.

This is the last Welney News of the Millennium – I know we are all getting rather fed-up with the "M" word but as it fast approaches it seems a shame that over-familiarisation and media hype has jaded our excitement. I remember as a child, in the early 60's, occasionally wondering "what will it be like in the year 2000?" and now it is almost here! We are not living on the moon, we don't all go to work in hovercrafts, and we still have to do the washing-up. But lots of little changes have made a big change to the way we live and what our expectations are. We all have TV's, most of us have cars, a telephone, better health and nutrition, more leisure time, central heating, washing machines etc. And – Welney is now part of the Global Village – we have a Web Page. Anyone, anywhere in the world, can visit Welney, if they have access to a computer with a modem. Now that could not have been imagined, outside science fiction, when I was 6, and was entranced by The Lone Ranger and Billy Cotton's Band Show, on our first family TV. Read all about how to visit our Web Page.

Welney News wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to our first edition of the New Millennium, in February. CG



Local Bankers - Global Bank

Barclays Bank plc

11 Main Street, Littleport

Ely, Cambs CB6 1PH

Tel: 01353 605202 Fax: 01353 605200

Parish Council Meeting - 9th November, 1999

District Councillor Mr. Barnard attended the meeting along with 6 members of the public.

The suggestion had been made regarding the possibility of hiring a chipper/shredder for use by the village, and whilst it was felt that this was a good idea, it was agreed to discuss the matter again in the Spring.

There was nothing to report regarding the Proposed New Footpath, March Road, Welney and the Clerk was instructed to contact Highways Department to see if they had the results of the survey which they were hoping to carry out at the end of October.

Several items relating to Highway Matters were discussed. It was noted that no attention had been given to the trees across the Wash Road and it was confirmed to the meeting that there was no money to give them the attention they needed. It was agreed to write to N.C.C. requesting that they ensure that money will be available in next year's budget as several of the trees are getting dangerous. The footpath around Sandgate Corner was again reported to the Highways and although they had confirmed that they would be strimming this, confirmation was sought as to the future maintenance of this path.

A letter was received from the Norfolk County Council regarding the A.1101 Wash Road. No funding for any work would be available until the new financial year in 2000 at the earliest, but they gave details of a new re-signing scheme being proposed. The Parish Council are awaiting to hear the date of a meeting relating to this.

The New Parish Notice Board had now been installed on the front of the Parish Hall and grateful thanks were recorded to Mr. B. Blackwell who had kindly donated the Board.

Cllr. Kyne-Lilley reported that all is going very well with the Millennium Arts Project and confirmed that the Map is proceeding well. Ideas were also put forward for possible Millennium celebrations

and these would be considered further.

A sub-committee was formed to discuss a Village Strategy and report back to the full Parish Council in due course.

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Norfolk County Council requesting that they provide the funding to reinstate the Norfolk Section of the Rural Bus Service to Ely on a Thursday. The Parish Council had only recently discovered that the service no longer ran from Welney.

Mr. Stoneman addressed the meeting regarding the Wind Turbine Cluster proposed to be installed at Christchurch. He outlined the proposed development and the problems relating to it. The Parish Council confirmed that they had not been directly contacted regarding this as it was in Cambridgeshire, but it was agreed to write to the Borough Council asking if they were aware of the development and asking for any advice.

Traffic Speeding through the Village.

A suggestion was received regarding the money which had been saved by the Parish Council not having to purchase a new Notice Board and it was proposed that speed monitoring equipment could be purchased for the Village. It was also reported to the meeting that the Village Neigh-

Housewares - Hardware - Gardening

(TRADITIONAL IRONMONGERS)

J H ADAMS & SONS LTD



**17 MAIN STREET,
LITTLEPORT**

**TELEPHONE:
01353 860222**



**Paint
Wallpaper**

**Pet
Food**

FREE

**Local Deliveries
Customer Parking**



Cycle Spares



**We're a fair and square store - a member of a
large chain of independent hardware retailers**

**Take our advice - we're hard to beat
for service & price and we're local**

bourhood Watch Scheme might be prepared to donate some monies to this project, and it was agreed that an approach be made to the Highways Department to ascertain the cost and the possibility of having such equipment installed.

Cllr. Booth reported to the meeting that he had been in contact with the Environment Agency regarding vehicles using the top of the Banks along the footpath. This was making it difficult for walkers because of the ruts being caused by these vehicles. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council write to the Agency in support of Cllr. Booth confirming that the footpath is along the top of the bank, and the road to the side is plenty wide enough for vehicles to use.

The Chairman produced a letter she had received from Mr. P. Redman regarding the flooding of the Washes, and it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should write to the Environment Agency supporting the comments set out in that letter, and expressing our grave concern regarding the flooding of the Washes, particularly as we had had no significant rainfall to support this.

Pat Copeman

What are they doing to the washes?

Last week I walked along the bank of the 100 ft river and I noticed that a sluice valve was partly open. This valve allows water from the 100 ft to flow into the washes at high tide.



On Sunday morning I walked along the bank again and found that the sluice was open some more, and there was clear evidence that the flow had been considerable, with erosion of the channel bed leading to the sluice.

This flow is limited by the size of the sluice but, as it appears to be happening every high tide the total amount of water flowing into the washes over time must be considerable. The level of the washes to the South of the Wash Road is clearly up quite a lot and this must reduce the holding capacity of the washes by quite a bit. Does this mean that if there is heavy rain in the Midlands



HAIR BY CLAIRE
Mobile Hairdressing

Cutting Perming
Colouring High Lights
Using All Professional
Hair Products

Hairdressing for all the
Family in the comfort of
your own home!

Telephone for
Appointment
01354 638693

the Wash Road will flood quicker? Of course it does as the spare capacity has been reduced.

One has to ask if the Environment Agency are aware of this, and if so, what will they say to us if the wash road floods? If they are not aware of it then why not? One more question that may be asked is why is the sluice not secured against vandalism? At the moment, anyone walking along the bank could open the sluice fully.

As to the Wash Road, I have had one idea that could make a difference at low cost. The flooding always occurs from the South and flows across the road when the levels rise and the water can't all get under the Welney Bridge. The depth of water on the road is often just a few inches, with a strong flow as the level on the North side is normally lower. A raised curb on the South side, with accurate levels would reduce the number of days we had water on the road without reducing the overall capacity.

Richard Green

Satanta Boarding Kennels

Siberian Husky Specialists - but ALL dogs welcome!

OSBOURNE PLACE, MARCH ROAD, TIPPS END WELNEY,
CAMBS PE14 9SN Tel: 01354 638595 - Proprietor: Doreen Carter

TEDDY CHURCH

Best wishes from the 'Bruins' of Welney! I found myself explaining today to a new recruit that 'Teddy' has proved to be a loosely accurate description of the cuddly companions brought along to our monthly get-togethers in church. It seems that the more experienced the child, the further from the standard bear-shaped soft toy the companion. Today our Nativity service was attended by a Koala, various dogs, and a gangly-legged something or other! The new recruit's son Joseph was clutching a small, standard bear – as I would now expect.

In the months since the summer holidays, we have harvested fruit and vegetables from a box of compost with spoons and toy tractors; raged tinfoil tempests at scale model houses belonging to wise and foolish builders (and built a small housing estate on the firmer ground – watch out Law Brothers!); and finally we have re-told and re-enacted the ancient story of the Bethlehem Babe with humour, fervour and dramatics worthy of any Shakespeare production.

The New Year programme is, as yet, not finalized but will continue with more sessions of fun, planned activities and songs, with impromptu enhancements from the children. Come and enjoy our Teddy Church with us. We welcome all pre-school children, their teddies, and parents, grandparents, or carers at our meetings; in St Mary's church, on the first Wednesday of the month, at 10-30am.

And Happy 2000th Birthday, Baby Jesus, from the 'Teddies' of Welney.

WELNEY ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

Welney now has its own web pages on the internet thanks to Cllr Ian P V Warrington. I have looked at all the pages so far and it provides lots of information about the village. The site is still "under construction" with more information being added regularly. It is colourful and attractively laid out with a number of pictures of our village history as well as links to other local sites such as the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

The site can be found at the web address shown below (typed in as a continuous string of characters)

<http://www.desert78.fsnet.co.uk>

You can then select the Welney web site and enjoy seeing our Village take its place on the Information Superhighway



Body & Sole

Jane Carter

SRN, RSCN, IIHHT, IHBC
City & Guilds (Aromatherapy)

 International Council of Holistic Therapists

Now Available -
Indian Head Massage (Champiassage)
"If your head feels okay, you feel OK!" Popular in India for thousands of years, a wonderfully relaxing treatment of the shoulders, neck, scalp and face

OTHER TREATMENTS
REFLEXOLOGY, AROMATHERAPY
SWEDISH BODY MASSAGE,
SOME BEAUTY TREATMENTS

Coming Soon - Mendhi Henna Art
Please telephone for an appointment
01354 610500

Money Matters INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISER

FREE consultation without obligation on all Aspects of Personal & Business Financial Planning
Home, Shop & Office visits arranged for your convenience

Life & Critical Illness Assurance
Income Protection - Private Medical Insurance*
Pensions - Investments - Savings
School Fees & University Costs Planning
Business Protection & Keyman Insurance
Will Writing Service* - Inheritance Tax Planning
Household & Commercial Insurance*

 Mortgages* & Remortgages* 
Personal & Commercial Loans* arranged

 **Harry Humphrey Financial Services**

Tel: 01945 430539

Fendyke Stables, Station Rd, Emneth, PE14 8DJ

A member of The Kestrel Network which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. *The PIA does not regulate these products/services. Your home is at risk if you do not keep up payments on a mortgage or any loan secured on it.

AMY AT THE PALACE!

On 12th November 1999 Amy Markham went to Buckingham Palace to receive her MBE from HRH Prince Charles. She took 2 of her sisters, Blanche and June, and her sister-in-law Patsy, as her guests.



They left Welney early, to catch the 7.30 train from Cambridge into Kings Cross and then a taxi across London to Buckingham Palace. When they arrived at the gates they handed in their invitations and were ushered inside. As they approached

the red-carpeted staircase, Amy was directed one way, to wait with the other worthy recipients, where a pin was fixed to her lapel, to attach the medal to. Meanwhile, her guests were sent along to the Ballroom, to watch the ceremony.

There were about 125 others to receive their awards, and it was quite a long wait, but eventually she was called forward. Amy curtsied, was presented with her medal and shook hands, following a brief word with Prince Charles. She then stepped backwards and was led away through a separate door, to be taken to the Ballroom to join her guests and watch the remainder of the ceremony. It was all over and she could sit down and relax.

Once the investiture was complete Amy and her guests left the Palace and went for a little sight-seeing before returning home, tired, happy and very proud. Congratulations to Amy and thanks for showing us all the medal and the photos. A proud day for Amy and a proud day for Welney.



PLAYING FIELD AND PAVILION

We have, at last, got rid of the remains of the last Bonfire Night held at the Playing Field! Denis Booth, with the help of Ray Wilson have burned the rubbish, and a JCB buried all the ash and bed springs that were left. So, the far corner of the field is now clear and ready to be seeded in the Spring. It is hoped that the remainder of the field can be cleared over the next few months.

Denis has also repaired the guttering around the Pavilion, but so far we have been unable to renovate the outside. Additionally, the roof is now leaking, so that also requires repairs.

The activities inside the Pavilion continue, though, as usual:-

Carpet Bowls

The players are still enjoying themselves, but they will finish for the Christmas Period on December 15th, and re-start on January 5th—providing anyone can still bend in the middle after the prolonged holiday period!

Keep Fit

This will end on December 2nd, and a restart date has yet to be decided. We will keep you posted.

Line Dancing

Will be closing for the holidays on December 17th and will begin again in January.

The Playing Field Committee wish everyone an enjoyable Christmas Holiday.

Pat Rix

GRAHAME SEATON

AMLA'S

DESIGN AND PLANNING CONSULTANT

Well Creek Lodge, St Peter's Road, Upwell.

Telephone 01945 772632

Drawings prepared for houses, bungalows, alterations and extensions.

Planning and building control approval obtained from Local Authorities.



WELCOME TO WELNEY

It is rather reassuring to learn that all four of the newcomers featured this time decided to move to Welney because they saw it as a rural idyll and, subsequently, found that it lived up to their expectations.

Even Littleport was too big and bustling for Ian and Maureen Stirling, who moved with their son, Peter, to the solitude of Gold Hill at the end of October. Their new home, Tudor Lodge, has a garden too, so a lawnmower will be needed by next spring. Ian ran his own business in Haddenham until recently but opted for a less stressful, though probably more physically demanding job as a drayman. Maureen was born, and lived most of her life, in the general area, travelled abroad quite a lot through her work with an educational charity, but is now somewhat more sedentary in her role with the NCH Action for Children in Newmarket. Peter appears to be following a similar course to his mother, as he is currently a careworker. His married siblings live close by.

John and Maureen Thomas, who just missed a mention in the last edition, haven't moved much further. Originally from London they moved into Delph Cottage, New Road, in early September, after 10 years in Elm. They needed more space when their son and his growing family come to stay and they felt Elm was not rural enough. John works as a fork-lift truck driver in Wisbech, while Maureen has been a hairdresser all her working life. They bring with them a cat and a dog which, of course, provides a perfect means of meeting new people while out being walked.

The very new occupants of 1 Taymor Place, Sonia Webber, and her partner Frank, lived near Chatham in Kent before feeling the need to seek the peace and tranquillity of rural Norfolk. Having taken to this area when visiting a friend, they independently chose their new home from the masses of agents' brochures and already

feel that they have made the right move. Sonia, who has been a clairvoyant for 20 years, is looking forward to doing the garden and becoming more familiar with the local wildlife.

We also have Peter and Teresa Hammond, who moved from Eastbourne into Waterside, Back Drove, at the end of October with their handsome German Shepherd, Frank. The move to a site with an adjoining paddock has allowed them to relocate their two cobs from a nearby relative's stable. Peter has taken temporary early retirement in order to sort out their new home while Teresa was fortunate to secure a job at Reeds, Downham Market, before they moved.

And finally - at the end of November David and Julia Skaife-Lewis moved into the recently converted "Forge Barn", Tipps End, with their cat and elderly Airdale dog. Originally from Botolph Claydon near Cambridge, they've moved here via Ely because the rural location, large garden and existing shed provides for greater opportunity for them to develop various ideas that they've got. Julia, who works part time as a clerical officer at Addenbrooks, is particularly keen to indulge her interest in furniture and design. David has taken early retirement from his career as a language teacher and so has even more time to devote to fulfilling their aspirations.

A warm welcome to you all and anyone else that I may have inadvertently missed. We hope you continue to feel as happy in Welney as you currently do.

Tim Bennett

COME AND SING

Ely Choral Society is looking for more members to sing at their millennium concert in Ely Cathedral in May 2000, when choirs from Ely's twin towns in France and Germany will be singing too.

Rehearsals take place on Monday evenings in Ely between 7:30 and 9:30 and commence in January.

For further information contact me on 610433

Cindy Bennett

 Novell	 TOSHIBA	BUSINESS PARTNERS
 PartnerNet	 HEWLETT PACKARD	Networks Novell Authorised - Installers of Fibre Optic & CAT5 Cabling File server design, installation and support Integrated ISDN solutions for network email and Internet access
	 sage	Sage Sage Authorised dealer for Line 50, Payroll and Instant Sage network solution provider - complete training and support
		Computers and Peripherals Authorised HP and Toshiba dealers and custom built systems Maintenance support for hardware and software
		Training Dedicated training suite in the centre of Wisbech Training on all major software tailored to your needs

Business Partners Computer Consultancy Ltd
7 The Crescent, Wisbech, Cambs PE13 1EH
Tel: 01945 466343 - Fax: 01945 466344
email: sales@bpcc.co.uk

CHURCH NEWS

It is that 'rush around madly' season once again. The thing is that we now have double the running and thinking to do. The new Millennium approaches hot on the heels of all our Christmas celebrations.

In his poem 'Advent 1955' John Betjeman writes:

"The world seems travelling into space, and travelling at a faster pace than in the leisured summer weather when we and it sat out together, for now we feel the world spin round on some momentous journey bound-journey to what? to whom? to where? The Advent bells call out 'Prepare, your world is journeying to the birth of God made Man for us on earth.'"

Yet as we celebrate the two-thousandth anniversary of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth there are still a great many people who know virtually nothing about him. At the most they have some vague recollection of a school assembly or a half forgotten lesson from Sunday School days. So we may well ask ourselves - what does Jesus have to do with real life and real people today? For a start there would be no Millennium, as we know it today, to celebrate were it not for Jesus - our calendars are dated from his life.

For me, one of the real joys of Christmas, Easter and the Millennium celebrations is the fact that God decided to show himself in a very real way to a very needy world. Roman occupied Palestine was not the best place in which to be born 2000 years ago. Yet in a tiny, almost forgotten place, Jesus was born to share all the joys, sorrows, frustrations, of relationships with family and friends alike.

Thousands upon thousands of people of all ages, from all walks of life and from every country on this earth still praise and worship this same Jesus, this unique person. They have found for themselves the richness of a special relationship with him as he speaks to their lives today.

Yes - he was born and lived and worked and died, it is a well documented historical fact.

Faith, trust and belief are another matter and it is for each one to make their own choice as to whether or not they put their present and their future into his care. It really is our choice and now is as good a time as any to find out more about why the Christian Church has so much to celebrate and can look forward with hope and

with confidence.

As we celebrate the final Christmas of this Millennium it is my prayer that we each look forward and move into the new Millennium with faith, hope and confidence and that there will truly be 'Peace on earth and goodwill to all' to the glory of God.

Sheila Tooke

CHURCH SERVICES

December

19th	9:30 AM Holy Communion
24th	11:30 PM Holy Communion
26th	10:00 AM Morning Prayer

January

1st	12:00 Noon Service
2nd	9:30 AM Morning Prayer
9th	11:00 AM All Age Worship
16th	9:30 AM Holy Communion
26th	9:30 AM Morning Prayer



Brewer Electrical Appliances

Top quality reconditioned electric cookers, fridges, fridge-freezers, washing machines and tumble dryers. Wide selection always available, including Halogen "slot-in" hobs.

All items supplied with a written guarantee and a safety test certificate.

Unbeatable value and quality at
Brewers Electrical Appliances
Trafalgar Industrial Estate
Downham Market.

Phone now for further details on:
01366 386838 (mobile 0589 400896)

WINDPOWER – WELCOME IN WELNEY?

The Darcy Lode Windcluster, is part of a proposed development from Eastern Generation Limited and Wind Prospect Limited. It is to be located within Elm Parish, close to Hole in the Wall Farm which is extremely close to the border with Welney Parish, and should it be approved, could have a considerable impact, both positive and negative, on our lives in Welney. Why has Welney News devoted so much space? Welney has not been well informed of the proposal and rumours abound. We hope that by presenting as much as we can, from the developers and from local people, you are better able to make your own judgement, and should a Public Meeting be called, your prior knowledge will encourage you to attend and voice your opinions. If we don't tell the Planning Authorities and the developers how we feel, we cannot expect our concerns to be addressed.

If the wind turbines are installed we will see them if we travel towards March and many people will be able to see them from their home and vantage points within the Village.

Local consultation was carried out with residents of the Darcey Lode area and over 40 people attended meetings. There were press releases and advertisements in local papers, but sadly, not the ones which are commonly read here in Welney. I met with Colin Palmer of Fenland Green Power Investments and asked why we were not better informed. He assured me that there had been no intention to not inform, and he had ensured that information had gone into the "Free Paper" so that everyone would get a copy. He was surprised when I told him that we didn't get free papers delivered here.

Some elements of the proposal and possible concerns are:-

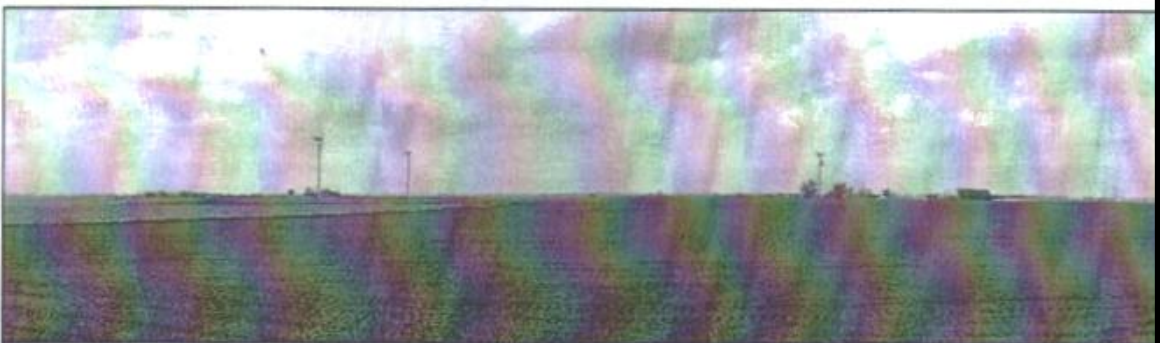
Visual Impact – There will be a visual impact, mainly for the residents who live close to the site, but the main issue here will be personal preference – you either love them or hate them.

Noise – Wind turbines do create noise, but from personal experience of visiting several turbine sites I believe this is unlikely to affect anyone. The developers have carried out noise surveys and the expected levels at the nearest property will be less than ambient levels, so suggest that no-one will hear them.

Air Quality – Turbines produce no emissions. They will, however, reduce fossil fuel consumption. This particular turbine cluster is expected to equal the use of about 2,000 tonnes per year of coal. With an expected life-span of 20 years, this totals some 40,000 tonnes altogether.

Nature Conservation – The proposal suggests that bird strikes will be about 1 bird every 3 years. I suspect some of us may have hit this many, or more, with our cars. The main concern must be whether the turbines will affect the regular flight patterns and feeding grounds of our large winter population of Whooper and Bewick's Swans. The developers tell me they do not yet have information on this but are carrying out a study in the Netherlands, where they already have wind turbines close to traditional flight and feeding areas for these breeds of swans.

Local Investment – The developers intend to promote local investment. This has been offered as a priority to "people living near the proposed development". But they have not included anyone in the Welney Parish, as it lies outside the Fenland District area. Again, I spoke to Colin Palmer about this and he suggested that we include the basic information pack so that Welney residents could register an interest, if they had one. The shares are, apparently, available on a first-come-first-served basis.



This picture is part of a photo-montage produced by the developer to show what the Darcy Lode Windcluster will look like. The photograph was taken from the B1100 near Hole-In-The-Wall Farm

WIND ENERGY RETURNS TO THE FENS (DEVELOPER'S VIEW)

THEN "of all the forces of nature, I should think the wind contains the greatest amount of power" Abraham Lincoln

"there are, indeed, few merrier spectacles than that of many windmills bickering together in a fresh breeze...their air, gigantically human, as of a creature half alive, put a spirit of romance into the tame landscape." Robert Louis Stevenson

AND NOW "The benefits of wind power are compelling; environmental protection, economic growth, job creation, diversity of [electricity] supply, rapid deployment, technology transfer and innovation. The fuel is free, abundant and inexhaustible. Wind power is an affordable, feasible, mainstream global power force that is able to substitute for fossil fuels." GreenPeace International 1999

GLOBAL PROBLEMS Where windmills were once a source of power for grinding corn or draining land, they now have a vital part to play in the fight against global warming. Global warming is threatening to raise the sea and undo all the good work of the Dutch engineers who drained the Fens, but at last governments are starting to act. In the UK, the government wishes to see a 20% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2010. To help achieve this they are aiming for 10% of electricity to come from renewable sources - much of which will come from wind energy. Worldwide, more than 15,000 electricity generating wind turbines are already operating in almost fifty countries. The numbers have grown by more than 25% per year for the last three years and there are no signs of a slow down. Wind energy is rapidly becoming established the most efficient and lowest cost means of generating electricity from renewable sources.

Business is also responding to the challenge of global warming. Locally, Eastern Group, the electricity company that supplies the Fenland region is aiming to match the UK government target and source 10% of its power from renewable sources by 2010. Wind Prospect is working in partnership with Eastern Generation to establish wind energy projects in the Fens.

LOCAL ACTIONS The winds of Fenland have served local people well, ever since Hereward fired the swaying reeds to overcome marauding Normans. In more recent times, the Fens have been drained to make some of the most productive agricultural land in the country. Windmills pumped water from the land and without their steady power, the Fenlands would have been lost to the sea forever.

Through the collaboration between Wind Prospect and Eastern Generation, wind power is set to return to the Fens. Modern wind turbines could soon be spinning in the Fenland winds to produce clean, green power for future generations. The initiative has received the active encouragement of Fenland District Council, who sees it as a vital contribution to sustainable development objectives. Three small windclusters are proposed within the Fenland District Council area at Honey Hill, near Manea, Darcey Lode near Christchurch and on the Coldham Estate.

Each windcluster will have three elegant, slow turning wind turbines. Sited in open farmland, they will be dwarfed by Fenland's big skies. The three projects will produce enough electricity for most of their surrounding farms and villages and make a clear demonstration of the area's commitment to a sustainable future. If all goes well, the projects could be in operation before the end of 2000.

GOOD NEIGHBOURS Modern wind turbines make good neighbours. They are quiet and elegant and can be an ideal diversification option for hard-pressed farmers. Wind farming is already a reality for some farmers in the UK and many more around the world. The turbines take up very little land and the access roads follow existing farm tracks. Farming activities can be carried on right up to the base of the towers.

HOW DO THEY WORK? Three long, slender blades slowly sweep the wind, driving an electrical generator through a gearbox. The blades are carried on top of a slender tubular steel tower and are automatically turned to face the wind. The turbines are controlled remotely over a telephone line and need very little attention. They start and stop automatically and have comprehensive fail-safe features in case of any problems.

WHAT WILL THEY LOOK LIKE? The towers will be 50 metres high and each of the blades up to 27 metres long. The blades will rotate at between 14 and 21 rpm, making them restful and relaxing to watch. The turbines will be placed to follow existing tracks or other features in the landscape. Once they are in operation, there will be few visible signs of their construction. Electrical cables will be run underground and only a small switchgear house will be required for connection into the local electricity network.

LOCAL BENEFITS In Denmark and elsewhere, wind energy development has always involved the local community and this approach is now being offered in the UK. It spreads the benefits from the projects more widely and can become a focus for other community initiatives. An independent company, Fenland Green Power Investments has been established to offer local people the opportunity to invest in the projects. Priority is being given to people living within the Fenland District Council area. A typical stake in the company is likely to be between £250 and £500 - similar to a typical annual electricity bill - to ensure that as many people as possible can become involved in sharing the benefits of green energy. Colin Palmer (Wind Prospect)

WIND TURBINES AT MANEA, CAUSE FOR CONCERN

Wind power as a renewable energy source is undoubtedly a way forward into the Millennium years. Planning Services have a responsibility to ensure the siting of turbines has a minimal impact on the environment and must be fair in matters of information, consultation and judgement. Developers should not rely on glossy magazines and marketing terminology to gain approval. Accurate unbiased information is required.

The developers propose to erect three turbines near March Rd and the B1100. They will have a visual impact of monumental proportions as they stand 11 m higher than Ely Cathedral and would be visible for miles around.

DEVELOPER'S STATEMENTS

SIDDICK AND OLDSIDE *"The land is surrounded by industry, including a chemical plant and other industries, such an Industrial landscape is particularly well suited to absorb wind turbines with minimal visual impact".*

MANEA *"The landscape is featureless and of low sensitivity, with few elements of interest. Impact on waterfowl will be small scale with moderate collisions. The local landscape is large scale and degraded, its broad expanse of sky lacks natural features. The site is located within a very large expanse of flat arable farmland. The landscape is considered to provide good potential for the introduction of new elements such as wind turbines, adding features of interest and drama to the scene. Visual intrusion would be very limited".*

The developer's statements for industrial and fenland landscapes are contradictory. I have asked questions of both Developer and Planning Services, and to-date no satisfactory response has been given. For example: Why were notices issued stating the turbines as 50 m high when the unit is 77m high (256') including the blades, which play a large part in the visual impact.

Bird protection and conservation groups are concerned about the effects on historic flight paths and feeding grounds. High rotating blades would be disastrous for birds flying in poor light, fog or heavy rain. Has the developer's bird impact data taken this into account? They say bird impact would not be significant.

Developers 'dangle carrots' to make proposals more acceptable and, as there are no long-term jobs on offer, shares are offered instead. Other claimed benefits are that tourism would be encouraged and the land rental a local farm will collect (on which I will say no more).

CONCLUSION;

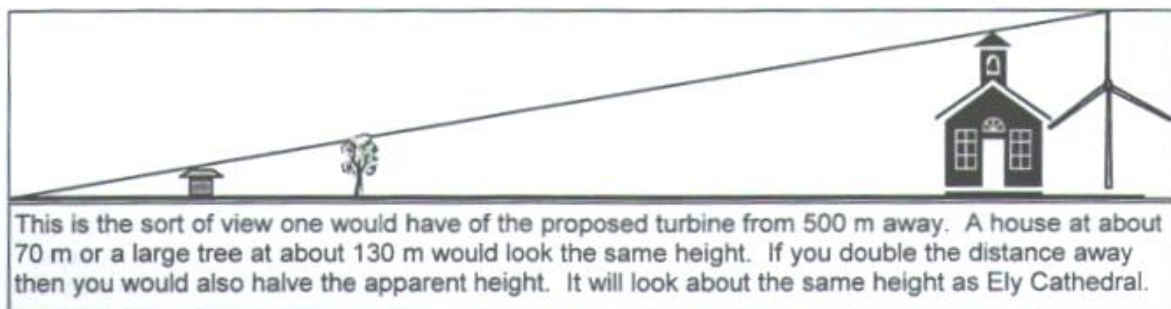
Residents enjoying the peace and tranquility of country life may not relish the thought of additional traffic noise and pollution created by sightseers. The identity of local villages may no longer be associated with Wildfowl, but 'where the turbines are'.

Sunsets, open skies, uninterrupted views of the changing spring and summer crop patterns, harvest time and skeleton trees in winter are beautiful and dramatic. Additional drama and man-made features aren't needed.

Waterfowl and other important species are a natural educational resource and this development will be damaging for birds and will have an enormous visual impact. On November 24th 221 swans were feeding on the proposed site. I photographed this and informed the Wildfowl groups.

I won't take up a share option as I don't want the responsibility of causing death or injury to birds even on a small scale.

John Stoneman



Dear Welney News

My initial response to hearing of the proposed Wind Turbine Scheme was delight. The need for renewable energy sources is known, yet little responsible action by government and industry is evident. So hearing that a more environmentally friendly means of electricity generation was proposed, so close to home, filled me with hope that the messages about the dire consequences of continuing to burn fossil fuels were at last being acted upon.

However, on hearing of some local opposition, I have had to re-think my first reaction. I have heard, (and this may not be true) with growing concern, that the developers have based their feasibility studies on inaccurate data, and without proper consultation with the various individuals and organisations on whom the scheme may have a considerable impact. For example, I understand that one of the proposed sites is a regular grazing ground for swans which famously winter here, yet the true effect on this migrant population has not been properly investigated.

Welney is world-renowned for its winter swan population and I do not know whether the turbines will have little effect, or may act as giant bird-scarers and totally disrupt migration patterns, driving the swans to other areas. I simply do not know, and I would feel much more comfortable about the scheme if I believed that the developers and planning authorities had worked closely with WWT, RSPB and individuals close to the proposed site, and that their local and expert knowledge was used.

It is very difficult for the uninformed to make objective judgements. I am finding it almost impossible to find the balance between, on the one hand, wholeheartedly backing a scheme which will produce electricity without destroying our planet, and on the other, seriously objecting because I believe many thousands of swans may lose an almost unique winter home. Where would they go? Or would they continue to come to Welney and learn to avoid the turbines? What about noise pollution?

I would like more information. I believe that Eastern Electricity, Fenland District Council and West Norfolk District Council have a duty to tell us. Most of us do not have expert knowledge and if planning decisions are the responsibility of our elected representatives surely they have a further implied responsibility to tell us what expert knowledge those decisions are based on.

Carol Green



The proposed windcluster site is shown above. The grid lines are 1 kilometer apart so the nearest one to the road is about 700 m away.

What Now?

We have tried to give a balanced view of this issue with literature from the developer and letters from local residents. We are providing information for you to help you make your own decisions about whether this is a good idea or not.

There is a rumour that this project is a pilot for a development of a hundred turbines across the fens. The developer has replied to this and states that *"The three windclusters that we are currently proposing are the limit of our firm plans at the moment. That said, we have been approached by other landowners who have expressed an interest in the possibility of windclusters on their land. It would be wrong for us to ignore these expressions of interest, so we are in initial discussions with certain of them. If any of these discussions proceed further, the proposals will of course be subject to the same requirements for public consultation and planning applications as the current projects."*

The final piece from the developer is on the next page and it provides information on how you can participate in this project. No-one is suggesting that you will or won't, but there will be some people in the village who would like to take an active role.

We have arranged, in conjunction with the Parish Council, a Public Meeting on Tuesday 14th December so that more information can be provided by the developer. Details of the meeting are given on the next page.

YOUR CHANCE TO PROFIT FROM THE BREEZE

FENLAND GREEN POWER QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Eastern Generation Limited and Wind Prospect Limited are planning to build three windclusters in the Cambridgeshire Fens near March. (subject to planning consent, due for determination in late 1999)

They are offering local people the opportunity to invest in the projects and share in the financial benefits. This leaflet answers some of the questions you may have and explains what you need to do to register your interest in making an investment.

How can I invest? You can invest in the projects by buying shares in Fenland Green Power Investments Limited (FGPI), the company established specially for this purpose. FGPI will be allocated up to 10% of the equity in the project (subject to demand) for sale to local investors. Wind Prospect, the project developers, will also be investing in FGPI, demonstrating the company's commitment to the success of the projects.

How many shares will be available? The total cost of the projects have not yet been finalised, but it is likely that it will be approximately £4.5 million, for which approximately £1.125 million of equity will be required. 10% is just over £100,000, so it is anticipated that around 100,000 £1 shares will be available for local investors, although this figure could go up or down. Wind Prospect expect to be investing £40,000, so local investors will have the majority stake in the company.

Who can invest? During the launch period (October to December 1999) anyone over 18 years of age and living in the Fenland District Council area can register an interest in purchasing shares. They will be offered first refusal when the share issue is made. The opportunity to register may be offered more widely from January 2000 onwards.

How much can I invest? There will be a minimum investment of £250 (roughly equivalent to many people's annual electricity bills) and no upper limit. However, as we want to make this opportunity available to as many people as possible, requests for large allocations could be scaled down if demand is high.

Why invest?

- To benefit from an abundant natural resource – the Fenland winds
- To show your support for power generation from clean, sustainable sources
- To support local generation for local consumption
- Because you care about the future of our world

How safe is my money? All investments carry risk, and this one is no exception. However, the Fenland windclusters will use established technology and they have contracts to sell their power for the next 15 years. You will not be committing to an investment until the cost of construction is known and operation of the projects has commenced. The remaining risks will be linked to the reliability of the wind turbines and how hard the wind blows. You will be investing alongside Eastern Generation Limited and Wind Prospect, who have been building small windclusters for over 10 years, so you can be confident of having partners who have a long-term commitment to wind energy.

How much will I make? The return on the investment will depend on many factors and these will be detailed in the prospectus. We expect the returns to be better than a high street savings account, but they will vary each year depending upon the winds and other factors.

How will I get my returns? FGPI will pay dividends, which will be the main source of return on your money.

Can I sell my shares? FGPI will not be a listed company, so there will be no ready market in the shares. However, there is a growing demand for green investments and FGPI will explore opportunities to sell the shares through intermediaries such as investment clubs.

What happens after I register? We will send you periodic updates on the progress of the projects as they go through the planning and construction phases. When they are complete we will send you a copy of the prospectus

When can I invest? We expect that the projects will be commissioned by the summer of 2000. The prospectus, which will give full information regarding the investment, will be made available at that time.

What should I do now? please use the attached form to give us your contact details. We will enter your details on our mailing list and keep you updated on the progress of the projects. We will send you the prospectus when it becomes available.

Reply form If you wish to be added to our mailing list, please complete and return the form below. We have included an extra copy so that you can pass it someone else who may be interested.

The Small Print

Whatever you do, you are not making any form of commitment at this stage.

Investment in unlisted shares is considered a high risk. The value of shares may go down as well as up. This information is not an offer for shares in FGPI. Any application for shares must be made in accordance with a prospectus, which is likely to be available in the summer of 2000. If you are in any doubt about the contents of this information you should consult a professional adviser.

This advertisement has been authorised by Malcolm Lynch Solicitors who are regulated by the Law Society in the conduct of investment business.

Please add my name to the mailing list for information about the proposed Fenland windclusters and Fenland Green Power Investments Ltd.

Name

Address

.....

.....

Postcode.....

Telephone Fax Email.....

Please return this form to:

Colin Palmer, Fenland Green power Investments Ltd, 44 Queens Road, Wisbech, Cambs, PE13 2PE

X=====

PUBLIC MEETING

PROPOSED WIND TURBINE CLUSTER - DARCEY LODGE

There will be a public meeting on Tuesday 14th December at 7:30 PM in the Village Hall.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for the Developer to give information about the proposal to the Residents of Welney, and for the Residents to ask questions about the proposal.

We also hope to have a representative from Fenland District Council Planning Department to explain the planning process to us.

Speaker:

Colin Palmer - Wind Prospect (Developer)

It is hoped that there will be representatives of various interested bodies who can comment on the effects of the proposal, as well as Councillors able to take note of your comments.

J. N. LOVEDAY ENGINEERING

GENERAL METAL FABRICATION ☆ ROBOTIC WELDING SERVICES
THE MILL, MARCH ROAD, WELNEY, WISBECH, CAMBS. PE14 9SE
Telephone: Welney 01354 610353 Fax: 01354 610481
E-mail: j.loveday@virgin.net.com



VAT Reg. No. 304 7625 71

~WATERWAYS~

Family Foodmarket

Newsagent

Off Licence

- o o o -

Main Road, Three Holes

Wisbech PE14 9JR

Telephone 01945 773449



Vehicle Testing
Station

Petrol & Diesel

Repairs & Servicing that

- doesn't cost the earth

Agents for Littlewoods Pools

PADGETS GARAGE

Established 1895

Quality and reliable car
repairs and servicing and
MOT

Free Collection & Return if
needed

Specialists in vintage and
classic car parts. Expert
knowledge of repairs

Estimates Free

Dave Padget
Suspension Bridge
Call 01354 610225



NATURE NOTES

Although the shorter days and cooler weather have yet to cause us humans any hardship, the impact on our local wildlife is already quite marked.



It is all too easy to forget that between now and April or May there is very little extra natural food being produced, so that those species which do not hibernate have got to get by on a diminishing supply. This is why it is important to increase the range and amount of food that you put out for the birds in your garden.

For many the populations are already artificially high, because of the supplementary supplies that we provide them with. To reduce these just at the time they need them most can spell disaster, as they could be almost totally reliant on what we offer.

Over the last four years I have been participating in a nation-wide monitoring programme, "Garden Birdwatch", organised by the British Trust for Ornithology, based in Thetford. By recording the maximum numbers of ten common and readily identifiable species and noting the presence of others on a weekly basis it soon becomes apparent how things change over the course of a year.

Usually these changes are reflections of expected seasonal variations such as the breeding season, when some species become very territorial like the Robin. Then, in high-summer, when natural foods are far more plentiful, many species disperse widely and are rarely seen in gardens.

It is when changes other than these become apparent through the regular observations undertaken in thousands of gardens that there are indications of significant fluctuations in the population of a particular species.

In some cases there may well be additional corroborative evidence provided by one or more of the other monitoring schemes that the BTO organise, but obviously there is usually a delay because it takes time to gather in the data, let alone analyse it.

However, even at this early stage I am beginning to wonder about the numbers of several

species, which seem to be present in surprisingly low numbers. By referring back to copies of earlier report forms I can readily confirm, that in my garden at least, Greenfinches and Chaffinches, for example,



are well down on past years.

Time will tell if this is part of a wider picture, or just a local effect.

It could be, of course, that their numbers are not down at all, but the birds are still feeding elsewhere on a super abundance of natural food. However, I have my doubts on that one.

While of the subject of feeding the birds, do make sure that the quality of your peanuts in particular is good enough. Those originating from certain countries are more liable to contain higher levels of a carcinogenic fungus, Aflatoxin. This is detectable by eye and is in any case harmless to humans, but can lead to a lingering death for a Blue Tit. Although the rejected husks can be a nuisance, Black Sunflower seeds are even more attractive to birds and provide them with plenty of energy. They are usually half the price too, especially if bought in bulk.

One final piece of advice on feeding – avoid proprietary wild bird seed mixes, unless bought from reputable suppliers. They often contain little other than cereals, so cannot be eaten by many species. It's far better – and much cheaper – to mix your own using a good proportion of additional constituents. If you want to know more about "Garden Birdwatch" or would like some advice on feeding the birds in your garden, don't hesitate to contact me.

Tim Bennett (610433)

THE PROPERTY DOCTOR

UPVC Products
& Repairs

Maintenance
Refurbishment and Improvement
Interior and Exterior Builder
Carpenter - Painter - Decorator - Tiler
UPVC Fascia, Soffit, Guttering
Insurance Quotes - Security Locks
Emergency Callouts

Fencing - Landscaping
Gardens cleared

PETER JONES
01354 - 858150
Mobile 07808 099913

88 STATION ROAD
MARCH
CAMBS. PE15 8NH



ANGLO-EASTERN
COMMERCIAL
offer for sale at
Graham Childs Motors
Howdale Road Downham
Market

A wide range of dog food, bird seed, straights,
grass seed, hemp, peanuts etc. etc.

Present this Advert for a £1 per item discount!

Tel: 01366 387978

**10% DISCOUNT ON
PHONE ORDERS
OVER £7.00's**

Navrad's

OF UPWELL

**GOOD FOOD
GOOD VALUE
105 School Road
Upwell Wisbech**

(01945) 772398

**VOTED
ONE OF THE TOP
FISH & CHIP
SHOPS IN BRITAIN**

FOR THE LAST 3 YEARS

Last Bash of the Millennium!

When: December 31st 1999

Where: Village Hall

Time: 8.00 pm till late

Cost: One Miserable Pound (£1)

**What do you get: music from
the last half century, dancing
and excellent company (it's all
of us, but no booze or food
provided, so bring your own!**

**Over 16's only. Tickets from The
Post Office, The Three Tuns and
The Lamb and Flag.**

**See You
There!**



WELNEY SCHOOL

The Pumpkin Fayre in October was a great success all round. The children – and their parents – seemed to enjoy the experience of pumpkin growing enormously, though there was some head-scratching over what could be done with the weighty crop that resulted. The pumpkins themselves did everyone credit, especially Amy Waring's whopping 79- pounder! The Fayre raised the very pleasing sum of £135 for the Friends of Welney School.

At the time of writing the school children are busy making Christmas decorations and rehearsing for their Nativity play entitled 'The Star Who Couldn't Twinkle' to be performed during the school carol service on Thursday 9th in the church. The children are looking forward to their trip to Hunstanton, on the 15th December, to see the Christmas Pantomime, and to Christmas Dinner in the school on the last day of term, the 17th.

School begins again on the 4th January. In the first part of the term the children will be working on material for the Village Millennium Map during craft sessions; Mrs Philippa Mitchell will be going into school for some of the sessions to provide assistance.



THE RED HART INN

Three Holes

The Carvery

Friday and Saturday

7 - 10 pm

Sunday 12 - 4:30 pm

£5.95

Starter, Main Course,
Sweet

Dave and Judy Flather
look forward to meeting you
Tel: 01945-773328

UPWELL SCOUTS AND CUBS



October the Upwell Scouts and Cubs took part in a 24 hour challenge event which culminated in a sleepover at Upwell Methodist Chapel. During the day there were bicycle riding and bridge building events.

In the evening those who were working towards their Cook's Badge prepared the meal for the group; the meal was followed by a bonfire and songs in the chapel grounds. The older children slept in tents in the grounds, while the younger ones slept inside the chapel. Participants received the Scouts Family Badge for taking part in a group activity away from home.

The Cubs and Scouts gave their Christmas Carol Concert in St Peter's Church, Wisbech on 12th December, with a nativity play put on by the cubs. They will be having a Carol Singing Evening at various locations in Upwell and Outwell on the evening of December 20th, including a visit to the Old Mill restaurant to sing for the Lakesend Over 60s group, who are eating at the Mill that evening.

The group's New Year programme of events will be finalized later this month and hopefully will be publicized in the next issue of Welney News. The Scouts and Cubs are otherwise meeting as normal; the Cubs in Upwell Primary School Hall between 6 and 7-30pm on Mondays and the Scouts in Upwell Methodist Chapel Hall on Wednesdays between 6-30 and 8-30pm.

For more information please ring Amanda King, 01945 772716, or Steve Hallgarth, 01945 773889.



J.D.L.

PRIVATE HIRE TAXI SERVICE

01353 862424

**SAME DAY PARCEL SERVICE
CONTRACTS - AIRPORTS
DISTANCE NO OBJECT**

24-HOURS A DAY - 7 DAYS A WEEK



"Penguins" in Fields Around Welney

3 days of strong northerly winds in mid-November blew some strange sea birds inland and left several Little Auks stranded in fields around Welney. One local farmer reported that he had "Seen a penguin" in his field.

Superficially, the Little Auk does resemble a miniature penguin. Little Auks breed in the high arctic and are usually encountered offshore, in Norfolk, after northerly winds. Three birds found on 19th November close to Welney were released on the lower reaches of the tidal river and hopefully made it back out to sea.



**P..P..Pick up a Little Auk doesn't
have quite the same ring to it**

J D SPIKINGS & SON



28-29 St Peter's Road, Upwell

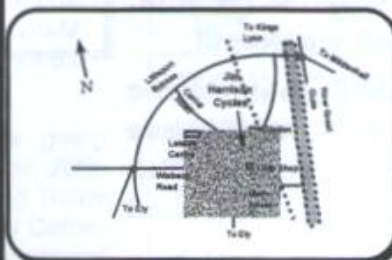
**Order your CHRISTMAS
Poultry, Beef, Pork, Lamb,
Sausages, Sausage Meat,
Gammon, Chipolatas, Pork
Pies etc**

We accept all Major Credit Cards

Telephone 01945 773424

Refrigerated Deliveries

Jim Harrison (Cycles)



**2 Ponto Hill,
Littleport CB6 1PZ**

Next to Ex-Servicemens
Club Tel: 01353 862000

**New Cycles, Repairs, Spares,
Wheelbuilding, and Accessories;
for all types of cycles.
Lightweight Road and Mountain**

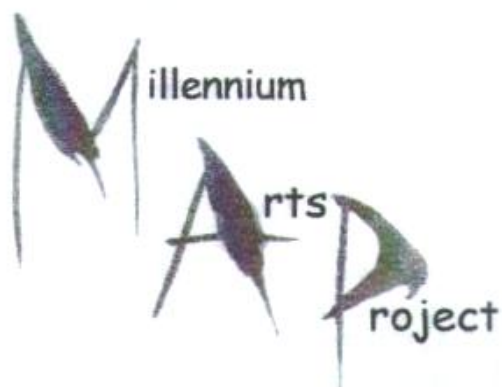


SEEN AT THE WILDFOWL & WETLANDS TRUST

There is so much to see at this time of year, and it's so easy to see it too! The main observatory is centrally heated, easy to get too, and its huge picture windows look out onto the main ponds. On the 28th November the birdcount was pretty impressive, so here is the list of what you might see.

3,257 Bewick's swans, 1,266 Whooper swans, 297 Greylag geese and thousands of ducks. These include Wigeon, Gadwall, Teal, Pintail, Shoveller, Pochard and Tufted ducks. There are also waders to be seen including Lapwing, Dunlin, Ruff and Snipe, as well as assorted other birds such as Cormorants and Redwings and some feral Bean and White Fronted geese.

It is a truly colourful spectacle and at the feeding times the birds are within a few feet of the observatory window. If they had a flight control centre it would be jammed as 3,000 swans come in to land on what seems like a postage stamp of water just in front of you.



Felt Making Weekend

Come along and help us make the background to the whole map out of hand made felt - we are going to make it in a weekend!

With textile artist Jane Frost

29th and 30th January 2000!

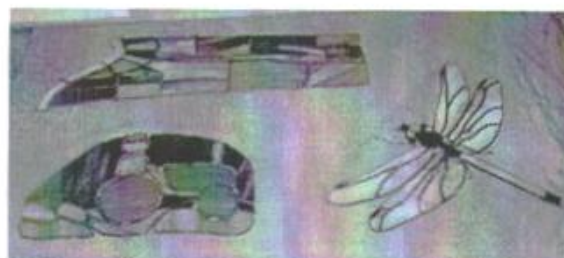
10 am - 4 pm Saturday and Sunday

Come along for a cup of tea/coffee and piece of cake and help us make the map! You can stay for an hour, a half or all day or all weekend!

This wallhanging will feature the landscape of the area, and will have all the buildings and scenes of Welney - made out of all the different crafts - attached to it.

Let me know if you would like to attend full time for the weekend - otherwise we would be very pleased to see as many of you as possible, just drop in and lend a hand. - and hopefully we will raise some money in the process.

Phillipa Mitchel
01353 862481



These photographs show the amazing work done by our own residents in the stained glass workshop held in the Village Hall as part of the Craft Workshops being held to support the Millennium Arts Project. They were displayed at an Art Exhibition at the Village Hall last month along with work done by local school children and artists.

Many of the items were for sale, for as little as £5 for a pen and ink drawing





The Wigeon Tea-Room open 10 am - 4.30 pm

Visit our charming tea-room at one of the most important nature reserves in the area
(all profits go toward our conservatin work)

Enjoy a variety of hot & cold light lunches/snacks
(served from 12-3 pm)

Call in for afternoon tea and try our delicious home-made cakes!
(Booked groups catered for)

Admission to the Centre is free but there is a small charge to visit the observatory

The Visitors Centre and Reserve is open 10 am - 5 pm.

Gift and Book Shop

Disabled Access/Baby Changing Facilities

HEREWARD WAY RUNNERS

You may have noticed the runners going through Welney on Sunday November 28th. They were taking part in the Hereward Relay race from Peterborough Cathedral to Ely Cathedral. The race was held in four stages of around 10 miles each, with teams of four completing a stage each.

There were also some brave "Ultra-distance" runners completing the whole 40 miles in one go.

The Hereward Way passes through Welney, but I must confess that until I saw the runners and asked the officials about it I didn't know we were on it. It is apparently still under development as a national route like the Pilgrim's Way and other similar walks.

I'm told they will be holding another race next year, so if any of you are interested in a 40 mile run???

Richard Green



BINGO CHRISTMAS SPECIAL!

Bingo Christmas Special

December 17 Village Hall, 7.30 pm

A prize with every line - lots of additional donated gifts - even if you don't usually attend, **do** come along for this Christmas Extravaganza!



BOB CLINGO

**WINDOW CLEANING
CARPET CLEANING
HARD FLOOR SCRUB & SEAL
BUILDERS CLEANS**

**6 TOINTONS ROAD
UPWELL, WISBECH
CAMBS, PE14 9HL
TEL: 01945 772967**



**4 WEEKLY
& 2 WEEKLY
FREE QUOTE
FASCIA
& SOFFIT
CLEANING**

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Members of the Friendship Club had an enjoyable day Christmas shopping in Peterborough on 23rd November. On Tuesday 30th was a regular meeting, with Yvonne Day and a group of Keep Fit regulars giving a talk and demonstration of Keep Fit exercises. On the 14th December is the Club Christmas dinner, with a special pre-Christmas raffle and exchanging of Christmas presents. Regular meetings in the New Year commence on the 11th January.

WELNEY HOMEWATCH

Reported crimes in Welney for recent weeks include the smashing of a car window in Chestnut Avenue on the night of 13th/14th November and the theft of a CD player from a motor vehicle in Main Street on the night of 18th/19th October.

The police are currently highlighting a scheme entitled 'Sold Secure'. This is a partnership between the police, the motor industry, the Master Locksmith Association, and the Mobile Electronic Security Federation. Crime related to motor vehicles is at a high level; Sold Secure gives the public easy access to free advice and information on security devices for use with cars, motorcycles, caravans, trailers, and pedal cycles.

As part of the scheme a number of approved centres throughout the British Isles have trained staff to give unbiased free advice. These centres include a number of car dealerships and auto-electrical suppliers. Sold Secure has also tested over 400 vehicle security products using methods of attack actually employed by criminals. Only those products which survive a minimum of five minutes of a concerted series of attacks – which is twice as long as most criminals are prepared to spend trying to steal a vehicle will pass. To date less than 100 products have passed this test; those which have are now on a list of approved products.

Approved autocrime prevention centres can offer advice on the best type of security for your vehicle, trailer etc and will offer to supply and fit one of the listed products if you wish.

To find your nearest approved centre, call freephone 0800 192 192 and ask for Sold Secure, or call Crime Prevention at the Norfolk police headquarters on 01603 768769. There are a number of these centres in King's

Lynn, Norwich, Fakenham, and Diss

'Keep Warm, Keep Well this Winter' is the message from Age Concern and the Department of Health. Keeping warm is especially vital for vulnerable people such as very young children, the elderly, and those with chronic illnesses. There are some key points to follow for keeping warm and well.

- **Food is fuel;** in cold weather, try to have at least one proper meal a day, ideally hot food. Warm drinks can help to keep you warm too.
- **Keep active;** try to avoid sitting still for long periods. Space out jobs and other activities so that you can alternate resting times with activity.
- **Dress warmly;** when indoors, remember that several layers of light clothing are warmer than fewer layers of heavy or bulky clothing. Generally, clothing made from natural fibres such as wool, cotton, or silk is warmer than that made from synthetic fibres such as polyester, nylon and acrylic. There are of course some modern synthetic fabrics such as fleeces and thermal underwear which are designed to retain warmth; these will have appropriate information with them. When outdoors, don't forget to protect head, ears, hands and feet from the cold! If they are warm, then you will feel much warmer all over. Wear strong, warm footwear, preferably roomy enough to allow an extra pair of socks or a thermal insole to be worn.
- **Keep your home warmer.** Insulate your home as much as you can to avoid heat loss. Simple measures such as heavy curtains for doors and windows, letterbox covers, and plastic sheeting on windows can cut down draughts and heat loss. Loft insulation and insulation of hot water systems substantially reduces heat loss and heat costs. If you have central heating, fit thermostats to radiators in rooms you don't use much, and put silver foil behind radiators on outside walls.



Email = billthompson@asbestos.source.co.uk

Phones 01354 610539 01553 811844

Fax 01354 610581 01553 810799

Mobiles 0585 467282 0402 182220

WEST NORFOLK ASBESTOS REMOVALS

The Old Maltings, Setchey, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE33 0AY

V.A.T. No. 599 5871 54

Asbestos Licence No 4969803890

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT APPROVED LIST OF WORKS CONTRACTOR

- **Financial help for keeping your home warm.** The Home Energy Efficiency Scheme provides government grants towards energy efficiency improvement in the home. Grants are available for loft insulation, draughtproofing, cavity wall insulation, and heating system control improvements. Each eligible household can apply for any one of these measures. Any householder or their partner receiving one of a number of social security benefits eg. income support, family credit, disability living allowance can apply for a full HEES grant; any householder or partner aged 60 or over can apply for a partial grant, and a full grant if they also receive any of the above benefits. The scheme is run for the government by Eaga Ltd. which can be contacted for information on freephone

0800 072 0150.

- **Hypothermia.** As people get older, their bodies can become less able to maintain a constant temperature and can also be less sensitive to changes in temperature around them; they can be cold without being aware of it. A child or older person living in a house where the temperature is 16C (61F) or less can be in danger of hypothermia. The danger signs to look out for are; drowsiness, slurred speech, being unable to feel the cold when in an obviously cold place, and having cold skin on parts of the body which are normally covered by clothes eg the stomach or armpits.

For advice on any of the above points, you can ring the **Winter Warmth Line**, a service provided by Help The Aged, on freephone **0800 289 404, Mon-Fri 9am-4pm.** Alternatively contact your local branches of Age Concern, Help The Aged, or Citizens Advice Bureau whose numbers will be in the telephone directory.

COUGHS, COLDS, AND FLU; Minimise the misery!

Take plenty of fluids – rest as much as you can – keep warm – take paracetamol – ask your pharmacist for advice on relief of symptoms. Antibiotics will not help you unless you get a secondary infection.

If you feel worse instead of better after a few days or have breathing difficulties, consult your doctor.

HEALTH HOLIDAY GUIDE

Check when your GP surgery is open over the

holiday period.

Make sure you get any repeat prescriptions in good time before the holiday.

Have your usual cough and cold soothing products in stock.

Take care to take any regular medications with you if you are going away.

WELNEY CYGNETS

Hello again! The autumn term has been a busy one for the children, with the colours of autumn, crackling bonfires, brilliant fireworks, and the excitement of Christmas to prepare for and enjoy. Our Cygnets have celebrated these with leaf paintings, a fiery bonfire collage, sparkly silver paper 'fireworks', and the stuffing and dressing of a Guy for the Lamb and Flag's Bonfire Party. Gina and Dennis at the Flag kindly donated 25% of their hotdog and chips profits to the group; we also had a cake and biscuit stall at the event and the total raised from the party was £45 for our children. Thanks to all who helped and participated, and special thanks to Gina and Dennis. We are now making Christmas cards, decorations, and presents for parents and grandparents on Christmas Day; the children are putting in a lot of work on these, so lots of praise for them please on the day!

We have also had some chromatography sessions put on by local science teacher Helen Chappell, and a visit to WWT as part of the Swan Festival. At the time of writing we are planning a Christmas party for the Cygnets, to be held in the Village Hall on 16th December. On Wednesday 29th December the Cygnets and their older brothers and sisters up to the age of 11 are invited to a Junior Disco in the Village Hall from 2pm – 4pm. Local celebrity Jess Kerr will be our D.J. And next? We are looking forward to an equally busy New Year!

Finally, thank you to everyone who has donated time, painting shirts, drinks and biscuits, craft materials etc. – it is all invaluable to the group (and consumable, so please keep it coming if you can). We now need help to buy more vital equipment to give the children who come to our group the best possible start – perhaps some of the local businesses would consider supporting us in this way.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all – from **Holly Goodwin and Karen Fleming.**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>S</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>S</i>
December 1999 ➔	13 	14 	15 	16 	17 	18 
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 
26	27	28	29 	30 	31 	January 2000
2	3	4	5 	6	7 	8 
9	10	11 	12 	13 	14 	15 
16	17	18 	19 	20	21 	22 
23	24	25 	26 	27 	28 	29 
30	February 2000 ➔	1 	2 	3	4 	5 
6	7	8 	9 	10 	11 	12 



Carpet Bowls
Youth 6-7 pm
Adult 7-9 pm Pavilion



Line Dancing 7.30 pm
Pavilion



Last Bash of the Mil-
lennium Village Hall
8 - till - late!



Mobile Library 9.30
Hale Drove End, 10.30
Village Car Park



Bingo & Lottery Draw
7.30 pm



Cygnets Christmas
Party - Village Hall



Parish Council
Meeting
7.30 pm Village Hall



Teddy Church
10.30 am Church



Cygnets + Older
Brothers & Sisters
Disco Village Hall
2 - 4 pm



Friendship Club
1 30 pm Village Hall



Quiz Night -8.00 pm,
Three Tuns

WI

Womens' Institute - 7.00
pm, Village Hall



Welney Cygnets 9.30 to
11.30 am, Village Hall



Millennium Arts Project
Courses - 8 - 10 pm
Village Hall