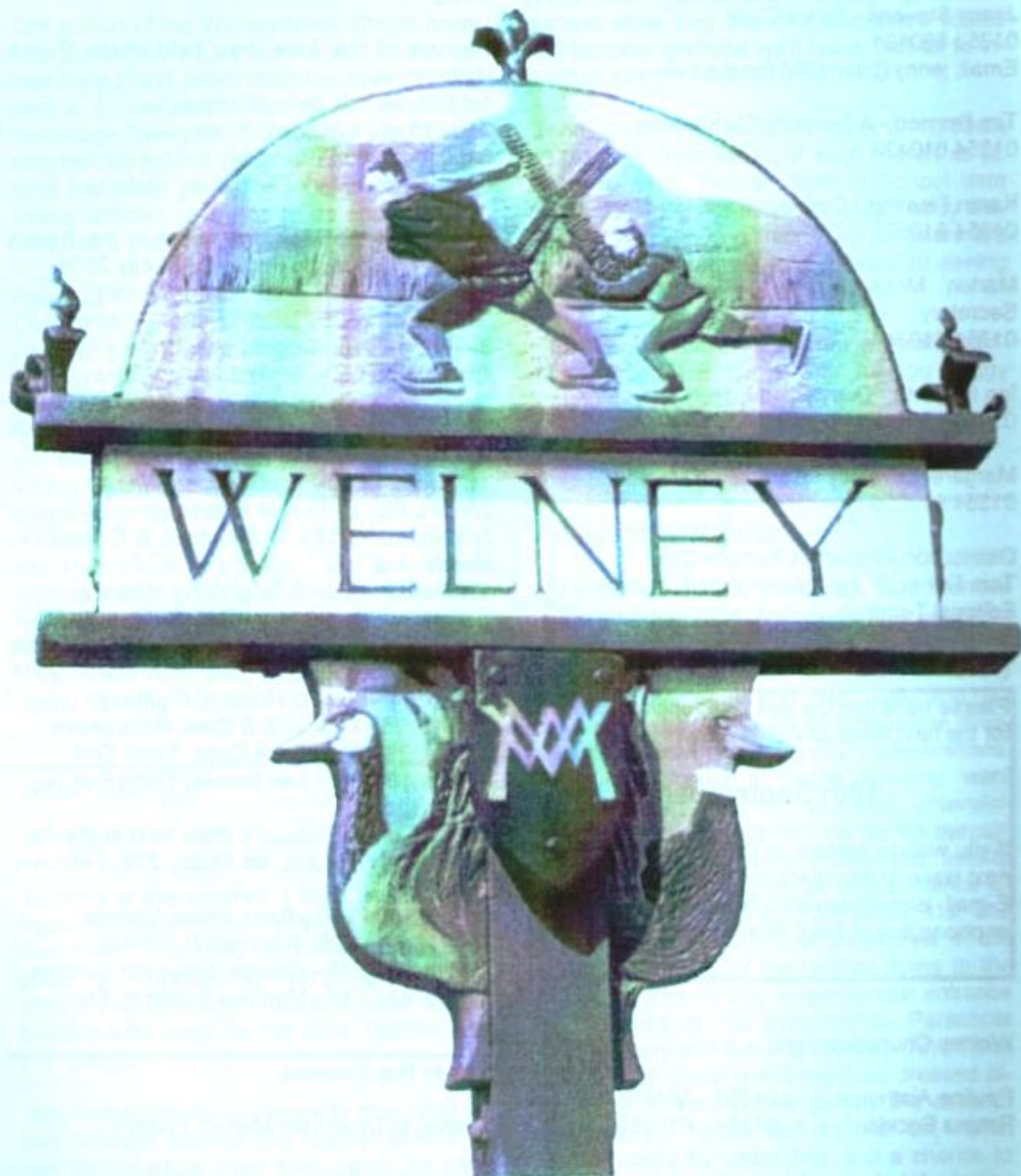


Issue N° 40

August 04 — September 04

25p



WELNEY NEWS

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Please note that the deadline for contributions
for the next issue of Welney News is;

10th September

If you wish to contact us to give articles for the
next issue or comment on the current issue;
E-mail jenny@darrell60.fsnet.co.uk
or phone any of the Editorial Team.

Welney Churchwardens

Pauline Aisthorpe 01366 - 384658
Rosina Beckford 01354 - 610385

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER EVENTS

21st August 1pm-5pm Marifa Lodge Summer
Fayre

28th August 2pm Welney Gala Day on the
playing field

WELNEY PARISH HALL COMMITTEE 100 CLUB

Winners of the June draw held in the Parish
Hall

1st £50 no. 11 Jenny Farrow
2nd £25 no. 100 Barry Bruce
3rd £15 no. 63 D. Loveday
4th £10 no. 8 Mark Farrow

Winners of the May draw held in the Parish
Hall at 7.15 p.m. on Friday 28th May 2004

1st No. 39 - £50 - John Tuson, Welney
2nd No. 48 - £25 - Bernie Burton, Welney
3rd No. 4 - £15 - Roger Irons, Welney
4th No. 83 - £10 - A Singleterry, Welney

Winners of the April draw held in the Parish
Hall at 7.15 p.m. on Friday 30th April 2004

1st No. 72 - £50 - Val Goodger, Welney
2nd No. 95 - £25 - K M Rylance
3rd No. 16 - £15 - P Johansen & C Bastock,
March
4th No. 83 - £10 - A Singleterry, Welney

Winners of the March draw held in the Parish
Hall at 7.15 p.m. on Friday 26th March 2004

1st No. 71 - £50 - D Hodson, Southery
2nd No. 35 - £25 - A & S Cree, Bells Drove
3rd No. 29 - £15 - John Cage, Tipps End
4th No. 18 - £10 - Les Brooks, Tipps End

Winners of the February draw held in the Par-
ish Hall at 7.15 p.m. on Friday 27th February
2004

1st No. 100 - £50 - Barry Bruce, Welney
2nd No. 84 - £25 - Paul Heath, Welney
3rd No. 64 - £15 - George Sheppard, Clacton
4th No. 87 - £10 - Matthew Ballinger, Ely

Welney Bus Services

Welney to Downham Market: Fridays

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

Downham Market	12.05 pm
Lots Bridge	12.33 pm
Lakes End	12.35 pm
Welney Post Office	12.40 pm

EDITORIAL

This edition of the Welney News should hopefully please all. In its covers are articles remembering and celebrating the lives of good people, articles which welcome new families to the village, news of forthcoming events and summer fairs (and updates on those which have just taken place), news of clubs and societies, articles on things to do and see, and hopefully a good helping of humour.

Page 23 is a cut out form from the Parish Council with which they are hoping to gain the views of the parishioners. Remember to put forward your views - there is no point complaining after the final decision is made.

We are still looking for a Treasurer to replace Vicky. Please get in touch if you think you may want to help out.

Keep contributing articles. We are always looking out for new ideas or views. The Welney News belongs to everyone so please use it.

Jenny Stevens

TEDDY CHURCH

Hi Teds!

Looking at the weather, I think we'll give the traditional Teddy Bears' picnic a miss for this Summer! The rainy conditions have been good for emphasising the good foundation (rock), bad foundation (sand) lesson for the builders who came to the June Teddies session though!

July had a different message to give - that the love between parents and children means we can forgive each other even when we have been really hurt or upset. That is what the 'prodigal son' found out when he returned home after a gap-year filled with wild parties, fun, famine and sharing pig food rations. His Dad loved him so much that, despite his arthritic hip aching that day, he ran out to meet his dishevelled son and overlooked how smelly and dirty he was and gave him a big hug (followed by a bubbly bath!) and then threw him a massive "welcome home" barbe-

que. The bible doesn't mention whether everyone had to huddle under a flapping, sodden gazebo while they ate their blackened steaks and burgers; perhaps we'll leave that bit to individual interpretation!!

Teddy Church continues to meet at 10.30am on the first Wednesday of each month at St. Mary's Church, Welney, both in School term time and during the holidays. Any Teddy elders that fancy joining their younger bears are very welcome and we look forward to seeing some of you at the August session.

The Teds wish everyone a fun and safe Summer that doesn't leave your fur too soggy around the edges!!

All the best from Holly (Honorary Ted).

A GALA TO REMEMBER

So with the Liquor and entertainment licences in the post the 2004 Welney Gala is bound to be a success. Some beer has been donated by Elgoods and the main bar stocks are being supplied by the Lamb and Flag. The band has been booked and enough bunting made available to supply the Millennium celebrations. What more could a village possibly wantapart from an evenings entertainment of live music and dancing for the bargain price of £5, a hog roast (because you need to keep your strength up to be able to dance all night), 2 discos 5.30-6.30 for under 11s, and 6.30-7.30pm for 11-15s, a prize draw in the evening with 50% of the takings going to the winner, games, sports, a spectacular entrance by members of the Wimblington Parachute Club, archery and 5-a-side football. And if that isn't enough there is still the best dressed bicycle competition to take part in, the coconut shy and the bottle stall to win on, raffle, bouncy castle for under 14s, and a chance to see the Chelsea Flower Show Medal winning garden by Giles Landscapes.

I have probably missed lots out and because there will be so much going on you won't know what to try next. If having a day full of fun, partying and village spirit isn't good enough reason to tempt you to go then maybe the idea that all profits are to be put towards new children's play equipment for the playing field will.

LIL BEDFORD, 1914-2004

Ainse Lille Oxburgh was born in Swaffham on the 15th October 1914. Her parents were Frederick and Catherine Oxburgh, and her name was chosen to commemorate the wartime experiences of one of Frederick's brothers; stationed in Lille during the First World War, he served on a battle cruiser on the Aisne River. In return for choosing this unusual set of names, Catherine was promised that she would have a brand new pram for her new daughter; so Ainse Lille the little girl became.

Frederick worked on the land, and his family became used to moving house after many a Michaelmas as he was constantly searching for better work and pay to support his family – Lil was the ninth of ten children. Most of Lil's schooldays were spent at Ten Mile Bank, as many of their temporary homes were within a reasonable distance of the school there.

When Lil was in her twenties the family was based at Dairy Houses where Frederick worked for Mott's. At this time Lil met Joseph Lionel Bedford, of Grange Farm in Welney. They were married in 1941 and lived for a while in one of the then council houses on Wisbech Road. Children Pam and Peter were born in 1941 and 1943 respectively; Pam remembers that from a very early age Peter was addressed as 'Peter Pop' and then simply 'Pop'.

The young family moved into Grange Farm when Joseph's mother began to lose her sight. In 1946 Joseph's father died, followed in 1949 by his mother, and from then on Joseph and Lil took over completely at Grange Farm. This was no easy work, on a farm of more than sixty acres with cattle, sugar beet, wheat, potatoes and other crops, for a young couple who at the time had little money to spare to employ help. But work they did, and their two children beside them; Pam remembers coming home from school with Pop each day and going straight out to work alongside their parents, usually with their tea in picnic basket. One of their more tedious tasks was to help in the butter making; with Pam and Pop on a handle each they would endlessly churn away while their arms ached and they longed for the butter to be ready so that they could get some

time off to play.

Despite the monumental task of running the farm with Joseph, Lil found the time and energy to be involved in the community and to be a regular chapel goer. Twice every Sunday she would be at the Methodist Chapel on Main Street, and hers was the job of cleaning the chapel too. Lil found the time to be involved with the WI and also to care for a number of elderly neighbours - on a long-term basis she cooked meals for one or more of them as well as for her own family. She always kept an eye in particular on her near neighbours in the Almshouses and they became like an extension of the family, often visited by Pam and Pop. There was one disastrous Christmas time when the Almshouses were badly damaged by fire, and Pam remembers all the residents sheltering in the farmhouse.

For adults and children alike then, leisure time was a much rarer commodity, and when it came was made the most of. An important holiday in the village was the Chapel Anniversary each June. The children would ride around the village in horse-drawn carts, singing songs, while the adults walked or cycled alongside collecting donations for the Sunday School. On these occasions Lil, as usual, would be found working hard helping to prepare the Anniversary Tea with other village ladies, in Mr Kent's barn opposite Grange Farm.

The years of hard work paid off, and in the heyday of Lil and Joseph, Grange Farm looked very different from today. There were many outbuildings, including a stable for the farm horses, a large barn for rearing calves, and several other buildings in which chickens and pigs were kept. There was a vegetable garden and strawberries, and fruit trees. The farm employed several village men, including Mr Sid Carter and his son Lionel, Dobber Loveday, and a number of seasonal workers at different times. When Pam and Pop left school they both worked full-time on the farm, Pam staying for a short time and then working in various local nurseries before finding steady work with Morris Crouch until her marriage to Terry Roberts in 1974. One of the large buildings on the farm was also used for some years as a workshop by the partnership of Dennis

Booth and Roland Singleterry, and later by John Loveday in the early years of his business.

Despite the constant demands of the farm, Pam remembers that the doors were always open for anyone who came to Grange Farm. There were always children coming to play and staying for tea. The many aunts, uncles and cousins often visited, for Lil's home was something of a focal point where members of her large family could get together. And always Lil found the time to think of her neighbours – for instance on Shrove Tuesdays Pam and Pop were kept busy delivering pancakes to all the residents of the Almshouses in turn before the family enjoyed their own.

Life at Grange Farm changed when Joseph retired in 1979, and Pop took over the running of the farm. Only two years later, in 1981, Joseph died. Lil continued as vigorously as before, caring for Pop, the house and her chickens and vegetables, and helping on the land and with the expanding cattle herd. Finally this indomitable woman was brought to bed with Pneumonia in the winter of 1988. She was then eighty-four years old and had never seen a doctor until that time. The doctor left some pills and instructed her children to ensure that Lil got plenty of rest.

Though Lil recovered to some extent, she was also now suffering from heart trouble. Still she continued in her accustomed role until her heart condition deteriorated further and Pam, who had been living in Littleport with her husband Terry, moved back to Welney in the winter of 2000-2001 to help in the house and on the farm. Lil's health suffered much further with the tragic death of her son Pop in 2001, after which she gradually became more dependent on Pam's care.

Lil lived very quietly in her last months, largely withdrawn from the many roles she had once filled. But when the time came for farewells to be said to Aine Lille, at St Mary's Church on Thursday 10th June 2004, the church was full of people whose lives she had touched and who will never forget the tirelessness and acceptance with which she carried out the great work that was her life.

BILL THOMPSON

On 12th June Bill Thompson of March Road, Welney, was killed in a road traffic accident in France whilst on a motorbike holiday with friends. Bill, 61, grew up in the Walpole St. Andrew area and moved to Tipps End and later Welney, following his marriage in 1963 to Christine (nee Stokes). He was the proprietor of West Norfolk Asbestos Removals, based in the village.

Bill was an active member of the community, including being a member of the 'Welney Follies' entertainment group in the 1970's and the LA's religious musical group in the 1980's. Bill was also a Governor of the William Marshall School for 17 years, including several years in the Chair. For the past 3 years he has also been a member of the local Parish Council.

Bill's many hobbies and interests over the years included Freemasonry, squash, holding a private pilot's licence, travelling, playing the guitar and electric organ and, most recently, being a member of the Harley Davidson group.

A thanksgiving service for the life of Bill was held at St. Mary's Church on 28th June, following a private cremation. Several hundred pounds worth of donations were made to the children's charity Barnardo's, which Bill had supported since his only child, Nikki, started working for them in the 1990's.

Christine, Nikki and father-in-law, Les Stokes, would like to express their sincere thanks and gratitude to the many villagers who have written, sent flowers and cards, and visited to offer their support and sympathy. It has been of great comfort to them during this time of sadness and loss.

WELNEY HOMEWATCH

There have been further reports of bogus callers and distraction burglaries in the West Norfolk area during June and July. There seems no end to the ruses employed.

The homes of several elderly people in Hunstanton were targeted by a man who offered knife-grinding services and then simply pushed his way in at the door. In the King's Lynn area a number of people were visited by a man claiming to need help with an injured bird. The man was red-haired and had an Irish accent. In a further series of incidents, elderly people were approached in their gardens by two men, one of whom engaged the person in conversation while the other gained entry to the house. The police statement is; "You are under no obligation to respond to an unsolicited caller. Don't automatically believe a caller's story no matter how the circumstances appear".

There have been shed break-ins in Terrington St Clement, Hunstanton, and Emneth. In all cases the sheds were not alarmed. The police would like to stress that sheds fitted with alarms tend to be quite well-protected; most break-in attempts on alarmed sheds result in the burglar leaving the scene empty-handed.

During the recent hot weather there were a number of domestic burglaries carried out at properties with doors and windows standing open. The residents in all cases were nearby – in their gardens, or talking to neighbours – but out of sight of the open window or door where the burglar got in.

WELNEY WARD - PRINCESS OF WALES HOSPITAL

This hospital was originally an RAF hospital that opened in 1939. It was used primarily for serviceman/women and their families. If there were spare beds they were used by the local community. It was renamed the Princess of Wales Hospital in 1987 and was closed by the RAF in 1992. It was in 1993 that Lifespan Healthcare NHS Trust took over the hospital. The hospital is now a fraction of its former size when it was an RAF hospital. The care when an RAF hospital was excellent

Thanks to Pauline for this - Ed.

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**W E L N E Y
NEWS NEEDS
A TREASURER**

The Welney News is still in need of a treasurer. Helping with the Welney News is an excellent way to get involved in village life. It doesn't take up too much time and we don't have huge sums of money to deal with so it is hopefully more of a relaxing, socializing pastime than a job

Please contact Jenny Stevens on 01353 860121 or chat to anybody on the Editorial team for more details

Giles Landscapes, the award-winning Welney based landscaping company, is celebrating garden designer Steve Hall's Silver Flora Medal win at the Chelsea Flower Show, announced early this morning (Tues 25th May).

Steve won the prestigious award for his environmentally friendly Wildlife Trusts Gateway Garden in the Courtyard Gardens category of the show.

The design demonstrates to homeowners how to create a garden that supports the environment. Attractive features such as the Lych Gate and trellis - which were hand-crafted by Welney based carpenter Steve Kerr - a pool and slab-work paths give structure to the garden. Meanwhile the use of materials from sustainable sources, homemade compost and wildlife gardening using a mixture of native plants alongside cultivated varieties which are known to attract and support a wide range of wildlife, add colour and vitality to the scheme.

Steve Hall, who joined Giles Landscapes earlier this year, said:

'I am delighted to have won the Silver Flora for my design. The Giles Landscapes team were fantastic and put in many, many hours to get the garden up and running, and I am so pleased that all their hard work paid off. The garden looks stunning, and has drawn a lot of attention because of its environmentally friendly bias, and I hope that it inspires people to develop small spaces for themselves, using sustainable resources and encouraging wildlife, even in towns and cities. Now we can start looking forward to next year's show!'

Roger Giles, Partner in Giles Landscapes, said:

'We are over the moon at Steve's win. His design shows that even small outside spaces can be turned into dazzling, environmentally friendly gardens that are both practical and pretty. The Giles Landscapes team has worked very hard to pull this off, and we are proud of all the work the lads have put in to this project. Steve Kerr's Lynch Gate makes a stunning centrepiece. We congratulate Steve



and everyone involved, and are looking forward to celebrating their success!"

The Gateway Garden will be dismantled at the end of the Chelsea Flower Show and transplanted to the new visitor centre for Essex Wildlife Trust at Grays Thurrock in the Thames Gateway.

DID YOU KNOW that you can now recycle unwanted mobile phones at Tesco stores? For each phone, Tesco will make a donation to a chosen charity. Since 2001, phone recycling has resulted in over a million pounds being raised for charity. The charity for this year is 'Help the Hospices'. Just ask for a special envelope in your local store.

Tesco will also recycle old inkjet cartridges – for each recyclable cartridge, £1 will go to Help the Hospices. Not all types can be recycled, but if you ask in your store for the special envelope for inkjet cartridges, it will give details of which ones can't be used.

WELNEY ANGLING CLUB

As expected, the season had a very quiet beginning on 16th June. The Old Bedford was showing a lot of weed, and the Delph was suffering from poor oxygenation due to the stagnant water coming off the Washes so late. During the last week the weed in the Bedford has been cut and removed, and the vegetation on the banks has been pulverized; so things are looking better and the fish are responding to the improved conditions. I hope to be able to send in a more positive report next time!

Dennis Booth

MAKING COMPOST

Garden and kitchen wastes make up over a third of all household rubbish. This organic waste is particularly nasty. It smells bad and attracts pests like rats. When dumped as landfill it gradually breaks down and if there is not enough oxygen it produces methane. This gas contributes to global warming and is leading climate change. It can cause fires and explosions at landfill sites too.

Composting is an excellent natural way of 'recycling' organic waste. It produces very good garden fertiliser and can make an enormous difference to the amount of rubbish needed to be taken away. By reducing organic waste landfill sites become safer and easier to manage.

Make your own compost heap

Allow a space of about 3 feet square and 3 feet high in a corner of your garden.

Enclose the space with bricks or wood and cover it to keep the rain out. If you have a small garden buy a compost bin. The local authority sells them or you can buy one from a nursery or hardware store instead.

The compost pile should be in layers to help the wastes decompose. Put a 4 inch layer of twigs or straw at the bottom to allow the air to circulate.

Add a 4 inch layer of damp grass cuttings, nettles or seaweed and then a 6 inch layer of damp kitchen waste (e.g. uncooked vegetable peelings, tea bags, coffee grounds, egg shells, stale bread, shredded paper, but not shiny magazine paper).

On top add a 1 inch layer of garden soil.

Repeat adding layers of garden or kitchen waste and soil until the compost heap is the required height. Keep a layer of soil on top.

Cover with a plastic sheet or old bit of carpet and leave the heap for about 3 months to rot down.

Uncover, take all the compost out, then put it back again. This adds air to the compost and helps it rot down faster.

The compost should be ready about 3 months later when it has a crumbly appearance and a slightly earthy smell.

It can then be dug into garden beds or spread under trees and bushes.

Carol Inskipp

HATHA YOGA

It is the plan for the Wednesday night and Thursday morning groups to continue in the autumn term. The Wednesday group will meet at 8pm in either the Village Hall, or the Cricket Pavilion, depending on numbers – the venue will be confirmed nearer the time. The Thursday group will be in the Pavilion at 10-00am as before. The cost will still be £3-50 a session. The Wednesday group will re-commence on the 8th of September, and the Thursday group on the 9th.

Both groups have spaces at the moment; anyone wishing to find out more about either group or reserve a place can ring Karen Fleming on 610523. Newcomers are very welcome, whether beginner or with previous experience of Yoga. If you don't know anything about Yoga but would like to give it a try, then please feel free to book in at either group for a taster session.



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MARIFA LODGE NEWS

We have got new proprietors Mr and Mrs Graham and Teresa Rainbird. They took over the Lodge from Marilyn and Geoff Sumner on 5th July 2004 and we would like to welcome them and wish them luck. Our home will continue to run under the management of Liz Salter and all original staff.

We hope that many will join us to meet Mr and Mrs Rainbird at the summer fayre on 21st August. They have a number of ideas for improving the services we provide for our residents, including changes to the menu and a greater range of organised activities.

We are still looking for people to help out with activities for our residents and also relief carers to help with holiday and sickness periods. Contact Liz on 01354 610300 or pop in for a chat.

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Saturday 21st August
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Carboot £3 a pitch contact Marifa Lodge on 01354 610300 to book

WELCOME TO WELNEY

Margaret and Lewis Davis have recently moved into The Brambles, one of the 'new' bungalows on March Road.

Retired for almost two years from the Royal Artillery Barracks, Woolwich, Lewis is a keen follower of Charlton Athletic and has been a staunch supporter for more than fifty years.

Margaret took early retirement and is keen to make changes in the garden, one of them being the addition of a greenhouse.

Both like listening to the radio, reading and walking and intend to purchase a couple of bicycles in the near future to take advantage of our flat landscape.

The couple have three children and five grandchildren and had lived in Woolwich for thirty years but wanted a more peaceful area for their retirement. Their search took them to Lincolnshire but after visiting Welney they were hooked and love it here.

Margaret's Mum, also called Margaret but known as Peg visited recently and fell in love with their choice of home.

Welcome to a long and happy retirement in Welney.

Peter and Jane moved into *Dorray* at the end of May. They had previously lived in Upwell since moving to the area from Beckenham, Kent, in 2002. They have three cats, the biggest of which is heading for a place in the Guinness Book of Records (but he is a real softie really!)

Jane works as a Civil Servant in Cambridge; Peter spends much of his time caring for Jane's mum who lives in Downham Market.

Ruth and Mark, with their sons Jason (14) and Jamie (9), moved into their house in Taymor Place in June; their former home was in Milton Keynes. Mark is a train driver, Ruth a home-maker at present. Both boys have settled in well at their new schools, at Downham Market and at our William Marshall School respectively. Asked what made them come to Welney, Ruth said that on a visit to Hunstanton they realised they liked this part of the world so much that they wanted to live here. She added that they already love it in our village.

Dave, Kate and their three-year-old daughter Freya moved to High Hill House recently from Waterbeach. Originally from Cork in Ireland, Dave moved to the Cambridge area to work

eight years ago and ended up staying and starting a business which he now runs from home.

As well as jointly running their small product design company, Kate is also studying Shiatsu, a Japanese form of massage, and is always on the lookout for willing volunteers to practise on!

Kate also enjoys horse-riding and they both enjoy cooking and are looking forward to getting their garden into shape over the next few months.

Freya is a little chatterbox who loves dressing up and has enjoyed the Music & Movement group on Wednesday mornings.

They have settled quickly here and have been made to feel most welcome, especially in the Lamb & Flag!

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WELNEY GALA DAY

At the Playing Fields

Saturday 28th August

at 2.00 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION

5 A Side Football Tournament

Archery Display and Instruction

Licensed Bar and Refreshments

Best Dressed Bicycle/ Bottle Stall/ Coconut Shy

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Children's Disco Under 11's 5.30 – 6.30 50p entry

11 to 15's 6.30 – 7.30 £1 entry

Dance in a Marquee with live music plus disco and Hog Roast at
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All profits to new Children's Play Equipment

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MANAGING THE CHURCHYARD.

Dear Editor,

I feel I must respond to the Churchwarden's comments about the difficulties involved with maintaining the churchyard published in the last issue of Welney News.

A couple of years ago my wife and I started visiting churches and have since been to scores around the country. I therefore feel I can speak with some authority about St. Mary's and its churchyard.

For its size and relatively recent history, St. Mary's stands in an unusually large churchyard. Many far grander and much older churches are surrounded by quite modest churchyards. Some, having become full of graves, have had to be extended, or completely new sites have had to be found nearby. Whatever their size and shape however, very few are maintained to the same standard as St. Mary's churchyard. Virtually all of them have 'wild areas' where the vegetation is cut infrequently, or only after the flowers have set seed. In the Dioceses of Norwich and St. Edmundsbury many have notices explaining their management programme. The botanically richer ones sometimes even have information boards or labels identifying particular plants. Advice is provided by the local Wildlife Trust or English Nature, and sponsorship is provided by Barclays Bank, as part of a national scheme.

The Dioceses of Lincoln and Peterborough seem specialize in using sheep to graze down unwanted vegetation, which I think seems a particularly appropriate way of dealing with churchyards that do not have lots of flowers.

When cutting is undertaken this is usually done on a voluntary basis.

I appreciate that the congregation of St. Mary's is very small and that there may well not be anyone in a position to commit the time and effort required to cut the churchyard on this basis.

This suggests to me that the PCC should carry out a bit of research, do some lateral thinking and be rather more creative about how they look after "our" churchyard. It'll certainly save them some money, if nothing else.

Tim Bennett.

A FAMILY DAY OUT – CHURCH FARM, STOW BARDOLPH

Church Farm, part of the vast Stow Estate, was until recently a primarily arable farm, with some sheep. As with so many farming operations, financial pressures led to the decision to diversify. In the case of Church Farm, the decision was made to try the combination of a Rare Breeds centre and a childrens' attraction, and earlier this year Church Farm opened to the public for the first time.

As a family we have often been to zoos and other establishments where we can see animals but can't get near them. Most children (and some grown-ups!) find furry animals irresistible and long to get closer, and the frustrations at not being able to are understandable. But at Church Farm not only is contact between people and animals allowed, some of the four-legged residents demand it! There are two large enclosures with sheep, goats, rabbits and chickens where adults and children alike can walk in and approach the animals. The gorgeous Golden Guernsey goat, Sammy, when being scratched behind the ears, will slowly turn his head from one side to the other showing you just where he wants to be rubbed next. I was scratching the back of a ginger-coloured Tamworth piglet and found the rest of her siblings impatiently pushing in for their turn!



Tamworths and Gloucester Old Spots are some of the many ancient pig breeds at Church Farm. One of my favourites was the Kune Kune, (pronounced Kooney Kooney) a breed which was naturalized in New Zealand long ago. Kune Kune is a Maori name mean-

ing 'round and fat' – the reason will be obvious when you meet one of these delightful and good-natured animals. They are a small, hairy, multi-coloured breed, with ginger, black and white in almost any combination of spots, dapples and patches.

It was amazing to find many of the other sheep and goats competing with each other to have ears and necks scratched. Not all the resident creatures welcomed such attention, but the shyer and more retiring ones had information boards by their enclosures explaining this. All the animal enclosures had good information boards and were very spacious and clean, with lots of bedding, fresh water and food, and housing/sleeping areas appropriate to the needs of their occupants. Some of the smaller residents included guinea pigs, dwarf rabbits and ferrets; while the largest of all was Bernard, the gleaming, copper-coated Suffolk Punch. It was intriguing to see Sarah, one of the farm staff, taking Bernard on a walk around to meet the visitors; and then a short time later exercising Scamp the polecat ferret on his own harness and leash. The children were delighted to see Scamp, with his rolling walk and lively inquisitive behaviour reminiscent of otters or meerkats, as he patrolled the farm.

Other attractions include good access for wheelchair and pushchair users, the biggest collection of ride-on tractors we have yet seen, and good play equipment, suitable for children from toddler size up to probably ten or eleven. There were open-sided barns providing shade and shelter from rain, an enormous sand play area, and a soft-play straw barn. As the farm does not as yet do lunches there were several picnic areas and bring-your-own is encouraged. There is a tea-room with truly lovely home-made cakes. Toilet and hand-washing facilities are good.

As well as being a tourist attraction, the intention is for Church Farm to become a 'serious' rare breeds establishment, and they hope to achieve Conservation Centre status next year. The farm will then join a network of such centres around the country, co-operating to maintain viable populations of some of these beautiful and fascinating farm and domestic animal breeds. The farm welcomes school and pre-school groups; and there are guided walks and tractor tours, as well as seasonal activities



such as feeding baby animals and sheep-shearing.

To get to Church Farm, take the Lynn Road from Downham Market up to the A10. Stow Bardolph is the first turning on the right and the farm is signposted from the A10 itself. Opening is every day from late March to the end of October. The admission is £4-50 for adults and £3-50 for children, but with family and group discounts, and season tickets are available. It may not seem the cheapest day out, but is actually good value once you are there. Our intended "couple of hours" visit turned into a very long and relaxing whole afternoon in this most friendly and welcoming place!

GRAHAME SEATON

AMLAS

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W.I.

The June meeting was a very colourful event when guest Mrs. Goswami displayed the beautiful materials used to make up the traditional sari. One member was delighted to be used as a model to demonstrate how easy the sari is to put on. Mrs. Goswami told members of the history of the sari which goes back several hundred years.

There were several entrants for the monthly competition to discover the best choc chip cookie maker and all were awarded 5 points each by judge Mrs. Goswami, they were Vera Singleterry, Ada Thorpe, Bettine Watson, Amy Markham, Cissie Bedford, Queenie Johnson and Jennifer James. Rita Sweet and Amy Markham were the lucky raffle winners.

Members met in the village hall on a very wet July evening. Following the singing of Jerusalem a letter was read out from Angela Martin who had attended the A.G.M. in Sheffield. The letter explained the three resolutions, which were discussed, and also the final outcome.

The competition involved members bringing along a piece of coloured glassware. There were nine entries with Carol Halls kindly judging. Jean Newell, Ada Thorpe, Vera Singleterry and Jennifer James each gained 5 points, Amy and Blanche Markham and Queenie Johnson 4 points with 3 points each to Bettine Watson and Cissie Bedford.

Amy Markham organized a quiz for social time; winners were Jean Newell, Ada Thorpe and Jennifer James. Raffle winners included Amy Markham, Peggy Smart, Cissie Bedford and Queenie Johnson.

The August meeting will be a barbecue at Amy's home, and to enter the competition members are asked to make a jar of lemon curd.

Adam Giles is guest speaker for the September meeting, when other W.I. groups will visit and there will be a display of members crafts created throughout the year.

Enquiries from Amy Markham 01354 610340



The Wigeon Tea Room

Open 10 am - 4:30 pm

Feel free to visit our charming tea room and gift shop at one of the most important nature reserves in the area

Entry to the tea room is free but a small charge is made for entry to the reserve

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

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(Booked groups catered for)

Visitor Centre & Reserve 10 am - 5 pm
Disabled Access/Baby changing facility
(all profits go towards our conservation work)

WELNEY CYGNETS

"To be, or not to be", that was the question that faced the Welney Cygnets Committee at our AGM on 21st July '04, and like many a good Shakespeare play the action swayed between tragedy and hope, with comic moments and touches of bawdiness along the way! So, what was the outcome of the Village Hall drama? Again like Shakespeare, the evening's dialogue spanned both a main and a sub-plot, those being the future of the Playgroup and of the Toddlers' Group.

For the Toddlers we have a tragic end - a prolonged hibernation until enough people realise what they have lost and summon the energy and will to become frequent and regular participants in what is a friendly, stimulating and sociable weekly get-together for babies, pre-school children and their Parents and Carers. It is sad to see the 5-year run of the Toddlers' Group, started by a small number of parents determined to give their children a good start in their own village, finally come to an end. Our grateful thanks go to the valiant Alison and Harriet Cree who became the sole session leader and customer in the last weeks of the Group's swansong.

What of the Playgroup's fate then? Well, interviews for the new Playgroup Leader are to be held in the last week of July. Previous interested parties have dropped out before the interview stage (largely due to lack of hours and low pay, it seems) but we hope that one of the current applicants will prove suitable and willing to guide our small, friendly and Ofsted-approved Playgroup to a prosperous and pleasurable future, with our trusty and wonderful Deputy Playgroup Leader, Jean by their side.

As with all good dramas we have an encore. If the Playgroup Leader position is not filled before September, Christchurch Playgroup has very kindly guaranteed places and a warm welcome for our children and Jean, as their teacher, at their group until Christmas, giving our Committee a further 3 months to find the right person to care for our Cygnets flock. Hopefully, 'Plan B' will not be needed, but we are extremely grateful to Christchurch Playgroup for offering this reassurance to our Parents during the turbulent time that we are going through.

Toddlers' families have also been offered a helping hand, this time by Fen Border Sure Start (the Fairy Godmother of the pre-school world!). FBSS has been very generous and pro-active during the past couple of years as it has brought money, resources, education and family fun opportunities to our village. They are planning to continue this by bringing a mobile toy and equipment library to Welney every 2 or 3 weeks, starting from September hopefully. Added to this regular entertainment and toy loan supply, will be visits by a Staff Nurse, a Speech & Language Therapist and other health and education professionals, all at our fingertips.

Fen Border will be sending more details into the village nearer the time, so keep your eyes peeled and make the most of this excellent fun and education opportunity when it arrives! With a bit of luck, families with pre-school age children will get into the habit of socialising with others from the local community and the Welney Cygnets Parents, Babies and Toddlers Group can emerge from hibernation, stretch its wings and fill the Village Hall with chatter and laughter on Friday mornings again.

I would like to finish this article with a massive **THANK YOU** (but there isn't enough space, so a small, block-capitals one will have to do!) to all the Parents, children, friends and villagers who have made my time with the Welney Cygnets so much fun and such a great experience; and for all the support (and that's NOT just money, folks!) you have given over the 5 years of the Cygnets' existence. It is all very much appreciated, not only by me but also by the group of dedicated volunteers that I am the mouthpiece for. I hope you feel able to continue to support my successor and the Group as they work together to help give our village's children a good start in life.

Thank you again and best wishes from Holly Goodwin, (retired Playgroup Leader and newly appointed Committee Minutes Secretary ... I nearly escaped!!!)

P.S. If you have a child between 2 1/2 and 4 3/4 years that you are interested in bringing to our Playgroup, feel free to ring me (01945-773932) or Alison Cree (01354-610584) for more details and a chat about the Group.

GOD'S GANG

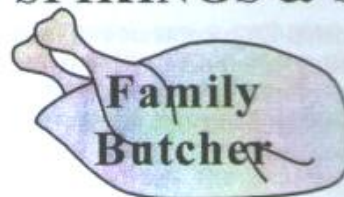
Hello God's Gang enthusiasts!

Well, at last we're up and running! We've now got together twice - 10.45am til 12 noon on the 3rd Sunday of each month at St. Mary's, Welney - and maintained a steady number of Gang members. There's room for more bodies though, so come along and join us for the August or September sessions if you'd like to give God's Gang a try. Our graffiti signing in wall and personal prayers board are on display at the back of the church for any visitors to share, so anyone can play a part in our group - perhaps adding a prayer for us to read on our return next month?

August's theme is holidays and mystery tours, so bring your sunglasses and a compass! We hope to see you at God's Gang soon, if you are Infant or Junior School age, just drop in at 10.45am on the 3rd Sunday of the month and we'll be there.

Bye for now!
from Jane, Wendy and Holly (the G-G leader team).

J D SPIKINGS & SON



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FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Friendship Club continues to meet every other Tuesday afternoon in the village hall, with a cup of tea and a chat and various games including dominoes, whist, bingo and the occasional quiz.

The club also have several outings throughout the year. The June trip turned out to be a mystery tour with popular driver Gary Johnson keeping the participants guessing until the penny finally dropped and all realised they were heading for Mablethorpe.

The weather was excellent and everyone had a very enjoyable lunch followed by tea in Skegness. As the saying goes, "a good time was had by all".

The August outing will be to Thetford and Banham Zoo with Crich Tramway Museum in Derbyshire planned for September.

Enquiries Cissie Bedford 01354 610206

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CURRENT VACCINATION CERTIFICATE**

FOR THOSE OF YOU THAT ARE IN WORK.....

Just in case you ever got the two mixed up.
This should make things a bit clearer.

IN PRISON.. you spend the majority of your
time in an 8X10 cell.

AT WORK... you spend the majority of your
time in a 6X8 cubicle.

IN PRISON...you get three meals a day.

AT WORK...you only get a break for one meal
and you pay for it.

IN PRISON...you get time off for good behav-
iour.

AT WORK...you get more work for good be-
haviour.

IN PRISON...the guard locks and unlocks all
the doors for you.

AT WORK...you must carry around a security
card and open all the doors for yourself.

IN PRISON...you can watch TV and play
games.

AT WORK...you get fired for watching TV and
playing games.

IN PRISON...you get your own toilet.

AT WORK...you have to share with some idiot
who pees on the seat.

IN PRISON...they allow your family and
friends to visit.

AT WORK...you can't even speak to your fam-
ily.

IN PRISON...the taxpayers pay all expenses
with no work required.

AT WORK...you get to pay all the expenses to
go to work and then they deduct taxes from
your salary to pay for prisoners.

IN PRISON...you spend most of your life in-
side bars wanting to get out.

AT WORK...you spend most of your time
wanting to get out and go inside bars.

IN PRISON...you must deal with sadistic war-
dens.

AT WORK...they are called managers

Have a Great Day at WORK !!

WILLIAM MARSHALL SCHOOL - CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

The Friends of William Marshall School Welney are celebrating 25 years of raising funds for the Village School. The start began with the sponsored walk on 28th May and will end with a Gala on June 25th 2005. They are hoping for big fundraising during this time.

The School have said that they would like a multimedia projector and Interactive Whiteboard that will cost approximately £1800 – we are trying hard to raise funds for this initially. So far after just 2 events we have raised £1210.00 – which is just fantastic. Hopefully with our Christmas fund-raising we will easily fulfil the Schools first request. We will then raise funds for the next item on the list; so onward and upward.

Garden Gala and Car Boot Sale Saturday 19 June

The playground was full to capacity with car booters and the stalls were set ready in the garden for the gala; then the heavens opened and it poured and poured – not a good start !! Those who wished set up stall in the School hall and classroom. The weather gradually improved and we had a steady flow of visitors all afternoon.

Delicious cream teas were served in the School House. Scones doused in fresh cream and topped with the sweetest strawberries brightened up proceedings no end !!

There was a fine array of stalls including the traditional gala coconut shie which proved very popular.

£410.00 was raised during the afternoon – thank you to all who came.

Sponsored Walk Friday 28th May

The children of William Marshall put their best foot forward to see how many times they could walk around the School field to raise money for the Friends of the Schools special 25th year. They all did fantastically well and thoroughly enjoyed the challenge. An incredible £800.00 was raised. A huge thank you to all who sponsored the children – that is a truly amazing figure. Thanks also to the children for all that enthusiastic walking !!

Caps, Caps and more Caps !!

You may very well see a profusion of royal blue caps around the village as the children of William Marshall are now proud owners of their very own embroidered school caps. The caps were a special Easter gift from the Friends of the School. The children look so very smart and are very proud to wear them. It's thanks to everyone who supports our events that we are able to provide special gifts like this – it is most appreciated.

UPWELL HEALTH CENTRE

PARK AND STRIDE

Are you fed up with struggling with parking outside the Health Centre? Then why not take advantage of our new initiative?

In partnership with Upwell Village Hall and the Playing Field Committee we encourage all our patients, who are physically able, to make use of the Village Hall car park in New Road and walk down to the surgery.

You know it makes sense. Visit the surgery and get fit at the same time

Upwell Health Centre Upwell Village Hall Upwell Playing Fields Committee Accept no responsibility for damage to vehicles parked on any of our premises

NATURE NOTES

With the British supposedly obsessed by the weather I make no excuses for raising the subject again.

Since early June conditions have been memorable more because of them having fallen below our expectations – in short it hasn't been "very nice". Of course this is a very subjective view, because we all like the sunshine even though it is increasingly damaging our own bodies. In general though to us the weather is, at worst, an inconvenience.

To our wildlife it is, however, everything. We might not have enjoyed the cool damp conditions, but to those who have lawns to cut it will have been only too apparent that it has been a good growing season that has been difficult to control.

Good vegetative growth is not the same as productivity in terms of flowering and seed production. Normally the two do not go together, but then conditions can change during the course of the season.

It looks like being a good year for the apple growers. There was no frost at the critical flowering time, so a lot of fruit set. Usually in early summer drier and warmer conditions cause some of the developing fruits to drop off the tree. This year the so-called "June drop" has not occurred, so that, providing the unseasonably windy conditions of late have not damaged the developing crop, the trees are still full of fruit. This though may be more than the trees are able to cope with, especially if the weather becomes hot and dry. The crop could be very large in terms of numbers, but there's no way that all the fruit can become fully formed fleshy apples. Perhaps then what is a good year for the tree being able to produce a huge crop of apples and thus disperse its seeds is not the same as we humans thinking that there are lots of attractive unblemished apples to sell.

It's likely that this year a high proportion of the fruit will only be fit for the birds.

After their difficult breeding season, who are we to begrudge them an autumn feast?

Those species attempting to breed earlier in the year will certainly have had a difficult time as the cool conditions belated life cycles generally, but those still able to breed now are likely to experience a bonanza with huge populations of insects, seeds and fruit to eat.

Not everything can extend their breeding season though. Some species routinely have

several broods so can make up any early losses. Others are so locked into a set sequence that, unless this is disrupted very early on, there is no way that they can start again. This is what happened to the two pairs of Marsh Harriers that were nesting on the WWT reserve this year. Both were unfortunately victims of the spring flood on the washes. By the time water levels had dropped enough it was already too late for them to have another go. The irony of those incidents was that it wasn't even the local weather that affected the harriers, but rainfall further up the catchment.

We only have to look at the amazing pictures of flooding in Bangladesh to appreciate that one: over half the country under water because it rained heavily somewhere else – that's real weather.

Tim Bennett.

DEAR VM

I am writing in response to your recent "Victor Meldrew" piece in the June-July issue. In this instance I am writing as an individual reader and my views are not necessarily those of the rest of the editorial team.

I have enjoyed some of your articles very much but not this one. The issues of the housing development, car parking, and the possibility of a new Village Hall have already been the subject of much debate, some well-informed and some not, and at this stage surely if you have something on your mind concerning any of the above, then the most constructive way is to approach people who are directly involved with the planning process, for instance members of the Hall Committee and the Parish Council. There didn't seem much point to this part of the article, and no entertainment value at all.

What actually spurred me to write was the final item about the local beer. Whether or not you intended it, your final paragraph seemed to dismiss the presence in our village of a perfectly good pub run by hard-working, unassuming, friendly and community-spirited people who don't spend their time boring the pants off us all with endless complaints about the Wash Road. And why the side swipe at the Three Tuns and Sylvia? The Three Tuns is sadly long gone; I would prefer to be left with happier memories of such a unique place, and

not to have to endure such futile comments.

Anyone is entitled to express their views in the Welney News, but an article as humourless and negative as this one is very disappointing.

Yours
Karen Fleming

THE VICTOR MELDREW COLUMN

Will the last person to leave Welney kindly put the light out? I have never seen so many properties for sale in the area at one go before. A quarter of a million pounds seems to be an average when looking at the asking prices – wow!

I would think that a lot of Welney's organising/controlling groups are 'manned' by self-employed / working people and it's marvellous how they manage to find the time. A committee has been formed to organise the forthcoming Gala where the profits are going for the new children's play equipment. Upwell appear to have a good area; perhaps this would be a good site to copy? Attempts at vandalism would need monitoring, as the playing field is somewhat remote.

As a lot of people are unable to attend meetings, it was good to see a more detailed lengthy report of the Parish Council Meeting; as yet I haven't seen a copy of the accounts on display on the notice board or the web site. As I said perhaps time is tight.

There seems to be a lot of processing and transport involved with the mechanics of our waste, it makes sense to recycle as long as the cost (not just money) doesn't outweigh the benefits. It must be a good thing if it reduces the number of garden bonfires and the smoke that goes with them.

The arguments continue about Christchurch's proposed new village hall which reminds me that one day Welney will need to come to a decision as some money is on hold for such a project. We may read about it one day in the Welney News.

It was nice to hear from one of the many newcomers to the village that when a planned visit to them was being organised by distant rela-

tives they booked Sunday lunch at the Lamb and Flag (well in advance to assure a table) and all came out 'well and truly stuffed' after the feast.

What constitutes a good pint of beer? – a very personal view point no doubt. In my last article I thought that I had praised The Three Tuns offerings – apparently not? Anyhow it was the charm and welcoming banter of Sylvia that was the draw? Surely to comment on a pint of beer cannot be construed as a criticism of the staff and the general ambience?

Let's not forget that this Welney News is a vehicle for expressing opinions (even on recycling-again) and perhaps spreading information when a lot is not forthcoming in this magazine (not the committee's fault as they can only include what is submitted)

VM (Still with his pants on)

ps Victor is meant to be grumpy and complaining – not funny as I am sure the previous articles have more than shown.

The views expressed by VM are not necessarily those of the News Team – Ed.

UPWELL HEALTH CENTRE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

Car Parking at the Health Centre

Unfortunately, in spite of our representations to the Council, we are not likely to see an expansion of the car parking at the Health Centre. So why not **PARK AND STRIDE**

Gritting of Townley Close

We are trying to persuade the Highways Authority to add Townley Close to the gritting route, so as to make it safer for everyone during bad weather. Not much progress yet, but we are ever hopeful

Health Fair 30 October 2004

Following the success of last year's Health Fair we will be holding another this year - in **UPWELL HALL ON 30th OCTOBER**. Doctors and nurses will be there again to give 'flu and pneumonia vaccinations to eligible patients. Put the date in your diary now and **WATCH THIS SPACE**

Patients are asked not to encourage the cat that keeps finding its way into the waiting room. We know that many people love cats, but their fur can cause serious discomfort to some people, particularly asthma sufferers

WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL

The meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 13th July, 2004 at 7.30 p.m. The Chairman explained the sad loss of fellow Councillor Bill Thompson who passed away on 12th June, and all present stood in silence as a mark of respect.

Quotations are being obtained for a replacement Parish Council Notice Board. Cllr.Farrow gave details of the cost of repainting the Village Sign. She had obtained a very competitive price for this work and went on to advise those present that an anonymous donation had been received to cover this work. Grateful thanks were expressed to the anonymous benefactor and Cllr.Farrow agreed to arrange for the work to be carried out.

Mr.J.Frost and Mr.J.Scott were re-appointed as Nominative Trustees to the Marshall's charity. An excellent report was received from Ms.E.Deckker on behalf of the William Marshall School. Councillors agreed to pay the Parish Council insurance premium but also agreed to obtain quotations from other companies as the premium had increased considerably over last year.

A letter had been received from BT confirming that they are carrying out a programme of removal of unprofitable telephone boxes. They are proposing to remove the box situated at Hale Drove, Wisbech Road, and it was agreed that this would be in order. Planning approval was given for Mr.E.Allen, Mill Row, Bedford Bank, Welney extension to dwelling (renewal) and all were in favour of the Public Licence Entertainment Application received by the Borough Council for the Gala Day at the Playing Field on 28th August, 2004.

Mr.P. Cox (Parish Hall Management Committee) addressed the meeting and raised concern that matters relating to the committee and their responsibilities were not progressing. It was agreed that further communication be made with the NCAPATC to try and sort out the various problems as quickly as possible. Several points relating to Highway Matters were discussed. A copy of a letter from NCC Highways was received after an approach to Mrs.Gillian Shephard MP. NCC confirmed that consideration should be given to the installation of an illuminated 30 mph flashing

sign at the Wash Road end of Main Street to be positioned near the Lamb and Flag. The cost of this would be between £4,000 and £5,000 but the NCC would make a grant of £3,000 and they would pay for the future maintenance and lighting charges. This would leave the Parish Council to find a maximum of £2,000. After discussion it was agreed to get the response of the Parishioners by placing a flier in the next edition of The Welney News. The fliers are to be returned to either the Post Office or the Parish Clerk by the 15th August and once the views of the Parish are known a further decision can be made as to how best to proceed.

A site meeting is being arranged between NCC and the Parish Council regarding the A.1101 advanced signing of flooding signs. These appear, as if by magic, to show that the road is flooded when it is not, and similarly when there is water on the road, the signs do not work. The Parish Council thought that the new signs would stop all the problems we experienced with the old ones - obviously are thoughts were incorrect!!!!

It was also agreed to arrange a meeting between the Parish Council and the Playing Field Committee to sort out one or two matters and make plans for the future. It was also agreed that we contact Highways in the hope that they might have some surplus road material that they could drop off on the approach to the Playing Field so that the roadway is in a better condition before the Gala.

We are endeavouring to arrange for Janice Howell of the Norfolk Rural Community Council to come along to either the September or the October meeting to talk about Parish Action Plans. This will be advertised in due course and will take the form of an open meeting. We hope as many people as possible will be able to come along and hear what she has to say and also contribute their own ideas.

If you have any matters you would like to raise please come along to the next meeting on Tuesday 14th September, or write to any Councillor or the Clerk and they will be pleased to raise the matter on your behalf.

Pat Copeman
(Parish Clerk)

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Dates for your diary

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 HC August	2	3 	4  WI BBQ	5	6 	7
8 AAW	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 MP 	16	17 	18	19	20	21
22 MP	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 HC	30	31 	1  WI September	2	3 	4
5 HC	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Harvest Thanksgiving 	13	14 	15	16	17	18
19 MP	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 MP	27	28 	29	30		



Carpet Bowls
Ring Pat Rix for details of
available evenings



Line Dancing 7-30 pm
Pavilion

Church Services;
MP = Morning Prayer
HC = Holy Communion
AAW = All Age Worship
US = United Service



Parish Council Meeting
7-30 pm Village Hall
Open to the Public



Teddy Church
10-30 am St Mary's



Mobile Library
9-30 Hale Drove End
10-30 The Lamb & Flag Car
Park



God's Gang
St Mary's Church



Parish Hall
Meeting



Friendship Club
2-00 pm Village Hall



Yoga Sessions
8 pm to 9.30 pm
Village Hall. Wed's
Yoga Session
10.00 am to 11.30 am
Pavilion Thur's

WI

Women's' Institute
7-00 pm, Village Hall