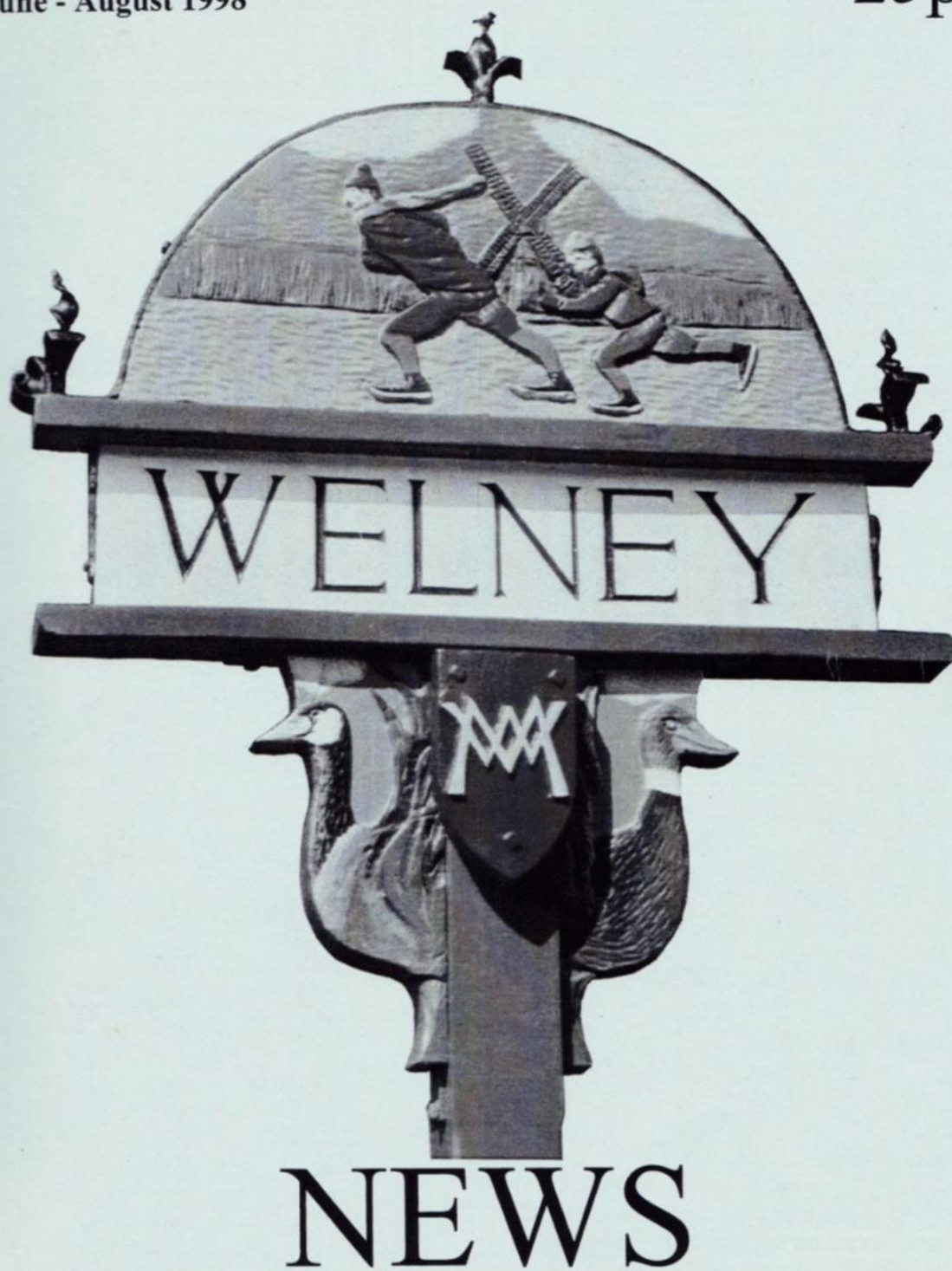


Issue N° 5
June - August 1998

25p



NEW BUS SERVICE TO DOWNHAM MARKET

PAT RIX writes

The new service to **Downham Market** is working well. I am now trying to negotiate new routes to March and Peterborough, but it all takes time and money so please be patient. The Downham Market service is operated with the financial support of Norfolk County Council. The bus starts from Wisbech, comes through Upwell and Christchurch, on to Welney and through to Downham Market. **Timetable below, but the bus will operate on a Hail and Ride basis with a clear signal to the driver.**

WELNEY TO DOWNHAM: FRIDAYS

Welney Post Office	10.01am
Lakes End	10.06am
Lots Bridge	10.08am
Nordelph Bridge	10.14am
Salters Lode	10.19am
Downham Market	10.26am
Downham Market	12.15pm
Salters Lode	12.22pm
Nordelph Bridge	12.27pm
Lots Bridge	12.33pm
Lakes End	12.35pm
Welney Post Office	12.40pm

FARE: £1.70 single £2.20 return

SOME WELNEY SERVICES

Doctor's Surgery:

12 noon at the Parish Hall,
Monday, Wednesday & Friday

Prescriptions:

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

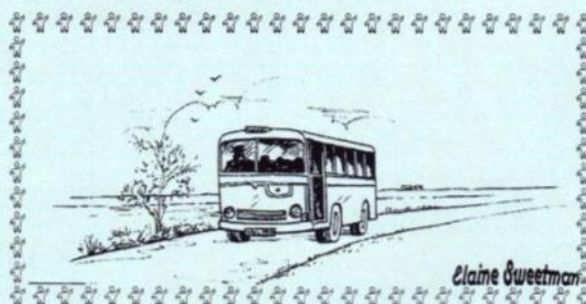
Wet Fishmonger

3.00pm at Chestnut Ave and 3.15 at the Post Office every **Friday**.

Editorial Team

Editor	Helen Barry	610 585
Organiser, Publishing Lay Out	Carol Green	610 401
Organiser, News & Events	Karen Fleming	610 523
Organiser, Marketing	Tim Bennett	610 433
Treasurer/Distribution Manager	Margaret Levesley	610 272
Secretary/Illustrator	Elaine Sweetman	638 287

Distribution: Marlen Moss-Eccardt, Michael Dickinson, Tom Fisher, Peter Cox, Charlotte Cox, Pat Rix, Karen Fleming, Margaret Levesley, Tim Bennett.



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)

EDITORIAL

We have brought forward this issue by a week or so to give everyone full details of all the celebrations of our 150th Anniversary of the building, in 1848, of the Church of St Mary the Virgin, of the William Marshall School and of the Almshouses.

It will be a great week for the village. The children are getting their Victorian costumes together for their concert in the Church on Wednesday 17th June at 7.00 pm. Within the concert they are acting a play which will tell how William Marshall came to the village, was taken ill, and nursed back to health and left us 466 acres and it's income in his Will. I watched the children in the school this week and they are full of enthusiasm. Do come and see them. Ken Sorensen has put together a great exhibition of photographs and documents which will be in the school to start with, but then in the Church from 19th - 21st June. Then you can see the Church, in all it's glory, with a flower festival which will celebrate the sacraments of the Church - baptism at the font, and marriage - and all the seasons of the Church which we celebrate - Easter, Harvest Festival, Christmas. And on 21st June at 3.00 pm Bishop Stephen is coming from Ely to conduct a festive Songs of Praise.

All the events are outlined in detail on Page 4 - Please support them.

Now to the nitty gritty - which usually means work or money!

FIRST - SUPPORT FOR THE NEWSLETTER

There has been some fantastic support throughout the village for the Newsletter - the circulation has gone up from 220 to 280 over the last year. Wendy sold 12 in the first months and is now selling 40!! This edition and the August edition come as part of your yearly subscription of £1.50, **but when the distributors come with the August edition they will be asking you if you want to subscribe for another year. If we don't have your £1.50 for the six issues from October 1998 to August 1999 we cannot go on. All the Editorial Committee hope you will join us all again.**

NEXT - SUPPORT FOR THE PLAYING FIELD

Please read about this on Page 18 and think again about whether the village needs this facility and whether you can support it. **Ring Pat Rix on 610292 if you can give any help.**

Helen Barry

We understand local businesses.

We are one.

We may be a large international bank, but we run our branch just like any other local business. Indeed you'll find we're just as competitive and ambitious as you are. Why not come and see what we mean. Telephone Nick Pasek on 01353 605113 or call in at your local branch of Barclays.

BARCLAYS BANK PLC, 11 MAIN STREET, LITTLEPORT, CAMBS CB6 1PH



BARCLAYS

THE WILLIAM MARSHALL TRUST THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IN JUNE

Friday 12th June:

Cheese and Wine Evening at the School which will welcome past pupils, and past staff. Brian Turner is coming from Hunstanton, and a large number of past pupils have said they will come from all over Norfolk and Cambridgeshire. Tickets are still available from Jasmine Golson at £3.50 to cover costs and all past pupils and staff are welcome to start the week's celebrations and talk over past time.

Saturday 13th June

Exhibition at the School 2.00.-5.00pm

Ken Sorensen has put together a fascinating collection of photographs, letters and documents which you can see yourself at the school.

At 2.30pm **GILLIAN SHEPARD, M.P.** will come to unveil a new School Name Board, which has been beautifully designed in blue and gold. It will be placed at the front of the School. She will then cut the first of the celebratory cakes (made by Amy Markham).

Sunday 14th June

All Age Worship at the Church with an emphasis on our Anniversary.

Coffee and tea available afterwards.

Wednesday 17th June

Victorian Concert and a play on William Marshall performed by the primary school children in the Church 7.00pm

The children will be in Victorian dress and perform popular Victorian songs.

Within the concert they will perform a little play telling the story of how William Marshall came to the village, was taken ill, was nursed to life and in his Will in 1661 left Welney 466 acres and the income which the village still enjoys.

photograph shows the children rehearsing last week)

7.00pm Entrance free but donations welcome inside the Church.

Thursday 18th June

Victorian day in the School, restricted to the pupils.

Friday/Saturday/Sunday 19th, 20th, 21st June

Church Flower Festival: Church open with coffee and tea refreshments 10am-6.0pm.

A group headed by Jennifer James and including Rosi Beckford (*pictured below*) is set to



make the Church a glorious festival of flowers. The flower arrangements will celebrate the sacraments of the Church, Baptism at the Font and Marriage. And the seasons of the Church year: Easter, Harvest

Festival and Christmas. There will also be a display of the new tapestry work for the hassocks, and the Teddy Bears Group for Mums and the work of toddlers and juniors. All are welcome and there will be two villagers throughout the day on a rota to welcome you and give you a cup of tea.

Sunday 21st June

Songs of Praise in the Church 3.00pm conducted by Bishop Stephen of Ely

This concludes the week of the 150th Celebrations. Refreshments available at the end.



DIARY DATES

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

Wed	10th	7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall
Fri	12th	9.30 am onward		Mobile Library - usual location
Mon	15th	10-12 noon	Playbus	Village Car Park
		6 - 8 pm	Youth Group	Pavilion
Wed	17th	7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall
Mon	22nd	10-12 noon	Playbus	Village Car Park
		6 - 8 pm	Youth Group	Pavilion
Wed	24th	7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall
Fri	26th	7.30 pm	Bingo	Village Hall
Tue	30th	2.00 pm	Friendship Club	Village Hall

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

Wed	1st	7.00 pm	Women's Institute	Village Hall
Thu	2nd	7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall
Sat	4th	10-12 noon	Mini Market	Village Hall
Mon	6th	10-12 noon	Playbus	Village Car Park
		6-8 pm	Youth Group	Pavilion
Wed	8th	7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall
Fri	10th	9.30 am onward		Mobile Library - usual location
Mon	13th	10-12 noon	Playbus	Village Car Park
Tue	14th	7.30 pm	Parish Council	Village Hall
Wed	15th	7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall
Sun	19th	2.00 pm	Garden Stroll	From Village Hall
Mon	20th	10-12 noon	Playbus	Village Car Park
		6 - 8 pm	Youth Group	Pavilion
Wed	22nd	7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall
Mon	27th	6 - 8 pm	Youth Group	Pavilion
Wed	29th	7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall
Fri	31st	7.30 pm	Bingo	Village Hall

AUGUST AUGUST AUGUST AUGUST AUGUST AUGUST AUGUST AUGUST

Sat	1st	10-12 noon	Mini Market	Village Hall
Mon	3rd	6 - 8 pm	Youth Group	Pavilion
Wed	5th	7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall
Fri	7th	9.30 onward		Mobile Library - Usual location
Sat	8th			CHURCH GARDEN FETE
Mon	10th	6 - 8 pm	Youth Group	Pavilion
Tue	11th	2.00 pm	Friendship Club	Village Hall
Wed	12th	7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall
Mon	17th	6 - 8 pm	Youth Group	Pavilion
Wed	19th	7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall

YOUTH GROUP

The dance and raffle held by the youth group in the Village Hall on the 23rd May raised £137 for Pavilion funds. The youth group is still doing well at the pavilion, with regular attendance by 12-14 children. In good weather they play rounders and football on the playing field, and on wet days there is a choice of snooker, pool, table tennis, and a variety of board games. The group will continue to meet on Monday nights during the long summer holiday except for bank holidays. There are still plans to have an anniversary event of some kind in June, and the group will be taking a vote on what this is to be; if it is a public event such as a dance or disco it will be publicised nearer the time.

Aidan Rust

YOUTH PAGE

Firstly, apologies for the absence of any Youth Club information in the last issue of the newsletter – there was a hiccup in the information gathering owing to the long Easter break!

June events include club nights each Thursday, with outdoor games (rounders and baseball) and discussions or quizzes. There is a paintballing trip on Saturday 13th and the monthly disco is on Friday 26th.

In July the club nights are on the 2nd, 6th, 9th, 13th, 16th, 20th, and 23rd. There is paintballing on the 5th, a disco on the 24th, and a weekend at Alton Towers on the 10th – 12th. Some of the July club nights have special themes; the 2nd July is an evening based on the 4th July celebrations in the USA, the 9th July is a First Aid evening, the 16th is a Karaoke, and the 20th is a barbecue.

N.B. Club discos are from 7-30pm-11-00pm; doors close at 9pm. Admission is £2 for members and £3 for non-members. No alcohol or drugs allowed. The discussions on club nights cover a range of topics; sex and marriage, healthy living, alcohol, etc. Paintballing is for 13-19 year olds, and is an all-day trip to Northwold Paintball Games. The inclusive cost is £13.

Further information on any of the above events can be obtained by ringing 01366 382010.

Finally, as many of you will already know from the local press, there are major changes ahead for the local Youth Service. As a result of massive cutbacks in the county council Youth Service, 31 of the 40 Youth Clubs in Norfolk are to close. As from the 1st August, the nearest NCC Youth Club for Welney will be the Kings Lynn Youth Centre, Providence Street, K.L. The phone number is 01553 773565.

The running of the Youth Club building in Downham Market is to be taken over by the Town Council and it is hoped that some of the facilities of the building will still be available to young people. It is also hoped that the Youth Service minibuses will still be based at Downham as it would obviously be impractical for them to be moved to K.L. It is not yet known if the Town Council will be able to run any organized events such as discos at the Downham centre. I hope to provide an update on this situation in the next newsletter.

REMINDER; there is a Young Persons' Clinic at the Health Centre, Paradise Road, Downham Market, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday in each month from 3-30pm – 5-30pm. The Clinic welcomes all young men and women, and all services are confidential and free. Appointments can be made by ringing 01366 383241 or you can just drop in.

Karen Fleming

GARDEN STROLL; the date has been set for another Garden Stroll, following the success of this event last year. Further details are yet to be arranged, and will be publicized around the village nearer the time.

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

My Father and his Family

Life at the turn of the Century.

My father, William Kent, was born in 1892. His childhood was spent at Welney Hotel on the Bedford Bank. My Grandmother was the landlady and my grandfather, Henry, was a wildfowler who earned extra money by working on the land. Many people in Welney used the Welney Hotel as a meeting place, especially on a Sunday evening in summer, after Church or Chapel.

My Grandmother was a small, energetic person, with a fierce temper. She carried many pints of beer to thirsty customers who sat chatting on the river bank. All the while my Grandfather sat in the bar enjoying a drink with his pals. They had nine sons and four daughters; most of the boys worked on the land, some as horsemen, and one became a carpenter.

My father followed in his father's and uncle's footsteps and took-up wildfowling. He was an eel and plover catcher and shot wild ducks from a punt gun on the Washes in the winter. My Grandmother did not buy meat or fish from the shops but relied on my Grandfather and her sons to shoot ducks and rabbits and catch plovers in nets, or pike and eels in nets, hives or dead line. Occasionally the family had to resort to Sparrow Pie, which were caught by the

children in a net in the garden.

Eel hives, grigs and nets were made by my Grandfather who passed his skill to my Father. Grigs and hives were made of willow which grew in the Washes. Needles and pins for knitting nets were home-made and although the family were not highly educated, like many Fen folk, they were skilled in crafts and survival skills.

School days were quite different than they are today. All the family went to the William Marshall School - some of the boys rather reluctantly! My Uncle Bob buried his jacket in the garden, hoping it would not be found and that he would not have to go to school the next day. Children could leave school at the age of twelve if they passed the leaving exam but the majority left at fourteen - there was no further education for the masses. Many families like the Kents were quite large so the school was full.

There were several houses between Welney and the Hotel, and further down toward Manea. One of the families had twenty two children. One died, so they had another, bringing the total to twenty three in all. Another family had nine children and ran out of names, so they actually called the last two "Ten" and "Eleven".

My Father spent a lot of time with his Uncle Will who lived in a cottage on the Washes, turning right at Suspension Bridge. When the water started to rise the family had to move upstairs and eventually, if the water got too high, they had to move by boat to higher ground in the Village. Uncle Will's wife crossed the Hundred Foot River twice a day to collect provisions and mail from Tom Mott's farm on the Hundred Foot Bank.

My father and two brothers, Job and Robert (Bob) were in the Great War in France.

My father did not talk about his army life, although he was wounded. He had a



tobacco tin and wallet which had holes in them, where the bullet went into his chest and out through his lower back.. We do know that at one time he rushed forward during battle to cut some wire, enabling his comrades to get to the safety of the trenches. He was awarded the Military Medal for his bravery. He hated corned beef (bully) and rice pudding because this was served every day in the trenches

His brother Job survived the Great War but died in Northern France in the Flu epidemic, an added sadness for the family thinking War was over and he was returning home.

Mary Dockerty

WELNEY WI

Members were welcomed to the May meeting by president Amy Markham. The speaker at the meeting was Diane Philpott, a visiting County Officer who discussed the two Resolutions, Housing and Young Carers; these will be debated at the general meeting of the National Federation of WI's. Members voted accordingly. The ten-week draw tickets were distributed, and East of England Show raffle tickets were sold. A handkerchief was presented to Bettine Watson for gaining maximum points in recent

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**





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

**REFLEXOLOGY
SWEDISH BODY MASSAGE
AROMATHERAPY**

Treatment Room:-
Horseshoe
New Road
Welney
Wisbech
Cambs
PE14 9RA

International
Council of
Holistic
Therapists

— ALL APPOINTMENTS —
01354 610500

competitions. The Bring and Buy stall was organised by Ada Thorpe and Carol Halls. Raffle winners were Rita Sweet and Florrie Dalton. The monthly competition for Cheese Scones was judged by Diane Philpott. Points awarded were; Carol Halls, Bettine Watson, Jennifer James, and Vera Singleterry – 5; Sylvia Galley, Amy Markham, Queenie Johnson, Ada Thorpe, Jean Newell – 4. A quiz was organised for social time by Carol Halls.

The next meeting of the WI is on the 1st July and the guest will be Mrs G Tyrell, who specializes in knitted dolls.



*For a Musical Evening or Afternoon
Listen to or Sing-along
with BRUCE*

*Bruce will be playing Lead Guitar,
accompanied by a backing-band music sequencer.
All the old favourites - Edelweiss - I just called
to say I Love You - and many more!*

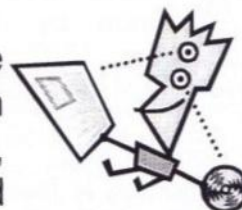
*For A Friendly Chat -
Call 01945 410234*




NEED ANY HELP WITH YOUR READING?

Need any help with reading the Newsletter?

If you would like a large print version then we can supply one. Please note, these have to be printed separately and it does take time, so please only ask if you need one



FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Many readers will already know of Cissie Bedford's progress after her hip replacement operation earlier this spring. Cissie arrived home from hospital the Tuesday after Easter and since then has been diligently practising walking with the help of crutches. At the time of writing, Cissie did not feel ready to attend club meetings but is hoping to return in a few weeks. Well done Cissie!

Secretary Pam Sorensen has been ill recently and has spent some time in hospital. Pam is now a little better but has been ably assisted and supported in her secretarial work for the Friendship Club by her husband Ken and by Madge Singleterry.

The Friendship Club outing to East Dereham and Gressenhall was a very good day. First there was shopping and lunch at East Dereham, with a good choice of cafes and pubs. The Plough Inn provided very nice lunches at reduced price for senior citizens. The Norfolk Rural Life Museum had both indoor and outdoor scenes of rural life of a bygone age, including the Union Farm, which is stocked with farm animals of rare breeds local to East Anglia. The Museum has some special theme days during the autumn; potato lifting day (Oct 8th-9th), Apple day (Oct 18th) and Horses at work day (Oct 1th). For information on these events or general information on the Museum, telephone 01362 860563.

There are still spaces on the June outing to Skegness (£2-00 for members, £3-00 for non-members); anyone interested should

contact Cissie Bedford on Welney 610206. The outing on July 14th is a mystery tour. On August 25th there is an outing to Bury St Edmunds for shopping and lunch, followed by an afternoon at Kent Well Hall in Suffolk. The Hall dates back to Elizabethan times and has beautiful gardens. The neighbouring village of Long Melford is very attractive, with many Elizabethan houses and a tearoom; also well worth seeing. There is an admission charge to Kent Well Hall of £3.44.

GRAHAME SEATON

AMIAS

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.



CHURCH NEWS

As most of us will know by now the 150th Anniversary of the building of the Church, the School and the Almshouses is fast approaching and you can see all the celebrations planned in our magazine - they begin on 13th and go on until 21st

June when Bishop Stephen from Ely will celebrate a Songs of Praise in the Church, which then will be bedecked with a flower festival.

Isn't it amazing how time flies - it seems that by the time your face rids itself of those so-called teenage spots, your mind gets fuzzy or a least a little *misty*. Perhaps, like me, you would rather not dwell too long on that thought, but we do sometimes have to wonder why.

Memories As the song says 'those water colour memories have a way of washing across our minds - funny, sad, joyous, painful memories. An anniversary reminds us 'Never, ever forget the memories. They are precious and imperishable'

Changes Over the years we change - not just physically but mentally and spiritually as well. Some of us even 'grow up' - whatever that means, and some are like a good red wine that matures gently with age.

An anniversary says, "Be thankful for the changes They are important"

Dependence We really do need each other, not one of us is totally self-sufficient nor all-sufficient. We need the support, the insight, discernment, love and care, and the presence of those who will stick with us through thick and thin times. Those God given companions who are aware of our moods and needs, who will listen to our secrets and remain loyal to them and to us. Who know our faults and failings and love us still. What a difference friends and family make to each one of us. God really knew that we need each other, and as we



build our relationships that the closeness and love of family and friends allow those rough edges to be smoothed over.

An anniversary reminds us, 'You don't have to make it on your own. Your friends are irreplaceable.

Dreams Well worth a mention. Dreams are what we anticipate, then

watch God pull off. Sometimes they are the little things - dropping in a few seeds and watching the result. Sometimes the dream is a big thing, calling for some sacrifice which we share with others - getting through school, renovating a house into a home, getting out of debt. When the reality finally occurs no words can describe that inward glow of accomplishment. An anniversary says, 'Think of the dreams you have weathered alone and with loved ones. They are intimate accomplishments.'

May God be praised for the consistency of the seasons, the solidarity of friendship and the joy that families can share together and the thrill of annual celebrations with those we love and who love us.

Sheila Tooke, Rector

CHURCH SERVICES

June

21 st	3.00pm	Songs of Praise Bishop Stephen Anniversary Service Morning Prayer
28 th	9.30am	

July

5 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
12 th	11.00am	All Age Worship
19 th	9.30am	Holy Communion
26 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer

August

2nd	9.30am	Morning Prayer
9 th	11.00am	All Age Worship
16 th	9.30am	Holy Communion
23 rd	9.30am	Morning Prayer

WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meets bi-monthly on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30 in the Parish Hall.

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY 14TH APRIL 1998

Councillor John Frost retired as Chairman of the Parish Council. He was presented with an engraved Dartington Glass Jug in recognition of his 11 years service as Chairman. He expressed a wish to remain as a member of the Council until Michaelmas 1998.

At the open **Annual General Meeting**, **Cllr.**

Pat Rix was elected as the new Chairman, **Cllr Charlotte Cox** was elected Vice Chairman. In addition the Parish Council was re-elected as follows: Tim Bennett, David Bonner, Dennis Booth, Alison Burrows, Tom Fisher, John Frost and Pauline Pullum. The Parish Clerk is Mrs. Pat Copeman (610 226) Norfolk County Council Planning & Transportation Department are carrying out a feasibility study for the Fens Cycling Project. They are considering establishing a circular cycle route encompassing King's Lynn, Downham Market, Littleport, Welney, Christchurch, March and Wisbech. The route would include parts of the A1101, B1100 and the Hundred Foot Bank

The Environment Agency will in future keep Mrs. Wendy Redman at Welney Post Office informed of flooding matters affecting Welney, including closure of the Wash Road. A notice will be displayed in the Post Office of the daily situation during the winter flood. Councillors unanimously expressed their appreciation of Mrs. Redman for agreeing to this. The Clerk was asked to write to the Environment Agency requesting that when the Washes are flooded in the future, they situate the half-barrier closing the road at

the junction of Main Street and New Road to prevent vehicles having to reverse off the bridge.

Reports from representatives appointed by the Parish Council to local organisations were received. Mr. Ken Sorensen attended the meeting and presented his report of the William Marshall School. Cllr Booth gave a verbal report on behalf of the William Marshall Charity and confirmed that everything was satisfactory. The Clerk to the Trustees of Bishop Land Charity supplied a written report which indicated that they had distributed the sum of £12 each to 85 parishioners in December 1997. Two new Trustees need to be appointed to the Bishops Land Charity to represent the Parish

with effect from October 1998.

Chairman Pat Rix reported on the situation regarding the Playing Field. It was noted that Welney no longer has a Cricket Club and that as and when a new club is formed it will be managed and run by the Playing Field Committee.

During 1997/98 a total of 61 tonnes of glass and 88.90

tonnes of paper were collected for recycling from the banks in the village car park. The sum of £149.00 would be used for the benefit of the village.

Charlotte Cox

Next meeting: 14th July at 7:30pm



Cllr. Pat Rix - The New Chairman

J N LOVEDAY - ENGINEERING

**The Mill, March Road
Welney, Wisbech
Cams**

Tel: 01354 610353

**Robotic Welding - Steel Fabrication and
Welding. Welders to BS 4872 with weld
procedures**

WELNEY EASTER FLOODING

A Report from the Environment Agency from NIGEL WOONTON who led the team who came to our Public Meeting on 17th February.

As I traveled to work on Thursday 9th April I was looking forward to the long Easter holiday. We had our quarterly Local Flood Defence Committee meeting that morning and were going to report on the work we were doing to install extra pumps at Welmore Lake Sluice to speed up evacuation of flood water from the Ouse Washes. As I made that report the rain was lashing against the skylights in the boardroom, and I recall joking that we might be wasting our time! Little did we know that the rain beating on the glass above us would lead to the worst flooding in this area since the Great Flood of 1947.

That afternoon we issued some Yellow and Amber flood warnings on some of the smaller watercourses, which we would do after heavy rain; then the Duty Officer decided to open up the Area Control Room.

Later that afternoon when I went to the Control Room, I was amazed at what a hive of activity I found. Two Hydrologists were monitoring river levels, trying to forecast what levels could be expected to develop - not an easy task. Faxed and telephone warnings were being issued to the Emergency Services in Northants, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire and recorded messages were put onto our Floodcall recorded information line which anyone can call on **0645 881 188**.



Sutton Gault Causeway from the East

Being an Easter Bank Holiday many of our staff were away from home, but as the crisis developed we started telephoning around to call in as many as we could get hold of to come in on a rostered basis. Everyone we contacted gave up their holiday willingly and kept the Control Room and the patrols going right through the Easter break and on to the following Friday.



Looking North from Sutton Gault Causeway

So why was the flood so bad?

Well, previous heavy rainfall in December, January and March had saturated the ground. Between 8th and 10th April up to 75 mm of rain fell in 36 hours. In Great Gidding north of Huntingdon, 98 mm fell in 48 hours. It was rain that fell on already saturated ground so the water ran straight into the streams and rivers which rose to levels which have not been seen in many places since 1947.

People along the Great Ouse experienced great damage and misery - 453 houses were flooded, as well as 56 retail, industrial and public buildings. Caravans, chalets and marinas also suffered.

The Ouse Washes flooded to their highest level since 1947, but we believe that thanks to the major works carried out to the Barrier Banks during the early nineties by our Agency, with an investment of some £18 million, the banks held firm.

Despite problems in the construction of the new sluice at Welmore Lake, we were able to make full use of the discharge capacity through the old sluice right through from

11th April to 22nd May. Since then we have been pumping constantly to clear all remaining flood water from the lower washes.

Since the flood subsided we have been collecting as much information as possible about what happened. There are clearly a lot of lessons to be learnt after such an extreme event.

I am aware that many Welney people felt that they were not provided with sufficient information about the flooding of the Washes as they approached their peak level. Since the flood I have asked **Mrs. Wendy Redman at the Post Office to act as a contact point for my staff.** She has kindly agreed. **My staff will give her verbal and written updates on flooding levels on the Washes and let you know any problems we may be having.**

The large number of Welney people who came to the public meeting in February will know that the Agency was faced with a number of questions on the wash road, which it was not in our competence to answer. But we gave assurances that we were not opposed to such a causeway road and I said I would look into the potential

**ROLAND SINGLETERRY
FUNERAL DIRECTOR**

EFFICIENT, SYMPATHETIC
SERVICE, DAY OR NIGHT

"WINDY RIDGE"
PADGETS ROAD
CHRISTCHURCH
WISBECH, CAMBS
PE14 9PL
TEL: 01354 638321

plans which had been submitted to County and Borough Authorities. Since that meeting I have had a further meeting with Councillors Harry Humphreys and Richard Rockliffe as well as Michael Young from Norfolk County Council Highways. As a result of that meeting I have received a copy of the County Highways report from 1994 covering options for the raising of the Welney Causeway. That report has been passed to the Environment Agency consultants who are reviewing the Denver and Welmore Lake Sluices. It is too early to say what the outcome of this may be but I will try to keep you posted through the pages of **Welney News**

Housewares - Hardware - Gardening

(TRADITIONAL IRONMONGERS)

J H ADAMS & SONS LTD

17 MAIN STREET,
LITTLEPORT

Paint
Wallpaper

TELEPHONE:
01353 860222

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

The Lamb & Flag Inn



Main Street, Welney, Nr. Wisbech, Cambs PE14 9RB

Tel: (Welney) 01354-610242 Fax: 01354-610469

HOMEWATCH

Some of you may already know about the attempted break-in at Marifa Lodge on May 13th. This was unusual in that the method used was to burn through a UPVC window, presumably with a blowtorch of some kind. The police were very concerned and contacted Welney Homewatch the same day; but fortunately so far there have not been any further reports of this novel method being used. The only other incidents known to us so far include the theft of a motor vehicle (Ford Sierra) from Cock Fen Road and a burglary of power tools from outbuildings on Back Drove; both of these were on the night of 5th-6th May and were believed to be connected.

The police warn that break-ins of outbuildings with theft of lawnmowers and power tools is still a serious problem at this time of year, one of the best defenses being the use of postcoding of individual items. They also comment that there has been a marked increase recently in the thefts of cars, specifically older 'British' makes such as Fords and Vauxhalls. Not only are these makes the easiest to break into, but there is also money to

be made from breaking them up for spares.

The police would like to draw attention to the existence of their Homewatch Helpline, which is for the general public to use as well as Homewatch members. The number is 01553 665075; a recorded message gives information on local crime figures and other relevant topics. This is updated weekly on a Friday.

Need accommodation for visiting friends or relations?

Stockyard Farm



Bed and Breakfast - Wisbech Road, Welney Telephone 610 433

Mrs C Bennett

TV Lounge, Conservatory, Breakfast room, Pets Welcome. Free Range Produce No Smoking



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

Email = billthompson@asbestos.source.co.uk

Phones 01354 610539 01553 811844

Fax 01354 610581 01553 810799

Mobiles 0585 467282 0402 182220

WELCOME TO WELNEY

In the last edition I anticipated changes on Chestnut Avenue, but had not expected one to be from literally round the corner. Stephen and Diane Kent and their family, having moved from Wisbech Road, are enjoying the extra space that No 3 provides.

The new occupants of No 10 haven't moved that much further, either. Christine Wright, her son Craig, daughter Vicky and granddaughter, Lauren, who is nearly five, plus several cats have come from Three Holes, where they used to run the "Red Hart". Originally from Potters Bar in Hertfordshire, they were keen to stay in the country and with Craig keen on fishing and another daughter living on Mudd's Drove, Welney would seem to make an ideal home.

Someone else with connections in the licensed trade are Gary and Dawn Reardon, who have moved into the much refurbished bungalow along Bedford Bank West with sons Alex (2¼) and Josh (5 weeks). After the frenetic pace of life in the City they find Welney "just quiet and lovely" and no doubt Oscar, their chocolate Labrador, prefers it

IF YOUR HEALTH IS IMPORTANT TO YOU IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US!

FEEL THE BENEFITS

- INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMMING
- HI-TECH GYMNASIUM
- 10 MINUTE SUNBED
- SWIMMING POOL
- JACUZZI
- STEAM & SAUNA

BRING THIS DISPLAY PANEL FOR A
FREE CLASS - NON-MEMBERS ONLY



The Atrium Club
39 Newnham Street
Ely, Cambs
Call NOW on:
01353 668888



J D Spikings & Son
Family Butcher

28-29 St Peter's Road, Upwell
TELEPHONE 01945 773424

Bar-B-Que Time

Home Made:-

Sausages, Kebabs, Minty Lamb, Chicken
Tikka, Chinese Style Ribs and Chicken

Refrigerated Deliveries - Twice Weekly -
Tuesday & Friday

Jumbo Sized Beef-Burgers, Pork & Apple Burgers, Lamb & Mint Burgers
Sausages - Pork, Pork & Apple, Pork & Garlic, Pork, Stilton & Celery, Pork,
Ginger & Leek

Satanta Boarding Kennels

Siberian Husky Specialists - but ALL dogs welcome!

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

here too.

Although they have been living in rented accommodation in the area since Richard (Barnes) took up the post with MBM in March, he and his wife Primrose have moved to the fens from Kent. She, in fact, still commutes to London, where she works as a fresh produce technologist for Sainsbury's. The two of them actually met at Sainsbury's. However, it was through work, and not as a result of a new supermarket dating service! They now live at Highfield House, Welney Road, where gardening will have to become more than a passing interest.

As usual, apologies to anyone that I have inadvertently missed. Please let me know of any impending changes, especially if they are due to take place in the remote parts of the community. Also, I would be happy to hear of any recent births, or other additions to households.

Anyway - to all new arrivals
- Welcome to Welney and
I hope you enjoy living here
as much as I do.

Tim Bennett

WELNEY SCHOOL BOOK

THE ULTIMATE FLORIDA SCHOOL TRIP

You can help the children of William Marshall School to try and win the holiday of a lifetime! Every day, from May 4th to July 8th 1998, the Eastern Daily Press are printing tokens to cut-out and collect. The winners of this fabulous prize will be the school which can collect the highest number of tokens in ratio to the number of pupils at the school.



The first prize is a one week trip to FLORIDA for 35 children and 15 adult helpers, with £2000 spending money.

Runner-up prizes include a trip to London, £1000 worth of books, and computer programs and equipment.

Tokens can be handed directly to School, or at Welney Post Office.

SCHOOL DIARY

9th June - Infants visit to Downham Market to take part in the area Infants Music Festival. The theme is "Animals" and the chosen song is "Daddy Wouldn't Buy Me a Bow Wow".

23rd June - A Summer Fayre organised by the Friends of the School, which starts at 1.00 pm, and is followed by School Sports.

10th July - School Outing - venue to be arranged.

22nd July - Prize Giving - 2.00 pm.

24th July - School Term ends at 3.20 pm.
NEW TERM BEGINS Thursday 3rd September 1998.

EGG DECORATING COMPETITION



The Easter Egg decorating competition proved to be very popular and here is a list of the winners:-

Reception **Philip Hare**

Year 1 **Daniel Cobb**

Year 2 **Adam Ricahrdson/Aron Lister**

Year 3 **Michael Padget**

Year 4 **Sonia Harvey**

Year 5 **Emily Cheek/Lewis Singleterry**

Year 6 **Zak Halls**

MUGS

In celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the William Marshall School, we have produced a commemorative mug depicting the school and church, which will be on sale for £2.50 each.



SILVER FINS



FISH, SHELLFISH, MEAT SPECIALITIES

FAMILY RUN BUSINESS, BRINGING TO YOUR DOOR QUALITY AIR-BLAST FROZEN FOODS. CALLING ON YOU REGULARLY EVERY 8 WEEKS

Sample List

- 1 Kilo Cod Fillets - £8.75
- 1 Kilo Haddock Fillets - £8.75
- 1 Kilo Smoked Haddock - £10.00
- 6 Scotch Salmon Steaks - £16.00
- 1 Kilo Salad Prawns - £14.25
- 6 Chicken Breasts Skinless/Bonesles - £12.75
- 6 Gammon Steaks 8oz - £12.25

PLEASE PHONE
DEREHAM 01362 638484 (9am - 12 noon)
TO ARRANGE FOR A SALESMAN TO CALL ON YOU

SEA FOOD AT YOUR PLAICE
DELIVERED ON TEMPERATURE
CONTROLLED VANS

WELNEY PARISH HALL NEEDS YOU!

We are looking for volunteer "Handy-persons" to spare the odd hour occasionally to help keep the hall in good order. If you have the time to spare please contact Rosina Beckford (610385) or Helen Barry (610585).

BOATS ON THE RIVER?

I saw one ship go sailing by - on the Hundred Foot River. We don't see many boats on the water there, it can be hard work against the tide



PLAYBUS

The Playbus has been going strong as usual - there are now so many families with young children in the Welney area that this is now the busiest stop on the Playbus circuit! With the recent warmer weather the children have been enjoying outdoor sessions, with the bus parking on the grass so that the outdoor water play equipment can be used. As always the bus could use more funds, so if anyone has any fundraising ideas please share them! Donations of outgrown toys (0-4yrs) are also much appreciated.

Karen Fleming 610523

- WATER GALA - SUN 30th AUGUST

DO YOU WANT TO HELP?

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RUN A STALL, TAKE
PART OR GENERALLY BE USEFULL PLEASE
CONTACT**

HELEN BARRY OR ROSI BECKFORD.

THIS YEAR WILL BE THE BEST EVER!!



Business Partners
Computer Consultancy Ltd

7 The Crescent, Wisbech, Cambs

Tel: 01945 466343 - Fax 01945 466344

Novell Networks

Fileservers

ISDN Solutions

Pentium PC's with MMX

Apple Macintosh

Laser Printers

Scanners

Digital Cameras

CD Recording facility

Database Authoring

Training

Repairs & Maintenance

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

The Playing Field

A grateful thank you goes to Alison Ingram and Adrian Rust who organised the dance in the Village Hall on May 23rd.

It was not as well supported as we had hoped, but considering all the other events that weekend, it was a creditable attendance. Everybody who did support it enjoyed themselves, I believe, and it was a very friendly atmosphere. Several parents also brought their children too, and most of them had a dance or two. The profit made for the Playing Field was £137.00.

So thank you, once again, Alison and Adrian for all your hard work.

I was disappointed by the lack of response to the questionnaire in the last Newsletter. Only five people returned it, and two of those were Councillors! It really is a waste of a recreation area in the village, to allow it to remain unused. You are paying for the upkeep and maintenance of the grounds through the Parish Precept on your Council Tax, so you should be using it as often as possible.

The Playing Field is part of the Parish Council agenda, so if you want to find out about it, you can either come to Parish Council meetings (the next one is on 14th July 1998) or telephone me on 610292.

Pat Rix

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

Navrady'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**

Dinner for Fifty?

The duck punt and punt gun in the photograph is still in existence. It is currently on display at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust buildings. This was actually built by H H Smart in the 1930's and was owned by William Kent for a while.

(see article on page 7)



**Do something Different to tell your
friends about**

Explore the largest Wetland in Northern Europe
and its diverse plant and Spend a day on Safari -
As seen on Anglia TV's "Countrywide"

BIG SKY WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

Explore the largest Wetland in Northern Europe and its diverse plant and animal life. Go back in time and take home your own piece of history when unearthing 3000 year old bog oaks. Discover the Wildlife and Countryside of the Fens by Landrover. See otters and seals, sea birds and wild woods, with dragonflies and deer. Experience friendly guides - a day to remember

*Barry Weekes and Verity Steel - Duffins Farm, Lotts Bridge
Three Holes, Wisbech, Cambridge PE14 9JG*

**To book your Safari please phone
01354 638315 or 0410 788779**



Winners of the Colouring competition

The winner of the 5-7 category is



Amy Waring



Cathy Ingram

was the winner of the 8-11 age group. Well done to both of you for a really good effort. We hope you find the crayons useful and look forward to seeing more of your work in the future.

If any child would like to send in their sketches or drawings of the Anniversary Celebrations we will print a copy of the best we see



GENERAL BUILDERS

CARPENTRY &
JOINERY SPECIALIST

EXTENSIONS
RENOVATIONS
MAINTENANCE

Wren Cottage - Main Street,
Welney, Wisbech, Cambs
PE14 9RB

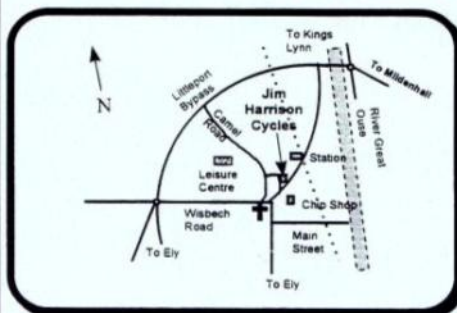
FOR FREE
QUOTATION
PHONE OR FAX:
MRA PULLUM-
01354 610538



Next Issue

In the next issue we hope to feature photographs and stories from the anniversary celebrations from the church, the school and the village in general. We are also building up a marvelous collection of old photographs. If you have any old pictures of the village and its surroundings we would love to copy them for the magazine.

Jim Harrison (Cycles)



**2 Ponds 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**



NEW BUS SERVICE TO DOWNHAM MARKET

PAT RIX writes

The new service to **Downham Market** is working well. I am now trying to negotiate new routes to March and Peterborough, but it all takes time and money so please be patient. The Downham Market service is operated with the financial support of Norfolk County Council. The bus starts from Wisbech, comes through Upwell and Christchurch, on to Welney and through to Downham Market. **Timetable below. but the bus will operate on a Hail and Ride basis with a clear signal to the driver.**

WELNEY TO DOWNHAM: FRIDAYS

Welney Post Office	10.01am
Lakes End	10.06am
Lots Bridge	10.08am
Nordelph Bridge	10.14am
Salter's Lode	10.19am
Downham Market	10.26am
Downham Market	12.15pm
Salter's Lode	12.22pm
Nordelph Bridge	12.27pm
Lots Bridge	12.33pm
Lakes End	12.35pm
Welney Post Office	12.40pm

FARE: £1.70 single £2.20 return

SOME WELNEY SERVICES

Doctor's Surgery:

12 noon at the Parish Hall,
Monday, Wednesday & Friday

Prescriptions:

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

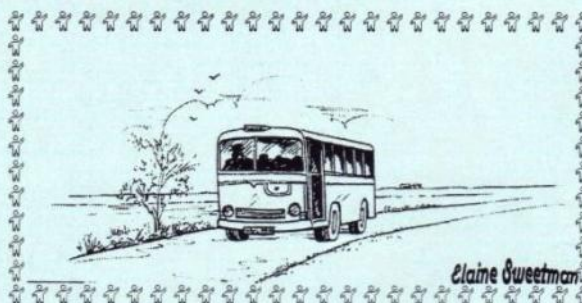
Wet Fishmonger

3.00pm at Chestnut Ave and 3.15 at the Post Office every **Friday**.

Editorial Team

Editor	Helen Barry	610 585
Organiser, Publishing Lay Out	Carol Green	610 401
Organiser, News & Events	Karen Fleming	610 523
Organiser, Marketing	Tim Bennett	610 433
Treasurer/Distribution Manager	Margaret Levesley	610 272
Secretary/Illustrator	Elaine Sweetman	638 287

Distribution: Marlen Moss-Eccardt, Michael Dickinson, Tom Fisher, Peter Cox, Charlotte Cox, Pat Rix, Karen Fleming, Margaret Levesley, Tim Bennett.



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)