

Issue 51

# WELNEY NEWS

June—July 2006

30p





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### Editors waffle

Hello everyone, just a short bit from me this time regarding our Parish Action Plan... All the questionnaires have been analysed and the final report is on its way to the printers. You will shortly be receiving a copy of the report through your letterbox. Welney should be proud of itself as over 94% of us took part. It will I am sure make fascinating reading.

**Rachel**

### Welcome to Welney

The Patterson family would like to say hello to the villagers of Welney and to say thank you for the warm welcome that has been extended to us. We have recently moved from South Wales and will be staying in Welney until the sale completes on our home in Carmarthenshire.

Our son has recently joined the 'Welney Cygnets' and as his first experience of playgroup he is having a fantastic time, thanks to the efforts of Jean, Holly and all that remain behind the scenes. We do hope that with everyone's support we can pull something out of the hat to keep the playgroup alive and flourishing. Our children are the centre of our community.

Well, goodbye for now. We are looking forward to meeting more of you and becoming an active part of your community.

Warm wishes

Andy, Nicola, and family

## GUESS WHO'S 50



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Here is a rare picture of the world famous Easter Bunny with her trusted sidekick the Easter Chick. Both appeared during an afternoon of fun at the Village Hall in April. Numerous children turned up and enjoyed a wide variety of games and competitions not to mention the generous supply of chocolate and sweets; everyone enjoyed themselves and I suspect there were a lot of tired youngsters at the end of the day. £33 profit was raised and put towards more disco equipment for the next time.



Left: dancing games at the Easter party

There will be a summer disco at the Village Hall on Friday 23rd June, open to all Primary school children there will be lots of games, competitions and prizes...call Julie on 610257 to find out more.

## FARM SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2006

at Pates Farm, Wisbech Road, Tipsend, Near Welney

Don't lie in, dig out your wellies and spend the day in beautiful countryside, see how farming works.

**Entry is free**, and a good time can be had by all ages . You may even learn something too, almost without noticing! Join us, and see how we produce wholesome, affordable food, our innovative essential oil crops like chamomile and lavender, whilst making sure wildlife thrives.

We will be open from 10.30am till 4pm and there will be all sorts of activities during the day including, nature trail, farm walk across food and herb fields, bottle feeding lambs, new hatched chicks, display of old tractors and modern farm machinery. Essential oil distillery tours, working distillery, produce.

Don't dress up, just come as you are , kitted out for rain or sun and get down on the Farm.

Bring a picnic and enjoy your food next to the farm pond.

To book your place and for directions please contact Ken or Debra on 01354 638065 or e-mail [info@neoils.com](mailto:info@neoils.com)

Hope to see you on Farm Sunday – it will be a wonderful day for all ages.

Farm Sunday is a national Open Farm Day co-ordinated by LEAF ( Linking Environment And Farming) so people can hear and see the positive steps farmers are taking to look after the fabric of our countryside whilst producing safe , wholesome and affordable food.



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## Welney Cygnets

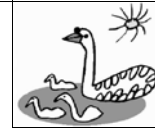
Hi folks!

Just a quick note from me this time, to fill you in on the latest news of the Welney Cygnets Playgroup. It is with great regret that I have to tell you that the Playgroup will be closing its doors for the last time at the end of July. Due to a future lack of committee members, and low numbers of children after the Summer, the Group will not be viable. We've run at a loss, through sheer grit and determination, for the last two years, but it's time to draw our venture to a close, after five years in the School House.

We're not going quietly though! Jean and I have a fun-filled Summer term planned for the Cygnets children, with lots of quality education squeezed in without them noticing! We've started in good style with a visit to Church Farm, Rare breeds Centre at Stowbridge, near Downham Market. All our children went, with a Parent or carer a-piece, and we had a great morning together. We're off to the rejuvenated WWT Centre on 9th May for pond-dipping and a multi-sensory experience. I have just paid a preview visit to the Centre and it is wonderful, with the new 'Pond Room' education area even better than the one in the old building.

We're also joining forces with Teddy Church each month for a bit of a change of scene, so that should be great fun too. Finally, Jean has already booked our old friend from 'Just Puppets' for our end of term party, and Paul is keen to join us on the bouncy castle after he and his puppets have finished making a leaving cake for us. So, if you hear a commotion in July, you'll know we all ate too much party food and popped the bouncy castle ... so we really did go out with a bang!!!

All the best to you from Holly G. (Deputy Playgroup Leader).



If you have something to say, a story to tell, or a picture to share then please contact one of the team.

All contributions need to be received before the deadline below and preferably via email.

**The deadline for our next edition is August 17th.**

A man walks into a **doctor's office**. He has a cucumber up his nose, a carrot in his left ear and a banana in his right ear. "What's the matter with me?" he asks the doctor. The doctor replies, "You're not eating properly."

## **GRAHAME SEATON**

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## Flooded Washes – The Real Story

Tim Bennett's article in the last WN 'Where has all the water come from' is only part of the story. Unfortunately the real story is much worse than his message conveys.

The truth as to why the water has not cleared the washes is simply that the Environment Agency has failed in its statutory duties to operate sluices and to maintain watercourses to prevent flooding.

The tidal river into which the River Delph should discharge by gravity is so badly silted up from Stow Bridge to Denver that the water is being held back to such an extent that Welmore

Sluices cannot operate until a flood level above the road surface at Welney is reached. It is in effect like a cork in a bottle. In the middle of April the EA are trying to empty the Washes using half a dozen small bore pumps (150-200mm). This is like trying to empty the North Sea with a bucket and represents their best effort!

The problem with the tidal river began in the early 90's when a decision was taken to discharge virtually fresh water from the Great Ouse through the Relief Channel instead of through the tidal river.

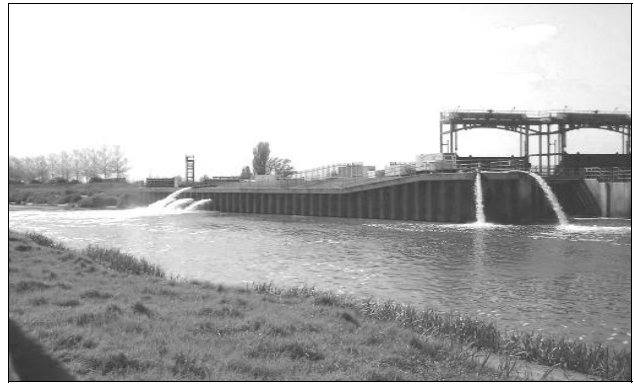
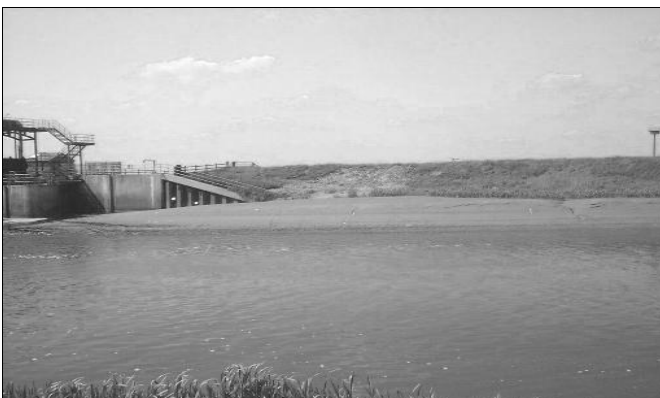
The lack of freshwater flow through the tidal river allowed the silt to build up during the dry summers and in the drought of 1996 I was informed by the Area Manager of the NRA that a silt bank of up to two metres had built up at Stow Bridge. He said that they were relying on a good flood to clear it up but that in the meantime it would hold back discharges from Welmore Sluice.

Floods have come and gone, including the summer flood, which almost topped the bank at Welney. The silt however has remained and has increased year upon year until the present situation has been reached. The next time you travel to Downham Market take a look into the tidal river and observe for yourself the extent of silt involved. Better still travel to Stow Bridge and witness the silt banks almost meeting across the river.

The explanation of increased tides is just a diversion from the facts. The BED level of the tidal river has been lost and this despite the fact that in the year that the new Welmore Sluice was being commissioned the EA was paying thousands of pounds to some consultancy to study siltation problems. When their report was complete the EA decided to take no action – so why waste the money when it would have been better spent on dredging.

A public enquiry into the mismanagement of the system is needed and heads should roll for the desperate situation they have created. In the meantime travellers who use the wash road had better prepare themselves for next winter. With normal rainfall road flooding is almost a certainty.

*Peter Redman*



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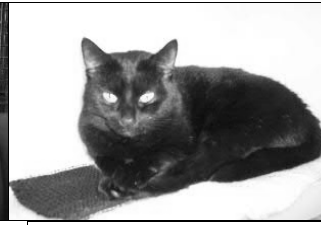
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## LOTS OF LOVE REQUIRED...!

Having heard from a friend about the RSPCA's animal re-homing centre at Block Fen near Wimblington, I was curious to find out more about it, so I arranged to visit the centre and talk to some of the staff there.

RSPCA Block Fen is a very modern and well-laid-out centre. There are dog kennels, a cattery, and grazing paddocks as well as a small animal house. The cats in particular are very comfortably accommodated, with indoor bedrooms connected to outdoor runs where they can climb and sunbathe. Each cat bedroom is supplied with hand-made blankets and lots of toys!

### **All creatures...**

I was surprised by the variety of different animals looking for homes. As well as the expected cats and dogs, there are usually rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, mice, rats, chinchillas, and sometimes caged birds too – budgerigars, canaries, and cockatiels being the most common. There are also bigger animals from time to time, including sheep, goats, and ponies. At the time of my visit the staff were very keen to find a home for two angora goats. They apparently need an experienced owner, as they are bigger, more nervous, and more difficult to handle than other goats. They are often sought-after by people who are interested in working with the special wool – mohair – produced by these goats.

The small animals were very appealing, especially some very friendly and handsome black rabbits which insisted on climbing onto my lap – more like puppies really. There were rabbits of all shapes, sizes and colours including some huge lop-eared ones.

### **Worth a second look...**

The staff wanted me to mention that the spring and early summer is the time for large numbers of kittens to arrive in the world – Block Fen often receiving numbers of them. They also wanted me to point out that the adult cats also deserved a second look from anyone interested in a feline companion; for anyone not able to cope with the energy and mischief of a young kitten, an adult cat is often a good option. I can never walk through the doors of Block Fen without falling in love with at least one of the adult feline residents; invariably there are some real characters there! For instance, I met Thunder, an enormous black male cat

who had lost an eye in a road accident. His one eye and huge size seemed to be putting off potential owners, yet he could not have been more friendly or affectionate.

### **Affectionate and good company...**

I was told that of all animals, rabbits were the hardest to re-home and were the most common species to end up at the centre. Rabbits can be very affectionate and companionable but need daily handling and contact with people, just as dogs or cats do. Even a well-grown adult rabbit can be 'brought around' with patience and understanding; and, as with any animal at the centre, the staff are always ready with good advice and guidance in this respect.

### **Take me please...**

Animals arriving at Block Fen are assessed for their suitability to be re-homed. If there are any behavioural problems, the animal may be kept on for some time to allow staff to work with it and socialize it, before it can be advertised for re-homing. Baby animals, either brought to the centre or born there, also need lots of human contact and handling so that they grow up gentle and easy to handle.

### **A little bit of time and love...**

This is where the subject of volunteers comes in! Block Fen, like all animal re-homing centres, relies on the help of volunteers to help the staff keep up with the needs of all the animal residents. Volunteers can help with a range of tasks, including dog walking, kennel cleaning, basic dog obedience training, and the all-important socializing work, whether with kittens, puppies, older dogs and cats, rabbits, and others. Anyone who loves animals but is unable to offer one a home is welcome at Block Fen to spend time with some of the animal residents.

### **Where to find them...**

RSPCA Block Fen is on Block Fen Drove, a few minutes out of Wimblington and only 20 minutes' drive from Welney. The centre is open to the public between 11-30am and 3-30pm every day except Wednesday. Anyone interested in re-homing an animal can visit at these times or telephone 0870 906 1426 for more information. There is also a website where you can view animals currently up for adoption; the address is [www.rspca.org.uk/rehomingtrial](http://www.rspca.org.uk/rehomingtrial)

If the idea of volunteering interests you, then telephone the number as above and ask for Roz Whybrew, deputy manager, who is also the volunteer co-ordinator.

**Karen Fleming**

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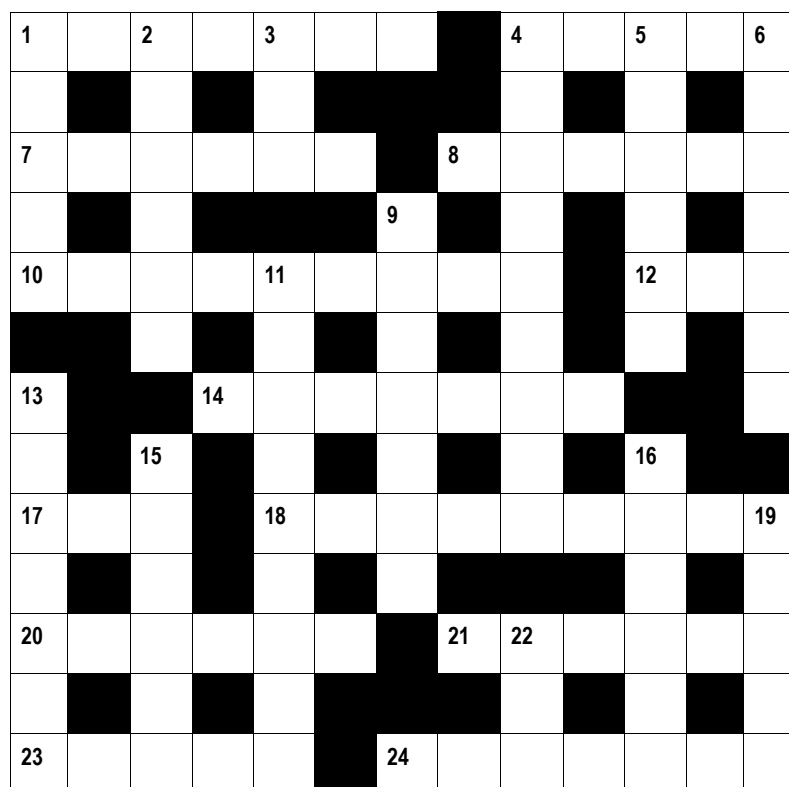
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# CRYPTIC COMPETITION CROSSWORD BY MARK BROWN



Please send your completed crossword to the editor at the address on page 28

All correct entries will be entered into our prize draw.

The winner, drawn at random, will win a bottle of wine. If you do not wish to cut up your copy of the Welney News please write your answers, along with your name and telephone number, on a sheet of paper for inclusion in the draw.  
(Closing date: 6th July)

## Across

1. Provides a platform to sit and enjoy 7 across (7)
4. Give us our money today, say Christians (5)
7. Flowerbeds in hidden danger (6)
8. Superior gambling man makes complete recovery (6)
10. Bet I'm late for 11 down without it (9)
12. Confidence low, but sure to flow back (3)
14. Diversity makes it a very entertaining show (7)
17. Those in the know keep it firmly to the floor (3)
18. Bug-eaters helping to produce sweet produce (5,4)
20. Tamper with highly qualified academic (6)
21. Master required for children of similar ability (6)
23. First lady joins National Trust for an important happening (5)
24. Revealed that former partner adopted false attitude to impress others (7)

## Down

1. On hand (or foot) to prepare 7 across (5)
2. Church at the head of Italian cultural centre shone brightly when polished (6)
3. Anger after employer cuts human resources (3)
4. Money a solution for carnivorous guard (9)
5. Here it could be one or the other (6)
6. Rub lead and discover it to be extremely long-lasting (7)
9. Novel way to shorten span between two points (7)
11. Public taken to another place, possibly a café (9)
13. Bill late again ? That's a fine situation ! (7)
15. Look inside for a clear message and find prophecy (6)
16. Set-back for holidaying parliamentarians (6)
19. Some call it dim to be so easily frightened (5)
22. Advice for the poorly-paid waiter (3)

Name

.....

Telephone.

.....

## CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Derek & Margaret Levesley who were the lucky winners last time.

### Hello Teddy fans!

Wow! What a turnout we had for our Easter holidays Teddy session - 16 children and 12 Mums and Grandmas, FANTASTIC!! We re-enacted the Easter story, from the donkey retrieval prior to Jesus' ride into Jerusalem, to His return to Heaven to go and live with His Dad after a fish breakfast with his pals. We have real dramatic talent to be proud of - Oscar-winning performances were put in by our cast of 3-11year olds, with minimal props and maximum enthusiasm. The actual rewards were lots of pleasure and a booty of chocolate eggs and rabbits to take home, along with memories of fun with old friends.

For our May gathering we talked gibberish about making sense with the help of the Holy Spirit's gift of 'tongues'. Don't worry, no voodoo or weird stuff, just waxing lyrical in snippets of various languages, before resorting to the true English way of universal communication - v..e..r..y s..l..o..w and **VERY LOUD!!** It was great fun!

Remember TEDDY CHURCH meets on the FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH, 9.30am AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH, WELNEY.

Take care. All the best from **Holly G.** (Honorary Ted.),  
Tel:- 01945-773932.



**Kings Lynn by bus:** Did you know that there is a bus that goes to Kings Lynn every Wednesday?

It is a Dial-a-Bus and, of course, has to be booked 24 hours ahead, but it leaves the village about 10am and returns from Kings Lynn Bus Station at about 1.30pm. You do have to register to use it, but unlike the F.A.C.T. Dial-a-bus it will cost you nothing to register.

If you use your West Norfolk Bus Pass, the trip will cost you nothing. If you are too young for a bus pass, then the cost is only £3.50 and the bus picks you up from your door, and drops you back there so there is no heavy shopping to carry any distance, and if you are frail, the driver usually carries your shopping to your door.

The bus holds 14 people or 12 people and a wheelchair. If you have a wheelchair or a walking frame just let them know when you book and they will adjust the bus accordingly. It is shared by Lakesend and is booked on a first come first served basis, so its worth booking early.

Remember—use it or lose it applies to all our transport opportunities.

This service is provided by The West Norfolk Community Transport Project; call 01553 770310 to find out more..

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## JUNE

**Beyond The Barricade** **Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> : 8pm**  
A brand new show for 2006. Featuring songs from the world's greatest musicals. Tickets: £16.50, £8.50

**City Of London Sinfonia** **Sun 4<sup>th</sup> : 7.30pm**  
Arais, duets, overtures and intermezzos from Bizet, Delibes, Puccini and many more. Tickets: £17, £14, £8.50

**West Norfolk Volunteer Fair** **Tue 6<sup>th</sup> : 10 - 4pm**  
Come along find out about local voluntary organizations. Admission Free

**The World Of Genesis** **Fri 9<sup>th</sup> : 8pm**  
Ex Genesis singer/songwriter Ray Wilson sings the groups hits. Ray performed and co wrote on the last Genesis studio album in 1997. Tickets: £16.50, £8.50

**The Rock 'N' Roll Years** **Wed 14<sup>th</sup> : 7.30pm**  
Relive the music of the 50's, 60's and 70's. Tickets: £15.50

**Comedy Club** **Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> : 8.45pm**  
Be entertained by a selection of the sharpest comedians on the circuit. Tickets: £8.50 Adults Only

**What A Feeling!** **Sat 17<sup>th</sup> : 7.30pm**  
Hit songs and hot dance from movies and musicals with Sinitta, Noel Sullivan & Zoe Birkett. Tickets: £21.50

**Giselle-Independent Ballet Wales** **Sun 18<sup>th</sup> : 7.30pm**  
A story of love and loss. Using some of the original choreography with timeless music and stunning costumes. Tickets: £15, Under 16s £8.50

**Treorchy Male Choir** **Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> : 8pm**  
The Treorchy Male Choir is probably the most recorded male choir in the world. Tickets: £16.50

**The Sooty Show** **Sun 25<sup>th</sup> : 2.30pm**  
A fun packed show full of slapstick, sing-a-long songs, games and giggles! Tickets: £8, family of 4 £30, of 3 £22.50

**The Legends Of Football** **Mon 26<sup>th</sup> : 7.30pm**  
Hear what Martin Peters, Alan Mullery & Tony Cottee have to say. Tickets: £15.50, £8.50

**The New Seekers** **Sat 24<sup>th</sup> : 8pm**  
The New Seekers are still thrilling audiences with their unique harmonies and catchy songs. Tickets: £14.50

**Dancing In The Streets** **Fri 30<sup>th</sup> : 8pm**  
A celebration of the energy, excitement, emotion and electricity of Motown's greatest hits. Tickets: £19.50

## JULY

**Comedy Club** **Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> : 8.45pm**  
Be entertained by a selection of the sharpest comedians on the circuit. Tickets: £8.50 Adults Only

**Jump To The Beat** **Sun 9<sup>th</sup> & Sat 15<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm**  
Footlights Dance Centre present an evening of songs and dance. Tickets: £11

## KING'S LYNN FESTIVAL

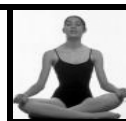
**Orchestra of The Swan & King's Lynn Festival Chorus** **Sun 16<sup>th</sup> : 7.30pm**  
In the opening concert of the 2006 Festival the Chorus joins forces with the Orchestra of the Swan to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Mozart. Tickets £22.50, £19.50, £17.50, Side Balconies: £16.50, Standby £5 20% discount for bookings of 4 or more

**Alfred Brendel** **Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> : 7.30pm**  
The great pianist Alfred Brendel, making a rare appearance outside London. Widely regarded as one of the foremost pianists of our time. Tickets: £30, £28, £25

**Philharmonia Orchestra** **Sat 29<sup>th</sup> : 7.30pm**  
The Philharmonia plays out the 56th King's Lynn Festival with an international programme befitting the reputation of the final night. Tickets: £32, £25.50, £20.50, Side balconies £18.50, Standby £5

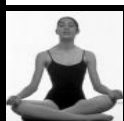


## YOGA CLASSES



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| JUNE 2006                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                           |                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |          |
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| Sunday                                                                                                                                      | Monday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Tuesday                                                                                   | Wednesday                                                                                 | Thursday                                                                                                                                                                                | Friday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Saturday |
| Please make all bookings for either the<br>Parish Hall or the Pavilion through Wendy at the<br>Village Post Office. Telephone: 01354 610201 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                           |                                                                                           | 1<br><br>            | 2<br><br>                                                                                                                                                                                        | 3        |
| 4<br> HC                                                   | 5<br><br><br>       | 6<br>    | 7<br>    | 8<br><br>YC<br>      | 9<br><br>                                                                                                                                                                                        | 10       |
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| JULY 2006                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                           |                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |          |
| Sunday                                                                                                                                      | Monday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Tuesday                                                                                   | Wednesday                                                                                 | Thursday                                                                                                                                                                                | Friday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Saturday |
| 30<br> USM                                               | 31<br>                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                           |                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 1        |
| 2<br> HC                                                 | 3<br><br><br> | 4<br>  | 5<br>  | 6<br><br>YC<br>  | 7<br><br><br>                                                                                           | 8        |
| 9<br> AAW                                                | 10<br>                                                                                                                                                                              | 11                                                                                        | 12<br> | 13<br><br>YC<br> | 14<br><br>                                                                                                                                                                                   | 15       |
| 16<br> MP                                                | 17<br><br>                                                                                       | 18<br> | 19                                                                                        | 20<br><br>YC<br> | 21<br><br>                                                                                                                                                                                   | 22       |
| 23<br> MP                                                | 24<br>                                                                                                                                                                              | 25                                                                                        | 26                                                                                        | 27<br><br>YC<br> | 28<br><br><br><br> | 29       |

## Diary index



### **Mobile Library:**

9.40am: Hale Road  
10.00am: Chestnut Avenue  
10.20am: Lamb & Flag car park  
11.15am: Post Office  
11.35am: Herneside



**Teddy Church:** 10.00am St Mary's



### **Pauls Fresh Fish Van**

1 -1.15 pm outside the Post Office



**Carpet Bowls:** 7.15pm Pavillion



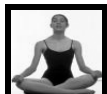
**Doctor:** Monday Noon

**Nurse :** Thursday 10am

Village Hall



**Citizens Advice** 10 -11.30 am Village Hall



**Yoga** at the Pavillion Thurs: 10am-11.30am



**Parish Council meeting:** Village Hall 7.30pm



**Youth Club:** 6.30pm—9pm at the Pavillion



**Womens Institute:** 7pm Village Hall



**Friendship Club:** 1.30pm Village Hall



**Bingo:** Doors open 6pm  
game stars 7pm Village Hall



**Toy Library :**10am Village Hall



### **AAW All Age Worship 11am**

June 11th R.Brown

July 9th not yet confirmed



### **HC Holy Communion 9.30am**

June 4th Revds. C & R Worsley

July 2nd Ven.D.Fleming



### **MP Morning Prayer 9.30am**

June 18th Revd.R. Worsley

June 25th S.E.Tooke

July 16th Ven.D.Fleming

July 23rd S.E.Tooke



### **USM United Service at Manea 10.00am**

July 30th Revd.R.Worsley

## **LW Vehicle Services**



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& Maintenance**

**MOT's & Pre MOT checks**

**Free Estimates and Advice**

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**Wisbech Rd, Welney**

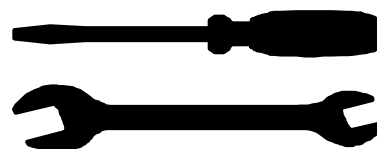


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## Whats on at Ely Cinema

24-hour information line: 01353 666388

Credit card bookings: 01353 616991

### Ice Age 2 – The Meltdown (U)

Sunday 4 June: 6pm & Thursday 8 June 11am

All the characters from the enormously successful ICE AGE return in another incredible arctic adventure, along with the infectious sense of humour, delightful animation and fast-paced, laugh-a-minute dialogue of the original. Guaranteed to keep children and adults equally entertained throughout.

### Pierrepoint (15)

Thursday 8 June: 3pm & 7.30pm

Starring: Timothy Spall, Eddie Marsan, Juliet Stevenson.

This moving period drama boasts a breathtaking performance by Timothy Spall as Albert Pierrepoint, Britain's final public executioner. A gentle reminder of the burden of conscience that capital punishment places on society.

### Walk the Line (12A)

Sunday 11 June: 7.30pm

Starring: Joaquin Phoenix, Reese Witherspoon

A compelling biopic of the iconic Johnny Cash. The film recounts the first half of Cash's eventful life.

### Failure to Launch (12A)

Monday 12 June: 7.30pm

Starring: Kathy Bates, Matthew McConaughey, Sarah Jessica Parker.

Tripp has never been able to leave the comfort and security of the family nest. He's always found some reason or another to stay, but now his desperate parents have had enough and hire the girl of his dreams to encourage him to move out. An inspired, witty and very enjoyable romantic comedy with a twist

### Brokeback Mountain (15)

Sunday 18 & Thursday 22 June: 7.30pm

Starring: Anne Hathaway, Jake Gyllenhaal, Heath Ledger, Michelle Williams, Randy Quaid

An emotionally resonant drama about two cowboys and the love that blossoms between them. One of the great screen love stories.

### Mrs Henderson Presents (12A)

Thursday 22 June : 3pm

Starring: Judi Dench, Bob Hoskins, Will Young.

Judi Dench is the certifiably eccentric, tart-tongued Laura Henderson, a woman of considerable wealth and social status in 1930s' London who refuses to go gently into widowhood.

## WWT Welney is off to a busy start and getting set for summer.

With new Centre Manager, Veronica Morriss, taking the lead, the first week of opening at the new Welney Visitor Centre was extremely well supported by members, other visitors and also extensive TV, radio and press coverage. Working in the new building was a long-awaited adventure for many of the staff and has certainly added a completely different dimension to the reserve as a whole.

Incoming Reserve Manager, Leigh Marshall, was pleased to witness his first ever sighting of a water vole on arriving at the Welney reserve and warden, Jon Smith, was over the moon as, on 12 April, he managed to photograph a Blue-Headed Wagtail – a rare Welney visitor. New Stockman, Graham Webb, is overseeing the movement of cattle onto the reserve and sheep will also be making a return to the washes as Graham has brought with him his own flock of sixty registered, pedigree South Down rams, ewes and lambs.

The new education facilities and Fenland Worlds area are proving very popular with schools with record numbers booking in for visits and learning programmes. With many more drop-in and bookable activities and events planned this year, particularly through the summer, we are keen to hear from any volunteers with the necessary skills and knowledge to act as guides for group walks or who feel they could help supervise pond-dipping sessions.

The Friends of Welney members continued with their meetings during the period of closure having found a handy, temporary venue at the Welney Village Hall and are now embarking upon their summer outings programme. If you would like details of Friends of Welney events or how you can become a Friends' member just ask for information at the reception desk in the visitor centre. Meeting facilities in the new centre are also available free-of-charge to other local, voluntary, community groups.

The Wigeon Café is delighting all our visitors as much for its fabulous design, interpretation and wonderful Fen views as for the excellent food. Favourites like bacon baps and jacket potatoes along with homemade soups and cakes remain on the menu together with new daily choices of hot main dishes and a roast lunch menu on Sundays.

For further details of the WWT Welney reserve contact 01353 860711

Susan Lowe

## Activities & Events at WWT Welney

**Weekend Guided Walks:** Explore the ditch-side flora and fauna of the Ouse Washes with a warden. They will accompany you into the far hides to spot breeding Avocets, Little Ringed Plovers and Lapwing on their nests and raising chicks. Walk is 1½ miles long and takes approx 2 hours. Route may alter according to location of the birds. Sat and Sun, 11am and 2pm. Pre-book by phone or join on the day if space is available.

**Weekday Warden Walks For Groups:** Both the Spring and Summer Walks can be booked for large groups on weekdays subject to warden availability. It may be possible to arrange for 2 wardens to lead walks for groups larger than 15. Minimum per group 10 people, maximum per group 15.

**Junior Bird Club:** £15 per annum. Age 10-16. Get to go behind the scenes with the wardens and improve your birding skills. Annual fee includes 4 sessions at WWT Welney (Sun 10am-noon) and 2 off site visits to other nature reserves. Remaining meetings for 2006/7 are Sun 18<sup>th</sup> June, Sun 16<sup>th</sup> July, Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Oct, Sun 17<sup>th</sup> Dec, Sun 25<sup>th</sup> Feb

**Introduction to Dragonfly Identification:** Sat 10<sup>th</sup> June, 11am – 4pm. Learn the basics and identify species in flight. Binoculars useful. Field guide (available from shop) Notebook, waterproofs and sturdy shoes/Wellingtons required. £20.00 non members (£17.50 members) Booking Essential, Weather Permitting

**Environmental Art Workshop, Recycling Cardboard Boxes with Jane Frost :** Sat 1<sup>st</sup> July, 11am – 4pm Family activity suitable for age 10 and over. An effective way to recycle a combination of articles. Traditional skills adapted to modern materials. Please bring old cardboard boxes (single core corrugated) to use on the day. Price £25.00 Booking Essential. Lunch (1-2pm) available on site, price not included, please order on arrival.

**Wild at Welney Workshops for Adults.** Fortnightly from Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> July to Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> Sept, 10am – 4pm Want to enjoy the countryside but don't know where to start? Come down for a day of bird-watching, pond-dipping, insect-hunting and floral foraging. The day includes some basic map skills so you can plan your own forays into the great outdoors. Sturdy shoes/Wellingtons, waterproofs and notebook essential. Bring binoculars if available. £20 non members (£17.00 members) Booking Essential Lunch is available on site, please book on arrival.

**Pond Explorers** Weekly on Sat and Sun from 22<sup>nd</sup> July to 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept. 10am – noon. Pond-dipping sessions for families under the guidance of the Pond Explorers. You will be amazed to discover and learn about the incredible creatures that live under the water. Hours of fun! Included in Admission Fee

**Self-guided trails.** Daily 10am – 5pm. Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> July to Fri 28<sup>th</sup> July A series of varied, fun and informative trails for you to follow and explore. Become a floral forager and discover the many plants around the reserve. Included in admission fee.

**Build me up Buttercup** Weekly Summer Holiday Family Workshops - Tues 25<sup>th</sup> July, Explore the plants and flowers of the Washes and discover their many uses. Get creative with floral arts and crafts and create you own wildflower garden. £4 non members (£2 members) Booking Essential  
10am – noon for children aged under 8 + parents  
2pm – 4pm for children aged over 8 + parents.

*NB. For all walks binoculars are useful (for hire from reception, limited availability). Sturdy shoes or wellingtons and waterproofs advisable.*

## Osborne Place Boarding Kennels

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**Your Borough/District Councillors:** Councillors David Pope and Vivienne Spikings are our elected representatives on the King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council. They represent all the people of each parish regardless of political affiliation. Set out below are the various Borough Council Boards, Committees and Groups they serve on within the Borough Council.

**David Pope:**

- Regeneration & Environment.
- Cabinet Scrutiny involving looking into the decisions of the Borough Council's Cabinet and ensuring they are fair and impartial.
- Housing and Housing Transfer. This deals with the allocation of housing and the sale of Council housing stock .

**Vivienne Spikings:**

- Development Control Board dealing with Planning Applications.
- Local Plan Task Group which is preparing the new Local Plan for the Borough to take effect in 2009.
- The Conservation Board - part of the consultative body dealing with applications in Conservation areas.
- Member of the Regional Panel for the Eastern East of England Development Agency.
- The Licensing and Appeal Group. Dealing with Licensing applications for pubs, clubs and entertainment venues. they also consider applications for taxis and licensed cabs.
- Council housing appeals and refusals.
- Council Staff employment dismissal proceedings.

Most of these Groups sit monthly, with the exception of Licensing Appeals which meet on an "as and when" basis. Regional Panels sit quarterly. They have 6 Parish Council meetings to attend either monthly or once every other month.

Please feel free to contact either of them on matters concerning the Borough. Remember they are here to help.

Borough Councillor Pope can be contacted on 01945 773054 (home) or 01945 773320 (work)

or by e-mail [cllr.david.pope@west-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.david.pope@west-norfolk.gov.uk)

Borough Councillor Spikings can be contacted on 01945 772248, or by e-mail [cllr.vivienne.spikings@west-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.vivienne.spikings@west-norfolk.gov.uk)

**Upwell Health Centre — Patient Participation Group**

**Car Parking:** West Norfolk Borough Council are, at last, prepared to move on the matter of car parking at the Health Centre. Details are yet to be finalised, but hopefully we will soon see the creation of a car park on the land opposite the Health Centre.

**Re-organisation of PCTs:** Following the Government's decision to do away with all local Primary Care Trusts and create County PCTs, the decision has been taken that Upwell Health Centre Practice will be within the Norfolk PCT from 1st October 2006. This will have no effect on patients attending the Health Centre, although some outside services may come to them from a different place, and there may be some changes to the out of hours service. Patients who currently go to the Health Centre from villages in Cambridgeshire will still be able to do so.

**Car Parking charges at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn.** The minimum charge is now £2.50 for 2 hours irrespective of whether you are a patient or visitor. So do make sure you have sufficient change as the Hospital can be quite a long walk away from the furthest reaches of the car park. Look out for men in yellow coats - they could be clamping your car whilst you get change!

Your local Welney representatives on the Group are Ken Sorensen (610516) and Charlotte Cox (638610).

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## The Victor Meldrew Column.

I watched 'The Matrix' on telly. Explanations please on one side of A4 c/o the editor.

Ah, yes summer is here confirmed by the droning of lawnmowers, shrieking of strimmers, good old bonfires on a pleasant day and of course the odd horse sneeze here and there. Oh, yes, and the occasional sunny day.

Talking of things seasonal I saw that the editor at the WN had a go at changing a few things for the last edition. Full marks for trying but us stick-in-the-muds liked the usual format. A picturesque view of the Church at Easter would have been my preference for the front page photo rather than a pub...no doubt this will now be my last article for the WN?

Which leads me on to why the Parish Council has a problem with giving some cash to the Church for help with grass cutting and the like. Perhaps on that mini questionnaire instead of 'is the Lamb and Flag important to you?' they should have asked 'is the Church and its upkeep important to you?' The councillors should remember that they are there to represent villagers and personal preferences should not come into play. Perhaps any atheists should express an interest (or should that be non-interest?) and not vote on matters to do with the Church. To my mind our Church and its grounds are an asset to the village – if not spiritually then visually.

Now you've got me on council matters and in top gear for constructive criticism – how's that for a new way for saying a complaining old git? O.K. so you (we) have got this building (hall) that you lease and it transpires that it is somewhat valuable in today's mad scramble for land/housing, so you have the opportunity to buy at, say, £70,000. A third party is then interested in buying it from you. Would you let them have it at £70K, £80K or £90K? Present thinking is that they can have it for £70K. I'll leave that for you to contemplate on. It may all be to no avail as the Environmental Agency rules say that any sales have to go on the open market so any interested body could come along and buy the site.

It seemed strange in the least to read in the council minutes that a new village hall had been confirmed at a cost of £150K to £200K. How do they know this when there are so many unknowns, especially where one may be sited? Don't forget that the village still has to have its say – YOU MAY WANT IT TO STOP WHERE IT IS AND BE UP-DATED. Latest proposal is on land at Sandgate Corner where the new Community Centre and its car park would be adjacent to our playing field. Subject of course to the necessary planning approvals and cash raising and also YOUR approval. Still YOUR approval counts for nothing as virtually none of you send in questions to the Council or

attend their meetings. I would think that the reported repair costs (as per the minutes) for the council's copier is getting near to buying a new one? Why was the Clerk so shy about reporting the actual value of the MAP residual money (£900)? The Council is going for 'Quality Status' – there still appears a hill to climb about meeting the requirement for village involvement and awareness. Ken, the Chairman, has asked for help with the running of the village hall – I am sure those brave souls who kicked out the old VH committee will be bashing down his door with offers of help. This item 2 and now 4 on the WASH meeting agendas, someone needs to get to the bottom of it.

The Council are reminding us that the village profits from the glass recycling bin at the Lamb and Flag car park (not so now with the paper) so do your bit to help swell the coffers and you never know some of the cash generated could find its way to the Church (atheists continue to use other bottle banks). So it will be Chardonnay bottles from Main Street, Canada Dry from Taymor Place, Bailey's from Chestnut Avenue and Sanatogen Tonic Wine bottles from New Road.

Did you read that article by Tim in the last edition? Tim implied that the water that we saw for so long on each side of the Wash Road was there because nature (aided by man) was unable to get it away due to the affects of global warming and I thought that we were now a lot safer due to the new Welmore Sluice Gate? It reminds me of something I heard someone recount a while ago – having just moved into the village one winter the new family invited relatives to come and visit, where a youngster commented that she didn't realise that they now 'lived by the sea'! Could this have been a prophecy? Now that the Wash Road has not flooded for a couple of years it could be said that Welney is a more desirable place to set up home so why are the majority, if not all, houses in the area not selling (even with reduced prices)? Petrol at a pound a litre must have a big play in it. There you have it; I'm an expert in all subjects such as council matters, BBC, Wash Road, horse allergies, complaining and now Estate Agency.

BBC, Mrs. M has nipped out of the room so I can safely have another quick go at 'em. Put **all** the licence fees together from some 250 households in Welney and this will **ONLY** pay Terry Wogan's salary for **2 weeks!** Enough said I think.

Mrs. M, a wonderful woman, squeals in delight when she gets an answer to one of the clues of the WN crossword; "Isn't Mark Brown clever to devise these questions?"

I bet he understood 'The Matrix' from beginning to end!

**VM**

## 1970's Welney

### The Three Tuns' Association with 5 Welney Gala Days & 5 Charity Barn Dances

After winning their first Welney Gala cup for best dressed float, the 3-Tuns mob could barely stop chattering about future possibilities and how they might capitalise on their success. The idea of pageants and dressing up seemed to catch fire during that July, (the Welney Gala traditionally being held at the end of June.) Thoughts were projected forward to August / September and talk of Barn Dances and Harvest celebrations. Eventually they settled on a barn dance to be held at Tom Mott's Dairy Houses Farm around mid-August when the bulk of the harvest would be in. Tom made a special plea that the event should raise funds for handicapped children, a cause dear to his heart, as he had a near neighbour with such a child. That is more or less how the series of events started and during the 5 years raised something in the region of five to six hundred pounds a year, a not inconsiderable sum in those days, and to be divided between one establishment in Kings Lynn and another in Ely. There was also a general agreement that we might link the Gala event to the dance event by using similar themes and making it fairly easy to encourage dressing-up to match the theme. The outcome was as follows:-

#### Gala themes (year on year)

The Fens  
The 3-Tuns Goes West (Wild West)  
The 3-Tuns Goes East (Oriental)  
The Bay City Rollers  
The Haymakers

#### Barn Dance Themes (year on year)

The Fens  
Cowboys and the Wild West  
The Orient (Middle & Far East)  
Pirates  
Merrie England

To give overall coverage of these activities would take too much time & space. Certainly there was immense community involvement, not just the 3-Tuns. Whole sections of the village and particularly the women of the village were involved and some of them could probably give a fuller account than me. In this article I will settle for a description of the second Gala and the second barn dance. The photos tell the tale.

The first set shows the Tuns goes West. The float had 2 beautiful Percheron horses, their gorgeous harness, and two outriders following behind on horseback. First the front view of the float, assembled in front of the village hall. With a nice shot of Lionel Carter. Second, the back view of the float showing the women on the ropes, a good keg of beer and some twit playing the accordion. During the procession the 3-Tuns choir gave lusty renderings of long forgotten songs like 'Roll Along Covered Wagon Roll Along' and 'The Old Gray Mare, She Ain't What She Used To Be', a song which was a favourite of Mabs Waring.

Lastly there is a shot of the assembled company alongside the wagon, having a well earned rest and a drink at the playing field whilst awaiting the judges decision. Believe it or not, the covered wagon morphed from the flysheet and supports of an igloo tent! Improvisation was our watchword and the women scoured the village for those sun-bonnets, which in those days were more usually seen on the heads of the pickers in the strawberry fields.



The second set of photos shows events at the second barn dance. Before discussing these, we have a shot of half, ie: one side of the barn. This was taken during barn dance number 3, ie., the oriental one, as can be seen by the décor. It gives some idea of the immense space we had to fill. To the right of the band is the end wall of the other half of this huge barn. Against that we had a fairground organ, resplendent in red and gold and this churned out music at the start, the interval and the end. Along the main wall of this section was an elongated bar.



The second set of photos starts with a group of revellers, Cliff, Bernie Markham, Tom Mott, Mabs and John (General Custer) Waring. The next shows the dance floor in the background, with a few drinkers looking back towards the saloon bar. There is Jim Laughlin sporting a very nice shoulder bag whilst Alf Johnson is lapping up the atmosphere, if not the beer. I suspect that at that moment Queenie with all the other women helpers was manning the barbecue near the entrance, where the 'piece de resistance' was a whole roast pig, a feature of all the barn dances. As usual, the women slaving over a hot stove while the 'lads' are enjoying themselves? Next there is a lady and a young Indian girl entering the bar via the swing doors. Following that there is a 'Pow-wow' conducted by Chief Sitting Bull, aka Keith Kent, while Geronimo Fisher and squaw Hilda look on seriously. Finally we come to that stage of the evening where things must be laid to rest. This is our 'Little Bighorn' MOMENT. General Custer has been fitted with a cardboard coffin that someone filched from the undertakers shop, next to the Old Bedford City Bank, across the way. He doesn't seem quite dead, since Len Markham is trying to resuscitate him with a drop of something from a bottle. Johnny Hubbard looks on, concerned or sad or both.



So this is a part account of some of our Welney revelries. Next time, if there is a next time, you may see a caravan that's lost its way on the 'Silk Route' from Samarkand and somehow arrived on Main Street, Welney. Was this a case of 'beam us down Scotty'? If so, it was quite a feat, what with real camels, arab donkeys, not to mention bellydancers!!



**Tom Fisher**



## WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



The April meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 12th. 10 members of the public attended the meeting.

A £200 grant was approved to the Welney St. Mary P.C.C. to assist towards the cost of the grass cutting.

Cllr. Kerr & Cllr. Brown Two Councillors gave a report from the AGM of the **Norfolk Association of Village Halls**. Cllr. Tomkins gave a report from the **Downham Market Road Safety Committee**, and Cllr. Bennett confirmed that he would be attending the next meeting of the **Anglian Water Abberton Scheme** in May.

The April Draw for the **100 Club** took place (see page 28). The current year for the 100 Club ends on 31st July. It was agreed to write to all those who had purchased tickets for the current year in the hope that they would continue to support the Draw for a further year. It was also hoped that this would give an opportunity to sell all 100 tickets, as there were approximately 22 tickets not sold this year.

### **Elgoods Proposed Development & the Parish Hall –**

The Clerk confirmed that she had met Mr. Ambrose from Cheffins of Ely who has now given the Council a valuation of £10,000 for the remainder of the Lease of the Parish Hall site. As previously reported the Environment Agency were asking £60,000 from the Parish Council, for the purchase of the site. The Working Group confirmed that they had carried out a feasibility study of approximately 28 sites in & around the village that might be suitable for the building of a new Community Centre. After considering all the sites, it came down to the Playing field as being the most favourable. However it was considered that the Council may have to obtain some additional land in order to provide an extension and after discussion it was agreed that the Working Party should arrange a meeting with the user groups of the current facilities to find out what they would require in any new Community Centre. Further details would be presented to the next Parish Council Meeting.

**Playing Field** – Rules and Regulations for the hiring of the Pavilion and Playing Field were drawn up and after consideration these were adopted. The question of dogs fouling the Playing Field is still causing concern. Notices will be displayed confirming that dogs were not allowed on the field. There was also concern regarding the **Cricket Square** (which is out of bounds at all times) and while it is currently surrounded by metal stakes, it was felt that this needed to be made clearer so that everyone was aware of the cricket square.

**Correspondence** – A letter had been received from a Mr. Brett of Cambridge regarding the possibility of erecting a Memorial plaque to Denis Booth on the Delph Bridge –

erected by his fishing friends – it was agreed that this would be an excellent idea. A letter was also received from the **Welney Cygnets** confirming that due to falling numbers of children and the difficulty in obtaining staff, they would close at the end of the summer term. Council agreed to write and say how sorry they were and ask if there was anything they could do to try & keep the Cygnets running.

The following **Planning Decisions** were received from the Borough Council : Mr. Mike Jones – Installation of Gas Storage Tank at Pisces Country Park, Bedford Bank – Permission granted 16th March, 2006. Mr. & Mrs. D. Stock, Construction of Bungalow and detached garage/ carport at Land East of Old Welney Nursery, Wisbech Road, Welney – Application refused 13th March, 2006.

**Highway Matters** – Several matters of concern were raised: Footpath near Old Welney Nursery, and large puddle opposite Hurn Drove Corner on March Road were reported to Highways for attention. Sometime ago speed limit revisions on the A.1101 had been approved but nothing further had been heard from the Norfolk County Council. It was agreed to contact them for an update. A problem had also been experienced with the Wash Road flooded signs and the flood warden Cllr. Bennett confirmed that he had reported the problem and hopefully it would be sorted out.

### **Quality Parish Status and Parish Council Website -**

The Clerk advised that she had now completed the application form to register for the Certificate in Local Council Administration. This takes the form of a Portfolio which has to be completed within a two year period, and if everything is in order and the portfolio is approved, the Clerk will be awarded the Certificate which is backed by the University of Gloucester. This has to be achieved before the Council can consider applying for Quality Parish Status. Details had also been received from the Norfolk Association of Parish and Town Councils regarding a website system that they are setting up specifically for Parish Councils. There would be free support and free training with our own domain name, and hopefully the website cost would be free for an initial period of three years.

**Welney Archive and Social History Committee** – The Chairman gave details of the first full meeting of the W.A. S.H. Committee and he explained that the Committee had appointed an Archivist (15 year old Matthew Copeman) to collate all the material obtained by the Committee once the Committee had been able to purchase the necessary equipment. Funding applications had been received and the next meeting would be held on 20th April.

*Pat Copeman, Parish Clerk.*

## WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



The AGM was held on 9th May, 2006 at 7.30 p.m.  
7 members of the public were in attendance

Cllr. Ken Goodger was **re-elected** as Chairman for the coming year, and Cllr. Steve Kerr was re-elected as Vice- Chairman. The Welney Archive & Social History Committee was also re-elected for the coming year.

**In House Training** – Mr. Chaplin from the County office will carry out the training during June or July, & it was agreed to ask adjoining Parishes – Manea, Christchurch, Outwell, Nordelph and Hilgay – if they would like to join us and share the cost.

**Millennium Arts Project** – The Chairman confirmed that he had spoken to Mrs. Karen Fleming regarding the transfer of the monies. At present the account stood at approximately £896. £200 of this has been earmarked for a special cover for the Millennium Map, which will be put on display at the new WWT Centre. The balance will be paid to the Parish Council.

**Re-cycling Credits** - Received from the Borough Council annually for the paper and glass deposited in the Banks on the Lamb and Flag Car-park. It was proposed and agreed that monies received should continue to be paid into the Council Bank Account, detailed in the annual accounts and used for the villages benefit.

**Village Organisations** – Reports were received from the William Marshall Charity and the Bishops Land Charity. With the Cygnets closing & as we no longer have a representative on the Governing Body of William Marshall School and with the Playing Field being run by the Parish Council, no further reports were given.

**Parish Council Annual Accounts** 1.4.2005 to 31.3.2006 - The Clerk had circulated a complete set of the Parish Council Accounts for the year ended 31.3.06. After a brief explanation, these were formally adopted. The Clerk confirmed receipt of the Annual Audit Papers from the Audit Commission which will take place in September. In due course the Clerk would speak to Mr. Shirley to see if he would undertake the Internal Audit.

The May Draw for the **100 Club** took place (see pg 28).

**Elgoods Proposed Development and the Parish Hall** – Since the last meeting the Working Group had held two meetings, one with Elgoods and one with the user groups of the Parish Hall and the Playing Field. Elgoods had confirmed that they were happy with the valuation of the site from the environment Agency and the valuation we had received for the termination of the lease for the Parish Hall site. Following the Feasibility Study, the owners of the two areas of land at Sandgate Terrace (fronting Wisbech Road) had been contacted, and both confirmed that they would be willing to negotiate a sale to the village. A drawing had also been received from Elgoods with a possible design of a new Public House.

Following discussion it was proposed and unanimously agreed that Council accept the recommendations of the Working Party and that a presentation should now be made to the village at an

**Open Meeting on Saturday 3rd June 2006** in the Parish Hall, commencing at 10.30 a.m.

**Playing Field** – It was agreed to install a cupboard area in the Pavilion for the Youth Club. Mr. John Loveday expressed concern regarding vandalism at the Playing Field. It was agreed that Community Policeman should be asked if he could visit the field at various times. There is currently a mole problem on the field, and arrangements are being made to have these eradicated as soon as possible. The question of new **Play Equipment** was raised. It is nearly two years since the tremendous sum was raised at the Gala, and nothing has yet been done, after discussion it was agreed that this matter should be raised at the Open Meeting to find out exactly how the village wish to deal with it.

**Correspondence** – A letter from Dist. Cllr. D. Pope asks the Council to consider a contribution towards the upkeep of a possible extension to the car parking facilities at Upwell Health Centre. The requested contribution would be £150.00. Council were in agreement in principle to this, but as the letter was tabled too late to be formally considered, it would be included in the next meeting and formally approved.

Mr. P. Redman wrote to the council regarding the silting off the tidal **Great Ouse River & the Welmore Lake Sluice complex**. He also provided photographs and newspaper cuttings. However, the letter was not received in time for it to be formally tabled, it was agreed to provide councillors with a copy & the matter would be included in the next meeting.

**Welney Water Tower** – Concern had been expressed at rumours that it was up for sale. It was agreed to write to Anglian Water to ask if they could clarify the situation.

**Highway Matters** – A letter from Norfolk County Council confirmed the Speed Limit Revisions on the A.1101. The area affecting Welney which will be subject to a 40 mph speed limit is "From a point 100 metres north-west of the centreline of its junction with the U21024 Tipps End Road, southeast wards to a point 170 metres north of the centreline of its junction with the U21407 Chestnut Avenue."

**WASH Committee** – A 2nd meeting of the Committee was held on 20th April. Sadly the two open days planned for the 13th May and 12th August, 2006 had to be cancelled, as application for funding had been submitted to Awards for All and they will only consider applications from groups who are not yet fully in operation. The first open day simply tested the requirement for the group to be set up. New dates for Open Days were provisionally arranged for the 15th July and 16th September, 2006. The next Committee meeting will be held on 23rd May, in the Parish Hall at 8 p.m.

**Parish Action Plan** – The results have been formulated, and were presented to Council. These will now be printed and circulated to every house that took part. A presentation will also be given at the **Open Meeting on 3rd June**.

**Emergency Planning** – There will also be a presentation on the Emergency Plan at the Open Meeting on 3rd June.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wed 14th June, 2006 in the Parish Hall at 7.30 p.m.

*Pat Copeman, Parish Clerk.*



## **Saving Used Stamps**

This is for all those thrifty souls out there who hate throwing things away!

For some time I have been saving stamps for the RSPB's ongoing campaign to save several species of Albatross from extinction.



The albatross is a beautiful and spectacular bird, which lives almost its whole life without ever touching the ground, apart from when breeding. Living far out at sea, it travels the oceans searching for food, covering thousands of miles in effortless flight. It is perfectly designed to do this, with incredibly long, slender wings ideal for gliding and soaring – the larger species can have a body length of up to a metre, and a wingspan of around *three metres*.



As I mentioned in a previous article, these birds suffer terri-

ble losses when they take bait during long-line fishing. Large trawlers pay out baited lines up to 80 miles long which gradually sink down to catch deep-water fish species, but while they are being paid out they are fatally attractive to albatross and other seabirds. A survey in the Falklands fishing grounds showed that up to 14% of the Falkland population of Black-browed albatross, a species particularly attracted to fishing fleets, has been lost over the last 10 years, the equivalent of 18 pairs of birds every day. This species is already on the Red List of critically-endangered animals – as much in danger as tigers or Mountain Gorillas.

The good news is that the RSPB campaign is swiftly gathering momentum. Over £3000 was raised in 2005 in the UK used-stamp project. Many famous names are adding their support to the campaign, including the Prince of Wales, Sir David

Attenborough, and Round-The-World Yachtswoman Ellen McArthur, who enjoyed the breathtaking company of albatrosses during her voyage. Yacht crews in the Volvo Ocean Race carry out surveys of albatrosses and other seabirds. More and more countries are signing up to albatross-friendly fishing policies; the Falkland Islands government now requires all fishing vessels in their waters to use

albatross-saving techniques; and Chile operates a major plan to stop pirate fishermen, who have the worst record for seabird deaths. RSPB surveys have shown how certain measures, cheap and easy to implement, reduce seabird mortality to negligible levels. Simple changes such as setting lines at night, adding bird-scaring flags, and weighting lines so they sink faster, are all that is needed.

**If you want to help, send your used stamps to;  
RSPB Stamps  
PO Box 6198  
Leighton Buzzard  
BEDS LU7 9XT**

Or hand your stamps to me at school, or leave them in our woodshed in a bag, or whatever is easier! I am happy to send them on.

If you want to know more, visit the RSPB websites [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk) or [www.savethealbatross.net](http://www.savethealbatross.net) for information, more pictures and campaign news.

With thanks, Karen Fleming

## **FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

The members of the Friendship Club recently enjoyed a day out at Wicksteed Park.

There was a full days entertainment with a tasty lunch followed by a concert and for anyone who had enough room a scrumptious cream tea to finish.

Club meetings are every other Tuesday at the Village Hall (check the diary page) where members get together for a chat, cup of tea and games such as whist and dominoes and everyone is welcome.

Good wishes go the Rita Sweet for a speedy recovering after her recent visit to hospital and members hope that Ken Sorenson will make a speedy recovery and be back in circulation before too long.

The club's next outing planned for 13<sup>th</sup> June is to Stratford upon Avon so if you want to brush up your Shakespeare contact: Cissie Bedford on 01354 610206

Queenie Johnson on 01354 610409.

### **Future Friendship club events**

|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| July 11 <sup>th</sup>  | Oakham Barns Dale |
| August 8 <sup>th</sup> | London Greenwich  |
| Sept 5 <sup>th</sup>   | Cromer & theatre  |
| Oct 10 <sup>th</sup>   | Party             |
| Nov 7 <sup>th</sup>    | Meadowhall        |
| Dec 19 <sup>th</sup>   | Dinner            |

**Margaret Levesley**

## Freeview?

A few issues back Victor Meldrew made reference to the BBC and its licence. The impression given was that all licence payers are equal but some don't want to be equal – they want to pay less (or should the others pay more?) for the reception of digital television (in the form of Freeview).

Here in our neck of the woods we cannot receive digital television via our normal aerials when a digital television or set-top box is used. Enquire about PE14 and you are informed that reception is not yet possible – most of the country is due to be covered by the year 2012. What can be done is to pay £150.00 and have a satellite dish installed, and then reception is possible.

However I decided to have a go with my existing set-up (no dish) and thought that others in the village maybe interested to try the same, or if having done similar could advise me on other points that I may have missed or got wrong. I have the longer 18 element roof top aerial pointing, as most do, to the Sandy Heath transmitter in a South of West direction. I use a mains booster for better reception.

In Welney it is possible to receive Midlands TV by pointing North of West, Yorkshire TV West of North and finally the Tacolneston transmitter in an Easterly direction (boosters and special aerials are required).

I borrowed a set top box (which is needed to receive digital signals unless it is inbuilt in your TV) from a friend and found that just by connecting up I could receive some half dozen or so programs. These were based upon the BBC channels and no ITV was possible. As a result I bought my own box (available from about £30.00 upwards).

Experimenting I noticed that if I turned the aerial to the Midlands I could receive ITV but lost BBC, so I kept to the usual aerial direction as 'normal Anglia reception' was lost when aiming at the Midlands. Also I found that the digital sound was coarse and when the wind was in the wrong direction I lost most digital channels. You could say why bother?

My thoughts then turned to having a special high gain digital aerial – would that improve matters? Such an aerial came my way via a family member who was having a dish installed and I offered to look after his no longer wanted digital aerial. Apparently digital aerial wire should be used – but where do you stop?

Up the ladder again to fit the new aerial and after a load of ups and downs I found that best reception was by pointing to the Midlands where BBC channels were now O.K. but no ITV possible. Channel 5 was now an excellent picture. However the 'normal' channel was Midlands not Anglia, a bit of tweaking on the TV set-up gave an acceptable Anglia option when not on the digital connection. Digital reception of more channels is now possible but is still somewhat subject to which way the wind is blowing and the sound still a little coarse.

Summarising I would say that unless you are really keen to see some Freeview channels at less than perfect reception then have ago as I did, otherwise don't bother until the country becomes digitalised or pay for satellite.

**Derek Levesley**

**Eds note:** Thanks for that Derek, I must just say that we too have a Freeview box combined with an Argos digital aerial and baring the odd night when BBC4 disappears we get a good reception....Sorry!

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**[www.magdalennetworks.co.uk](http://www.magdalennetworks.co.uk)**



Committee members had a welcome night off at the April meeting. Jean Newell took over as member's night president and showed a video of her lovely Australian holiday. Everyone enjoyed the wonderful scenery, gardens and beautifully coloured birds.

Teaspoons were presented to Carol Halls, Sheila Dore and Jennifer James for gaining maximum points in

recent competitions. Social time was a word search won by Jennifer James and Blanche Markham.

March Stone Cross W.I. have invited Welney members to a Garden Party in June, so let's hope the weather is good. Winners of the raffle were Amy Markham, Queenie Johnson, Peggy Smart, Bettine Watson, Rosie Beckford, Cissie Bedford and Blanche Markham.

The monthly competition judged by Rosie Beckford, had arrived at the letter K with Queenie Johnson being the outright winner with 5 points for bringing along a Kiwi fruit. Carole Halls, Dawn Stephenson and Bettine Watson gained 4 points, Amy Markham, Vera Singleterry, Jean Newell and Jennifer James 3 points, Ada Thorpe Cissie Bedford 2 points and Blanche Markham and Sheila Dore 1 point each.

Members were warmly welcomed to the May meeting by president Amy Markham. The guest speaker Mrs. Anne Barnes gave a talk entitled "With this Ring" which included marriages through the ages and proved to be both fascinating and humorous.

The ten-week draw was distributed to members who wanted to have a little flutter.

It was also Resolutions evening and the two this year are:

- Renewable Energy, which everyone should now be familiar with.
- Sport for a Healthy Population, including sports facilities in schools.

Following a brief discussion everyone gave a resounding yes vote to both resolutions. These will be discussed at length at the A.G.M. in London next month.

The letter L was used for the competition, which was kindly, judged by Mrs. Barnes.

Cissie Bedford, Jean Newell and Amy Markham gained 5 points, Blanche Markham, Vera Singleterry and Jennifer James 4 points, and Ada Thorpe, Queenie Johnson, Sheila Dore and Bettine Watson 3 points. Draw winners were Ada Thorpe, Jean Newell, Queenie Johnson and Sheila Dore.

The speaker for the June meeting will be Rev. Stoker on Work at Whitemoor Prison with the letter M being used for the competition.

July sees the welcome return of Mr. Day from Peterborough who has previously spoken on the Romany way of life. The competition letter is N.

Enquiries to Amy Markham 01354 610340

**Margaret Levesley**

### **Dunham's Wood:**

It's time for a return visit to Dunham's Wood! At regular intervals we like to publicize local venues which make a nice day out for families with younger children. Dunham's Wood is an old favourite already for some of us but here's a recap for any newcomers to Welney life. Near March, Dunham's Wood is the life project of the Dunham family who own a piece of Fenland on a quiet by-road. Over many years they have transformed their land into a young woodland with shaded grassy footpaths and its own miniature railway. Half-hidden among the trees you can find natural (and unnatural!) sculptures to amuse and raise a smile, sun-warmed wooden benches to rest on, and treasure-hunt clues to challenge family members. Woodland flowers and birds are moving in to add to the beauty of the wood. You can enjoy a fresh cup of tea or a cold drink at the caravan café and throw pennies into a fountain, enjoy watching the trains or take a ride yourself.

The wood is open to the public on selected Sundays during the spring and summer. Money collected from the fountain is donated to the 'Butterfly Children' charity. Butterfly Children is the name given to children who have a rare genetic condition, Epidermolysis Bullosa, in which their skin is as fragile as a butterfly's wing. The lightest touch can cause bruising, blisters or tearing, and parents even have to take extreme care just to cuddle or pick up their children. Support charities give help and guidance to families, and fund research into treatments for this condition.

Donations are also collected for different local charities each year in the form of raffle ticket sales and treasure hunt entries. So you can enjoy a pleasant afternoon only a few minutes' drive from Welney, and at the same time you will be helping at least two children's charities! Not bad for a Sunday afternoon.

Dunham's Wood can be found by following the signs as you turn right off the March Road just before the Railway crossing on the way into March itself. Most of the time the Wood is a private family garden, which we get the chance to share on the following days, between 2pm and 5pm; The last Sunday in July, and all Sundays in August.

Also most years, Easter Sunday and Monday, and the Sunday and Monday of both May Bank Holidays.

Admission £2 adults, 50p children. Train Rides £1 adults, 50p children.

For further information, please telephone the Dunham family on 01354 652134.

**Karen Fleming**

**ChildLine****0800 1111****Need someone to talk to?**

ChildLine is open every minute of every day through their free, **confidential, 24-hour helpline** and gives comfort and advice to children and young people suffering because of bullying, child

abuse, problems at school or any other concerns.

ChildLine has 11 counselling centres around the UK, staffed largely by volunteers.

Don't worry about the number showing on your phone bill as although most mobile phone operators charge for freephone 0800 calls, ChildLine's number (0800 1111) is generally not charged for by the majority of them.

Childline posters point out that "the call will not appear on your bill", for the benefit of children wishing to phone in secret.

**Food Fun Fortnight****Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July****Two weeks of FUN things to do:**

An opportunity for you to get involved in lots of interesting activities all loosely related to food. This year there will be even more and it will be local TO YOU!!

During the two weeks there will be in excess of 40 different activities happening in each of the Fenland towns - Wisbech, March, Chatteris and Whittlesey.

So don't miss out, keep your eyes on the press for details of the activities on offer. Once published phone the Isle Campus, College of West Anglia on:

**01945 466302**

to book in on your favourite activities before they fill up. There will be limited places available...

Lots of exciting activities, talks, walks, workshops and all related to food.

Once you have attended one of the activities you might like to look at our Adult programme of courses covering a wide and varied range of activities. Why not ask for your copy of our FREE brochure.

**The College of West Anglia****Give or Take a Gazillion**

Donald Rumsfeld is briefing President Bush: "Yesterday 3 Brazilian soldiers were killed."

"Oh no!" exclaims the President, "that's terrible!"

His staff are stunned at this unprecedented display of emotion, watch as Bush sits, head in hands.

Finally, he looks up and asks, "How many is a brazillion?"

**Whats on at Welney Youth Club**

8th June  
Arts & Craft Night



15th June  
Strikes Bowling—members only



22nd June  
BBQ Night



29th June  
Group games & prizes



6th July  
Dance Competition

If you are between 12 and 17 years old and want to find out more please give the Youth Club leader Julie a call on 610257

**BINGO:**

Welney Bingo now has a brand new top of the range bingo machine... come along and join the fun...the night is open to all ages, old & young alike on **last Friday of every month** at the Parish Hall, **the fun starts at 7pm**



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Hundred Foot Bank, Welney, Wisbech  
T 01353 860711  
E [info.welney@wwt.org.uk](mailto:info.welney@wwt.org.uk)  
For more information please visit our  
website: [www.wwt.org.uk](http://www.wwt.org.uk)



Celebrating 60 years of conservation 1946 – 2006

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| E | K | U | U | E | E | T | O | H | U | G | S | S | T | G |

**Word search:** How many can you find?  
They are all there ... somewhere!

|           |              |           |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| Summer    | Seaside      | Hot       |
| Suntan    | Sand         | Bluesky   |
| Sunshine  | Flipflops    | Swimming  |
| Shorts    | Garden       | Beaches   |
| Bumblebee | Grasscutting | Deckchair |
| Barbeque  | Beer         | tshirts   |
| Flowers   | Holiday      |           |



A **panda** walks into a restaurant, sits down and orders a sandwich. He eats the sandwich, pulls out a gun and shoots the waiter dead.

As the panda stands up to go, the manager shouts, "Hey! Where are you going? You just shot my waiter and you didn't pay for your sandwich!"

The panda yells back at the manager, "Hey man, I'm a PANDA! Look it up!"

The manager opens his dictionary and sees the following definition for panda: "A tree dwelling marsupial of Asian origin, characterized by distinct black and white coloring. Eats shoots and leaves."

|   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |
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| 4 |   |   |  | 6 |   |   |   |   |
| 9 |   | 6 |  | 4 | 3 |   | 8 |   |
|   | 5 |   |  | 1 |   | 4 |   |   |
|   | 3 | 4 |  |   |   |   | 5 | 1 |
|   |   |   |  | 2 |   |   | 8 |   |

#### Basic rules of Sudoku

Each row, column and "area" should contain the numbers 1 to 9 however:

- Number can appear only once on each row
- Number can appear only once on each column
- Number can appear only once on each area

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**Its our Parish Council Chairman, Happy Birthday Ken!**

### **Welney Parish Hall/Community Centre 100 Club Draw**

Winners of the April draw were as follows:

|          | <u>number</u> | <u>lucky winner</u> |
|----------|---------------|---------------------|
| 1st: £50 | 39            | Clare Freyer        |
| 2nd: £25 | 30            | Mrs. Edwards        |
| 3rd: £15 | 15            | The Shirley Family  |
| 4th: £10 | 43            | S. & M. Hancock     |

Winners of the May draw were as follows:

|          | <u>number</u> | <u>lucky winner</u>    |
|----------|---------------|------------------------|
| 1st: £50 | 98            | Pat and Arnie Rix      |
| 2nd: £25 | 68            | Rita Gamble            |
| 3rd: £15 | 13            | Mrs. Shirley Nicholson |
| 4th: £10 | 93            | Roy Dunn               |

The 100 Club Draw has now been running successfully for two years and the Parish Council would like to continue it for at least a further year.

We still have some numbers available and If you would like to be involved, please contact either the Parish Clerk (Pat Copeman on 01354 610226) or Mrs. Redman at The Post Office. The annual subscription is £25.00 and there is a monthly draw with four prizes - 1st Prize £50, 2nd Prize £25, 3rd Prize £15.00 and 4th Prize £10.00. We also hold a Christmas Bonus Draw with one prize of £100.00.

This is an essential income for the Parish Hall and your support would be much appreciated.

### **Welney Churchwardens:**

Pauline Aisthorpe 01366 - 384658  
Rosina Beckford 01354 - 610385

### **The Welney News team**

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email: mrandt@tiscali.co.uk  
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Margaret Levesley - tel: 01354 610609  
Marlen Moss-Eccardt - tel: 01354 610344

**Thanks to Marlen, my chief proof reader.  
I'd be in all sorts of trouble without you.**

**Distribution:** Tom Fisher, Peter Barr,  
Peter & Charlotte Cox, Peter & Anne Wood,  
and the Editorial Team.

### **Disclaimer**

Articles that appear in the Welney News are not necessarily the opinion of the editorial team. Articles submitted for publication may have to be edited for reasons of space.

### **Bus Services**



#### **Monday-Saturday**

|                         |       |       |       |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| March (Broad St)        | 9.00  | 13.08 | 15.20 |
| Welney (Post Office)    | 9.20  | 13.30 | 15.57 |
| Wisbech (Bus Stn bay 5) | 10.01 | 14.06 | 16.33 |

|                                |              |              |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Wisbech (Bus Stn bay 5)</b> | <b>10.05</b> | <b>12.05</b> |              |
| <b>Welney (Post Office)</b>    | <b>8.24</b>  | <b>10.41</b> | <b>12.41</b> |
| <b>March (Broad St)</b>        | <b>8.50</b>  | <b>11.03</b> | <b>13.03</b> |

|                       |      |       |       |
|-----------------------|------|-------|-------|
| March (Broad St)      | 9.00 | 13.08 | 15.20 |
| Welney (Post Office)  | 9.20 | 13.30 | 15.47 |
| Downham Mkt (Bus Stn) | 9.57 | 14.03 | 16.22 |

|                              |             |              |              |
|------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Downham Mkt (Bus Stn)</b> | <b>7.50</b> | <b>10.08</b> | <b>12.05</b> |
| <b>Welney (Post Office)</b>  | <b>8.24</b> | <b>10.41</b> | <b>12.41</b> |
| <b>March (Broad St)</b>      | <b>8.50</b> | <b>11.03</b> | <b>13.03</b> |

**\*\*\*\*\*Some changes at Three Holes may be necessary**

### **USEFUL NUMBERS:**

Downham Market Police Station: 0845 456 4567  
March Police Station: 0845 456 4564  
Queen Elizabeth Hospital Kings Lynn: 01553 613613  
North Cambs Hospital Wisbech: 01945 488088  
Upwell Health Centre: 01945 773671  
NHS Direct: 0845 4647



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