

Issue 60

WELNEY NEWS

DECEMBER 2007—JANUARY 2008

30p





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Eds bit:

Not much room for me this time!

We have worked extra hard this time to bring you a bumper 60th edition....I hope you enjoy it.

A Very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to everyone from all of us at the Welney News... **Rachel**

SANTA IS COMING TO TOWN

**Thursday 13th December
6 - 6.30pm**

Meet up in the Lamb and Flag Car Park for a short walk behind Santa's sleigh around Welney whilst singing along to Christmas tunes.
Fancy Dress / silly hats are welcome!



All in aid of Childrens Wish Charity run by the Rotary Club.

XMAS CAROLS AROUND THE TREE



**Wednesday
19th December at 6pm.
at St Marys Church**

Come along for a sing-song around the Christmas Tree.

There'll be Mince pies and mulled wine available.

If you would like to come along but are unable to get there at that time of night, please call Julie on 01354 610257, she'll pop along in the Youth Club minibus and collect you.

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Upwell Health Centre
Patient Participation
Group

EMERGENCIES AT HOME

Some people are uncertain what to do if they suffer an emergency in their own home.

A 999 call for an ambulance should **always** be the first call.

The Ambulance Service prefer to receive the call direct from someone in the patient's home, so that they can be given exact directions how to get there. They will often stay on the line and give treatment advice and support until the ambulance arrives.

MINOR INJURIES

It is now possible for MINOR injuries to be dealt with at the Health Centre during normal weekday opening hours from 8.30am to 6pm, instead of going to Hospital. It is a good idea to telephone the Health Centre first on 01945 773671.

HEALTH FAIR

The fifth annual Health Fair at Upwell Hall on 3 November was another great success for the Group, supported by clinicians from the Health Centre. Over 500 people came along to have their 'flu vaccinations and to take advantage of the information offered by the 17 stall-holders. Anyone who did not make a note at the time, but needs to contact a support group or service provider who was there, can get further information from their local Group representatives.

Representatives for Welney:
Charlotte Cox (638610)
Ken Sorensen (610516)

CC

About paper....

As the weather gets colder and damper it becomes more vital for horses and ponies to be kept on good bedding at night. So, once again, its time for a seasonal request for any shredded paper to keep Oliver comfortable - he's the pony who suffers from hay fever!

There is now a second pony, Polly, being kept on a paper bed at the stables, this time because she is becoming a little older; paper is a safer and more absorbent bedding for the more 'senior' animals.

Understandably, this means a greater volume of paper is needed, so I would like to add newspapers in my request. Anything, from the Daily Mail to the Guardian, from Le Monde to the Wisbech Standard, will do - as long as they are clean and dry. (Damp papers get mouldy, and mould spores are a serious health risk to ponies and to their human handlers).

If you have newspapers and/or shredded paper to dispose of, please give me a call and I will gladly collect from where you live; alternatively, bagged-up paper can be left in our open woodshed next to our house (Bridge House, opposite Village Hall).
With grateful thanks, on behalf of Oliver and Polly

Karen Fleming tel 610523

The Norfolk Mistletoe Survey

Mistletoe is often used today as a symbol of peace and joy. This idea may have transpired from ancient Druid times. It is thought that when enemies met in forests and passed by some mistletoe, they would lay down their arms and make a truce until the next day. From this we have created the custom of hanging mistletoe and exchanging kisses underneath it as a sign of friendship and goodwill.

Have you seen any mistletoe growing in Norfolk? Perhaps you have some growing on trees in your garden? If you do, perhaps you could let Norfolk Wildlife Trust know by filling in an online survey card at www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/naturalconnections or send an A5 SAE to The Norfolk Mistletoe Survey, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Bewick House, 22 Thorpe Road, Norwich, Norfolk, NR1 1RY and we can send you a survey card.



ROADKILL

**An explosion of feathers, amidst jewelled Autumn trees –
Dove grey missile hurled up, arcing down –
Innocent victim of crazed mechanical speeds,
Rushing, blinkered, from A to B around town.**

**Spare a thought for waiting loves,
Eyes always held to horizon hues.
This time it was an unfortunate dove,
Next time ... it could be you!!**

ANON



School News; Autumn and Winter events at Welney School.

The children and staff took part in two fundraising events this autumn; the Harvest Appeal to raise money for "Seeds for Africa" collected £36.11, and a Freaky Hair Day raised £43 for Children in Need. On Freaky Hair Day, not only did the children go to school with less than conventional hairstyles, but some of them were let loose on Miss Radford's hair to exercise their imaginations - along with a fair amount of hair colour! See the results on the photos!

The staff and children have decided to apply for 'Eco School' status for Welney School. This involves the school registering as an Eco-School and then working towards a series of awards - Bronze, Silver, and Green Flag. Children and staff at Welney will be forming an Action Team to look at how the school can reduce its carbon footprint with simple, manageable measures such as introducing more recycling, and using less water and electricity. Eco Schools is an international project, supported in England by Defra, the Woodland Trust, Sustrans, HSBC, and many other organisations. We hope to bring you news of the progress of this vital project in future editions of WN.

At the time of writing the Friends of the School are preparing for the school Christmas Fayre, with stalls, raffle, and tea room; so hopefully, as you read this, many of you will be remembering with pleasure your visit to the school and your consumption of excellent hot tea and mince pies in the tea room!

The schools' Christmas nativity play is a story called the 'Lucky Owl' - the Christmas story from a different perspective! All the children will be involved and preparations have begun; excitement is already building; so please book the date and time of their performance in your diary now! - it's Thursday, 13th December, 2pm, St Mary's church - please come along and enjoy the results of all the hard work that the children are sure to be putting in!

Other Christmas events include the school's traditional Christmas dinner, a teatime Christmas party put on by the Friends, and finally end-of-term assembly; a busy and exciting week to finish off 2007 for the school.

FINISHED IT!!!!!!!!!!

On September 9th I completed the Wessex 100 mile bike ride. (This is actually 105 miles and very hilly). Generous donations have raised £510 for the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust. Special thanks to Mr. Albert Warne for his help with the fund-raising. The total amount raised in Welney was £152, well done. Many thanks from the bottom of my legs (and my saddle sores)

Dr. Eamonn Clarke



DEADLINE FOR NEXT TIME IS JANUARY 17TH

Friendship Club.

The Friendship Club celebrated its 30th birthday this year.

We had our usual Birthday party in October, to which we invited the regular patrons of our summer trips.

We had a comedy duo to entertain us, and an enjoyable party afterwards, all prepared by the committee members.

Our Christmas shopping trip is at the end of November, and we have organised a trip to Cromer for the Christmas show this year, and then we finish the year with a Christmas lunch at the Lamb & Flag.

We held our AGM on November 20th, Having found a copy of the constitution, it was discovered that some actions are different from the constitution, but as the club has been run as it is now for well over twenty years, we decided to keep things as they are. Maybe the changes are enshrined in minutes somewhere, but we don't know where.

The Officers all stood for re-election and were un-opposed so they remain the same:-

Treasurer is Pauline Ware
Secretary is Queenie Johnson
Chairman is Pat Rix

It was proposed by Ted Dore and seconded by Sheila Dore that Cissie Bedford, who was Chairman for many years be elected Honorary President. This was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

One committee member stood down, but all others were willing to stand again and were re-elected.

We have had a successful year, and would like to see some new members to replace the ones lost. Unfortunately, in a club like ours, members are elderly and don't last forever. We lost Eric Smart earlier this year, and Peggy is now in a home, where she is quite happy. The total membership is now only 20 members, but it is a nice friendly, social group, so if you fancy coming along to try us out, you'll be made very welcome.

We restart on January 1st and then meet every other week, so drop in and see if you like us.

Pat Rix

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The Victor Meldrew Column

Daft.

Daft, daft, daft.

Boy can I put Mrs. M. in her place.

You want me to do another column seeing as it's a festive time and special for the WN being 60 years old? – sorry 60th edition – I was thinking of the editor's age.

Yes, I can put her in her place – good job she's not here to hear this though, she's on her way to Littleport (due to Wendy's franking stamp being worn down to the wood and the PO hierarchy wouldn't buy her a new one so the Welney shop had to close) to get some essentials (denture fixative and Hello magazine). I did give her some advice prior to leaving the house – hitch up your skirt a bit as you may get more success as you thumb along the A1101 (though now I regret this bit of advice as it may have the opposite effect due to her bandy legs). I know what you old gals on New Road are thinking – why didn't she go on her bike? Well the other day she took the bend too fast coming into Welney resulting in her chain coming off and crashing into Tim Bennett's hedge. I blame Tim for having his hedge too near the road. Now I'm with the 'upwardly mobile' in Main Road and subscribe to the thinking that she should have fixed the chain by now – you women are useless!

Yes, she said another column and be positive this time, no mention of the Wash Road as you know Karen's pants will be bored-off, also steer away from the parish council (yes like she did at Tim's hedge).

Positive? Negative? What does she think I am some sort of Duracell battery? Someone that goes on and on and on? I'm Victor Meldrew I don't do festive!

A column from me would be as welcoming as a refurbishment of a 150 year old chapel with white plastic windows and doors.

Talking of festivals did you get a knock knock on October 31st night? Get a life; it's an American tradition - not ours. As a lad, our capers were done on Mischievous Night (November 4th). Trick or Treat bah!

Anyway I was disturbed as I watched Corry and poked Mrs. M to answer the door. "Trick or Treat" demanded a gaggle of local yooofs. Mrs. M proffered her bowl of goodies, the contents of which were eagerly scooped up. Little did she know that I had mixed in some laxative lozenges with the sweets!

Yes, Welney will have its own version of the Manea Runs. Come on! You don't think that I would *really* do such a despicable thing do you?

Kids?? I love 'em. Though I couldn't eat a whole one.

O.K. I can get some things wrong, maths wasn't my strongest subject as Mrs. M remarks that I put 2 and 2 together



and get 5. Anyway I thought March Road Welney had become *cosmopolitan* due to Poles being in abundance but what I had misheard was a comment about scaffolding poles sprouting. Sorry March Road Welney you will just have to continue to be a speed track like Main Street. But apparently the parish council are proposing that this road will be the one and only route to the proposed new Community Centre (whatever happened to 'village hall'? A name that conjures up a million happy memories). The original plans where we had a "referendum" to choose the new location have come to nothing and so the pc have decided on a new siting for the Centre, shouldn't a new referendum be forthcoming?

Speaking of cosmopolitan, I was with the masses in the scrum at the Pound Shop in Wisbech (have you seen the one in Ely? It's more like 19 and eleven pence) and I could hardly tell what my fellow bargain hunters were saying – and that was only the locals.

So I said '**NO**' I am **not** going to do another column – how positive is that?

VM

PS: Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year to you dear reader.

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Letter to the Editor.

Dear Welney News

I was reading through the latest edition of the WN (59), and was not best pleased to see articles relating to requests that I made to the Parish Council.

Firstly that of the new Welney sign, now sited over the Delph bridge. And secondly that of the new white lines painted across the same bridge. Ending exactly level with the new sign. (Which has subsequently been knocked down).

My appearance at the recent July/August meeting where I presented my feelings was my second visit to the Council meetings and again I was the only 'spectator'. Why is that I wonder?

Having moved to Suspension Bridge 16 months ago I decided to wait and settle before making inroads to get our side of the Wash improved. It didn't take too long to establish the idea from other residents 'over here' that we were a poor relation.

When the new Welney sign was being sited I suggested that Welney actually started near Gold Hill, consequently the sign should be there. This would give leverage to getting speed restriction signs mounted near the residential part of the Wash Road.

I also requested that the no overtaking white line could be repainted and a slow sign erected. The white lines have not been done only over the bridge, and a sign to warn motorists to slow is too far ahead of the residential section to be of any benefit. The section from the chapel to the bridge has a worn out no overtaking white line. I wonder what are the consequences of someone being killed by an overtaking car approaching the bridge? Could this be deemed as a 'get out' clause by the insurance company?

There is another quandary, that of the 40 and 50 MPH signs on the Wisbech side of Welney. Why were they not put up on our side of the Wash? Reinforcing the 'distant cousin' theory. Does the Borough Council also believe there is no life after the Wash road too?

There have been two specific incidences where impatient drivers have overtaken a tractor or lorry coming from the bridge, just when my wife or I were walking along the road. The overtaking car couldn't see us, and the tractor/lorry had nowhere to go but to brake hard as he could not go round.

Something needs to be done soon – before 1. The Wash allows our protests to fade due to the traffic being diverted. And 2. Before there is a death !. I have spoken to Norfolk Traffic Division but was put off by a sympathetic incident room operator who 'logged my call'. Yeh! Right!

If we could have a traffic car sited near the bridge to monitor the situation at peak times, not quiet Sunday afternoons, maybe some evidence would be gained.

I won't hold my breath.

Thank You. D Moseley. Suspension Bridge resident.

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A Christmas Thought from The Rectory

The Song from Heaven

Everyone was singing it. The King of Prussia ordered it to be sung every Christmas in his cathedral. But where had the carol come from? Some said it was so beautiful it came straight from God – they called it *The Song from Heaven*.

It all began in the Austrian village of Oberndorf. Joseph Mohr, assistant priest at the church of St. Nicholas, wanted something special for the midnight Christmas service. The organ had broken down and his good friend Franz Gruber could not squeeze a note out of it.

So on Christmas Eve 1818 Joseph sat down and wrote:

Silent night, holy night!
Sleeps the world; hid from sight,
Mary and Joseph in stable bare
Watch o'er the child beloved and fair,
Sleeping in heavenly rest.

He finished the poem and sent it to Gruber asking him to set it to music ready for that night. They would sing it together using a guitar for accompaniment. Gruber got to work and wrote the tune in a couple of hours. That same night the people of Oberndorf listened as Mohr and Gruber sang, the choir repeating the last lines in full harmony.

The Song from Heaven, written by an unknown poet and musician in a single day, became the carol still sung and loved at Christmas time all over the world.

The beautiful Silent Night is one of my favourite carols because it speaks so beautifully of the heart of Christmas 'The child from heaven' Christ the Saviour is born.

Our world has never been the same since that first Holy Night and as we celebrate again this Christmas amidst all the festivity, the glitter and the trappings try and find a silent place and in your own heart wonder at the Son of God, love's pure light, born into a hurt and troubled world to bring God's peace and love to you and to me.

I hope to see you at one of the Christmas Services around our benefice.

Wishing you every blessing for Christmas,

Kevin Fitzgibbon

81 Glorious years!



Amy Markham welcomed everyone to the October meeting and introduced Mr. Gary Garford from Fenland District Council who gave a fascinating talk on the Nene Water-front Regeneration Project at Wisbech Port. This ambitious plan began seven years ago with a new marina, and the Foyer Scheme which provides accommodation, training, and education for young people which opened in 2006. There is also the Yacht Harbour expansion and a multi-use building called the Boat House which will house a yacht club, port office, conference facilities, business units and much more. A landmark building designed to add the wow factor. The whole project was quite an eye opener.

An invitation was received from Whittlesey W.I. to attend a chocolate evening on November 20th. (No stampeding please)

Raffle winners were Bettine Watson, Queenie Johnson and Jennifer James.

For the monthly competition members had to supply a photograph with water as the theme and Gary Garford kindly judged the entries. Vera Singletary and Blanche Markham gained 5 points, Cissie Bedford and Amy Markham 4 points, Bettine Watson, Sheila Dore, Queenie Johnson and Jennifer James 3 points.

To conclude the evening members played card Bingo and Blanche Markham, Sheila Dore and Cissie Bedford were the winners.

November was birthday month again when members celebrated 81 years of Welney W.I. by visiting the Lamb and Flag for a scrumptious dinner. Raffle winners were Amy Markham, Sheila Dore and Cissie Bedford.

Speaker for the December meeting will be Margaret Sparrow who will demonstrate the art of wrapping Christmas presents. To enter the competition members will have to wrap a Christmas present.

The New Year kicks off in January with a bring and share social evening.

There is some doubt as to whether the W.I. will carry on after the A.G.M. so if you want to breath new life into the group contact:

Amy Markham on 01354 610340.

Dear Editor

I wonder how many of your readers can remember those wonderful childrens' books, the "Ladybird" series? It was always a special treat to be given a new one, with their wealth of information and sumptuous illustrations. One of my favourites was 'The Night Sky', which



introduced me to the names and forms of some of our more familiar celestial neighbours. As a small child, I was delighted when I could pick out the shape of a constellation in the night sky; for instance, the so-recognizable Plough, or the magnificent, broad-shouldered form of Orion the Hunter.

As an adult, my attention has at times been caught again, perhaps when there has been a rare display of the Northern Lights, a bright comet, or perhaps a meteor shower. Sometimes just seeing the sky on a crisp winter night is breathtaking. Without even needing to know a single name of what you are seeing, it is wonderful to get away from street lights and just gaze at the vast beauty of a star-filled sky, silent and unimaginably remote.

And so it was that, when a recent birthday was approaching, my somewhat out-of-the-blue request was for a telescope - an indulgence taking me all the way back to those childhood days with their sense of excitement and discovery. And now whenever there is a good, clear night, I know I can have a



quiet hour or so exploring the sky, enjoying the same kind of uncluttered, unhurried pleasure experienced by dog-walkers and fishermen. There is that bit of challenge in setting yourself the task of locating some beautiful but elusive

deep-space object such as a nebula or a star cluster, and the thrill of succeeding - or sometimes shrugging, 'oh well, maybe I'll find it another night' - and there is the equal pleasure of taking a look at some familiar and easily-spotted object, but now with the equipment to reveal it in greater splendour than ever before.

Stargazing as a pastime has led to other new experiences, such as going as a family to our first 'Star Party'. This was a weekend event at a Norfolk campsite, where literally hundreds of amateur astronomers met to exchange information, buy and sell equipment and books, and of course set up a wonderful array of telescopes, many home-made, to study the sky. Earlier in the year, I was able to get to a couple of open evenings at the Cambridge Institute of Astronomy, where I experienced the magic of seeing Saturn and its rings through a magnificent 70-year-old telescope, aimed out through the viewing slot of one of those classic observing domes on a hill outside the city.

So, if any of your readers in the Welney area are interested in starting out in astronomy, or are already happily stargazing, then I would like to hear from them;



amateur astronomy can be a delightfully quiet and solitary pursuit, or equally can be very sociable. There are many local amateur groups and events, but they tend to be at least an hour or so away by car (eg Cambridge, Peterborough etc), so I would also be keen on doing some car-sharing to get to one of these from time to time. If anyone wants to join me for a bit of star-gazing, all you need is warm clothes, enthusiasm, and a pair of binoculars to start you off - you don't have to splash out on a huge telescope straight away! A red-light torch is very useful (for good night vision) and well worth purchasing early in your astronomical career.

So, any of you who are late night fishermen/women; don't be too surprised to see shadowy shapes and strange red lights out on the riverbank some frosty night; it will more than likely be some harmless and friendly local stargazers, rather than visitors from another galaxy!



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Delph House news

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Christmas Raffle: Tickets are now on sale for the Christmas raffle in aid of the residents' fund. There will be a number of prizes which will all be on display. If you would like to donate prizes please bring these to the office any time from now. The draw will take place at the Christmas Party.

Coming events:

Sunday 2 December at 4:00 to 5:00 pm:

Christmas Crackers: Favourite Christmas songs, presented by Clearer Productions.
All relatives and friends invited.

Thursday 6 December at 5:00 pm:

Visit to March and Chatteris to view the Christmas lights.

Friday 7 December at 2:30 pm: Pauline May clothes party.
An opportunity for residents to update their wardrobes for Christmas

Monday 17 December at 1:00 pm:

We will be taking all residents who wish to attend to the Christmas Songs of Praise at St Andrews Church, Outwell. The service starts at 2:00 so we will start boarding the bus at Marifa Lodge at 1:00 pm. Again friends and relatives of residents who wish to attend are invited to accompany their friend or relative with us.

For any of these activities if you are able to accompany your friend or relative please let us know in advance.

Friday 14 December at 5:30 pm: Christmas Party

All family and friends of residents are invited to our Christmas party. There will be a buffet meal and drinks for everybody. This is the main event of the year when all our residents' families and friends get together here.

Recent Activities: In October we took those residents who wished to take part to the Harvest Songs of Praise at St Andrews Church, Outwell. Later in the month residents enjoyed a trip to Hunstanton. We stopped off for shopping and had a picnic in the bus on the cliff-top overlooking the sea.

Volunteers: We are very lucky to have Ted Dore as a volunteer driver now. Many Welney residents will know Ted as he has been taking those without transport to hospital in King's Lynn in his car. He is now driving our bus to take residents out on trips. In addition we now have three young volunteers; Mary, Alex and Ceiman. They have been getting to know the residents and helping with activities.

Graham Rainbird

Teddy Church



Hello again Teddy fans, and Happy 60th
Edition Welney News!!

It's been along time since I last wrote on behalf of the Welney Teds, but though we've been in stealth mode in terms of magazine articles, we've been busy in St Mary's Church, Welney, on the first Monday of every month, from 9.30am for about an hour each time (you see, I haven't lost the ability to slip in the details of when and where to join Teddy Church for fun and friendship.... and the all important drink and biscuits!!)

We have relived and recreated many of the stories and events from the bible during our Teddy sessions, by sharing songs, tales, art and craft activities, memories and various emotions, as you can see if you look on the wood-panelled wall at the back of the church, where our art gallery lives. Each month's story has yielded a guidance principle or moral that we could apply to our lives and experiences, with a short time for reflection and a chance to say a huge, loud 'THANK YOU' to the all important folk in our lives, and to God.

As ever, our aim has been to make our church a friendly, accessible place for families, where they can enjoy companionship and fun in a safe environment, among friends. We hope to give the children an introduction to the stories and teachings of the Christian faith, without indulging in uncomfortable 'bible-bashing' or force-feeding (even of biscuits!!). Compassion, understanding, tolerance, joy and care are the main lessons to learn at Teddy Church, and what we hope the children and their families will carry away with them, in addition to the picture, chocolate coins, toys, stamps or, whatever, that are clutched in hands or stuffed into bags or pushchair hoods, to share at home.

Teddy Church has been going almost as long as the Welney News, and we hope to continue for a long time to come, whether we have our circle of chairs crammed with people and teddies, or are blessed with the presence of just one child and their caring adult. As we meet during schooltime, usually our Teds are predominantly 0-4 years old, but any child is welcome during holiday times (we don't meet on Bank Holidays, sorry), so please come and join us soon, we'd love to see you.

Finally, Merry Christmas and all our best wishes for a peaceful and happy New Year, from

**Holly (tel: 01354 610668),
Sally (tel: 01354 610444)
and Queenie.**

News from the Welney Archive and Social History group

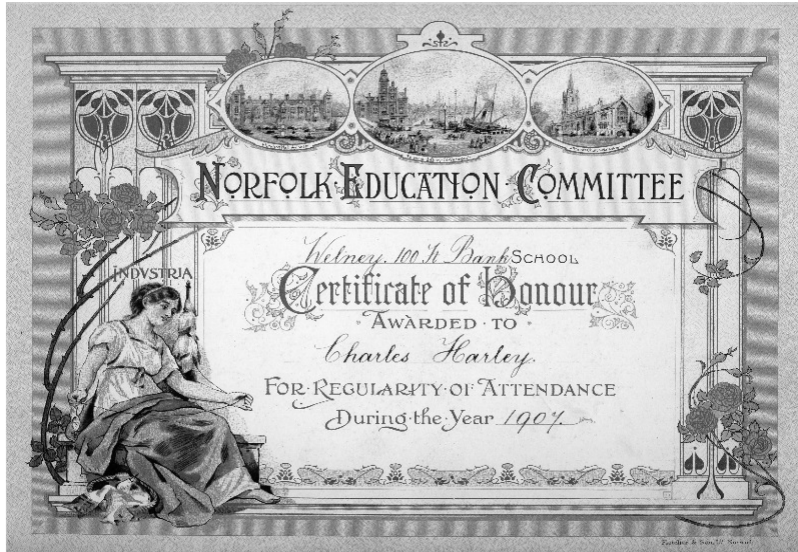
The group have acquired a beautiful coloured certificate of honour for **Charles Harley** which was issued by Norfolk Education Committee.

This was awarded to Charles at the Welney 100 Foot Bank School for his "regularity of attendance during the year **1907**".

There is also in existence a similar certificate for **1908 / 09**; this is signed by Bessie Hayes (?)

Can anyone give the group more information as regards these certificates – or indeed Charles Harley himself – can we assume he was one of the Harleys from Littleport where Harley-Davidson became a household name for motorcyclists?

The 1907 certificate is shown below, but this black and white copy does not give the original justice.



Secondly we also have an old black and white photograph of pupils at the 100 Foot Bank School.

The usual form for these photographs is to have the front, middle seated school child holding a slate board with chalked details including the year. However with this one the details are "100 ft Bank" with "T17".

Could this T17 be some sort of reference to 1917? The styles and dress indicate this time, plus or minus 10 years? There are 56 children. The centre front seated girl with the chalk board looks extremely young. There appears to be quite a range of ages.

Interestingly there is a set of twins (?), row two, left of centre where they are identically dressed. There is also quite a range of style of dress, where some boys are wearing dickie bows and a flower in the lapel. One girl seems to be quite 'modern'.

Derek Levesley



Here are some close-ups from the large picture on the opposite page



If you have any old photographs or cine film that you could share with the WASH Group please telephone 610226.

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What's going on at Welney WWT

It has been a really exciting autumn at the Welney Wetland Centre. The Welney Country Fair in September was attended by hundreds of visitors who enjoyed the many and varied stalls. Also at the Fair, James Fleming of Welney village was presented with his prize for the WWT Nikon Junior Photo of the Year from the Welney centre. James' photo of the footbridge framed by wildflowers was the judge's favourite. The Fleming family attended the national final held at the London Wetland Centre later in September. James wasn't successful but a good time was had by the whole family.

The swans and ducks started to arrive at the end of September with numbers building throughout October with the good water levels. Those of you that have been watching the progress of the 'Super Whoopers' on our website will know that we welcomed Super Whooper Blidfinnur to Welney on the 6th November. Blidfinnur is a whooper swan that has wintered in Northern Ireland for several years but quite unexpectedly travelled to Welney this winter! He caused quite a stir in the local media. At the time of writing one Super Whooper, Gudjohnsen, is still in Iceland. Gudjohnsen, ring number 75C, was seen at Welney last November. Log on to www.wwt.org.uk/superwhooper to see if he has made it by the time you read this.

The Festival of Swans took place on the 17th and 18th November. Many people visited to make the most of exhibiting artists, enlightening talks and family activities. Nicholas Grounds hosted an auction event on the Sunday evening that raised £600 for the Welney reserve.

The Wigeon Café will be serving Christmas lunches for Seniors on Tuesday 4th, 11th & 18th December. Christmas lunches will also be available on Wednesday 5th, 12th & 19th December. You can enjoy a Christmas evening meal on Wednesday 12th & 19th at 7.30pm. Booking is essential for all Christmas meals. Book now so you are not disappointed.

Looking forward to 2008 you can find out what events we have on by visiting the website www.wwt.org.uk/welney and clicking on 'Events'. The 2008 events calendar is now available on the website.



WELNEY
Wetland
WWT CENTRE



This Christmas treat your family and friends to a magical floodlit swan feed at the Welney Wetland Centre.

Dance into the New Year with local folk band Eel Pie every Sunday in January at 4pm in the Wigeon Cafe.

Watch up to 9,000 swans wake from their roost and fly to the fields at the 'Swans Awake' events.



Swan feeds daily
3.30pm & 12noon

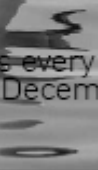
Floodlit feeds
Thursdays - Sundays 6.30pm

Swans Awake
Sun 13 January &
Sun 10 February

Wild About Winter
Sat 19 January



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and January.



Hundred Foot Bank, Welney, PE14 9TN T 01353 860711 Visit www.wwt.org.uk Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust registered charity no.1030884



WORDSEARCH

P	A	R	N	I	L	B	U	D	R	I	M
M	E	S	T	Y	I	H	A	O	T	H	A
A	N	C	I	V	A	J	K	Y	E	R	S
D	Y	A	T	R	M	T	E	P	S	A	B
R	H	E	L	S	I	N	K	I	T	N	E
I	S	O	M	P	L	O	Y	K	O	T	I
D	N	P	A	R	I	S	A	T	C	E	J
P	E	H	D	O	W	T	G	N	K	R	I
S	H	J	R	M	U	N	A	G	H	V	N
T	T	I	E	E	I	Y	Y	J	O	I	G
V	A	N	T	H	A	O	I	P	L	E	T
C	B	I	S	W	O	C	S	O	M	N	W
H	R	A	M	E	T	E	N	L	T	N	P
E	W	O	A	J	A	D	U	I	O	A	D
T	L	I	S	B	O	N	A	V	L	R	Y
B	N	P	W	N	I	L	R	E	B	K	S

How many can you find:

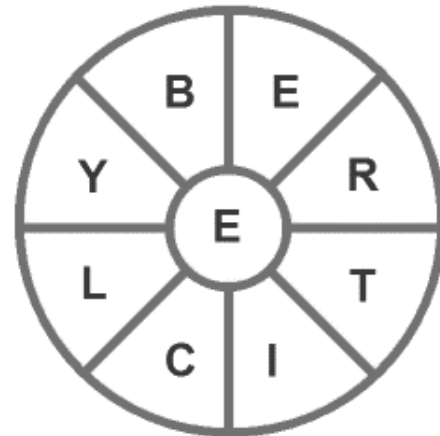
Amsterdam, Athens, Beijing, Berlin, Cairo, Dublin, Helsinki, Lima, Lisbon, London, Madrid, Moscow, Oslo, Paris, Reykjavik, Rome, Stockholm, Tokyo, Vienna, Washington.

(NOT SO) EASY SUDOKU

		1			2	6		
	6		7					
	5	4					3	
	1		8			7		
		9	1	2	7	3		
		2			3		6	
	3					9	8	
					8		5	
		8	9			1		

WHEEL OF WORDS

How many words can you make from the letters in the wheel?



Each word must contain the middle letter E.
Can you find the 9-letter word ? (answer on page 31)
There are at least 20 other five letter words

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MAINS SEWAGE—WHATS HAPPENING

STATEMENT FROM ANGLIAN WATER ON NOV 24TH

Villagers to benefit from £4 million sewerage scheme

Life is about to get a whole lot better for people living in the main villages of Welney and Christchurch thanks to a £4 million Anglian Water first-time sewerage scheme. Those who wish to connect to the new mains sewer will be able to say goodbye to septic tanks and cess pools.



This scheme is being provided for the main parts of the 2 villages and will be a viable alternative to resolve environmental issues associated with septic tanks that do not function well. Being able to connect to a mains sewer gives communities a new lease of life, bringing about benefits not just in the short term but for generations to come.

Construction of the sewerage scheme and treatment works, for the villages of Christchurch and Welney, is due to start in the Spring/Summer of 2008. The scheme is scheduled for completion by the Spring of 2009.

Anglian Water has been in discussions with local authorities and has attended Parish council meetings to provide information. We are currently awaiting information which will allow us to commence treatment works proposal.

Anglian Water Contract Manager John Forkin said "We look forward to providing the public sewerage systems that are clearly needed for these two villages. We are aware of some concern about the location of the treatment works and we are trying to negotiate alternative land. I'd like to remind people that we are not adding any more flow to the local drainage system; we are proposing to collect and treat flow that is already dispersing into local drains & ditches. The location and nature of the Works has yet to be decided, but we are working hard to ensure that our solution will comply with Environmental and Planning legislation.

Over the next five years Anglian Water plans to invest some £80million in the provision of wastewater drainage for rural communities in East Anglia, making villages in the region an even better place to live and work.

Lakesend & TipsEnd Action Group

There is an action group of local residents who are actively campaigning against the proposed siting of the treatment works. They were too busy to write an article for this edition but an anonymous caller asked me to write this:

'Lakesend & TipsEnd Action Group are still working to we hope, a satisfactory solution to the discharge site into the Old Croft River. Having been in communication with Anglian Water, the EA and Christopher Fraser we still hope to have a satisfactory conclusion. We are not against mains sewerage in Welney & Christchurch just the siting of the works.'

Anyone wishing to find out more should check out :

www.welney.org.uk where you'll find lots of interesting details of their campaign along with a contact email address.

RB

STATEMENT FROM THE EA ON NOV 23RD

"The application by Anglian Water for consent to discharge treated sewage effluent into the Old Croft River is still being considered by the Environment Agency. We received the application on the 20th of August 2007 and have a determination date of the 20th of December 2007.

We had intended to have made a decision on this application by now. Unfortunately, one of the statutory consultees that we have asked to comment on this application has requested more time to reply.



We want to be well informed before we determine any application for a discharge consent. Therefore, we have delayed making the decision on this application .

Currently, the application has neither been refused by the Environment Agency, nor withdrawn by Anglian Water.

We will inform everyone who has commented to us about this application when we have made our decision."

Thanks for giving us the opportunity to comment.

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THU	8:00 AM	to	5:00 pm
FRI	8:00 AM	to	5:00 pm
SAT	9:00 AM	to	1:00 pm
SUN			CLOSED

TRADE & RETAIL ENQUIRIES WELCOME

Farming Diary

Well first things first and a sincere apology to Aubrey Marshall who along with Reg Smith, whom I mentioned in last months news, is also a surviving member of the Welney Home Guard, Aubrey and his wife are living in retirement at Manea and are regular readers of the Welney news. Mr and Mrs Marshall all the very best and thank you for calling.

On the farming front the landscape is changing as most of the crops are now harvested and fields are ploughed and cropped before winter finally arrives. We completed the potato harvest by the 16th of October and in better conditions than we expected. If anything it was possibly too dry in certain fields and water tanks were fitted to the harvester to spray a mist of water over the cleaning rollers on the harvester to prevent damage. This works in the way that the potatoes pass over rubber contra-rotating rollers that are very good at removing small clods, sticking mud and loose soil. When the soil is dry a lot is lost through the harvester lifting-web before it arrives on the separating rollers. Also when it is dry the rollers can in some cases nip or grab at the potatoes, which will damage and bruise them giving a black bruise under the skin. By spraying the water on the rollers this dampens them and makes them slippery, so quite simply the potatoes slip rather than nip. (These rollers are set longitudinally and tilted slightly so the potatoes roll down them between each pair of rotating rollers, which cleans them).

The fear of blight in the harvested crop due to that awful wet summer seems to have been controlled very well so far and crops locally that are in store seem to be keeping well.

Once potatoes were cleared in mid October the task was then to get all the harvested potato fields, rape fields and harvested onion fields drilled with winter wheat, which we set about doing while the weather remained dry and in about two weeks we managed to get around 200acres of land prepared and drilled which has now emerged successfully and turned some of the local fields green.

The European Union has decided that due to lower global wheat stocks it no longer requires growers to have what was known as set-aside land - this was last year around 8% of a grower's cereal acreage that was not permitted to be cropped.

When the system started a few years ago several fields would be left un-cropped for the season (set-aside). The EU permitted the growing of Non-Food Crops on this set-aside area and the actual acreage left as un-cropped declined over the years as more farms elected to grow these industrial crops rather than set-aside. In our own case the

chamomile and peppermint grown for Norfolk Essential Oils was grown on this set-aside land as it was a non-food crop going into such products as shampoo and aromatherapy products. Other such industrial crops can be linseed grown for oil, oil seed rape for bio-diesel and even wheat for rat poison. In our own situation some of the herb crops have been removed and replaced by wheat but it is not really influenced by the set-aside rules as the herbs had become weed infested due to the wet summer and were due to be replaced this season any way.

The last crop to be harvested this season for us is sugar beet and we had not lifted any until the 7th of November when the harvesting contractor Russell Company arrived with their large



self-propelled harvester. Russell's now have 4 self-propelled tanker harvesters which lift between 6 and 9 rows of beet at a time. The latest addition to their fleet is a 6-row tanker machine built by the German manufacturer ROPA and is called the Euro Tiger, which is the world's largest sugar beet harvester. It weighs 25 tons empty and is capable of holding 26 tons of sugar beet in its tank; so fully loaded it weighs over 50 tons. A bit more than grandfather would have got on his horse and cart at the beginning of the century. The advantage of this machine is that it can hold enough beets to get down and back up the field without the need to unload on to a trailer to cart the beet to the heap. The harvester can unload on the ends, and with its large tyres does not compact the soil like the tractors and trailers can.

The Ropa is capable of harvesting up to 3 acres of beet an hour and has a fuel consumption of 31 liters per hour. Comparing this to one of their nine-row machines built by Vervaet, which uses 56 liters per hour, the Ropa is a much more economical machine and I expect we shall see more in the future. The cost to the grower for this service will vary between £60 to £70 per acre, depending on such things as field size, distance from clamp etc. The Ropa is controlled by up to 5 computer systems and is equipped with CCTV cameras so the operator can monitor the giant machine from the safe environment of the cab. It has several driver-assisted features, like self-steering, which enables the machine to drive itself down the rows with the help of sensors that can identify the row of beet and then the computers steer it. No wonder it costs a mere £295,000. The machine is capable of lifting 2,500 acres of sugar beet each season from around September through to March.

When the team lifted our beet in Tipsend they made a long narrow heap beside the farm track, which was around 180 meters in length. The reason for this is that the haulier (Roger Warnes) that takes the beet to the giant



Wissington processing factory is equipped with a self-propelled cleaner/loader, also built by Ropa and called the Euro Maus. This cleaner/loader drives into the heap of beet and sweeps the beet from the heap over several cleaning rollers and chains, which remove the dirt, soil, weeds etc and elevates the beet into a 44 ton lorry for delivery to the factory. This method of loading eliminates the need for a loading shovel and separate cleaner which have a tendency to make a mess of the heap bottom in some conditions. The Ropa can load 29 tons of beet onto a lorry in around 6 minutes, although Tim the operator has completed one in 3 minutes 54 seconds.



The added advantage is the heap bottom is left tidy and un-rutted and the machine is capable of loading over hedges and ditches into waiting lorries. More facts and figures for you: Roger Warnes transport is the largest haulier of sugar beet in Europe and runs two Ropa self-propelled cleaner/loaders, each one costing a mere £230,000.

The sugar beet has turned out much better than we expected with the percentage of sugar contained in the beet higher than normal. The fields lifted so far have averaged 19.17% sugar content. As British Sugar pay the grower at a standard 16%, when one achieves higher % sugar this in turn increases the tonnage delivered and helps to lift yield.

When the lorry arrives in the factory it is randomly sampled by a machine from which various test are completed, such as amount of dirt and tops attached, as British Sugar will not pay for delivered dirt, so this is calculated and removed from your lorry weight. Dirt tare this season is currently around 2 or 3 % and tops or crowns between 5 and 8% making total waste from 7% to 11%. The sugar percentage is then calculated and the tonnages delivered adjusted to reflect this. As an example one load of beet was delivered weighing dirty at 29.88 tons, the tops and dirt tare total was 8%, so this adjusted the clean weight to 27.95 tons. The sugar content of this load was 19.50%, which in turn adjusted the final payment tonnage to the grower to 35.70 tons. The calculated yield for this field is 27 tons to the acre and the British Sugar price paid will be around £20.00 per ton.

So you can see it is an advantage to have a high sugar content to increase yield and return. I must mention that some seasons have seen sugars of below 16% and this will have the effect of reducing the tonnage down from that delivered.

Without wishing to bore you all further may I wish everyone who reads this column a very Happy and healthy Christmas and prosperous New Year

Seasonal competition for a free 25kg sack of Pates Farm Maris Piper Potatoes

Using information contained in the above beet article how much cash per acre is left per acre after lifting, loading and delivering an acres worth of sugar beet to the factory?

(Use a haulage rate of £3.40 per ton for loading and delivering beet to the factory)

Answers to the editor please

Ken Goodger

The Environment Agency's Anglian Central Regional Flood Defence Committee visit Welney Road

The Environment Agency's Anglian Central Regional Flood Defence Committee held their October meeting at the Environment Agency's Denver Complex. Following the meeting Members were joined by a number of invited guests including Christopher Fraser MP for South West Norfolk and representatives from local Parish Councils and Internal Drainage Boards. Ken Goodger attended for Welney Parish Council.

Members and guests received a presentation on the Strategy for the Gt. Ouse Tidal River between Denver and King's Lynn by David Keiller of consultants Black and Veatch who are undertaking the project for the Environment Agency.



Tour of the Denver sluices



Project Manager Rob Barker
explaining the Little Eye works

This was followed by a guided tour of the many river control structures at the Denver Complex and an inspection of the recently started work to inspect and refurbish the Denver "Little Eyes" Sluices.

The visit concluded with a coach trip to the Welney Road to look at the impact that flooding has on the road and the local communities who rely on it for access.

The members and guests heard that work is progressing on the **Tidal River Strategy** which is due to report in late 2008. They were also told that deposits of silt over a 10 kilometre length of the Tidal River, between Denver and Stowbridge, are having an impact on the duration of flooding on the Welney Road. The consultants had been asked by the Environment Agency to identify any short-term measures which could be deployed to lower silt levels in advance of the main findings of the strategy. Unfortunately, early indications are that there are no quick fix solutions but options are still being evaluated. Fortunately, the very wet weather experienced this year has helped reduce the level of silt in the Tidal River over the last twelve months.

Work started on the refurbishment of the three **Denver Little Eye Sluices** in October. This involves the removal of silt from immediately in front of the sluice doors and the installation of temporary dam boards. Each sluice will be dammed off separately and a full inspection of the doors carried out. If possible the doors will be refurbished and put back into operation as quickly as possible. If the condition of any of the doors is so poor that they cannot be returned to use, then the dam boards will have to remain in position whilst the doors are refurbished or replaced. Denver Sluice Road will need to be closed periodically, during working hours, in November, to allow a crane to move equipment into position. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

During the visit to the **Welney Road** the Norfolk County Council Highways Area Manager reported that a traffic survey had been carried out in Welney during October. He also advised that an exercise to update the estimated cost for a raised road across the Ouse Washes was being carried out. However, he stated that it is very unlikely that a new road could be justified given the many other high priority schemes identified in the county.

Dave Gillett

A word from Westminster

Dear Residents



As winter approaches, I am very conscious that we have reached the time when flooding is again likely to close the A1101 at Welney. I recently attended a briefing meeting organised by the Environment Agency at the Denver Sluice complex. The Agency confirmed details of its plan to restore the Denver Little Eyes and to install a jetting system to keep the V-doors free of silt, in order to return the doors to proper use as soon as possible. They will then be better able to manage the water level in the Ely Ouse.

However I am still pressing for a permanent, properly financed solution the problem we face. I have made it clear locally and in Parliament that it is unfair that a different value is put on the lives and livelihoods of people in this area, compared to those "upstream" at Milton Keynes, Bedford and elsewhere who benefit from the flood alleviation programme that has been put into place, and which pushes the problem downstream to us. It is an issue which I shall continue to fight for, while in the meantime hoping that the weather this winter is more helpful than last.

I have also been approached by a number of residents expressing dismay at the application by Anglian Water to site a sewage treatment plant at Tipps End which would discharge into the Croft River. I take seriously concerns that, if it were to get the go-ahead, it could exacerbate localised flooding as well as being a potential pollution risk to wildlife and its habitat. I have written to the Environment Agency and to Anglian Water to ensure that the strength of feeling in the village is recognised and taken into account.

This part of the constituency means a great deal to me. I always get a warm welcome when I am here, for which I am grateful. I am planning my 2008 diary, so if there are any events locally which you would like me to attend, I would be delighted to hear from you. In the meantime, I take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Christopher Fraser
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

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Claws For Thought...

The rivers and drains of the Fens are home to a variety of species, one of which; the eel, was once found in abundance, playing an important part in the livelihood and diet of the Fenman. Sadly, this once-common fish has now fallen into decline, and the days when heaving eel baskets (known locally as grigs or hives) were pulled from the waters of the Delph and Old Bedford Rivers are long gone.

Another species to have suffered in recent years is our native crayfish, a freshwater crustacean resembling a small lobster, which has been virtually eliminated from much of its former habitat by the larger and more aggressive signal crayfish, a non-native species introduced in the late 1970s for farming purposes, but which subsequently escaped and has since colonised many of Britain's watercourses. Signal crayfish are also carriers of 'crayfish plague', a fungal disease to which our native crayfish has no defence. In addition, they threaten fish stocks through predating on their eggs and also damage banks by burrowing into them. No wonder then, that anglers and EA officials regard them as unwelcome visitors. Now, however, we have yet another alien invader to our rivers: the Chinese Mitten Crab.

Its presence in our rivers was brought to my attention by a local angler and a member of the local drainage board, both of whom had encountered the crabs in the Old Bedford River, just behind the Parish Hall. A bit of research on the internet was followed by a call to the Environment Agency, who confirmed that they were aware of the crabs in our region but who also admitted that there was currently no method of control. The map beneath shows the current known range of the crabs, but if anyone has any sightings, Josh Hellon, who kindly provided me with the information below, would be happy to take your call or e-mail.

As I started by saying, the rivers and drains of the Fens are home to a variety of species, one of which previously formed an important part of the diet of local people. With the eels all gone and stocks of our favourite sea fish depleted to dangerously low levels, is it now time for the Lamb & Flag to start offering 'Locally caught crab' on its menu ?

Mark Brown

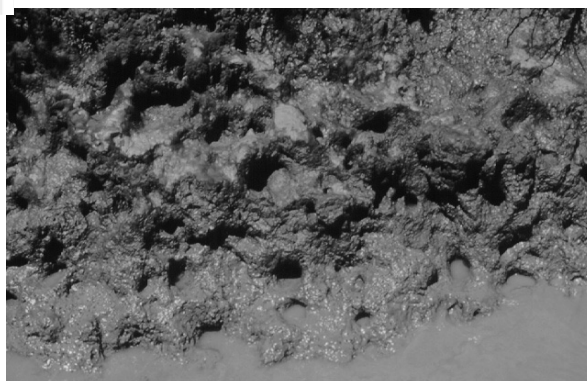


ABOVE: What the critters look like

BELOW: View of their burrowing

ABOVE: Where the crabs are.....

BELOW: Mitten crabs are a prized delicacy in Asia



Crab Factfile

The Chinese Mitten Crab (*Eriocheir sinensis*) is thought to have been introduced to the UK in the ballast water of ships.

The species originated in Asia, but has spread rapidly throughout European rivers and formed large breeding populations. The crab spends most of its life in freshwater but migrates long distances to breed in the sea. The species is now widespread on the East coast of the UK.

Identifying the Mitten crab:

White –tipped, hairy front claws.

Notch between eyes

4 spines behind each eye.

Can grow to the size of a dinner plate

Impact:

Bank damage caused by deep burrowing

Destruction of bankside vegetation

Predation on native fish species, crayfish and eggs.

Controlling:

No effective means for control currently available.

If seen please report sighting to Josh Hellon at the EA. (josh.hellon@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Big thanks to Josh at the EA for his help in compiling these details.

RB

Spicy Coconut Crabs:

4 mitten crabs (uncooked)
2 tablespoons oil
4 garlic cloves, crushed
1 tablespoon grated fresh ginger
3 red chillies, chopped
1/3 cup lime juice
1/4 cup water
2 tablespoons chili sauce (sweet Thai)
1 tablespoon fish sauce
1 tablespoon tomato paste
400 ml coconut cream
1/4 cup chopped fresh coriander
3 green onions, sliced
steamed rice, to serve

METHOD:

Lift top hard shell from crabs and use fingers to scrape insides.

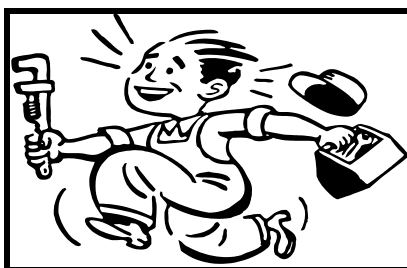
Wash, then split in half.

Heat the oil in a large wok over high heat then stir-fry the crab pieces in batches until they turn pinky red. Remove and set aside.

In the same wok, stir fry garlic, ginger and chili for 1 minute.

Add the juice, waer, sauces and paste and simmer for 2 minutes. Blend in the coconut cream. Bring to the boil then return the crab to the wok.

Simmer covered, for 4-5 minutes, adding a little water if the sauce reduces too much. Stir in the coriander and onions, then serve at once over steamed rice.



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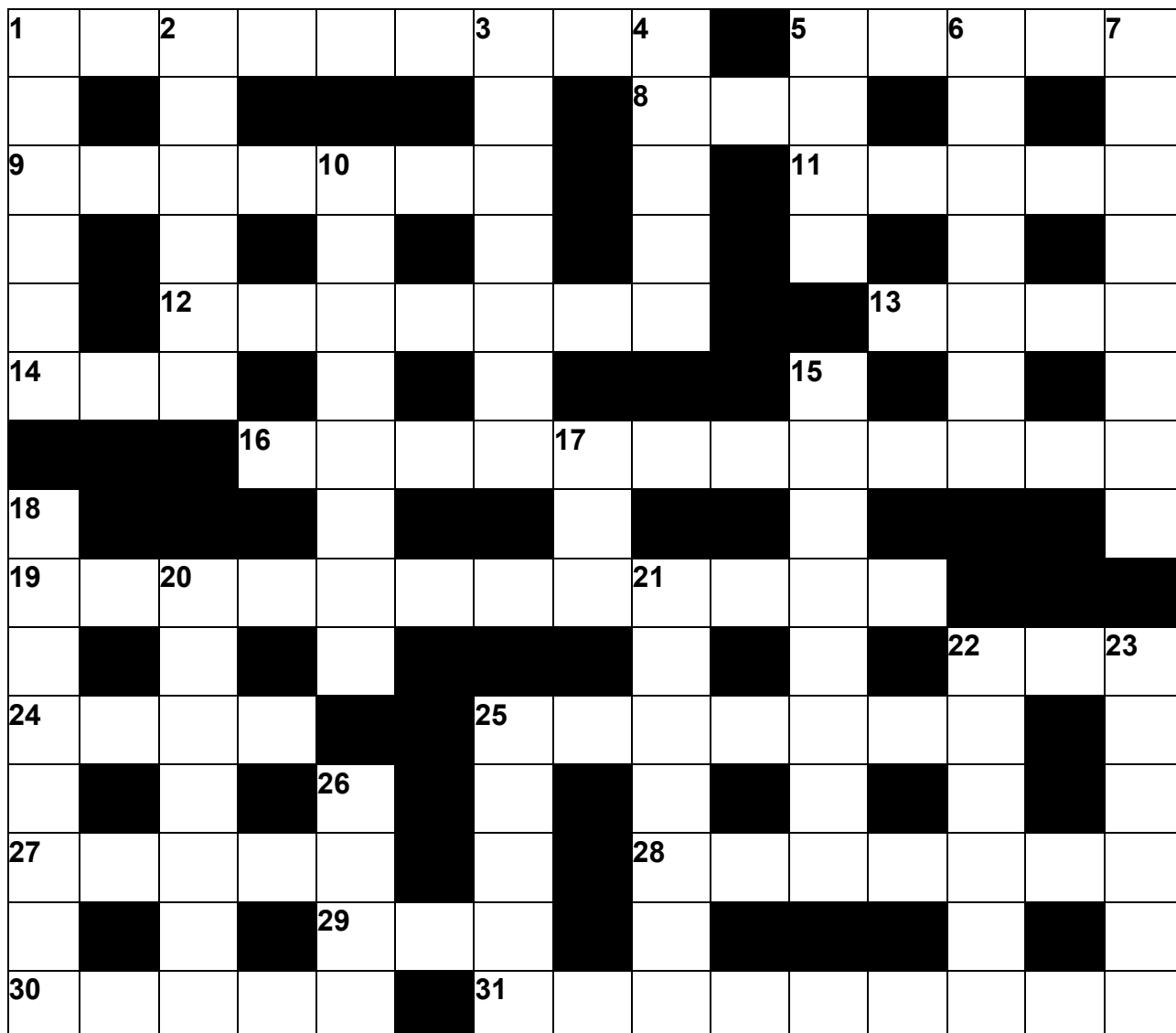
Across

- 1 Only a rotter sir, would use such violence and intimidation (9)
- 5 Imitation furniture (shortened) is poorer (missing a bit) (5)
- 8 See 28a
- 9 Somehow sold one a basic ingredient of Chinese cuisine (7)
- 11 Dance can go all over the place as more join the line (5)
- 12 Business interests could get personal, going on behind partner's back (7)
- 13 Body of vessel found in port (4)
- 14 Put everything up for auction (3)
- 16 Wintry showers left one cold and no less wet (5,3,4)
- 19 Farmer's warning; 70s glam-rock group touring again! (3,2,3,4)
- 22 See 2d
- 24 How to get rid of surface water? Just hang on tight (4)
- 25 ...and a gentleman holding authority and responsibility (7)
- 27 Identify a bell by designer or brand (5)
- 28&8 A time for change, and one fear is all it takes (3,2,2,3)
- 29 Mimic a primate (3)
- 30 Penniless and exhausted (5)
- 31 Stain test revealed shoddy condition, with spud-like quality! (9)

Down

- 1 Christmas decoration is colourful yet silent (6)
- 2,17&22a Space in the attic for 1950s British film (4,2,3,3)
- 3 To ripen is also to motivate or arouse (7)
- 4&7 Funnyman's sadness, according to Smokey Robinson (5,2,1,5)
- 5 People of common ancestry in a dash for the line (4)
- 6 King or Emperor picks up a bird – covered in chocolate? (7)
- 7 See 4d
- 10 A final chance of rescue, as interpreted by palmist (8)
- 15 Pushed on to a higher level (8)
- 17 See 2d
- 18 Illegally lugs gems across the border (8)
- 20 Footballer in need of bib after mazy run (7)
- 21 To ponder on a mirror-image (7)
- 22 Sweet, but of no value or significance (6)
- 23 Their acquisition could make one rich, or fat (6)
- 25 Notes the beginning of an attack (5)
- 26 Low-rise accommodation lacking sparkle (4)

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD COMPETITION BY MARK BROWN



PLEASE SEND YOU COMPLETED
CROSSWORD TO THE EDITOR AT THE
ADDRESS ON
PAGE 31.

The draw for a bottle of wine is on January 6th....Good Luck!

Name:.....

Telephone number:.....



PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The October meeting of the Welney Parish Council was held on Tuesday 2nd at the Parish Hall.



Approximately 12 members of the public attended the meeting, to raise concerns relating to the proposed Sewerage Scheme for Welney & Christchurch. The Parish Council agreed to find out as much information as possible and place the matter on the Agenda for the next meeting.

The Village Post Box has now been resited near the telephone box outside the school.

Elgoods / New Community Centre - A letter had been received from the Carter Family confirming that they are no longer interested in proceeding with any planning for social housing on their land & therefore they are not in a position to proceed with any negotiations in respect of the land required for the new Community Centre.

There was then a discussion regarding a possible site and it was agreed that the best site would be on the playing field itself, either in the top left hand corner or on the site of the existing pavilion. It was agreed to prepare a flier to be delivered to all the houses in the parish asking for their comments and it was hoped that the replies could be received in time for consideration at the next meeting. In order to get matters moving, it was agreed to ask Janice Howell of the Norfolk Rural Community Council if she would come along to talk about funding, siting and designs for a New Community Centre and the date of 29th October was suggested.

A letter had been received from Elgoods setting out the terms of purchase for the Parish Hall Site once a current valuation had been received from the Environment Agency and the Clerk confirmed that she is in regular contact with the E.A. in the hope that the valuation will be provided as soon as possible.

The Chairman confirmed that he had received an invitation to attend a meeting at Denver Sluice Complex on 25th October, and he agreed to give a report to the next meeting.

Village Development Area Plans - Councillors considered various areas of land in and around the village which could possibly be considered in the Village Development Area.

New Village signs have been installed on the approaches to Welney. No work had yet been carried out on Hurn Drove, but this would be attended to as soon as work and weather permitted. Information was received from the Norfolk County Council that work would be carried out during the first two weeks of October regarding the pollarding of the Willow trees on Wash Road.

Environmental Issues - Field adjacent to Chestnut Avenue - The Borough Council confirmed that they do own the field, and whilst it is currently advertised as grazing, it will be considered for inclusion in a forthcoming land review.

Cllr. Bennett reported that he is contacting several adjoining councils and representatives regarding the Ouse Washes, and that he is also pushing for Welney to be invited to join the Ouse Washes Management Committee.

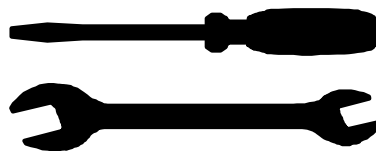
The Welney Archive and Social History Committee would be holding a meeting at the end of the month and would advise further at the next meeting.

Pat Copeman, Parish Clerk.

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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The November meeting of the Welney Parish Council was held on Tuesday 6th at the Parish Hall

There was an excellent attendance at this meeting, with approximately 40 members of the public, plus District Councillors, and Council representatives from Christchurch and Upwell.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting & introduced Mr Keith Brown of Anglian Water who had been invited to attend the meeting to brief Councillors on the proposed Sewage Scheme for Welney. He explained to the meeting how the scheme would be envisaged, how it would work & he confirmed that it is hoped to start around the middle of 2008 with completion around the middle of 2009. He explained that no planning applications had yet been submitted for either of the Vacuum pumping stations at Welney & Christchurch, nor for the sewage treatment works, the site for which has still not been agreed. He then answered questions relating to the treatment works and the proposed discharges of the treated effluent into the Old Croft River. He also supplied copies of the plan of the catchment area of the proposed sewage works.

Following Mr.Brown's talk, the chairman moved the Public Participation section of the meeting to Item 3 on the Agenda and several questions were asked regarding the sewage scheme, as well as questions on the Parish Council/Hall finances and the problems of traffic speeding through the Village.

A letter had been received from the Environment Agency regarding the application by Anglian Water Services to discharge treated sewage effluent from a proposed new sewage works between Welney and Christchurch, into the Old Croft River, and asking for councils comments & observations. It was agreed that council could not make any comment until such time as the actual site of the treatment works is known.

The Chairman did suggest that a meeting between Welney, Christchurch and Upwell Parish Councils and also the Action group at Tipps End would be advantageous and it was agreed a decision would be made on this in due course.

Meadow Lane - Two further letters had been received from Mr.Smith. Copies of which & the Council's replies were circulated to councillors.

Elgoods/Proposed New Community Centre A brief report was given to the meeting following the visit by Janice Howell on 29th October. She had provided much advice and information regarding possible funding, planning etc. & the best way forward. She confirmed that all details of the proposed building & site have to be firmly in place before any applications for funding can be made.

A breakdown of the results obtained from the flyers which had been circulated, was presented to the meeting. Option 1 - Site of the existing Pavilion had received 18 votes, Option 2 - on the top left hand corner of the playing field had received 22 votes. 45 forms had been returned of the 250 circulated, with 4 not wanting either site.

There was a lengthy discussion and Mr. John Loveday addressed the meeting and confirmed that if Option 2 was chosen it would no longer be possible to play cricket on the field, as the area would not be big enough. It was then agreed that the site of the existing Pavilion would be the best option, and a Working Party was formed to start the process of working towards a new Community Centre.

The Borough Council had sent an invitation for councillors to attend a Parish Training and Information session on 5th December at Downham Market & Cllr.Brown expressed an interest in attending.

Highway Matters - Cllr.

Bennett reported that the pollarding of the trees on the Wash Road had been carried out, but that one of the trees on the right by the bridge is in danger of blowing over, and a request would be sent asking for this one to be attended to as soon as possible.

Environmental Matters - Ouse Washes - Cllr.Bennett confirmed that there is no urgency for a group meeting but that he will keep this to hand for the future. He also reported that he had been in touch with the Ouse Washes Strategy Group and they had provided a list of requirements which have to be met to enable the Parish Council to join the group. The information will be circulated for consideration at the next meeting.

The Chairman then gave a report on his visit to the Denver Sluice Complex on 25th October, which was also followed by a visit to the Welney Wash Road. He provided leaflets handed out of the day.

Old Croft River - Cllr.Bennett asked if a future scheme could be considered for the cleaning and tidying up of the Croft River to make it a village amenity,

W.A.S.H. Committee - Following the committee meeting on 2nd November arrangements have been put in hand for an Open Day on 16th February 2008. Notice will appear in the Welney News and the theme of the day would be weddings. A request would be made for any wedding photographs of residents, whether or not they were married at Welney Church, that could be included in the Archive. It was also suggested that if the Children of Welney Fayre is held next year, then the Committee should ask permission to have a marquee at the event to display photographs and information so far received.

The next meeting will be held on 4th December, 2007 and the January meeting will be held on Tuesday 8th January, in the Parish Hall.

Pat Copeman, Parish Clerk.



What's on at Ely Cinema

Credit card bookings: 01353 616991

www.adec.org.uk

Sunday 2 Dec: 7.30pm

And When Did You Last See Your Father? (12A)

Stars: Colin Firth, Juliet Stevenson, Jim Broadbent.

This is an emotional, often hilarious examination of those ever-complicated family ties.

Tuesday 4 & Wednesday 5 Dec: 7.30pm

Rendition (15)

Stars: Jake Gyllenhaal, Meryl Streep, Reese Witherspoon.

A pertinent political thriller. Witherspoon plays Isabella, the American wife of Egyptian-born chemical engineer who disappears on a flight from South Africa to Washington.

Mon 10 Dec: The Singer (12A) 7.30pm

Stars: Gerard Depardieu. French with English Subtitles. Middle-aged singer Alain is stuck in a routine. Then, out of the blue, he meets and falls for a single mother half his age. Beautifully atmospheric, this is a wonderfully observed romantic comedy.

Sun 16 Dec Elizabeth : The Golden Age (12A)

3pm & 7.30pm

Mon 17, Fri 28 & Sat 29 December: 7.30pm

Stars: Geoffrey Rush, Cate Blanchett, Clive Owen. With some spectacular scenes filmed in Ely and Cambridge this captivating historical thriller sees Blanchett and Rush reprising their roles in ELIZABETH.

Sun 23 Dec: Ratatouille (U) 3pm & 7.30pm

Thurs 27 Dec: 3pm

It's hard being a rat with aspirations to be a star chef, but Remy is convinced he can break the stereotype and make it in the world of haute cuisine.

Thurs 27 Dec Death at a Funeral (15) 7.30pm

Stars: Keeley Hawes, Matthew Macfayden.

This madcap British comedy observes with jet-black humour the outrageous calamities that befall an eccentric English clan when its patriarch dies an unexpected death.

Thurs 3 Jan: Once (15) 7.30pm

Stars: Markéta Irglová, Gerard Hendrick, Hugh Walsh. Award winning low-budget Irish charmer. On Grafton Street in Dublin, a careworn busker strikes up a friendship with a sparky young Czech immigrant.



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December & January listings

**What's on at :
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Sat 1st Dec: City Of London Sinfonia 7.30pm
Tickets : £9.50—£18.50

Sun 2nd Dec: Country Music Concert 7.30pm
A favourite annual event for country music fans.
Tickets: £12.50—£18.00

Wed 5th Dec: Comedy Club - Adults Only!
Doors 7.45pm | Comedy 8.45pm Tickets: £9

Thur 6th Dec: Chuckle Brothers Aladdin 4pm / 7.15pm
Hilarious version of the children's classic.
Tickets: Adults £15, under 16's £12

Sat 8th Dec: Carols & Capers 2007 7.30pm
Maddy Prior & The Carnival Band. Tickets: £15.50

Sun 9th Dec : Yamaha Music School Festival 6pm
The cream of West Norfolk's young musicians take to the stage for the annual YMS Music Festival. Tickets: £9.00

Mon 10th & Tues 11th Dec:
That'll Be The Day Christmas Show 7.30pm
Rock 'n' Roll variety show . Tickets: £18.50

Thur 13th - Sat 15th Dec: Angelina's Star Performance
13th & 14th - 2pm & 4.30pm, 15th - 12pm, 3pm & 6pm
This magical introduction to ballet for children is a rare treat to see Angelina Ballerina dance her pirouettes and grand jetés in front of a live audience for the first time.
Tickets: Adults - £16, under 16s - £9.50, Family of 4 - £49

Sun 16th Dec: Christmas Rat Pack Party 7.30pm
With a talented cast and 15-piece orchestra, take a trip back to the glamorous, hot, glitzy nights of Las Vegas.
Tickets: £24.50, group discount for parties of 10+

Tues 18th & Wed 19th Dec: Swan Lake
Tues 7.30pm, Wed 2.30pm & 7.30pm
The St Petersburg Ballet is delighted to present the eternal favourite Tchaikovsky's dramatic masterpiece Swan Lake
Tickets: £30.50, £26.50, Wednesday Matinee Special offer £20.50, groups of 10+ £17.50

Sat 6th January : The Wedding Show 11am – 4pm
Tickets: £2 on door

Thur 31st Jan:
Lorna Luft. Songs My Mother Taught Me 8pm
Tickets: £19.50

**What's on at :
Box Office
01553 764864**



Sat 1st Dec: Expresion Cubana 7.30pm
Cuban music accessible to all. Tickets: £13.50

Wed 5th - Sat 8th Dec: Favourite Things
Wed - Fri 7pm, Sat 2.30pm
Presented by Lynn Academy of Dancing
Music and dance by 250 students.
Tickets from Mrs G. Waite On 01553 772656, 10am - 4pm

Thurs 13th & Fri 14th Dec : FILM - Silk (Cert-TBC)
Nightly 7.30pm, Thursday Matinee 2.30pm Tickets: £4.50

Sat 15th Dec: Back To The Woods
Telling Tales From The Brothers Grimm 7.30pm
Suitable for adults and older children, the show includes classic tales such as Cinderella, Hansel and Gretel.
NOT SUITABLE FOR UNDER 7's Tickets : £10.50

Sun 16th Dec : Nigel Boy Syer & Friends 7.30pm
An evening of good humour, good music and great company . Tickets: £10, group discount for parties of 10+

Thurs 20th - Sat 22nd Dec : FILM - Stardust (PG)
Daily 2.30pm & Nightly 7.30pm Tickets: £4.50

Thurs 10th – Sat 12th Jan:
FILM - Elizabeth, The Golden Age (12A)
Nightly 7.30pm, Thurs Matinee 2.30pm Tickets: £4.50

Sun 20th Jan : Count Arthur Strong – The Musical
8pm 60 minute show, no interval . Tickets: £12.50

**What's on at:
Box Office
01485 532252**

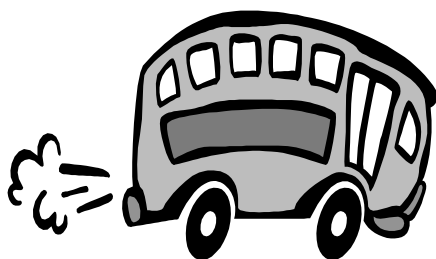


6th Dec – 2nd Jan 2008 – various showtimes

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The bus timetable in full

Buses will acknowledge all recognised stops along the route, operating on a Hail & Ride basis in rural areas, stopping, where safe, on a clear signal to the driver.

Code: R = Sets down on request only. Times shown in *italic* indicate where connections to Norfolk Green service 60 to Wisbech are available.

DOWNHAM MARKET THREE HOLES – MARCH

Norfolk Green 61

MONDAY—FRIDAY

SAT ONLY

DOWNHAM MARKET, Bus Station	-	10.08	12.05	14.30	17.12	13.10	16.45
DOWNHAM MARKET, Bridge Street	07.50	10.08	12.05	14.28	17.16	13.10	--
DOWNHAM MARKET, Rail Station		10.13	12.10	14.35	17.16	13.15	--
NORDELPH, Silt Rd /Coronation Ave	--	10.25	12.25	14.45	17.26	13.33	17.10
THREE HOLES, Village Hall	08.16	10.32	12.32	14.52	17.32	13.38	17.14
UPWELL, Opposite Church Bridge	--	--	--	--	17.38	--	--
OUTWELL, Crown	--	--	--	--	17.40	--	--
THREE HOLES, Village Turn	08.17	10.33	12.33	--	--	13.39	--
WELNEY, Former Post Office	08.24	10.40	12.40	--	--	13.46	--
CHRISTCHURCH, Post Office	08.31	10.48	12.48	--	--	13.54	--
MARCH, Broad Street	08.51	11.04	13.04	--	--	--	--

MARCH –THREE HOLES - DOWNHAM MARKET

**Norfolk Green
61**

MARCH, Broad Street	--	08.55	11.08	13.08	--	15.30	--	--	--	--
CHRISTCHURCH, Post Office	--	09.12	11.24	13.24	--	15.45	--	09.12	--	13.36
WELNEY, Opp Former Post Office	--	09.20	--	13.31	--	15.52	--	09.20	--	13.46
OUTWELL, Opposite Crown	07.20	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	10.00	--
UPWELL, Church Bridge	07.21	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	10.02	--
THREE HOLES, Village Hall	07.27	09.30	11.33	13.39	14.52	16.00	16.52	09.29	10.08	14.05
NORDELPH, Silt Rd / Coronation Ave	07.34	09.37	11.40	13.45	14.59	--	16.59	--	10.16	14.13
DOWNHAM MARKET, Rail Station	07.47	09.53	11.52	13.55	15.04	--	17.09	--	10.31	14.24
DOWNHAM MARKET, Bridge St.	07.50	09.55	11.54	13.56	15.07	--	17.11	--	10.33	14.26
DOWNHAM MARKET, Bus Station	--	09.57	11.56	13.58	--	--	17.12	--	10.35	14.28

THREE HOLES - WISBECH

**Norfolk
Green 60**

THREE HOLES, Opp Village Hall	--	07.45	09.30	10.33	11.33	12.33	13.39	14.53	16.00	07.50	--	17.14
UPWELL, New Bridge Shelter	06.37	07.50	09.36	10.38	11.38	12.38	13.44	14.58	16.05	07.55	08.40	17.19
UPWELL Opp Church Bridge	06.38	07.52	09.38	10.40	11.40	12.40	13.45	15.00	16.06	07.57	08.41	17.20
OUTWELL, Crown	06.40	07.54	09.41	10.42	11.42	12.42	13.47	15.02	16.08	07.59	08.43	17.22
EMNETH, Gaultree Square	06.47	08.01	09.50	10.50	11.50	12.50	13.54	15.10	16.15	08.06	08.50	17.28
ELM opp Elmfield Drive	06.50	08.04	09.54	10.54	11.54	12.54	13.57	15.14	16.18	08.09	08.54	17.31
WISBECH Bus Station Bay 5	06.56	08.18	10.01	11.01	12.01	13.01	14.04	15.21	16.25	08.16	09.00	17.38

WISBECH - THREE HOLES

**Norfolk
Green 60**

WISBECH Bus Station Bay 5	09.00	10.05	11.05	12.05	13.10	14.25	16.25	17.40	18.30	15.25	16.25
ELM, A1101 Elmfield Drive	09.07	10.12	11.12	12.12	13.17	14.32	16.32	17.47	18.35	15.32	16.32
EMNETH, Gaultree Square	09.11	10.16	11.16	12.16	13.21	14.36	16.36	17.51	R	15.36	16.36
OUTWELL, Opposite Crown	09.19	10.24	11.24	12.24	13.29	14.44	16.44	17.59	18.43	15.44	16.44
UPWELL Church Bridge	09.21	10.26	11.26	12.26	13.31	14.46	16.46	18.01	18.45	15.46	16.46
UPWELL, New Road / Listers Rd	09.22	10.27	11.27	12.27	13.32	14.47	--	18.02	18.46	15.47	16.47
UPWELL, Town St / New Bridge	--	--	--	--	--	--	16.47	--	--	--	--
THREE HOLES, Village Hall	09.27	10.32	11.32	12.32	13.37	14.52	16.52	18.07	18.51	15.52	16.52
UPWELL, New Bridge Shelter	09.35	10.38	11.38	12.38	13.44	14.58	--	18.12	18.56	15.58	16.58

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Margaret for her accounting skills and to all our team of volunteers who distribute the WN come rain or shine.

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.

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01354 - 680969

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01354 - 610385

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Diary index



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Teddy Church:
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1 -1.15 pm in New Road



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Pavillion



Doctor: Monday Noon
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At Village Hall



Yoga at the Pavillion Thurs:
10am-11.30am



Parish Council meeting:
Village Hall 7.30pm



Youth Club: 6.30pm - 9pm
at the Village Hall



Womens Institute: 7pm
Village Hall



Friendship Club: 1.30pm
Village Hall



Dancing for dogs
Village Hall call Sue on
610230 for more details



Bingo: Doors open 6pm
Game starts 7pm



MP Morning Prayer 9.30AM

December 16th
December 23rd
January 20th
January 27th



HC Holy Communion 9.30AM

December 2nd
January 6th



HCC Holy Communion 11.30PM

December 24th at Christchurch



HCM Holy Communion 10AM

December 25th at Manea



AAW All Age Worship 11AM

December 9th
January 13th



USC United Service 10AM

December 30th at Christchurch

DECEMBER 2007

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2 HC	3 HC	4 HC	5 HC	6 YC	7 YC	8 YC
9 AAW	10 AAW	11	12 AAW	13 YC	14 YC	15 YC
16 MP	17 MP	18	19 MP	20 YC	21 YC	22 YC
23 MP	24 HCC	25 HCM	26	27 YC	28 YC	29 YC
30 USC	31 USC					

JANUARY 2008

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 HC	2 HC	3 YC	4 YC	5 YC
6 HC	7 HC	8 HC	9 HC	10 YC	11 YC	12 YC
13 AAW	14 AAW	15 AAW	16 AAW	17 YC	18 YC	19 YC
20 MP	21 MP	22	23 MP	24 YC	25 YC	26 YC
27 MP	28 MP	29	30 MP	31 YC		