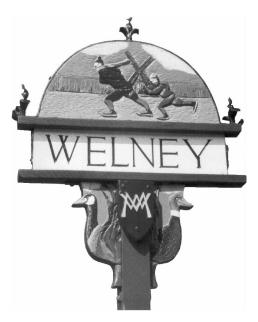
Issue 61

WELNEY NEWS

FEBRUARY—MARCH 2008

30p





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Front cover picture shows the depth board in the River Delph at the Welney Road bridge, where the level finally peaked on January 22nd at 3.65 metres. This meant that the depth of water on the road reached 1.25 metres (just over 4 feet).

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Ed's bit:

Well, 2008 has started in an all too familiar way with the Wash Road flooding... what a surprise! Hopefully it won't last as long as last year.

I'd like to say Thank-you to John Smart in Cornwall for his lovely letter, much appreciated, it's always nice to hear from our readers near & far!

Deadline for next time is **17th March** so please do get in touch if you have something to include.....

Rachel

PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday
13th February
7pm
at the Village
Hall

To discuss the Post Office situation in our village and explore possible solutions.

OPEN TO ALL SO PLEASE COME ALONG AND HAVE YOUR SAY

Motorists flood to world's biggest car wash





Carols Round The Tree

On a chilly December evening approximately 60 hardy folk came to St. Mary's church to ioin in singing Christmas Carols round the tree sited on the south side of the church. The guitar club started us off accompanying the singing of the Christingle song. After singing their way heartily, mainly I suspect in order to keep warm, through the carol sheet everyone moved into the church for mince pies and a warming cup of mulled wine. The P.C.C. would like to thank the children of the guitar club for playing for us on a very cold night. A big thank-you to Julie & Mike Perkins-Jones for donating, erecting and decorating the Christmas tree and supplying the mulled wine. This is the second year that Julie and Mike have organized the tree and I'm sure the folk of the village enjoy seeing the lights shining out as they walk past the church. St. Mary's P.C.C.

Help is at hand



Did you know that Age Concern West Norfolk District run a scheme where-by if an older person needs assistance with their garden,

decorating or any number of other odd jobs around their home they simply call the number below and after a few questions, they are given contact details of suitably skilled people in their local area, all of whom have had references taken up and are police-checked.

Please note **AGE CONCERN DO NOT COLD CALL.** If you receive a call offering decorating, gardening or handyperson services, it will not be from Age Concern. Please be aware of bogus callers, make sure you know who is contacting you – ask if you can ring them back.

Work opportunities

They are currently looking to enlarge the number of workers on their approved list and so are appealing for the following: gardeners, decorators and handypersons. If this interests you, the good news is they even arrange and pay for your CRB check, before giving your details to numerous potential customers in various areas of West Norfolk.

So, if you need a 'worker' or are interested in becoming part of the scheme simply call Jane Murchie on 01485 579077 to find out more details.

Welney Parish Council Needs You!

Welney Parish Council currently has two vacancies for Councillors.

The Parish Council meet every month on the first Tuesday at the Parish Hall and are hoping to fill the vacancies at the meeting on Tuesday 4th March.2008.

If you are interested in becoming a Councillor or would like any further information, please contact the Parish Clerk: Mrs Pat Copeman, 1 Chestnut Avenue, Welney. Tel: 610226 e-mail: welneypc@aol.com

Brief Update from Anglian Water

We have applied for planning permission for the pumping station and we are still negotiating with landowners for the treatment plant.

I would hope that we would have some news on this for next month.

The reality of the delay in attaining land is that it will delay the start of the schemes for both Welney & Christchurch.

We cannot commence the sewerage network until we know where the treatment plant will be and apply for its planning permission.

Exam success

Congratulations to the Welney Parish Clerk, Mrs Pat Copeman who has passed her CiLCA exams, the official qualification in Local Council Administration. Well done Pat.

Beauty Treatments

By **Jane**



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Friendship Club

The Friendship Club made a trip to Cromer on 13th December for lunch then on to the Christmas Show on the pier.

This was followed, on December 18th, by our Christmas lunch at the Lamb and Flag, where, as usual, we were well looked after. Everyone went home content and well satisfied.

Our first meeting of 2008 was on New Years Day, and according to Queenie, it was the very first time in the clubs 30 year history that a meeting had been held on New Years Day. I don't know whether that was just how the calendar has worked out over the years, or just that this Chairman decided that the date should be adhered to this year.

Pat Rix 01354 610292

Shred it then Shed it!

In the last issue I made a request for shredded paper and clean newsprint for the ponies Oliver and Polly. Since then my woodshed has had a constant supply of both! During the very wet weather recently it has been hard work to keep the ponies' beds clean and warm, so my very grateful thanks are due to all who have brought paper. Don't forget that I will collect paper if you are unable to bring it to us!

Karen Fleming

PS. The soiled paper eventually becomes compost, so it is twice re-used; now, that has to be better than landfill!

E-mail to the Ed

Dear Ed,

I found the farming diary in the last issue quite interesting, especially the section on sugar beet.

It brought back some memories of when I used to visit the sugar beet factory at Brigg, Lincs with my dad, who was a haulage contractor.

In those days everyone had to have a permit before you could take a load to the factory, I think they were different colours and remember red and blue.

The photo in the magazine looks a bit different to the one which greeted us on arrival at the field where the sugar beet 'pie' was being unwrapped. There was usually one elevator and a handful of men with sugar beet forks which had protective tines so as not to damage the beet. The men usually wore flat caps and if it was raining probably a sack on their backs.

When the lorry was loaded up it was off to join the long queue leading to the factory. It seemed quite exciting when the lorry backed up to the discharge area and a jet of water swooshed the beet out of the back of the lorry.

It all seems a world away from the machinery required now but that's progress and it was around fifty years ago, my how time flies.

E-mail to the Ed

This is probably just another moan by a tax payer that does not count after 53yrs of paying taxes and rates and now council tax. Perhaps you can get some-one to explain why the Wash Road is flooded yet again when we have not had a great amount of rain in the last 3 months, what is the rubbish they will come out with this time? It only happens when the swans give us a visit or when its duck shooting season, so the people in Welney can lose money and time for the sake of birds and hunters. It's about time that the council made the water company pay for the road as when its flooded the extra fuel and exhaust gas that this puts out, makes it a waste of time to try and save the world. As we try, people like the water company just put 2 fingers up to us. So come on Welney keep moaning at the council until they sort out the road. Here's hoping you print this with the comments of those this matter concerns.

Many thanks Mr Ray Gilbert ,Wisbech Rd.

Police Appeal

Police are appealing for information after an elderly woman was robbed in her own home in Downham Market on Monday 31st December, 2007.

A man called at an address in Bexhill Road at about 3 p.m. claiming he was a police officer investigating a burglary. He then forced his way into the property and stole the woman's handbag before making off. The offender is described as white and aged between 22—25 years old. Anyone who may have information on this incident should contact DC Ian Young at Downham Market Police Station on 0845 456 4567 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555

Police are reminding homeowners that a genuine police officer should produce a valid picture warrant card as proof of identity and if you still have concerns any officer would be happy to wait outside whilst you confirm their identification with the police control room on 0845 456 4567.

Used stamps update

I am also still collecting used stamps to send to the RSPB appeal to protect albatrosses - so for those of you who don't like to throw away your used stamps, please send them to the Bridge House recycling depot - i.e. the woodshed!

With thanks yet again - Karen Fleming

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FRI	8:00 AM	to	5:00 pm	
SAT	9:00 AM	to	1:00 pm	
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TRADE & RETAIL ENQUIRIES WELCOME

School News

Families coming to school this term will have seen a new feature in the playground. There is now a new bicycle shed - also a useful wet weather shelter for waiting parents! - positioned where it can be well supervised from the school windows and made of strong modern materials. The school completed a Travel Plan last year, as part of the Sustainable Routes to School initiative, and as a result received Local Authority funding for the new bike shed. Hopefully it will for many years serve to encourage children and their parents to cycle to school.

For the whole of last term the Key Stage Two children were able to have swimming lessons at Downham Market Leisure Centre. It was a successful term and all the children made excellent progress with their swimming skills. This half-term the KS2 children will be travelling to Upwell School on a Wednesday to use the sports hall there, and will be learning Gymnastics.

After half-term the KS2 children are very fortunate to get another wonderful sporting opportunity, when members of Cambridge United Football Club will be visiting the school each Wednesday to provide football coaching.

In the previous Welney News we mentioned that the school was applying for 'Eco School' status; the school now has an Eco-Action Team, including representatives from the children, staff, governors and parents. At their first meeting, the team did an extensive environmental review of the school and decided on specific problems or projects to work on. One of these is to be the ever-present need to minimise waste; another is to improve the biodiversity of the school area, for instance by providing nesting boxes for a number of animal species. Finally the team felt it was important to ensure as much pupil participation as possible in these projects. The next step will be to draw up an action plan including all of these aims. More next time!

Of interest to all of us at the moment is the flooding of the Wash Road with its impact on many wishing to travel to and from the village, not least the children of those families living at Suspension Bridge and Hundred Foot Bank who still have to get to school each day. Their situation has been brought to public notice recently; both TV and Radio crews have visited the school recently to talk to children, parents and staff.

Finally just to mention more festive - and drier! - times; on the day before the start of term the children of the school, along with some of their parents and older siblings, were treated by the Friends of the School to a coach trip to Cambridge Corn Exchange to see 'Peter Pan on Ice'.

Instead of the traditional pantomime, this was more of a ballet on ice, with stunning costumes and spectacular sets. The actors/performers were the Russian Ice Stars, who are a group of top class skaters making regular visits to the UK to perform childrens' fairy tales. The beauty and apparently effortless grace of each performer was a treat in itself, with the principle skaters carrying out breathtaking jumps, spins and lifts in classic style. In addition there were sword fights, juggling, skating on stilts, and even rope climbing, just to add some piratical spice! Most of us get to see skating on TV, but to experience such brilliant skating at close hand was just wonderful; as was seeing the enthralled expressions on the faces of our children. This parent for one will be waiting to book a seat for next winter!

Karen Fleming

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Farming Dary

Well, another year has rolled round and it will soon be the start of another season. A Happy New Year to all of you that read the diary.

Since November's scribbling I anticipated that we would have a relatively quiet December and January, but it seems to be as busy as the middle of summer, although I think the shorter days do

contribute to this. December saw the last 32 acres of sugar beet lifted at Pates Farm when the 9 row Vervaet beet harvester arrived in the top field, only to be followed by not one but two of the Ropa 6 row Tiger harvesters that I talked

about last time. With the trailers carting beet away I calculated we had over 2,000 horsepower on the farm - not good for our carbon footprint. I am only glad I did not have to pay the fuel bill, although I guess I will when I get the contactor's invoice for lifting. The beet was heaped in a long row beside the farm drive ready for Roger Warne's loading cleaner, the Ropa Maus (Mouse). This arrived in January and loaded 31 lorries of beet in around 6 hours. We were lucky that the beet sugar average had stayed high and actually averaged 19.05%, which is possibly the highest average we have achieved. This ensured we delivered our contract tonnage, which we just exceeded by 42 tons. This will probably be used by British Sugar in its ethanol production facility at Wissington.



Once the fields had been cleared we set about

drilling the last two fields with winter wheat. We did leave 5 acres unploughed which will see chamomile plants in the early spring, but for now this 5 acres is providing a daily feeding ground for around 100 or so swans who have been nibbling away on the remaining beet tops etc.

December also allowed us to market some of our Maris Piper potatoes for chips, and in January we filled the last of the McCain potato contacts. Unfortunately the wet weather last summer resulted in some damage to the potatoes by slugs, which meant those potatoes with slug holes had to be removed and four people were required to help grade the spuds before they were loaded onto the lorries. One interesting fact was that all the trailers (not the tractor units) used by the company to haul the potatoes were fitted with satellite tracking devices so the company always knew where their trailers were located; often useful when trailers are left out on farms for long periods. I was also informed by one of the drivers that these devices also prevent cowboy hauliers from 'borrowing' them without permission (which does happen apparently) as a way of preventing wear and tear on their own trailers.

We have also had our Maris Piper seed potatoes delivered ready for traying-up in order to allow them to produce strong chits (shoots) before planting in April. This will give us a few days work traying and stacking them over the next couple of weeks.

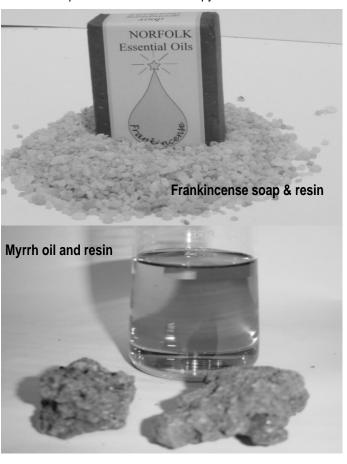
The other piece of potato news is that we managed to get an order for the waste 'slug-holed' potatoes for 'potato flake', which is used for products such as Instant Mash and Pringles. These potatoes have a value of about £18 per ton, which I always feel is a great pity as once the holes or marks are removed and they have been peeled there is no difference between these potatoes and the unmarked ones.

Incidentally, Debra did manage to get me to go late night Christmas shopping in Peterborough on Friday 21st December, which I must say was absolutely brilliant. Hardly anyone was about and all the shops were open and easy to explore. What's known as leaving it to the last minute, but I can recommend it to all those who, like me, are not enthusiastic about shopping.

Norfolk Essential Oils does not have any fresh herbs to process in the winter months but does process a small amount of Frankincense and Myrrh which, of course, is very appropriate for the Christmas season. Both these products are steam-distilled from the resin of the plants, which is harvested from small tree-like bushes grown in the deserts of Somalia and Ethiopia, where the native workers collect the exuding resin/gum from the bark of these small trees by making incisions. In the case of Frankincense the gum exuded is known as a 'tear' because of its teardrop-like shape as it weeps from the bark. The locals collect these 'tears' in baskets and they are then taken to the nearest market where they are purchased by the Arab traders. They are then sorted and graded according to size/colour. The larger 'tears' tend to be the most expensive and are used in the Arab countries for such things as chewing. Other grades are sold for incense-burning and are packaged in 40kg sacks for sale to the West to be distilled for use in the perfume and aromatherapy trades. The sacks of

gum are purchased at around £3,000 per ton, so one can see why these products were so highly prized by the Three Kings on their fabled visit. Myrrh is even more expensive but is currently not available due to troubles in the countries of origin.

Once the sacks arrive with us and are ready for distilling we half-fill a vat with water and turn on the steam. This heats the jacket surrounding the water but does not enter the vat, so acts like a heating element all around the base of the vat. Once the water in the vat is boiling we tip in three sacks of the gum which then dissolves in the water. This then boils and the process of evaporation produces steam containing the essential oil vapours of the Frankincense or Myrrh. The vapour passes through the condenser, where a circulating cold water jacket cools the steam and it turns back to liquid. It then passes into a collecting separator where the oil then floats on top of the water. The oil can now be removed, filtered and stored for later sale. The Frankincense oil is popular with aromatherapists, who will include it in massage oil blends etc. It is also used extensively in perfume manufacture. The Myrrh will be processed in the same way, although the resultant oil is much more difficult to extract at the final phase as it does not separate from the water as easily as the Frankincense oil and is much more viscous in behaviour. Myrrh is not so popular in aromatherapy although it is very good for skin healing. It is used in



dentistry and mouth washes possibly because of this healing benefit and is also used in perfumery. Traditionally the Myrrh was used in embalming and was favoured by the Egyptians to preserve the mummies. The biggest problem that we have with these two products is that the Frankincense is a light yellow, mobile, pleasant smelling liquid, but the Myrrh is a very sticky, amber/brown (almost black in some cases) viscous liquid - a bit like melted chocolate. This means that after distilling Myrrh a thorough cleaning of all the equipment is required before processing Frankincense; an exercise that can take a day or more to complete efficiently to avoid cross-contamination and involves a lot of steam and cleaning solvent. Not only do we sell the resultant essential oil but we also have a small market for the raw material; the gum resin before distillation, which looks a bit like crushed pear drops. The Frankincense resin is used by those wishing to burn it as incense and this is sold through the website in 200g, 500g and 1kg bags. Traditionally burnt in temples and churches etc, it is also burnt in hospitals in the hot, middle-eastern countries as a disinfectant and insect repellent.

One good thing about this kind of job is that working with fragrant oils means you do not come home smelling of sweat, but of the aroma of products normally found on the shelves of Boots the Chemist.

Roll On Summer

A word from Westminster

Prevention is better than cure:

Here we go again! The heavy rain since the New Year has flooded the Wash Road and yet again local people face the inconvenience and difficulty that creates.



The priority in the short term is to get proper signage and barriers to stop drivers heading into the water, thinking they can get through and then needing to be rescued. Drivers must know with confidence whether the road is passable or closed to traffic, and I am supporting the Chairman of Welney Parish Council in his efforts to get this matter resolved urgently with Norfolk County Council.

I have also recently contacted the Environment Agency for an update on the actions agreed at our last meeting aimed at finding a sustainable, long term solution to the flooding problem. Work on Denver Sluice was expected to ease the flow of water and so reduce incidence of flooding and I have asked for a progress report. We cannot go on like this, and I am determined that residents of the Norfolk Fens should not be expected just to put up with the disruption. Like other parts of the country, we urgently need investment in flood relief measures.

I recently spent time with the Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service, principally to discuss the shortfall in Retained Fire-fighters at rural stations like Outwell, and the implications for effective emergency cover. I was briefed on the action being taken to address this issue, which is recognised as a potential challenge if the recruitment of retained officers does not increase. I urge local people who want to serve their community to consider putting themselves forward. Retained Fire-fighters play a vital role in saving the lives of friends and neighbours.

I was fiercely impressed by the technology in the control room at the Service Headquarters. It seems crazy that the Government is considering closing the centre down and moving control to Cambridgeshire. I cannot believe that this regionalisation is anything but a cost-saving measure that will do nothing to improve the ability to deliver front-line services. I am extremely concerned that the existing high level of delivery in Norfolk could be jeopardised by the move. I will be making my views known to Ministers.

One very important issue emerged from my meeting. The Chief Fire Officer emphasised that prevention of fire is vastly more effective and less costly than dealing with fire itself. I promised to put out the message that smoke alarms should be fitted in every home and regularly maintained. Consider - it could save your life.

Christopher Fraser MP South West Norfolk





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Musical Youth

So, what do you get a 10-year-old for his birthday these days? The new bike came at Christmas and, like his peers, he spends too much time playing PS2, so we weren't prepared to buy him games or a new machine for his hands, eyes and brain to be glued to.

Louis had by this time shown quite a talent for music, first picking up the recorder at school and taking to it easily, and then piano and melodica. Music is an important part of the Stanhope family life so wanting to encourage him further - and out of desperation of what to buy him for his 10th - we came up with the bright idea of a saxophone. It was a bit of a risk as we didn't want to get him an instrument that was at the cheap end of the market as they have a lot of faults and are badly made, but didn't want to pay out lots of money on something he didn't get on with and waste our cash.

In the end we found something within our budget and waited for March the 22nd to roll around, worrying all the time in case he was disappointed. When the big day eventually arrived we were relieved to see his eyes light up as he opened the case and even after blowing hard on the reed and making a sound that would have called ducks home, he was still excited by his present, no doubt impressed by all the shiny keys, valves and rods. Within a few weeks he managed to play some simple tunes that he figured out by himself while we searched for a tutor for him.

As September came upon us, a good six months later, we eventually found Mrs Reeve out in Tydd Goat who agreed to give him lessons. She did a wonderful job with him and could see the potential Louis had in him and not long after that first lesson put him in for his Royal Academy of Music grade 1 test. The date for the test came back as March 22nd 2006, Louis' birthday.

The next months were spent working hard for the test aided by Vicky Reeve and also James Trundle who would help him with his oral parts of the test as well as accompanying Lou on piano. Louis would get very frustrated at times as the sax would squeak now and again during a piece and none of us could figure out what he was doing to cause this. Never the less it didn't put him off and he felt he was ready by the time of the test. The test itself went well and

other then a few dreaded squeaks Louis thought it had gone OK. We now had 6 to 8 agonising weeks to wait for the results.

Meanwhile Louis continued to have his weekly lessons with Vicky learning some fun stuff, he played a couple of pieces at the Christchurch Christingle and was involved in a workshop and performance with composer James Rea PhD, as well as putting together a CD at home here on our small recording studio.

The results finally came through and after just six months of playing properly Louis had gained a pass. Vicky told him that he ought to take his grade 3 next as he was more than capable of working towards it but Louis insisted that he wanted all the certificates and wanted to do the grade 2. Meanwhile the squeak was still there. At this point no one was sure weather it was Lou or the sax that was the problem.

As he was showing so much potential we decided to upgrade his instrument to a more expensive one. We weren't going to be able to afford a Selmer (the Rolls Royce of sax) but with some extra finances from Granny we took a trip to Wood Wind and Reed in Cambridge and found something Louis was happy with. From that day on the only squeaks to be heard in our house are the doors and when the dog's tail gets trodden on.

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The day of the test arrived in November with Louis exited at the prospect of getting half a day off school and again accompanied by James Trundle all went well, Lou showing much more confidence with his new sax. We again thought it would be 6 to 8 weeks before the results but two weeks before Christmas the certificate came through. Royal Academy of Music. Alto Saxophone Grade 2. Louis Jordan Stanhope. Pass with Distinction.

We have since found out that Louis should be at this stage after playing for 3 to 4 years so for an eleven year old to achieve these two tests within a little over six months of each other after playing for just 18 months is fantastic. As you will understand we are very proud of our son and have to hold ourselves back from



being pushy parents. We would like to thank everyone who has helped Lou on his journey and, although he is very modest about his ability and is quite shy about playing in public, Louis is always looking to learn more about the sax and takes opportunities to perform. It hasn't kept him away from being obsessed with the PS2 though - unfortunately.

Now, what can we get him for his twelfth?

Andy and Jean Stanhope

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Womens Institute

The December meeting began with the singing of Jerusalem. As it was the A.G.M. Bettine Watson gave a comprehensive report on the years' events, followed by Amy Markham who gave a financial report and finally Jennifer James gave a short account on the monthly competitions which were well supported over the year.

Margaret Sparrow from Christchurch was warmly welcomed back and brought with her several items of craftwork which were made at classes she had attended. Members were given a sheet of paper and scissors and asked to make a box. Everyone 'had a go' following Margaret's instructions and ended up with a pretty little box to take home.

Tickets were distributed for the ten week draw which starts in January.

Lucky raffle winners were Amy Markham, Jean Newell and Bet Smith.

The monthly competition, in which members had to create a wrapped present, was judged by Margaret Sparrow who awarded 5 points to Jean Newell and Jennifer James, 4 points to Blanche Markham and 3 points each to Bettine Watson and Queenie Johnson.

Amy Markham was willing to carry on as President and Bettine Watson to continue as secretary, but unfortunately no one was forthcoming to take the treasurers job. It was decided to have a Social Evening in January anyway.

January soon came round after the Christmas celebrations with each member taking festive food and determined to have a happy evening even if turned out to be the last one. Rosemary Green, a W.I. adviser joined members for the evening to help and advise where needed.

The winner of the Winnie Smith Memorial Shield was Bettine Watson who had gained 42 points out of a possible 50. The runner-up cup with a total of 37 points went to Amy Markham.

Everyone was delighted when Amy announced that Jean Newell had volunteered to be treasurer. Jean remarked that she couldn't see the W.I. disband after all these years and without more ado she proceeded to take the yearly subscriptions.

Raffle winners included Rosemary Green, Jean Newell, Jennifer James, Amy Markham and Sheila Dore. Several games of card bingo were played with winners too numerous to mention.

The Bring and Share supper tasted delicious after such good news and everyone can now look forward to another year of W. I. Meetings.

The evening concluded with the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

Enquiries to Amy Markham on 01354 610340





Make a Date with Wildlife ...

Norfolk Wildlife Trust is asking people to 'Make a Date with Wildlife' and help record how climate change is affecting wildlife in this county. To take part in this simple survey all you have to do is record the earliest dates that you see certain wildlife events happening in Norfolk. There are 5 'Indications of Spring' in total to record but you can do as many or as few as you like – every single record counts! Keep your eyes peeled for such things as the first clump of frog spawn, the first swallow, the first orange tip butterfly, the first open hawthorn flower and the first fully opened oak leaf. The survey runs from February to the end of May. For further information visit www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk or telephone 01603 598 333 for a free survey leaflet.

Gemma Walker

Photograph courtesy of Chris Mills

'Useful Recipe' slot!

Have you ever had an impulse to make and consume some good, wholesome, moist, syrupy flapjack, but not had a good reliable recipe? Well, just in case, here's a tried and tested one. I'm not even sure where it came from but we have consumed many batches of it at home.

'Cornflake Honey Slice'.

4 oz cornflakes, partially crushed 8 oz porridge oats 4 oz sugar 1-2 oz desiccated coconut 2 tablespoons honey 5 oz margarine

Mix all dry ingredients together, and melt the honey and marge in a pan.

Stir all ingredients together thoroughly, spread the mixture into a swiss roll tin and smooth and press it down.

Bake for about 20 minutes at 160 C. Don't let the flapjack get more than the lightest golden brown.

Remove from the oven and when it has cooled for about 15-20 minutes, cut it into fingers. Leave in the tray until cold.

Pile on a plate, brew up some coffee, and make sure you get there first! Karen Fleming





As the swans depart in March the spring waders begin to return signalling a new season at WWT Welney.

Sponsor the wardens to walk the Washes. Visit www.justgiving.com/worldwetlandswalk

Easter Arts family event Saturday 22nd March 11am-3pm Trail runs throughout Easter holidays.



World Wetlands Day 2nd Feb
Under 16s Free

Wonderful Wetlands
Family trail and activities every
hotiday and weekend in February.

March & April
Inspired by Welney Arts Festival
Workshops on photography,
woodland crafts, willow-weaving,
watercolours and quilting.

Hundred Foot Bank, Welney, PE14 9TN T 01353 860711 Visit wwt.org.uk Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust registered charity no.103088

Celebrate World Wetlands at the Welney Wetland Centre

World Wetlands Day falls on 2nd February every year as the anniversary of the signing of the Convention of Wetlands in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971. This agreement identifies Wetlands of International Importance across the world and standards to which they should be conserved. You have a wetland of international importance on your doorstep at Welney.

Welney is important because of the large flocks of Whooper swans, Bewick's swans and ducks such as Wigeon, Pochard, Shoveller, Pintail and Mallard that visit each winter as well as summer breeding birds including Black-Tailed Godwit, Lapwing. Redshank, Avocet and Snipe.

This year at the Welney Wetland Centre we are celebrating the wonder of wetlands for a whole month and we start on 1st February by asking visitors to put on their 'Wellies for Wetlands'. You can take part by wearing your Wellies to work on 1st February and sending in photos to info.welney@wwt.org.uk to go on the 'Welly Hall of Fame' that will be displayed throughout the month. On World Wetlands Day itself there is free entry for under 16s and activities to discover why 'Healthy wetlands mean healthy people' including a special menu in the café. Throughout the month of February children can follow the 'Wonderful wetlands' family trail.

Leigh, Graham, Sarah & Jon will be striding during the month February, to raise money for WWT by walking the length of the Ouse Washes on their 'World Wetlands Walk'. Sponsor them by visiting www.justgiving.com/worldwetlandswalk or visiting the centre during February.

As spring approaches, the reserve will begin to change dramatically. The swans depart during the month of March and are replaced by our returning breeding birds, such as Avocets and Little Ringed Plovers, and Black-Tailed Godwits pass through the reserve in their thousands. To celebrate this time of change we are running a series of workshops called 'Inspired by Welney'. If your New Year's resolution was to learn a new skill and you haven't started yet, sign up to one of our workshops on watercolour painting, photography, quilting, woodland crafts or willow weaving. Visit www.wwt.org.uk/welney to find out more.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



The December Meeting of the Welney Parish Council was held on Tuesday 11th at the Parish Hall

Residents from Tipps End attended asking for an up-date relating to the First –Time Sewage for Welney. They were advised that nothing further had been heard, but it was agreed to inform the group as and when any information is received. A copy of the plan showing the catchment area of the proposed sewage works for Welney had been obtained.

Following a recent problem with a **change of date for council meetings**, it was unanimously agreed that if for any reason the dates of meetings have to be changed in the future, then at least two alternative dates must be suggested. Meetings for 2008 will be held on the first Tuesday of the month, with the exception of January, which will actually be the 2nd Tuesday.

Clir.M. Jones tendered his resignation and grateful thanks were recorded for all the time and hard work that he had put in during his time on the Council.

Clerks Salary - In line with the National Association of Parish and Town Council recommendations, the rate was increased from £8,22.8 to £8,42.9 per hour, for 7 hours per week.

Elgoods and the Proposed New Community Centre - No up-to-date valuation of the Hall site had yet been received from the EA. The Working Party had held their first meeting and provided a report. It was unanimously agreed that Council support Option 1 of the recent survey - To build on the site of the existing pavilion. It was also agreed to gather names of potential architects and structural engineers and ask if they would be interested in becoming involved with the

project. Norfolk ProHelp had advertised in the local Village Halls Magazine and it was agreed to seek their advice and assistance.

Highway Matters - Thanks were expressed to N.C.C .for the pollarding on the Wash Road, but it was pointed out that one of the most dangerous trees had been missed. A copy of the NCC Highways automatic traffic count results was received for information. It was also reported that a railing had broken off at the Rutland Arms corner and was lying in the ditch.-Highways would be asked to attend to this.

Environmental Issues - Ouse Washes - A copy of the Scope for the Ouse Washes Strategy Group had been circulated to all councillors and it was agreed that a small group should get together and assess whether the Parish Council meet the criteria set out for membership.

Parish Action Plan - Councillors had been provided with a copy of the sections and it was agreed that this should be adopted. Further work will be carried out on the collating, photographs, map, and front and back covers.

Pat Copeman, Parish Clerk.

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A.M.I.A.S

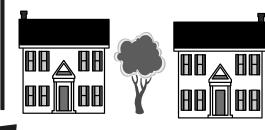
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Telephone 01945 772632

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Planning and building control approval obtained from Local Authorities.



PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The January Meeting of the Welney Parish Council was held on Tuesday 8th at the Parish Hall



Appointment of Trustee to Bishops Land Charity - Following the resignation of Mrs.J.Farrow as Parish Council representative trustee, Cllr.Grant Tomkins was duly appointed to fill the position.

First Time Sewage for Welney - Very little had been heard, apart from contact from the Cambs Times who were putting together an article for their paper. On the day of the meeting a planning application was received (which will be dealt with under planning matters) and the members of the Tipps End Group had been informed of this

Casual Vacancy - The vacancy had been advertised as is required, but the time period for requests for an election did not expire until 11th January. It was felt that some residents were not able to see the notices which had been displayed on the two village notice boards, and in view of this a separate item would be included in the next edition of the Welney News. It was hoped that there would be interested parties so that Council would be able to fill the vacancy by co-option at the March meeting.

Finance - A request for an Annual Grant towards the upkeep of the Churchyard had been received from the PCC and it was agreed that a donation of £200 should be forwarded. The Parish Council Financial Regulations were considered and adopted for a further year.

The Parish Council Precept on the Borough Council for the year 2008/9 was then considered. This is the amount of money the Council receives from the Borough in order to run the Parish Affairs. Councillors were provided with an estimate of expenditure to 31.3.08 (the end of the financial year) After consideration it was agreed to increase the Precept from £7,750 to £8,000 (an increase of just over 3%)

NOTE: Below is a list of the Councils Annual expenses, and this should give parishioners an idea of why the money is required. Electricity for street lighting and maintenance of same is approximately £1,500 per year. Clerks salary is approximately £3,000, Cutting grass on the playing field £725, Parish Hall Rent £178. Audit Fee £141, Annual grants £200, Postage and Telephone Expenses approximately £500 Heating Parish Hall for Doctor's Surgery approx. £50, Insurance Premium £925, Emptying Dog Bins approximately £200. Please note also that none of the Parish Hall finances are included in the Parish Council accounts for precept as although the accounts are managed by the Parish Council they are a completely separate item.

Parish Hall - Three of the heaters at the back of the hall are not working, and an electrician has been asked to come along and test them to find out the problem. The bottom step approaching the main entrance to the hall is broken and a builder has been asked to repair this. Also there is a problem with some of the plumbing in the hall and this is being attended to.

Elgoods and Proposed New Community Centre - Details of possible funding from WREN, (the Landfill Tax) had been received and it was agreed to contact them to make sure that we would be eligible and also what is the maximum amount available on their main funding stream. A visit had been made to Outwell Hall and a brief description was given to the meeting.

An e-mail had at last been received from the Environment Agency confirming the current value of the Parish Hall Site at £70,000. After a brief discussion it was agreed that we should proceed with the purchase at this figure as soon as possible. Elgoods are being kept informed of developments. A meeting of the Working Party was arranged for 15th January to move matters forward.

Planning Matters - A planning application had been received on the morning of the meeting from the District Council relating to Construction of a Vacuum Pumping Station and ancillary developments on land adjacent to Chestnut Avenue, Welney. Following consideration and study of the plans provided, it was agreed to recommend the application for approval.

Highway Matters - The problem with the footpath on Wisbech Road was raised again and Highways would be asked to look at this long-standing problem in an effort to sort out the problem. The Give Way sign at the top of New Road has been damaged and Highways would be asked to repair it. Problems were still being experienced with the Road flooded signs even when there was no water on the Wash Road. Similarly barriers are removed and signs ignored even when the Wash Road is flooded. It was agreed to ask the Environment Agency and Highways for a further meeting to try and sort these problems out once and for all.

Meeting Reports - Cllr. Bennett gave a report on the Road Safety Meeting which he had recently attended.

W.A.S.H. Committee - A meeting of the WASH Committee will be held on 18th January in order to make arrangements for the Open Day planned for 16th February.

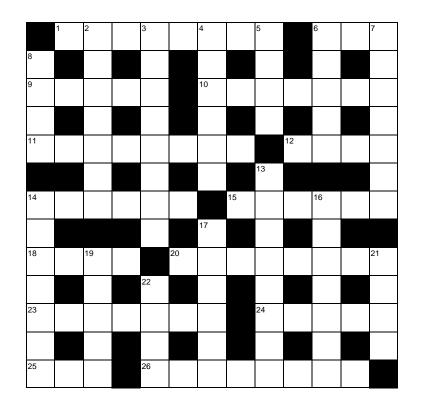
Pat Copeman, Parish Clerk.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD COMPETITION

BY MARK BROWN

Send your completed crossword to the Editor by March 6th and you could win a bottle of wine.

Name: Telephone:
Crossword winner for December
was Mr Reg Smith, who
generously donated his bottle of
wine to the Welney Bingo prize



Across

fund.

- 1 Conductor found at the end of tramline (8)
- 6 Supporter needed to keep cool (3)
- 9 Chicken appears to be wearing a hat, though it sounds like a cloak (5)
- 10 Acrobat, apparently, can hold drink (7)
- 11 It's not about me or you, it's about us getting the job done (8)
- 12 Lied about a lack of motivation (4)
- 14 Friend is a man (or woman) of letters (6)
- 15 Cattle used to keep warm in winter (6)
- 18 Wise to add flavour. Though partner could reduce one to tears (4)
- How do I get to where I want to be? I get a van, of course (8)
- 23 Think how a Gemini might feel (7)
- Fabric used in mending trousers or jackets (5)
- 25 Trust employer that cares (1,1,1)
- Somehow, sad smile gives a false impression (8)

Down

- 2 Tell me again how you could confuse axle with pin (7)
- 3 See chaps curse in their own clothing department (8)
- 4 Characterised by a force that cannot be controlled (6)
- 5 Weak excuse for failure to run (4)
- 6 Kept nails in order, removing roughness (5)
- 7 Found room for toddler, despite being full of plants (7)
- 8 Discover the cost of living up north (4)
- Fan the flames of romance in a nerd-like fashion (8)
- 14 Real enthusiasm for Spain. So fruity! (7)
- 16/19 In church, for instance, sounds like window cleaner is required (7,5)
- 17 Saw red when wellies proved inadequate (6)
- 19 See 16d
- 21 Just me and my award (4)
- 22 Solid, well established company (4)

WORDSEARCH

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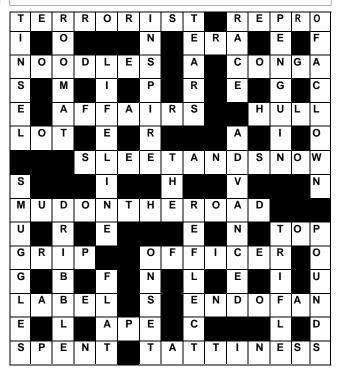
How many can you find:

Fiat, Citroen, Ford, Vauxhall, Porsche, Chevrolet, Volkswagen, Peugeot, Honda, Renault, Skoda, Kia, Volvo, Nissan, Toyota, Mazda

EASY SUDOKU

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

Solution to the December Crossword



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February & March listings

What's on at: Kings Lynn Corn Exchange Box Office 01553 764 864 What's on at: Ely Cinema Credit card bookings: 01353 616991 www.adec.org.uk

FEBRUARY

Fri 1st: City of London Sinfonia 7.30pm

Tickets £9.50 - £18.50

Sat 2nd: Paul Carrack 8pm - Tickets £24.50

Sun 3rd: Mr Men & Little Miss Sports Day Fun 1.30pm

Tickets £7.50 Family tickets also available.

Wed 6th - Sat 9th : West Norfolk Gilbert & Sullivan

Operatic Society present Iolanthe. 7.30pm &

Sat matinee at 2.30pm Tickets £15.00

Fri 15^{th} : Freeborn John by Rev Hammer 8pm

Epic Folk Rock opera Tickets £18.50

Thu 21st: Comedy Club - Adults Only! 8.45pm

Tickets £8.50

MARCH

Sat 1st: Barbara Dickson Live . 8pm Tickets £19.50

Wed 5th – Sun 9th: Beauty & The Beast on Ice. Various show times. Tickets £20.50 & £24.50

Tue 11th: Rotary Clubs of Kings Lynn, Priory & Trinity present Schools make Music. 7pm. Tickets £4.50

Thu 13th: Comedy Club—Adults Only! 8.45pm Tickets £8.50

Fri 14th: ELO: Return of the Orchestra 8pm Tickets £30

Sat 15th: Miller Magic 7.30pm Tickets £18.50

Sun 16th: Norfolk Symphony Orchestra 3.30pm

Tickets £8 & £12

Tue 18th: Solid Silver 60's Show 7.30pm Tickets £21.50

Wed 19th: Roy Chubby Brown—Adults Only 7.30pm

Tickets £19

Thu 20th: An Evening with Antony Costa 8pm

Tickets £16.50

Sat 22nd: Masters of the House Sing the Musicals

7.30pm, Tickets £17.50

Mon 24th - Wed 26th: The Gruffalo 11am & 2.30pm.

Tickets £9.50

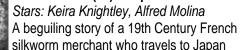
Thu 27th: Bjorn Again 7.30pm Tickets £17.50

Fri 28th: A Night at the Opera 8pm Tickets £18.50

Sat 29th: Pam Ayres 7.30pm Tickets £17

FEBRUARY

Sun 3rd: Silk (15) 7.30pm



Thu 7th: Elizabeth: The Golden Age (12a) 7.30pm

Stars: Cate Blanchett, Clive Owen.
Captivating historical thriller.

Mon 11th: Bee Movie (U) 3pm & Thu 14th 7.30pm

Stars: Renée Zellweger, John Goodman.
Ambitious young honeybee Barry B. Benson has career aspirations beyond honey-making!

Mon 11th: The Golden Compass (12A) 7.30pm & Thu 14th 3pm

Stars: Nicole Kidman, Eva Green, Daniel Craig Based on Philip Pullman's trilogy, His Dark Materials.

Sun 17th: P.S. I Love You (12A)

Stars: Hilary Swank, Gerard Butler, Lisa Kudrow A touching, exciting and often hilarious journey of rediscovery.

Sun 17th: The Kite Runner (12A) 3pm & Thu 21sr 7.30pm

In a divided country on the verge of war, two childhood friends, Amir and Hassan, are about to be torn apart forever in this adaptation of Khaled

Hosseini's much admired novel

Sun 24th: I Am Legend (15)
Stars: Will Smith, Salli Richardson.

The last man on Earth struggles to survive.

Thu 28th: Charlie Wilson's War (15) 7.30pm

Stars: Tom Hanks, Julia Roberts, Philip Seymour Hoffman. The remarkable story of the Texas congressman who tries to prevent the Red Army

from overtaking Afghanistan.









February & March listings

What's on at: Kings Lynn Arts Centre Box Office 01553 764 864

FEBRUARY

Sat 2nd Royal Geographical Society present Stephen Venables: Higher Than An Eagle. 7.30pm Tickets £11

6th – 7th FILM: BRICK LANE Nightly 7.30pm Thu matinee 2.30pm Call Box Office for ticket prices.

Fri 8^{th} : Rich Hall & Otis Lee Crenshaw . US comedian. 8pm Tickets £15

Sat 9th : Norwich Puppet Theatre present The Selfish Giant. 2.30pm Tickets £6

11th- 16th: FILM: BEE MOVIE Daily 10.30am Call Box Office for ticket prices.

27th – 28th : FILM: THE GOLDEN COMPASS Nightly 7.30pm Thu Matinee 2.30pm. Call Box Office for ticket prices.

MARCH

Sat 1st: Pretty Witty Nell - One woman play about Nell Gwyn. 7.30pm Tickets £11

Thu 6^{th} – Sat 8^{th} : Kings Lynn Players Present The Crucible 7.30pm Tickets £10

Sat 15th: A Simon Yates Lecture – Beyond The Void. 8pm Tickets £12

Fri 28th: The Picture of Dorian Gray by the European Arts Company. 7.30pm Tickets £11.50

Sat 29th: Andy Parsons – TV Comic. 8pm Tickets £13.

What's on at: Hunstanton's Princess Theatre Box Office 01485 532252

FEBRUARY

Sat 23rd Edwin Starr Band 8pm Tickets £9.50 - £15.50 Sun 24th Ollie Austin & All Star Band 7.30pm Tickets £10.50

MARCH

Sat 1st You Were Made For Me —50's & 60's hits. 7.30pm Tickets £9.50 - £13.50

Sun 2nd: Swansea City Opera present A Viennese Whirl 7.30pm. Tickets £9.50 - £14.50

Sat 8th: John Hylton – Neil Diamond tribute 7.30pm Tickets £9.50 - £14.50

Sun 9th: Lena Martell 7.30pm Tickets £9.50 - £14.50

Tue 11th: Remember When. Music from the 40's, 50's & early 60's. 2.30pm Tickets £9.50

Sat 15th: The Fureys & Davey Arthur 7.30pm Tickets £9.50 - £14.50

Sun 16th: A Night WithThe Stars 7pm. Tickets £15

Wed 19th Sat 22nd: Lavender Hill Mob Drama Club present Cinderella – Happy Ever After . Various showtimes. Tickets Adults £6.50. Children £4.

Fri 28th: Alvin Stardust On Tour 8pm Tickets £9.50 - £14.50

Sun 30th: Swing n Sinatra. 8pm Tickets £9.50 - £14.50



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The Welney News team

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Karen Fleming: 01354 610523 Margaret Levesley: 01354 610609 Marlen Moss-Eccardt: 01354 610344

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Churchwardens:

Pauline Aisthorpe 01366 - 384658

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Useful Numbers

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March Police 0845 456 4564

Q E Hospital, Kings Lynn 01553 613613

North Cambs Hospital 01945 488088

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Articles submitted for publication may have to be edited for reasons of space.



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Diary index



Mobile Library: 10.20am in pub car park

Teddy Church: 9.30am St Mary's



Pauls Fresh Fish Van 1 -1.15 pm in New Road



Carpet Bowls: 7.15pm Pavillion



Doctor: Noon at Village Hall. Call Health Centre to book: 01945 773671



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 Village Hall



MP Morning Prayer 9.30AM February 17th February 24th March 16th



HC Holy Communion 9.30AM February 3rd March 2nd March 23rd



AAW All Age Worship 11AM February 10th March 9th



USW United Service Welney 10AM March 30th

FEBRUARY 2008

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

MARCH 2008

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

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