

Issue 64

WELNEY NEWS

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2008

30p



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

TRADE & RETAIL ENQUIRIES WELCOME

WELNEY NEWS NEEDS YOU

We are in need of a willing volunteer to continue delivering the Welney News around the Tipps End area. Our current helper is off to University in September so PLEASE give me a call if you can help..... 01354 610459

Rachel Brown

The William Marshall School still needs you!

The William Marshall Church of England Primary School in Welney is still looking for someone to fill the post of Clerk to the governors starting in September. With a new head teacher coming in January it would be really good if we could fill this vital role as well! The post involves taking minutes at the Governors' meetings and circulating them (about 6 meetings a year) and other administrative tasks. All expenses are paid, full training is given and the Clerk is paid an honorarium of £150 per year. **Anyone interested?**

To find out more contact Sue Dobson (Chair of Governors) on 01354 610230.

St Marys Church events

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE

September 28th 11.00 am

HARVEST SUPPER

TO BE HELD IN THE CHURCH BUILDING

September 27th 6.30 pm

Tickets £6.50p

Tickets available from church members.

HARVEST COFFEE MORNING

TO BE HELD IN THE CHURCH BUILDING

October 4th 10am – 12 noon

VARIOUS STALLS RAFFLES
GAMES REFRESHMENTS

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Front cover picture
shows a water lily

Letter to the Editor.

Dear 'Ed'

After our terrible experience recently on the banks of the Delph, I am writing to make a plea to all those who enjoy fishing in the Welney area.

On a bright, breezy summer afternoon it is wonderful to enjoy the open spaces of the river banks here in Welney.

So we thought, as we set off on a Saturday afternoon recently to walk our own dog and a neighbour's dog. We had only gone a short distance and the dogs were happily wandering in the long grass when we heard Lucky make a terrible scream...we rushed up to him, to see him tangled in hooks and fishing line and desperately struggling to bite himself free. Two large pike fishing hooks were buried in his toe and his side, and he was unable to walk. We had to pick him up and carry him home; then after an emergency phone call to our vet we were off within minutes to drive to the veterinary practice in March where we are registered.

Lucky, thankfully, remained calm and allowed us to transport him safely there, submitting equally calmly to the careful hands of our vet. The outcome was a full anaesthetic and surgical removal of the deeply-imbedded hooks, followed by lots of antibiotics and painkillers. Lucky was able to return home the next day, complete with bandages, tablets, and buster collar, but thankfully happy and lively.

Things could have been far worse... we could have been much further away from the road. My husband, who stoically carried Lucky all the way home, might have decided not to come on the walk. One of us, or worse, one of our children (who were with us too), could have walked through that clump of grass where the hooks were hidden.

Our vet could not believe that fishing hooks could be that big. She kept the hooks and returned them to us so we could photograph them for this article, and for the letters we will be sending to the Environment Agency and to the Welney Anglers' Club.

Please, please, all those of you who enjoy fishing here or anywhere; can you ensure that all of your fishing equipment is accounted for when you leave your fishing site. These hooks caused a lot of suffering for a much-loved family dog, though thankfully help was at hand; it could have been far worse if the victim had been a wild animal or bird without the benefit of human assistance.

With thanks, Karen Fleming



New Head teacher for

William Marshall C of E Primary School.

Mrs Lyn Chatwin has been appointed to the partnership Head teacher post at William Marshall CE and Upwell primary schools. Mrs Chatwin is currently head of a village Church of England school in North Yorkshire with just over 100 children; before that, she was deputy head teacher at a large infant school in Ripon, North Yorkshire. She is married with 2 children, her son works for a well-known bank in London; her daughter is in her final year at Edinburgh University. "I am excited at the prospect of moving from the hilly county of Yorkshire to Fenland. It is a part of the country about which I know very little and gives me the chance to explore the countryside and villages on my bike!" said Mrs Chatwin. "We now have a very busy few months and I am looking forward to finding somewhere new to live" she added.

An Open Day will be organised in the Spring Term for prospective new starters to have an informal look around the school. Mrs Chatwin takes up the new job next January and looks forward to meeting the children, parents and any other members of the community wanting to help with the school's future.

Your right to vote....

The annual canvass for the Register of Electors begins at the end of August, when a form and reply paid return envelope will be personally delivered to every property in West Norfolk & Fenland. Completion and return of the form is both obligatory & important because the Register is used not just for electoral purposes but also by many financial service providers dealing with, for example, mortgages, loans or new accounts. Anyone whose name is not on the Register will not only be unable to vote at 2009's elections but will also be likely to have problems using any service that involves a check of the Register.

In the event of any queries when the form arrives, householders can telephone 01553 616773 (West Norfolk Borough Council area) or 01354 622323 (Fenland District Council) and any of the electoral staff will be glad to help.

Early return of the form or, better still, confirmation by freephone, internet or SMS (details on the form) will avoid the need for reminders and help to keep costs down.

Classical Music Concerts at Wryneck Mill

This autumn, two Sunday live Classical Concerts will be given at Wryneck Mill, Hundred Foot Bank, the home of concert pianist Geoffrey Pratley. Anyone interested is invited to call 01366 377484, leaving their name and number to reserve a free place. Early booking is advised as space may be limited. Starting 3pm, ending 4.15pm approx.

Concert 1

Sunday, September 21st

HEATHER HARRISON (cello)

GEOFFREY PRATLEY (piano)

Programme to include

Rachmaninov's great cello/piano Sonata op.19

Concert 2

Sunday, October 12th

ANNE APPLIN and

GEOFFREY PRATLEY

Music for Piano Duet and Two Pianos

Programme to include Borodin's thrilling
Polotsvian Dances.

For further info on artistes and music, call the
above number.

Good news for tea shop tourers!

If you are in the Littleport area, why not try a new venue for a cuppa or a light snack - the YPL tea shop at the Granby Business Centre! YPL stands for Young People in Littleport; and the aim of the Centre is to provide for young people of various ages. The Centre is a multi-functional building which includes regular Youth Clubs for 4-14 year-olds on Fridays and for 9-14 year-olds on Saturdays. Sessions run from 6pm - 9pm and admission is £2. The Tea Shop itself runs from 11am-3pm on each weekday, except Tuesdays when it is 12 noon to 3pm. There is a Soft Play area for toddlers, so parents and carers can relax and enjoy hot drinks and light meals such as sandwiches, toasties, jacket potatoes, and cakes, while their children play.

There is a weekly Toddler Session on Tuesdays from 9-30am - 11-30am, with toys, art and craft, soft play, and refreshments. Donations of unwanted toys and craft materials are very welcome.

There are summer holiday activities on weekdays, though I don't have details on these - the Centre can be contacted on 01353 864777 for information. The Granby Business Centre is on Granby Street in Littleport.

On Sunday 24th August there is a Fun Day at Little Downham Recreation Ground, with a football tournament, bouncy castle, barbeque, and more. The Day runs from 10am - 4pm; all are welcome; all profits go to YPL.

Karen Fleming

Friendship Club

The Friendship Club are a group of people who like to get together every other Tuesday for a cuppa and a biscuit, have a game of whist, dominoes or card bingo and have a little chinwag to catch up on all the news of the day. The meetings start at 2.00 p.m. in the village hall and everyone is welcome. (The first meeting in August will be on Tuesday 12th) Also, from May to December they have monthly treats, either a trip out or the club birthday party or Christmas dinner.

The last two outings to Holt and Sheringham in June and Boston and Skegness in July were a resounding success despite the occasional short sharp shower. On August 5th the Club will be off again, this time to Sudbury and Clacton. Sudbury is a quaint little market town nestling in the Stour Valley and Clacton has a wonderful pier with entertainment for everyone. Windsor is the destination for the September outing, steeped in history and home to one of the Queen's official residences. So if you fancy a visit, circle the 2nd September on your calendar and call Queenie on 01354 610409.

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Fun Agility in Welney.

Not only has the weather been better this year, but so have the dogs who have been attending the fun agility classes on a Wednesday evening. The classes have been running since mid April and we've only been rained off a couple of times, which has meant that the dogs have had lots of practice, and all the hard work by the handlers is beginning to pay dividends.

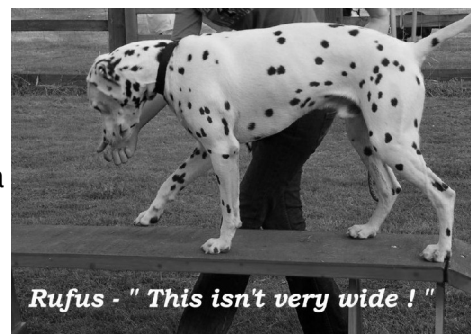
At the beginning, some of the dogs found it hard to concentrate on their owners, let alone what they were supposed to be doing. Those same dogs are now very much more focussed, able to do some of the obstacles off the lead and most importantly returning to their owners for their reward!! It's really great to see their continuing improvement over the weeks. This year we've added to the jumps, tunnels, weave poles and tyre jump and now include an A frame, a walk-way and a see-saw (known as contact equipment). This takes some getting used to by the dogs as they are not used to walking along planks a couple of feet off the ground! Some are frightened to start with and take a lot of coaxing with tit bits all the way along the plank. Others take to it as if they've been doing it all their life. One thing I've learnt is that you can never tell whether a dog is going to love it or be a bit scared, but I'm pleased to say they all get there in the end and once this happens it's hard to keep them off it! With those dogs who are very keen on the contact equipment, the hard part is keeping them moving along it at a good speed and making sure they touch the contact points at each end rather than leaping off in the middle. A balance between speed and control.

Some of the dogs (and handlers) have improved so much that there is now a second class for the more experienced dogs who can run whole courses off the lead. It means that I can now put together obstacle courses of varying difficulty, involving turns, getting the dog to work on both sides of the handler and getting the dog to work ahead of the handler, but still under control (saves a lot of running!). One of the pleasures I get from the classes is in not only seeing the dogs improve and obviously enjoying themselves, but listening to the handlers helping each other and cheering each other on when they get all the moves right. I recently purchased a fabulous book of course construction which has over 240 different obstacle courses that can be set up with the equipment I have!! That should keep us going through the remains of the summer!!

What has also been particularly pleasing to see this year is that we have a number of junior handlers. All have been showing some excellent dog handling skills and are really enjoying working with their dogs. They also have the added bonus of being able to move around the various courses a lot faster than us oldies!! Keeps us all on our toes!

Well, a number of dog owners in Welney are now a little bit fitter as are a number of dogs – no bad thing! There's still time if you want to join in the fun as the classes will be continuing until September when the evening light fades. If you are interested then give me a call on 01354 610230.

Sue Dobson



Rufus - " This isn't very wide ! "



Fern weaving through the poles



Some of the younger handlers and their dogs



Little Sadie makes the walkway look easy!



Sue (in the middle) with some of the participants.



A word from Westminster



The Boundary Committee has announced its recommendations for local government reorganisation in Norfolk, proposing unitary government which seem to me to be Norwich-centric and pay scant regard to the needs of residents in the rural west of the county. I share the concerns of the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk that a single unitary authority of the size and scale put forward by the Boundary Committee would be too big and too remote to deliver effective local government.

Hundreds of local people have written to me to tell me that they think wholesale reorganisation will be expensive and take local government further away from the people who pay for it.

Residents have only until 26 September to register concerns about the Committee's proposals, over the summer holiday when people may be away or have their mind on other things. I shall continue to make clear to the Government that decisions on local government reform must take account of local views, and that unwanted and expensive reorganisation should not be foisted on us.

Another consultation has been announced, this time by the Department of Health on plans to reform pharmacy services. On the positive side, the Government plan an expanded role for community pharmacists in providing services such as screening, long-term condition management, health and lifestyle advice and medicines use reviews.

But the White Paper potentially also spells the end for many dispensing doctors, who for years have provided a vital service in rural areas where a community pharmacy is unviable. The Government proposes to change the distance requirements for the establishment of a dispensing practice and it is this that has caused such alarm to GP surgeries locally. One doctor told me that not only could a much-valued dispensing service be lost to patients, but that without the income derived from dispensing prescriptions, the quality of overall patient care could be jeopardised.

I have written to the Secretary of State for Health, enclosing a copy of the dozens of letters I have received on this issue, and calling on him to recognise that the special circumstances of rural practices must be borne in mind and patients' interests given highest priority.

I also had reason to question the purpose of the annual report of the Commission for Rural Communities. The Commission reports annually to the Government, no doubt at considerable cost to the taxpayer, on facts and figures of life in rural areas. The report just published shows that rural poverty in areas like Norfolk is on the increase and that there is growing inequality between the countryside and life in the cities. The statistics contain few surprises to anyone with an understanding of life outside large towns and cities.

The Government has a history of imposing one-size-fits-all urban policies where they are entirely inappropriate. The next report in this series will have to take account of the imminent closure of dozens of sub-post offices in Norfolk. There is also increasing rural poverty as a result of rising costs of motoring because of a lack of public transport, and people without access to mains gas rely on heating oil which has nearly doubled in price, an issue I took up with the Government in a debate I secured recently.

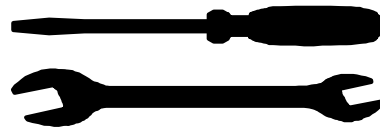
The big question is, when will the Government take note of these year-on-year statistics, and realise that the countryside is not a theme park? It is time they came up with policies that combat rural poverty and crime, support the rural economy and allow investment in Norfolk's infrastructure.

Christopher Fraser MP
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

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Upwell Health Centre News



It has been a busy 2008 so far at the health centre. The doctors have noticed an increased demand for appointments over the last few months and we have temporarily increased surgery time to cope with the demand. The new pharmacy has also been struggling to cope with the workload and it seems appropriate to try to explain why you may have been finding you have had to wait to collect your prescriptions.

Firstly there has been an unprecedented workload. With the increase in patient numbers caused by all the new building, the increased number of prescriptions needed by the aging population and the increase in preventative medicine, we have been issuing around 17000 items a month, which is nine and a half items every five minutes. For each item the drug has to be found on the shelf, the dose and form must be checked by two different people against the prescription and the item must be labelled, bagged and handed to the patient. The prescription then needs to be signed and the charge collected if due. All this must be done without making a mistake. Needless to say there are times when the workload exceeds the abilities of the staff to cope especially at times of sickness or holiday. The times we have found particularly difficult are the weeks leading up to bank holidays where there seems to be an extra-ordinary increase in the rate at which people order repeats "in case they run out over the holiday". Please help us to help you by ordering your medicines well ahead of time (but no more than 2 weeks) and not calling too soon to collect a prescription you have ordered. If we have been given adequate notice the drugs will be bagged and on the shelf waiting. If you come too soon it slows us up more as the staff spend time locating the prescription and maybe even having to dispense it there and then if it is medically urgent that you have the drugs.

Secondly, we often get asked why it is so much slower since the change to a pharmacy. Well the rules governing pharmacies are different to doctor run dispensaries which we had prior to December 12th. The pharmacist has to check each item individually which means the dispensing process is slower. The benefit this should bring is that you get better advice about how to take the drugs and what problems you may encounter. The pharmacist we originally appointed has left us and the new pharmacist, Faz, has just started. Faz has great plans to improve the services on offer and we hope that in July, when another part-time pharmacist takes up a post things will greatly improve, not only in the speed of the dispensing process but also in the range of services on offer. It has been a difficult six months but there is light at the end of the tunnel and I am sure you will be pleased with the changes once it has all worked through.

I am sure we are all pleased with the car park the council have put opposite the surgery. The doctors are grateful for the efforts of our two borough councillors, Vivienne Spikings and David Pope, for their persistent lobbying for this amenity. All I can ask is that YOU USE IT. Sadly some of you are still parking on the road in front of the surgery obstructing the free flow of emergency vehicles, delivery vans and staff cars. The walk from the car park is really quite short and will do no one any harm; in fact the extra exercise is likely to be good for you! There are disabled bays in the car park in front of the main entrance for those who need them. There have now been yellow zigzag lines painted in front of the health centre on the road, this means don't park there. It does not mean park on the other side of the road and still ignore the car park!

Finally, there are currently negotiations going on about increasing our opening times to include Saturday mornings and a late surgery one evening each week and we will announce any changes as soon as they have been finalised.

Dr Paul Williams

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Recently we had a sports day, we all had a great time and the weather was delightful.

A few KS2 children took part in Area Sports. There were the following races, hurdles, relays, 200m & 600m races, skipping race, tennis ball throwing and long jump. It was fun to compete against other schools in our area.

On the 16th July Year 5/6 went to Ely Cathedral for a Maths Day everyone enjoyed this educational experience. They did patterns, symmetry and labyrinths.

The whole school also went to Banham Zoo in June, the sun was shining and the sky was clear. It was a fun event for all of us. We also had a time to hold some creatures, we stroked a lizard, we held a hissing cockroach from Madagascar and a rat.

The infants went to the Welney Wildfowl Trust which they all thoroughly enjoyed and learnt a lot. They all imagined being estate agents looking for a great destination for 5 ducks, based on the story 'Close Encounters'. The children were involved with the following activities. Pond Dipping, minibeast search, looking for creatures, composed some music from the sounds, felt the textures of grass and other things, they also made perfume. It was a great fun day!

The leavers disco was on Tuesday 15th July. The children thoroughly enjoyed signing the year 6's autograph books. There were games, prizes, sweets, BBQ food which was burgers, corn on the cob, onions, salad and Icecream.

SATS results came out on July 15th. The year 6 had a long wait when the results came a week late, but when they came they were stunned at what they got. We're proud of what we got.

All of the year 6 children went to the Top Link Sports Festival at Downham Market High School and all enjoyed it. The activities were rounders, parachute, welly throwing and assorted obstacles and two of us were awarded sportsmanship medals.

Moving On.

Mrs Rickard (our head teacher) retired on the 18th July, she has been our headteacher for around four and a half years. She has enjoyed working with the children, staff, parents and governors very much and has said that the school is a very special and very important part of the village.

The year 6 children have had visits to their high schools and they are all looking forward to going, and also it will be very hard to move on because William Marshall School is so small and it will be a big change from primary to high school.



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Teddy Church at St Mary's, Welney

Hi, Teddy Fans! Welcome to my summer season ramblings about Teddy Church, the young childrens' get-together which is held at St Mary's Church in Welney on the first Monday of each month. Parents and Carers are welcome, and Teddies or similar favourite companions are essential, of course!

Our July session was held in a spick-and-span church which had just been given a thorough Spring Clean after the decorators had finished. Quite fittingly, our theme was 'Baptism' or 'Christening', depending which branch of the Christian 'tree' you are familiar with. I told the story of Jesus being given a thorough wash in the River Jordan by his cousin John - washing not only his outside, but his inside too. We did a reconstruction of the event, and the traditional Baptism service as it is done in churches these days, using a very talented actor as the star character - the one and only SpongeBob SquarePants (thanks to Evie for the loan of Sponge-Bob!) Bob accepted his dousing with good grace, and even stopped crying when we promised him a drink and biscuit after our drawing time, 'prayer yell', and candle snuffing had all been completed! Our local Teddy enthusiast Luke produced a wonderful picture of Jesus and John in the river, surrounded by fish and turtles (use your imagination here, please!!) Dawn Butcher also joined us, enjoying the company and the singing. This was her second visit, and she now has her own loyalty book.

August may be Teddyless, because Sally and I are both committed elsewhere (which we are both very grumpy about) but, in September, (Monday 1st) we will have our Teddy Church get-together, **at 11am**, followed by a picnic. All our Teddy families past and present are invited to join us; plus any new friends too - if you know of any pre-school children, and their older brothers and sisters, who might enjoy an hour or so of songs, stories, simple art and craft, and friendship in a relaxed atmosphere, please bring them along - all welcome!!

We hope you can join us... all the best,

Holly (610592) Sally (610444) and Queenie



Delph House news

Marifa Lodge Care Home

www.delph-house.co.uk

Tel: 01354-610 300



Our maintenance person Chris, with help from Jim, has been working hard on our lawns and flower-beds. The picture shows the lawn and sitting areas which residents see from the main lounge.

Recent outings

Since the last Welney News we have visited: Springfield shopping centre where we strolled through the shops to the gardens.

Manor Park Farm in Upwell. In spite of wet weather we saw the animals at close quarters and had afternoon tea. Songs of Praise at Outwell Methodist Church, followed by a very good tea prepared by church members. Caithness Crystal at Kings Lynn where we saw items being hand-made and a range of lovely crystal glass. Ely market and waterfront for another look at the birds by the river and an ice-cream.

Staff news

We congratulate Sheila Hensby on becoming a Senior Care Worker. Sheila has worked at Marifa Lodge in the past and re-joined us recently.

Residents and Friends committee meeting

Since the last meeting, we have a number of new residents. All residents and their friends and family are invited to a meeting here on Monday 4 August at 5:30 pm. Please attend if you possibly can to discuss residents' care and activities and to fill vacancies on the residents' and friends committee.

Day Care

Day Care Centre now operates on Mondays and Thursdays, with users able to go out on the trips on Thursdays. Please telephone, email or visit to enquire for more information.

We also continue to deliver home-cooked lunches to local elderly residents in their homes. This service currently operates in Welney and Upwell and Outwell and villages between.

Graham Rainbird



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Caution pays

Suspicious Activity

Wisbech Road, Welney 26th June, 2008

Norfolk Constabulary are advising residents to remain vigilant after reports of a suspected bogus official in the area.

A man, claiming to be from an electricity company and wanting to read the meter, called at a home in Wisbech Rd at 4:20pm.

The man did not have the right name for the owner of the property or the correct name of the electricity supplier to that property.

Householders are reminded to double check the identity of anyone cold calling at their home and always ask for quotes and references before any work on your garden or home is carried out.

Always ask for identification from any unexpected callers and do not to let anyone in if you are not comfortable with who they are.

Councils and utilities companies will generally contact householders by telephone or letter if they plan to carry out repairs rather than make unsolicited calls.

Please report anything suspicious as soon as possible to police on 0845 4564567.

Help create an even bigger stir!



It's that time of year again and Macmillan Cancer Support is urging people to help them create Norfolk's biggest ever stir, by registering to take part in their annual fundraising event the 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' which takes place on Friday 26 September.

Every year over 4,400 people are diagnosed with cancer in Norfolk and one in three people will be affected by it during their lifetime. Macmillan aims to be a source of practical, medical, emotional and financial help to these people and their friends and family.

Taking part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning is one of the easiest and most enjoyable ways you can help raise funds. Last year people from Norfolk raised over £153,000, a staggering £27,000 more than in 2006.

Everyone can make their cuppa count by holding a coffee morning, at home, at work or at school. To hold a coffee morning for Macmillan, register by calling 0845 602 1246 or visit

www.macmillan.org.uk/coffee.

Watch out for.....

During the past few weeks there have been 3 Distraction Burglaries reported in Norfolk. These have occurred in Fakenham where the victim was aged 83, Mattishall where the victim was aged 80 & Hilgay the victim was aged 79. In all three cases the victims invited the perpetrators into their homes. Once in the property large sums of cash were taken and in the Hilgay incident a Volvo car was also taken.

Also, there have been at least 6 incidences of suspected bogus caller/rouge trader activity throughout Norfolk, this is where members of public have refused offers of tarmacing or brick weaving driveways, tree pruning or roofing work and subsequently called the police to report the incident.

Vehicles that the suspect callers were using include the following a Blue Ford Transit Van index AV03 FUP, a IVECO Tipper index R241YNE, a White Pick-up index LT04CXA & an old Blue Transit Van.

If you see those vehicles in your neighbourhood or any suspicious persons, please report it to the police on 0845 456 4567. Give the call taker a description of the suspicious persons & the index number along with a location of the vehicle, especially if they are calling at your vulnerable neighbours.

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Womens Institute



At the June meeting members heard from Peter Carter who gave an entertaining talk about mole catching, poaching and eels. The baby eels, called elvers, travel over four thousand miles to arrive in this area from the Sargasso Sea. Years ago eel skins were used to make all sorts of things including wedding rings and shoes. Eels were classed as a delicacy and were transported to the big hotels in London and surrounding areas. Peter also attends to osier beds at Waterbeach which supplies willows for arches, fences and wigwams to support flowers and vegetables among other uses.

To enter the competition members had to create a flower arrangement in a wine glass. Cissie Bedford, Bettine Watson, Queenie Johnson gained 5 points, Jean Newell, Amy Markham, Blanche Markham, Sheila Dore and Jennifer James 4 points.

Lucky raffle winner were Vera Singleterry and Jean Newell.

A wordsearch kept everyone occupied for social time with Blanche Markham as the winner.

Sheila Dore and Blanche Markham were presented with a teaspoon or handkerchief for gaining maximum points in recent competitions.

President Amy Markham welcomed everyone to the July meeting in the village hall.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and an invitation to the Acorn Club Harvest meeting at Three Holes on 24th September was accepted.

Members were also informed that the yearly subscription would be going up by another £2 to £29.

Jim and Maureen Samuels 'The Victorian Strollers' were introduced, smartly dressed in their Victorian finery. Jim's talk was called 'The Fens to London-Stranger than Fiction'. Telling tales from around the area weaving local history and tradition into his tales, some of which were a bit far fetched, but very interesting all the same.

Maureen Samuels kindly judged the competition where members had to bring along their prettiest piece of china. Queenie Johnson and Cissie Bedford gained 5 points, Blanche Markham and Bettine Watson 4 points, Jean Newell and Jennifer James 3 points, Vera Singleterry, Sheila Dore and Amy Markham, 2 points.

Bettine Watson and Jennifer James were winners in the raffle.

The August meeting will be held at the home of Jean Newell and the competition is 'Salad on a tea plate'.

It's back to the hall for the September meeting when Liz Wright will talk about the Donkey Sanctuary.

'Hi, Hol, Silver Lining!'

Hello; Holly here! One of my favourite sayings is "Every cloud has a silver lining". This has been proved true this year. As many Welney News readers will know, three years ago I joined a small group of Welneyites who have fallen victim to cancer. I have been lucky enough to make a full recovery, thanks to much expensive treatment and support from the wonderful medical staff of Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn, and Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge; mainly within the MacMillan units. I firmly believe the support and prayers of my friends went a long way to bringing me back to good health too.

Since I was ill, I have been determined to pay back some of my debt of gratitude by helping to raise money for cancer care and research, and particularly for MacMillan units locally. Some readers may recall the coffee morning Karen Fleming and I held at Karen's house a couple of years ago, at which copies of my booklet of 'cancer' poems first appeared for sale at £1 each. Inflation has now hit the Fens, and a minimum donation of £1-50 was asked for the poetry booklets at a concert held at St Peter's Church, March during May of this year. The concert, with its mixed programme of singing, music and poems. The songs were performed by local songbirds Sally Kerr of Welney and Helen Chappell of Christchurch, and also by the junior choir of St Peter's, James and David Goodwin (Welney), Louis Stanhope (Tipps End), Thomas and Alex Clabon and Morgan Chappell (Christchurch). My poems, the 'story' of my illness and recovery, formed the theme; and the whole thing was woven together by the music of James Trundle, organist at St Peter's and now also a resident of Welney. The concert was a great success and raised £250 for the MacMillan Fund.

Our group is to hold another concert, with a similar programme, in Welney. This will be on Saturday 13th September at 6-30pm, in St Mary's Church. I am hoping that we will at least equal the £250 raised in May, but we would love to better that sum. Proceeds from the Welney concert will go to the MacMillan unit in Addenbrookes Hospital, where I received three weeks of radiotherapy treatment in 2005.

I am delighted to be in a position to give a further donation of over £500 to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, thanks to the generosity of well-wishers at the wedding celebration of James Trundle and myself. If, as we hope, the Welney concert raises at least the same amount as the May concert, then we will have raised an amazing £1000 to benefit cancer sufferers and their families.

So please, please, come along and support us in September - bring family, friends, and neighbours and help to make it happen! Thank you so much to everyone who has helped so far, and thank you in advance for your goodwill and support for our next concert. I hope to see you there, at 6-30pm, in St Mary's Church, on Saturday 13th September.

Love and best wishes

Holly (tel 610592)



*A Concert
of
Songs and Poems
inspired by a Cancer journey...
...from discovery to recovery
in
St Mary's Church, Welney
on
Saturday 13th September 2008*

at

6-30 pm

*ALL proceeds will go to
MacMillan Cancer Care and Research.*

*Raffle
and
Refreshments*

Entry - Adults £3-50

Children Free

Poetry Booklets £1-50

*Please come
and help
to make a difference!!*

Farming Diary

Well, in the May issue we had just finished planting the last of the chamomile and only yesterday (24th July) we harvested and distilled the first of the season's chamomile crop. The weather is now about perfect for cutting and harvesting with hot sunny days which encourages the plants to bloom and raises the essential oil level. The first distillations from the field at Hurn Drove look promising. Last week saw the completion of the first cut of peppermint for the season. This crop is foraged into trailers before delivery to the distillery, though this year we have had a few problems with the high winds. We cut the peppermint and leave it to dry in swaths in the field for about 4 or 5 days before foraging into trailers. As the crop was fairly dry the high winds made it rather tricky trying to direct the material into the trailer and a little bit of skill with the spout was necessary.

The distillery has had some other interesting crops processed this season; we have had, as normal, lavender from several locations and have several more loads this coming week. We have distilled sage, thyme and lovage leaves along with angelica roots and Melissa (lemon balm), so there have been quite a variety of aromas. Oh, I must not



forget the parsley seed I distilled. We were sent a few tons of dry parsley seed in sacks to extract the oil from. Yes, there is oil in parsley seed but to get it out you first have to lightly crush the seeds so that the steam can break into the hard shell. The seeds are crushed in a roller mill similar to how you would roll oats or barley to feed to stock. The crushed seeds are then put in a vat with water, and steam is introduced to boil the water, which becomes what we call a water bath distillation. Parsley seed oil is quite interesting as it produces two fractions of oil, one fraction is lighter than water and floats and the other is heavier and sinks to the bottom of the collection vessel. Once collected and separated from the water they are blended together. We are now waiting for the results of the analysis to determine the quality. Small amounts of this oil are used in aromatherapy and perfumery but the main use is in the food and flavour trade.

I am expecting a load of bog myrtle (sweet gale) from the Scottish Highlands at the end of the week as a trial for another group of growers trying to develop a similar industry with their local plants in Scotland. We have a customer near to Epsom who sends us organic lavender so this season we have certified the distillery with the soil association in order to process this material. Last week we had our first inspection which was a bit of a challenge but we did pass subject to a few pieces of paperwork.

Tomorrow will probably see us combining our first field of oil seed rape. I tested a few heads this afternoon and a hand rubbed sample had a moisture content of 7.5%, so through the combine harvester this would probably test at 9%, which is the optimum moisture content for harvesting rape. All of our material this season is again grown for seed and, subject to testing, will be sent to CBP Twyford near Cambridge where it will be cleaned, dressed and bagged for selling to growers to plant in September. I am, however, tempted to keep some back myself as I am keen to purchase a seed press where we can extract the oil ourselves on the farm and have the option to use/sell it for culinary use or for using as an alternative to diesel in the farm vehicles. We hear much in the press recently that bio-fuels are responsible for increased food prices. I am not convinced this to be the case and would remind commentators that only just under 100 years ago every farm was powered by horses for which quite a percentage of the farm had to provide grass and other foods to feed them - historical bio-fuel! Also, having a press on the farm would work in quite well with the Norfolk Essential Oils side of the business and would enable us to press other products to complement our range, products such as sweet almond oil and apricot kernel.

This week's nice weather saw us complete the making of haylage. The grass field was cut on Monday and on Tuesday we turned the grass to enhance the drying. Wednesday afternoon saw the contractor arrive with the baler and two hours later we had removed all 34 bales. The bales were taken back to the farm where they were wrapped with plastic

and the fermentation of the hay inside could then start in order to make the haylage. The baler actually sprays the hay with a bacterial culture naturally found in the grass which encourages the fermentation and enables the haylage to be ready for use within 7 days instead of the 8 weeks if no culture is used. The wrapping machine is quite something to watch as it picks up the round bale and spins it round while rotating and wrapping with what appears to be giant roll of cling film/ stretch wrap.



The bulk of the spraying work is now complete other than the routine blight spraying on the potatoes and the mildew control on onions which we carry out every 8 to 10 days depending on disease pressure. Grain harvest is possibly only 7 to 10 days away but this will depend on whether the hot spell we are currently experiencing is here to stay. If it does then the grain will ripen rapidly as the crop runs out of moisture. We spent yesterday removing the weed beet from the sugar beet fields. These are plants that are either seeds from a previous beet crop that have remained in the soil or plants drilled with the crop that are known as bolters, which run to seed in the early season. If these plants are allowed to set seeds and return them to the soil they become a serious problem for future sugar beet crops as each plant can produce many thousands of viable seeds that will remain in the soil until the next beet crop. These weed beet will not contain any amount of sugar and can choke and smother the commercial crop. The most successful method is hand rouging. Four of us set out yesterday morning to an 8 acre field. Oh sorry, I forgot that the EU has banned the acre. I should have told you 3.24 hectares! Anyway, I think we chose possibly the hottest morning of the year though in the end it was all worth it as there are few things more rewarding than casting your eye over a field of beet two hours later with no weedy beet left standing. (I suppose some of you may think of something more rewarding; suggestions to the editor for next time please!)

Well I could not finish without an update on the farm wildlife. The workshop saw the third blackbird nest hatch off only yesterday with three young birds. We have had pied wagtails nesting in empty potato chitting trays stacked in the yard, a wren nesting under the front frame of the combine and another in a hard hat hanging on a hat stand in the distillery. The distillery is also home to swallows and martins.

The onion fields have become home for quite a few brown hares which follows on from those reported in the May edition, the only problem being they seem to have a liking for the onion leaves and are currently having quite a feast; a problem which I have never experienced before. I would have thought there was more pleasant food out there!

We have some new arrivals on the farm pond; three wild ducks that had been orphaned and hand-reared in the village. These were bought to the farm to mix with our own Khaki Campbells. They have settled in very well and have even attracted 5 other wild ducks to the pond that are getting tamer by the day. The fox has not been seen recently but we now have magpie problems. They visit from 4am each morning and are helping themselves to all the duck and chicken eggs that are laid early each day. Isn't nature wonderful!

One thing I do find slightly strange this season is that I have not yet heard a cuckoo and I do not suppose now that I will. This must be the first year I have never heard one.

Here's to a successful harvest

Ken Goodger



Parish Council Report

The June meeting was held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 3rd at 7.30pm



PC Smart and two Community Support Officers from **Norfolk Police** attended the meeting and they gave a talk about the work they do and included crime statistics for the village, Crimes for Welney were low compared with other villages in their area.

Meadow Lane - Council had received a letter from Mr. Redman together with a copy of the Norfolk County Council's decision not to grant a right of way status to Meadow Lane.

Post Office Services - The Clerk reported that she had spoken to the Secretary of the Parochial Church Council and she had confirmed that the church would be agreeable for the Mobile Post Office to be situated in the grounds provided that the access was suitable. A letter had been sent to the Consultation Team at the Post Office asking them to consider this.

Meeting Reports - Cllr. Brown gave a report of a meeting at Downham Market on 19th May attended by three councillors, regarding Planning and the Villages.

The Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st March were presented to the meeting and were formally adopted by Council. Arrangements would now be made for the accounts to be delivered to the internal auditor in readiness for sending to the Audit Office.

Parish Hall - The faulty water heater had been repaired.

Proposed New Community Centre - A meeting had been held with Mr. Denis Tuttle of Norwich on behalf of Norfolk ProHelp. Mr. Tuttle had contacted council following the meeting setting out details as he understood them and he had also been supplied with a plan showing a possible layout for the new Community Centre. Confirmation had also been received from the Environment Agency that they were in the process of drawing up the paperwork for the purchase of the site of the Parish Hall.

Playing Field - The plumber had checked out the showers at the Pavilion and advised that these were beyond repair. In view of the information all the showers had been disconnected and notices had been attached informing the public that they were not to be used. With regard to the conifer tress on the Playing Field boundary, it was agreed to make arrangements for a meeting with the person who had confirmed that he would be willing to do the work subject to all parties agreement on what is to be done.

First Time Sewage Scheme - Contact had been received from Christchurch Parish Council regarding a possible joint visit to Holkham to inspect the Lagoon system which operates, so that everyone could better understand what is proposed for the joint scheme for Welney and Christchurch.

Highway Matters - The Sandgate Corner footpath and the triangle of grass and hedges at Tipps End had been reported to Highways for their attention. It was also reported to the meeting that it is very possible that the Wash Road would be flooded shortly in view of the large amount of rain and the amount of water already on the Washes.

Environmental Issues - The question of the management of the Croft River was raised and the Chairman gave an explanation of the workings of the river and the work involved in keeping it in its present state. He agreed to arrange a site meeting with the drainage board representative as soon as possible.

Pat Copeman, Parish Clerk.

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Parish Council Report

The July meeting was held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 1st at 7.30pm



Post Office Services for Welney - The area plan decision booklet had been received relating to the Network Change Programme for Post Offices In Norfolk and West Suffolk. Two posters had also been received and these had been displayed in the village. It was confirmed that the proposal was that the Outreach Post Office would be attending Welney each day Monday to Friday from 13.15 to 14.30. Following Council representations that consideration be given to siting the Mobile Posts Office at the Church, it was confirmed that this would not be suitable, and the site chosen was the Lamb and Flag Car park. After after discussion it was agreed to write to them again stating that whilst we much appreciate the Outreach Service being made available for Welney we would like to know how the decision was arrived at and why the Church site was rejected, and to ask if they would reconsider this particularly in view of the proposals for a Tea room and shop at the Church and also to emphasis that this would be a lost opportunity for village services.

Downham Market Safer Neighbourhoods - Cllr.Allen confirmed that he had been trying to find out details of training for persons in the use of mobile speed guns but had been unsuccessful. He then produced paperwork relating to traffic speeding and accidents together with SAM results for sections of the A.1101. After discussion it was agreed that a request should be made for SAM to revisit the village especially during the morning and evening rush hour periods and also for the area leaving Suspension Bridge. It was also agreed to make enquiries as to the possibility of 30 mph flashing sign for the Wisbech End of the village.

Bus Service for the village - Following the article in the last Welney News only one person had been in touch confirming that they would be interested in additional services to March or Ely. Mr.M.Rayburn on New Road confirmed that he had obtained details of the F.A.C.T.bus service and he had information packs relating to this for anyone interested.

Meeting Reports - Cllr.Brown gave a report on the visit to Holkham. 3 councillors from Welney attended, together with 6 from Christchurch, 1 from Upwell, 2 representatives of the Engineers and two representatives from Anglian Water. The visit had been very successful - it was a warm evening and there was no smell at all from the Lagoons. It was agreed to contact Anglian water to see if they had any idea of the time scale when the lagoons would be constructed and when the work is to commence on the sewage scheme.

Proposed New Community Centre - Mr. Tuttle of Norfolk ProHelp had confirmed that the Environment Agency had advised that the site of the proposed new Community Centre at the Playing field lies within a flood risk zone of 1:11000 year rise which is better than the existing pavilion which has a 1:100 year risk. He is waiting to hear from them again as they will dictate what measures would need to be taken in mitigation to reduce risk from the effects of flooding. Also the Environment Agency had confirmed that they are still working on the paperwork for our proposed purchase of the Parish Hall Site and are endeavouring to make the area meet up with the footprint of the building as an extremely old plan was used when the agreement was drawn up in 1929.

Plans and Planning Matters - Confirmation had been received that the planning application for two mobile homes as holiday homes at land at Bedford Bank, Welney had been withdrawn. Details had also been received relating to the demolition of the derelict Public House at The Three Tuns, Bedford Bank, Welney,

Highway Matters - It was confirmed that the footway around Sandgate Corner should be cut within the next four weeks. The field off Chestnut Avenue had been cut and the hedges at Tipps End had also been dealt with. Mr.Moseley had raised further concerns under Public Participation regarding the traffic past his house at Suspension Bridge and it was agreed to ask once again for the white lines to be replaced and also to ask for the speed of the traffic to be monitored along that stretch of the A.1101

Details had been received from the **Environment Agency** regarding Open Days at the Denver Complex. These would be held on 16th and 17th July and posters and flyers had been supplied for circulation.

W.A.S.H. Committee - Council were advised that a meeting of the committee is planned for Friday 25th July at 7.30 p.m. at the Parish Hall.

Pat Copeman, Parish Clerk

WORDSEARCH

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

HOW MANY BONES CAN YOU FIND:

CARPAL	MANDIBLE	TARSAL
CLAVICLE	OCCIPITAL	TEMPORAL
FEMUR	PHALANGES	ULNA
FIBULA	RADIUS	
HUMERUS	RIBS	
HYOID	SCAPULA	

Solution to the June crossword

P	L	A	S	T	E	R		B	U	L	L
U			I		A			A			E
N			T	H	E	G	R	A	S	S	V
G	I	N				I			S	O	L
E		O		M	I	N	O	R		L	L
N		R		O		G		O		U	
T	A	T	T	O	O		Q	U	O	T	E
		H		R		U		T		I	U
A		S		S	E	N	S	E		O	N
F	L	E	A			L			N	A	R
A		A	N	D	T	O	N	I	C		O
I			O			C			O		O
R	U	I	N			K	E	E	P	O	F

SUDOKU

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

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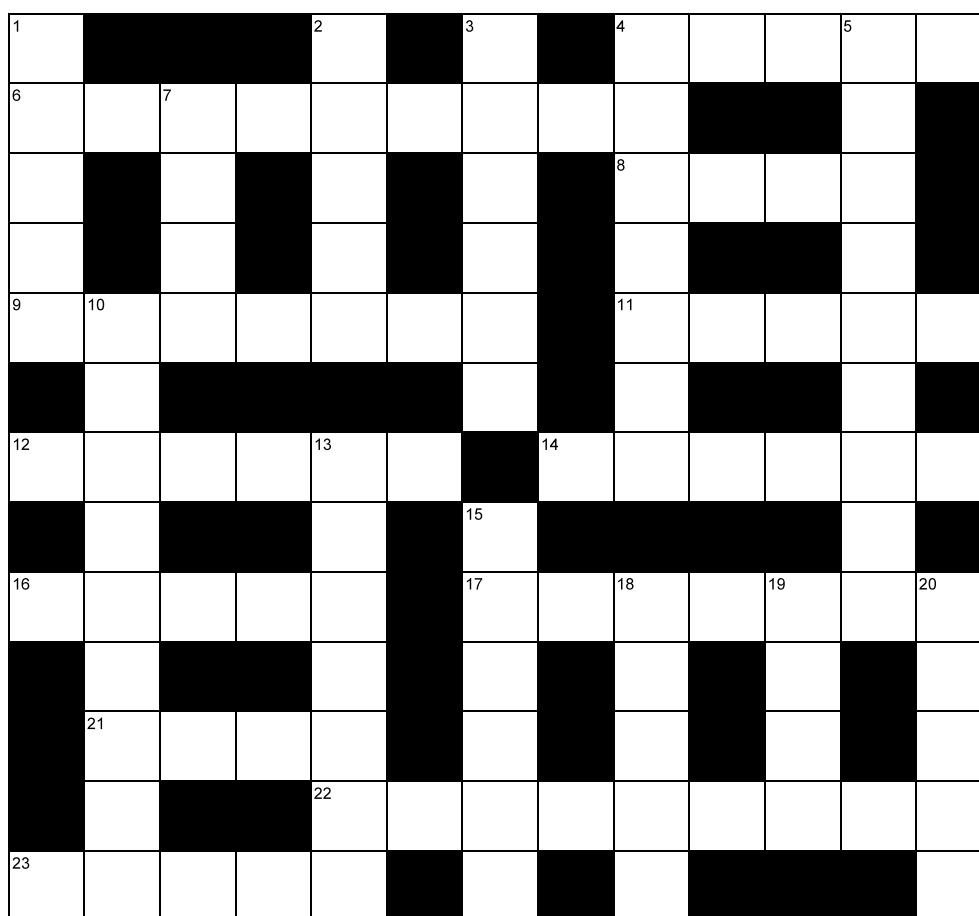
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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD COMPETITION BY MARK BROWN



Across

- 4 Sounds certain about where the sea meets the land (5)
 6 Confused? No, we think it's all about understanding what's going on (2,3,4)
 8 Aspires to hit the target (4)
 9 Meddles with gypsies (7)
 11 Go around to avoid garment (5)
 12 Slight possibility of control, but at a distance (6)
 14/21a Sweetmeat popular with rabbits and vegetarians (6,4)
 16 All over the place, though hopefully in a boat (2,3)
 17 Blah blah blah fruit blah blah blah crumble (7)
 21 See 14a
 22 Profession in which student is trying to master drill (9)
 23 For bowling between buildings? (5)

Down

- 1 May exhibit strength (5)
 2 Go away on holiday (5)
 3 To make a determined demand is and isn't muddled (6)
 4 As new as Welsh port (7)
 5 Discover tank from where river rose (9)
 7 See 10d
 10/7d The other half of one, or the other. I can't see the difference (9,4)
 13 Gyrate in a way that ended, sadly, in complete disaster (7)
 15 Far East London football team (6)
 18 Not suitable due to poor physical condition (5)
 19 To assist one in placing wager (4)
 20 Raises the spirits of sailor in need of direction (5)

Send your completed crossword to the Editor (address on page 23) by September 6th and you could win a bottle of wine.

Name:.....

Telephone:.....

Thankyou to everyone who had a go and sent in an entry.

We had 5 entries this time, and the lucky winner of the bottle of wine was:

Michael Dickinson

Welney Croft Cricket Club

Update on the clubs matches this summer

May 25th CHRISHALL (home)
Cancelled due to bad weather.

June 1 WICKEN (played at Littleport) Lost by 6 wkts
Welney 61 Wicken 61 for 4 wkts

June 8th SPALDING POACHERS (home)
Cancelled by Spalding.

June 15th PINCHBECK Lost by 8 wkts
Welney 122 for 9 wkts (40 overs) Pinchbeck 123 for 2 wkts.

June 22 OLD WILHADS
Cancelled by Old Wilhads, unable to raise a team.

June 29 BRENTWOOD LPCC
Peter 'Pop' Bedford Cup - Lost by 2 wkts
Welney 131 Brentwood 132 for 8 wkts.

July 6 SPALDING POACHERS (away) Won by 83 runs
Welney 211 for 4 wkts Spalding 128



Peter 'Pop' Bedford Cup

Pictured below: Brentwood player Alec Lampard presents a Cricket Presentation Set to club captain John Loveday in recognition of the hospitality shown to our Essex visitors, an annual fixture since season 2000.

Alec hand made the full set, case and contents with the inscription - "Presented to Welney Cricket Club in appreciation of the many matches enjoyed over the years with Brentwood & Havering LPCC"

The case included a mallet for 'knocking in' cricket bats and a wooden swindle used in replacing bat handle rubbers. This year a total sum of £288.00 was raised for the Hannah Gray Memorial Wildlife site at Clackclose Primary School, Downham Market.



Singing in Italy

Some members of the Ely Choral Society were recently invited to sing in the Italian town of Vercelli, near Milan, as part of an informal twinning arrangement with Ely. About 40 of us went together with our Musical Director Andrew Parnell and accompanist Jonathan Lilley, who is Assistant Organist at Ely Cathedral. On the morning of the concert, we were privileged to be shown the Vercelli Book, written on vellum in Anglo Saxon – one of only four in the world, the other three being in England. We were also shown some engraved copper vessels in the museum at the Archbishop's Palace, which came from the monastery that used to be at Chesterton, Cambs. Saint Andrea, the patron saint of the Basilica at Vercelli, founded the monastery and there is a Chesterton Society in the town because of this.

After meeting the Archbishop, we went to the Town Hall, together with the Mayor of Ely, Mrs Friend-Smith (the wife of one of the choir members). Speeches were made, flowers and gifts exchanged and Mrs Friend-Smith, Andrew & Jonathan were presented with symbolic keys to Vercelli.

After a delicious lunch & rehearsal, we assembled in the Basilica in the evening to give a free performance of sacred choral music to a full house. We sang 13 pieces, in English, Latin, French & German, including a piece by Perosi, who had lived in that area of Italy. Jonathan also performed 2 solos on the organ, which is in the process of being refurbished. Our efforts were very well received and the audience was even more pleased, when they learnt we were donating €500 towards the organ restoration.

After the concert we adjourned to the candle-lit cloisters, full of wheeling swifts, which nested in the tower of the church and we were provided with a buffet supper, prepared by students from the local catering college.

The next morning being Sunday, we were invited to return to the Basilica to sing 6 of the previous nights pieces in the High Mass. We were specially asked to sing Parry's 'I Was Glad', because they were so glad we had come to Vercelli, which was kind of them. After another fattening lunch of local speciality dishes, it was time to get on the coach and return to the airport, travelling alongside the fields of Arborio rice for which the area is famous.

We all had a marvellous weekend – our singing was so appreciated and everyone was really friendly and welcoming. We all agreed that next time we must stay longer.

Cindy Bennett

Anyone interested in joining Ely Choral Society can contact me n 01354 610433 – New members are always welcome. Rehearsals are on Monday evenings in Ely.

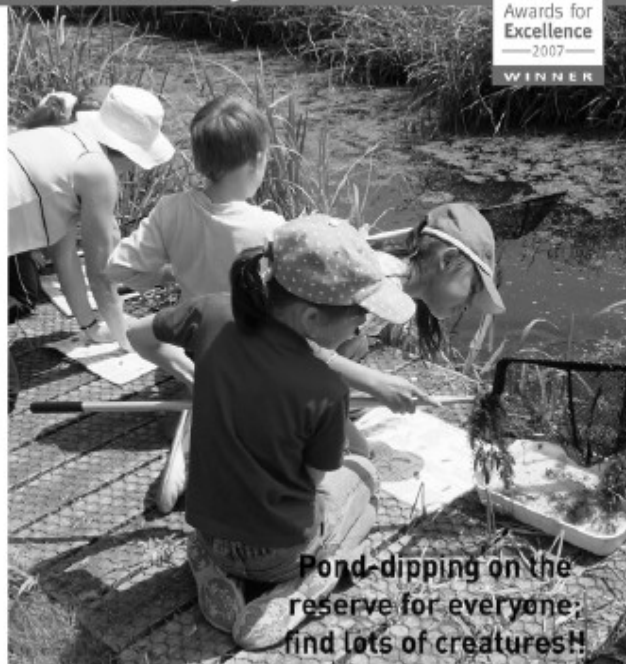


Visit Welney for
Pond-dipping!
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Enjoy relaxing walks across
the washes with flowers in
bloom and amazing insects.



Join us for Wetland Olympics, 5th August
Frogs & Toads party, 12th August
Minibeast Mayhem, 19th August.
Booking essential, 2-4pm.



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reserve for everyone!
find lots of creatures!!

Hundred Foot Bank, Welney, PE14 9TN T 01353 860711 Visit www.wwt.org.uk/welney for a
full listing of our events. Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust registered charity no. 1030884

Relax this summer at Welney.

We've had a wonderful spring at Welney and we're hoping that the summer is going to be even better for our visitors. During the spring we've had plenty of events running at the WWT Welney Wetland Centre including our annual A Fen Tiger's Tale which was held on 1st June, our fun Father's Day with arts & crafts, BBQ and sports to play and finally our In with the Insects event for National Insect Week. To keep updated on what's on at Welney visit our events page at www.wwt.org.uk/welney or ask to be put onto our monthly events email.

Out on the reserve this spring we have been enjoying the melodies of our singing warblers as well as the distinctive calls of the male cuckoo. As we head into summer our House Martin and Swallow young can be seen around the reserve starting to fledge as well as plenty of Moorhen, Coot and Mute Swan young. Other summer residents include the dragonflies and damselflies, butterflies and moths which visitors can enjoy whilst walking around the reserve on a nice summer's day. If you're lucky you might spot a Banded Demoiselle, Black Tailed Skimmer or a 4 Spot Chaser! For more wildlife sightings on the reserve at Welney visit www.wwt.org.uk/welney.

Over the start of summer we've had exciting sightings of Bittern, Garganey and Curlew. Also, we have received the first few entrants of our Nikon Photography Competition; with so many good opportunities for the perfect shot of some stunning wildlife at Welney we hope that plenty more visitors are going to be entering this year. To find out more about entering our photography competition go to www.wwt.org.uk and click on the Nikon Photography Competition Icon towards the bottom of the page.

On 1st July we had a visit from Griff Rhys Jones to the centre with our local Eel Fisherman and Willow Merchant Peter Carter to film the firing of Peter's punt gun on the pond at the back of the centre. The filming was part of a new series about rivers, with Griff travelling around the UK to find some of the ways people used rivers in the past and how people use them today.

Parts of our summer walk are now open so that our visitors can now enjoy much more of the plant life out on the reserve as well as our wildlife; and see parts of the Ouse Washes which are not accessible during the winter months. During the summer take part in our Wetland Olympics, 23rd July – 8th August or join us for our Minibeast, vFrogs and Toads events from 9th August – 31st August. Visit www.wwt.org.uk/welney for our full events listings or contact the centre on 01353 860711 for more information.

Summer Activities for children at local Sports Centres

George Campbell Leisure Centre, March.

Until the end of August, The George Campbell will be offering holiday activities for 5-11 year olds including; bouncy castle, art and craft, jet ski-ing and fun splash, and Nintendo Wii sessions. To take part in jet ski sessions, children need to be aged 8 or over and be able to swim 25 metres. There are also fun fitness sessions divided into age groups 5-8 and 8-14. On Saturday mornings, 5-11 year olds can enjoy 'Madhouse' sessions in which they can try a number of activities in one session, including sports and games, bouncy castle, Nintendo Wii, and art and craft. There are 'Splash Crash' 5-day intensive swimming courses for ages 3+.

For more information, prices, and booking, call the George Campbell on 01354 622399

New for September! 'Monkeytastic' at the George Campbell; for ages 5 and under. Basic training in flexibility, strength, balance, co-ordination and body awareness, combined with creativity, music and storytelling. Limited places - please call the above number to book.

Neale Wade Community College, March.

Courses are available in football, tennis, and basketball. There is a fee for football and tennis, but basketball is free of charge. Courses must be booked, and are aimed at children aged 7+.

For information and booking, please call the college on 01354 651329.

Hudson Leisure Centre, Wisbech.

Football training for 5-12s on Mondays and Saturdays. 'Madhouse' for 5-15s on Saturdays - multi-activity sessions as at George Campbell. Holiday Club for ages 8+, half or full day sessions with a range of activities (depending on the day) including; swimming, football, frisbee, kwik cricket, quizzes, tag rugby, badminton, arts and crafts, and more! 'Splash Crash' intensive swimming courses also available.

For prices, information, and booking, call the Hudson Leisure centre on 01945 584230.

Manor Leisure Centre, Whittlesey.

Quite a different selection of activities on offer here, including watersports (water volleyball and water polo), snorkelling, Roman Life activity days, art sessions led by local artists, gymnastics, and circus skills, as well as some of the more conventional sports.

Please contact the Manor Leisure Centre for details on 01733 202298.

Downham Market Sports Centre.

Fun swimming session with floats, every weekday 10am-11.30am. Other activities include; archery, badminton, Art Attack, Junior Spinning, Junior Circuit training, and football and cricket training. The fitness suite at Downham Market has recently undergone a £270,000 extension and refurbishment, and is well worth a look! For all activities, contact the Leisure Centre on 01366 386868 for more details and booking.

'Have a Go' day. Monday 25th August, 10am - 5pm: Based at several locations in Downham Market, including the Leisure Centre, the High School, and the Howdale Community Centre; a range of free activities including Boxing, Judo, Archery, Climbing Wall, Skateboard Park, and others. For information please contact the Leisure Centre on 01366 386868.

Karen Fleming



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August & September Listings

What's on at: **Kings Lynn Corn Exchange**

Box Office 01553 764 864

September

Tues 2nd – Thurs 4th :

Let's Play - CBeebies At The Theatre

Tues & Wed 10.30am & 4.30pm, Thurs 10.30am

Tickets: Adults £14.50, Under 16s £12.50

Sat 6th:

Katy Setterfield as Dusty Springfield 7.30pm

Winner of TV Show 'The One & Only' Tickets: £15

Fri 19th:

Letz Zep – Tribute band 7.30pm Tickets: £17.50

Tues 23rd :

Evening of Mediumship with Tony Stockwell

7.30pm Tickets: £18.50

What's on at: **Kings Lynn Arts Centre**

Box Office 01553 764 864

August

7th - 8th

FILM: The Edge Of Love Cert: 15

Nightly 7.30pm, Thurs Matinee 2.30pm

Stars: Kiera Knightley & Sienna Miller

14th -15th

FILM: Indiana Jones & The Kingdom of the Crystal Skull

Cert: 12a Nightly 7.30pm, Thurs Matinee 2.30pm

Stars: Harrison Ford, Ray Winstone & Jim Broadbent

September

Fri 12th : Jason Manford - Comedian. 8pm Tickets: £14

Sat 20th : Under Milk Wood 7.30pm Tickets: £12,

Further afield...Ramsey Heights Countryside Classroom

Countryside Classroom is located in the Ramsey Heights Nature Reserve between Huntingdon and Peterborough. It is situated near Woodwalton Fen National Nature Reserve, the gateway to the Great Fen Project.

The next event at the Countryside Classroom is a family event, Marvellous Minibeasts on Thursday 7 August 2-4pm. You can explore the reserve looking for minibeasts, try your hand at sweep netting and tree shaking to catch some hard to see invertebrates, make a minibeast hotel and a model minibeast to take home.

The paths are uneven and can be muddy and there are lots of nettles so please wear boots or old stout shoes and long trousers. If it has rained in the last few days it would help if you brought another pair of shoes to change into in the classroom.

Suggested donation £2 per person/£5 per family

Other events

Sun14 Sept - Heritage Day. Guided walk exploring the history of the brickworks at the countryside classroom and opening the Bungalow on Woodwalton Fen

Tues 16 Sept- A short walk for adults looking at wildlife which has colonised the site since the brickworks closed followed by coffee and a pond dipping session.10 am .

Mon 13 Oct- Woodwalton Fen walk 10am-12noon

Thurs 30 Oct- Autumn at Woodwalton Fen 1.30-3.30pm

Wed 19 Nov- Holme Fen Walk 10.30-12noon

Great Fen Wildlife Watch for children aged 8-12 meets on 3rd Saturday of the month 10am-12noon.

Website: www.wildlifebcnp.org



How to find it

By car: The Countryside Classroom is accessed from Chapel Road at the southern end of Ramsey Heights, near Upwood.

From Ramsey, take the B1040 towards Whittlesey. After 2.5 miles, where B1040 turns sharply right to Ramsey St. Mary's, take a sharp left toward Ramsey Heights. The Countryside Classroom is signposted on right after 1.5 miles. Turn right onto Chapel Road and follow this narrow road to the reserve, about 0.5 mile down the road on the right. Go through the gate to the grassy meadow car park then walk up the track by the information board to the classroom building.

From the A141 near Wyton, turn off for Broughton. Go through Little Raveley and Great Raveley. In Upwood, turn left for Ramsey Heights. Watch for the brown Woodwalton Fen NNR and Countryside Classroom sign and turn left. Follow the directions as above.

Events at:



Tues 5 August

Wetland Olympics Ceremony

Visit the reserve to find the Wetland Olympians followed by an arts and crafts session.

2pm – 4pm. Age 4-11 + parents. Children £4 (£3 WWT Members). Adult normal admission. Booking Essential.

Sat 9 August – Sun 31 August

Frogs and Toads Trail

Self-guided trail and activities for all the family. Normal admission applies.

Sat 9 & Sat 23 August

Bats and Barn Owls

Discover the sights and sounds of the reserve by night with a guide.

9.30pm – midnight. £10 (£7 WWT Members). Booking essential.

Tues 12 August

Frogs & Toads party

Celebrate the Year of the Frog at this frog-themed party including pond-dipping and arts and crafts.

2pm – 4pm. Age 4-11 + parents. Children £4 (£3 WWT Members). Adults normal admission. Booking Essential.

Tues 19 August

Minibeast mayhem

Join the minibeast hunt and make models of your favourite minibests in this fun family session.

2pm – 4pm. Age 4-11 + parents. Children £4 (£3 WWT Members). Adults normal admission. Booking Essential.

Sun 7 September

Wild about autumn

Learn to identify autumn waders and hopefully pick up a migrating rarity.

11am – 4pm. £15 (£12 WWT Members). Booking Essential.

Wed 8 & Sat 18 October

Quilting with Diana Bailey

Come and learn a new skill or try a new pattern, whatever level of quilter; beginner to advanced. Two patterns to choose from; or a children's design if youngsters wish to take part. Quilt in the beautiful surroundings at Welney.

10 am - 4pm. £20 Booking Essential.

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Cricket Fixtures 2008



2pm start unless otherwise stated

August

3rd Pinchbeck (away)
9th (Sat) Castor & Ailesworth (home)
31st Parson Drove (home) 1pm

September

7th Hampton (home) 1pm
14th Littleport (home) 1pm
21st Narborough (away) 1pm

October

Friday 3rd
Club Presentation Evening

FOR SALE

Suitcase, black, size 30". Wheels at one corner by Carlton. Used once. £9.00 Tel. 01354 610 609

WANTED

WANTED TO RENT - Building suitable for use as Carpentry/D.I.Y. Workshop. Personal use for own hobby only - No business involved. Up to 60 ft. x 20 ft. Within reasonable reach of Welney village.

Tel: Terry Copeman 01354 610226
or e-mail: G4NVL@aol.com.

The Welney News team

Rachel Brown : 01354 610459
email: welneynews@hotmail.co.uk
Pisces Country Park, Bedford Bank West, PE14 9TB

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

Big thanks to :-

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Useful Numbers

Downham Market Police 0845 456 4567
March Police 0845 456 4564
Q E Hospital, Kings Lynn 01553 613613
North Cambs Hospital 01945 488088
Upwell Health Centre 01945 773671
NHS Direct: 0845 4647

Welney Hospital Car Service

If you need a lift to attend Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn, North Cambs Hospital in Wisbech or Papworth Hospital, contact Ted in advance 10am to 5pm on 01354 610269. There is a fuel charge but no waiting time or parking charge.

Welney Newspaper Service

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S D Kitching 01354 610407.

Church contacts

Welney minister: Revd. K. Fitzgibbon 01354 - 680969

Churchwardens:
Pauline Aisthorpe 01366 - 384658
Rosina Beckford 01354 - 610385

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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.

Diary index



Mobile Library:
10.20am in pub car park



Teddy Church:
9.30am St Mary's



Pauls Fresh Fish
1 - 1.15 pm New Rd



Carpet Bowls:
7.15pm Pavillion



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



Yoga at the
Pavillion Thurs: 10-11.30am



Parish Council meeting: Village Hall 7.30pm



Womens Institute:
7pm Village Hall



Friendship Club:
1.30pm Village Hall



Dog Agility

Call Sue on 610230 for more details



Morning Prayer 9.30am

August 17th
August 24th
September 21st



All Age Worship 11am

August 10th
September 14th



United Service Christchurch 10am
August 31st



Holy Communion 9.30am

August 3rd
September 7th



Harvest Thanksgiving 11am
September 28th

AUGUST 2008

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

SEPTEMBER 2008

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