

Issue 66

WELNEY NEWS

DECEMBER 2008 - JANUARY 2009

30p



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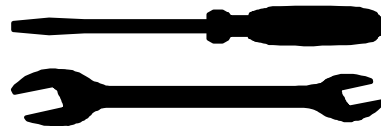
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EDS NOTE: A bumper edition this time with, I hope plenty of interesting articles for you. I urge anyone with talented family member / fascinating hobby/ anyone celebrating a particularly special birthday or anniversary to get in touch... local stories are what keeps the WN relevant!

Go on don't be shy call one of the teamcontact details on page 27 .The deadline for next time is January 17th.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Rachel

PS: am still looking for a willing volunteer to distribute the WN in Tipps End....(even just a few houses would help!)

SUBSCRIPTIONS are now overdue.

Please contact a member of the Welney News team (contact numbers are on the inside back page) if you wish to continue receiving the WN but have been not in when the magazine has been delivered and we will gladly organise collection at a time convenient to you.

Welney Sewerage Scheme Open Day

Thursday 4th December

2pm and 7pm at Welney Village Hall

Come along to meet representatives from Anglian Water & Barhale who will be able to provide information about the project and discuss any queries you may have. If you are unable to attend the open day and would like advice regarding connection to the new sewer please contact :

Stephen Burrows on 01733 414360 or
John Lambert on 01733 414460

Bishops Land Charity: Annual Distribution

Takes place on

Saturday 6th December 10.30am and 11.30 am
in St. Mary's Church, Welney

St. Mary's Church: Coffee Morning

Saturday 6th December 10am - 12 noon

William Marshall School: Coffee Afternoon

Friday 12th December 2.30pm - 4pm
Hot drinks, Mince Pies & Raffle etc...

St. Mary's Church: Carols round the tree

Wednesday 17th December at 6.30pm
Mince Pies and Hot Punch



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Talented Boy Whose Dream Came True.

Hayden Cox (age 7) of Bells Drove, has won a prestigious scholarship to become a chorister at Canterbury Cathedral.

Hayden has dreamed of being a cathedral chorister ever since he first saw the choristers at Ely. He was only 5 years old at the time! Even though his family are not musical, Hayden has worked hard at fulfilling his dream. Having already passed through a first audition, Hayden's dream finally came true on November 8th when, at the final voice trial, he beat 25 boys to win one of just four available places for new choristers.



The choir consists of 12 lay clerks, men who are professional singers but also work locally, and the 30-strong choristers, boys of 8 - 13 who attend St Edmund's School in Canterbury. As a chorister, Hayden will sing six days a week at the cathedral services as well as making recordings, broadcasts and concert appearances on a regular basis. We wish Hayden well in his new adventure.

Marshall's Charity



Notice is given that a vacancy exists for an alms person of this Charity.

Poor widows of good character residing in either of the Ancient Parishes of Welney or West Welney are eligible for appointment.

Applications for appointment must be made in writing to Mrs L Clarke-Jones, Clerk to the Trustees, The Barn, Main Street, Littleport, Cambs CB6 1PH on or before the **22ND December 2008**. Every

applicant must state her name, address, age and occupation and must be prepared to produce sufficient testimonials and other evidence of her qualification for appointment and unless physically disabled to attend in person.

Notes

- (1) In special cases to be approved by the Charity Commissioners widows who do not possess the prescribed qualifications as to residence may be appointed if otherwise qualified.

Signed Lynda Clarke-Jones
Clerk to the Trustees

Part-time Vacancies



We are currently looking to recruit hard-working, enthusiastic individuals to assist with the daily running of the catering facility at the Welney Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.

Duties will include customer service, cash handling and food preparation ensuring hygiene regulations are adhered to. Other tasks will include the clearing and wiping of tables, washing up, maintaining a clean kitchen area and passing on customer enquiries and information.

Hours are varied and will include weekends and some evenings.

To apply, please send a CV and covering letter to:

Julie Ward, Welney Wetland Centre
100 Foot Bank, Welney,
Cambs PE14 9TN

or email julie.ward@wwt.org.uk.

Wonderful World of

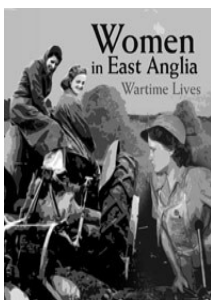


Have you got a stash of photographs of Norfolk's wildlife that you wish you could share with a wider audience? Norfolk Wildlife Trust's online photo gallery is *the* place to view and share such images.

The photo gallery is part of the Trust's website. Anyone can submit an image to the gallery, provided that the subject matter is Norfolk's wildlife or wild places and on the understanding that Norfolk Wildlife Trust can use the image free of charge. .

So far 1,500 images have been submitted, providing a fascinating glimpse of our wildlife. All you need is internet access and a way of loading your photos onto a computer. To view the gallery or to submit an image, visit www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/naturalconnections and click on the Wildlife Photo Gallery link.





Nostalgia for sale

East Anglian Film Archive has teamed up with Norfolk County Council Library and Information Service to offer a great range of DVDs capturing footage of East Anglian countryside, industry and everyday life.

These unique DVDs complement the existing range available at the library.

On sale for £9.99 the titles include:

Women in East Anglia: Wartime / Working Lives
Ghosts of East Anglia

The Way We Were (eight titles) – Childhood, Schooldays, The Teenage Years, Love & Marriage, Holidays, The Working Day, Celebrations and Royal Occasions.

For further information please contact your local library: Tel:0844 800 8006 or

Email: libraries@norfolk.gov.uk

Stars Come Out

Former England Test cricketer Devon Malcolm and England ladies' cricket captain and the International Cricket Council's Cricketer of the Year Charlotte Edwards came to the Lamb & Flag to unveil a cabinet displaying memorabilia from June 16, 1923 when Welney Croft Cricket Club made national headlines after Ernie & John Blows bowled Friday Bridge out for nought in just 28 balls.

The cabinet was made by Steve Kerr and displays the match ball, club minutes, photographs and the Blows brothers' medals.

The annual presentation awards ceremony was held on the same night.

Award winners were: Stephen Revett (cricketer of the year), Sean Goodger (best batting & bowling average), Neil Parkinson (best catching), Ashley Inwood (best fielding) & Duncan Hobbs (captain's award).

The evening ended with a question and answer session with Malcolm and Edwards.

The latest cricket club news can be found at www.welney.org.uk.



Tony Smart

News from Welney School

Staff and pupils at the school would like to thank everyone who completed questionnaires for the project on flooding and the Wash Road. The children are now hard at work putting all the results together, and the completed report with all their findings will appear in the next issue of 'Welney News' - look out for it! At the time of writing, the children have just been taking part in 'Anti-Bullying Week', designed to raise the profile of this ever-present problem and highlight to children the help that is available if they find themselves on the receiving end of bullying behaviour. Some of the older children at Welney prepared presentations for Assembly, using the Internet to find out information. Bullying was also a subject of drama lessons too. The school website is now running and the address is www.williammarshall.norfolk.sch.uk - a colourful and attractive website, visitors to it can see photographs of activities at the school, read some of the childrens' recent work, and check details of forthcoming events and diary dates. There are some good pictures of the staff and children in 'Crazy Costume' for Children in Need day - don't miss them!

The children of the Guitar Club will soon be saying goodbye to Steve Harrison, who has for some time been their teacher. As well as giving enjoyable lessons and inspiring the children to work hard at their guitar practice, Steve has introduced them to the music of a number of excellent guitarists of our generation, and I have enjoyed hearing my daughter humming snatches of some famous songs. Due to work commitments, Steve has to retire from his duties at the school and will be much missed. 'That' time of year is fast approaching, and as always there will be seasonal events at the school. On **Friday 12th December** there will be a Coffee Afternoon organised by the Friends of the School. This event is open to all so please come along and enjoy a good cup of tea or coffee, delicious cakes and mince pies, and to take part in a raffle and other fundraising activities. In St Mary's Church on the **16th December** at 2.15pm is the schools' Nativity Play, which this year has the intriguing title "Tinsel and Tea Towels"! If you want to know more, you will have to come along on the day! The play is open to all comers, and a big audience always inspires the players; so please come along and support the staff and children this year. Finally, the children will have their own disco and meal in the village hall, on the evening of the 18th December.

There are some events and activities to look forward to in the New Year. In January the schools of Welney and Upwell are joint hosts of the annual Cluster cross-country event, which is normally held at Hillcrest School. Up to 14 schools could potentially participate in this event, so the large playing field at Upwell is the venue and there will be lots of preparation to make the day run smoothly.

The school's Eco-Team are also very busy thinking and planning for the New Year. I have only been fed a rumour or two so far, but am looking forward to reporting in more detail about their activities next time - sounds like there will be some green fingers at the school in the spring!

Finally, there will be a new face at both schools when the new Head Teacher, Mrs Lynn Chatwin, arrives to take up her new post in January.

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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

Fenland Road Safety Campaign (Charlotte's Way)

It's been a very busy time for the Campaign, since the printing and distribution of the Campaign's second major document, 'Aims and Objectives' in September and October, to all Parish, Town, and District Councillors.

Welney Parish Council became the first to confirm in writing its support for the Campaign's aims. The document was also sent to key employees of Cambs County Council in anticipation of a planned publicity launch in the Cambs Times on 24th

October, which featured a front page article and photo of Malcolm Moss MP with the Campaign organiser.

The preparatory meeting with Malcolm Moss MP helped focus attention on the need to secure County Council agreement that installing safety barriers on the principle Fen river roads is both feasible and would be helpful, and that it would be worthwhile seeking substantial special funding, in the first instance, from government, in order to help with the cost of such work.

An additional 'Manifesto' document was produced along with a new poster entitled 'Barriers Would Help' with a suitably bleak picture of the Forty Foot road, and along with all other major Campaign documents, was included in several packages which were then delivered on 30th October, in person, by the Campaign Organiser and Malcolm Moss MP to the House of Commons for the Prime Minister, Chancellor and Transport Minister, David Cameron, and the Shadow Chancellor and Transport Minister.

The visit attracted interest from local radio stations and BBC Look East and ITV Anglia News.

Care was taken to focus interview responses on the positive intention to help the Cambs County and Peterborough City Council with the financial difficulties they would incur if unaided with the cost of the work.

Strong criticism of the council's lack of attention to safety issues, especially on the Sixteen Foot road, had already been made in an earlier document 'Fenland Roads, a Local Tragedy, National Disgrace', which was posted in May, to the Cambs County Council Leader – Jill Tuck, and the Chief Exec Mark Lloyd.

It was hoped this might suffice, to alert senior Council staff that they would be wasting their time if they continued to act obstructively regarding the merits of barrier installation.

Sadly, Amanda Mays, the Cambs CC's Team Leader for Road Safety Engineering, saw fit to indicate on TV that she had no intention of acknowledging the feasibility and potential merits of barrier use on these roads, and gave a number of highly dubious justifications for this.

Barriers Would Help!



A lengthy, detailed and highly critical letter was written to Ms. Mays, and copied to all other County Councillors, the CCC Chief Exec, and various others, and on the day of delivery a video was made of the Campaign Organiser summarising the issues noted in the letter and more. DVD copies of the film plus a 'November News' brochure were again prepared for widespread distribution, including to all County Councillors, and should have arrived at Shire hall by Friday 14th Nov.

Meanwhile, in response to the growing pressure from the FRSC and its supporters, the Council has at last realised the need to at least look like they care by authorising the renewal of reflective posts along the roadside.

The result is a modest improvement in the visibility of the edge of the road, long overdue and metaphorically speaking 'clutching at straws' compared to what they actually need to do to make these roads reliably safer.

In a BBC Radio Cambs interview on 6th Nov. the Campaign Organiser stated clearly that there was a problem with the Council's "systematic misrepresentation of the case", for barriers. The Council's respondent at the time avoided making any comment on this issue, but soon after, what should have been a simple Police information video on driving safely on the Forty Foot, made on 23rd Oct. (viewable on the Cambs Times website), turned out to be a vehicle for the Council's ill-informed further attempt to grossly misrepresent the facts about the feasibility and merits of barrier installation.

Two further Substantive Campaign documents have already been produced and hand delivered to Shire Hall, completely dismantling the premise of the Council's DVD. Electronic copies can be requested from: chappell@frsc.co.uk.

Regrettably it seems the Campaign must fight the Council's so called 'Road Safety Team' from top to bottom to have a chance of removing the obstacle they seem determined to sustain, for reasons that seem to have been lost in the mists of time, to the installation of further safety barriers

Graham Chappell

“ A Dog Is For Life Not Just For Christmas!”

I'm sure we've all seen the car stickers “A dog is for life not just for Christmas”, but it still surprises me how many “dog lovers” still don't realise what a responsibility they are taking on when they first own a dog. Over 50,000 dogs are re-homed every year because their owners cannot look after them any more. This may be because of a change in circumstances making it impossible for the owners to care for the dog any more. Sometimes it's because the owners can no longer deal with the dog – it's too boisterous, too big or has significant behavioural/health problems etc. It is sad to say but every year over 5,000 dogs are put down because they are “difficult” dogs.

So if you are thinking of getting a dog this Christmas or indeed at any time through the year then please take time to think about and act on the following.

Firstly, consider taking on a rescue dog – I know it's not a cute puppy and it may have some behavioural problems, but in the right home it can blossom and give much joy to the family. I had a rescue dog for 18 years and it was the most loving and good natured dog you could want.

If you want a puppy then research the breed that is right for you. Don't just choose a breed because you like the look of it. Contact the Breed Associations and talk to as many owners of the breed as possible. Think about your own lifestyle. Are you going to be able to give it the exercise it needs? Is it going to be left at home alone for significant periods? Is your home suitable for the size of dog you want? All breeds are different, not just in their looks but in their temperament and their requirements. For example, the Border collie is an extremely popular dog – we've all seen it on Crufts and at dog shows excelling at obedience and agility. They are very clever and quick to learn dogs. However, because they are so clever they need an even cleverer owner to keep them happy and well balanced. If you don't give them enough to do, then they go what I call “self employed” - doing things that are often not appropriate to relieve the boredom – becoming destructive or becoming territorial for example. Of all the dog breeds there are more border collies that go for re-homing than any other breed! If you have no experience with dogs then a Border collie is NOT for you.

So you've chosen your breed carefully or have identified a rescue dog.

If it's a registered breed dog then check out the health of the parents. Some of you will have seen the recent television program about the poor state of health of some of our dog breeds. Find out the health problems of the breed and check whether the parents have been screened for the condition. I have had a number of Labradors and I have never bought a puppy without firstly having seen the parents (to be sure that they are not “psycho!”) and that both parents have been hip, elbow and eye tested. Sure, it's no guarantee that the puppy is not going to have any problems, but it's less likely and anything that keeps vets bills down can only be good. As soon as you get your puppy you should take it to the vet to get it health checked and vaccinated against all the nasty and fatal diseases that dogs can get.

Health checking with rescue dogs is more difficult as the parentage will probably be unknown, but reputable rescue centres should have the dog checked over by a qualified vet so that they aren't knowingly handing over a very unhealthy dog. As soon as you get it, take it to your own vet for checking and inoculations.

Get Pet insurance. These days the number of illnesses and conditions that are treatable by a vet (with appropriate costs) is staggering!! Insurance can save an awful lot of money. There are many insurers out there, but do read the small print! Many of the cheaper ones

do not for example cover life long illness or they have a maximum that they will pay out for any one condition. Should your dog suffer from say epilepsy or diabetes, the insurance will only cover them for the first 12 months



or until the maximum cost is reached, and then it's up to you!!

Before you bring your dog home, check that you have everything in place – a bed, food, bowls, a collar and name tag, a lead, a few toys, things for it to chew, paper towels for those accidents which are certain to happen etc. Also you need to decide on the house rules and make sure that all members of the family are aware of what they are. For example, are you going to allow the dog on the furniture? It's no good if one member of the family decides it's fine for the dog or puppy to take the comfiest chair if the others are making it keep off all the furniture. The dog needs clear and consistent messages otherwise; it gets confused.



Dogs need exercise – chucking a dog out in the garden is not enough. I once did some video recordings of two dogs that were left in the gar-

den all day. Guess what they did? Played for a bit, sniffed for a bit and then curled up in a sunny corner and went to sleep. When the owner came home, they were well rested and raring to go. The energy they had was then used to play fight with each other in the house, fight over toys, destroy the furniture when the owners' back was turned and generally be totally out of control. Walking a dog brings a closer bond between dog and owner, it shows the dog that you are the leader, it gets rid of the pent up energy and you get fitter!! If you cannot give your dog regular exercise, then DON'T get a dog. Depending on the type of dog will determine the amount of exercise – small dogs generally need less, but this is not true for all breeds. Some big dogs don't need much, greyhounds for example are sprinting animals

are not built for stamina. Puppies don't need a lot of exercise in the first few months, but the amount should slowly increase as they get older and their bones develop.

Dogs need food and water. This is a significant cost you will have to take into consideration. A balanced diet for a human is not a balanced diet for a dog!! Therefore you must feed your dog with dog food to ensure it gets all the nutrition it needs to stay fit and well. Some dog owners feed their dogs natural foods like raw meat etc. This is fine providing you have done your research on the full range of nutrients that a dog requires e.g. Vitamins and minerals and these are included in the dog's diet. Personally I have enough trouble making sure that my own diet is well balanced and nutritious without worrying about the dogs and so I'm more than happy to purchase a reputable dog food for my dogs and they appear to do well on it. Also, some human food is toxic to dogs e.g. grapes, sultanas, raisins and chocolate. Some dogs will tolerate small quantities, but some won't, so it's better never to let them develop a taste for them. I know a dog that helped himself to a dozen mince pies and then ended up spending Christmas at the vets. A very expensive Christmas!!

Dogs need leadership. Dogs are a pack animal and if the members of the family are not recognised by the dog as leader, then the dog may try and take over that role. Here consistent rules will help. Things that can give your dog ideas above its station are being allowed to push past you as you go out the door; lying in the doorway so that you have to step over or go round the dog; demanding attention and getting it and pulling on the lead so that the dog is always ahead of you. These are just a few examples and space does not allow me to go into any detail on what you might do in such circumstances. Dog behaviour is a huge subject and the solution must be appropriate for that particular dog. It isn't a case of "one size fits all" as all dogs are different, just like us humans.

Well, having read all this and you would still like a dog for Christmas – ENJOY! I hope that you have many happy years with your four-legged companion – I certainly wouldn't be without mine!

Sue Dobson.

A Community Chest for Welney ?

I am getting rather bored with the standard response to the impending closure of pubs, shops and post offices. "It'll destroy the community" is an overly negative reaction, as clearly it doesn't have to if such undoubtedly undesirable proposals are treated as a 'dialogue' which galvanise people into responding positively to the changed circumstances.

While we all lament the loss of our very own shop/PO we have at least got a mobile PO service for now, although I'm not sure that standing in a wet and windy car-park waiting to be served compares well with the warmth of Wendy's for a bit of social intercourse. I don't think community spirit has died in Welney; it's just looking for an opportunity to focus on something that'll be of real benefit to one and all.

I write this well aware that the 'festive season', when good will and high spirits come to the fore, is fast approaching. My hope is that the positive feelings can be encouraged into persisting well into next year, when a couple of highly beneficial projects get underway. Development of the village's mains sewerage system will take its own course and is, fortunately, out of our hands, but plans for a new Community Centre will provide an opportunity for everyone to get directly involved. Indeed, it'll be essential that many of you do if this highly ambitious project is to be successful.

Although we are likely to receive substantial grant aid towards the new building, including a probable contribution from our very own Wm Marshall Charity, there will still be the need to undertake some local fundraising in order to complete the project.

The continuing existence of a "friends" group that support our school demonstrates well that there are already a number of highly motivated people living in and around Welney. The success of the 2007 Children of Welney Fayre is a good example of this.

Now we need a few more to step forward and get involved with the organisation of events large or small that will have the capacity to raise funds that can be ploughed into worthwhile village causes, such as the Community Centre and its associated children's play area.

The Parish Council would be very happy to facilitate the setting up of some kind of group committed to raising funds for the benefit of the village. The Council does not want to take the lead, but is keen to support anything creative that will both raise funds and the profile of the village, portraying it as a vibrant community that we all live in. This is a real opportunity for anyone to come up with something really original that will draw people to Welney from far and wide to part with their money. The days of simple village fetes and even raft races have largely been consigned to history, but if Witcham can come up with the World Pea-Shooting Championship and Ashton the World Conker Championship what bizarre attraction can Welney come up with?

If, over the next few weeks, you come up with some potentially eye-catching scheme, or would be prepared to simply lend a hand in some way, please discuss it with any PC member or our clerk, Pat Copeman, on 610226.

Providing that there is a large enough response we may arrange a public meeting in order to move any suitable ideas forward.

Tim Bennett



The future of Welney Water Tower.....

On the 7th of October I had the opportunity to present to the Parish Council my plans for the disused Welney Water Tower. The Editor of the Welney Magazine having learnt about my ideas contacted me with this opportunity to use the Magazine as a means to letting the village know about my design thoughts. Although at very early stages in the design I hope that some of my illustrations give an idea of the sculptural conversion interests I have for the structure.

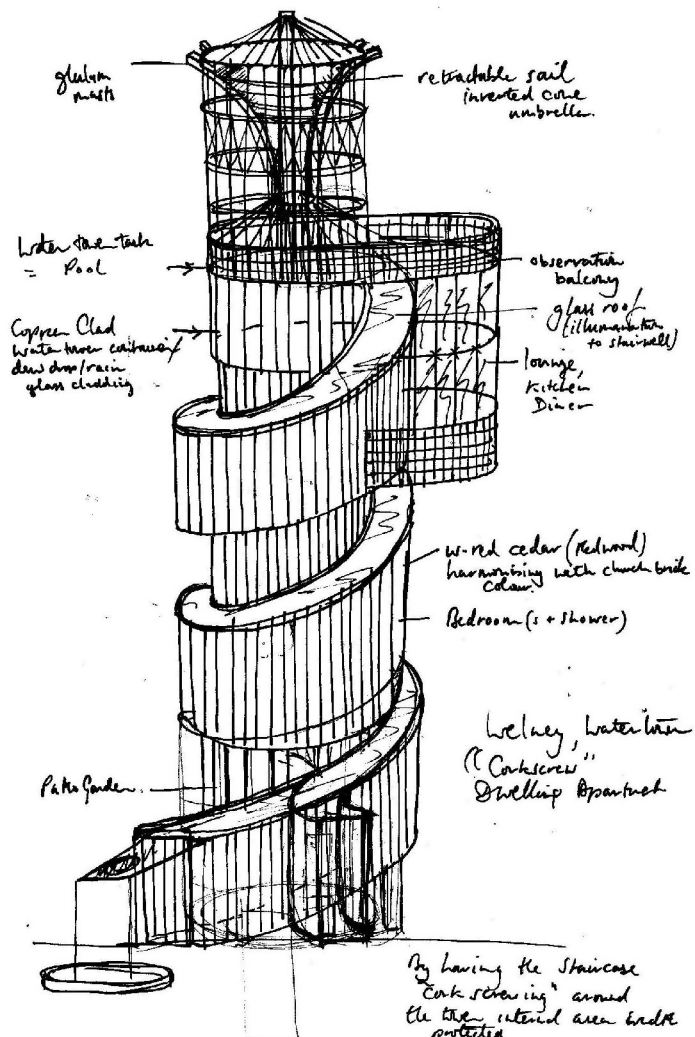
In my presentation to the Council I put the below listed points superimposed onto a photograph of the tower next to the Church. This photograph is aptly titled "surreal" on the Norfolk Churches Web site. I want to achieve a building that is landmark, contemporary and in fact in harmony with the Church so as to almost be a part of the building like a Church Tower. The design will offer viewing outwards to the Welney vistas and with no windows allowing "lookout" views into any existing residence.

For some the tower is an ugly blight on the horizon, others may be so used to it that they do not actually even notice its dominance any more. As an outsider I can tell you that on visiting Welney the tower is unavoidably dominant and ugly, and very surreal. Obviously my ideas are not going to be to all tastes. I just hope that they are for all residents at the very least something that is better than the existing structure. With regards to the ongoing design process I am open to any residents views. Please let me know what you like and don't like; by all means send a drawing of your ideas, or sketch changes onto my design (welneywatertower@yahoo.co.uk). Whilst I may not be able to satisfy all I do encourage any resident that can add critical intelligence to the design to be actively involved in the evolution of the structure.

Following "informal planning advice" that I have recently received from Kings Lynn & West Norfolk planners it has transpired that English Heritage and Conservation have to support the concept that my conversion designs offer an improvement to the setting of the Grade 2* listed St Mary Church. This is indeed a large permission hurdle in its own right. There may be opposition to any acceptable conversion design, no matter how meritorious and visually improving, on the grounds of a lack of amenity space.

The plot on which the tower exists is hemmed in by properties belonging to two considerable landowners. Through no fault of their own these landowners may ultimately hold a ransom on the towers' progression from the drawing board. To this end I very much hope the neighbours in particular will be open to the idea of working with me and influencing the design so that they have at the centre of the village, and at the end of their gardens a building which they designed to work best for them. I am trusting to the idea that participation in the design, rather than objection through planning will help create a building that is very much designed by the neighbours. I recommend "where there is a will there is a way" works better as a partnership rather than forcing the will of my individual design on unwilling neighbours and/or community. Maxims aside, ultimately for the conversion to become a reality and get beyond the drawing board it is clear that the neighbours have to see the conversion as something of value to the village and therefore worthy of their support.

Neil Trodden



Bullet points of Water Tower Presentation

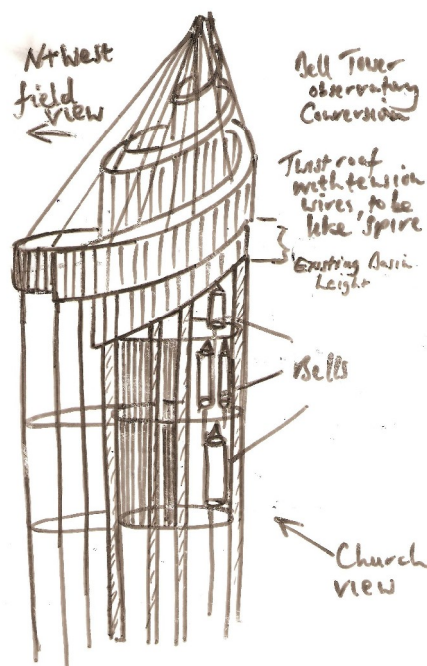
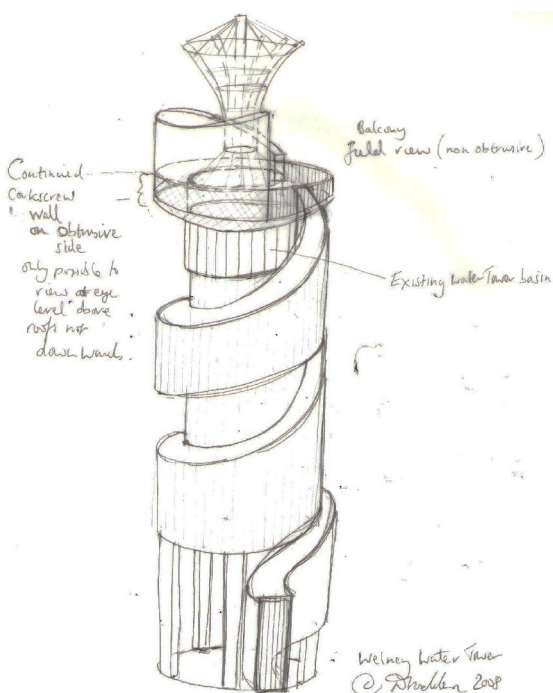
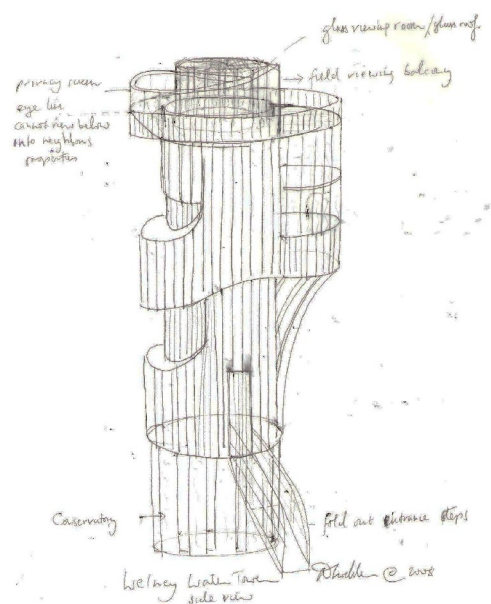
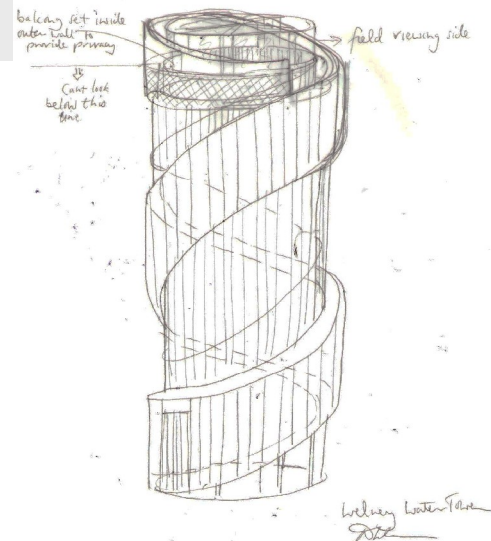
1. DESIGN AMBITION: My ambition for the tower is to place next to the church a landmark building – one that would add aesthetic value to the village. I would not be interested in a basic planking of the structure. I am looking at a more sculptural direction. I am trying to reach for a dwelling that villagers are proud to behold and one that is a regional landmark building.

2. DESIGN TO BE A COMMUNITY PROJECT: Being such a prominent structure the design ambition is of course architecturally very challenging. With this direction in mind I would like you to consider being a part of the process of transforming the tower and therein the village. I am looking for a contribution to the design and support from the community to include neighbours and the Parish Council. The water tower is very much "the ugly duckling". . . .

3. PARISH COUNCIL: I am mindful of the will of the Parish Council that the water tower should be demolished. (Parish Council minutes of the 14th June 2006). I think demolition is a missed opportunity. Whilst the structure dominates in the way it does as an ugly blight on the village demolition is an understandable desire – however if the design ambition can be achieved Welney would be the better for having a unique landmark building in the village. Since it is in private ownership an opportunity now to create a landmark is better than spending many years in the future with the existing dominant and ugly building in the village.

4. NEIGHBOURS: The Marshalls Charity and the Grange have the most to gain from having a landmark building on their borders. Far from rejecting this opportunity to be actively involved in the development they should add their support. It is a project of value to the village especially as the transformation will improve the vista of their dwellings coupled to the Parish Church.

5. Neil Trodden: A nice person to have as a neighbour!



Drawings shown were provided by Mr Trodden and show various design ideas in the hope of promoting discussion and input from Welney residents in deciding the 'final look' of the proposed development.



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Denver Sluice - Little Eye Sluices Refurbishment Work Completed



The repair work to the three sets of timber 'V' doors has been completed and they were returned to operation on 24th October 2008.

The downstream, tidal faces of all the doors have been over-clad with 25mm thick marine plywood for the top 4.8 metres of each door. Detailed inspections had shown that following these repairs the condition of the doors should give a further five to ten years of working life.

Future Operation of the Sluices

In times of high flows in the tidal river it is not possible to discharge flows from the Ely Ouse through the Little Eyes. In a wet winter or a drought summer water levels can prevent any discharges from being made through the sluice for many months. This can cause silt to rapidly build up against the downstream face of the doors. In the past, if the silt deposits became too deep, re-opening the sluices was an expensive and time consuming operation.

So, at the same time as the repair work has been carried out, an experimental air injection system has been installed.

This system will use compressed air to disturb any silt that builds up in front of the timber 'V' doors. With this system in place the Environment Agency will be able to quickly return the doors to proper use as soon as the river water levels allow.



Above:

All three Little Eye sluices are back in operation.



Above:

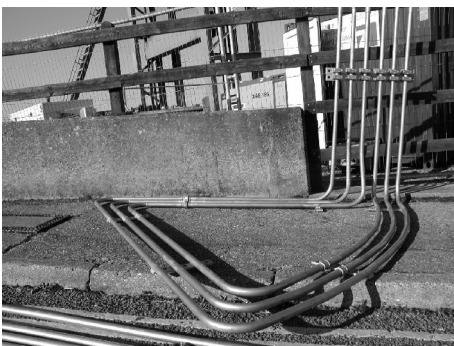
New cladding on the eastern Little Eye sluice gate



Above: 4 metres of silt against the gates in 2006

Discharges through the Denver Sluice form a fundamental part of the implementation of the Environment Agency's long term Tidal River Strategy for the management of silt deposition in the tidal river.

As part of this strategy the Environment Agency will endeavour to discharge as much flow as possible from the Ely Ouse River through the Denver Sluice, rather than using the adjacent A G Wright (Head) sluice and the flood relief channel. Calculations have indicated that the fresh water from the Ely Ouse river is beneficial in reducing the build up of silt in the Great Ouse tidal river between Denver and Stow Bridge. It is anticipated that this will benefit both the navigation between Denver and Salters Lode, and the ability to drain the Ouse Washes by gravity through the Welmore Sluice.



Above: Submerged air distribution pipe work prior to installation.

The discharge through the Denver Sluice is dependent on the tidal cycle, with maximum discharge occurring at low tide and no discharge at all at high tide. This will lead to the water levels in the non-tidal Ely Ouse River fluctuating with the tidal cycle. The amount the water levels change within a cycle will vary depending on the river flow conditions and the height and duration of the high tide levels.

The Ely Ouse river water levels are carefully monitored and there will be no increase in the risk of flooding as a result of this strategy. The flood flows in the Ely Ouse river will continue to be discharged down

the flood relief channel via the A G Wright (Head) sluice.

During a flood event discharges through the old Denver Sluice are usually not possible, as the Great Ouse river would also be in flood and so water levels at low tide never fall below the managed water level of the Ely Ouse river.

WORDSEARCH

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

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

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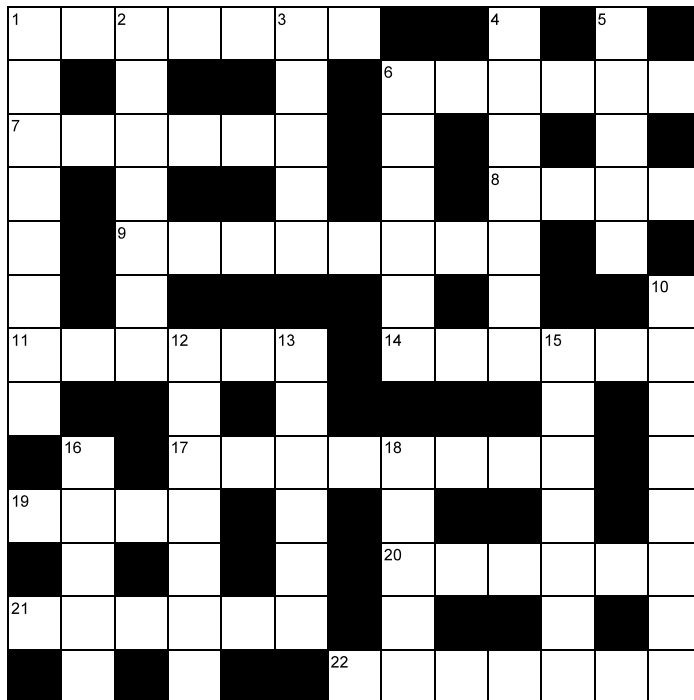
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Cryptic Crossword by Mark Brown



Please send your completed crossword to the Editor by January 10th.

(address on page 27)

All correct entries will be entered into the draw to win a bottle of wine.

GOOD LUCK!

Name:.....

Telephone:.....

Across

1. Boosted, though made to pay for it (7)
6. Herbs which I've seen hidden (6)
7. Find vet in a place from which he originated (6)
8. Got panned, causing a rush for top spot (4)
9. Having acquired skill, made rest seem easy (8)
11. Programme to make one laugh? Yes, it comes naturally (6)
14. Prevent from holding Christmas goodies (6)
17. He keeps a close watch on the news on Sundays (8)
19. It may shed some light in the garden (4)
20. Idly relax at the bar (6)
21. A thing one might complain about (6)
22. Pain sir? Take two with water (7)

Down

1. In short, prisoner lacked intelligence (8)
2. Try and find short-term office worker within disorganised tat (7)
3. Choose to appoint (5)
4. Where plants and animals can be monarchists too? (7)
5. Removes trees from upland moors (5)
6. Have faith in village institution (6)
10. Water shortage no bar to remaining spotless (3-5)
12. Give clothes a whack (7)
13. Cuddly toy bringing good luck to scam, somehow (6)
15. Doctor or lawyer could be considered an ally, or spouse even (7)
16. School sport (5)
18. Exercises control by a strict set of procedures (5)

FARMING DIARY

Thankfully all is safely gathered in. Well, almost. All the harvesting of crops that we do ourselves is complete, with the only outstanding harvest being 55 acres of sugar beet, which we are awaiting the 'Ropa Tiger' of Russell Company to come and harvest for us. We are expecting about 26 acres to be lifted any day now with the remainder to be completed in early December.

Once the beet is out of the ground we can move in with the plough and grain-drill so we can drill the last of the winter wheat seed of the season. Yesterday (15th Nov) we completed the wheat drilling of all cleared fields to date and are now just waiting for that sugar beet to be cleared. Drilling of wheat is split between three varieties this season; Solstice for high quality bread making flour; Einstein for second grade milling flour, where it will be used in part of the grist; and Oakley which is a feed wheat only to be used as the ingredient in animal feeds etc where flour making quality is not so important. The varieties that produce a good milling variety will have higher protein content and the important aim of growing these varieties is to achieve the minimum level required. This level is set by the millers and can vary when there is a shortage of high protein wheat, but in general would be above 13%. This is helped by the addition of extra nitrogen fertiliser during the growing season.

Keeping the crop both disease and insect free so the grains are bold at harvest time and not shrivelled is also important for quality. Shrivelled grain in turn lowers the specific weight of the grain which is important for meeting milling requirements. The bushel weight, or as it is now known the specific weight, is calculated by weighing a litre of grain, and for milling wheat this generally needs to be above 76kg/hl (in other words 1 litre of grain will need to weigh 760g). If a grain is shriveled it will not contain as much flour as a bold grain, so the miller will only buy above this spec so that he gets more flour per ton of wheat purchased. Also a higher bushel weight means more weight of wheat can go in to the lorry or boat - quite an important criteria when calculating how much wheat is to be put in the hold of a ship. Another important specification to achieve when growing milling wheat is the Hagberg Falling Number or Hagberg as it is simply known. This should be over 250 and is a measure of the gelling properties of the flour, which is obviously important if you are going to make bread or biscuits etc. So, next time you pick up a loaf of bread, just remember it is not just any old field of wheat that goes to produce high quality flour. Further information for those interested can be found at www.hgca.com or www.nabim.org.uk

Our potatoes have all been harvested and either delivered to McCain or stored ready for a later market, and quality this year seems to be better than last season with wastage from grade-outs not so high. Some of the crop in store is destined for McCain, one variety (Vales Everest) is going to Birds-Eye, while the remainder will hopefully be going into 25kg sacks to supply the fish and chip shop trade.

Sean is now busy with the tractor and plough turning the land over at a depth of around 12 inches per furrow. This prepares the land for the winter and the next crop that will be planted in the spring. By ploughing the land residues from the last crop are buried so they can be broken down by bacteria etc and add nutrients to the soil. The ploughing also helps to condition and aerate the soil ready for the new crop. The plough penetrates to a depth of about 12 inches and each furrow is taking a slice of 16 inches. Each 'pass' is moving 80 inches width of soil as the plough passes through the field.

I, like many other tractor drivers in the area, have a CB (Citizen's Band) radio in the cab which enables me to talk with other drivers who also have these radios, so long as they are within a range of about 10 miles. This is extremely useful when organizing farm activities between Sean and myself and saves a lot of hand signals to each other which often get incorrectly interpreted, even when we are working in the same field. CB radios are also very useful when observing criminal or potential criminal activity, and while drilling in Outwell last week I heard one driver warning of two or three vehicles containing hare coursers poaching over farm land. These people ran and drove off when the farmer went to challenge them, but due to the location of various CB operators they were tracked out of Norfolk and over the border



into Cambridgeshire where they then set off with the dogs on some more remote farmland to chase hares. It was not long before excited chatter on the CB reported the Cambridgeshire police helicopter and many police cars in the area. One of the CB operators reported the helicopter landing in a field and two police officers leapt out and gave chase and we understand several arrests were made before any serious damage to the hare population occurred. This illustrates how rural communities can work together to prevent crime, and it is important for us all to look out for each other and communicate with our neighbours and if you do see anything suspicious, report it.

It is at times like this that you can reflect on how things used to be done and it was while researching material for the **W.A.S.H (Welney Archive and Social History)** archive that I realised it was not so many years ago when men sat on tractors without cabs and only a hat and coat to protect them from the elements, yet the work was still done on time.

The Welney Archive has quite an array of photos and articles depicting life in and around Welney up to the present day. The archive to date has been stored on hard copies and also scanned into computer format to preserve the quality of all the images and documents. The information has been collated into groups for easy reference, such as village scenes, the Wash, farming, village folk, school, church, weddings, sport, galas etc. Once again we will be opening the archive for free public viewing, and this will be in the Parish Hall at Welney on Saturday the 7th of February between 10am and 1pm. There will also be light refreshments available.

Photos will be displayed along with a rolling display of images from the computer displayed on screen. We would also welcome any other photos, articles or newspaper cuttings that relate to life in and around Welney that could be saved for future reference. If you know or any persons that may have moved away from the village and have material that they would be happy for the archive to use then please get in touch with either myself, the Welney News or the parish clerk. The Parish Council has stored this information safely for future generations and already the pupils of William Marshall School have been provided with a CD copy for use with their historical research of Welney. It is also planned to place a CD copy of this material once it is all labelled in the Norfolk Archive.

Christmas will soon be on us now and may I use this column to wish all of you a very happy and healthy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

*Ken Goodger
November 2008*

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PC Life Support

Computers are meant to make life easier for us all; most of the time I think they do. There are days though when that is definitely not the case; for example when the health centre computer system goes down and we have to work without any idea of who is coming to see which of us, what their medical history is, what their test results are nor what drugs they take!

However, one way our computer system can make life easier for you is if you take advantage of its ability to allow you to book appointments and order repeat prescriptions over the internet. In 2006 57% of households in England could access the internet. That probably means about half of our patients have internet access and could avail themselves of this service.

For appointments it means you will be able to log on at a convenient time for you and book an appointment with the doctor of your choice. This saves you having to phone us which frees up our staff and saves you time. At the moment not all the appointments are bookable on line so please feel free to ring for an appointment if there is nothing suitable available on line.

Currently with repeat prescriptions you have to get your repeat slip to us which can mean a time consuming journey to the surgery. Ordering your repeat online means you only have to make one journey to actually pick up the drugs themselves. It also means you can order them at a time convenient to you, for example when we are closed. Of course you can only order drugs that have been authorised for repeat by your GP.

So how do you access these services? Doctors are very concerned regarding patient confidentiality and we need to be sure that only you can access your own data on our system. Therefore anyone using the internet to access our computer needs to have been issued with individual log in data. If you want to use these services then go to reception and register for your own personal log in details.

The flu campaign is in full swing. This year we held three sessions on Saturday mornings at the surgery instead of the big Health Fair at Upwell Hall. These were very successful with large numbers attending and having very short waiting times. However, there are still a lot of you out there who have not had your flu injection. Remember these are recommended to anyone with heart disease, lung disease, diabetes or kidney disease as well as everyone over 65. Anyone who has had proper flu will testify that it is much more than a bad cold and it really can lay people low especially when they have any other chronic illness. If you think you should have a flu injection ring us up and book an appointment straight away. Don't forget to ask about a pneumonia vaccination if you have not had one, these are recommended for the same sort of people as the flu jab.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a merry Christmas from us all at the surgery. We will be open as normal up to and including Christmas Eve. We will be closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day and will be open as usual on Monday 29th December. We will also be closed on New Years Day.

Have a great 2009!

Dr Paul Williams

Patient Participation Group

EMERGENCIES AT HOME

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

A 999 call for an ambulance should always be the first call. The Ambulance Service prefers to receive the call direct from someone in the patient's home, so that they can be given exact directions how to get there. They will often stay on the line and give treatment advice and support until the ambulance arrives.

MINOR INJURIES

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

HEARING AID REPAIRS

If your Hearing Aid needs repairing you will need to telephone the Audiology Department at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn, (01553 634805) to make an appointment to take it to North Cambs Hospital in Wisbech. If your Hearing Aid needs replacing you need to make an appointment to see a G.P. at the Health Centre and they will make an appointment for you to have another hearing test at the Hospital.

Closure of Health Centre on Thursdays for Staff Training

There will be no doctors available at the Health Centre on the afternoons of the 3rd Thursday of each month commencing January 2009.

However, the Pharmacy will remain open.

Representatives for Welney:

Charlotte Cox (638610) Ken Sorensen (610516)

The October meeting was a very special evening for the W.I. when they were joined by visitors from Littleport, March St. Mary and Christchurch for a Fashion Show organised by the Edinburgh Woollen Mill from Ely. Models for the evening were Jean Newell, Blanche Markham, Queenie Johnson, Bet Smith, Sheila Dore & Jennifer James. Two weeks before the show each model picked out four outfits of their choice, with a little help from the manageress if needed.

Everyone was a bit apprehensive but the butterflies soon disappeared and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience (Look out Naomi Campbell). Members had prepared refreshments so everyone tucked in and had a well earned cuppa. Chris the manageress judged the competition for a pretty headscarf with Blanche Markham and Jean Newell gaining 5 points, Cissie Bedford, Bettine Watson, Queenie Johnson & Jennifer James 4 points, Sheila Dore and Amy Markham 3 points.

A teaspoon was presented to Vera Singleterry and a handkerchief to Blanche Markham for gaining maximum points in recent competitions. The Littleport members were very lucky with raffle prizes with eleven in total, Christchurch had two winners and March St. Mary and Welney one each. A very enjoyable and sociable evening.

November was birthday time once again for the W.I. Members celebrated with a delicious lunch at the Lamb and Flag to mark 82 years of the Welney W.I. and was a great success.

Lucky raffle winners were Bettine Watson, Jennifer James, Cissie Bedford & Jean Newell.

Coffee Morning

Sat Nov 29th
10 am to 11 am
In aid of Residents'
Fund

Everyone is invited

Home-made cakes and tickets for the Christmas raffle will be on sale.

Residents' and Friends meeting: The last meeting was held in October. At this meeting the program for the period up to Christmas was discussed and planned. The next meeting will be held at 3 pm on Mon 19 January 2009

Residents' Activities:

Tue 2 Dec: Making table and Christmas decorations using cuttings from plants in garden. In the dining room from 2pm.

Fri 12 Dec 6pm to 8pm:

Christmas Party

Our regular **Christmas Party**. All friends and relatives of our residents are invited.

Food and Drink

Residents' are continuing to enjoy free-range eggs from our chickens and are able to watch them from indoors as well as taking a walk in the garden to see them.

The program of keeping a glass of fresh water always available for each resident and encouraging to drink plenty of water has been going well.

We continue to deliver freshly cooked lunches to elderly people at home in and around Welney, Upwell and Outwell.

Day Care: We still have Day Care places available for local elderly people who would like to participate in our activities and have lunch with our residents.

Graham Rainbird

Friendship club

To celebrate the 31st birthday of the Friendship Club members enjoyed a splendid buffet at the W.W.T. on 21st October and a delicious cake baked as usual by Queenie Johnson. It was very relaxing not having to prepare the refreshments and every one enjoyed the different surroundings.

The Christmas shopping trip to Nottingham took place on 4th November and although the weather wasn't brilliant everyone had a good time. The bus left at 8.30 am and in no time at all the members were ready to storm the shops and seek out those Christmas gifts. Several people from Nordelph and Christchurch joined us making it a very sociable trip.

Joyce and Trevor Loveday are Club members despite moving to Littleport several years ago, and they will be celebrating their Golden Wedding this November, so members send them congratulations and best wishes.

December of course is the Christmas season and as usual members will be tucking in to a mouth watering meal at the Lamb and Flag on 16th of the month and looking forward to another year of friendly meetings and sociable outings.

Meetings are held every other Tuesday in the village hall and if you want to know more call Queenie on 01354 610409.

P.S. By the time you read this Queenie will have celebrated her 87th birthday so a belated Happy Birthday to you Queenie.

WANTED

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01638 743623

Parish Council Brief Report

The October meeting was held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 7th at 7.30pm



Mr. Neil Trodden addressed the meeting with his proposals for the **Welney Water tower**. He advised Council that he had agreed terms with the owners to acquire the Water tower but would like to show members his design thoughts for a residential redevelopment.

Post Office Services - The Mobile Post Office Van is now visiting the village every day between 1.15 and 2.30 p.m. Trade is slowly increasing and they are looking at plans to possibly resite the Post Office service in the future.

Code of Conduct and Cllr.Kerr - A letter of support for Cllr.Kerr had been sent to the appropriate authorities.

Local Government Reorganisation - The letter confirming Council's request that the present local government tiers should remain the same as at present had been sent off to the Boundary Committee.

First time Sewerage for Welney - A planning application had been received from NCC relating to the aerated facultative Lagoon Treatment Facility required by Anglian Water Services at Green Lane off Padgets Road, Tipps End. Before the matter was considered Cllr.Goodger declared an interest and left the room. It was unanimously agreed that the application be recommended for approval. Enquiries had been made of the Borough Council regarding any grants which might be available for this work to individual householders and whilst some financial assistance may be available, only certain householders would be eligible. The Clerk reported that the Parish Hall had been booked for an Open Day on Thursday 4th Dec from 2 - 7 p.m. and letters to all those properties in the catchment area, would be sent out shortly.

Parish Hall - A cause for concern was the state of the lean-to store at the back of the Hall and it was agreed that councillors would meet on Saturday 1st November in order to have a clean up and remove all the old rubbish.

Proposed New Community Centre - Nothing further had been heard from Norfolk ProHelp nor the EA despite repeated requests for information. It was agreed to provide details of architects and companies that might be able to draw up plans for the Hall in order that matters could be moved along. This would be dealt with at the next meeting.

Freedom of Information Act Model Publication Scheme - Details had been received and it was proposed, seconded and agreed that the Parish Council should formally adopt this Scheme with immediate effect.

Planning permission had been received for Extension and Alterations to dwelling at School House, Suspension Bridge, Welney.

Planning Application for consideration - Mr.Purliant, Change of use of pasture land to an all weather turnout area at Copes Hill Barn, Wisbech Road, Welney. It was agreed to recommend this for approval, but to mention that concern was raised with regard to possible use of floodlighting on the area, and the possible hours of use.

Highway matters - Before the meeting Councillors met in the car park outside the Parish Hall to inspect the problems caused by lorries turning, when the Wash Road floods. It was agreed to write to Highways expressing concern and asking them to consider widening the entrance so it is not churned up. It was accepted that there must be somewhere for these vehicles to turn, but it was felt that a wider access would make this much safer, and would also go some way to safeguarding the properties in the Immediate vicinity.

The following items were reported to Highways for attention: Rutland Corner at Tipps End is in a dangerous condition following an incident where a lorry went off the road; Some of the signs in the area have been painted with yellow paint and some have been turned round pointing in the wrong direction; a large area of water accumulates on the roadway outside Bridge Farmhouse at Suspension Bridge, and also on the lay-by at the entrance to the School where the drains appear to be blocked; several of the roadside marker bollards on Wisbech Road have been damaged and broken.

The next meeting would be Tuesday 4th November

Pat Copeman, Parish Clerk.

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Parish Council Brief Report

The November meeting was held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 4th at 7.30pm



Local Government Reorganisation - Two representatives had hoped to attend the meeting at King's Lynn on 15th October but this had not been possible. However, information had been received relating to that meeting and it was agreed that two councillors would book places at the next meeting on 7th January, 2009.

SAM Monitoring - It was confirmed to the meeting that on 25th October the SAM "Smiley Face" vehicle was in and around the village. The Clerk had spoken to the gentleman operating the equipment and he confirmed that he had good records of the speed of vehicles both entering and leaving the village, in two separate locations. These would be collated and sent to Council in due course. At the same time the Police were carrying out speed checks situated at the entrance to the School.

Code of Conduct and Cllr. Kerr - The Standards Committee Panel Hearing Agenda had been received from the Borough Council and this would take place on Friday 7th November at 11 a.m. **(See pages 24 & 25)**

First time Sewerage for Welney - Letters relating to the Open Day on 4th December had been received from Anglian Water Services. A letter had been received by the Parish Hall but it was unanimously agreed that the Hall would not be connected to the mains sewer.

Parish Hall - Thanks were expressed to those who attended the Hall on 1st November and assisted with the clean up in the Store at the rear of the Hall. A great deal of rubbish and broken items had been removed and the space is much cleaner and more easily accessed. Two heaters in the hall have again stopped working and an electrician would be asked to check these out.

Proposed New Community Centre - Confirmation had been received from Norfolk ProHelp that they had found a company willing to carry out the Flood Risk Survey. The Chairman confirmed that he was hoping to attend the Norfolk ProHelp Exhibition in Norwich on 11th November and he would try and find out further information. A letter had been received from the EA relating to Council's purchase of the Hall site.

Quality Council Status - The Clerk confirmed that she had received information relating to this from the Norfolk Association of Local Councils and that we now met the basic criteria if we wished to proceed towards Quality Status. In view of the work involved it was agreed to leave this matter in abeyance and visit it again in the future.

Marshalls Charity - A letter was received confirming that Mr T Bray had resigned as a Nominative Trustee. After consideration it was proposed that Mrs Rachel Brown should be appointed to fill the vacancy.

The following **planning applications** were received & recommended for approval.

Mr.C.Haycock, Alterations and Extensions to dwelling house at School House, Suspension Bridge, Welney.
Anglian Water Services, Proposed Temporary Vehicular Access and 6 Parking Spaces for residents (for a period of 12 months from 1.1.09 during the construction of the Vacuum Pumping Station) on land to the north of 33 Chestnut Avenue, Welney.

Highway matters - Confirmation had been received from Highways that the reflectors will be replaced where missing and broken, and that drainage investigations will be carried out near Bridge Farmhouse and the lay-by at the School Entrance. The painted street names are the responsibility of the Borough Council who had promised to deal with the matter.

Following the last meeting Highways representative had met the Chairman on the car park near the Hall and subsequently the entrance to the roadway had been widened. Concern had also been expressed to Elgoods regarding lorries parking overnight on the car park but nothing had been heard.

WASH Committee - The committee met on the 17th Oct and arrangements made for an Open Day in the Parish Hall on Sat 7th Feb, 2009. Full details would be available in due course.

The next meeting would be held on Tues 2nd December.

Pat Copeman, Parish Clerk.

GRAHAME SEATON

A.M.I.A.S

DESIGN AND PLANNING CONSULTANT

Well Creek Lodge, St Peters Road, Upwell.

Telephone 01945 772632

*Drawings prepared for houses, bungalows,
alterations and extensions.*

*Planning and building control approval
obtained from Local Authorities.*



The swans are back!

We are heading into winter and the reserve is looking fantastic at the moment with plenty of swans arriving each week. The first arrivals were a group of Whooper swans who landed on the reserve on 2nd October. We have just recently welcomed the first Bewick's swans back on the reserve, spotted on 3rd November. Numbers of wildfowl including Wigeon and Teal are increasing as the winter progresses.

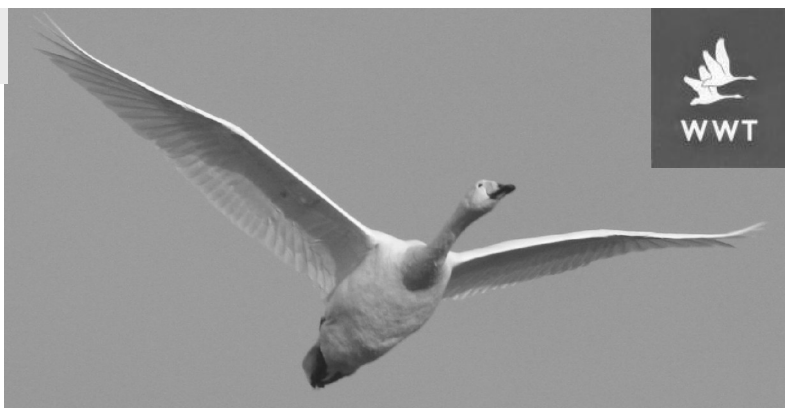
The Bewick's swans caused quite a stir this year turning up about 10 days later than normal. With 2,500 miles to fly they won't migrate unless the wind is in the right direction and cold weather forces them to move south. With the winds blowing from the south-west for much of October and mild conditions in their breeding grounds of Arctic Russia it was no wonder they decided to take a bit longer this year. Numbers are on the increase and we expect up to 5,000 Bewick's swans to spend the winter at Welney again this year.

The Festival of Swans took place on 15th & 16th November. This popular event takes place every year to welcome back the migratory swans to the Fens. 2008 was our best year yet with more talks, more demonstrations and more exhibiting artists than ever before to entertain visitors. Not forgetting huge numbers of the stars of the event – the swans! If you missed it, don't worry the Festival will be back next year and there are plenty more events going on over the next few months. Don't forget you can come and watch the swans being fed everyday until March 15th 2009!

Besides the swans there has been much excitement at Welney around our new Lady Fen land. The project to convert 100 acres of farmland beside the visitor centre to wetland has been going on for 18 months now and was recently finished. The autumn rains have started to wet the land and many species of bird including Ruff, Curlew, Skylark and Whooper swan have already started to call this new area home. An open day is planned for February to let people find out more about the wildlife using Lady Fen so keep watching this space.

And finally... we must mention that WWT Welney recently won the 'Small visitor attraction of the year award' at the East of England Tourism awards. This is the second year the centre has won this award as well being highly commended in the 'Sustainable Tourism' category.

Visit www.wwt.org.uk/welney for our full events listings or contact the centre on 01353 860711 for more information.



Calendar Dates

Sun 7th December 10am – 5pm.

Eco-Christmas Fayre

Buy eco-friendly gifts against a backdrop of migratory swans. Normal admission applies.

**Tues 9th & 16th December
12.30pm sitting.**

Seniors Christmas lunch

2 courses £9.50 or 3 courses £10.95
Reserve admission not included.
Booking essential.

**Fri 12th & 19th December
12.30pm sitting.**

Christmas lunches

3 courses £14.95, under 12s £7.95.
Reserve admission not included.
Booking essential.

Sat 13th December 10am – 4pm

Jane Frost Willow Workshop

£30 each, plus £10 for materials.
Booking essential. Contact Jane Frost if you have any queries- 01353 861944 / email: jane@frostart.co.uk.

**Sun 14th December 6.30am start.
Swan's awake**

Watch thousands of swans wake & fly out to the arable fields. £7.
Optional breakfast. £4.50. Booking Essential.

**Fri 19th Dec– Sun 4th January
10am – 5pm.**

Christmas Family Trail

Self-guided trail and make a Whooper Swan Christmas card. Normal admission applies.

Mon 22nd Dec 1.30 – 3.30pm.

Family Christmas Crafts session

Age 4-11 + parents. Children £4.
Adults normal admission. Booking Essential.

Thu 1st January Tick & twitch

A guide in the hide will be on hand to help you spot everything on the reserve. Bird ID competition for families. Normal admission applies.

Sat 10th Jan 10am – 4pm.

Jane Frost Willow workshop

AS DEC 13TH

**Sun 18th Jan 6.30 – 8.30am.
Swan's awake**

Enter the observatory in the darkness and have a panoramic view as the sun rises and thousands of swans take flight. Photography opportunities. £10. Booking essential. Breakfast optional £5.

Wed 21st January

3pm until about 5.30pm.

Bewick's flight in

Visit the further reaches of the reserve with a warden to watch the spectacular flight in of thousands of Bewick's swans. The roost area will be reached in a 4x4 vehicle but some walking will be involved. Photography opportunities. £10. Booking essential. Afternoon tea optional. £4.

Sat 24th January 9am – 2pm

Wild about winter

Explore our 1000 acre reserve with a warden. Improve your identification skills with the wide variety of wildfowl and waders. Suitable for beginners and intermediates. Optional lunch £5. Jacket potato with 1 filling and cup of tea/filter coffee. £15. Booking essential.

Sun 25th January

Burns night swan supper – to

include swan feed. Details to follow. Booking essential.

Mon 2nd February

World Wetlands Day

Celebrate wetlands around the world at WWT Welney and 'Wear your Wellies to Work' to help raise awareness for wetland conservation.

Normal admission applies.

Standards Committee - Panel Hearing – 7th November 2008 - Councillor S Kerr

SBE Reference number: SBE20864.08

Date of report: 13th August 2008

Name of Member: Councillor S Kerr

Name of Member's Representative:

Mrs Sally Kerr (wife of Member)

Relevant authority concerned:

Welney Parish Council



Name of Ethical Standard Officer (ESO): Ms Jennifer Rogers

Name of Investigator: Teresa Campion

Date of Hearing: 7 November 2008

Names of Standards Committee Members:

Chairperson: Mr M Sale (Independent Member)

Member: Councillor I Goodson

Member: Mr J Dawson (Parish Representative)

Name of Legal Adviser to the Standards Committee:

Nicola Leader

Name of Clerk of Hearing: Wendy Vincent

Section 1: Preliminary documents

The referral from Ethical Standards Officer:

On 8 February 2008 the ESO referred an allegation about Cllr Steven Kerr to the Monitoring Officer for investigation. The allegation was investigated by Teresa Campion, Deputy Monitoring Officer who prepared a report of her findings. The Investigator's report concerns a possible breach of the Code of Conduct:

Allegation 1: Code of Conduct 2001, paragraph 12

Code of Conduct 2007, paragraph 13

Allegation 2: Code of Conduct 2001, paragraph 8

Code of Conduct 2007, paragraph 9

Allegation 3: Code of Conduct 2001, paragraph 5(a)

Code of Conduct 2007, paragraph 6 (a)

Allegation 4: Code of Conduct 2001, paragraph 10

Code of Conduct 2007, paragraph 12

of the Regulations. The Investigator referred her report to the Standards Committee for a hearing in accordance with the Regulations.

The allegation was that Cllr S Kerr failed to comply with paragraphs 12,8,5(a), and 10 of the Welney Parish Council's Code of Conduct 2001 and paragraphs 13,9,6 (a) and 12 of the Welney Parish Council's Code of Conduct 2007 in that he:

failed to register details of his financial or other interests (allegation 1)

failed to declare a personal interest in the matter of Meadow Lane when it was considered by Welney Parish Council (allegation 2)

Used his position or attempted to use his position as a member improperly to confer on or secure for himself or any other person, an advantage or disadvantage (allegation 3)

Had a prejudicial interest and failed to act appropriately (allegation 4).

The complaint was made by the complainant to the Standards Board for England and was referred for local investigation by the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk by the Ethical Standards Officer, Jennifer Rogers in February 2008.

Section 2: Oral and written submissions (procedural)

2.1 The Standards Committee's decision on any procedural matters was as follows:

Cllr Kerr was present at the hearing. He was accompanied by Mrs S Kerr who represented the case on Cllr Kerr's behalf. There was no request made for the press or public to be excluded and the hearing was conducted in open session. Cllr C Walters, a member of the Standards Committee was present for training purposes only and took no part in the hearing.

Two Welney Parish Councillors were also present during the hearing as observers.

The Investigating Officer called the Complainant, Mr M Smith as a witness. Mr Smith was only present during the hearing during the time he was giving evidence to the Panel.

Following the announcement of the Panel's decision Cllr Kerr was advised that the result of the proceedings in respect of the allegation which was found proved would be published but that he had the right to ask for publication of the results of the allegations which were not proved to be withheld from publication. He was permitted until 5pm on the 10th November 2008 to consider this but it was made clear that if he had not contacted the Monitoring Officer by then the results in respect of all the allegations would be published.

Section 3: Findings of fact

3.1 The following facts in the Investigator's report were undisputed and the Standards Committee findings of fact are:

a) That Cllr Kerr is a member of Welney Parish Council

b) That Cllr Kerr resides at Croft House, Main Street, Welney and that he operates his carpentry business from this property.

3.2 Summary of evidence:

As detailed in the Pre-Hearing Summary and the Investigating Officer's Report.

Cllr Kerr produced various photographs and plans to show the nature and location of Meadow Lane and the 'made-up' stretch of lane to the side of his property which leads to the local school. He also produced letters from previous owners of Meadow Farm and a previous occupant of accommodation in the local school which supported the view that Meadow Lane did not include the 'made-up' lane to the side of his property.

3.3 Summary of submissions about disputed facts:

Allegation 1 – Cllr Kerr completed the declaration of interests form following his reappointment to the Council in May 2007 and handed it to the Clerk of the Parish Council. The Clerk failed to forward this to the Borough Council's Monitoring Officer.

Allegation 2 – The Complainant contends that the ‘made-up’ lane which runs to the side of Cllr Kerr’s land and leads to the local school is part of Meadow Lane. As Cllr Kerr uses this ‘made-up’ lane to gain access to parking spaces on his property which he uses for his business and personal interests he should have declared a personal interest when the Parish Council were considering matters relating to Meadow Lane at meetings held on the 9th November 2004, 11th January 2005, March 2005, 14th June 2006, 12th July 2006, 11th April 2007 and 9th May 2007. Cllr Kerr and members of the Parish Council believed that when they were considering issues relating to Meadow Lane they were dealing with an unmade up lane which did not form part of the made up road at the side of Cllr Kerr’s land.

Allegations 3 & 4 – The Complainant contends that when the Parish Council considered whether or not to support a right of way application in relation to Meadow Lane (which he believes includes the ‘made-up lane referred to above) that Cllr Kerr stood to gain a beneficial interest for his property and business by securing a right of way. As such he not only had a personal interest but also a prejudicial interest which should have been declared. Furthermore in actively supporting the right of way application at Council meetings he sought to secure a significant advantage for himself. Cllr Kerr and members of the Parish Council believed that when they were considering issues relating to Meadow Lane they were dealing with an unmade up lane which did not form part of the made up road at the side of Cllr Kerr’s land.

Section 4: Standard Committee’s finding of fact and decisions on whether the Codes were breached

4.1 Allegations 2,3 and 4

From the evidence submitted the Panel were satisfied that when the Welney Parish Council considered the question of Meadow Lane on the:

14th June 2006,

12th July 2006,

11th April 2007 and 9th May 2007

It believed it was dealing with the unmade road which has been described to the Panel at the hearing. This did not include the made-up road to the side of Cllr Kerr’s property and which leads to a local school. The Panel believes that Cllr Kerr was also of this understanding. The Panel therefore concludes that Cllr Kerr was under no obligation to declare a personal interest at these meetings as his business and property interests were not affected nor would he be affected to a greater extent than others.

The Panel therefore finds the allegations in respect of these dates are **not proven**. For the same reason the panel finds that the allegation that Cllr Kerr had used his position to confer on or secure for himself or any other person, an advantage or disadvantage – **not proven**.

So far as the allegations that Cllr Kerr failed to declare a personal interest at the meetings held on: 9th November 2004, 11th January 2005, March 2005

The Panel is of the opinion that the Council was not being asked to make any substantive decisions and therefore there was no obligation on Councillor Kerr to declare a personal interest.

It follows from these findings that as Councillor Kerr **had no personal interest, therefore no prejudicial interest could have arisen**.

4.2 Allegation 1

So far as the failure to ensure that Cllr Kerr’s declaration of interests was served on the Borough Council’s Monitoring Officer in May 2007, the Panel is satisfied **he failed to do so and is therefore in breach of the Code of Conduct**.

4.3 The relevant sections of the Code of Conduct are:

Allegation 1: Code of Conduct 2007, paragraph 13

Allegation 2: Code of Conduct 2001, paragraph 8

Code of Conduct 2007, paragraph 9

Allegation 3: Code of Conduct 2001, paragraph 5(a)

Code of Conduct 2007, paragraph 6 (a)

Allegation 4: Code of Conduct 2001, paragraph 10

Code of Conduct 2007, paragraph 12

Cllr Kerr **did fail** to comply with paragraph 13 of the Code of Conduct 2007 (Allegation 1)

Cllr Kerr **did not fail** to comply with

Allegation 2: Code of Conduct 2001, paragraph 8

Code of Conduct 2007, paragraph 9

Allegation 3: Code of Conduct 2001, paragraph 5(a)

Code of Conduct 2007, paragraph 6 (a)

Allegation 4: Code of Conduct 2001, paragraph 10

Code of Conduct 2007, paragraph 12

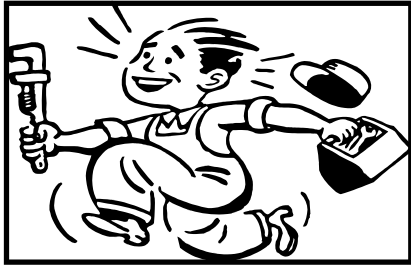
Section 5: Sanction

The Panel decided **not to impose a sanction but** explained to Councillor Kerr that it was an important duty upon all Councillors to ensure a copy of the Register of interests was forwarded to the Monitoring Officer at the Borough Council and to make sure this did not happen again. The Chairman advised that it was important to relay this to the Clerk and to colleagues of Welney Parish Council.

Section 6: Right to appeal

6.1 Cllr Kerr has the right to apply in writing to the President of the Adjudication Panel for England for permission to appeal the Panel of the Standards Committee’s finding. The President of the Adjudication Panel must receive written notice requesting permission to appeal within 21 days of the member’s receipt of notification of the Panel of Standards Committee’s finding.

Mr M Sale
Chair of the Standards Committee
11th November 2008



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What's on at: **Kings Lynn Corn Exchange**
Box Office 01553 764 864

DECEMBER

5th - Merry Xmas Everybody
Slade, Mud2 & T-Rextasy
8th & 9th - That'll Be The Day
Rock 'n' Roll Variety show
11th - Comedy Club - Adults Only!
12th - Maddy Prior & The Carnival Band
13th - Beyond The Barricade At Christmas
14th - Christmas Country Show
17th - 27th Cirque de Glace
Spectacular ice show

JANUARY

24th & 25th - Chinese State Circus
28th - Let's Hang On
Tribute to Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons

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

DECEMBER

4th & 5th - FILM - Incendiary Cert 15
6th - Andy Hamilton
7th - The Iceni Ensemble
11th - 13th Local Production.
A Childrens Swan Lake & Musical Madness.
14th - Nigel 'Boy' Syer
18th -19th - FILM - Burn After Reading Cert 15
20th - Grandpa Joe's Magic Show - for children
27th - 1st Jan - Snow White. Local Production
- a show to entertain family members of all ages.

JANUARY

17th - Barb Jungr sings Bob Dylan
23rd - Dylan Thomas - Return Journey

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

DECEMBER

10th - 4th Jan - Aladdin
Festive treat for everyone to enjoy

JANUARY

12th - 14th FILM: Dirty Dancing (12a)
15th-17th FILM: Grease (PG)
24th - Rockin on heavens door - musical tribute
31st - Kylie Mania - musical tribute

Christmas Extravaganza

Celebrate Christmas with Sue Ryder Care.

Christmas Extravaganza is on

Saturday 13 December.

11am - 5pm

The Cathedral Centre, Ely (Opposite the Old Palace).

So bring the children and grandchildren to visit Santa's grotto and receive an early Christmas present. There will be plenty to keep the whole family amused - have a go on the tombola, try your luck in the raffle and enjoy a mince pie and coffee, whilst finishing the last of your Christmas shopping. There will be a great variety of stalls selling wonderful Christmas gifts from children's wooden toys to hand painted silks and everything in between.

Santa's Grotto

6 & 13th Dec at Ely Museum
Visit Santa in his Grotto and receive a gift. Have your photo taken with Santa and take part in other Christmas Activities.

Cost: £2.50 per child includes entrance to museum

Times: 10.00am - 3.30pm

Christingle Service

15th Dec

Location:

Ely Cathedral
A chance to join the Cathedral Choir to sing some traditional carols. Telephone: 01353 667735

Part Loan of Horse

Gelding, 14 hands, with lovely temperament.

For more details contact Polly on 01354 610617

FOR SALE

IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SELL OR GIVE AWAY PLEASE CONTACT ANY OF THE WELNEY NEWS TEAM WHO WILL BE ONLY TOO PLEASED TO TAKE DETAILS FROM YOU.

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 QEH, 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.

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



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MONDAYS

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Noon
at Village Hall.
(except Bank
Holidays)

Call Upwell Health
Centre to book: 01945
773671



Teddy Church

December 1st
No meeting in
January
(First Monday of the month)
9.30am at St Marys Church



TUESDAYS

Friendship Club

December 2nd
December 16th
December 30th
January 13th
January 27th
1.30pm at the Village Hall



Parish Council meeting

December 2nd
January 6th
(First Tuesday of
the month)
7.30pm at the
Village Hall



WEDNESDAYS

Womens Institute

December 3rd
January 7th
7pm at the
Village Hall



THURSDAYS

Yoga

10am - 11.30am
(Not on during
school holidays)
At the Pavillion



FRIDAYS

Mobile Library

05-Dec-08
16-Jan-09



Times

Welney

09:40 - 09:55 Fern House, Hale Rd
10:00 - 10:15 Chestnut Ave
10:20 - 11:10 Lamb & Flag
11:15 - 11:30 Former Post Office
11:35 - 11:45 Hernside

Tips End

11:50 - 12:10 Rutland House
Lakes End
12:15 - 12:30 Lake Ave
12:35 - 12:50 Cock Fen Road
14:10 - 14:25 Hurst Cottages

Pauls Fresh Fish Van



1 - 1.15 pm
New Road

Carpet Bowls



7.15pm at the
Pavillion

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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.

SUNDAYS

Dec. 7th	9.30am	Holy Communion
Dec. 14th	11am	All Age Worship
Dec. 21st	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Dec. 21st	3.30pm	Carol Service at Christchurch
Dec. 21st	6.00pm	Carol Service at Manea
Dec. 24th	11.30pm	Holy Communion
Dec. 25th	10.00am	United Service at Christchurch
Dec. 28th	11am	United Service at Manea
Jan. 4th	9.30am	Holy Communion
Jan. 11th	11am	All Age Worship
Jan. 18th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Jan. 25th	9.30am	Morning Prayer

