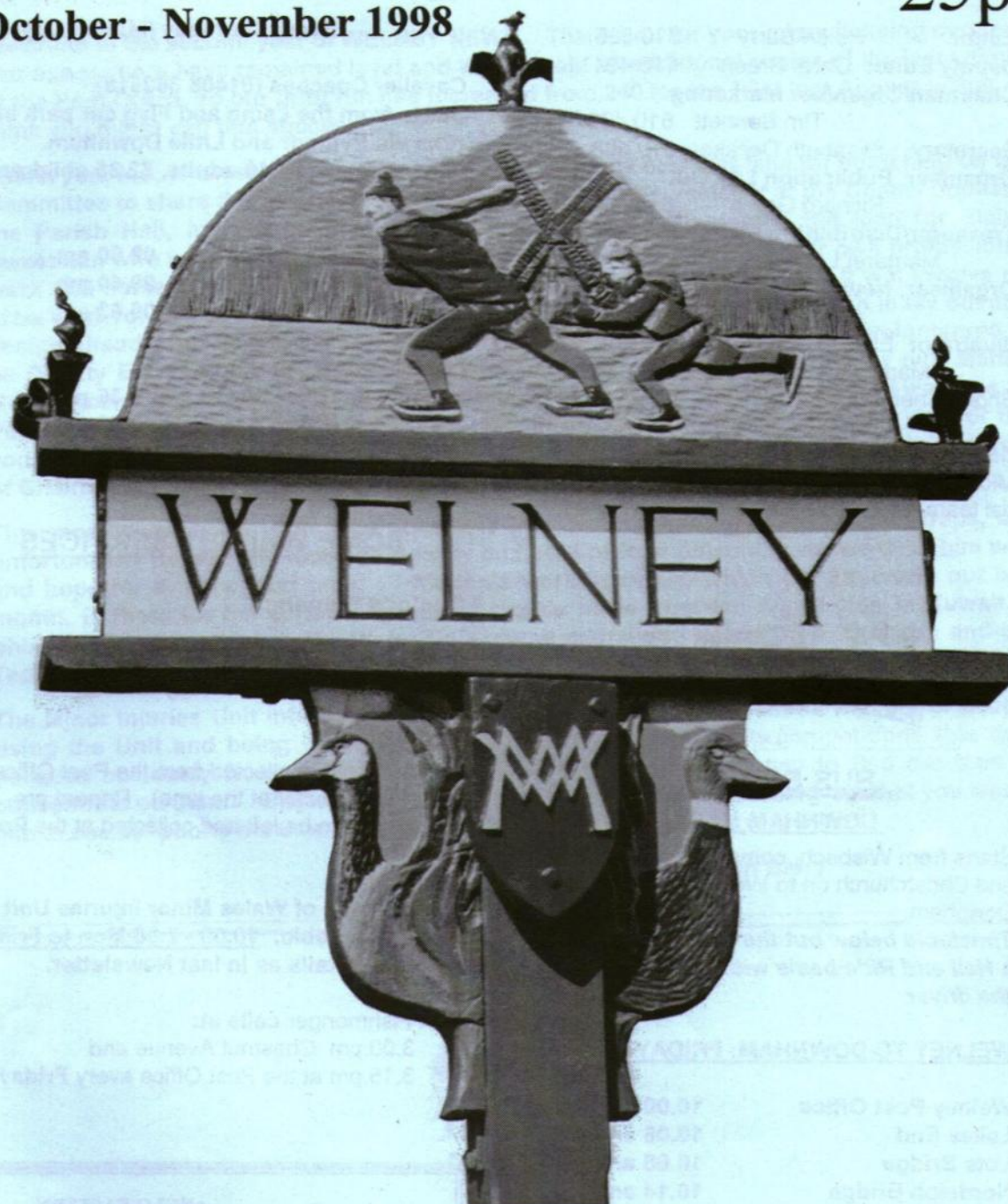


Issue N^o 7

October - November 1998

25p



NEWS

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Distribution: Peter & Charlotte Cox, Pat Rix,
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BUS SERVICES

DOWNHAM MARKET

Starts from Wisbech, comes through Upwell and Christchurch on to Welney and then to Downham.

Timetable below but the bus will operate on a Hail and Ride basis with a clear signal to the driver

WELNEY TO DOWNHAM: FRIDAYS

Welney Post Office	10.00 am
Lakes End	10.06 am
Lots Bridge	10.08 am
Nordelph Bridge	10.14 am
Salters Lode	10.19 am
Downham Market	10.26 am
Downham Market	12.15 pm
Salters Lode	12.22 pm
Nordelph Bridge	12.27 pm
Lots Bridge	12.33 pm
Lakes End	12.35 pm
Welney Post Office	12.40 pm

(Fare £1.70 single £2.20 return)

ELY

Every Thursday (Market Day)

Cavalier Coaches (01406 362518)

Starts from the Lamb and Flag car park and runs via Pymoor and Little Downham.

Fare: Return: £4.10 adults, £2.35 children £3.20 pensioners

Welney	09.00 am
Ely Market Street	09.50 am
Tesco's car park	09.53 am

Departs:

Tesco's car park	12.35 pm
Ely Market Street	12.40 pm
Welney	1.28 pm

SOME WELNEY SERVICES

Doctor's Surgery:

12 noon at the Parish Hall
Monday, Wednesday & Friday

Prescriptions

Can be collected from the Post Office (inform the doctor at the time). Repeat prescriptions can be left and collected at the Post Office.

NB Princess of Wales Minor Injuries Unit
 winter timetable: **10.00 - 7.00 Mon to Friday**
 all other details as in last Newsletter.

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the second year of WELNEY NEWS. Thank you for your overwhelming support. Our subscribers have remained loyal and Wendy sold 48 additional copies of the last edition at the Post Office, so our print run has increased from 240 for the Pilot last August to 300. I think you might call that successful.

Thank you, too, to those who came forward in reply to my plea last time for more help on the Committee to share the work load. Elisabeth Deckker, new resident at the Chapel opposite the Parish Hall, has joined the Committee as Secretary, lightening the load for Elaine Sweetman who was coping with illustrations and secretarial work and her own professional work and home and children: Richard Green has joined the Committee - it will involve no extra work for him because he has been doing, without recognition, so much in lay out and design already, but he will give up extra time for Meetings: Carol Green has volunteered to be Deputy Editor to ensure someone is always there to bring the Newsletter out, Marlen Moss-Eccardt has joined the Committee and opened her home for Meetings, and we hope Jo Pegg and Sheona Snell who have agreed to join the Committee will inject the view of the younger generation into our editorial ideas, and Tim Bennett has taken on the additional role of Chairman.

This month we hoped to include an article from Ernie James on eels and eel traps, but unfortunately he was laid low with a really bad bout of food poisoning, so we wish him well and hope for a piece next time. Marlen's work in music, which got squeezed out last month, is there on the centre pages, and there's news from Ian Warrington in Kuwait, a photographic look back at the Water Gala, some interesting letters on a local zoo and the Teddy Bear Club, Parish Hall, Parish Council and Church News and lots more.

The Minor Injuries Unit information last time was a great success with a number of people using the Unit and being very grateful to know it was there. No competitions this time because obviously from the reaction last time, you are all too busy to find the time to concentrate on them. But we always want to know what we are missing out that you would like to see so 'phone me or anyone on the Committee and give us your views.

Helen Barry



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PARISH HALL NEWS

There was an invigorating Committee on 14th October: first a successful Water Gala was recorded with a profit of £284 to the Hall and secondly four people indicated that they would be willing to give their time to help with the running of the Hall. This was good news indeed as there is much regular and unsung work required to keep all events covered and to raise the £1,800 a year needed to maintain the Hall in such a way that it can be used for all village needs.

The new members voted onto the Committee are: **John Waring Jnr.**, **Diane Ingram** (representing the Youth Group) **Kevin Scarffe** and **Martin Kyne-Lilley**, who has recently moved into the Chapel opposite the Hall. All are very welcome.

The bad news was that over £800 had to be paid out for changes in the Hall which were beyond the control of the Committee. New EC regulations demanded changed signs over exits and fire doors which had to conform with a set design, this had cost £553.43, then a change in the size of the 50p coin had made the electric

meters obsolete. Renewing them for £1 coins had cost £332.50. An appeal has been made to Marshall's Charity to see if the Trustees can help in some way; they have been very sympathetic to these unexpected and emergency expenses in the past.

As the Hall is booked for a private function on New Year's Eve, it was suggested that the Committee might run a dance early in 1999, possibly on **St. Valentine's Day**. Further discussion at the next meeting which will be on 9th November at 7.30 pm.

Rosi Beckford (Chairman)



QUIZ NIGHT AT THE THREE TUNS

All proceeds in aid of the Parish Hall

Jane and Bob Frusher are organising the Quiz this Winter. It will be an evening's enjoyment with questions bought in and a winning team each individual night with no running trophy. So anyone can come along and join or make up a team on the night.

First Quiz: The Three Tuns at 8.00 pm. on

Thursday October 22nd

then 8.00 pm. on:

- 5th November
- 19th November
- 3rd December
- 17th December
- 7th January 1999
- 21st January
- 4th February
- 18th February
- 4th March
- 18th March
- 1st April

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DIARY DATES

OCTOBER OCTOBER OCTOBER OCTOBER OCTOBER OCTOBER OCTOBER OCTOBER

Mon	26th	10.00 - 12 noon	Playbus	Village Car Park
	29th		Private Booking	Village Hall
Fri	30th	9.30 am onward	Mobile Library	Usual Location
		7.30 pm	Bingo	Village Hall

NOVEMBER NOVEMBER NOVEMBER NOVEMBER NOVEMBER NOVEMBER NOVEMBER

Mon	2nd	10.00 - 12 noon	Playbus	Village Car Park
			Private Booking	Village Hall
Wed	4th	7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall
Sat	7th	10.00 - 12 noon	Mini Mart	Village Hall
Mon	9th	10.00 - 12 noon	Playbus	Village Car Park
Tues	10th	7.30 pm	Parish Council	Village Hall
Wed	11th	7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall
Fri	13th	7.30 pm	Line Dancing	Village Hall
Sun	15th		Private Booking	Village Hall
Mon	16th	10.00 - 12 noon	Playbus	Village Car Park
Tues	17th	2.00 pm	Friendship Club	Village Hall
Wed	18th	7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall
Sat	21st	8.00 pm - 11.30 pm	Swan Ceilidh	Village Hall (see Swan Festival item)
Mon	23rd	10.00 - 12 noon	Playbus	Village Car Park
Wed	25th	7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall
Sun	26th		Private Booking	Village Hall
Fri	27th	9.30 am onward	Mobile Library	Usual Location
		7.30 pm	Bingo	Village Hall
Mon	30th	10.00 - 12 noon	Playbus	Village Car Park
			Private Booking	Village Hall

DECEMBER DECEMBER DECEMBER DECEMBER DECEMBER DECEMBER DECEMBER

Tues	1st	2.00 pm	Friendship Club	Village Hall
Wed	2nd	7.00 pm	WI	Village Hall
Thur	3rd	7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall
Fri	4th		School Disco	
Sat	5th	10.00 - 12 noon	Mini Mart	Village Hall
Mon	7th	10.00 - 12 noon	Playbus	Village Car Park
Wed	9th	7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall
Fri	11th	7.30 pm	Line Dancing	Village Hall
Mon	14th	10.00 - 12 noon	Playbus	Village Car Park
Tues	15th	2.00 pm	Friendship Club	Village Hall
Wed	16th	7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall
Fri	18th	7.30 pm	Bingo	Village Hall
Wed	16th	7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall (provisional)
Tues	29th	2.00 pm	Friendship Club	Village Hall (provisional)
Thur	31st		Private party	Village Hall

WELNEY WATER GALA AUGUST 1998

A great afternoon was had by all - Marlen Moss-Eccardt and Margaret Levesley sold all the bottle stall tickets in under 40 minutes, with a profit of £123, while the children bounced around the castle, the hamburgers smelt and tasted good and all the side-shows were busy. Robert Padget photographed all with instant prints done magically on his computer by Richard Green. The John Parkin Downham Venture Scout Unit produced, at just before 2.30, a surprising, 'high tech' raft which won the adult event. There were some doubts as to whether it conformed to all the



The "high-tech" raft from the Downham Market Venture Scouts storms down the river to a record victory



Jason Coates and Craig Williams admiring their "T" shirts - donated by Elgoods - I'm sure they will grow into them in time!

The Under 15's race was won by Jason Coates and Craig Williams and the prize for the best turned out raft went to The Swan. In the Under 10's Fancy Dress, Jesse Kerr won the boys' prize and Ella Moore the girls.

It was a splendid success with £568 profit divided between the Village Hall and the Playing Fields.

rules, but it was a bit last minute and the organisers had accepted the entry, albeit without seeing it. Afterwards it was felt that next year we might have to look at the width of the river for safe and legal turning. But congratulations to the Scouts on their resounding win.



Our WI Ladies provided sterling service with tea and cakes - they took over £50 during the afternoon!



"Chance for a relaxing row on the river" said Ratty to Mole



Short John Silver? Our contestants line up for the judging. Winners were Jesse Kerr and Ella Moore



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WHAT SHALL WE DO TO CELEBRATE THE MILLENNIUM?

Pat Rix writes:

A number of people in the village have been talking about what we should do to celebrate the year 2000. I get the impression that not many are keen on a memorial of any kind but there does seem to be some enthusiasm for a party-type celebration to welcome in the new Millennium. Maybe something for the children in the afternoon and a party/dance in the evening.



I thought we might get wider ideas from people through **Welney News** and I would be quite happy to be the central point where anyone can phone and I can collate all their ideas and thoughts. So, if you have some thoughts that Welney - which after all was here from the Bronze Age should celebrate in some way, give me a ring and then perhaps we can start organising what most people want.

I'm Pat Rix on 610 292

WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meetings are held bi-monthly on the second Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September and November at 7.30 pm. in the Parish Hall.

The Council comprise: Chairman Mrs. Pat Rix; Vice-Chairman Mrs. Charlotte Cox; Councillors Tim Bennett, David Bonner, Dennis Booth, Mrs. Allison Burrows, Tom Fisher and Mrs. Pauline Pullum. The Parish Clerk is Mrs. Pat Copeman: Tel: 610 226

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER

The Chairman had attended a Fens Waterways Regeneration Strategy Workshop during August and she gave details of matters discussed. Very little directly affected Welney itself and further information would be available later in the year.

Railtrack supplied details of the work they were doing to the Railway Embankment within the Ouse Washes. The embankment had been eroded and damaged by the Floods over the Easter period and they were carrying out essential works to make the area safe. The question of the Old Croft River and water levels in the River were discussed and, following a letter from the Middle Level Commissioners, Cllr. Bennett agreed to arrange a site meeting with their representative. It was also agreed to try and see if a representative could come and talk to the Parish Council at the November Meeting. This would enable the Council and, hopefully, the Village to understand more about the Croft River and how this waterway works.

The state of the footpath between the Cherry Tree and the Lamb and Flag was discussed and it was agreed to ask the Highways Department to give this matter immediate attention because of the dangerous state of the path.

Once again the question of the Flaying Field and Pavilion was discussed at great length. Quotations for complete re-wiring of

the Pavilion had been received and the work would be put in hand as soon as possible. The Chairman confirmed that she would be calling a Village Meeting in a few weeks time to get all interested parties together so that future plans can be made. A notice would be delivered to all houses within the village prior to the meeting so that as many interested parties as possible could attend.

The question of Dog fouling was discussed and it was agreed to give the Council's support to the Borough Council to adopt the new by-law relating to this matter. Cllr. Bennett confirmed that suitable bins for disposal of dog mess were available and it was agreed that we should have such a bin - the siting for this to be discussed at the next meeting.

Thanks were extended to Cllr Frost, who confirmed that he would be finishing as a Parish Councillor at the end of September.

In the last Welney News, Charlotte Cox asked for someone to take over the compiling of this report, and it was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting that the Clerk would be the right person to take this on.

Pat Copeman

Clerk to Welney Parish Council

Next Meeting: Tuesday 10th November

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CHURCH NEWS

The harvest, or at least most of it, is safely gathered in and off we go planning all that goes next - the fireworks party, then Advent comes along and soon it will be Christmas once again. Many of the larger shops were displaying their Christmas decorations, cards and all that goes along with it way back at the beginning of September - long before the harvest was in!

It may be a little too early for Christmas presents but how about using at least a few of the days between now and that festive holiday to reflect a little on what it really means and then doing just a little something about it? A Christmas project that will lead us into the Christmas season and into the true spirit of things.

'Peace on earth, goodwill to men' - I guess we can include women and children too, for Jesus most certainly did during his earthly ministry. Little, or not so little, gifts as we travel toward 25th December 1998

- Smile, laugh a little. Laugh a little more.
- Make that long overdue telephone call.
- Say that 'thank you' of appreciation.
- Apologise where you were wrong
- Forgive where you were wronged
- Truly listen to a child bursting with news
- Find time to keep a promise
- Pray for someone who helped you when you hurt
- Speak softly even if you feel strongly
- Make that extra special something for someone else - anonymously
- Release a grudge
- Hug someone and let them know you care - deeply
- Lesson your demands on others.
- Read a poem or favourite 'piece' to a mate or friend
- Visit someone who is house-bound or lonely
- Treat someone to an ice-cream or a cuppa
- Take a walk with a friend.

Let's make the run-up to Christmas one long, extended gift of ourselves to others. Unselfishly. Without announcements or obligation or reservation or hypocrisy and let's carry it on into and beyond Christmas.

And if you receive one of these precious gifts 'thank you' does not take long and means so very much.

That is what Christmas is all about really isn't it? God giving his only Son without announcements

or obligation or reservation or hypocrisy and carrying it on into and beyond Christmas. And as you receive this most precious of all gifts 'thank you' does not take long and means so very much.

Sheila Tooke (Rector)

CHURCH SERVICES

October

25th 9.30 am Holy Communion

November

1st 9.30 am Morning Prayer

8th 11.00 am All Age Worship

15th 9.30 am Holy Communion

22 9.30 am Morning Prayer

29th 6.30 pm Advent Songs of Praise

United at Welney

December

6th 9.30 am Holy Communion

13th 11.00 am. All Age Worship

20th 9.30 am Holy Communion

24th 2.30 pm Christingle: Manea

11.30 pm Holy Communion

Christchurch

27th 9.30 am Morning Prayer.

**William Marshall School Carol Service
and Christmas Play**

10th December: 6.30 in the Church

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**"OH MISS! DON'T TELL MY MATES
THEY'LL THINK I'M A GIRL!"**

said a young boy to **Marlen Moss-Eccardt**. It was at the end of their first meeting at his school and she had simply encouraged him to use his vocal chords, guiding him to sing up the scale. And up he went higher and higher, using his own musical instrument that had never been trained but was there when he called upon it.

Marlen told me: 'I promised to keep his secret but he was very, very musical and indeed learnt to play the violin very well.'

The story of that young boy and his discovery of music is one of the memories Marlen lights upon this year as she retires from part-time teaching of stringed instruments.



Marlen Moss-Eccardt is known in the village as a member of the PCC at St. Mary's, as a Governor of William Marshall School and as Vice Chairman of the Parish Hall Committee - within a very busy life, she has taken on this work because of her commitment to Welney where she has lived for more than twenty years.

But many villagers know Marlen much more informally, through meeting and talking to her when she is walking her black labrador, Sam: he lives with her at The Old Post House in Main Street - or perhaps some mornings they have heard the sound of music as she and friends play together at her home.

Music has been an integral part of Marlen's life since she first learnt the violin at six and a half. She shared this love of music with

her husband, John, and then with their two sons, Alexander and Rupert. When John died in 1991, 'music', she says, 'filled my life more and more'

Professionally Marlen was already involved as a part-time peripatetic music teacher in stringed instruments.

What, I asked, does that mean?

Marlen explained it as having been one of a band of itinerant teachers who go to those schools that ask for them to teach music. They do a day's teaching in half hour sessions and during that time those children who want to learn music come out of their normal classes in small groups - which may mean only one or two pupils for the older, more advanced students.

At the beginning of the school year the children who show an interest come forward and then the peripatetic teacher must choose who can benefit and that judgement must be rather quick. Marlen knew that learning a stringed instrument requires not only having a musical ear to hear if the instrument is in tune but also good physical co-ordination. First of all, Marlen says,

'I tried to get everyone singing: "Ba Ba Black Sheep" something like that. I let them sing along with me but quite often a number of the boys couldn't sing because nowadays mothers don't seem to sing as much with their children as they used to, and the children don't seem to sing in school either. So their vocal chords aren't as developed because they are like muscles, unless they are used they are not under control. But there are other ways to make a decision. The young boy who was frightened of being thought a girl - he couldn't sing a tune, but he followed me as I sang a note and went higher than me but I knew I would persevere with him because I had already seen the way he clapped rhythms and how his eyes had shone when I played to them.'

The children come from all backgrounds but research has shown that music can help children to do better in other subjects. Even though children miss normal lessons for their music training, some often do better, particularly in maths and languages,

than those who remain in class. And for those who start behind the field, who, as Marlen says:

'are judged "special needs" pupils, music can be an oasis. The self-confidence they get through achieving something in music begins to help in tackling general subjects. I remember Jason who, when he started school, could hardly speak. He was always slow at everything, but he loved his violin and got on well with it and began then to improve in all his other schoolwork.'

The slogan of the peripatetic music teacher is '**Making music makes you smarter**' and in Marlen's experience that was true for many of the children she taught.

But there were frustrations in the work. Some children who loved their music lessons did not get the motivation or support from home to carry on and sometimes they fell by the wayside. Sometimes the support was there but parents could not afford to pay any contribution towards the lessons, and this is usually asked for at High School Level. The peripatetic service have a large stock of instruments but increasingly need to charge a small loan fee to cover repair and maintenance. If the school cannot cover this - and these days schools often can't, then the parents are asked to pay and they often can't.

Marlen is saddened that this peripatetic service may not reach some children at all in the future. The cause is again lack of money. The service was subsidised by the County Council. Now in budget cuts that subsidy has gone so Schools have to fund the whole cost. They have no extra money which will mean fewer pupils and fewer lessons.

The peripatetic music service was, Marlen says,

'the envy of Europe, but it looks now as if there may be a return to the bad old days when only those who can afford it will be able to let their children learn music.'

That is sad. Marlen's pupils obviously loved their music teaching and their teacher. On her last day at the end of July, they brought her flowers and presents and they

talked and sang and made music together.

But Marlen herself is still surrounded by music. She plays viola in the Norfolk Symphony Orchestra in four concerts a year, mainly at the Corn Exchange in King's Lynn but also annually at Blickling Hall where 2,000 people come to a concert in the open air. And smaller ensembles from the orchestra players make music at church festivals and village events all around the county.

And then there is for Marlen the regular joy of making music with her friends at their home or in The Old Post House.



I asked Marlen what the difference was between playing in an orchestra for a public concert and playing for pleasure with one's friends. She said:

'When you play in a concert to an audience, the adrenaline is pumping, you are nervous and then afterwards, well, you are on a high. Making music with friends for pure enjoyment is a wonderfully different thing. The concert is the climax of hours and hours of preparation, honing your performance, but the pure enjoyment without anxiety of making music at home with friends for your own fun cannot be beaten.'

Marlen still teaches on Saturdays at King's Lynn and has some private pupils, so with her orchestral work and her music making her life is still full of the music which is a constant source of joy to her.

Helen Barry

LETTERS PAGE

Teddy Bears Service at St. Mary's

Dear Editor,

I feel the time has come for the Teddies to come out of the toy cupboard and declare themselves publicly!



Everyone who attended the 150th Anniversary Songs of Praise Service will be aware that a small group of local toddlers meet once a month, each with their chosen teddy (and Mum) to enjoy a short service in the church. I would like to tell your readers more about what the 'Teddies' get up to. **On the first Wednesday of each month we assemble at 10.30 am in the church.** The service begins with each child lighting a candle accompanied by our first song. Sheila Tooke introduces the theme of the service and we sing the Teddy Bear song (to the tune of "The wheels on the Bus") which welcomes each child by name. All songs sung during the service are set to simply familiar tunes so that it is easy for the children to join in. At first the mums did most of the singing, but it has been good to see how the toddlers have taken to the songs themselves and are joining in with the words. Sheila then tells a story, with the aid of props - and children! At first this part was a bit beyond the little ones, but again over the months it has become a far more hands-on time for the children; they are

now actors presenting the story with much vocal interaction and enthusiastic use of home-made props. One month the theme was the story of the storm on the Sea of Galilee which scared the fishermen until Jesus commanded the wind and waves to calm and be still. The children sat on a blue sheet, strewn with paper-boats, holding crayoned 'waves' which they waggled furiously to the sound of wobble-board thunder. The 'sun' was then raised by one of the children and the waves became still!

We close the service with another song accompanying the snuffing out of the candles one by one. Then comes the excitement of drinks and biscuits before we all take up our teddies and go home.

On another occasion the theme was 'seeds' which was demonstrated with foods containing or made from seeds. This session was at the beginning of the summer holidays and older brothers and sisters joined the group, with the food forming a Teddy Bears' Picnic

The services are developing well as activity sessions, which give the children an opportunity for singing, for action and interaction. At the same time they provide a gentle introduction to the mysterious world of the church, which so often seems an adult domain, rather unwelcoming to the children who are the future of the church. The enthusiasm coming from the children shows that these services are a success; numbers are growing steadily too, though there is always room for more.

On behalf of the 'Teddies', I'd like to invite any mum, dad, grandparent or carer with a pre-school child, to join us on the first Wednesday of next month (4th November) to see if the children and their teddy bears like the children's services. Don't be frightened by the fact that it is held in church. First and foremost, I believe, it is an informal fun session for the children.

We'll see you soon, I hope

Yours sincerely,

Holly Goodwin,

White Roses, Main St.

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Linton Zoo

Dear Editor

I would like to describe a day out at the zoo! Recently I went with my family and some friends to Linton Zoo just south of Cambridge. I wanted to give my three-year old son the opportunity to see some exotic animals in real life and Linton Zoo was recommended to us. Having not been to a zoo myself for more years than I would like to say, I didn't know what to expect but assumed I would not like it too much, due to memories of shabby establishments with animals poorly cared for.

However, I had a surprise in store. Linton is a progressive zoo where the enclosures are carefully designed around each resident's physical and social needs; all the birds have room to fly and all the animals are provided with plenty of shelter and privacy. Many of the animals are part of captive breeding programmes for endangered species; others are individuals rescued from inappropriate homes or confiscated from illegal importers.

The whole zoo site is shaded with mature trees, most of the walkways are grassy, and the layout of enclosures is informal so you never quite know what you are going to see next! Within a few minutes of arriving I felt almost as excited as the children were – and they were almost incoherent with excitement!

I will carry with me some vivid memories of my day at the Zoo. The tiny baby Golden Lion Tamarin clinging to its mother's back; the tame hornbill begging to have his head scratched; and the mesmerising beauty of the markings of the Grevy's Zebra, seen at close hand, are only a few examples. The children loved it – as well as the animals they had an adventure playground and a bouncy castle to keep them busy, and they ran out of steam eventually but were never bored for an instant.

My husband also enjoyed the adventure playground and I have the photographs to prove it.

The zoo also has a friendly teashop, outdoor picnic areas, and toilet facilities for the disabled. There are animal sponsorship schemes, a 'Friends of the Zoo' group, and special meet-the-animal events. There is a zoo newsletter, which I found informative and interesting. Perhaps the only criticism I had was that there didn't seem to be much information on display by some of the enclosures – I felt there could have

been a more consistent series of information boards giving some simple facts about each animal.

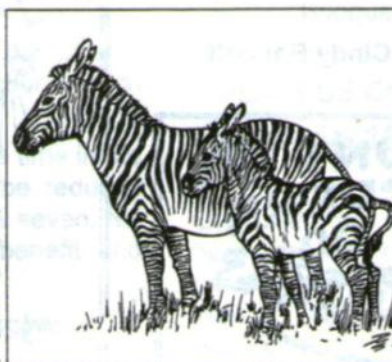
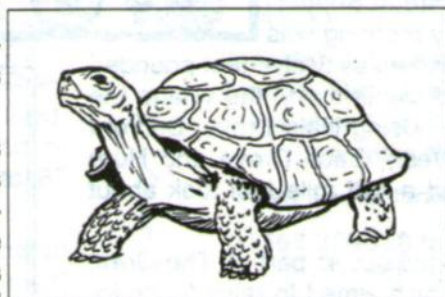
Perhaps this reads like an advert for the zoo but I really wanted to say that for anyone looking for a family day out, Linton

is ideal; a real treat for adults and children, and conservation-oriented enough to satisfy the most hardened eco-warriors among us. **I would also like to invite other families to write in to Welney News and describe their 'favourite day out', as we are by no means experts on what is available locally.**

To get to Linton Zoo take Junction 10 off the M11 south of Cambridge. Brochures are available, with directions for anyone interested, from the zoo. 01223 891308

Yours sincerely,

**Karen Fleming,
Bridge House, Welney**



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LOCAL 'WALKIES' RAISES A "TON"

Bracken (Golden Retriever) and **Muser** (Burmese Mountain Dog) would like to thank those in the village who backed their owners, Tim and Cindy Bennett, and helped them to raise £100 for the National Canine Defence League.

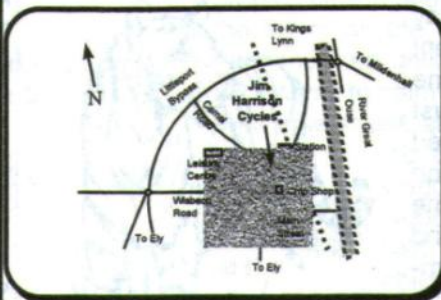
Originally it had been hoped to join dozens of other dogs and their owners in a four mile walk near the NCDL centre at Snetterton, but the Sunday morning was not convenient. Instead all twelve feet pounded a familiar extended circuit round the village the previous morning. Using Hale Drove, Bedford Bank (East and West), Back Drove and Hurn Drove, the four and a half mile trail took about one and a half hour.

The event was carried out as part of 'The Great British Pet Walk' which aimed to raise funds for a number of doggy organisations and projects.

Thanks again for everyone's support.

Tim and Cindy Bennett

Jim Harrison (Cycles)



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by SHEONA

Once I saw something that here is rare
A beautiful creature called a hare
It's fur looked soft
to touch, Like dust from a loft

It's ears were silky and long
And to hurt it seemed wrong
It was almost as if we had met
Something I shall never forget

It looked wonderful to hold
And I knew I would never be so bold
But then it was just a streak of brown
It had disappeared across the Down

By Sheona Snell
Age 12

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BISHOPS LAND CHARITY

Daphne Houghton who is Clerk to the Trustees of this Charity feels there is some confusion as to the origin and the aims of the Charity and has written to clarify some points.

This Charity was founded in 1896 when a parcel of land belonging the Bishopric of Ely was leased with the purpose of the income benefiting the poor people of Welney. This piece of land is situated on the Manea Runs and the current annual income is £875. The money is now distributed on the second Saturday in December to all females of the age of 60 and to all males over the age of 65. However, residents of any private nursing home in the Parish of Welney are not eligible for payout unless having lived, prior to going into a Home, in the Parish of Welney. Last year the amount given to 85 parishioners was £12.

It is the Charity's policy to only retain an amount equal to one year's distribution. At the moment the balance is £2,100 and it will be appreciated that we are spending some of the capital which, of course, reduces the amount of interest, each year. The funds are invested in the Charity Commission's own investment account which does give favourable rates.

However, it can be seen that at some time in the future, the amount distributed will be reduced and the Trustees, of whom there are seven, felt that an explanation would be of benefit and interest.

Daphne Houghton



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PLAYBUS CHRISTMAS MINI-MARKET

Saturday 14th November: Village Hall

10.00-12 noon

Quite different from the regular mini-market, here firms will come along with their goods, you can order and pay and the goods will be delivered. Promised are Osborne Books and The Bodyshop and probables are firms with clothes, dried flowers and the Crayon Lady. It is hoped there will be a photographer too. In addition there is a Tombola, a Raffle and Refreshments.

Welney Mums are hoping to raise £50 over the next year to help with the £5,000 deficit on the Playbus Service which provides such a good outlet for the toddlers. Each village visiting by the Playbus is making an effort, so do support Welney's dint of fund raising.

Further information from **Holly Goodwin 610 482** or **Jane Frusher 610 480**

NB See p 19 for further PLAY-BUS news

FESTIVAL OF SWANS AT WILDFOWL AND WETLANDS TRUST



This year the Trust are helping to organise a Festival to celebrate the return of the migratory Bewick and Whooper Swans from their summer breeding grounds in Arctic Russia and Iceland. Welney and the Ouse Washes have long been associated with this winter wildlife spectacle, and we hope in future years that this could be a Festival in which Welney village and the Trust can come together to organise a joint celebration.

A number of events have been arranged to take place at the WWT Centre, the RSPB Manea Reserve and other venues in the locality. Full details of these will be in the Festival of Swans programme of events available at the Post Office, the Lamb & Flag, the Three Tunns and the WWT and RSPB Centres of particular interest to readers might be the **Swan Celidh on Saturday 21 November in Welney Parish Hall (8.00-11.30 pm)**. Tickets are £3.00 each from the Post Office, the Three Tunns and the WWT Centre with healthy profits for the Village Hall.

WWT have arranged a special **Welney village floodlit swan feed on Monday 23rd November starting at 6.30 pm. at the WWT Centre**.

This is an ideal opportunity for those villagers who perhaps have not yet been to an evening swan feed. Places are limited to 60 by ticket only (available from the Post Office in Welney). **Tickets cost £1.00 per person, and if there are any profits they will go towards the Parish Hall Fund.**

We do hope that the **Festival of Swans** will become an annual event, a celebration of the wildlife of the Fens. It could grow to include many more cultural and artistic events in surrounding villages and towns for both residents and visitors to the area alike. If any readers have suggestions for possible future events please contact:

Carl or Phillipa Mitchell on 01353 860711

VIEW FROM A CAMEL

as seen by: Ian Warrington



Take a day or a lifetime to wander around and appreciate Welney together with its amenities and surrounding countryside. Then please take five minutes over a cup of coffee, shut your eyes, and imagine yourself living 3,500 miles from Welney in a dry flat desert environment, the temperature outside is 50 degrees Celsius and there are no local pubs, no village hall, no local post office, no playing fields and no spectacular countryside to visit and use nearby.

As some of my neighbours and friends know, I moved last year from Laburnum Cottages in Main Street to take up a foreign posting at the British Embassy here in Kuwait City.

In 1995 I moved from Yorkshire to Welney due to my office re-locating. I was born and bred in Yorkshire and would have described myself as a firm 'townie'. However, I set myself a target of moving south, moving to the countryside, in the process buy a small cottage on the main street and within stumbling distance of the local pub in a friendly country village.

I was in despair until I picked up the estate agents brochure for Laburnum Cottages in Welney.

I remember driving from Ely on a sunny, spring Sunday Afternoon. After coming through Welney washes and parking in the Lamb & Flag car park, it took a few milli-seconds to know that Laburnum Cottages and Welney were for me.

I moved in and immediately my close neighbours John and Jean Tuson, Bob and Jane Frusher, Marlen Moss-Eccardt (and Sam) made me most welcome. It was a bit of a shock for me that instant friendliness, remember I had been a 'townie' for so long - one just didn't communicate with the neighbours unless it was absolutely necessary. It took me no time to

settle in and feel part of the community.

Since my move to Kuwait, I often think of and miss life in Welney: whether it be my many friends in the village, sitting in my conservatory and watching the winter evening sky fill with hun-

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dreds of flying swans returning from the outlying fields back to the WWF reserve, perched on a bar stool in 'The Tunns' or the 'Lamb and Flag' with a pint of Elgoods on a Sunday, or quiz nights at the Tunns during the winter.

'Welney News' brings it all back and I would like to thank all those who contribute to its creation, its ongoing production and distribution: this far-flung ex-pat eagerly looks forward to every copy.

If anyone in Welney on the Internet wishes to keep me up to date on life in the village, or find out about diplomatic life at the British Embassy in Kuwait, you are welcome to e-mail me on laburnum@ncc.moc.kw

Meanwhile, I hope you have a good winter in Welney, out here in the desert heat I will be thinking of you and catching up with everything in **Welney News**. I hope to be back in Laburnum Cottage in the village sometime next spring.

Ian Warrington



Jane Carter

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LINE DANCING

The line dancing is proving very popular and all the meetings in the Village Hall are given on the diary page. The evening of 11th December includes a Christmas party - when everyone will each be bringing food (and drink!) to share.

Pat Rix



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YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group has had to stay dormant since the Water Gala, due to the problems with re-wiring the Pavilion. However that work has now been completed and Monday meetings can now continue between 6.00 and 8.00 pm.

The Group also hopes to hold a **Christmas disco** which will be publicised when the date is agreed.

Regular Monday meetings continue up to 21st December and will re-commence the first Monday after the New Year.

Adrian Rust

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HOMEWATCH

Reported crimes for Welney recently:

On the 9th September a Red Ford Sierra was stolen from outside a house in Wisbech Road.

Sometime during the 11th-14th September a house was burgled on Cock Fen Road, and electrical goods were taken, including TV, video, and CD player. The thieves entered by forcing a window but left rather more easily – some keys had been left either in a door or nearby and they were able to simply walk out. This is a reminder that door and window keys should be left in a well-concealed place if possible. Don't make anything easier for a burglar!

On the night of 23rd-24th September there was a theft from a vehicle on the Lamb and Flag carpark.

On the 10th September the Downham Market Homewatch Association held its AGM followed by an open meeting with speakers from the police and Crimestoppers. Police goals for 1998/1999 were outlined and included the special targeting of offences of violence, vehicle crime, and house burglary. It is intended to develop the use of more refined crime pattern analysis in order to improve briefing of officers, and to make more officers available at peak 'crime times'.

REMEMBER:

- the police will arrange a crime prevention survey of your property, whether private or business, if you are concerned about security
- sheds and garages contain valuable tools, and some of these could be used to break into your house – so security of outbuildings is very important
- try looking at your home through a burglar's eyes. Walk around the outside and try to imagine how you could get in; this could be a useful exercise in detecting weak spots in your security
- the Crimestoppers number:
- **0800 555 111**

DID YOU KNOW that in some stores such as Argos you can now buy car alarms for as little as £20 and electronic immobilisers for £15?

Karen Fleming 610 523



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FRIENDSHIP CLUB

On the 3rd November there is a coach trip to Ipswich for sightseeing, Christmas shopping, or whatever! Ipswich has a Museum of Archaeology, Geology, and Natural History, *Christchurch Mansion* a 16th Century Tudor house with a collection of paintings by Constable and Gainsborough, and the *Ancient House* in the Buttermarket featuring 15th Century carved plasterwork. There are places available on this trip if anyone would like to go – please contact Cissie Bedford, 610 206.

On the 16th December there is a trip to Baytree Nurseries near Spalding. As well as a wide range of indoor and outdoor plants and gardening equipment, there is a gift shop, a craft shop, tearooms, and an owl sanctuary. Baytree is also renowned for its huge display of Christmas trees, decorations and gifts.

PAM SORENSEN

R.I.P.

Pam died on 12th September, aged 77, and St. Mary's was full for her funeral on 22nd September. Among those present were most of the members of the Friendship Club, mourning a friend and a much loved Secretary of the Club who had worked tirelessly in organising events and outings. It was a way of saying 'Thank You' to Pam for all her efforts to keep up the high standard of interesting activities, even in her last years of poor health.

Pam also worked hard for St. Mary's Church, at which she was a regular worshipper. Until failing health prevented it, she gave energy and support to all fundraising events. All who knew her liked her and felt comfortable and happy in her company. They grieve her loss.

PLAYBUS

The Playbus is back for the autumn term and is as busy as ever – in fact busier, as yet more families are now using this invaluable service. Indeed, the bus is now in danger of becoming overcrowded at the Welney stop and plans are afoot to solve this problem by the use of an informal rota-type system where each family would use the bus, say, three weeks in four. It was important that people should not feel put off by the somewhat crowded conditions on the bus, so this solution seemed the best one, reducing the weekly numbers slightly while not depriving each family of too many sessions. Several of the mums have been brainstorming to work out a simple and workable system, which should be in action soon.

The playbus interior has been improved by the installation of some new flooring, courtesy of a grant from the National Playbus Association.

Some of the Welney mums are now members of the playbus committee and also the fund-raising sub-committee. There will be regular meetings of both to discuss all aspects of running and funding the playbus. Recent fund-raisers have included the sponsored toddle and the tombola at the summer Teddybears' Picnic, and the 'fill a Smartie Tube with pennies'; these have raised respectable sums for the bus. Currently the bus is circulating Webb Ivory Christmas catalogues – the playbus gets a proportion from each sale.

The next playbus event is the Christmas party, which will be in mid December. No date has yet been finalised for this.

YOUTH CLUB NEWS

Changes in Youth Service provision in the area are not over yet. Unfortunately, there have been further staff alterations so I have been unable to obtain a complete diary of events for the Downham Market area. There is still a **regular club night at Downham Market, on Mondays only 7-00 pm-9-30 pm**. These nights include organised sports: Badminton, Rounders, and Football, and there is usually a group discussion with the subject being decided on at the time. **There is also a monthly disco, and the dates for these are 30th Oct, 27th Nov, and 18th Dec. Admission is £3-00 for non-members, 7-30 pm.-11-30 pm. but doors close at 9-00 pm.** A programme of events for the club being planned but no details are available yet. It is hoped that there will be sessions on First Aid and Resuscitation, and one of the local health visitors, Sue Williams, will be available on some nights to discuss health matters including sex education



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and Aids awareness. The club will still have the use of a minibus for excursions etc. If I am able to find out more after this newsletter is printed, I will make up a poster for display in the village shop – thank you in anticipation, Wendy!

The Youth worker now responsible for Downham Market Youth Club is Brenda Chennells. Brenda can be contacted at the Downham Market Youth and Community centre on 01366 387504 on Monday evenings from 6-30 pm. onwards.

Events such as the Pontins trip should be unaffected by these further changes; for information on this and other major excursions, ring the Youth Service in Kings Lynn on 01553 773565.

There are other possibilities for the future; two villages nearby are in the process of setting up their own Youth Clubs with assistance from the Rural Youth Bus project. When they become more established they may run events or excursions which could be open to young people from other villages. This is something which I intend to follow up in the New Year once the clubs in question have had time to develop their programs of activities and to work out how many people they can accommodate. Meanwhile, if any young person in Welney is interested in any of the Kings Lynn/Downham Market events or wants to know more, please contact the Kings Lynn centre on the above number.

Karen Fleming 610 523

WELCOME TO WELNEY

The Macmillan's move into Blows House, Main Street, just missed our last edition. The striking white Pontiac outside their home reveals their origins. But although they've come here from North Carolina, they were previously posted to Britain in 1991 - when Eric, their son, actually had his fifth birthday on the very day that he started at our village school. Father, Bill, who is a keen motorsport's enthusiast, is a safety officer for the USAF at Lakenheath, while his mum, Lisa stays at home. They hope to stay in the village for the full three years of Bill's posting, so with the expected arrival of a baby early next year, Welney should be well etched into their memories.

The Goodger family, who have recently moved into Pates Farm at Tipps End have probably moved fewer yards than the Macmillan's miles to get here. For Ken, who was born at Stockyard Farm, it is of course a move back to Welney after ten years at Neatmoor Hall Farm along the Wilt Road. For wife, Debra, who originally came from Southery, it is also technically a move back since the Nordelph tenancy came up only eight months after the couple had set up home Welney. They are now joined by Sean (10 and Kimberley (9) and a menagerie comprising a pony, two German

Shepherds, a Border Collie, some cats and hens. Ken, who is a familiar figure on the local farming scene, trained as a bio-chemist, which probably explains in part why he is heavily involved in Norfolk Essential Oils. Now he is farming in the village, watch out for the appearance of some more unusual flowering crops in the local fields.

The Priest family (remember Michelle featured in our first edition) have crossed the washes from Wisbech to the further end of Hundred Foot Bank.

Their old place, No 1, Hampstead Cottages, is now the home of Steve Papps and Jo Chapman, who started their gradual move into the property earlier this month from a flat in Richmond, Surrey. Keen to find some space and experience the less hectic pace of country life and they've settled in Welney after seriously considering the south coast. Steve, a designer of department stores, will be retaining his London connections, but Jo, a fine artist, who works with mixed media will be setting up her studio in the village. Once they've sorted the house out, they're keen to start on the garden and begin growing their own organic vegetables.

A warm welcome to Welney to you all.

Tim Bennett

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