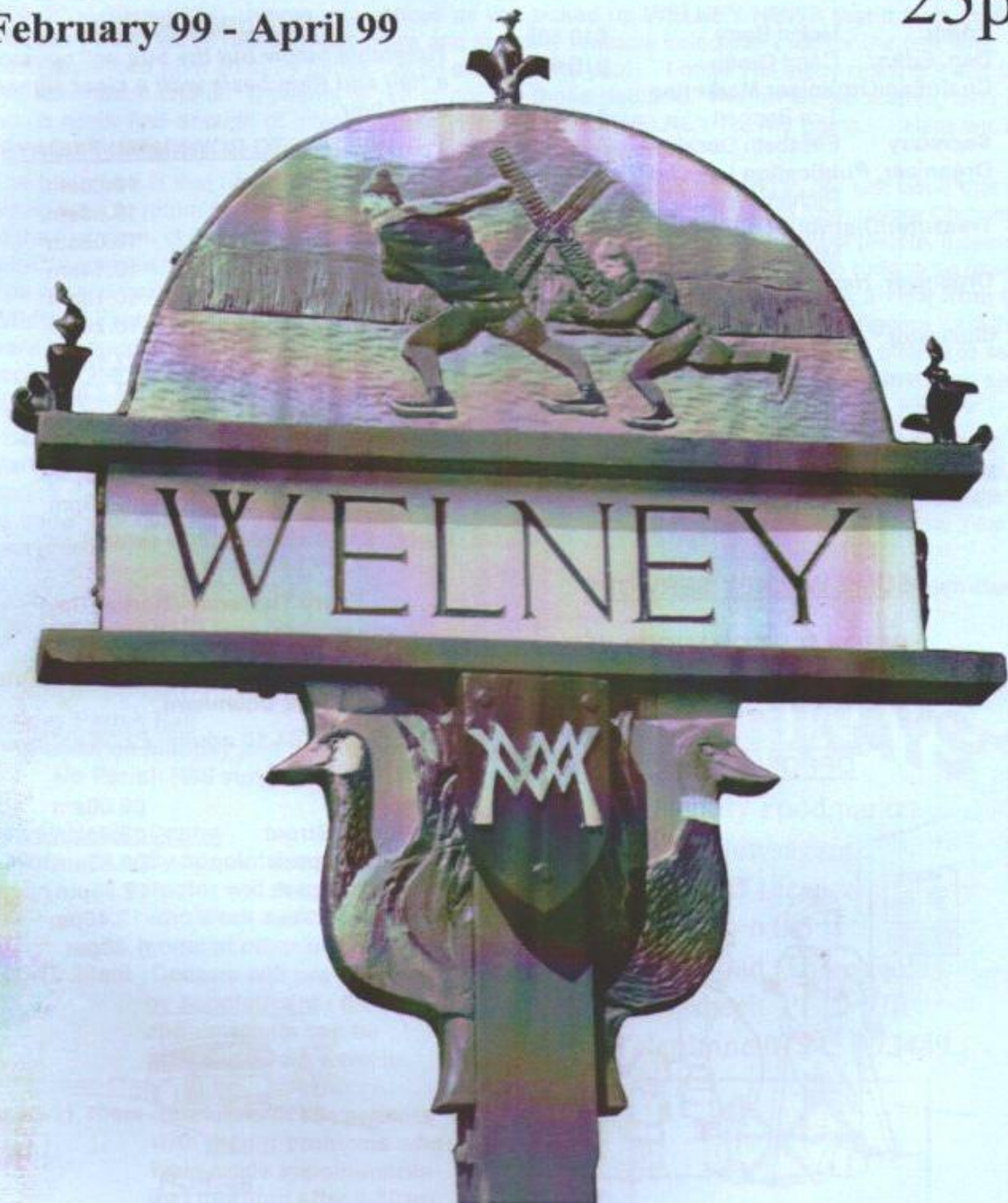


Issue N° 9

February 99 - April 99

25p



NEWS

Editorial Team

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SOME WELNEY SERVICES

IMPORTANT CHANGES IN DOCTORS' SURGERY TIMES

SEE FULL DETAILS ON OPPOSITE PAGE



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.

Wet Fishmonger calls at:

3.00pm Chestnut Avenue and
3.15pm at the Post Office every Friday

WELNEY BUS SERVICES

DOWNHAM MARKET

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

(Fare: £1.70 single, £2.20 return)

ELY

Every Thursday (Market Day)

Cavalier Coaches (01406 362518)

Starts Lamb & Flag car park and runs via Py-moor and Little Downham.

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

Welney	09.00am
Ely Market Street	09.50am
Tesco's car park	09.53am
Tesco's car park	12.35pm
Ely Market Street	12.40pm
Welney	1.28pm



MARCH

FACT (Fenland Association for Community Transport) operate a "dial a ride" service from door to door to March every Wednesday. The service leaves Welney 9.00-9.30am and returns 12.30-12.45pm. In addition, once a month 'specials' run to places like Peterborough and King's Lynn.

To use the service you must become a member of the Association, which costs £1 per year. The return fare to March is £3.00

For further details phone: 661 234

EDITORIAL

The good news first. I hope you noticed as you picked up WELNEY NEWS that it feels thicker. For this edition we've had so much news and so many features to include that, for the first time, we have expanded from 20 to 24 pages - at no extra cost to you! I hope you enjoy reading it and find the information useful. It seems to me to answer those doubters who, when we started, said we would never find enough of interest in the village to keep WELNEY NEWS going. Here we are eighteen months later proving them wrong in the best possible way.

The bad news is that I little thought when I wrote of the November flooding in our last issue that we would have to return to the subject again so soon. The six weeks of flooding from before Christmas to the first week of February has raised a full head of steam in the village with most people, it seems, thinking that it is time to start agitating - possibly on a national level - for the Wash road to be raised. You will find comment from David Pegg on p 8, from Martin Kyne-Lilley on p 12, a view from the Wildfowl Trust and the RSPB on p 19, and a Letter on p 21. The Environment Agency said they were too busy to compile a précis of why the floods happened and what they did, but offered to send copies of the update reports they give to the Parish Council during flooding. These have been seen by most people at the Post Office.

I have been asked by the Rural Community Council to attend a meeting at Wymondham on 9th March to see if there is any interest in setting up an association of all the Parish magazines in Norfolk. I will report back in the next edition. Meanwhile thanks again for your support, always let us know your comments and any ideas for future editions and a Happy and unflooded New Year to everyone.

Helen Barry

IMPORTANT CHANGES IN DOCTOR'S SURGERY TIMES

Welney Parish Hall

12 noon on Monday and Wednesday
No Parish Hall surgery on Friday

Upwell Health Centre

8.30am By appointment, one doctor will see patients who work and cannot come at other times.

9.00-10.20am Doctors will see patients by appointment - these appointments can be booked up to a week in advance.

10.30-11.30am Doctors will see patients with urgent problems who have made appointments that morning after 8.30am

Afternoon surgery

3.30pm By appointment, last appointment 5.40pm
As before, some slots kept for urgent cases which can only be booked the same day after 10.30am

~WATERWAYS~

Family Foodmarket
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Wisbech PE14 9JR
Telephone 01945 773449



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Agents for Littlewoods Pools

WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meet bi-monthly on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall.

The Council comprises: Chairman: Mrs. Pat Rix, Vice-Chairman: Mrs. Charlotte Cox, Councillors: Tim Bennett, David Bonner, Dennis Booth, Alison Burrows, Tom Fisher, Steven Harvey, Pauline Pullum.

Parish Clerk: Pat Copeman: 610 226

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 12TH JANUARY 1999

Cllr Fisher reported on a meeting on The Springboard Project at Littleport which had been very informative. He also proposed possible Millennium projects for consideration and discussion.

Croft Carrier Ltd. had written stating that they need someone from Welney to represent Welney Parish Council on their own Committee. This can be any parishioner interested in local transport affairs: apply to the Parish Clerk for full details.

A letter was received from the Borough regarding the West Norfolk inter-village Games 1999: it was agreed to pass this to the Playing Field Committee to see if they could arrange to take part in conjunction with the Youth Club.

The question of a footpath along March Road was discussed at length. A copy of the petition organised by Tom Fisher had been received and letters had also been received from the Borough Council (expressing their support in principle) and from the Norfolk County Council. It was agreed to reply to the N.C.C requesting they do a study of the road and emphasising the heavy volume of traffic - HGVs and tractors etc. that use this road, particularly in the sugar beet season, and also stressing how dangerous the road was for pedestrians. One of the main reasons for wanting a footpath is to regenerate the Playing Field and to make it safer for the children to walk there.

Cllr. Rix gave a report on the Playing field and confirmed that Carpet Bowls would be starting in the Pavilion on Wednesday evenings.

The problem of the flooding of the Wash Road was discussed at length, particularly in view of the number of days that the road has been impassable during the last 12 month period. Serious concern is being expressed by businesses within the village who are experiencing grave difficulties whilst the road is flooded. It was agreed that stronger representations must

now be made to Highways Department to get something done, as this situation cannot allowed to continue. It was agreed to send letters to Highways at Norfolk County Council setting out our feelings and demanding a visit from them, as requested some months ago. A letter was also sent to the Environment Agency requesting confirmation on their Amber flood alerts for the Welney Causeway as these had caused concern over the Christmas period because the water was already on the road.

Councillors discussed and agreed the sum for the Annual Precept on the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council and also agreed Annual Grants to the Welney Parish Hall Committee and the Parochial Church Council for the cutting of the Churchyard.

Pat Copeman

Next meeting: Parish Hall

Tuesday 9th March 7.30 pm

Parishioners are very welcome: they can monitor proceedings and comment under public participation, or raise any matters causing concern.

Open Government - A Personal View

More and more Government Departments publish information about their workings, right down to individual meetings. These are readily available to all who have access to the internet and they don't require personal attendance. I work long hours and find attending meetings in the village a real problem, especially when the wash road is flooded. I find it hard to understand why our Parish Council is reluctant to publish letters affecting our lives in our local magazine.

Richard Green



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Sausages - Pork, Pork & Apple, Pork & Garlic, Pork, Stilton & Celery, Pork,
Ginger & Leek

DIARY DATES

FEBRUARY FEBRUARY FEBRUARY FEBRUARY FEBRUARY FEBRUARY

Fri	26th	7.30 pm	Bingo	Village Hall
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MARCH MARCH MARCH MARCH MARCH MARCH MARCH MARCH MARCH

Mon	1st	10.00 - 12 noon	Playbus	Village Car Park
Wed	3rd	10.30 am	Teddy Bear Service	Village Church
		7.00 pm	Carpet Bowls	Playing Field
Thur	4th	7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall
Sat	6th	10.00	Minimart	Village Hall
Mon	8th	10.00 - 12 noon	Playbus	Village Car Park
Tues	9th	2.00 pm	Friendship Club	Village Hall
Wed	10th	7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall
		7.00 pm	Carpet Bowls	Playing Field
Fri	12th		Line Dancing	Village Hall
Mon	15th	10.00 - 12 noon	Playbus	Village Car Park
Wed	17th	7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall
		7.00 - 8.00 pm	WI Sponsored Knitting	Amy Markham
		7.00 pm	Carpet Bowls	Playing Field
Fri	19th	9.30 am onward	Mobile Library	Usual Location
			Line Dancing	Village Hall
Mon	22nd	10.00 - 12 noon	Playbus	Village Car Park
Tues	23th	2.00 pm	Friendship Club	Village Hall
Wed	24th	7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall
		7.00 pm	Carpet Bowls	Playing Field
Fri	26th	7.30 pm	Bingo	Village Hall
Mon	29th	10.00 - 12 noon	Playbus	Village Car Park
Wed	31st	7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall
		7.00 pm	Carpet Bowls	Playing Field

APRIL APRIL APRIL APRIL APRIL APRIL APRIL APRIL APRIL APRIL

Fri	2nd		Line Dancing	Village Hall
Sat	3rd	10.00	Minimart	Village Hall
			Easter Egg Hunt	
Mon	5th		Easter Monday	
Tues	6th	2.00 pm	Friendship Club	Village Hall
Wed	7th	10.30 am	Teddy Bear Service	Village Church
		7.00 pm	Carpet Bowls	Playing Field
Thur	8th	7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall
Wed	14th	7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall
		7.00 pm	Carpet Bowls	Playing Field
Fri	16th	9.30 am onward	Mobile Library	Usual Location
			Line Dancing	Village Hall
Mon	19th	10.00 - 12 noon	Playbus	Village Car Park
Tues	20th	2.00 pm	Friendship Club	Village Hall
Wed	21st	7.30 pm	Whist	Village Hall
		7.00 pm	Carpet Bowls	Playing Field

"SO MANY COUNTRIES SO MANY CUSTOMS"

The first report from our Japanese correspondent, **Akiko Motoyoshi**, (remember she was caught in our November floods) is dedicated to Wendy and Peter Redman

There are so many things Japan learned from Britain. One of them is the postal system. Bright red post boxes are found on every corner of a Japanese town.

As you do, we exchange cards once a year. Yours are Christmas Cards, with good wishes for a new year, but ours are New Year Cards. How this little happiness is delivered to each home is slightly different here. New year's best wishes come to Japanese homes as a bunch.

Japanese new year cards are literally bundled with a rubber band! Because they all come together on the 1st January. My father, Kaneyoshi, has been retired and still received 180 cards this year. Imagine how busy the post-men were up until that date and still busier on the very day.



The last excitement for those who receive new



year cards comes on 15th January, because the cards function as lottery tickets too (can you imagine it!) Your numbers are printed on the card and the winning numbers are announced two weeks after the new year begins. The prizes are quite humble compared with your lottery - a video camera, a washing machine or a car navigation system. One card I received from a former colleague in Tokyo won two special postage stamps. Not great....but not bad

I send warmest wishes to everyone in Welney, hoping that the road is nice and dry by now.

Akiko Motoyoshi

KNIT A PARISH HALL!

Well, not quite, but support the sponsored
KNIT-IN
to raise money for the Parish Hall



Organised by the WI, the Knit-In takes place on
Wednesday 17th March 7.00-8.00pm
at Amy Markham's home
Welwyn, New Road, Welney
Tel: 610 340

Anyone who can knit is welcome.

Anyone can be a sponsor.

Finished knitting will go to make blankets for the
Save the Children Fund.

Forms for sponsorship from any member of the
WI.

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CHURCH NEWS

How many New Year Resolutions have been made and broken already!

How often at the beginning of a new year do we take a rather hasty peek at some of those 'bad' habits and resolve to do something about them - at least for a week or maybe two?

You know the ones. Stop biting fingernails. Not to eat so much fattening food. Smoke less or give up altogether. Pop to church more often.

I used to bite my nails almost to my wrists. At school 'clean hands' inspections were an absolute nightmare. I no longer bite my nails but they still do not look like anything that would pass the eagle eye of any school teacher at inspection time.

How many can equate with this experience of personal embarrassment not to mention the physical limitations these ten stumps set on a person. What happens when you drop something, especially a coin or a piece of paper. Would those horrors help you pick it up - no way - forget it!

Like all habits I was in its grip for years.

How can we break these self-destroying habits that so often take over our lives? Five suggestions which may well help.

Stop rationalising. Let us stop making such comments as "I've always been like that - always will be - nobody's perfect." This type of remark takes the edge of what we are doing and often allows us to begin to ignore the need to change.

Apply strategy. Don't try to do it all at once - take one habit at a time and soon all will be overcome.

Be realistic. We will not find it easy and it will not happen within a few hours. And I guess there will be times when we fall but at least we can keep on trying.

Be encouraged. Eventually we will triumph simply because we have recognised that something needs to be done. Get enthusiastic over each little success - that is what will strengthen self-discipline and will help us to 'stick with it'.

Start today. There is a saying which goes 'Today is the first day of the rest of your life.' It seems, then, that now is the best time to begin.

Let us stop being defeatist and begin to take charge of the things we want to change and who knows, by the time the next Welney News is delivered to our homes, we may have:

lost some weight

have at least one decent fingernail

cut down on the cigarettes

popped into church

Sheila Tooke (Rector)

CHURCH SERVICES

February

21 st	9.30am	Holy Communion
28 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer

March

3 rd (Wed)	10.30am	Teddy Bear Service
7 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer

Mothering Sunday

14 th	11.00am	All Age Worship
21 st	9.30am	Holy Communion
28 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer

April

Maundy Thursday

1 st	7.00pm	Fellowship Meal and Breaking of Bread (Manea)
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Good Friday

2nd	10.30am	Walk of Witness (Christchurch)
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2.00pm Meditation Welney

Easter Sunday

4 th	11.00am	Holy Communion
7 th (Wed)	10.30am	Teddy Bear Service
11 th	11.00am	All Age Worship
18 th	9.30am	Holy Communion
25 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer

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In this column anyone can stand on the soap box and let off steam on any subject. The opinions are strictly individual and independent and responsibility for them rests with the writer!

David Pegg has strong views on

THE WASH ROAD FLOODING

"I travelled to Buckinghamshire on Christmas eve morning and the washes were just passable, although they had been flooded since the 21st. But by the time I arrived back late afternoon it was impassable. This was after three and a half week's flooding in November which ended on 23rd.

As we start 1999 with the road flooded, I wonder what will happen this year

Looking back over previous issues of WELNEY NEWS, and listening to bits and bobs, I can see the Parish Council is getting nowhere fast.

I believe that the Parish Council is being fobbed off every time the washes road is flooded, with excuses of high tides, silting up of gates, and danger of flooding along the River Ouse upstream being the favourites.

On December 29th, I again went down to Buckinghamshire, via Huntingdon. On the way back home, the Ouse from Bedford to Earith was checked for any high water or flooding, bearing in mind that the washes road had about 2 feet of floodwater. The Ouse in all its low lying areas was checked and found to be nowhere near flood level.

I feel as many other villagers do, it is time that the Parish Council should not be bothering to enter into any talks with Mr. Gillett or Mr. Wootton, Borough Council or Norfolk County Council, but to do as Northampton did over their Easter Flooding, get local M.P.'s involved. After all we vote them in, so let them earn their wages and votes. If this fails perhaps more direct action should be taken.

As I see the situation, the Environment Agency is spending £5.2 million of tax-payers' money to put in new sluice gates. These, we are told will not stop the flooding. If this is so, would it not

have been better to put the £5.2 million into raising the Wash Road? Then the Environment Agency could have opened Earith flood gates for good, without residents of local villages and through traffic having to put up with this ongoing misery. It seems that the Environment Agency is good at spending taxpayers money, plus having their bread buttered on both sides.

Some more issues that I think should be clarified about the tides and sluice gates.

1 The Neap tide is a tide that does not come in very far. This means it is lower inland. This tide is every other week.

2 A Spring tide is a tide that comes in further but also goes out further. This tide alternates with the Neap tides. Also a south or south west wind blowing hard can hold a high tide back. A west wind blowing hard can take the tide back further than its low mark or dead water line. Answers please Mr. Gillett on sluice gates not able to open because of tides?

3 Surely the computerised systems controlling the sluices can be overridden or changed to compensate for the conditions. Your own conclusions please villagers.

I have found that in the last two or three years - and especially last year - the flooding has got worse. Thirty minutes of drizzle flood Welney but don't flood Northampton. Drizzle constitutes flooding, imagine what ten minutes of real rain does.

GRAHAME SEATON

AMIAS

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The television companies state that the Anglian Water Authority say there is a shortage of water and that Norfolk is the driest area in the Country. Where do the top bods of the Environment Agency live - in houses under waterfalls - so that they think it is raining all day and night? Of course not, I'm talking bull the same as they are.

I also think that villagers should stop just talking and do something: stop leaving it to someone else; stop grumbling and get together with the Parish Council and a few others and do something, even if it is only putting their names to pen and paper. Don't just leave it to a couple of people - that is if you want to use the Wash Road. And to those who don't, remember you may have to one day.

One final point for everyone to think about is the answer to Howard Kent's question at the Public Meeting on 17th February last year. Mr. Gillett stated that the new sluice would be 50% more efficient but would not ensure 50% less flooding. In other words we are going to flood just as much as we do now - and that is increasing. Since this time last year the Wash Road has been flooded for 105 days. I understand that it is illegal to block an 'A' road in any way and that includes water. Now let's hear some points from you.

David Pegg

David sent a copy of his article to Gillian Shephard MP. Together with his thoughts that the Parish Council were not getting enough response from County or Borough Councils and the Environment Agency. (The contents of his letter are reproduced on page 15). Mrs. Shephard replied:

Dear Mr. Pegg,

Thank you for your letter of 4th January

In the past we have on a number of occasions tried to get funding to help solve the increasingly inconvenience of the flooding on the Wash road. We have not so far been successful, but of course we can always try again. I was disturbed to read in your article for the Magazine that you feel the Parish Council has been fibbed off by the various agencies. I could certainly get for example the Environment Agency to come to talk to the Council, although that would of course be for them to decide.

Do please let me know if I could at least help in this kind of way

Yours sincerely,

Gillian Shephard, MP.

PLAYING FIELD & PAVILION

There is now a regular carpet bowls meeting on Wednesdays at 7.00pm with a fee of £1 a night. 14 people turned out for the first session and enjoyed themselves, so by the time you read this hopefully more people will have joined in.

The Playing Field Committee met on 18th January, elected its officers and discussed the work needed to be done and fund raising events.

The Pavilion badly needs repair and repainting. As the only quote we have received is for £2,000 (and even Marshall's Charity might be reluctant to find that kind of money) we have decided to ask the village to help. Volunteers are needed to help with cleaning and repainting, working under the supervision of Dennis Booth. He has already volunteered his services. Nothing can be attempted until the Spring, but anyone willing to help please get in touch now with **Pat Rix (610 292)** or **Adrian Rust (610 525)**. Grateful thanks in advance to anyone willing to help.

It has been decided to hold a fund-raising Summer Fete and Dance about mid-June and we are also hoping to attract some outside funding for a play area for the under-5's. And we are investigating the cost of providing a hard surface for basketball, tennis etc.

The football club have home games on 20th Feb, 20th March, 17th April and 8th May. Please support them.



LINE DANCING

This is still going strong in the Parish Hall with some new recruits this year.

Future dates: 12th, 19th March: 2nd 16th and 23rd April.

Pat Rix

MY LIFE IN A DAY

A new series in which people in the village talk about their work and how their daily life revolves around it.

Alan Nelson brings the Mobile Library to Welney and sixty three other villages in West Norfolk.

"It's a hectic and fairly early start in our household. My wife, Margaret, has to get to work in Wisbech by eight; Nicola, my daughter, must be in college in Lynn by nine. I take her to Downham for the 8.40 train and then go on the Library to start my day.

I'm usually the first one in, open the gates and the Library. There are two vans which Brian and I drive. First, you check your van right through - I call it first parade checks because of my army career. You check your tyres, your windscreen, you wash everything down, check your camera is clean on the back because we have to park in such tight places that we reverse aided by a camera with a screen beside the driver. You check if your auxiliary batteries are alright because they are more important than your vehicle batteries - if you've no auxiliaries you've no light, no wheelchair lift, no doors, no heat. Then once your van is OK it's into the Library for any last minute books or changes.

Then it's out for the day. Overall every month Brian and I cover 64 villages on 24 routes, so you tend to get quite a variety. Brian and I both say it - it never comes about that you don't look forward to going to work in the morning because you're always going somewhere different meeting different people.

The vans carry around 3000 books but I also keep a float of another 300. The librarians sort out the order but we juggle the books around depending on where we're going. Some days I'll put on 940's, which are war books because in the villages I'm going to I know one or two men who like to read them. Or there are villages I go to where there are pensioners that can't read, so they need talking books, so I need to take

more talking books on board. One lady takes 16 talking books - well I've only got a stock of 50 so she soon gets through them - so I got to keep them turning over fairly regularly. And it's not just books people want but information. A month ago someone asked me about a local based signature on a long clock. I get the librarians at base to check and yesterday he was delighted with what we'd found out.

The van is your home for the day and you don't leave it. Food is a packed lunch and a flask of hot water to make coffee. The routes vary enormously. Take Welney - 5 stops there, but

17 in Upwell and I spend the whole day in Feltwell, only 7 stops but two hours at one. It's the size of the community, Feltwell borders on almost being big enough to have its own library. But then some villages are so small they only have one stop and you have a lovely time out doing seven villages in one day.

It's a people job. Meeting people all day and being interested in their needs. We're asked by family or carers to select books for people - we ask them to mark their initials on the date stamp page so we can have a quick check on whether they've already read the book - actually some of the Western

readers get carried away and put the ranch brand name so we get double S's or such like, but we learn to recognise them.

Sometimes we are the only contact that people have all day because we operate a 'housebound service' as well. One lady on my rounds will spend perhaps twenty minutes choosing 5 books from the 12 that I've taken in to her - she actually chooses the books quite quickly but she likes to have a chat, so you're providing that sort of service as well.

Those are the sort of things that make working on the van nice. There are about twenty like her Others are not strictly housebound; we take the van to them and then hoist them up in their wheelchairs and they can make their own selec-



tion.

The Mobile Library visit is very much a social occasion in many places. I can think of one village where it's almost a Parish Council Meeting when they come on - and everyone's talking about what's gone on.

I like being the other side of the counter, talking to people and perhaps leading them towards the books that they want, there isn't always the time for this in Welney because we have so many stops and my work is checking in and out and replacing the returns on the shelves. It's a pity because that is a really satisfying part of the job and especially when they come back the next time and say they really enjoyed my choice, that's great.

But each day goes quickly and differently. We time our last stop so that we're back in Downham around 4.45 and then we work on stocking up the van for the next day.

Then we do some checks and replenish the water. You may not realise it but working with books is very dirty and you have to keep washing your hands. We have a little sink in the van but you need to keep the water topped up.

You get fond of your van spending your whole day in it. I've just discovered that my old van - they run for about 12 years or so before they're sold off - anyway my old van can be seen around Wells as a chip van with a chimney sticking out of it!

So then pick up Nicola from the station and home except on Mondays when I do the IBT2 computer course at Downham. Libraries are computer based so - although I do this off my own bat - it's worth getting more computer knowledge.

Tuesday onwards, I go home with Nicola and an evening on our computers and relax on that. I like DIY and fishing but for family reasons we have had to spend weekends visiting away over the last year"

Alan Nelson

Alan told me a fantastic story of coincidence about his arrival in Welney. He was in the Army and stationed in Germany. He lived off the camp and in the German community, but his next door neighbour was English, and they became great friends.

Alan was posted back to Waterbeach; moved to Welney and the first person he saw walking up his path was his neighbour from Germany - Derek the postman!

Ed

PARISH HALL NEWS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISH HALL COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 16TH MARCH 8.00PM

ALL WELCOME: NEW COMMITTEE
MEMBERS NEEDED

PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT THE WORK
OF RUNNING AND RAISING FUNDS
FOR
THE PARISH HALL

St. Valentine's Dance

A good crowd enjoyed a great evening on Saturday 13th February dancing to TJ Country.

£120 was raised which will be divided between the Playing Field and the Parish Hall. Very grateful thanks to all who worked so hard to make it such a successful evening, particularly to Alison Ingram who proposed and organised the event.



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FLOODING COSTS - DEARLY

A view from Martin Kyne-Lilley, who moved to The Old Chapel in Main Street last year.

The flooded Washes are dramatic, happen most years and have been a feature of Welney life for over 300 years.

They have provided a livelihood for many people. In the winter various species of wildfowl were shot or trapped. Eels were caught. Cottage industries produced woven baskets from the pollarded willows growing there. The rivers (straightened in the 17th century) were highways. There were pubs and hotels lining the banks. When the Washes flooded, there was a ferry service to take people across. Even the shape of Welney village was different as it spread along the Bedford level. In the spring and summer months cattle and sheep were pastured on the rich flood plain between the Hundred Foot and the Old Bedford level.

The balance sheet has now changed for the worse.



Remember Easter 1998?

The Wash Road has been flooded for 105 days during the last 13 months. Now the effect on the village is detrimental in economic terms - it costs.

The Three Tuns pub is one of the very last waterway pubs left. In the bar are displayed examples of former times - a wildfowler's 8 feet punt gun and eel griggs. People in the village

have been patronising the pub since "before any of us were around." Regulars come from the village and also Littleport, Hilgay, Prickwillow, Suspension Bridge and Hundred Foot Bank.

When the Wash Road is flooded lunchtime trade is down to a third. Overall there is a loss of 50% of trade. "It's a bit of a bar-steward," said the landlord's daughter-in-law, "I often have to shut up at least three times a week at 9.30 pm because of no passing trade." A regular arrangement with the Rose & Crown pub in Hilgay means that the Friday evening darts is cancelled. At other times, when takings are usually expected to be brisk, trade has been affected. "For example, I've never had such a bad Christmas. We've just had our worst New Year's Eve, ever."

Another locally based business, Giles Landscaping, has been adversely affected by the flooding of the Wash Road. Mr Roger Giles, Managing Director, has accurately calculated the extent of the losses. "Until you think about these things," he said, "you don't realise the difference it can make." He continued, "Many of our contracts are on that side of the Wash and we have to drive around." The additional expense per day for 5 vehicles is an extra £60. Over the 15 weeks that the road has been flooded this has amounted to almost £4,500 in vehicle costs alone. Then add wear & tear, additional maintenance intervals, increased depreciation costs and the amount goes up even higher.

"That's just the vehicles," said Roger, "An extra one hour per man is wasted in travelling time." The additional employment cost equals £100 per day - or £7500 over the 15 weeks.

The bill so far is £12,000.

"Then there's the bank. We are obliged to bank cheques in Downham. That takes longer for money to hit our account in Ely. If we're running with an overdraft - that's extra bank charges to us. If we're in the black and big cheques are slow into a high interest account, we also lose out."

Dave Padget must run the oldest business in the village. Padgets Garage was founded in 1895 and Dave, like his father and grandfather, has experienced the effects of the Wash Road. "It's taken the village back to the last century."

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He said, "We used to have petrol sales up to five years ago but the road being up finally knocked that on the head. Our customers from the village ended up going elsewhere." His business has suffered too. "It's difficult to put a definite figure on it as my trade does go up and down. But, when the road's blocked, it's definitely down."

Like many of us, his family are also affected, "Our youngster goes to school in Welney - so my wife has to drive 100 miles a day to deliver and collect him from a school that's just 3/4 of a mile away!"

Gary & Chris Wild took over the 400 year old Lamb & Flag pub 2 1/2 years ago. They were delighted during the first winter when the road didn't flood. Bird watchers from the Wetlands Wildfowl Trust helped sustain their trade during the usually quiet months of December and January. "Twitchers may not drink much," said Gary, "But they eat and sleep." Food and accommodation are two significant income earners for the pub. Gary and Chris did well. They reinvested in the pub by improving the rooms and the loos. They advertised their food. People came from Littleport, Ely, Pymore and Little Downham - all on the other side of The Washes.

However, during the last year, trade has dropped dramatically. According to Gary, "It just plummets. We lose at least two thirds when the road's flooded. Over the full year we're down around £60,000 on our previous year's figures."

"As a direct effect of the flooding on the road, the Flag is no longer the viable proposition it was. We assumed we could continue to build on our efforts in the first year. Instead it's got worse and worse. If we knew that the road wasn't going to flood for the rest of the year, we wouldn't have given in our notice to quit."

Gary and Chris are due to leave before July.

The flooding brings substantial additional costs to businesses and individuals in the village and the surrounding area. The total bill reaches several hundred thousands of pounds. Our very own Welney Tax. The people and views I've collected here represent only a snapshot of the overall problem - I hope to develop a broader picture in the April edition of the newsletter.

Martin Kyne-Lilley



THERE'S MORE THAN WILDFOWL IN WELNEY

Obviously with such a famous wetland on our doorstep, it's easy to forget that there's far more wildlife around the village than water birds. Hopefully you've noticed. Many of you will be aware of the three or four pairs of Great Spotted Woodpeckers that can be seen and heard around the village; indeed some are

fortunate enough to have them regularly visit their bird tables. Striking though they are, unusual they are not. However, the more surprising is the continuing presence, since the autumn, of their larger cousin the Green Woodpecker. This is hardly a fenland bird.

Another somewhat unexpected species that is perhaps seen dead on the road more than scuttling through the trees is the Grey Squirrel. A recent sighting of a youngster suggests though that they are well established and breeding in Welney.

Far more secretive, yet much larger are the Muntjac deer, which manage to eke out an existence in an area that can hardly be described as their more favoured woodland. Any records of, or comments about wildlife around Welney would be most welcome and will be used to make this a regular newsletter feature.

Tim Bennett



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HOMEWATCH

According to my information there have been two recent crimes in Welney committed on the same night - a bungalow in Bedford Bank West was burgled and the outside shed of a house near the school was robbed of £500 worth of tools. In the latter case the owners were at home and heard nothing - perhaps a warning to all of us to look again at outside security.

The police are keen for any information that could help them with the brutal murder in Upwell of two women. Constance Sheridan, 79, and her daughter Janice, 45: both killed at their home in Pingle Bridge, Upwell. The murders took place between noon on 7th January and midday on 10th January when their bodies were found. If you were passing through the area at that time and remember anything out of the ordinary, please let the police know. Even if you were just in the area during those dates, the police would like to hear from you. The following phone numbers

can be used:

- Incident Room – 01366 385 192
 - Norfolk Police HQ – 01603 768769
- Crimestoppers – 0800 555 111

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RURAL TRANSPORT

"What's that?" you may ask, but it does exist and some villages are beginning to feel the benefit of the new sources of funding targeted specifically at rural communities.

Welney could be served by a somewhat more frequent ('not very difficult' I hear you say) service, too, **BUT** only if we ask for one.

A new partnership has been set up - with your Parish Council as an observer - to formulate an action plan and submit a bit for the necessary funds to set up - well - whatever you want!

Quite seriously, if we don't make our voices heard and ask for a bus to here, there or wherever you want to go, someone else will get a new service instead.

Any ideas, comments or suggestions about all kinds of local transport systems that you might have will be gratefully received.

Don't let apathy win again!

Tim Bennett 610 433



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Rt. Hon. Gillian Shepherd, M.P. 17A Lynn Road, Downham Market, PE38 9NJ. 4/1/1999.

Dear Mrs Shepherd,

Please find enclosed a letter that I have sent to our local Parish Magazine, the contents of which I hope you will take seriously. It is my belief that the 5.2 million pounds that has been given to the Environment Agency to construct a new sluice gate at Welmore Lake near Downham Market is money wasted. This new sluice we are told will, be 50% more efficient at clearing the Welney washes road the A1101. The problem being that we are getting flooded on this road more and more. In fact from Easter 1998 until Christmas 1998 the road has been in use for a few short weeks.

What myself, and I am sure I speak for hundreds of other people, would like to know from you as our elected M.P. is if you can do anything About our situation. The local Parish Council have been trying to talk to Norfolk County Council, Local Borough Council, Environment Agency, R.S.P.B and the Wildfowl Trust. A plan has been put forward to all concerned with a road scheme that would stop all of this misery. The local Parish Council can give all details of these plans and estimated costs, not a lot of money considering the 5.2 million pounds given to a scheme that is causing more misery.

When the road is flooded the H.G.V.s carrying produce both to shops and markets have to take long detours costing extra time, money and fuel.

I beg of you please, it is about time that this be put before the Government and a solution found as soon as possible, perhaps concluded before the year 2000. Also I believe that it is illegal to obstruct a 'A' road in any way and this surely includes flooding.

I await a favourable reply.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D. Pegg.

Welney Wordsearch

Can you find ten words or phrases associated with the village of Welney in the letter grid. Answers on next page



PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS 1999

You've probably already seen the posters around the village inviting people to consider becoming a candidate in the forthcoming local elections.

Although there have been the regular Borough and County Council elections in Welney, there has not been a Parish Council election for many years.

Parish Councils actually have more power and influence than you might think, if they choose to exercise their authority.

If you care about the future of your parish, would like to see some changes and wish to help improve the quality of life here - do seriously consider putting your name forward as a candidate on 6th May.

The public notice of the election will be posted on 26th March. Nominations need too be in by noon on 6th April. Forms will be available from the Parish Clerk, Pat Cope-man at No 1, Chestnut Avenue.

Let's make life in Welney even more interesting this Spring!

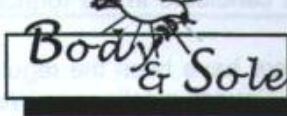
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WELCOME TO WELNEY

I've referred in the past to the amount of building, re-building and renovation work that has been going on around our parish. Nowhere has this been more obvious than in the Hurn Drove area.

Changes have been so rapid there that we've now had our first turnover with Mark and Paul having moved from Nursery House to Manea, to be replaced by David and Marion Belton. They have come from Peterborough, where David has spent most of his life. He still travels back there to his work with an animal feeds company. David has a tenuous past link with Welney, because as a student he spent some time working for Heading's Farms. They have no pets themselves, but are currently fish sitting until Mark and Paul can build a new pond.

Steve Taylor and Sara Golding moved into 3, Wisbech Road with their daughter Tia-Leigh (6 months) just in time for Christmas, but not for our previous deadline. They've come from Pymore, where Steve still works for Sara's family haulage firm as a mechanic and occasional beet loader and driver. Their cat has yet to make the move across the washes to join them.

A warm Welney welcome to both households and to anyone else that I've inadvertently missed.

Tim Bennett

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THREE IN ONE FAMILY

Three members of the Welney family who live at 1, Chestnut Ave., have recently been very successful in the martial art of Karate and the very proud Mum of the household wrote to tell us about it.

Matthew Copeman, aged nearly 8, has just achieved his 1st Kye (Brown and double white belt) following his recent grading with the English Karate Organisation, and has become the youngest 1st Kye in England. Matthew started training when he was five, and has graded straight through from 10th Kye to 1st Kye. His next belt will be to join his brother and father with a black belt.

Christopher, aged 14, started Karate at the young age of seven and graded straight through to black belt. It was an achievement in itself as he was awarded an adult black belt and not a junior, and at present holds a 1st Dan Black Belt and is hoping to grade for his 2nd Dan in November.

The boys join Dad, Terry aged 51, who also holds a 1st Dan and is similarly hoping to grade for his 2nd Dan at the same time as Christopher. Terry, who teaches Karate to adults and children, started much later than the boys and has completed 8 years training.

All three train at the Outwell Karate Club held at Beaupre School on Thursday evenings. Anyone wishing to join them would be most welcome - if you are interested why not ring Terry on 610 226

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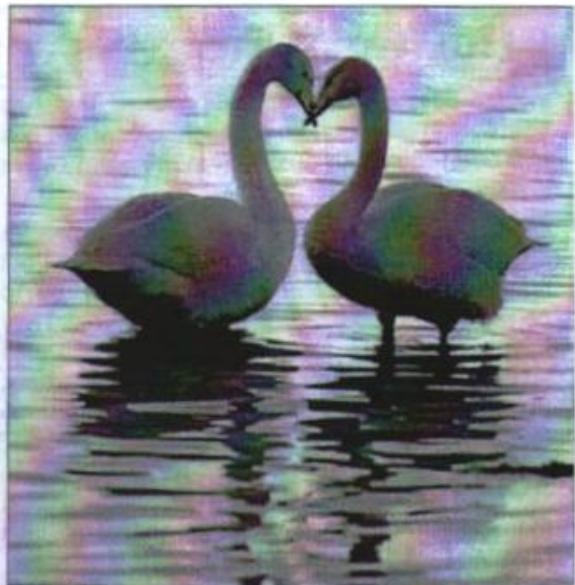
Concern over the recent spate of flooding on the Ouse Washes is shared as much by the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) as the rest of the local community, be they villagers in Welney, graziers, anglers, wildfowlers or skaters.

Deep floods are no good for people and no good for birds either. Ultimately the Environment Agency (EA) has the long term ability to influence the amount of water on the Ouse Washes and as spring and early summer flooding now appears to be increasing so our concerns grow.

Both the WWT and the RSPB are devoted to providing an attractive and safe habitat for birds and suitable points for those enthusiasts (and there are many of them) who want to see the birds in their natural surroundings. Damp meadows and shallow water is ideal for ducks and swans, but when the floodwater extends deeply from bank to bank - and that is when the wash road begins to flood - then large numbers of wildfowl leave the washes. We make regular accurate counts of the numbers of birds on the Washes, so we can give an exact example of this effect from the high floods at the beginning of 1998. In the good shallow conditions at the beginning of December 1997, the count was 75,100 birds. By the 19th January 1998, when the flood was at its height, two-thirds of those birds had gone and the count was down to 25,650.

Some 35,000 people visit the WWT Welney reserve each year, and most of those come between November and February. Not only does flooding at that time mean fewer birds to see but the visitors suffer, as we all do, from problems in actually driving to the centre. The same problems are faced by the 8,000 visitors to the hides and visitor centre at Welches Dam, maintained and run by the RSPB and the Wildlife Trust, Cambridgeshire (WTC).

Many in Welney village will know the history of the WWT and remember its first warden Josh



Are these rare Valentine swans or what?

Scott, a local man. WWT had an initial donation of 102 acres of land in 1967. There have been further land purchases (WWT now own 1000 acres) and improvements in amenities both in areas like car parking and the Reception facility, and in the Observatory, bird-watching hides and summer walks.

During the summer months, the Ouse Washes are grazed by over 3,000 cattle so the grass is kept to a suitable height and composition for grazing Wigeon - this also keeps the washes clear of coarse vegetation and woody plants which would impede the evacuation of flood water. Evacuating the cattle at short notice when the water rises is an added problem for the RSPB and WWT. Both organisations rely on grazing income to help fund their conservation work, and flooding which prevents livestock grazing the washes means a shortfall in income. More reasons why we all want the floods kept to a minimum.

The RSPB first became involved with the Ouse Washes in 1952 when Littleport schoolteacher, Ted Cottier, found Black-tailed Godwits nesting there after an absence, as a breeding bird in Britain, of over 100 years. For nearly 15 years

the secret was kept by a select group of Mr Cottier's friends as they protected the growing Godwit population. The RSPB supported their work and paid honorariums to the wash shepherds for their help in protecting the nests. In 1964, the RSPB bought the first of many washland



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fields, that was gradually to become the current 2,400 acre reserve, based at Welches Dam, Manea. In conjunction with WTC, 10 viewing hides are provided, one with disabled access, and the visitor centre at Welches Dam is open free of charge at all times.



Winter is the time of spectacular numbers, but for the ornithologist, the spring and summer are still notable. When the waters recede, the marshy meadows are taken over by breeding birds. More than 90 types of birds have been recorded as nesting. Outstanding are the Black-tailed Godwit, Avocets, and occasional Ruff. Lapwing nest by the hundreds and Redshank are common. Mallard are the most numerous duck in the Washes, but Teal, Gadwall, Garganey, Shoveller, Tufted Duck and Pochard are



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all there regularly. The breeding success of these ground nesters varies from year to year. A wet spring brings on the floods again, and the spring 1998 flood was a disaster for breeding waders on the Washes.

Despite changes in the way the Ouse Washes are now managed, compared to 40 years ago, they are still very much part of the local economy. WWT employs 11 staff, RSPB 12. Over 50 local farmers bring some 3,000 cattle to graze on the highly productive washland pastures. Many acres of hay are cut each year, providing fodder for local cattle and horses. Many visitors to the WWT and RSPB stay overnight in Welney, shop at Wendy's and drink in the local pubs.

Both organisations exist to care for wild birds and their habitats. Deep floods make life just as hard for birds as us local residents, so the WWT and the RSPB are on the side of anything that ensures the long-term reduction of deep flooding.

Carl Mitchell (WWT) & Cliff Carson (RSPB)



A beautiful drawing to colour in

Obituary

We heard in late January of the death (following a sudden illness) of

Stuart Carnson of Three Holes.

Mr Carnson, the editor of **Welle-in-Touch**, was a popular and active member of Upwell village life. He will be especially remembered by our entire editorial team for his generosity in giving us both help and advice before Welney News ever hit the presses. We are sure many in Welney will join us in wishing to pass on our warmest regards and sympathy to Mr Carnson's wife, family and friends at this sad time.

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And don't forget the School also collects aluminium cans and raises money from them. Don't throw them away. Give them to the School.



LETTER PAGE

Dear Editor,

I was shocked to hear yesterday (10th January) that a Parish Councillor had belittled the plight caused by the flood of the Wash Road to local businesses. It is, by now, public knowledge that we are in danger of losing Chris and Gary as Hosts at *The Lamb and Flag* plus *The Post Office* in Welney, *The Wildfowl Trust* (which has worked hard for local support) and the Three Holes shop and garages are all suffering loss of trade at what would normally be a prosperous time. Even *Kent's Haulage*, which is a large, national company, must be feeling the strain of increased mileage, which cannot be charged to their customers realistically.

We in Welney value our local facilities and industries, which keep the village alive. The ill-advised comments of the gentleman mentioned in my opening, plus the lack of support given by Elgood's Brewery to local pubs, are in danger of pushing a precipitous situation out of balance completely.

The time MUST have come for the Environment Agency and the Council departments responsible for the upkeep of the Wash Road to stop dallying about and shifting responsibility and act positively to ensure prolonged flooding of this artery thoroughfare is made a thing of the past - raise the Wash Road as required and operate the sluices effectively, or watch Welney die, as so many villages have before it, due to strangulation of trade.

I hope to read in our Newsletter pages soon of imminent roadworks that cause seasoned travellers to adopt their alternative routes for more positive reasons and for the last time!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Angry of Welney

(aka Holly Goodwin, White Roses, Main St.)

(see further opinions on the flooding on pages 8,12,19 and)

Dear Editor,

We have been taking in B&B guests for many years now and I could write a book about the various interesting people who have stayed with us, but just before Christmas we had what must rank as our most unusual guests yet in the form of 'Skye', an immature Golden Eagle and 'Lady', a Peregrine Falcon. They were accompanying their owners, Lloyd and Rose Buck, who train birds for natural history film work.

You may actually have seen one or both birds

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on tv already since they featured in "A Winter's Tale" on BBC2 on Boxing Day.

We had to ensure that our cat did not get locked in the garage overnight, since it is considered bad form for guests to eat the host's pet.

Lloyd and Rose were staying with us while they were involved with some filming locally, accompanied by their flock of Red-breasted Geese, which stayed overnight in a large van.

The local sequence will eventually appear in the BBC2 "Natural World" series, when parts of Littleport get passed off as the Danube delta in Romania!

Cindy Bennett

★ WEEVE AL BIN THEIR ★

★ Elisabeth Deckker received this poem by ★
★ email from friends in America. It will strike ★
★ home to all of us who use a spell check on ★
★ our computers. ★

★ Eye halve a spelling chequer ★
★ It came with my pea sea ★
★ It plainly marques four my revue ★
★ Miss steaks eye kin knot sea. ★
★ Eye strike a key and type a word ★
★ And weight four it two say ★
★ Weather eye am wrong oar write ★
★ It shows me strait a weigh. ★
★ As soon as a mist ache is maid ★
★ It nose bee fore two long ★
★ And eye can put the error rite ★
★ Its rare lea ever wrong. ★
★ Eye have run this poem threw it ★
★ I am shore your pleased two no ★
★ Its letter perfect awl the weigh ★
★ My chequer tolled me sew. ★

★ Sauce unknown ★

***** TEDDY CHURCH DIARY

Following my letter in October's **Welney News** introducing the **Teddy Church Services at St Mary's in Welney**, I thought that toddlers in Welney might like to tell their teddies what is in store for them in the coming months.

Our February theme is the kinds of homes that people live in, and the customary drink and biscuits will be enjoyed inside a tent and a playhouse. (Attending teddies need to be in their Sunday best as the photographer from the **Wisbech Standard** will be joining us!) In March, Families are the subject, and finger puppets will be helping us with our discussion. In April we move out into the garden to learn about the Resurrection and Jesus' tomb. There will also be games and an Easter Egg hunt.

I hope this whets the appetites of all teddies in Welney and we look forward to seeing them with their toddlers on the first Wednesday of each month in St Mary's at 10.30 am, ready to sing and light a candle there.

Holly Goodwin, Welney.

***** FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Friendship Club held their New Year party on the 12th January in the village hall. Some members were unable to attend due to the very bad weather and the floodwater. The members were entertained by Mrs Margaret Barnard of Upwell, who sang Old Time music hall songs, accompanied by Nora Fielder on the piano. Mrs Barnard also talked about her life as a music hall singer in London; she and some of her associates also used to visit hospitals and nursing homes to give concerts. Mrs Barnard and her husband retired to Upwell some years ago and Mrs Barnard is a leading member of the Gilbert and Sullivan Society in Upwell.

The regular meeting of the Friendship Club on 26th January included card bingo and an auction sale of goods brought in by members, and good wishes were sent to those members who could not attend owing to illness.

Two members of the Friendship Club passed away recently; in December, Queenie Johnson lost her husband Alf, and Mary Blunkell passed away at the beginning of February. Both of these friends will be much missed, and the Friendship Club wishes to pass on its best wishes and sympathy to the two families.

The club is currently meeting at its winter time of 1-30pm.

Karen Fleming



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WELNEY BROTHERS VIE FOR TV TIME

Many of you probably saw Ken Goodger of Pates Farm on TV commentating on Oliver Walston's recent controversial series "Against the Grain". However did you notice his brother Jeremy on C4's "Pet Rescue" a few days earlier? Although the caption was spelt wrongly, Chief Inspector Goodger of Leicestershire RSPCA was the same person who started his career with the Society here in the village.

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PLAYBUS

The Playbus is once again appearing regularly in Welney. Some of the 'teething problems' of the new vehicle - the heating system and some leaky windows - have been overcome; however the biggest problem now facing the Playbus in Welney is its very popularity. In spite of the rota system which is in operation, there are at present no vacancies for new Playbus users. Since there may even have to be a waiting list, some of the Welney Mums are planning to put their heads together once again to find another solution. (See details on the next page)

The total running cost of the Playbus is **£16000 per year**. Some of this is covered by a grant from the County Council but a large chunk must still be found by fundraising - to this end the fundraising committee is planning a number of events for the coming spring. **On Easter Saturday (3rd April) there is to be an Easter Egg**



hunt at Shouldham Warren. This will be from 10-30am to 12-30pm. There will be a Tombola stall, and the Playbus itself will be in attendance to provide refreshments. There will be a small entrance fee per child. Shouldham Warren is an attractive wooded area and ideal for walks and picnics; so please, come along, have a lovely day out and support your Playbus!

YOUTH CLUB

Downham Market Town Council is in the process of taking over the running of the Youth and Community Centre; this has involved a lot of planning meetings etc. and has delayed the setting up of a programme of events for the club. Monday club nights are continuing as before but now run from 7-00pm to 9-30pm. Activities include football, pool, and group discussions. Club nights are also held in school holidays except for Bank Holidays. It is also planned to have line dancing on offer each Monday with a dance teacher, and there will be a small charge for anyone wishing to take part. As previously, there will occasionally be visiting speakers and one of these will be a beauty therapist who will be talking about skin health and skin care. (Date to be decided).

Once the Council take-over is complete, it is intended that Club members will form a committee to plan future activities for the club. If you are interested in having a say in what goes on in the Youth Club why not go along, take part, and put your name down for the committee? **Or contact Brenda Chennells on Monday nights on 01366 387504.**

This is definitely a case of the club being what its members make it, and the more young people who are actively interested and involved, the better. It is definitely possible for there to be a varied programme of outings and activities; what is needed now is enough people to put themselves forward and make it happen.

Club discos are monthly on a Friday night, from 7-00pm to 11-00pm. Admission is £2.00 for members and £3.00 for non-members. No alcohol or drugs allowed, and no admission after 9-00pm.

Forthcoming disco dates are 26th February, 26th March, and 30th April.

Karen Fleming



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On 10th February, a small group of Mums met with the Rev Sheila Tooke, Mrs Golson and Mrs Neave of the William Marshall School. The aim was to discuss the possibility of the Welney community setting up its own pre-school facilities. This would be for children of age 2 ¼ up to school age.

In the pre-school group we want to: help children to learn basic social skills and foundation concepts for later development at school, such as colours, numbers, letters, sizes etc.; to introduce books and the pleasure of reading; and to provide an invaluable opportunity for shared and individual play and creative crafts.

We would like to hear from anyone with any comments about this proposed venture, and would especially welcome advice and guidance from anyone with previous experience of playgroups.

Below is a questionnaire about the pre-school group. We would be grateful if you could answer and return this; it will be used to judge the amount of interest in, and demand for, a pre-school group.



If you have children in the age group 0-5 yrs, or are interested in supporting a playgroup in the village, please help us by answering the questions below.

TELEPHONE NO. _____

CHILD'S NAME: AGE: D.O.B:

2nd Child	
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Can you offer any suggestions, support or help? If so, please give details.

Would you take your child/children to a playgroup in Welney?

Would you take your child/children to a parent-and toddler session in Welney? ☐

Do you take your child/children to a playgroup already?

If your last answer was yes, which playgroup? If not, is it lack of transport which prevents you?

Thank you for taking the time to answer these questions. Please return your answers to:

Wendy Redman, Post Office, Welney.