

# PRIVATE WELNEYE

Issue No. 1a, June 2007, Free to friends

## Welneye-under-Water Tower for sale



### Suggested uses:

**1. Offices for Welneye-under-Water Parish Council.**

(Conveniently next to the grave yard, so that documents the Council don't want us to see can be quietly buried along with other people's ideas.)

**2. Post Office Tower.**

(Conveniently next to the Church so you can pop in and pray that your letters will arrive.)

**3. Casino.**

**4. Drop-in centre.** (Note, top section reserved for sky-divers only)

## With acknowledgments to:

*Private Eye*, for the general inspiration, and issue 1187 in particular for some of the text.  
Harleys Estate Agents, Ely.  
Roy in London and Rudi in Suspension Bridge for the artist's impression on the front cover.  
Welney Gala 2004 Organising Group for the £4,000 given to Welney P C to buy new play equipment.

## And apologies to

Our once good-friend Derek Levesley; and Rachel Brown, editor of the Welney News.  
Welney Parish Council (except the Chairman, Clerk, and the whole WASH Committee)  
The Trustees of Marshalls Charity, Welney  
The Trustees of Bishops Land Charity, Welney  
Upwell & District Internal Drainage Board  
for any embarrassment caused by any similarity to any person or organisation in this publication.

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## LOCAL ELECTION NEWS

Recently millions of people in England flocked to the polling booths to vote for the best candidates to look after our wellbeing for the next four years.

In Welney-under-water, the votes cast for each candidate were as follows:

Candidate	Votes received
Ken Godfather ( <i>surely that should be "Ken Goodfarmer", Ed.</i> )	Nil
Steve Nicebloke	Nil
Gordon Brown	Nil
Tim Bearders	Nil
Rich Scouser	Nil
Eddy Old-Rocker	Nil
Someone Else	Nil
No-one Else	Nil

*(That's NOT enough candidates, Ed.)*

So with that ringing endorsement from Parishioners the candidates have all been "re-elected".  
The new (ha!) council later announced that:

Cllr. Godfather will continue to be Chairman-for-as-long-as-he-can.  
Cllr. Nicebloke will continue to be second fiddle (but would have preferred to be lead guitarist)  
Cllr. Brown will continue to be Chairman-in-waiting.  
Cllr. Bearders will continue with his multi-role dog/tree/flood/mole-and-vole-warden portfolio.  
Cllr. Scouser will continue to buy everyone drinks at the Lamb & Flag.  
And the Parish Clerk will continue to rake in the money.

The Council also appointed the following to their Washing up committee:

Chairman:	Cllr. Godfather (Of course)
Chairman's shadow:	Cllr. Brown
Secretary/treasurer:	Mrs. Copeperson
Archivist:	Master Copeperson
Committee member:	Mr. Copeperson
Keepers of the IT equip.	The Copeperson family
Chief bottle-washer:	Dirk Leavesusbe

## WELNEYE-UNDER-WATER PARISH COUNCIL – CHAIRMAN’S NEWSLETTER

Well, here we are again, a merry little bunch of devoted Councillors. As this is my first newsletter since my landslide victory in the elections, I thought I would begin by reiterating some of my previous thoughts which will save me time because I’m very busy with the farm right now. Anyway, I think they are even truer today than ever before.

Firstly, we, the Council, think we know what’s best for you all and we will endeavour to make sure you don’t get it. Secondly, I’m thinking about the media. You know, whatever we do, however right we are, however much we devote our lives to the parish 24/7, you can be sure that out there somewhere will be a mean-minded, spiteful, nit-picking, self-appointed critic scribbling away venomously in the *Private Welneye*, or posting his sneering superior views on *The Welneye Website*.

Now, don’t get me wrong; no one could be more in favour than I am of a free press and everybody’s right to speak their mind in any way they want. I even agreed to the Council putting a note to that effect on the Council’s pages on *The Welneye Website* in February 2005. But, frankly, wouldn’t Welneye be a better place if *The Welneye Website* was closed down? There is, after all, a superb alternative - our very own Council website -

which tells you everything we want you to know, so it doesn’t take up much of your time reading it.

Don’t get me wrong, we are not calling for censorship. But we do think we ought to be able to apply a certain amount of long-overdue control and regulation over what these people can write and say!

Let’s just look at the facts, shall we? Just in case you might think I’m going a bit OTT about this, let me remind you of a few ways that *The Wailing Website* has let us down.

1. It’s consistently posted the minutes of our meetings. It’s even doing it now, even though you can find them (eventually) on our own site. They really shouldn’t let people read the drivel our Clerk writes.
2. It confuses fact and fiction. I can’t give you chapter and verse of course because none of us actually look at it, but you can take my word for it.
3. It seems to think that the only thing that matters is grabbing a headline, “making a splash” as they call it. What would you all think of me if I allowed myself to be pictured in the Press wearing my wellies and an old baseball cap, splashing about on a flooded road, just to get some cheap publicity?

Instead, why don’t they tell the truth about how I’ve been the most successful Chairman in the

whole history of the Welneye Fens? How I’ve cleared the floodwaters off the Wash Road. How I’ve masterminded the planning of a splendid new Parish Hall for you all, that might be built by somebody, somewhere, at some time, somehow.

Now if that wretched *Welnigh Wet Suit* would print those proven facts instead of all that silly nonsense about the Council “being obliged by law to comply with the Freedom of Information Act”, then we could all sleep more peacefully at night instead of worrying about when that letter will arrive on the Clerk’s desk from the Information Commissioner.

Well, that’s nearly it from me, your old fiend, Ken. I’ll talk to you again next month - if we haven’t taken out an injunction by then against this scandalous comic. It’s nearly as bad as the *Welneye Newts* used to be before that lovely Raquel Welch took over and managed to tone down some of Victor Meldew’s scurrilous comments about us.

One last thought. Wouldn’t it be nice if they mentioned how I manage to fit my Council duties in with all my other civic jobs – a member of the Ditches, Dykes and Open-sewers Board, Chairman of the Washing-up Committee, member of the Action Man team, Trustee of The Marshall Aid Fund and third Trumpeter in Bishop’s Band.

# Colemanballs

From an appeal for new members to join the Christchurch Action Plan team, published in the April 2007 issue of the (Christchurch) Heron:

*“We do hope that eventually some parishioners will come forward to assist us. Our Treasurer Andrew has now left the village - thank you Andrew - and our Secretary is soon to live elsewhere”.*

Start of a report by Tom Jackson in the Cambs Times online edition, 23rd February 2007:

*“Faced with getting to the Environment Agency flooding conference on time, reporter Tom Jackson commanders [sic] a lift along the A1101 through the Welney Washes courtesy of Mark [sic] Giles, whose family business Giles Landscapes are [sic] based in Welney.”*

From a small-ad in “Welle In Touch”

*“Don’t mess it up yourself – call Malcolm for your home maintenance”*

A councillor in a nearby Cambridgeshire parish telling me about funding for a community newsletter:

*“We got a grant because we are a depraved area”*

## Not in this issue:

Far-too-Regular Features:

Down on the Farm by ‘Muckpreader’  
Then Along the Road by ‘Mudspreader’  
Street of Shame - The (flooded) Wash Road  
Such a Shame - Still no new play equipment.

## Letters

Sir,

I read in the minutes of a Welneye Parish Council meeting held in April 2007, the following comment under item 10:

*“Nothing had been heard from the Cricket Club as to when they are starting their matches at Welney. It was agreed to contact Tony Smart to see if he had a programme.”*

I wonder why the Council did not simply look on the splendid Welney Website? The full programme supplied by Tony Smart has been displayed there since February 2007!

I find the Welney Website a wonderful source of news and information, as I am sure millions of others do throughout the world.

Yours most gratefully, A Welneye old-bore.  
*(Surely the Welneye Webmaster, Ed.)*

*(More letters p 94)*