

The Elsworth Chronicle



Holy Trinity Church

Issue No. 29

May 2011

ELSWORTH CHRONICLE

Editor: Alan Farrow. The Old Rectory, Elsworth,
Cambridge CB23 4JQ Tel: 01954 267472

Material for inclusion will be most welcome.

Potential advertisers please contact the above.

The magazine is distributed free of charge
to some 300 homes

**NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES ARE ON SALE
ON MONDAYS THROUGH TO FRIDAYS EACH
WEEK AT BOB EMPSON'S GARAGE,
ELSWORTH, 8AM TO 6PM**

Magazines may be ordered in advance.

We are most grateful to Bob, Linda and Mark
for providing this service. True helpful Elsworthians!

DO YOU NEED A BABYSITTER ?

**My name is Tayler McVey and I'm interested in
babysitting. I am 14 years old and live in Elsworth. I
have experience helping out at after-school groups,
and am used to young children. References available.
If you are interested, please contact 01954 267773**

ELSWORTH LUNCHESES



The village bi-monthly lunches go from strength to strength. At both of the last two gatherings over 30 of us have sat down together at the George & Dragon and enjoyed a splendid two-course meal at the special price of £7.50 + 50p for coffee/tea.

Our next gathering will be on 24th May, which, incidentally, will mark our first anniversary. All from the village and friends are welcome. We meet from 12.30 for a 1 pm meal. Do telephone Alan or Isobel on 267472 for details and to book a place/places, which need to be finalised by May 20th.

AWF

ELSWORTH WORKHOUSE

From a map of Elsworth of 1896 – part of which is produced here – it will be seen that the lane we now call Church Lane is shown as Workhouse Lane. The workhouse itself is just off the map, but the building remains, being the present Low Farm.

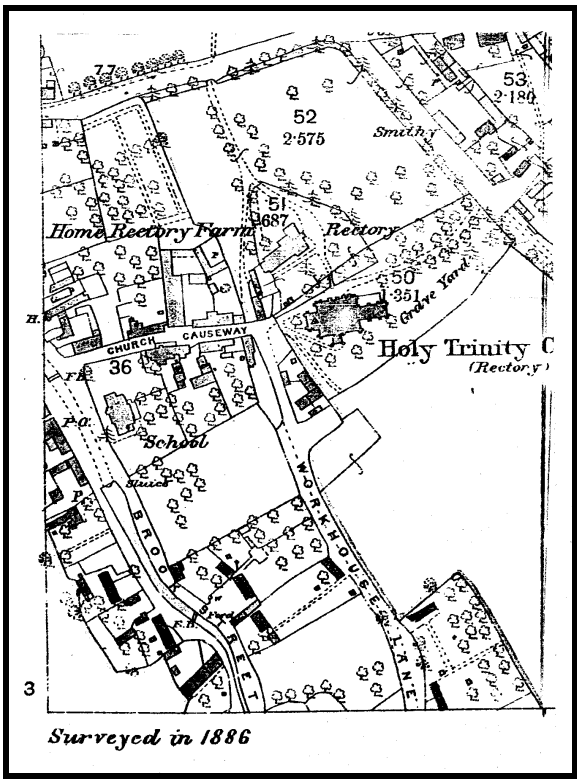
It would seem there had been a workhouse here from the early 17th century. Details are hard to come by, but in 1820 it is recorded there were 26 inmates. Prior to that it had been the Guildhall [sometimes referred to as the Townhouse] where help could be obtained by the poor, with social and charitable services being provided on a co-operative basis. Within its walls, boys would have been educated by the chaplain.

As a result of the Poor Law of 1834, those in the village destined for the workhouse would be accommodated at Caxton from 1836 and no longer at Elsworth, for the Act called for the union of neighbouring parishes in this regard. The building in Caxton was larger, and in 1871 had approximately 100 inmates. Within our village it would seem the building, now Low Farm, was used for a short while as a poorhouse for the aged and infirm with its cessation as a workhouse.

The hardship of life in a workhouse is well known. Illustrations of conditions elsewhere show people sleeping in tray-like beds placed close together in rows on the floor. Husbands were segregated from wives and both from their children. Work had to be undertaken, such as breaking rocks by the men for use on roadways. Conditions were made deliberately harsh so as to discourage people from turning to the parish for support rather than be engaged in employment.

Prior to 1834 support from the parish rate was determined in part by the number of children, legitimate and illegitimate, a man might

have. However the new Poor Law brought harsher conditions, the Act stipulating that the able-bodied should not receive parish support, except medical attendance, ensuring thereby that the pauper should be worse off than a person at work. Here, then, there would seem to be similarity in thought between politicians of the 1830s and those of the present day - both seeking to ensure that people on benefit should not be better off than those in employment. On reflection we would seem to have much in common with those of Elsworth of these bygone years - even the layout of lanes and the many thatched dwellings would be familiar to a workhouse resident of the early 19th century.



BOB EMPSON & SONS

THE GARAGE

ELSWORTH, CAMBS.

We are a family-run business dealing in:

MOT: Class 3 and 4

Servicing

Bodywork and accident repair

All types of repair work undertaken

on all types of car

Full plug-in diagnostic facilities

TELEPHONE: WORKSHOP 01954 267231

BODYSHOP 01954 267878

[EMAIL: EMPSONSGARAGE@SUPANET.COM](mailto:EMPSONSGARAGE@SUPANET.COM)

THE JUBILEE CLUB

On the first Thursday of most months we meet in Elsworth School from 2.30 to 4.30 pm and welcome anybody who would like to meet others of the local villages, have a chat, listen to a speaker [we cover many subjects] and then enjoy refreshments and a raffle.

Our coach trips this year will take place on Thursday 2nd June to Norwich and on Thursday 28th July to Lowestoft. You don't have to be a member to book a seat! We will be pleased to welcome you whenever you feel like joining us.

For more information please contact Betty – telephone 267470.

Betty Simcock

ELSWORTH, KNAPWELL & CONINGTON WI

Since our last report, our membership has risen to 29. We meet at Elsworth School on the second Wednesday of each month, except August. For most meetings there is a talk and/or demonstration given by an invited speaker. The subjects cover a wide range with recent examples – Geoffrey Hales speaking on “The Voyage of Charles Darwin”, James Singletery who played his ukulele and sang songs mainly by George Formby, and a representative of MAGPAS together with a doctor and paramedic.

We have now formed sub-groups, which are very popular. They are – Lunch Club, Craft Club, Coffee Morning Club and a Drama Group.

In August we are arranging a coach trip to Highclere Castle [the setting for Downton Abbey].

Visitors are always welcome. If you are interested, please contact Lyn Hogan [267254] or Isobel Farrow [267472].

Lyn Hogan [President]

Obituary

PAUL BIENEK



Since the last edition of the Chronicle, Elsworth has said “Goodbye” to a much loved and respected man. Although born in Poland 85 years ago, Paul lived in the village for some 54 years; much longer than his days in Poland.

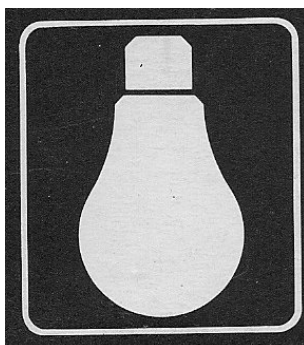
By training Paul was an electrician, but was probably best known for his willingness to help people with any odd repair task and for having almost every tool that might be required. He was also well known for his hospitality, and many enjoyed his company at his table as a project was being discussed or the affairs of the world were put right as a bottle or two were shared.

Paul’s practical skills stood him in good stead when half of the family house was burned down when he was away on holiday with

his family one year, for Paul did much of the rebuilding work himself on their cottage at the junction of The Causeway and Church Lane. As well as being a practical man, he was a lateral thinker. He enjoyed overcoming problems. He was also an innovator. Long before it was Government policy, Paul was experimenting with wind power - some may recall the strange contraptions that came and went [the latter usually after a storm!]. He also worked on a solar water heater. A marked success was a miniature electric car - 1920s style. It was a great joy to young children who would drive it through the churchyard.

Paul was born in Selesia, a coal-mining area of Poland in 1925, where he lived until the outbreak of the Second World War. During the hostilities of 1939-45 he was a member of the Polish Free Army and was involved as a tank driver in the front line as the Allied Forces advanced through The Netherlands and Germany following the Normandy invasion. On demobilisation Paul trained as an electrician and worked on the electrification of rail signals, notably at Clapham Junction and the London to Brighton line. At that time he lived in London, where he married Dorothy in 1952, and where Kazio, their eldest son, was born. They moved to Elsworth in 1956 for a quieter life and to escape the London smog of that time. Here Jad, Julian and Alex were born. Once settled in Cambridgeshire, Paul worked as an electrician for organisations such as a brewery in St. Neots and on local airfields before setting out on his own as an electrician/handyman. He had a long-standing contract with a laundry at St. Ives.

Paul was blessed with many gifts of mind and hand. But more importantly he was warm-hearted; modest; reliable; always willing to extend a helping hand to other people.



WHEN CHANGING A LIGHT BULB AND OTHER HOUSEHOLD CHORES PRESENT PROBLEMS

Paradoxically we all like to help people in need but are reluctant to seek the help of others for oneself. As people age, certain everyday tasks which at one time seemed so easy to manage present problems. In a village such as this neighbours are there to help, but those in need are often reluctant to keep asking, even though the person asked is happy to help. None of us though, wish to be an imposition by constantly seeking help. Would, then, the possibility of assistance of a helper who has volunteered for such work overcome this possible dilemma?

Such thoughts led to the possibility of forming a “help” group of people in the village who would volunteer to undertake such work. But enquiries have taken me to “Care Network”, an organisation – a registered charity - already in existence to meet this need in Cambridgeshire and hence this village. Examples of chores could include changing light bulbs; taking curtains down for a wash; clearing and gritting paths when snow is on the ground; emptying high level cupboards etc. etc.

If any reader is in need of help with household chores, assistance may be forthcoming by contacting “Care Network” on 01353-772169, or if preferred through me [Alan Farrow on 267472] when I could give further details if required. If you choose to ‘phone Care Network direct, you will speak first to their Help at Home Co-ordinator who will then involve a volunteer helper to visit at a mutually convenient time. Volunteers carry ID badges and are CRB checked.

The scheme noted above is not merely related to age. Any person experiencing difficulties in the home – perhaps after or during illness – is welcomed to seek assistance.

AWF

Village Vet

The vet your pet would choose



- compassion and kindness at all times
- expertise and facilities second to none
- 24/7 emergency cover
- loyalty scheme and pet insurance available
- care for the environment and local community



Longstanton

34 High Street, Longstanton CB24 3BS
01954 780027

Cottenham

66 High Steet, Cottenham CB24 8SA
01954 252122

24 Hour Emergency 0845 500 4 247

www.villagevet.co.uk

Obituary

RUBY THROSSELL



'The Firs' in Brook Street was Ruby's home from birth until entering a nursing home at the close of her life some 90 years later - apart, that is, for a few years in Cambridge during the period of World War 2. On returning, she devoted many years to caring for her mother in the family home.

Ruby was born in 1920, the third child of John and Florence Throssell, and was a pupil in the village school across the road from where she lived. On leaving she worked at Pye's in Cambridge, after which she became a receptionist in the Chest Clinic at Addenbrookes. She had also trained as a hairdresser, and although she completed her appren-

ticeship she soon left as the work didn't appeal.

Those of a generation or two younger than Ruby's will probably remember her as a gentle, kindly lady devoted to her garden and the doves she kept. Could they have gone back through time, though, they would have been amazed that this seemingly tranquil lady had been the proud owner of a red MG sports car in which she enjoyed motoring at speed, to the consternation of some passengers and on-lookers!

Gardening was for Ruby a great joy. She brought on numerous bedding plants, giving many away. Similarly she provided friends and relatives with honey. In this regard she followed her father, John, a medallist for honey at the Royal Show. As many will know, it was this same John who had been parish clerk for 50 years and whose craftsmanship as a wheelwright is commemorated in the village sign.

Those who knew Ruby well describe her as a person of fun who was always good company. She was also a strong character, as exemplified when after a stroke she could be seen walking with the aid of a walking frame to visit Jessie at Brookside. She was much loved. At her funeral it was a tribute to her that ten care workers at the nursing home where she spent her final days came to pay their respects. Characteristically she had provided good humour for those around her in the nursing home although herself incapacitated and seriously ill.

The George and Dragon Elsworth

*Specialising in Fresh Seafood,
Prime Scottish Steaks, Fine Wines and Real Ales*



Tel: 01954 267236

At The George and Dragon we offer a superb variety of fresh fish, for example, Dover Sole, Sea Bass, Lobster, Cromer Crabs, to name but a few.

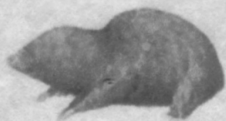
We also have a variety of Prime Aberdeen Angus Scottish steaks, as well as the highest quality English Lamb and British Pork and Chicken.

- **Family Sunday Lunch**
- **Two Dining Rooms with seating for 70 and 30**

For more information including our regular and special menus see our website at:

www.georgeanddragon-elsworth.co.uk

*G & D Caterers for all your
outside catering needs*



Mole Clearance Service

Dave Anderson 01954 202460
Mob 07813430232 mole.control@hotmail.co.uk

Member of The British Traditional
Molecatchers Register

No Gas or Poison used Free site survey



You've seen our bath lift now follow our **blog!**

Recipes

Top Tips

fun
bits & bobs!



Recycling



Online
guides

www.bathknight.wordpress.com

A VIEW FROM THE BACK BENCH

Early each year the parish council has to decide on how much to charge parishioners, the amount decided forming, of course, part of the community tax.

This year, the council decided to increase its reserves to **£47,000**. Given the following facts, how would you, the reader, have voted on this matter?

Expenditure last year.....£16,490
Money in hand before the meeting.....£30,000
Major projects contemplated in the coming year..... None.
Likely expenditure in coming year.....perhaps £20,000 ish without pruning.

A view expressed at the meeting was that we should not reduce our precept [the money charged to parishioners] in case unexpected contingencies arose, such as being prepared to meet the cost of responsibilities which might be passed down to us by the District Council. Regarding the last point, it would seem unlikely to be of major consequence, bearing in mind that some parishes do not levy a parish charge and could not be expected to meet any substantial costs without much warning.

My view [AWF] was, and is, that we should [a] focus on perceived needs and projects; [b] estimate aggregate costs; [c] then relate costs to money already in hand when considering our charge on the parish.

In these times of financial hardship for many, we should not take money from parishioners merely for it to sit in the council's account.

Contrary to the view contained in the last paragraph, it was also argued by some that we should retain our financial

reserves as costly projects could arise to eat into this balance – in response to this it could be held that any major new project would necessitate detailed planning and consultation, taking on board, where necessary, expert views from outside the parish council, thus taking the matter into the next financial year. As noted above no major projects are envisaged for the coming financial year. Updating the play area in Grass Close has been put on hold until support from outside bodies is again available.

Holding such considerations in mind, the writer proposed a precept of £9,000. This was not supported by other councillors. Proposals put by other councillors were for £20,000, another for £18,000, neither of which received backing, and for £17,000. The compromise figure was £17,000, being the nearest to the mid-point. This was the only way forward as a decision had to be made at that meeting. Such a large parish demand to be paid through our taxes, though, results in **£47,000 being held in the parish council account.**

Back now to the first paragraph, what amount would you propose for our parish council tax and how much should be held in hand? Do discuss it with parish councillors so that next year we should be aware of your views.

One last thought, residents in our neighbouring parishes of Boxworth and Conington seem to be no worse off than we are in Elsworth, but Conington levies no parish tax and Boxworth only £2,500 for the current year. Unlike Elsworth these haven't a parish council – we pay some £8,000 a year in administration, regardless of whether the council makes any decisions. As a long-standing councillor and chairman for some ten years I am now beginning to wonder if our neighbours are not better off.

AWF

My love for dogs.

'My love for dogs' offers home boarding for your canine friend. I am a dog lover, smitten with them and my home is totally dog friendly. I am delighted to open up our home so that whilst you are on holiday, your dog has a holiday in the comfort of our home, with a totally secure garden.

I am fully insured, police checked, and have grown up with dogs all my life. Holly, our beautiful golden Labrador loves to play with new friends.

Rest assured that your dog will have at least two long walks a day either at the heath nearby to our home, or in the fields surrounding our village. We also utilise on a daily basis on local village recreation ground and play ball games there.

Should you require any further details please do not hesitate to call Amanda Bishop on 07903 806750. We are based in a small village near Royston in Hertfordshire.

HOME DOG
BOARDING



Curious,

but not everyone knows
we do pensions

We do.

Call 01954 210007 for more
information or pop into the office
to talk to Jeremy Risebrow,
Steven Gould or Peter Brewer
at NFU Mutual Office,
5 Dry Drayton Industries,
Dry Drayton, Cambridge
CB23 8AT



NFU Mutual
Celebrating
100 YEARS

We do right by you

Agent of The National Farmers Union
Mutual Insurance Society Limited.

ELSWORTH SPORTS CLUB

The football season is now drawing to a close and once again has been successful for Elsworth with both the first team and reserves possibly finishing in promotion positions. The first team, playing in the Cambs BIS League Division 1B, are currently in third position with three matches remaining, which could improve to runners-up and possible promotion to the Kershaw Senior League, Division B. Their league record so far this season is – played 21, won 14, drawn 2, lost 5. They have also enjoyed success in cup competitions, culminating in reaching the final of the Cambs Junior Cup which was played under floodlights at Histon F.C. against March Town Reserves, but unfortunately lost 6 goals to nil after reaching half-time at 0-0.

The reserve team, playing in the Cambs League Division 5B are currently second with one match remaining and will finish runners-up and win promotion to Division 4 next season. Their league record for this season is played 23 games, won 15, drawn 5, lost 3.

The table tennis season has recently finished with both Elsworth teams enjoying reasonable success in the Ely & District league. The first team, playing in Division 1, finished in sixth position [of 11 teams], while the second team, playing in Division 3, finished in second position [of 8] and win promotion to Division 2 next season.

Carpet Bowls continues to be played throughout the year on Wednesday afternoons in the pavilion as do Bridge for Beginners sessions on various Friday evenings, starting at 7.30 pm. Whist drives are held monthly, on Friday evenings starting at 7.30 pm.

For further information on football, cricket or table tennis please contact Mark Brading on 01480 383303 [football] or Bill Knibbs on 01954 267266 [cricket/table tennis].

Roger Fensom

HOME CRICKET FIXTURES CAMBS JUNIOR LEAGUE

14 th May	2 nd XI	v.	Willingham 2 nd XI
21 st May	1 st XI	v.	Fenstanton
28 th May	2 nd XI	v.	Histon 3 rd XI
4 th June	1 st XI	v.	Fen Ditton
11 th June	2 nd XI	v.	Soham 2 nd XI
18 th June	1 st XI	v.	Camden 3 rd XI
25 th June	2 nd XI	v.	Bar Hill 2 nd XI
2 nd July	1 st XI	v.	Bassingbourn
9 th July	2 nd XI	v.	Sutton 2 nd XI
23 rd July	2 nd XI	v.	Witcham 2 nd XI
30 th July	1 st XI	v.	NCI 4 th XI
20 th August	2 nd XI	v.	March Town 4 th XI
27 th August	1 st XI	v.	Harlton
3 rd September	1 st XI	v.	St.Giles 2 nd XI



Volunteer Centre
Huntingdonshire

ARE YOU OLYMPIC-INSPIRED?

With little over a year to go until the start of the 2012 London Olympic Games, volunteers all over the country are getting ready to help. 70,000 will be accepted, but many more will be disappointed. But why wait for the Olympic Games to volunteer when there are so many exciting and varied volunteering opportunities right here in St Ives? Like Olympic volunteers, you can be involved in activities as diverse as working on a heritage project, helping at a disability club or being a marshal at a sponsored race.

The Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre has a list of over 250 opportunities in 210 organisations. Hospitality, culture, art and team building are all part of the Olympic theme and all our volunteering opportunities are underpinned by the Olympic values such as respect, equality and determination.

Visit the “Olympic-Inspired” double-decker bus in St Ives Market Square on Thursday 9th June between 1030 and 1630 to find out more. Enter our quiz to have the chance of winning an Olympic Mascot or a trip to the Olympic site. Or contact Ann on stives@huntsvc.org.uk tel: 01480 301462



Are you looking for a school where all of your child's talents will be nurtured?

- small classes
- highly qualified and experienced staff
- Kindergarten, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 places available
- mini bus service from central Cambridge

01954 210309

www.stephenperse.com/pre-prep

stephen perse
pre-prep school



Cambridge Road, Madingley, Cambridge CB23 8AH

MADINGLEY MULCH

YOUR GARDENS FAVOURITE PEOPLE

***BARKS * SOILS * MULCHES * COMPOSTS *
CONDITIONERS***

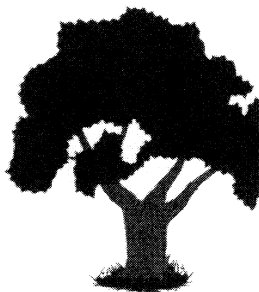
**ALL DELIVERED IN OUR BIG 1 METRE
BAGS TO YOUR DOOR.**

***SOFT/SHARP SAND ~ 10/20mm GRAVELS ~
BALLAST ~ LIMESTONE ~ CEMENT***

**CAN BE COLLECTED FROM OUR YARD
OVER WEIGHBRIDGE OR DELIVERED
LOOSE ON OUR
TRANSPORT OR IN 1/2
METRE BAGS**

***COME AND VISIT OUR
NEWLY OPENED
GARDEN/DIY SHOP***

***MADINGLEY ROAD
COTON
CAMBRIDGE CB3 7PH
Tel: 01954 212144***



DID I READ THAT SIGN CORRECTLY?

In an office:

TOILET OUT OF ORDER ... PLEASE USE FLOOR BELOW.

In a Launderette:

AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINES: PLEASE REMOVE ALL YOUR CLOTHES WHEN THE LIGHT GOES OUT.

In a London department store:

BARGAIN BASEMENT UPSTAIRS.

In an office:

WOULD THE PERSON WHO TOOK THE STEP LADDER YESTERDAY PLEASE BRING IT BACK OR FURTHER STEPS WILL BE TAKEN.

In an office:

AFTER TEA BREAK STAFF SHOULD EMPTY THE TEAPOT AND STAND UPSIDE DOWN ON THE DRAINING BOARD.

Outside a second-hand shop:

WE EXCHANGE ANYTHING - BICYCLES, WASHING MACHINES, ETC. WHY NOT BRING YOUR WIFE ALONG AND GET A WONDERFUL BARGAIN?

Notice in health food shop window:

CLOSED DUE TO ILLNESS.

Spotted in a safari park:

ELEPHANTS PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR.

Seen during a conference:

FOR ANYONE WHO HAS CHILDREN AND DOESN'T KNOW IT, THERE IS A DAY CARE CENTRE ON THE FIRST FLOOR..

Notice in a farmer's field:

THE FARMER ALLOWS WALKERS TO CROSS THE FIELD FOR FREE BUT THE BULL CHARGES.

On a repair shop door:

WE CAN REPAIR ANYTHING. (PLEASE KNOCK HARD ON THE DOOR - THE BELL DOESN'T WORK).