

The Elsworth Chronicle



Holy Trinity Church

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ELSWORTH CHRONICLE

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TRANSPORT ISSUES

In the last issue of the Elsworth Chronicle a résumé of discussions with the County Council regarding our bus service, under the title 'Elsworth Under Threat' was given. Twelve months later discussions are still on-going! Meanwhile the present bus service will continue.

Two groups - the elderly and youngsters of the 6th Form colleges need our special consideration. It is vital that the requirements of both are met and various proposals designed to meet these requirements have been put to the County. Hopefully the possibilities now being considered will meet the objectives of both the County and our parishioners - the former by means of saving money and the village by securing transport which meets our known needs. Our latest initiative focuses on [a] the retention of the No.9 service to St. Ives; [b] would provide a daily connection to the guided rail bus; [c] would maintain a link with Bar Hill twice a week and [d] provide twice a week a service to Cambourne. Such focus would **actually markedly reduced the present number of bus runs and at the same time provide a far improved service for Elsworth.** And, importantly from the County's viewpoint, reduce costs by eliminating those bus services but minimally used.

Although improvements to our bus service are vital, gaps will inevitably remain for the elderly and infirm without access to cars. Journeys by most in the village with a trusted car available in the garage may be made without almost a second thought - not so if you are car-less, when a visit to a cinema might seem out of the question, and difficulties arise regarding journeys off recognised bus routes, such as perhaps to and from a railway station, dentist or even a friend or local relative.

In an effort to meet this need, the Parish Council is considering means by which the hardship could be mitigated. A proposal now being considered is that support should be given to a community car scheme which could prove markedly beneficial to the elderly or infirm at prices markedly lower than a commercial taxi by virtue of it being provided by a non-profit making charity. Even so, costs [40p a mile] for a journey - such as to Huntingdon or St. Neots - are not inconsiderable for those on limited incomes. Consideration is being given therefore to the Parish Council providing a subsidy.

Community car schemes are operative elsewhere, not necessarily by that

Continued over

name, but are normally restricted to those living in the parish where the scheme has been established. The County also organised a scheme whereby parish councils could use specific money allocated from building development funds to subsidising taxi fares. This, though, is expensive mile for mile compared with the charitable providers, as would be expected. A community car scheme not restricted to its base area is organised through the Volunteer Centre of Huntingdonshire, and this could well meet our needs. Journeys are booked through, in our case, their St. Ives office, with as much notice as possible - ideally three working days. Cost is based on mileage, which includes the journey from the driver's home and return. The nearer the driver is based to the passenger, then, the cheaper the fare. At one time there was a driver living in Elsworth, but not at the present - suitable volunteer drivers from here would be welcomed by the Volunteer Centre. Drivers derive great satisfaction from this work, which is so clearly needed. The 40p a mile payment is kept by the driver and ensures he/she is not out of pocket. AWF would be happy to give further information to anyone who might be interested in becoming a volunteer driver [01954-267472].

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LORD MCNAIR

In earlier editions of the Elsworth Chronicle reference has been made from time to time to local men who have made marked contributions on the world and/or national scene. Readers may recall Rev. Dr. John Watson, Rector here in the 16th century who was Chaplain to Henry VIII and friend of Erasmus; Rev. John Bois who played a prominent role in the preparation of the King James Bible; and Samuel Desborough [Disbrowe] who was keeper of the Keys of Scotland at the time of the Cromwellian Civil War.

Another in more recent times was Andrew McNair, a resident of Elsworth at Dale Farm in Boxworth Road in the 1950s. Not only was he a British legal scholar of note, but also an international figure, having been appointed President of the International Court of Justice in 1952, a post he held until 1955. He subsequently became the first President of the European Court of Human Rights at Strasburg, holding office from 1959 to 1965. His honours and achievements include CBE, KG, LLD, FBA and a peerage in 1955.

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Andrew McNair read Law at Gonville and Caius College and became President of the Cambridge Union in 1909. After a short period of practising as a solicitor in London, he returned to his college in 1912, when he was elected to a Fellowship. This was also the year he married Marjory Bailhache, with whom he had a son and three daughters.

In 1935 he became Professor of International Law at Cambridge a post he was only to hold for two years as in 1937 he was appointed Vice-Chancellor of Liverpool University. However in 1945 he was back in Cambridge as Professor of Comparative Law, and in the following year came his appointment to the International Court of Justice, being appointed as its President 1952, as noted above.

The activities of the courts over which Lord McNair presided might not be matters of everyday talk in Elsworth. Nevertheless, since his day its concerns have hit national and international headlines. Some readers may remember that in the 1980s a dispute between USA and Nicaragua was taken to the Court and resulted in a verdict against the USA. The latter would not accept the verdict in spite of fact that the United States had in 1946 agreed to submit to the Court's ruling. Enforcement through the Security Council was blocked by its veto - "toys thrown from the pram" it would seem!

Andrew McNair was clearly an international figure of note and warrants inclusion alongside those worthies noted in the opening paragraph who have won recognition on the global scene. Lord McNair brings us close to the present, but such influence is not confined to the past, even if recent - here to-day, as will have been seen in earlier editions of the Elsworth Chronicle, we have with us two professors who have achieved world recognition for their endeavours, one in the field of biochemistry and the other in anthropology/archaeology, namely Brian Hartley FRS and Sir Paul Mellars FBA.

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JUBILEE CLUB

The Club is open to everybody in our village. We meet on the first Thursday of most months in Elsworth School Hall. We have a speaker or entertainment followed by refreshments and a raffle. Our meetings also provide a good opportunity to meet up with friends and neighbours for a chat.

We have two trips this year:

28th May to Southend-on-Sea

30th July to Aldeburgh

You have an invitation to drop in on any of our meetings or trips - you will be made most welcome.

For further information please contact Betty on 01954 267 470.

Betty Simcock

ELSWORTH, KNAPWELL AND CONINGTON W.I.

Our Christmas meeting was held on the 3rd December, but that wasn't too early for W.I. members to have their Christmas party - a delicious meal, wine and crackers, followed by entertainment and carols. Food was again on the menu in January when our speaker was the chef Jerry Dodd. His talk 'What's that smell in the kitchen?' was a very entertaining account of his life from early days as a chef, to lecturing and being a City & Guilds examiner. He got us involved in a food quiz and there were lots of cooking tips.

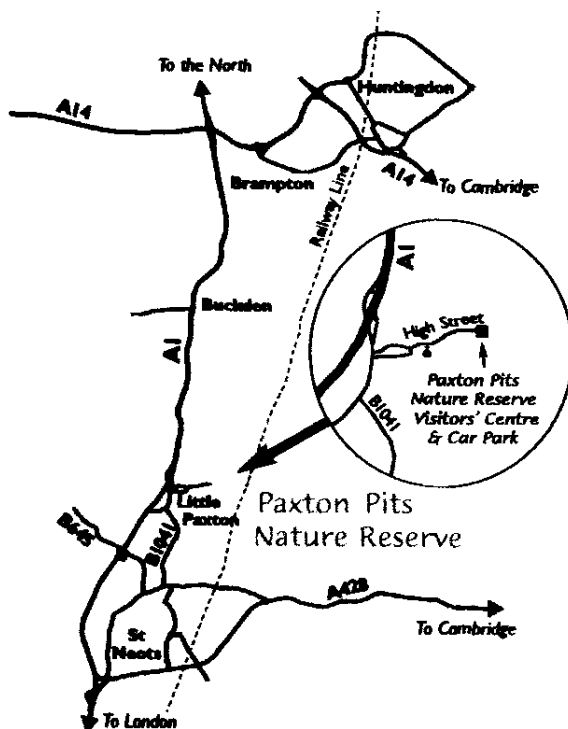
In February Andrea Chupacova came to tell us about the Papworth Trust, which supports people with physical and mental health problems and their families and carers. This was an informative talk about how staff and volunteers provide a personalised service to help disabled people.

In March we held our Annual Business Meeting and in April we had power-point tour of Paxton Pits at St. Neots - a nature reserve for animals, plants, wild flowers and birds - a great place for a family outing.

This year the W.I. is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the

formation of the first Women's Institute in the Welsh village of Llanfair P.G. on the 16th September 1915.

Isobel Farrow [01954-267472]



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Obituary



FRED COLLINS

For many in Elsworth, memories of Fred's cheerful face and nature as he assisted Eileen from time to time in the B & A shop on The Causeway will remain clearly in mind. This good humour was apparent even to the casual visitor to their bungalow, as the approach to the home was marked by the notice "Beware of the owner, not the dog".

Eileen and Fred had been married many years when they moved to Elsworth in 1987, a move determined in part to be reasonably near to Fred's sister Muriel who lived near Mildenhall, once Fred and Eileen's children had left the family home. Fred and Muriel had always been very close emotionally, being not only brother and sister but also very close friends.

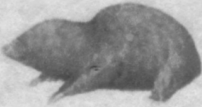
Prior to Elsworth, Fred and Eileen had lived at various locations - Kingston-on-Thames, Thames Ditton, Woking in Surrey and 30 years at Bracknell in Berkshire. His birthplace was, however, in Lon-

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don, having been born in Poplar in 1923. It was in London, too, that Fred and Eileen were married - at Ealing in Greater London some 61 years ago, a union which was blessed by the births of Jackie and Barry.

In his early adult years Fred was a keen motorcyclist, a form of travel he and Eileen enjoyed in their early years of marriage, later with the growing family to be replaced by cars. Fred had a variety of jobs in the course of his adult life - he had been involved in engineering, had been a bus driver, a petrol pump attendant and in servicing vending machines, both as part of Eileen's and Fred's own business and later with Tamco.

At leisure, Fred loved to be in the fresh air, perhaps in his garden, perhaps on the water in a small boat on the river. Indoors he enjoyed snooker, playing cards and, in retirement, making model aircraft from kits and flying them. Music was a great interest and in his younger days he was a drummer in a local band.



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ELSWORTH SPORTS CLUB

It is with sadness that I begin this report with the news of the death of a former Elsworth resident and sportsman. Tony Cooper lived in the village for many years before moving to Fenstanton. He died suddenly on 19th March aged 74 years. He played football, as goalkeeper, and cricket as wicket keeper for Elsworth in the 50s and 60s.

At this time of year both football and table tennis seasons have been completed and that for cricket is about to begin. Regarding football, for the first time in over one hundred years Elsworth hasn't a team. From the players in the team from the previous season at least four were missing at the start of the season. This was especially disappointing as over the last few seasons they had managed promotions and had reached Cambs League Division 1B. However a side was fielded and matches played, but inevitably there were some heavy defeats and two matches conceded. At the end of December, sadly, the decision was made that the only option was to withdraw from the league. There is hope that at some point in the future a team will again play in the red and black colours of Elsworth.

The table tennis season has just finished and proved to be reasonably successful for Elsworth. In the Cambs League the first team finished third and the second team eighth of twelve teams in Division 2, and the third team finished tenth of twelve teams in Division 3. In the Ely League the first team finished seventh of ten teams in Division 1, and the second team finished first of ten teams in Division 3, hence gaining promotion for the next season. In the Ely League Handicap Cup competition, the first team narrowly lost 4-5 in the semi-final to Fulbourn 1, while the second team, in the Handicap Plate competition lost 1-5 to Fulbourn 7 in the quarter final. As our playing numbers are steadily increasing it is hoped that a third team will be entered in the Ely League next season. No competitive table tennis is played over the summer months but practice continues, normally on Tuesday eve-

Continued over

nings. Anyone interested should contact Bill Knibbs on 01954-267266.

The cricket season begins in May. After a rather difficult last term the team retained its place in Division 4 South of the Cambs Junior League. As well as these Saturday fixtures, a team will be entered in the Business Houses League, matches being played on week-day evenings. It is hoped that some friendly fixtures will also be arranged.

Congratulations to John Wilkins who has been awarded Cambridgeshire Groundsman of the Year. John, along with Bill Knibbs has maintained the cricket square and outfield to produce the present good batting wicket. It is hoped that junior cricket coaching will again be available this year - any enquiries to Anthony Taylor on 01954 268042. The Club acknowledges with thanks financial grants made by Elsworth Parish Council and South Cambs District Council. These are especially welcome at this time as a new roller has recently been purchased. Anyone interested in cricket should contact either Bill Knibbs on 01954 267266 or Anthony Taylor.

It is hoped that the playing of carpet bowls on Wednesday afternoons will resume - still currently suspended due to lack of support. Snooker is played on Monday mornings and whist drives are held monthly on Friday evenings commencing at 7.30 pm.

Roger Fensom [01954 267534]

CRICKET - CAMBS LEAGUE HOME FIXTURES

23rd May	v	Rebels
13th June	v	Buntingford 2nd
18th July	v	Little Shelford
8th August	v	Sawston/Babraham 3rd
22nd August	v	Steeple Morden
29th August	v	Cambourne 2nd
5th September	v	Barley 2nd

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The service is short term, usually for up to three weeks, and is available for anyone over the age of 18. The help is provided by police-checked and fully trained volunteers who carry an identification badge.

Perhaps you need help to find information? Our Community Navigators are a network of trained volunteers providing older people and those who care for older people with information about local activities and services they would enjoy or find useful. No question is too big or too small. It could be anything from finding leisure activities to where to get financial advice, or help to stay independent at home. Contact us and we will do our utmost to find an answer to your query.

Or maybe you are interested in setting up a group or scheme in your local area. Our Community Development team supports volunteers to set up groups, schemes or activities for older, isolated or vulnerable people in their local communities.

Could you be part of our volunteer team?

Our services are very busy, and we are always looking for volunteers! Our volunteering opportunities are flexible and can fit around your other commitments. You give as much or as little time as you would like and you can make a real difference to someone with just a few spare hours a month. Training and support are given and we pay any out of pocket expenses.

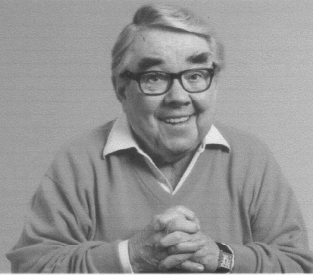
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