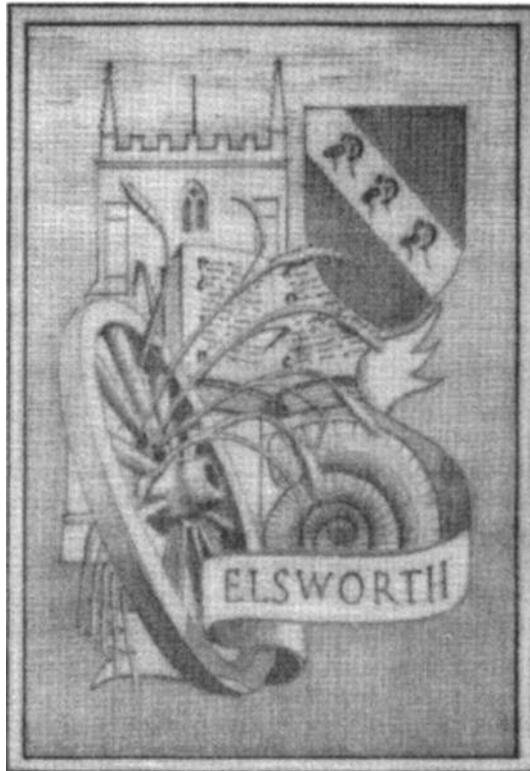


THE ELSWORTH CHRONICLE



Issue No. 4

May 1992

THE ELSWORTH CHRONICLE

The centre pages of this edition consist of a questionnaire which the Parish Council ask you to complete so that an informed view of the wishes of the villagers is known. Hopefully it will be found self-explanatory and straight forward but should there be queries do not hesitate to telephone the editor, Alan Farrow, on Elsworth 472 or any other member of the Council Liaison Committee.

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JIMMY GOODFIELD - AN OBITUARY

James Goodfield was born on February 22nd 1921 at Gamlingay where his father was a farm stockman. In 1934, when Jimmy was thirteen years of age, the family moved to a cottage on Pitt Dene Farm when his father became stockman for Mr. Fairbanks. Jimmy finished his schooling in the Church of England School in Brook Street, after which he also worked on the land at Pitt Dene Farm for four years.

At eighteen Jimmy was called-up for National Service and joined the Cambridgeshire Regiment. Following the outbreak of war he served in Scotland and later Singapore, where he was taken prisoner by the Japanese. He was to remain in their hands for four years, during which time he was forced to help build the notorious Burma railway which was to transport arms and ammunition for the Japanese troops. It was there that thousands of his fellow prisoners perished.

On his return home, Jimmy weighed barely six stones. He talked of having to conceal small amounts of rice grains in his shoes, when he had any to wear, to fend off starvation. He was often whipped for concealing food, the scars around his eyes resulting from this tortuous treatment remaining into later life. Jimmy witnessed the torture to death of many of his fellow inmates, and in later life he found it difficult to share his experiences, preferring to forget and forgive.

Following his war service, Jimmy and Vi married in 1946 and Jim returned to work on the land at Pitt Dene Farm for Mark Meeks, where he stayed for twenty five years before moving to work for Barnwell, an engineering company in Swavesey. Four years later he retired and became a gardener at the American Cemetery at Madingley.

Jimmy leaves a wife, Vi and a son, Derek, a singer and actor who has appeared in many London Theatres and on television. He is a sorely missed member of the Elsworth Community. Popular and well respected he would discreetly help others at any time, well reflected in the help he provided his close neighbour. In his young days he was active for Elsworth on the sports field, representing the village at cricket and football.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Vi, Derek and family.

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

I hope that everybody has noticed the arrangements for refuse collection at Bank Holiday times. Where there is a Monday Bank Holiday, collections are a day late throughout that week; thus our collection is made on the Tuesday after the Bank Holiday. Christmas and New Year will have special arrangements:- our Monday 21.12.92 collection will be made on Saturday 19.12.92

Please remember to have your bags out by 7.00am. and there will be NO collection on 28.12.92. Our next collection will be on Monday 4.1.93.

The long running public enquiry into three planning applications for an out-of-town shopping complex has just concluded and we await the inspector's report; will it be at Duxford, Four Went Ways at Great Abington, or Slate Hall at Bar Hill? The inspector has reported on his findings for the proposed new settlement within the A45 corridor and he found in favour the Great Common Farm, Bourn proposals. However, the Secretary of State could not accept this plan due to the excessive size of the business park; we await with interest the reaction of all the developers!

Much nearer to home, the planning application for four houses in Fardell's Lane was rejected on appeal, and approval for three has been given. Meadow Farm has at last submitted a plan for change of use to offices, which has been approved. The District Council has had a planning application approved for the extension of Hunting Grove at Boxworth.

As a passing interest, the District Council are involved with the City Council and the County Council in an attempt to find a suitable site for Cambridge United to relocate their stadium.

The Housing Committee has carried out a discussion on the possibility of transferring its council houses to a Housing Association, but after a very full debate the Committee was not convinced that such a course was appropriate just now.

Work is still continuing at Milton Country Park and an official opening is scheduled for May 1993.

The Council continues its commitment to the dual use of Village College facilities and has made a grant of £100,000 towards the cost of phase 1 of the scheme submitted by Swavesey Village College.

The Council has been made aware of the need for greater security at its offices in Hills Road. I hope that any visitors to the offices will appreciate this concern and not be too inconvenienced; you may not even notice it!!

K.C. Collett

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Why is it with so much open land surrounding Elsworth that owners continue to allow their dogs to foul the footpaths in the centre of the village? Surely it is not too much to expect owners to take their dogs for daily excretory excursions to non-residential areas. I am heartily sick of stepping in dog faeces expelled on the grass verge outside my house. My children step into it and bring the faeces into the house. Their shoes are often covered in dog excreta from walking down the footpath in Broad End on their way home from school. Why do dog owners continue to be insensitive to residents' wishes? If they cannot stop their dogs from passing motions on their way to open spaces they should consider the purchase of a doggy poop-scoop. I notice one responsible owner regularly scoops up his dogs' excretion with the use of such a scoop. If it is not difficult or embarrassing for him, why can't other owners follow this example?

Sue Warboys.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE AWARD

At about this time last year judges were scurrying from village to village in an endeavour to acclaim the best kept settlement. It was a mammoth task. Elsworth found favour; it does not seem to be known to all in the village that the outcome was that Elsworth was judged as the best kept village in South Cambridgeshire with a population below 1,000. It is noteworthy at this time as judging for 1992 is now underway.

Last year 65 villages were involved in the small villages section. The mechanism for judging was that the small villages were divided into nine groups - with six for the larger villages with populations over 1,000 - the winners of each group going into the second round. At this level, Elsworth again led its group and was to go on to defeat its nearest rival, Pampisford to win the South Cambridgeshire small villages' competition.

The current competition extends over the summer months, ending sometime in August. Last year Elsworth was judged on three separate occasions, each unheralded and unknown. Tidiness and attention given to appearance are particularly focused on with the advantages possessed by some villages in terms of beauty and historical appeal being disregarded. Clearly the absence of litter and the attention paid to the surrounds of houses and other buildings are very important.

Continued overleaf

BEST KEPT VILLAGE - CONTINUED

Winning the district section for small villages was a marked distinction. However we can go even higher. The Cambridge Evening News Trophy for the overall South Cambridgeshire winner was awarded to Melbourn [district winner of the large village competition] with Elsworth as runner-up. Even higher is the County Competition for the Fairhaven Trophy, won also last year by Melbourn. It is pleasing to know we are highly regarded; are we all now sufficiently encouraged to go to the summit? If so, that paper wrapping must not be allowed to escape down the lane!

A.W.F.



JOHN THURLEY, CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL, RECEIVING AN AWARD ON BEHALF OF THE VILLAGERS OF ELSWORTH

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE
BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION
THE ROAD TO THE TOP LAST YEAR

FIRST ROUND - POPULATION UNDER 1000

Group A	GROUP B	GROUP C
1st <u>Elsworth</u>	1st Longstowe	1st Barton
2nd Papworth Ev.	2nd Kingston	2nd Coton
3rd Croxton	3rd The Hatleys	3rd Lolworth
4th Graveley	4th Arrington	4th Dry Drayton
5th Knapwell	4th Shingay/Wendy	5th Conington
6th Boxworth	5th Croydon	6th Grantchester
7th Eltisley	7th Tadlow	7th Caldecote & Highfields
8th Caxton	8th Little Gransden	
GROUP D	GROUP E	GROUP F
1st Barrington	1st Abing/Piggots	1st Pampisford
2nd Madingley	2nd Guilden Morden	2nd Heydon
3rd G/Eversden	3rd Jnt. Orwell	3rd G/Lt Chishall
4th Harlton	Wimpole	4th Thriplow
5th Shepreth	5th Litlington	5th Ickleton
6th Toft	6th Whaddon	6th Hinxton
7th L.Eversdon		7th Newton
		8th L.Shelford
GROUP G	GROUP H	GROUP I
1st Hildersham	1st Horningsea	1st West Wrattling
2nd Bartlow	2nd Fen Drayton	2nd G.Wilbraham
3rd Lt/Abington	3rd Rampton	3rd Horseheath/ C.Green
4th C.Camps/ Camps End	4th Stow/c/Quy	4th Jnt. W.Colv./ W.Green
5th G.Abington	5th Lt.Wilbraham/ & 6 Mile Bottom	W.Wickham/ Streetly End
6th Shudy Camps	6th Fen Ditton	6th Carlton
7th Hauxton	7th Landbeach	
8th Babraham		

SECOND ROUND

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	FINAL SMALL VILLAGES
1st <u>Elsworth</u>	1st Pampisford	1st <u>ELSWORTH</u>
2nd Longstowe	2nd W.Wrattling	2nd Pampisford
3rd Barrington	3rd Hildersham	
4th Horningsea	4th Ab.Piggotts	
5th Barton		

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH



We are very lucky in Elsworth as we have a church building that is both structurally sound and well cared for. Many people give willing and cheerful help - with the flowers, the cleaning, the maintenance of the churchyard and war memorial and the redecoration of the inside of the church. The village has given generously to support the recent restoration work to the tower, to the clock and to the bells (almost finished!) and we are indebted to the organists, bell-ringers, sidesmen and sideswomen for their support for the services. We are very grateful indeed to everybody who gives time and effort to these activities and to the continual need to raise money both for running expenses and for restoration work.

It costs about £3,500 a year to run the church, including our "quota" or contribution to the diocese towards the cost of the clergy. Our £3,500 also includes donations to Christian Aid etc. which last year amounted to £350. In addition we need to raise funds for restoration work to the building and to its equipment.

This continual pressure on parishes to raise money for "internal" needs is an unfortunate fact of life at present - unfortunate because it saps energies from the Church's real purpose, which is to give practical and generous help to those worse off than ourselves and to make the Christian faith available to all.

Currently, we are aiming to raise sufficient funds to restore the organ. The organ in the church is a rare and excellent example of its type, and its music has given much pleasure to several generations of Elsworth inhabitants. Now, however, it is steadily deteriorating with age and must be re-built. To do this it will need to be moved away from the wall -probably down the north aisle away from the windows. We have to raise £8,000 to reach the estimated cost of £15,000 for this work, as we have £7,000 in hand at present and no grants are available for organs.

One of the ways we try to raise money is by putting occasional events that will be entertaining as well as provide some profit. The next fund-raising event of this type will be on Midsummer's Day, Sunday 21st June, Clive Baker, a professional trumpeter who lives in Brook Street, has kindly agreed to organise a concert by his brass quintet - "Occasional Brass" - to be held in the Church starting at 5.00pm. This will be followed by an optional buffet supper with wine at the Old Chapel on the Boxworth Road. The programme of music at the concert will be varied and the supper jovial and excellent value. All in all, it should be a most enjoyable evening! Tickets are £5 for the concert and £3 for the supper, and will be available from the Elsworth shops, members of the PCC or on the door.

R.J.

ELSWORTH SPORTS CLUB

Elsworth soccer XI ended the season in fine style with an 8 - 1 victory over Great Chishall in the Cambridgeshire League. Of the 24 games played in the season, eleven were won, three drawn and ten lost. Success depends, of course, on team effort and viewed in this context it is noteworthy that Neil Lucas scored twenty-two goals and Glen Anderson twenty.

The cricket season is now with us. Home fixtures, at which spectators are most welcome, will be found noted under "Diary Dates". The sports field setting is most attractive on a summer's day and the first XI in particular deserves support following last season's success.

Maurice Circus is the captain of the first XI for the coming year with Stephen Cooper as vice captain. The 2nd XI is captained by Billy Knibbs with Dennis Hall as his deputy. The evening XI skipper is Richard Hawes.

New blood is always welcome; contact should be made with Terry Stevens on Elsworth 392 or George Bosworth on Elsworth 533.

SCHOLARS AND TEACHERS III. 1887 -1901

"I to-day take charge of Elsworth National Schools, (signed) William R. Billing (2 class)." So wrote the new Headmaster in the School Log Book for 29 November 1887. William Billing was a Devon man of 34 years and had a Cornish wife, Elizabeth, and two young daughters, Edith (6) and Nellie (7). Mrs. Billing herself was a certified teacher (2 class), and six months later she was appointed to the post of Assistant Teacher and Sewing Mistress in the school. Edith, too, was bound for a teaching career, and when she was nine years old she became a Monitress, and, later a Pupil Teacher. A son, William, was born in 1888 and he went on to win a scholarship to one of the Cambridge Grammar Schools in 1901. There was no maternity leave in those days and two more girls arrived. Winnie in 1891 and Bessie two years later. Mrs. Billing then resigned her post to attend to her family. However, she was frequently called upon to take over classroom duties when teachers fell ill or left. They were a talented family and Mr. Billing was made church organist soon after he moved into Elsworth. He had a good voice and the family took part in village concerts and were in demand in neighbouring villages. In 1899 they were on the bill at the Conington school concert. Mr. Billing sang 'Death of Nelson'; young William performed a solo; while Winnie sang 'Go to bye, Mammy' and was encored. The account in the Cambridge Chronicle reads "One little vocalist, Miss Winnie Billing from Elsworth, aged eight, must not be passed over without special mention, her song being given in a very pleasing manner and in tones remarkably true for so young a performer"..

Such family achievements must have brought cheer to the Headmaster, who had a Herculean task in the school. The troubles which had beset the long line of teachers before him were to plague him too. Poor attendance due to illness or the weather; disobedience, indiscipline and insolence in the classroom; and a constant turnover of staff all contributed to the backwardness of the school. The Inspector's report for 1886-7 states "The new Master found the attainments in this school very low so its present condition must not be reckoned to his discredit. The reading is fluent, but writing and spelling are very bad. Arithmetic is almost a total failure and no class subjects are attempted."

SCHOLARS & TEACHERS - CONTINUED

It is small wonder that learning did not flourish. There was no encouragement from the parents and little support from the local farmers and landowners, many of whom were Dissenters, hostile to the system, and paid their school toll reluctantly. The Chairman of the School Committee, Mr. Richard Parsons, was a much respected and influential farmer in the village, yet he drew on child labour and had under-age children working for him in school time. (The minimum age for leaving school was fixed at 11 years.) A typical entry in the Log Book reads "Very thin attendance. Many children currant-picking for Mr. Parsons., 18 July 1887". Nor was the Rector, the Reverend Henry Hutchinson, able to give so much time to the school as his predecessors had done, for he was engaged in raising money for the great restoration of the Church. The scripture lessons for the 1st Division were taken by the lay reader, Mr. Rollings, whose wife was the Infant Teacher.

Mrs. Rollings (2nd class) was a good teacher from Luton, and under her the infants began to improve. She was ably supported by her Monitor, Harriet Nutt, aged 12, whose father was an engine driver (agricultural, not railway) and they lived in Spigot Lane. The other Monitor, for the Second Division, was Elizabeth Witherow, aged 13, daughter of the miller James Witherow. He lived up The Causeway and had a bakery next to the school playground. Also living up The Causeway (probably at the bakehouse) was Charles Pauley, a journeyman baker, and his family. There was no love lost between them and the Headmaster.

The trouble started when Mr. Pauley complained that his son, Frank, had been improperly punished. Frank alleged that his ears had been boxed, and his outraged parents wrote to the Chairman of the School Committee, Mr. Parsons. A special committee meeting was held and the Pauleys were invited to state their case. Mr. Billing declared that Frank's ears had not been boxed and Mr. Pauley acknowledged himself to be misinformed. He then took up the whole issue of corporal punishment and questioned Mr. Billing's right to impose it. The Rector agreed to write to Her Majesty's Inspector. The HMI replied that "the Schoolmaster was entitled to punish children in such ways as seem to him needful to maintain discipline up to the extent to which a parent is legally allowed to punish children". He added his own view that "schoolmasters do not punish children so severely as parents frequently do". He then dismissed the complaint as "frivolous" (10 May 1889).

A few years later a craze for stone-throwing broke out and Mrs. Pauley complained that two boys had been lobbing stones from the school yard into her yard. The malefactors were apprehended and caned. It was ironic justice for Mrs. Pauley.

Such confrontations were small compared with the sadness which must have swept through the village in January 1889. A serious throat infection (?diphtheria) broke out and several children died. The school was closed for a fortnight and the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector for the district came and ordered the school closets to be removed. Four days later they threatened to impose a compulsory order to close the school if their order was not complied with. Next day Mr. Hodson's men started work to remove the condemned closets, and happily no order to close the school was received from the Sanitary Authority (16 January - 8 February 1889). The infection abated, the school returned to normal, and it received a good report from the HMIs at their annual inspection in March.

School closures were frequent for national celebrations such as the Queen's Jubilee, when the village went en fete with sports, lunch, tea etc (21 June 1889) and the Duke of York's wedding day (6 July 1893). But no national event could have been more exciting than the reopening of Elsworth church on 14 April 1892 after the restoration of the building. The church had been closed since 2 August 1891, and Sunday services were held in the school during that time. The school's Easter holiday was extended to include the opening Tuesday, which was described in the Cambridge Chronicle as a gala day. The Bishop of Ely conducted the service, which was attended by neighbouring clergy and gentry, and it was reported that fully five hundred persons were estimated to have been present. A public tea took place in Mr. Witherow's barn after the service, and afterwards "all the children of the village were entertained free of cost. In the evening a service of song was held in the school-room, which was crowded to excess. The children and members of the choir, who gave the service under the conductorship of Mr. Billing, acquitted themselves remarkably well." One hundred years later we applaud them to the very echo.

Betty Evans,

The quotations are from the Elsworth School Log Books 1887-1901.



THE LOWER DIVISION OF ELSWORTH SCHOOL IN 1896

J. Throssell is 5th from the right in the 2nd row from back. The editor would be most interested to hear if any reader recognizes any other face.

ELSWORTH PLAYGROUP

Elsworth Playgroup meets every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.15am. to 12 noon in its own building situated in the grounds of Elsworth School. The playgroup currently has 15 children from 3 to 5 years, there being space at the present time for ten more-children. Penny Evans is the Playgroup Leader, assisted by Dennice Overall. The Playgroup is financed and run by a committee of parents which fund-raises approximately £1,200 per year. A Christmas Fayre raised £300 in December and it is intended to hold a Barn Dance at Brockley Farm in July (details to be advertised) and a Bar-B-Q /treasure hunt in the Spring. Support is always required as the running costs of the group and of the building are extremely high. Mothers contribute towards these costs and Penny's salary by paying for their children to attend. These fees are supplemented by committee fund-raising events.

The Playgroup Association is an important community service, enabling children to play constructively before entry to school. It also enables mothers to have a much needed break and brings them into contact with other parents. Please support playgroup events.

S.W.

ELSWORTH MOTHER & TODDLER GROUP

The Elsworth Mother & Toddler Group meets in the Playgroup building every Tuesday afternoon during term time, from 2.30 to 3.30pm. As many of the children who attend will progress to the Playgroup, the Mother & Toddler Group is an excellent way for small children to get used to being in a group of other children and to familiarise themselves with the playgroup building while their mothers are still around (somewhere!) in the background. It is also a meeting point for mothers of similarly aged children. The group has a wide range of indoor toys suitable for this age group (0-3 years) and in the better weather we use the playgroup's shed full of hoops, tricycles, scooters etc. outside. The Mother & Toddler Group is now run on a rota system for "opening-up" the sessions. This currently works out at approximately once every 5 to 6 weeks *for* each member. The cost is 65p. per session which includes tea/coffee/squash and biscuits. We are always delighted to welcome new members; for further information please contact Joanna Gilbert on Elsworth 378.

ELSWORTH & KNAPWELL W.I.

At our January meeting (Members Evening), Mrs. Betty Evans gave a thoroughly interesting talk with slides on the history of parts of Elsworth.

In February, our speaker was Mr. Vic Palmer on "How to look after your Heart".

This seemed appropriate considering the meeting was held on Valentine's Day!!

On March 11th, we held our Annual Meeting when the Committee with two new members and our President, Mrs. Lyn Hogan, were elected for a further year.

We had made matinee coats for the Rosie Maternity Hospital and their representative, Ann Castleton, came to the meeting to collect them.

Our speaker for our April meeting was Mrs. G. Styman who spoke on Graphology.

We all found this very interesting and informative.

If you wish to join our Institute please contact Lyn Hogan (Els.254), Maureen

Douglas (Els.513) or Betty Simcock (Els.470), who will be happy to give you

details. We meet at Elsworth School Hall on the second Wednesday of each month.

ELSWORTH N.W.R.

We are nearing the end of our current programme which has included a discussion on phobias, a Trivial Pursuit quiz evening, a visit to the Cambridge Arts Theatre and a very successful Italian theme evening. Also we had a very interesting talk on the work involved in being a Customs and Excise Officer.

We shall be planning the programme for the next six months at the end of April.

If anyone is interested in joining please come along to any of the meetings (a list will be displayed on the Parish notice board; see the Diary Dates) or ring Chris (Els.489) or Shirley (Els.583). New members are always welcome.

JUBILEE CLUB

The Jubilee Club holds its meetings in Elsworth School Mall on the 1st Thursday in the month during term time. In April we had Mrs. Starkey to give a very interesting talk on the history of dolls, illustrated by a display of dolls she had collected from different parts of the world. In May we are to have Mr Bob Adams, a singer to entertain us; on June 4th we are going on a mystery tour and on July 2nd Mr. Clark is to talk about Wandlebury. On July 21st there is a seaside outing to Hunstanton. Money raising events will be a stall at the mini-market on May 9th at 55 Boxworth Road and a coffee morning with "Bring & Buy" at Childerly Cottage in Duncock Lane on June 24th.

We are always pleased to welcome visitors and new members and everyone is very welcome to come with us on our outings.

Eileen Grange [Secretary]

ROBIN HUGHES-PARRY & ASSOCIATES

VETERINARY SURGEONS

34 HIGH STREET
LONGSTANTON
CRAFTS HILL (0954) 780027

66 HIGH STREET
COTTENHAM
COTTENHAM (0954) 52122



SURGERY HOURS (by appointment)

LONGSTANTON

Mon. - Sat. 8.30 - 10.30 a.m.
Mon. - Fri. 5.00 - 7.00 p.m.

COTTENHAM

Mon. - Fri. 9.00 - 10.30 a.m.
Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. 4.30 - 6.30 p.m.
Saturday 9.00 - 11.00 a.m.

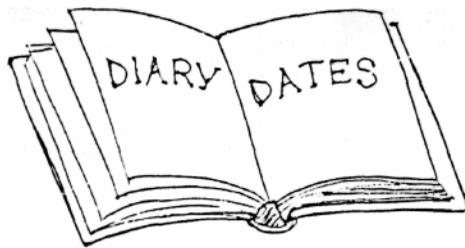


VISITS AND OTHER TIMES BY ARRANGEMENT

PETS - HORSES - FARM LIVESTOCK

24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE

Stockists of Iams and Eukanuba petfoods



MAY

7th Jubilee Club
9th Mini market

13th W.I.

18th N.W.R.
23rd Cricket
30th Cricket

Bob Adams Entertainment
55 Boxworth Road
Ffestiniog Railway
Talk by Mr. M. Gates
Discussion on Aides
1st XI v. Barrington
2nd XI v. Caposs

JUNE

4th Jubilee Club

9th N.W.R.

10th W.I.

13th Cricket

14th Elsworth Church

20th Cricket

21st Elsworth Church

24th Jubilee Club

27th Cricket

Mystery Tour Colour
Colour Analysis by an
Image Consultant
"Bombs to Buckets"
Talk by Mrs.D.Tack
1st XI v. Shepreth
Special evensong 6.30pm
Bishop of Huntingdon
2nd XI v. Melbourn II
Concert, Brass Quintet
with Clive Baker 5pm
"Bring & Buy" at
Childerley Cottage
1st XI v. Barley

JULY

2nd Jubilee Club

4th Cricket

4th Elsworth Church

8th W.I.

11th Cricket

18th Cricket

21st Cricket

25th Cricket

Mr.Clark -Talk about Wandlebury
1st XI v. Dullingham
Fete at Elsworth School
"Cambridge Names & Stories"
Talk - Mrs.Little
2nd XI v. Fordham IV
1st XI v. Sawston
Outing to Hunstanton
1st XI v. Little Shelford

AUGUST

1st Cricket

8th Cricket

15th cricket

29th Cricket

2nd XI v. Bar Hill II
1st XI v. Foxton
Foxton 2nd XI v. Yelling II
2nd XI v. Haddenham

The cricket fixtures are all home matches.