

# The Elsworth Chronicle



*Holy Trinity Church*

**Issue No. 23**

**June 2008**

# ***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)***

## **ELSWORTH BETWEEN THE WORLD WARS**

### **PART I**

Francis Allgood is a true Elsworthian. Although he now lives in Over his heart clearly remains in this village where he was born, and where for many years he was a church warden. To this day he remains a member of the Parochial Church Council and is a regular member of the congregation.

As a lad Francis lived at Causeway House [the present No 1] where he was born. His father was the village coal-merchant and from his teenage years Francis assisted with home deliveries. At the tender age of 13 years he was humping one hundredweight sacks after school and on Saturday mornings, and frequently cycling to St. Ives railway goods yard to assist in bagging the coal.

In Elsworth the coal-yard was where the garden of No. 1 The Causeway is today, where also were stables for the horses. At one time the family kept six horses to pull the coal wagons on delivery rounds. But the advent of the internal combustion engine was to ring change and Francis's father became the proud owner of the first petrol driven vehicle in Elsworth. A photograph of the lorry is shown overleaf.

Although the configuration of the village hasn't changed much since the 1930s – apart from in-filling – the way of life was more tranquil, as reflected in the street scene. Without motor cars it was characterised by horses and wagons and bicycles passing people on foot as they went about their daily business. There was no electric light in the village, the patchy street illumination being by means of paraffin lamps. In the vicinity of his home Francis can recall sitings near the sluice, near the small stone footbridge opposite the junction of The Causeway and Brook Street, and near the church gate where the framework can still be seen on the side of a cottage. The lamp lighter in those days was Tom Throssel the village blacksmith, who

also sold paraffin for lighting within the houses. Electricity did not come to the village until 1940.

Another noticeable difference in the village scene compared with to-day was the appearance of the village brook. Then it flowed continuously throughout the year providing an attractive village feature, not as now a weed-bed for considerable periods during the summer months. The stream also served a useful purpose, acting as a sheep dip immediately downstream of Fardell's Lane, while a little upstream the work-horses were allowed to paddle thereby refreshing and cleaning their hoofs.

While on the theme of water, Francis recalls that even in those not too distant days of the 1930s, water was drawn by householders by means of street pumps at strategic points in the village. As to mains sewage, this didn't come to the village until the 1970s.

A bygone age it would seem, but yet in the lifetime of many who are now absorbed in the rush and bustle of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The way of life in the village will be taken further in the next edition of the Elsworth Chronicle.



**Francis on the bonnet of Elsworth's first motor vehicle**

# ELSWORTH SCHOOL

## School Council

Elsworth Primary School Council ranges from ages 5 – 11. We have two pupils from each class. The representatives from Diamond Class (Year 5/6) decide who will be secretary and who will be chair person. The secretary takes minutes and the chair runs the meetings. Our Head-teacher, Mrs. Thornton, is also at the meetings and she helps us to make decisions. The council meets every other Friday to discuss issues about the school. Recently, a group of Year 6 girls, including me, raised money for the school council by doing a book sale. School council made the decision that we should use the money to have an Easter Egg hunt at school. Every one had lots of fun and ate a lot of chocolate!

Our latest issue to discuss will hopefully make a difference to our cloakrooms. We made a check list so that our cloak room judges can see which cloakroom is the tidiest. We are also hoping to organise another event to raise money. We hope to share the money raised between the school and a charity.

School Council are very busy and we are never short of something to talk about.

Alice French  
Year 6



# Madingley Pre-Preparatory School

Madingley, Cambridge. CB23 8AH



- happy, safe environment;
- excellent adult/pupil ratio;
- broad & balanced curriculum
- highly qualified staff;
- French & Music specialists;
- excellent Ofsted reports;
- after school activities;
- beautiful rural location;
- easy access from wide area;
- early registration advised.

[www.madingleyschool.co.uk](http://www.madingleyschool.co.uk)



01954 210309 for an appointment to visit.

**EVERY DAY IS AN OPEN DAY**

## Village Vet

The vet your pet would choose



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



### Longstanton

34 High Street, Longstanton CB24 5BS  
01954 780027

### Cottenham

66 High Street, Cottenham CB24 8SA  
01954 252122

24 Hour Emergency 0845 500 4 247

[www.villagevet.co.uk](http://www.villagevet.co.uk)

## **A VIEW FROM THE BACKBENCH ELSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL**

At a recent meeting of the parish council I was reminded of the words of Humpty Dumpty in “Through the Looking Glass”, in particular his assertion “words mean what I want them to mean, nothing more and nothing less”. Was he guiding the parish council with a variation “When I read a regulation, it means only what I now intend it to mean, nothing more, nothing less”? This came to mind when directives were enforced on one occasion, and deliberately ignored at another time when to do so would be inconvenient.

The matter in question arose from regulations drawn up stipulating 12 stringent demands that had to be met by any applicant seeking financial support for a parish publication. Default in any one demand would render the application void and would not be considered by the parish council. These regulations were applied to the Elsworth Chronicle but deliberately disregarded with respect to the Elsworth Times. Without seeking the required debate in Council, unauthorised clerical/administrative work was undertaken leading to a financial agreement without the stipulated requirements being met. The 12 demands were ridiculously intrusive and unacceptable and the chosen way forward seems to have been to ignore them and pretend they did not exist in order that a financial agreement with the Elsworth Times could be reached. It would seem Mr. Ostrich has stepped forward, with a barrel of sand, as an additional advisor!

The above is not to be taken as but sour grapes. Of concern is that the admin arm cannot legitimately pick and choose whether or not to abide with its relevant regulations. To do so makes a complete mockery of this tier of local government. For councillors to give time to debating issues, reaching conclusions only to have them disregarded if found inconvenient is nonsensical. It makes deliberations meaningless and meetings might just as well not be held and much money thereby saved. Paradoxically the writer was the only one on the Parish Council not to support the terms of reference, now blatantly ignored, when they were

proposed. The council accepted them and is so committed until amended. Without binding rules and regulations the parish council would be as disorderly as a pack of dogs with a carcass, with no one even to control the debate, as this depends on rules being observed.

**What can be done?** If resolutions of the Parish Council are to be disregarded, there would seem no place on it for me or anyone. The question cannot be ignored. On this particular issue the matter was raised on more than one occasion and has been passed over with no statement of regret or measures or words to guard against repetition. Apart from official complaint, which would seem unseemly, public accountability would seem the only way forward – hence these words. It is not, perhaps, the way to win friends or walk the road of popularity, but such considerations are less important than that the Parish Council should act in accordance with its constitution. The Government knows well the role the press can play in moderating its behaviour. Similarly accountability, albeit on a smaller scale, might well do the same in a small parish.

The view from the back bench is not confined to disappointment and hopefully words of praise will also be forthcoming in this column. In this respect a visitor would I am sure be impressed with the care and attention given by councillors to planning applications.

To end as at the beginning, Humpty Dumpty had a great fall, the nursery rhyme tells us. It must not happen to the Parish Council, as it could if the laws and regulations which govern it are disregarded.

AWF





# EARTH ELECTRICAL SERVICES POWERING YOUR WORLD...

Earth Electrical Services are an independent electrical contractor.

Based in Cambridge and serving the Eastern Counties and London, we provide a range of quality services to our customers, including:

- Domestic, commercial and industrial wiring
- Re-wires
- New installations
- Additional sockets & lights
- Consumer unit replacement
- Certified inspecting and testing

All our work is certified to BS7671 and is fully guaranteed for your peace of mind. All part P work is covered by a 6 year warranty administered through NICEIC.

We provide a prompt, friendly and efficient service.

Please call Paul for a free quotation.

Tel. 01954 202867 (After 5pm)

Mob. 07900 957026

[www.earthelectrical.co.uk](http://www.earthelectrical.co.uk)



## ELSWORTH SPORTS CLUB

The three sections of the club have all enjoyed reasonable seasons in their respective divisions.

The football team, under the management of Mark Brading, recently completed their fixtures in Division 2A of the Cambs League and finished fourth. After promotions in recent seasons and an excellent start to the last campaign this should be regarded as a good performance.

Hopefully, most of the players will be available for next season and be joined by a number of new players as **a reserve team will be formed** and also entered into the Cambs League. It is hoped that this team will consist mainly of local young players and will act as a feeder for the future first XI. The reserve team will be managed jointly by Julie Lewis and Steve Marsh, to whom any enquiries should be made.

The table tennis teams have also completed their season – for them in the Ely and District League. The first team finished seventh in Division I and the second team finished top of Division 2 and therefore will be promoted to the first division for next season. This was an excellent performance by the team under the captaincy of Bill Knibbs. The third team finished seventh in Division 2. This team consists almost entirely of juniors and continues to show gradual improvement in its second full season of competitive play.

The cricket season started at the beginning of May and following a re-organisation of the division in the Cambs Junior league, Elsworth's two teams find themselves in Divisions 2B and 4B. Home fixtures are noted in "Dates for your Diary".

Readers might be interested in monthly whist drives which are held in the sports pavilion on Friday evenings throughout the year, and carpet bowls at 3pm on Tuesday afternoons.

Roger Fensom

# **MADINGLEY MULCH**

**YOUR GARDENS FAVOURITE PEOPLE**

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

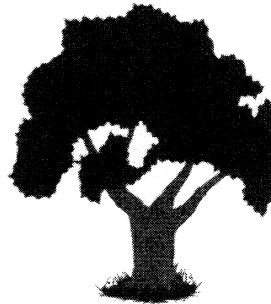
**ALL DELIVERED IN OUR BIG 1 METRE  
BAGS TO YOUR DOOR.**

***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***





## ZENA CHAPMAN – A LINE OF MUSIC

Tributes to Zena, who died a little before Christmas, have been warm and extensive. It was hard to believe she was Elsworth's oldest resident at 93 years of age, for until her fall when walking her dog she was so active and alert. Her ever present warm smile and enjoyment of life gladdened the spirits of all who met her.

It might not be known to all that Zena was the matriarch [but in the gentlest terms!] of a musical dynasty. Of her children, John was a professional pianist and clarinettist; daughter Janet violinist; daughter Sue, clarinettist, pianist, and singer; son Alan, guitarist and clarinettist; son David a guitarist. Of the next generation, Sarah is a professional clarinettist and saxophonist; Jane a professional harpsichordist; Susan a music teacher. And it seems the great-great grandchildren are in line to maintain the family musical tradition.

Grand-daughter Sarah was in Elsworth Church on the 16<sup>th</sup> May as the clarinettist in a concert given by the Kokopellis Wind Quartet. The music, which was in honour of Zena, was delightful. A fine tribute to a wonderful lady.

# 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](http://www.georgeanddragon-elsworth.co.uk)**

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

## ELSWORTH, KNAPWELL AND CONINGTON W.I.

We are a very friendly group of ladies meeting at 7,30 p.m. in Elsworth School Hall on the second Wednesday of the month.

Meetings start with a few items of business, previous events might be reviewed and there is news of future events locally and within the Cambridgeshire Federation, which is very active in organising activities – e.g. outings, day schools, evening entertainments etc. A talk by a visiting speaker or demonstration follows, after which there is tea and time to chat.

Details of meetings are displayed in the post office and on the parish council notice board – you are invited to hear about Sue Ryder in July or maybe you would like to try glass blowing in November!

Even if you just want to come along and join us one evening, you will be most welcome. For more information please contact Isobel Farrow [tel.267472].

Isobel Farrow

### Replacing your roofline?

#### STOP! Read this...

Before you replace your fascias, soffits, guttering or cladding, make sure you have considered the following:

- 20 year insurance-backed guarantee
- Complete removal of timbers with no capping over
- Total peace of mind from choosing The Roofline Specialist
- Courteous & polite employees who do a clean and tidy job
  - Do it once, do it right



For your FREE 21-point Home Health Check, call today.

**01638 507730**



**WHITEHALL PLASTICS**.CO.UK  
The Roofline Specialist



Chris Whitehall, MD, Whitehall Plastics.



[www.whitehallplastics.co.uk](http://www.whitehallplastics.co.uk)

### Finally, a guaranteed solution for your flat roof problems, proven to last over 40 years!

Does your roof suffer from any of these signs?

- Moss growth • Cracks or bumps • Leaks • Or is it more than 7 years old?

**Stop!** Replace it now, replace it permanently and prevent misery from a leaking roof.



Unlike felt, Rubberbond EPDM will not split, leak or crack and it's tough enough to walk on!

For your FREE 21-point Home Health Check, call today.

**01638 507730**



**WHITEHALL PLASTICS**.CO.UK  
The Roofline Specialist



Chris Whitehall, MD, Whitehall Plastics.



[www.whitehallplastics.co.uk](http://www.whitehallplastics.co.uk)

## ELSWORTH FUN DAY

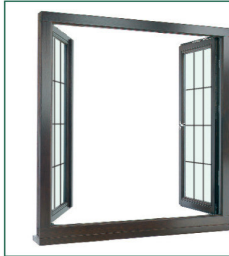
In Elsworth there is a fine tradition of villagers meeting together to have fun. In the past one of the highlights of the summer was the Elsworth Feast, when celebrations of many kinds went on for a week from Trinity Sunday. Later there were village celebrations to mark two Royal Jubilees, and the passing of the old millennium and advent of the new, well supported celebrations continued over a week.

Billy Knibbs and the Sports Club are to be congratulated in keeping the tradition alive. On the 11<sup>th</sup> May visitors and villagers were able to enjoy a fun day for all the family on the sports field on a warm and sunny day. It was an occasion also for an outing for vintage tractors and cars. The line of the former was most impressive, with fine paint-work and brasses gleaming in the sun. Just over £400 was raised for club funds.

---

## HOMESPACE

*by* ADMIRAL



**LOFT CONVERSIONS • WINDOWS • CONSERVATORIES**

**ERMINE STREET**

**Alconbury • Huntingdon • Cambs • PE28 4EW**

**01480 456789**

# Heating oil?

*Are you paying too much?*

Ring me before you buy  
Deliveries direct to you  
by national / local suppliers

Jeremy Cole (01954) 719452

# agricole

You'll warm to the savings





**Tel: 07999 888779**  
**01954 261050**

**G.Coe groundwork & general building**

**All building work undertaken.**  
**Specializing in:**

**Paving for your driveways and patios**  
**Conservatory bases**  
**Roof and guttering repairs and maintenance**

**Give your local builder a call to discuss your ideas and for a  
no obligation quotation**



## **Painting & Decorating**

**and associated maintenance**

**phone 01954 (Caxton) 719480**

**Mobile 07719 520 901**

**Email nodiyit@aol.com**

**Established over 45 years.**

# REED

**Restoration Roofing & Leadwork Specialists**  
**NICK ALDER**

- Slating, Tiling & Re-Roofing
- Chimney Re-Point Re-Build
- Bespoke Leadwork Fabrication
- Insurance Work
- Restoration Leadwork
- Built-up Flat Roofing
- Approved Potton Homes Contractor
- Repairs

Free Advice / Surveys / Estimates

01480 810536

07789 376968

17 Littleworth End, Offord, Darcy, Cambs, PE19 5RA

[www.reedroofingandleadwork.co.uk](http://www.reedroofingandleadwork.co.uk)

---

## *Ideal Landscapes*

*Dedicated to Quality*

*3 Year Guarantee on  
all Hard Landscaping*

**PONDS & WATERFEATURES**  
**TREE AND SHRUB WORK**  
**DECKING & PERGOLAS**  
**SHED CONSTRUCTION**  
**PAVING & DRIVEWAYS**  
**ALL FENCING & TRELLIS**  
**TURFING & SEEDING**  
**BLOCK PAVING**  
**RESTORATIONS**  
**MAINTENANCE**  
**PLANTING**  
**DESIGNS**



**CAMBRIDGE**

**01223 892342**

[www.ideal-landscapes.com](http://www.ideal-landscapes.com)



## **JUBILEE CLUB**

We meet on the first Thursday of most months in Elsworth School Hall from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. We have a speaker or entertainment, afternoon tea and raffle. We will be welcoming on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July Christopher South and his wife, Janet, who will share their travel tales with us and adding donations to their personal Tsunami Aid Fund to people still suffering in Sri Lanka

An interesting subject “The Art of Scrimshaw” is scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> September and “Canals and Canalling” is the subject for November 6<sup>th</sup>.

At present we are looking forward to a trip to Lincoln on the 29<sup>th</sup> May. Another trip this year is to Aldeburgh, Suffolk on the 24<sup>th</sup> July. Then on 5<sup>th</sup> June there will be a coffee morning at Jean Thomas’s house at Orchard Close.

For more information please contact Betty Simcock – telephone 01954-267470. We will be only too pleased to welcome you whenever you have time to join us.

Betty Simcock

---

### **ELSWORTH CHRONICLE**

**Editor:** Alan Farrow. The Old Rectory, Elsworth,  
Cambridge CB3 8JQ Tel: 01954 267472

**Material for inclusion will be most welcome.**

Potential advertisers please contact the above.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **June**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Club - Coffee Morning at Orchard Close  
7<sup>th</sup> Cricket - Elsworth II v. Cherry Hinton II  
11<sup>th</sup> W.I. - Speaker Bev Briggs “My job as a personal stylist”  
14<sup>th</sup> Cricket - Elsworth II v. Cambs NCI IV  
14<sup>th</sup> Church - Barn Dance with hog roast at St. Peter’s Church,  
Boxworth, 8pm until midnight  
17<sup>th</sup> Church - Jazz for a summer’s evening with Caxton Swing  
7.00 — 9.00pm at Southsea House, Kingston  
21<sup>st</sup> Cricket - Elsworth II v. Hardwick & Caldecote II  
28<sup>th</sup> Cricket - Elsworth II v. Milton III

### **July**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jubilee Club – Travel Tales with Christopher and Janet South  
5<sup>th</sup> Cricket - Elsworth I v. Fen Ditton  
9<sup>th</sup> W.I. - Speaker Anna Crofts “Sue Ryder Care”  
12<sup>th</sup> Cricket - Elsworth II v. Newton  
19<sup>th</sup> Cricket - Elsworth II v. Cambs Granta V  
24<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Club - Day excursion to Aldeburgh  
26<sup>th</sup> Cricket - Elsworth I v. Cambs Granta I

### **August**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Cricket - Elsworth II v. Histon IV  
16<sup>th</sup> Cricket - Elsworth I v. St.Giles II  
23<sup>rd</sup> Cricket - Elsworth I v. Camden III  
30<sup>th</sup> Cricket - Elsworth I v. Milton II

### **September**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Club - The Art of Scrimshaw  
10<sup>th</sup> W.I. - Speaker Paul Bass “Trading Standards”

\*Only home cricket fixtures have been noted.