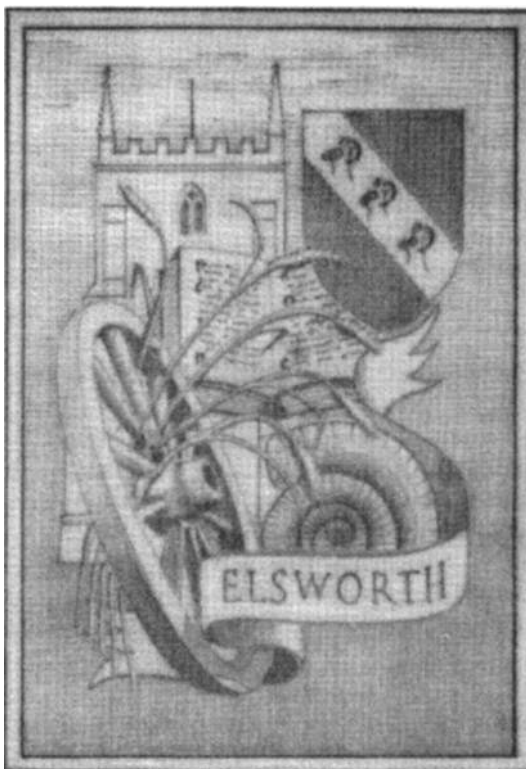


The Elsworth Chronicle



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Cambridge Dial A Ride **The Return**



Starring

**An alternative weekly
Door to Door service on Wednesday
to Bar Hill or Cambridge City**

The new service operates on a weekly basis on Wednesdays, and runs alternately each week to either the Bar Hill Shopping Centre or Cambridge City from Elsworth on request. Journeys allow enough time for passengers to enjoy the facilities at each of these destinations and benefit from shopper assistance at the TESCO Store in Bar Hill. Links with Cambridge Shopmobility are also available at both the Lion Yard and Grafton Centres.

For more details call
01223 506335



Jennie Ashard, Deputy Head at Elsworth School, retired at Easter after 22 years at the school. A special assembly was held and each class produced a book for her filled with pictures and stories about the time they spent in her class.

Picture by courtesy of the Cambridge Evening News.

Grange Farm, Knapwell

The RSPB has recently purchased Grange Farm in order to develop the trial farming techniques that can produce food cost effectively and benefit wildlife.

Introduction

There are far fewer skylarks, song thrushes, yellow hammers and tree sparrows - once common countryside birds - now than 30 years ago because of changes in farming. Specialisation and intensification in crop and livestock farming add up to bad news for wildlife. Wildlife is so much affected by modern farming that addressing the declines in birds in the countryside has become one of the RSPB's highest priorities. The Grange Farm project was established with the objective of purchasing and running an arable farm to "trial, demonstrate and advocate new farmland management techniques that favour farmland birds".

Monitoring Wildlife

All aspects of wildlife are being considered at Grange Farm and a series of audit visits are being made by a number of specialists to learn what other wildlife is present on the farm, what management should be undertaken for it and what long term monitoring programme should be put in place. Monitoring is currently concentrated on birds, the plants of the arable fields and their margins and the insect life of the same area. Additional monitoring will take place in relation to specific cropping trials.

Solutions for skylarks?

It is hoped that two of the autumn-sown wheat fields will prove more attractive to nesting skylarks than other cropped fields. One has small patches left unsown, and the other has wider spaces between the rows of wheat. It is aimed to develop a technique that commercial farmers can adopt to increase the value of autumn-sown wheat fields as skylark nest sites. RSPB research has identified a noticeable difference in skylarks' nesting activity in spring-sown wheat compared with autumn-sown wheat. Skylarks in a spring-sown crop have a longer nesting period and can raise two or three broods. In an autumn-sown cereal, most stop nesting in late May, raising only one brood. This is believed to be due to the difference in density and height of the crop as an autumn-sown crop has six more months to grow compared to a spring sown crop. Providing more openings in the crop, either by leaving small areas or widening the rows, could be just the way to provide nest sites for skylarks without reducing profits.

The fields have been drilled with wheat and the crop has now emerged. It will not be until next summer that we will know if this is a viable way to increase the population of skylarks on arable farms.

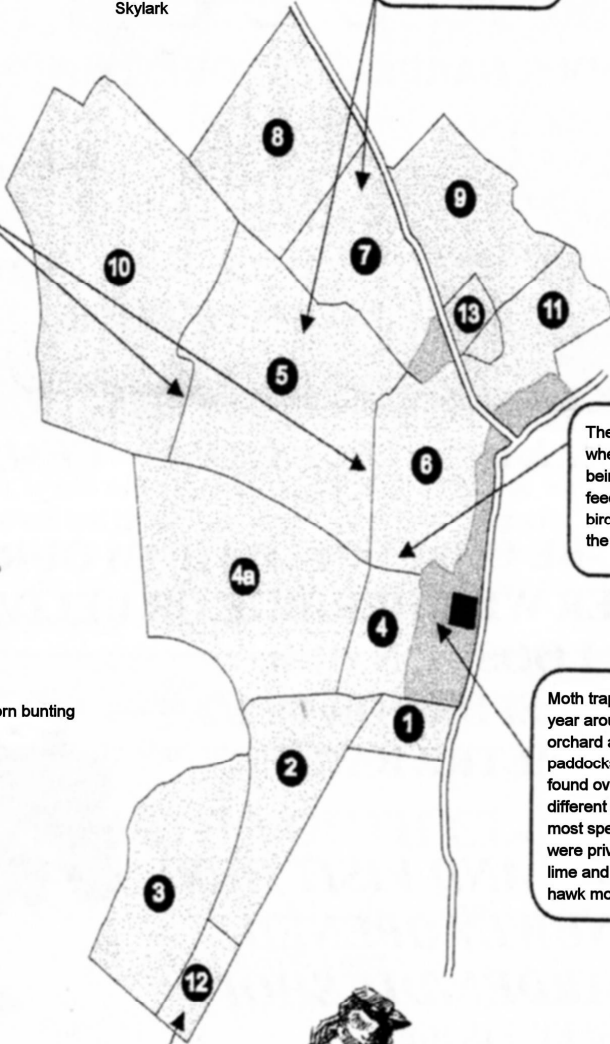
Roger Buisson



Skylark

These fields have been sown with wheat in a way that we hope skylarks will find attractive as nest sites

A strip within the crop along the edge of these fields is receiving progressively reduced herbicide applications to assess which weeds it will encourage.



The strip of wheat stubble is being used as a feeding site for birds throughout the winter.

Moth trapping this year around the orchard and paddocks has so far found over 250 different types. The most spectacular were privet, poplar lime and elephant hawk moths.



Corn bunting

This field has been sown with spring wheat, mustard and kale. It has been set-aside and the crop will not be harvested. It should provide rich pickings for the birds this winter



House sparrow

Joe Braybrook



Joe Braybrook, a foundation committee member of the inaugural Elsworth Show some 44 years ago, is still winning cups. At the 2001 Show, Joe was awarded the Bullen Cup for flowers and gained first awards in several categories of vegetables. Joe recalls that the Show was initiated at a parochial church meeting at the time of Rev. Brian Dupre; later the parish council was involved before the district show committee was established in its own right.

There will be a meeting for anyone interested in helping
to start up and/or run an

ELSWORTH YOUTH CLUB

On Thursday 6th December - 8pm
At 5 Church Lane
Elsworth

For further details contact Richard Wakelin (Tel: 267326)

* This is in addition to the proposal to run a minibus to the
Swavesy Youth Club

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

JOHN THURLEY



After over 47 years of service on the parish council, John Thurley resigned in March. A tribute to John was paid in issue No. 6 of this magazine when he stepped down from being chairman. John's association with the council is not only markedly meritorious in terms of length, but is also particularly noteworthy in that during those 47 years he only missed 3 meetings out of a total of 324. Few have approached such a record of reliable service. As noted previously John's contributions weren't limited to council debates; he was always a very practical man, often to be seen painting seats, gates and fences and making repairs where necessary. On larger matters he would liaise with the District and County Council Officers with whom he established a good relationship. He has served the village well.

TRAFFIC CALMING

Applications made last year through County minor works funding were unsuccessful. In an effort to reduce speeding in the village it was requested that (a) entry to the village should be narrowed on Boxworth Road and on Brockley Road by the present 30 mph signs, with preference given to outgoing traffic; (b) a mini roundabout should be emplaced at the crossroads where Boxworth Road-Smith Street and Paddock Row-Brook Street meet.

It was anticipated that slowing traffic at the entrances, in itself of value, would need to be reinforced in the centre, otherwise traffic would soon speed up and a roundabout at the crossroads noted above could provide for this. In addition this crossroads site is considered a potential serious accident spot as the configuration of bends plus car parking in Smith Street makes turning right into the main road extremely hazardous both from Paddock Row and Brook Street.

Fortunately Elsworth has not experienced many accidents and therefore is not a priority area in terms of County funding. However, as it would seem foolish to disregard safeguards until a tragedy occurs, the parish Council requested that 'stop' lines be painted on the four entrances at the central crossroads if a mini roundabout was not considered appropriate, thereby slowing traffic on the main road and reducing the likelihood of accidents at very little cost. This also has been rejected by County officers, and an appeal is to be made. The decision of the County is disturbing and would seem undiscerning. Only the other week a vehicle from Brook Street was struck by one from Smith Street. Fortunately no one was injured and consequently the accident will not be recorded in police or County statistics, but it could have resulted in loss of life.

A14 PROPOSALS

Readers will no doubt be familiar with the four routes presented by consultants for consideration by us all. It would seem the prime consideration in this area must be to separate the mass of national/international traffic using the present A14 from the considerable Cambridge element. The present road network would probably be adequate for one or the other, but not both combined. If planners were working from scratch and had the knowledge and experience we now have it would be nonsensical to direct the national/international traffic southwards from the Newmarket area only to turn northwards towards Huntingdon. Far better for the national/international route to run east-west with a loop serving Cambridge, thus separating the two elements. The northern option although turning south-westwards west of Newmarket - as do the other three - at least when turning north to the east of Cambridge by-passes the City, allowing for the separation of local and international traffic. This was the preferred option of the parish council.

A more detailed form of our submission to the consultants and the County is obtainable from the Chairman (Alan Farrow) and the consultant's study is available for viewing at Liz Sim's house. Attention was drawn to perceived weaknesses in enlarging the present A14 route [ten lanes in a section east of Boxworth if parallel local roads are taken into account] before cutting a new course west of Conington, and strong reasoned opposition was put with regard to the southern option along the A428 and northwards parallel to the A1 198.

RURAL BUS LINK

Further to a note in the last edition of the Elsworth Chronicle, it didn't prove possible for the County to meet the anticipated mid-summer date and the rural bus service is now promised for the New Year. The project will be funded for a three year trial period - please make use of the service or it will be lost. You may recall we identified our need for improved public transport facilities and suggested a minibus link with Bar Hill, thus linking Elsworth with bus services to Cambridge and, to a lesser extent, Huntingdon and St Ives. It would also enable those without access to cars conveniently to shop at Tesco. Discussions with the County have proved fruitful and we are most grateful.

Details of the provisional time-table have been circulated to all homes and comments passed on to Shire Hall.

RE-CYCLING BANKS

Parishioners are asked not to use the area by the banks as a rubbish dump. Appropriate articles should be inserted into the banks - nothing left on the ground. Please remember this is private land and the privilege of using it should be not abused. Should a required bank be full on an exceptional occasion, please take items home.

POSSIBLE YOUTH CLUB MINI-BUS

Some time back consideration was given to the possibility of establishing a youth club in the village. After consultations the scheme was deemed not viable, with membership of the Swavesey V.C. club offering a better prospect.

In order to reduce the considerable demands on parents to act as ever available chauffeurs for young people, the parish council has been pursuing the feasibility of a mini-bus being used for the purpose at very little cost to parents. In essence, if there is the demand, a 12 seater vehicle would be available for £24 an evening, with the cost per person being £2 no matter if on one week only 5 young people wished to travel. This is possible as the County Council is prepared to meet the cost of empty seats in order to facilitate the scheme, for it is appreciated that parents would need to know the cost of the journey before utilising the service. We are most grateful to the County Council for its generous support.

For the scheme to come into being we need to know if there is interest in the village. Please, therefore, without delay forward the enclosed slip to Liz Sim at 6 Brockley Road or Alan Farrow at the Old Rectory. If more convenient, telephone 267472. We can only go ahead with the scheme if it has the backing of young people and their parents.

Since the above was initiated a request has been made that the minibus should be used for taking people to the skateboard facilities at Bar Hill. If there is such an interest in your family, please make a note on the minibus form.

CHILDREN'S PLAY AND RECREATION AREA

The monkey bars have been dismantled as they are now considered unsafe and the basketball post is to be re-sited.

USE OF ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES

A drugs awareness evening was organised in August following the discovery of discarded solvents in the vicinity of the school. Regrettably not many parents attended although all households had been notified. Even so, those present must have gained from the session, which was led by two members of the N.H.S Drug Information and Treatment Service. Parents expressed realisation of their own ignorance on the subject. As a follow-up, therefore, a quiz paper (with answers) has been received. Anyone who would like a copy is invited to contact Maureen Stevens (257318) or Alan Farrow (267472).

Readers should not be alarmed by a recent reference in the Cambridge Evening News to drugs at Elsworth. This was relating back to the one occurrence of which parishioners were notified. We have been asked to point out the items discovered were not found in the school grounds but in play equipment stolen from the school.

VILLAGE MAINTENANCE MAN

We are pleased to welcome Neil Kenny as the Village Maintenance Man in succession of Roger Fisher, to whom we offer our thanks for the work he undertook on behalf of us all. Neil has already made his presence felt in a very favourable manner.

BROOK STREET BRIDGES

Since the last magazine another bridge in Bridge Street - near No. 26 - has been replaced and the remnants of one near No. 34 removed.

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

The B.T. Calor Gas sponsored Village of the Year competition has taken a different form as from this year. Initial emphasis is now on the provision villages offer to residents - to quote from organisers' publicity "The judges will be looking for well balanced, pro-active, caring village communities, which, irrespective of size, have made the best of local opportunities to maintain and enhance the quality of life for all the inhabitants." In particular enquiries were made into care of the environment, involvement of local businesses, facilities for and activities of young people, community life, forward planning. Elsworth apparently scored well and was selected as one of the last eleven to go forward to Abbot's Ripton where we were commended particularly for the provision made for the elderly and have been awarded the category prize in this section of £100. Our grateful thanks to all involved with the Jubilee Club, the surgery car link, the distribution of medicines and the Day Centre. Although this is not the place to list individuals, it would seem appropriate to publicly thank Terry Stevens who does so much in this regard.

DELIVERY OF GROCERIES

The village store at Papworth is prepared to deliver to homes in Elsworth. Those interested should either contact the shop (01480 830 677) or Alan Farrow on 267472 for details. A delivery charge is not made.

HANGING BASKET COMPETITION

The parish council has inaugurated a prize for the most attractive hanging basket display in the village. Recently there has been an increase in the number of baskets on show in the village and competition was quite keen. Congratulations to Ena and Fred Mobbs of 49 Boxworth Road, the 2001 winners, for their most attractive baskets.

JUBILEE CLUB

The Jubilee Club is open to adults in the villages of Elsworth, Boxworth, Conington and Knapwell. We meet on the first Thursday of every month at 2.30 pm in the school hall.

This year we have had enjoyable trips to Sandringham House and gardens and to Southwold. Interesting speakers included Mr Jeremy Pemberton, Mr Bentinck on "The Womens' Land Army" and Mr Wrate with tales of "Maria in the Red Barn". Forthcoming events may be seen under 'Dates for your Diary'.

For further information contact Betty Simcock 01945 267 370.

ELSWORTH, KNAPWELL AND CONINGTON W.I.

We are a friendly group of ladies who meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the hall of Elsworth school.

Over the last few months we have had various speakers including An Antiques Roadshow, Skin care and make-up demonstration and a talk on Jack the Ripper.

Our summer activities consisted of a Fish and Chip supper at Boxworth, a visit to Hemingford Grey Manor as well as providing the refreshments at the Elsworth Show.

Forthcoming attractions include speakers about the work of The Blue Cross, a demonstration of glass blowing and a slideshow entitled "By Strath and Glen" and an outing to see SIMADS production of "Calamity Jane".

We finish the year with a splendid Christmas party.

New members are always made very welcome or do come along as a visitor to see what we get up to!

The next meeting is on the 14th November.

Lyn Fisher



Elsworth NWR is part of the National Women's Register. We are a small group of women who like to meet informally in each other's houses on a regular basis. For meetings we usually discuss a topic of interest or invite an outside speaker to talk to us. In addition to these meetings

we have outings to the theatre and cinema, and go out to restaurants for a meal. If you think you'd like to join, come along to a meeting to find out what it's all about.

For more information and details of meetings, ring Caroline (267359) or Louise (267347), or e-mail us, c.k.coles@talk21.com or louise.maddison@virgin.net

ELSWORTH SPORTS CLUB

No one can fail to have noticed that construction of the NEW PAVILION is now underway at long last. It has taken the Sports Club over 4 years to obtain the funding to get the project off the ground, but I'm sure that every one who has been involved now feels it was well worth the hard work and effort as we watch it rising like the mythical phoenix from the ashes of the old pavilion. Completion date is early in November.

Unfortunately we were not successful in obtaining a second grant from WREN towards the project so fund raising will need to continue.

The Sports Club hope that individuals and groups will make full use of the facility once the work is completed. Using the pavilion as a community facility will help to make the building more financially viable and provide a pleasant and comfortable venue for events.

The Sports Club hope that new members might come forward to join the existing table tennis team and we also envisage starting an indoor bowls club in the near future. If you are interested in either of these, or football and cricket, please get in touch with a sports club committee member. New members will be very welcome.

Looking further ahead, we feel it may be possible to look at providing a tennis court in one corner of the sports field.

We will continue to deliver news letters around the village from time to time to keep everyone informed of our progress.

Also if anyone wishes to join the fund raising committee, we would be very please to have you on board. New people bring new ideas.


If anyone has any questions concerning the Sports Club or the new pavilion, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the committee who will be very happy to help in any way.

Maureen Stevens
Secretary

DON'T BOTHER CAMPAIGN

As part of the Governments commitment to reduce vehicle crime by 30% over five years, Cambridgeshire Constabulary have commenced a vehicle crime campaign called "Don't Bother". The campaign aims to remind owners of vehicles to remove all valuables from view. This is achieved by the distribution of small information cards that measure 3.5"x7". Samples of these cards are as below

DON'T BOTHER



**THIS VEHICLE HAS BEEN EMPTIED
OF ALL VALUABLE ITEMS**

PLEASE DISPLAY THIS NOTICE PROMINENTLY WHEN YOU REMOVE YOUR PROPERTY FROM SIGHT.

**REMOVE ALL YOUR PROPERTY FROM SIGHT,
INCLUDING COATS, JACKETS, PHONES, BAGS AND SHOPPING.
PLEASE DISPLAY THIS CARD EVERY TIME YOU LEAVE YOUR VEHICLE**

TAKE TIME TO STOP A CRIME

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO REDUCE CAR CRIME



If you have
information about
any crime. phone



CRIMESTOPPERS
GOOD PEOPLE
DOING GREAT

- Your call is free
- You do not have to give your name
- You may receive a reward

Uniting
against
crime

If you would like a card, it or any other literature that relates to vehicle crime reduction contact the Community Safety Unit at Parkside Police Station Cambridge CB1 1JG or you can contact PC Iain Perry on (01223) 823251.

Sewerage Abatement - Are you getting enough?

Our domestic metered sewerage charge assumes that 90% of the water used is processed as sewage, i.e. 10% of the water doesn't go 'down the drain'. If you think that you use more than 10% of the water supplied to you in the garden, you may apply to Cambridge Water for a reduced sewerage charge.

The sewerage allowance is calculated by first estimating what the annual consumption would be without external use. This is done by looking at a purely winter period, when there should be minimal outside use, and then multiplying this up for the whole year, whilst allowing 4% on top for increased internal usage in the summer. This figure is then compared with the actual annual usage to calculate the percentage returned to the sewer.

EXAMPLE:

	DATE	READING(M ³)
First winter reading	02.10.00	262
Second winter reading	04.04.01	318
First of two readings year apart	07.04.00	186
Second of two readings a year apart	04.04.01	318

$$\% \text{ Returned to the sewer} = \frac{\text{Average daily winter consumption} \times 1.04 \times 365 \text{ (or 366)} \times 100}{\text{Actual annual consumption}}$$

$$\frac{0.304 \times 1.04 \times 365 \times 100}{133.094} = 86.804$$

In this example less than 90% is being returned to the sewer, so a reduced sewerage charge is due.

NB: When calculating average daily consumption Anglian Water use the exact number of days within the respective periods involved.

Experience has shown that it pays to check that the full entitlement is actually being paid.

Ian Penfold

THE LINK SCHEME

Give a little time, make a BIG difference

The Link Scheme is intended for families who have a child with a disability between 0-19 living in Cambridgeshire. The aim is that a family who has a child with disabilities can be linked to a family who can share the care of the child. The Link Scheme provides an opportunity for both family and child to have a regular break. A break can be for just a few hours or an overnight stay once or twice a month, depending on the needs of the family and what the carer can offer.

Why the Link Scheme?

All families are different, and families with children who have disabilities will all have differing needs. Parents may find caring for their child rewarding, but also continual hard work. Time for everyday tasks such as going out, and being with other children, can be impossible to find. The Link Scheme can provide the opportunity for families to have this time.

Which children need Link?

Children with disabilities, like all children can benefit from time away, and from the opportunities to join in the social activities of another family. Every child is different and may require help with feeding, mobility, communication etc. Their fundamental need is for understanding. As with general foster care, your age, status and qualifications are not important.

Who are we looking for?

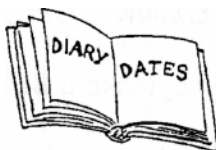
What we are looking for are people with *energy*, enthusiasm and a sense of commitment, who can offer a warm and secure environment.

What do I need?

Previous *experience* of caring for a child with disabilities would be useful but is not essential as training is provided. Link carers receive an allowance to cover the expenses involved in caring for a child.

**We need more carers in this area - find out more
by calling Freephone: 0800 052 0078.**

The Link Scheme is part of Cambridgeshire Social Services Department.



NOVEMBER

- 1** Jubilee Club - Tony Stafford, 2.30
- 3** Football. Elsworth v RHC. Home
- 14** W.I. Glass Blowing Demonstration and talk.
- 15** N.W.R. National telephone quiz 8 hrs
- 17** Football. Elsworth v Comberton "A" Home

DECEMBER

- 6** Jubilee Club. Christmas meeting with magic, 2.30
- 8** Football. Elsworth v Girton "A" Home
- 12** W.I. Christmas Party
- 14** N.W.R. Christmas - With Murder in Mind 8 hrs
- 22** Football. Elsworth v Hardwick "A" Home

JANUARY

- 3** Jubilee Club. New Year's Dinner
- 5** Football. Elsworth v Barrington Res. Home
- 7** N.W.R. Planning meeting with wine and cheese 8 hrs
- 9** W.I. The Work of the Blue Cross
- 19** Football. Elsworth v Harston Res. Home
- 29** N.W.R. What's in the News.

FEBRUARY

- 13** W.I. The Ouse Valley Way - Part 1

MARCH

- 9** Football. Cambridge University Press. Home