

# The Elsworth Chronicle



*Holy Trinity Church*

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## ELSWORTH CHRONICLE

[Established 1990]

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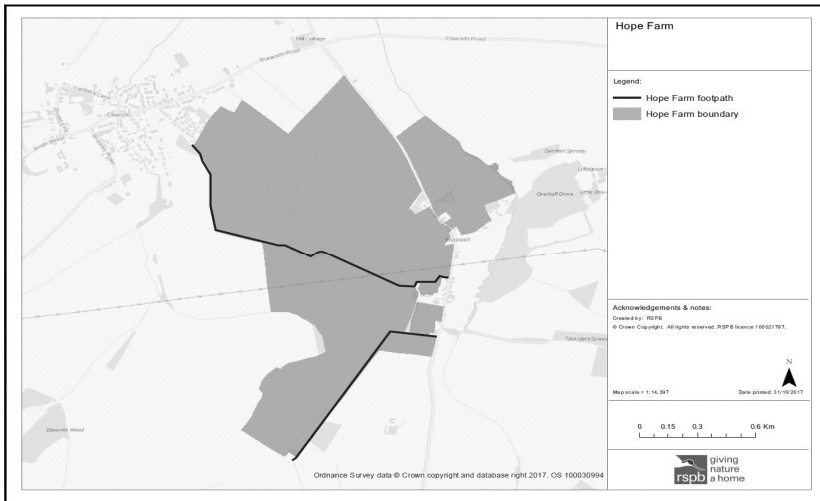
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## RSPB - HOPE FARM



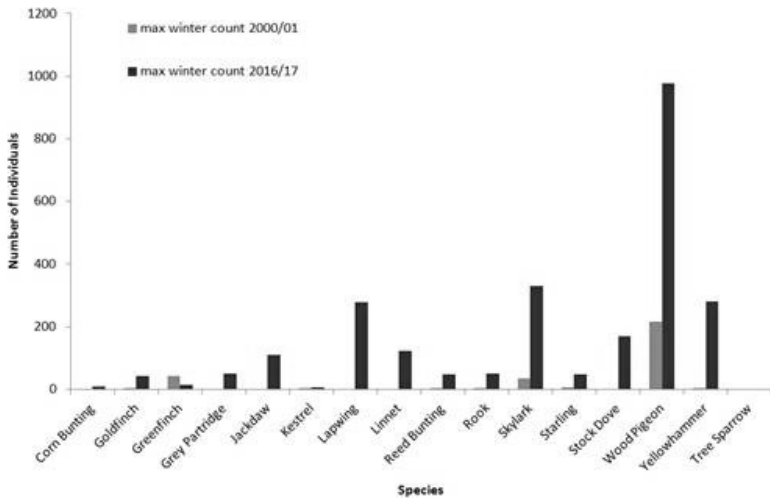
Hope Farm covers 181ha of land, nestled between Elsworth and Knapwell. In 2000 the RSPB purchased Hope farm, with the help of its members, to demonstrate, research, and influence sustainable farming practices. The main focus of our work on Hope Farm has been creating habitat and resources for wildlife, especially birds, but at the same time continuing to grow profitable crops.

Harvest finished in early October this year with our final crop of millet, and we had a good season although the wet weather meant harvest was rather frustrating for us all. Most of our crops are what you would expect to see on any farm around Elsworth, with wheat grown for bread and biscuits, barley for brewing, and oilseed rape for oil. Millet is our niche crop, which is always planted and harvested later in the season. Now the millet is off the fields, it will be packaged and sold as RSPB bird food that you may use in your gardens – it's good to see that in this case we're feeding our avian friends as an end use of what we grow.

It is surprising how much wildlife lives on farmland whether it is plants, butterflies, moths, bees or birds but quite a lot of wildlife actually needs help from farmers. 10% of Hope Farm is managed for wildlife, and that is

partially what makes Hope Farm such an exciting place to be. In pockets of land scattered across the farm, we provide lots of places for wildlife to live and feed in.

Over the summer, our network of flower margins has provided lots of food for pollinators and other insects, which means lots of food for birds as well. You may have seen one of these flower margins if you have walked along the public footpath which runs across the farm from the top of The Drift. We also keep good nesting habitat in our hedgerows and fields through management tailored to wildlife’s needs. Because of this, wildlife is flourishing on Hope Farm. Our butterfly counts have been the highest on record this year, with 213% more butterflies compared to what we found when we first came. An amazing 29 species of butterfly have been seen on Hope Farm. We also found 568 breeding bird territories this summer compared to only 301 territories in 2000. An early morning walk across the farm will be accompanied by a cacophony of bird song as the skylarks, yellowhammers mark their territories and try to attract mates.



A graph of the winter bird counts:

Our flower-rich margins have now been cut back for winter, but our winter bird seed plots are only just coming into their prime. These plots will provide a rich resource for **yellowhammers, corn bunting, reed bunting, linnet, goldfinches, and many more species**. Birds will flock in their hundreds to these areas and form quite a spectacle as food elsewhere becomes scarce.

Although we love our wildlife on the farm, we run it commercially like any other business, so do not create this wildlife habitat for free. All of the measures to improve habitat are funded by the Government through a Countryside Stewardship Scheme. It is this funding which makes it possible for any farmer to make their land a haven for wildlife whilst keeping their source of income stable. In a future article it will be explained how these exciting increases in number noted here have been achieved.

Any time of year, we welcome people to come onto the farm, by walking the public footpaths that runs along our farm. It would be fantastic to see some new faces so you can see our work for yourselves, and to see what birds are foraging for seed this winter.

**Georgina Bray**  
Hope Farm's Assistant Farm Manager

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## 19TH CENTURY ELSWORTH PILGRIMS

In 1850 William Parish and his family left their home in Fardell's Lane to travel to Gravesend to embark on the sailing ship "Cressy". They were about to sail to New Zealand with a party of emigrants who were to establish a new settlement under the auspices of the Canterbury Association.

William, his wife Hannah and their four children formed part of a party of some 753 pioneers who were to sail in September of that year. Four ships had been commissioned, "Charlotte Jane" to carry some 154 people, "Randolf" some 217 people, "Cressy" some 155 people, and "George Seymour" 227 people. William and his family were allocated to the "Cressy". Their departure was publicly marked, a service being held in St. Paul's Cathedral on the 1<sup>st</sup> September for all the pilgrims and a public banquet and dance held for those families who were buying land in the new settlement.

The voyage was long - some three months - but we know it was successfully completed from the words of the Lyttelton Times No.1 Vol. 1, which was published a few weeks after the arrival of the four ships at Lyttelton Harbour. The paper recorded that the "Cressy", with the Parish family on board, left Gravesend on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 1850, was towed down-river before sailing by means of its own canvass on the English Channel, only to be almost becalmed off the Isle of Wight. The ship was not to drop anchor off Plymouth Sound until September 7<sup>th</sup>.

We are fortunate that a picture in words of life on board is to be found in Christchurch Library, New Zealand, notes from which were brought by Peter and Felicity Parish on a visit here tracing family members of the past. It would seem the party on the ship was divided into two main groups, [a] the Colonists, men able to purchase land in the new settlement, who would travel in cabins with their families; and [b] Emigrants, consisting of farm workers, labourers and tradesmen who travelled in steerage, payment for their passage being paid by the Canterbury Association or by their future employers. Cabin passengers paid £42 a berth and the charge for those travelling steerage, £15.

Reference to Elsworth parish records reveals that William Parish was classified as a labourer and as such one would expect he and his family would travel as steerage passengers, a fact confirmed by the “Cressy’s” passenger list which can be read ‘on line’. An insight to conditions on board is contained in The Christchurch Museum notes: “Steerage passengers were cramped in the space below the main deck. Single men slept in a bunk six-and-half feet long by two foot wide. Married couples had a slightly wider bunk [three-and-a half-feet wide], and a canvas curtain for privacy. This space was used not only for sleeping but also for storing anything that might be needed for the voyage - extra clothes, perhaps some books. There was not much fresh air and everything was damp.”

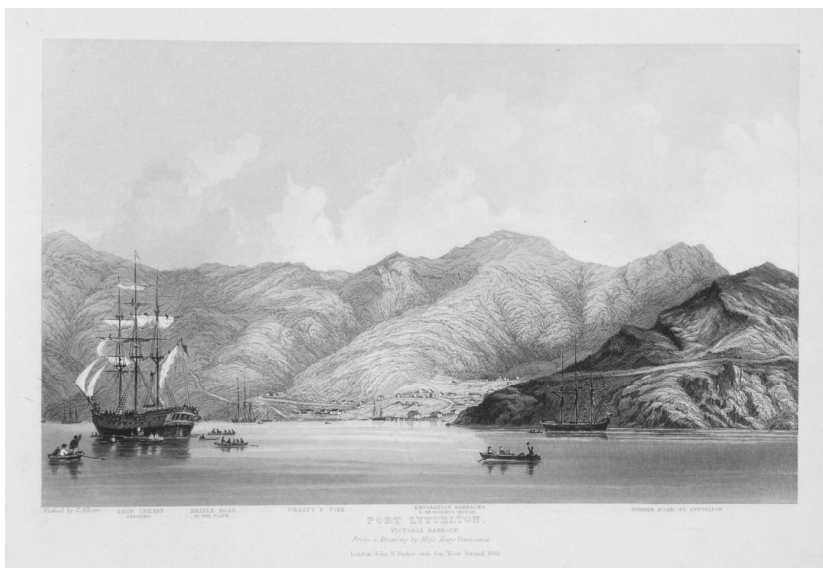
Emigrants had to bring their own bedding and clothing. Basic foods were provided - salt meat, ship biscuits, flour, rice and potatoes - but those in steerage had to prepare and cook their own meals, groups being formed to facilitate this. A large table fixed to the floor was for eating and general use. Live animals were carried on board to provide milk and meat. Cabin passengers had meals prepared for them by stewards and it is recorded they were given more food than those in steerage.

Three months at sea must have been arduous and sea-sickness must have added to the passengers’ discomfort. However there were activities to provide enjoyment. Dancing and games on deck occurred, sewing occupied some and card games were played. In addition school lessons for the children were provided and prayer meetings were held every morning and afternoon, with a church service on Sundays.

The voyage was far from being uneventful. The Lyttelton Times records that during the course of the voyage the foretop mast was damaged and “the foretop sail reefed whenever the breeze freshened”. This greatly delayed the vessel and the “Cressy” was not to reach harbour at Lyttelton. until 27 December 1850, some 11 days after her companion ships “Charlotte Jane” and the “Randolf” and 10 days behind the “George Seymour”. The joy at arrival must have been great, although life was by no means easy. Accommodation was initially in tents and huts carried on the ships and erected once on land, although

some, including the Parish family, had to turn initially to caves. It is pleasing to note the new settlement prospered to become part of the noted sheep farming area of the Canterbury Plains, important to this day. As for Richard and Hannah from Elsworth, they had 6 more children, established a family line of farmers in Canterbury extending to the present day. Indeed, Peter and Felicity Parish whose recent visit to Elsworth prompted this article by providing fascinating information which also enabled leads to be made into relevant archives, farm in Canterbury in New Zealand to this day. Richard's and Hannah's courageous venture into the unknown would certainly seem to have been worthwhile. They clearly prospered, Richard being one of only two from steerage to succeed in purchasing his own farm.

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**“Cressy” in harbour at Lyttelton - painted by one the ship’s party, an artist .**





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## THE ELSWORTH SPIRIT



Those who regularly walk along Fardell's Lane cannot but have noticed the marked improvement in the state of the ditch along its edge. After years of neglect, this has been cleared by Ian Couch of Broad End, who worked over several days unaided so as to remove impediments to the flow of its water. If the ditch is now maintained there should be a noticeable reduction in the overflow of water on to the lane under normal weather conditions.

Ian has only lived in the village a short while, and in that time he has given much. In addition to ditch work in Fardell's Lane, he has ventured into the adjacent nature reserve where he joined other volunteers clearing paths and spreading wood chippings along their length. He also assists in the community shop and has joined the team of 'Poppy Day' collectors. With Ian's involvement, indoor bowls might be resurrected in Elsworth for he has offered to lay out and clear the bowls carpet, thus overcoming a problem formerly besetting players. It would be good to see this activity re-established. Those who might be interested in playing are asked to contact Roger Fensom on 01954 267534.

Elsworth is characterised by its community spirit with people doing much for each other. Ian is very much of this frame of mind. It has been said that in this day and age people will not undertake tasks outside the home without monetary reward. Fortunately this is not the case in Elsworth.

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## THE NEW PAPWORTH HOSPITAL



Many in the parish are not at all clear regarding the impending closure of Papworth Hospital and the notes which follow are based on facts provided by the hospital authority. The last paragraph is a personal view though. We are informed that the new Papworth Hospital will open on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus in September 2018. The Trust will also open a new office at Justinian House in Huntingdon in June 2018, where some staff groups will be based.

The current buildings are no longer thought to be adequate for purpose. The need for the hospital to be situated on the Cambridge Biomedical campus alongside Addenbrookes and many world class biomedical centres on the site has been recognised over many years. In addition, its new location adjacent to Addenbrookes offers many benefits in patient care and innovation. Thus the U.K.'s ageing population means that many patients will have other diseases and conditions as well as heart or lung problems, and the two hospitals will offer complementary

expertise. The new Papworth Hospital will be the most advanced cardiothoracic hospital in Europe. It will include one of the country's largest critical care departments and seven state-of-art operating theatres.

With regard to employment, the new hospital will be significantly larger than at present and there will be a need to recruit more staff ahead of the move. It is hoped that as many staff members as possible will move to the new site. No redundancies are planned. However, AWF wonders if cleaning staff from this locality will be tempted to make the daily journey to Cambridge. Perhaps they will.

Papworth's relocation is rather like a son and daughter leaving home and school after a distinguished time at school to go to a first class university - much achieved, but even more now possible. The notes provided by Papworth Hospital show clearly why it is held in such high regard. The first successful heart transplant in the U.K. was carried out at Papworth, and the hospital has an international reputation for research and top surgical results. It carries out more major heart operations than any other hospital in the U.K., currently at more than 2,500 a year.

What now as to the possible use of the site following relocation? The hospital authorities have yet to come to a decision and an announcement will be made as soon as it is. This writer would like to see it as a convalescent home providing for the needs of those at present blocking beds in hospitals in the area once their urgent medical needs have been met. The convalescent stay would be only short term. It was common practice in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century and could well ease an acute problem of the present day. It is most unlikely, though, that the idea will be taken up.

AWF

## ELSWORTH LUNCHES

Village lunches at The George and Dragon continue to be very popular, indeed flourishing, with numbers commonly over 40.

These special village lunches are held on the last Tuesday of alternate months, the next being November 30<sup>th</sup>, with people gathering from 12.30 onwards for a 1pm meal. Good food, a pleasant setting and a chance to meet and drink together with friends and people with whom you might not be well acquainted, all contribute to the warmth of the occasion. But yet more, the generous two-course meal comes at the special price of £10, plus 50p if coffee or tea are taken.

The November menu is set out below. Just think what is charged for such a meal on December 25<sup>th</sup>! If you haven't been to an Elsworth village lunch before and are tempted, telephone Alan or Isobel Farrow on 267472, leave a message if we are out, or e-mail: [farrow16@googlemail.com](mailto:farrow16@googlemail.com).

There is no commitment to continue to future meals, merely come when it is right for you, having first booked through Isobel or Alan. Most, though, seem to return time after time and clearly look forward to the occasion.

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OR

Mixed Ice Cream

## ELSWORTH. KNAPWELL AND CONINGTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

**When did you last see a live hedgehog? Our members** were introduced to one at our last meeting when the visiting speaker was Sue Stublely.

It would seem that the hedgehog population has decreased by about 30% since 2002 in the U.K. as a whole and there are fewer than one million now left in the country. In rural areas such as ours hedgehogs live along woodland edges and in hedgerows by meadows and rough pasture. They tend to avoid arable fields and it would seem that some will make their way to villages, where we could assist in reducing their decline. A few pointers are noted below.

Hedgehogs need to roam to find sufficient food and mates, and small holes in fences, say 5"x 5", enable 'highways' to be established. Fallen leaves provide perfect nesting material - perhaps some could be piled up in a corner of the garden rather than being cleared away. The use of poisonous slug pellets should be avoided, for hedgehogs feed on slugs, snails, worms etc., but rather encourage the appetising provision of beetles, earthworms, wood lice etc. by means of mulching. And, of course, check bonfires before lighting as hedgehogs may have taken up residence.

In addition to our monthly meetings, excursions are also arranged. Recently the Cambridge Federation, of which we are members, arranged a visit to Eltham Palace and the Red House. This proved very interesting and enjoyable. Eltham Palace, with its hall dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, was transformed into an art deco shrine in the 20<sup>th</sup> century when it was re-built to take its present form. The Red House is of note as an early home of William Morris and contains examples of his work.

Isobel Farrow





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## JUBILEE CLUB

We are coming to the end of another year when we had various talks including “Living with a Motor Home”, “Cambridge Calendar Customs”, “East Anglia Air Ambulance”, “Life of a Woman Butcher”, and “Honey from Flower to Table”.

Our outings were to Blenheim Palace and the ever popular Southwold.

The club is open to everyone in our local villages. We meet on the first Thursday of most months in Elsworth school hall at 2.30pm. After the speaker or entertainment we have refreshments and a chance to catch up with friends and neighbours.

Why not come along and try us out? We start the year with our very popular New Year Lunch at The George and Dragon. For more information please call Betty on 01954 267470.

Betty Simcock

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## **ELSWORTH SPORTS CLUB**

Many will have noticed recently the smart appearance of the pavilion - the exterior has been re-decorated, the first time since being built almost twenty years ago. Also, a seat has been repaired and returned to its original position on the Smith Street side of the field.

The football season is now under way but, as in the last year or so, Elsworth has no team - we have the facilities and anyone interested in forming a side should please contact myself, Bill Knibbs or Anthony Taylor. Swavesey Spartans girls' teams at under 13, under 15 and under 16 levels are currently using the pitches on Saturday mornings as their home venue.

The cricket season finished in September and although enjoyed by most, results were somewhat disappointing. The team plays in the Cambridge Junior League, Division 4 South. Some matches were also played in the mid-week Business Houses League, Division 3, with results more encouraging. A few friendly matches were also played. Net practices will be available before the start of the new season and any prospective new player should contact either Anthony Taylor on 01954 268042 or Bill Knibbs on 01954 267266.

The table-tennis season began in September and Elsworth again had two teams in the Cambridge league and three in the Ely league.

Following promotion from last season to Division 1 of the Cambs League, Elsworth 1 are finding life difficult, and have lost all matches to date. Elsworth 2 are faring somewhat better in Division 3 and are currently in 4<sup>th</sup> place. In the Ely League, Elsworth 1 are currently in 6<sup>th</sup> place in Division 1. and Elsworth 2 are in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Division 2. Elsworth 3 are also currently in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Division 3. Some club evenings are arranged when no matches are to be played, and anyone interested in joining should contact Bill Knibbs.

Snooker is played in the pavilion in Monday mornings and monthly whist drives are held on Friday evenings, commencing at 7.30 pm. Carpet bowls, previously played on Wednesday afternoons, remains suspended due to lack of support.

Roger Fensom

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