

# The Elsworth Chronicle



*Holy Trinity Church*

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## ELSWORTH CHRONICLE

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**Editor:** Alan Farrow. The Old Rectory, Elsworth,  
Cambridge CB23 4JQ Tel: 01954 267472

**Email:** [editor@elsworthchronicle.org.uk](mailto:editor@elsworthchronicle.org.uk)

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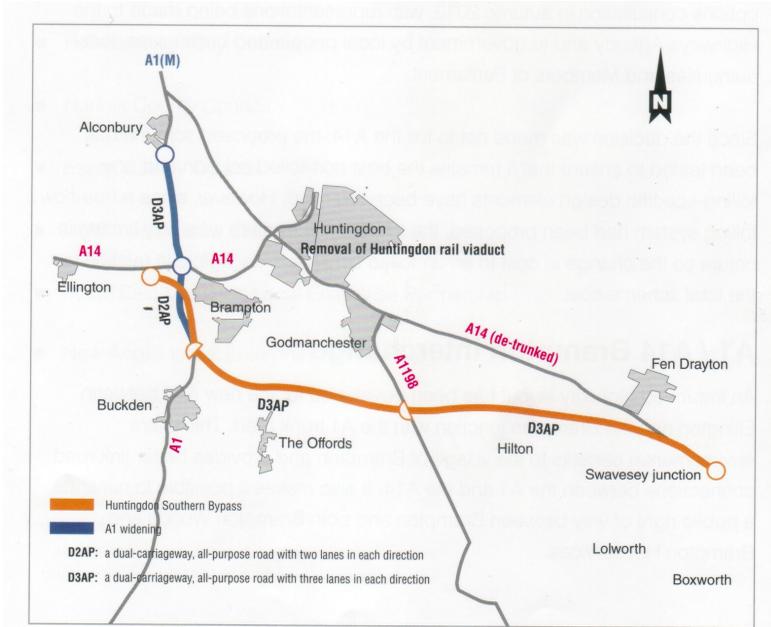
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## ELSWORTH AND LOCAL MAJOR HIGHWAY SCHEMES

### The A14



After much talk over many years there is evidence on the ground that the A14 Improvement Scheme is now underway with the establishment of a works site at Boxworth which will be the base for some 2,000 workers. It is envisaged the project will be completed in three years, when it will provide four lanes in both directions between Girton and Fen Drayton with, in addition, adjacent local roads either side. From Fen Drayton, as most readers will know, the new carriageway diverges from the present A14, which becomes a local dual-carriageway. During these three years there will doubtless be traffic inconvenience here, but the outcome should bring great improvement, “Some pain but great gain”!

All the present local roads are to remain and those travellers who wish may keep to their accustomed routes. But the new road will clearly offer much to our benefit. The writer has heard voiced in the village a somewhat surprising criticism that as it will not be possible to exit on to the A1198 from the east on the new road, traffic will be drawn through Elsworth. But this would seem a mistaken view. Drivers from the north-east wishing to access sites on the A1198 may reach that road by travelling along the present A14, leaving it at Hilton, giving a shorter and much quicker journey. Those driving from the Cambridge area would hardly travel out of their way to the N.W. only to alter course to the south.

### The A428 / A1303

The situation regarding these roads is less happy. Although a dual-carriageway is planned for the route between Caxton and the A1, Madingley Hill remains a neglected bottleneck for motorists endeavouring to reach the Cambridge area from the west, a problem which is destined to become much worse with the large-scale housing developments proposed at Bourn Airfield, Cambourne and St. Neots. Traffic on the A428/A1303 destined for the M11 causes a major blockage at rush hours, and this remains to be addressed.

The lack of proposals from on high is disturbing and pressure from the public would seem to be needed - expressed concern and ideas might trigger thought and action. Solving the problem of severe traffic back-up at Madingley Hill at rush hours would not seem beyond the wit of man in the context of the major road-work schemes shortly to be implemented. A relatively inexpensive way is suggested here, together with two more ambitious proposals, all of which involve the replacement of the present south-bound M11 link from the A1303. Suggestion [a] is that M11 bound traffic moving along the A428 is to continue to the Histon bridge where a lane on the A14 leads directly to the

southbound M11. If it is thought the present bridge was inadequate, another could be built.

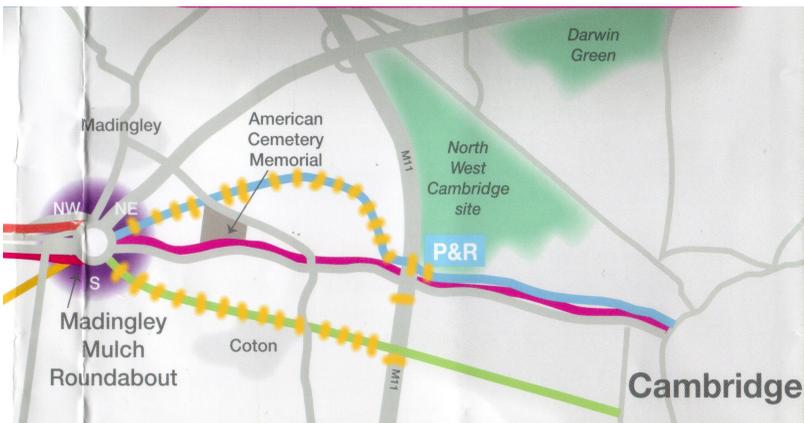
Two other suggestions presented here to overcome the congestion on the A428/A1303 involve additional route-ways. Clearly such proposals demand much more thought than merely drawing lines on a map, for much detailed ground work has first to be done with regard to present land-use, occupancy, drainage etc. etc. Thus it might be tempting to suggest an A428 link with the M11 north of Ladybush Close [a little to the south of Junction 14] but this would be pointless without the necessary ground-work having first been done. However in the knowledge that possible new bus routes have been identified for consideration by the official body “Cambridge City Deal” with regard to improved bus journeys in and out of the City, it may be assumed that the necessary field work must have been done to allow the routes to be promoted. Such modified routes would offer possibilities for promoting access to M11 southbound traffic.

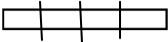
Two possibilities are considered here. Alternative suggestion [b] [‘a’ has already been noted two paragraphs above], is to follow in essence a route noted for comment by “Greater Cambridge City Deal” which would be located north of the American Cemetery, as shown in the map below. The suggestion here is that the route-way would be widened with a lane to serve traffic other than buses, and is modified on its approach to the M11 to provide an entry for south-bound traffic.

A further, but more expensive, possibility is based on another bus option proposed by “Greater Cambridge City Deal” which outlines a new bus route north of Cotton extending over the M11. Again it is suggested that this could be widened to accommodate traffic other than buses in an additional lane, and that a slip road is added to link with southbound motorway traffic. This is then proposal ‘c’. This route may also be seen on the map overleaf.

The above thoughts are to be presented to those in authority and of influence - they would clearly serve no purpose merely being confined to these pages. However, readers in the parish and further afield might have other possibilities in mind which could alleviate the problem of access to the M11 for south-bound traffic from the A428. If so, please contact the writer - 01954 267472 or e-mail farrow16@googlemail.com so that they could be added to the presentation.

A.W.F.



Key:  Possible links with the M11 ?

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## Obituary



**DOREEN STEVENS**  
**29<sup>th</sup> April 1935 - 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

Doreen Stevens [nee White] was born at Needingworth, the daughter of May and Gifford. Like Bert, her husband whom she married in 1957, Doreen had three brothers and three sisters.

Until she reached 60 years of age, when she took a well-earned retirement, Doreen worked as a secretary and office manager. She also was prominent in her help for the Korean Veterans' Association [Ely Branch], being Secretary from 1990 until last year. She was a very keen supporter of Elsworth Sports Club over many years, supporting the football team, and running whist drives to raise money for the Club.

Doreen and Bert lived in Church Lane for many happy years before moving to a lovely new mobile home in Constellation Park. Her straightforward, honest and thoughtful nature, linked with a great sense of humour, made Doreen very popular. She was most helpful to any in need and gave freely of her time without expectation of reward. With her care

and concern for others she became more than a friend, more like a family member to many.

During her period of illness, Doreen showed great bravery and retained her sharp wit to the end. She will be missed by all who knew her - a very special individual who will not be forgotten.

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## **Obituary**



### **BESSIE WOLF**

My mother, Bessie Wolf, was born on October 1<sup>st</sup> 1931. She passed away in July this year having lived her entire life in the village.

Her father, Reg. Richardson, built the bungalow where she grew up

in Church Lane. However she spent a lot of her childhood with her Granny Sue who lived on the Causeway as her mother, Bertha, ran a business in St. Neots. Both sides of the family were local with Reg. and his five siblings coming from Boxworth, and Bertha's eight Throssell brothers and sisters forming the mainstay of Brook Street where their parents owned the village shop. Schooling began in what is now The Old School in Brook Street and was completed in Cedar House School in St. Neots.

Her marriage to my father, Bernard, also a local boy from Brockley Road and then of Causeway House, took place in Holy Trinity Church in 1957. Soon after the wedding they bought and moved into the same Old School House where they had spent the first years of their education and where they were to live for the next 30 years. My arrival in 1960 stopped any work plans she had with John Rayns Smith in St. Neots, and my father switched jobs from working for Les Papworth in the village garage to become self-employed.

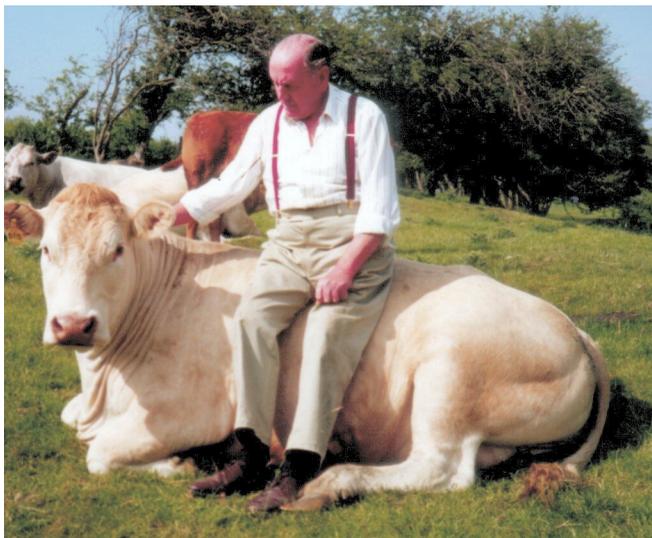
My mother's parents' families were a constant in her life and she loved the annual Elsworth Feast family get-togethers which endured whilst her parents' siblings were able to make the annual return pilgrimage from their new homes around the country. Despite her roots in the village she and Bernard were early travellers and trips to Milan, Paris, Brussels and other contemporarily exotic destinations are recorded in our family photos.

In 1987 they planned and built their own bungalow on the same site in Church Lane where Bessie lived as a child, and there they lived out their retirement, doting on their two grandchildren, caravanning and gardening until my father's death in 2007.

Having lived 100m radius of her childhood home for the whole of her life, Mum became the last of that generation of the Richardson/Throssell families to reside in the village. She would have liked that but would have lamented the fact that it was so.

Robert Woolf

## Obituary



### **ROLAND BERNARD WARBOYS** **28.08.1920 – 21.07.2016**

Roland was born in Oakington in August 1920, the middle son of Charles and Selina Warboys. He had two older brothers and two younger sisters.

The family were butchers and had a shop in Histon which is still there today. Roly's father bought Brockley Farm in 1933 when the young Roly was aged thirteen. Roly worked hard on the farm, as did all the family, and he remained here all his life, apart from his period of National Service when he was posted to Scotland.

It was there that Roly met Margaret, and they were married

in 1945. After the war Roly returned to Elsworth, with his new bride, to continue farming with his father.

Ivor was born, followed by Norman and Janice. In later years Roly was very pleased when Norman joined the family farm and they expanded the haulage side of the business.

Roly was happiest with the cattle he loved, and making deals in the markets. He was a great supporter of the Gransden Show and enjoyed many successes in Fat stock Christmas shows across East Anglia. He also enjoyed Scottish dancing with the Caledonian Society, an interest he and Margaret shared, and sang in the choir at Huntingdon until he was ninety!

Roly had been a very active and hardworking man, and found his latter years difficult, but he was fortunate enough to remain in his family home cared for by Norman, and enjoyed visits from his daughter, grandchildren and many old friends.

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## Obituary



**LILIAN STOLLERY**  
**12<sup>th</sup> September 1922 – 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2016**

For most in the village, Lilian seemed a permanent presence and her death came as a shock to many, even though she had reached the age of 93 years and had become, for a short while after Rowley Warboy's passing [see page 12], Elsworth's oldest inhabitant.

Lilian was born in Cambridge at Newnham. She came to Elsworth in 1957 with her husband Bill and three daughters - Lilian, Ann and Susan. Sadly she was widowed in 1972.

Throughout her time in Elsworth, Lilian took an active role in

village affairs. She joined the W.I. in 1965 and remained a member throughout the rest of her life. Similarly she was an active supporter of the Sports Club over a long period, providing tea for the footballers and assisting at whist drives. Holy Trinity Church also benefitted from her presence. For many years she was a member of the P.C.C., a sidesman at services and for a period was Verger. The wider community also benefitted from her energy. Three times, when well into her senior years, she participated in “The Race for Life” walk in Cambridge so as to raise money for Cancer Research.

A feature of Lilian’s life was clearly her energy - she was still a home-help until she was in her late 80s, when a broken femur curtailed her activities. But she also brought to her life an interest in events which she was able to share with others in a forthright way. An Elsworth character who is sadly missed.

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## ELSWORTH SPORTS CLUB

Although now well into autumn and the football season well under way, Elsworth unfortunately hasn't a team to grace the pitch on Grass Close. There are, however, matches on the field on some Saturday mornings as Under 14s and Under 16s of Swavesey Spartans girls' teams are using the facility as their home venue.

The cricket season, which finished for Elsworth in September, was the most successful of recent years, the team finishing third in the Cambs Junior League Division 4, with the mid-week side becoming runners-up in the Business Houses League. Once again it was an enjoyable season as along with league matches some friendlies were also arranged. Net practice will be available before the start of the new season and any prospective new players should contact either Bill Knibbs on 01954 267266 or Anthony Taylor on 01954 268042.

The table-tennis season started in September. Elsworth has two teams in the Cambridge League and three in the Ely League. Although only a few weeks into the season, the Elsworth 1<sup>st</sup> team is currently fourth of twelve teams in Division 2, Elsworth 2<sup>nd</sup> team sixth of twelve teams in Division 3 in the Cambs League. In the Ely League Elsworth 1 are currently fourth of nine teams in Division 1 and Elsworth 2<sup>nd</sup> team fifth. In Division 2, Elsworth 3<sup>rd</sup> team is eighth of nine teams.

Some club table-tennis evenings are arranged when there are no matches. Anyone interested in joining should contact Bill Knibbs.

Regarding other activities, snooker is played in the pavilion on Monday mornings, and monthly whist drives are held on Friday evenings, commencing at 7.30 p.m. Carpet bowls, which previously was played on Wednesday afternoons, remains suspended due to insufficient number of players.

Roger Fensom

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## **ELSWORTH, KNAPWELL AND CONINGTON W.I.**

At our meeting in June our guest speaker was Ely author Ellee Seymour whose book 'The Shop Girls' tells the history of Heyworths - a well loved exclusive and elegant Cambridge departmental store situated in Green Street, opened in 1928 and closed in 1963. We heard what it was like to be a shop-girl there - they had to be immaculately dressed but only earned £1 a week! Many would start at 14 years of age.

In July we were transported to Antarctica by Dr. Peter Clarkson, a geologist from the Scott Polar Research Institute. He spent two years there at Halley Bay Station where the ice was two and a half miles thick and the native population consisted of whales, seals and penguins.

There wasn't a meeting in August, but in September the talk was of witchcraft, entitled 'Witch, Wicca and Wise-Women'. Dr. Maureen Jones explored the subject of Cambridgeshire folklore, beliefs being passed down the generations. People suspected of being witches were tarred and feathered as late as 1946 and hares were considered witches in disguise.

In October we heard details of life on the site of the Grand Arcade from the 11<sup>th</sup> century, and in November the subject was the history of tartans and hand sewn kilts. Visitors are always welcome at our meetings which are held on the second Wednesday of the month except in August when we do not meet.

Isobel Farrow (01954 267472)

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## **JUBILEE CLUB**

We meet on the first Thursday of most months in Elsworth School Hall from 2.30 to 4.30p.m. We have a speaker or other entertainment, tea and biscuits and a raffle. It is a good chance to meet other villagers for a good chat and to keep up-to-date with their news!

For the coming year we have a varied programme, starting with our New Year Lunch at the George and Dragon, a very popular event. At later meetings we have talks on China and Thailand; Iceland; Wildlife; unusual life-styles; and other fascinating topics, all interspersed with light-hearted, amusing afternoons.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of June we shall have a coach trip to Blenheim Palace and on the 27<sup>th</sup> July an outing to popular Southwold. Everybody welcome. We shall start booking in the New year.

Why not try us out? You may want to try again!

Betty Simcock [01954 267470]

## ELSWORTH VILLAGE LUNCH

The Elsworth Lunches, always popular, continue to attract more and more people. There were over 40 at our September gathering and this month nearer fifty of us will sit at the long tables. The village lunches are held bi-monthly, people coming to the George & Dragon any time from 12.30 for a 1 pm meal. The food is excellent and great value at £8 for a two course meal. The atmosphere is delightful too - witness that many linger at table some time after the meal has been finished, so engrossed in sharing thoughts and humour with others.

All who are free for lunch on the last Tuesday of the appropriate months are welcome. The procedures are simple. Firstly, merely ask Alan Farrow [tel.267472 or email [farrow16@googlemail.com](mailto:farrow16@googlemail.com)] to be put on the Lunch mailing list and you will receive the menu proposed for the coming lunch. There is no obligation to accept - you would come only when convenient - but if you wish to attend, you would then give your choice from the menu either to Isobel or Alan. Come the next meal, you would again be notified of the menu and again you have the choice either to accept or not.

The gathering provides an opportunity to chat with people in the village whom otherwise you might not meet. Two recent menus below give a flavour of what is provided:

### September 2016

Suffolk Pork Steak, with whole grain mustard and leek sauce,  
potatoes and other vegetables OR Vegetable Lasagne  
OR Butternut Squash and Spinach Roulade.  
Pudding/Sweet Apple Crumble and custard OR Mixed  
Ice Cream

### November 2016

Roast Norfolk Turkey with sage and onion stuffing, chipolata  
and bacon, home-made gravy, roast and new potatoes, selection  
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Pudding/Sweet Christmas Pudding with brandy sauce  
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