

Elsworth Chronology

A chronology of the village of Elsworth from the sixth century A.D. to the present day.

- C6 Anglo-Saxon settlements established in the forested uplands of West Cambridgeshire.
- 969 Ramsey Abbey founded.
- 986 Aethelstan Mannessune, thegn, died and left Elsworth estate to his wife.
- 1007 Aelfwaru, his daughter, died and left her Elsworth estate to Ramsey Abbey (Eastern Mansion)
- early C11 Etheric, Bishop of Dorchester, conveyed his Elsworth estate to Ramsey Abbey (Western Mansion)
- 1086 Domesday Book. Population 250.
- 1180 Master Matthew appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1185 Order by Pope Urban III for revenues of Elsworth church and manse to be used for upkeep of St Ives priory. Manfred named as priest.
- late C13 Present church built.
- 1307 Robert Ratford appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1325 John Coupland appointed rector of Elsworth.
- c1349 John de Merton appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1356 John de Merton cited as rector of Elsworth on his appointment as Advocate of the Court of Arches.
- 1381 Peasants' revolt. Manor in Elsworth Wood attacked by John Cook of Barton.
- 1384 John de Neylond appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1386 Henry Graneby appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1389 Simon de Neylond appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1401 Henry Graneby appointed rector of Elsworth (again).
- 1418 John Wadyn appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1446 Thomas Atwode appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1456 Richard Ewen appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1457 William Spenser appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1467 William Hill appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1492 John Fynn appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1498 William Smith appointed rector of Elsworth.
- early C15 New Town House (Low Farm) built.
- 1516 John Watson appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1534 Act of Supremacy.
- 1536 John Watson, rector, resigned.
- 1536 Robert Truslove appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1538 Elsworth registers begin.
- 1550 Suppression of Ramsey Abbey. Elsworth manor conveyed to Thomas Wendy of Haslingfield.
- 1559 Philip Baker appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1563 Thirty-nine Articles define Elizabethan church settlement.
- 1570 Philip Baker, rector, deprived of his living and fled to Louvain.
- 1571 Clergy of Diocese of Ely subscribe to liturgy and Articles of Faith in Elsworth Church.
- 1571 Robert Holbeam appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1587 John Paman appointed rector of Elsworth.

- 1595 New Town House (Low Farm) rebuilt from a previous structure.
- 1601 Dear's Farm built.
- 1614 Richard Franklin appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1628 Draining of Bedford Level.
- 1631 Thomas Whincop appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1656 Manor conveyed to Samuel Disbrowe of Eltisley.
- 1660 Samuel Disbrowe built present Manor House.
- 1660 Nicholas Dickons appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1676 Population 250.
- 1690 Death of Samuel Disbrowe. Succeeded by his granddaughter Elizabeth.
- 1694 William Lunn appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1697 Elizabeth Disbrowe married Matthew Holworthy.
- 1705 Franklin's Charity almshouses built.
- c1714 Brown's Farmhouse built (Boxworth Road).
- 1745 William Cole, antiquarian, visited Elsworth.
- 1747 Edward Lunn appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1749 Death of Elizabeth Holworthy. Succeeded by her grandson Samuel Smith.
- 1750 Samuel Smith took name of Holworthy by Act of Parliament.
- 1756 Samuel Holworthy erected memorial to his family in the church.
Samuel Holworth died. Succeeded by eldest son, Matthew.
- 1791 Matthew Holworthy senior appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1800 Elsworth Enclosure Act.
- 1801 Population 585.
- 1803 Elsworth Enclosure Award.
- 1825 Manor sold to Thomas Pochin.
- 1826 Matthew Holworthy sr died. Succeeded by eldest son, Matthew Holworthy jr.
- 1827 Manor sold to Philip Gardner of Conington.
- 1827 Matthew Holworthy junior appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1830 Baptist chapel and manse built.
- 1831 Population 689.
- mid 1830s Rectory rebuilt under Matthew Holworthy jr.
- 1835 Elsworth included in Caxton and Arrington poor law union.
- 1836 Death of Matthew Holworthy jr.
- 1837 Manor conveyed to Philip Gardner of Conington.
- 1837 Oliver Lodge appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1838 Philip Gardner died. Succeeded by his son, Philip Gardner jr.
- 1841 Population 915 (including Feast Week visitors).
- 1843 Roof of church nave rebuilt.
- 1845 Philip Bagge appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1847 National School opened for 250 children in Brook Street.
- 1850 Sedilias and piscina discovered in the church chancel and restored.
- 1853 Four persons baptized in Brook. Over 400 people present.
- 1853 Church bells ceased to be rung. Bell frames in need of repair.
- 1853 Post office established in connection with St Ives, Mr R Papworth, tailor, appointed postmaster.
- 1853 Emigration of two families to Australia.
- 1853 John Dobson appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1854 Philip Papworth's mill at the crossroads burnt down.
- 1854 29 April declared Day of Humiliation. All public houses in the village closed.
- 1857 10 October declared Day of Humiliation for peace in India.
- 1861 Death of Prince Consort. Church bells tolled from 12 noon until 1 pm on day of

- funeral.
- 1862 Elsworth rock investigated by Henry Sealey of Cambridge University.
- 1863 Manor sold to Colonel Octavius Duncombe and heir.
- 1865 Elsworth National School Friendly Society set up.
- 1866 Cattle plague (rinderpest) reported in village at Mr Dear's and Mr Parsons' farms.
- 1870 Church tower restored. Tower clock donated by the Lodge family. (Oliver Lodge, rector, 1837 - 1845).
- 1870 Education Act. Compulsory elementary education for everyone between five and thirteen years of age.
- 1871 Population 802.
- 1873 Serious fire in the Causeway. Broke out in Dolphin outbuilding. Butcher's shop, stable and six cottages burnt out.
- 1874 Main drain laid in Brook Street.
- 1874 George Shaw appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1880 George and Dragon public house burnt down.
- 1881 Population 673.
- 1881 Henry Coddington appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1884 Henry Hutchinson appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1886 Installation of two Porritt's air warming underground stoves in Elsworth church.
- 1887 Queen Victoria's Jubilee. Celebrations in Elsworth.
- 1889 Allotments set up.
- 1891 Major restoration of church began. Church closed.
- 1892 Restoration of the church completed.
- 1894 Local Government Act; Parish Council set up.
- 1897 Parish Council took over the two village pumps.
- 1898 Lighting Act adopted; street lighting installed (oil lamps).
- 1901 Population 558. Telegraphic service installed at Post office.
- 1907 Christopher Tibbits appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1910 Church organ installed.
- 1911 King Edward VII coronation celebrations.
- 1911 Population 487.
- 1915 Three Horseshoes pub closed.
- 1916 Manual Instruction Room built in the Causeway for teaching Handicraft and Cookery.
- c1918 Manor bought by Pamplin Brothers.
- 1919 John Throssell appointed Clerk to the Parish Council.
- 1920 Manor let to F W Davison who later bought it.
- 1921 Dolphin beerhouse licence surrendered.
- 1921 Elsworth branch of British Legion founded.
- 1921 Brook cleaned out to ease unemployment.
- 1921 Population 388. Drought; village wells dried up.
- 1921 War memorial erected.
- 1923 Elsworth W.I. founded.
- 1923 Edward Woolard appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1927 Lawrence Iggulden appointed rector of Elsworth.
- 1928 British Legion hut opened. It was built by C Throssell and Sons of Elsworth.
- 1931-2 Piped water supply installed.
- 1938-9 Electricity supplied to the village
- 1939 Evacuees from Popham (Islington) arrived.
- 1940 Bombs dropped on Elsworth hitting a cottage in Brook Street.

1945 End of War celebrations.
 1946 Elsworth C. E. School in Brook Street closed.
 1946 Wilbert Awdrey appointed rector of Elsworth.
 1950 First sports pavilion built on the sports field.
 1954 New Elsworth C.E. Primary School opened in Broad End for 75 children from Elsworth, Boxworth, Knapwell and Conington.
 1955 Brian Dupré appointed rector of Elsworth.
 c1956 Post office in Brook Street closed and moved to the Causeway.
 1957 First Elsworth Show held.
 1959 Bus shelter erected on Smith Street opposite the Fox and Hounds (now the Poacher).
 1960 Caravan site development (Constellation Caravans) in the Drift.
 1961 Plough Inn closed.
 1961 Population 476.
 1961 Cotterell's Lane housing development.
 1961 Hugh Mosedale appointed rector of Elsworth.
 1962 Rectory garden housing development (Orchard Close).
 1964 Roger's Close housing development.
 1964 Franklin's almshouses demolished.
 1965 Franklin's Close bungalows built.
 1970 Industrial development on POW camp (Castle Acres).
 1971 Population 566.
 1973 Main drains installed.
 1974 John Throssell, Parish Clerk for 55 years, resigned.
 1975 Village sign erected.
 1975 School extension built.
 1976 School extension opened.
 1976 Chapel and manse sold.
 1976 Play Group hut erected.
 1976 Manual Instruction Room building in the Causeway demolished.
 1977 Jubilee celebrations. Jubilee Club founded.
 1978 Population 650 (estimated).
 1980 Permanent motor cycle track established at Lawn Farm.
 1981 Population 637.
 1981 Manor House sold and reconstructed into 4 dwellings.
 1981 25th Elsworth Show.
 1982 British Legion hut and site sold.
 1988 John Throssell died aged 99 (see above).
 1991 Population 670.
 1993 Church bells restored.
 1999 New sports pavilion built to replace the old pavilion.
 1999 Jeremy Pemberton appointed rector of Elsworth.
 2005-2006 Extensive restoration work carried out on the church.
 2007 50th Elsworth Show.
 2008 Fiona Windsor appointed rector of Elsworth.
 2009 Elsworth post office closed and replaced by an outreach service.
 2012-2013 South porch of the church restored.
 2014 Post office building on the Causeway demolished.
 2015 Nigel di Castiglione appointed rector of Elsworth.
 2017 Elsworth village garage closed.

