

The Elsworth Chronicle



Holy Trinity Church

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ELSWORTH CHRONICLE

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ELSWORTH JUBILEE CLUB

This year we have had nine meetings, all with a speaker, on a wide range of subjects. In addition, during the summer months we had a trip to Lincoln and a sea-side outing to Cromer - both hot days and very enjoyable.

Our meetings take place in the School Hall on the first Thursday of the month at 2.30 pm when everybody from the local villages is welcome. On January 3rd we shall be starting off another year with our annual lunch at 'The George and Dragon', a very popular occasion.

If you would like to come along at any time to join us, please give Betty a ring on 267470; you will be most welcome!

Betty Simcock

ELSWORTH WALKING GROUP

Last walk of the year December 9th

Contact Lyn or Tom Hogan [Tel: 267166]

or email: tom&lyn@pathwaysystems.co.uk

Obituary



JAN KAZIMIERZ [KAZIO] BIENEK
1954 - 2018

Great sorrow and regret is felt in the village that Kazio is no longer with us - that this is so was marked by the words on so many lips when the sad news was first known, and also by the large congregation which gathered at his memorial service at our parish church. Such respect would have amazed him, and probably inwardly moved him, for he was never one to seek the limelight.

For many in the village, Kazio would have been known for his purposeful ambulation with his wheelbarrow to and from his allotment, or perhaps to a village household to pass on generous gifts from the land. At other times the barrow might have been a receptacle for wood, for it would seem that he was aware of every branch that fell in the village. His stock of wood built up over the years, destined for his hungry wood stove, was testimony to his conscientiousness as well as becoming quite a feature in the village.

Kazio was a somewhat shy, retiring man who was ever willing to give a helping hand - generous with his time, never seeking personal gain. He came to the village as a child of 2 yrs of age in 1956 with his parents, Dorothy and Paul, from Dulwich, living at 2 Church Lane for many years before leaving the family home to settle in Brook Street. He was educated firstly in the village school and then at the Boys Grammar School in Cambridge. (Cont/

A place at University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology [UMIST] followed where he studied chemistry, after which he gained a doctorate at Hatfield Polytechnic [later Hatfield University]. Returning to Elsworth, he worked for many years at Cambridge Instruments, later to become Leica and then Vicom, where he showed great efficiency in resolving problems relating to their computers.

The village owes much to Kazio. He was responsible for the greatly appreciated web-site of the Elsworth Chronicle and he devoted much energy and time to its comprehensive coverage. By this route, he became the much needed archivist of the parish. He was helpful, too, to the Sports Club, often at the side of Billy Knibbs on essential work on the sports field, and was vigilant in keeping the weed-screen at Brook Street clear of debris at times of flooding. For over thirty years he wound the church clock, climbing and descending the unlit church tower with its narrow winding steps each Sunday without a break. Most in the village would have taken the church clock for granted, giving no thought to the person who enabled the clock to ring out and show the passing hours. This did not concern him - he felt it was a task that had to be done, and he was aware that there were no others anxious to replace him. Some might be surprised that there was no monetary reward for this service - the task was done over all those years characteristically out of the goodness of his heart.

Kazio's life was cut short at the early age of 64 years. Before any of us were aware that Kazio had passed on, the clock which owed to him its active life for so many years, had stopped. Seeing it remaining at 5.45 for several days after the sad news broke was a seeming reminder of the service Kazio gave, and a moving tribute, in mind, from his clock.

AWF.



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INTER-LANE CRICKET

VILLAGE LANE / ROAD CHALLENGE

Some eighteen years ago, the Millennium celebrations in Elsworth extended over a week, with great support each day. It was a delight to participate in such good natured communal activities. Such enthusiastic participation was undoubtedly kindled by the lane-cluster rivalry built into the structure of the activities, for in each event participants were motivated by points to be gained for their team which went towards a final score. At the end of the week points were totalled to determine the champion lane-cluster in the village.

It would be good to re-create the interest and sense of belonging witnessed some eighteen years ago. In this spirit it is proposed to promote an inter-lane knock-out cricket competition to be held over a week-end, yet to be determined, next Spring or Summer. The proposal is that each of eight village groupings - noted below - should participate in a six-a-side knock-out competition, the teams, in keeping with present trends, could be composed of both men and women, but this is not a requirement. If it is found that there were sufficient numbers, two competitions could be arranged, one for women and one for men. The match would be limited to ten overs a side.

Lane/Road Clusters

1. Boxworth Road + Orchard Close
2. The Drift + Constellation Park + Cowdell End
3. Roger's Close + Duncock Lane
4. Paddock Row + Franklin's Close
- 5 Fardell's Lane + Broad End
6. Smith Street + Rogues Lane

(Cont/

7. Brook Street + The Causeway + Church Lane

8. Brockley Road + Cotterell's Lane + Spigot Lane

Now to consider the steps required to establish the event.

- 1] Interested people could come forward, through whom lane-cluster teams can be formed. In the first place contact should be made with the writer [AWF] by means of e-mail [farrow16@googlemail.com] or by telephone 267472.
- 2] A decision has to be made, in agreement with the Sports Club, on the date of the event.
- 3] The appointment of umpires and other officials and helpers.

Next Spring/Summer might seem a long way off, but as 2018 has seemingly speeded by [perhaps an age related phenomenon!] it would seem advisable to explore now if there is sufficient support for the venture. Is the energy and enthusiasm shown at the Millennium celebrations still with us today? See photo below. If you feel it is, please contact the writer now before the matter goes out of mind.

AWF.



Team Spirit - Competitors lining up to participate in the wellie throwing competition

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War Memorial - Introductory Note

In her published abridged extracts from the Cambridge Chronicle, Dorothy Bienek noted the distressing death of John Desborough during World War I. This is reproduced below. John's name is on our War Memorial and is read out each Armistice Sunday, along with the others who fell in the two World Wars.



“The Amsterdam correspondent of The Times reports that John Desborough was murdered by a German sentry on February 27th, 1918 while working on Komm No.168 , Witten , Minden2 [the worst in Westphalia]. He took the part of a French prisoner who was being bullied and the sentry ordered him to go away. As he did so the sentry shot him in the back. He was officially reported dead two weeks later in Reserve Lazerett, Witton.”

In the article which follows - the work of Paul Harding and Kazio Bienek - focus is on personal details of the other names from the 1914-1918 World War inscribed on the Memorial.

BEYOND THE WAR MEMORIAL – ELSWORTH MEN IN WW1

Kazio Bienek's involvement in the project described below was essential and this article had been drafted before his unexpected death recently. It may help to serve as a small tribute to his quiet and thorough work to record aspects of the history of Elsworth.

Elsworth's War memorial was erected after WW1 and unveiled in 1920. It commemorates 18 men from or associated with Elsworth, who died "Pro Patria" in the "European War 1914-18". It is a simple list of names with their ranks. These are the men who lost their lives during the war, but more than 40 others saw military service during the course of the war.

We have begun to look into who were these men and, where possible, to find out more about their association with Elsworth. Some were born and brought up in the village and others appear to have lived here for periods of their short lives. As a first instalment of our findings, the following lists all

the Elsworth men who died, how old they were, which regiment they served with, and in which battles, or where else, they died. We have used the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) website as an important source. Half of the men have no known grave but are listed on the magnificent WW1 Memorials at Ypres (Menin Gate), Thiépval, Tyne Cot and Arras. All appear to have been buried or are listed on a memorial at an official CWGC location, including the single burial at Elsworth (see Arthur Bishop).

Ypres

There were several major battles in the Ypres (Ieper) area of Belgium, the most famous being the 2nd Battle (22nd April to 25th September 1915) with huge allied losses. Joseph Poulter (25), serving with the Suffolk Regiment, died in the 2nd Battle. He has no known grave and is listed on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial. He is also included on a bronze memorial plaque in St Mary Magdelene church at Madingley. Coldstream Guardsman Walter Day died during hostilities at Ypres in 1916 and is buried at Potijze Burial Ground Cemetery near Ieper.

The 3rd battle of Ypres (31st July to 10th November 1917), often referred to as Passchendaele, saw the death of (Frederick) John Brand (19), King (Richard) Clark (24) and Israel Parnwell (23). John Brand was serving with the Rifle Brigade, has no known grave and is listed on the Menin Gate memorial, and is also included on a bronze memorial plaque in St Mary Magdelene church at Madingley. Clark (sometimes spelt Clarke) was serving with the Australian Infantry and is buried at Tyne Cot Cemetery. Although he had been born and brought up in Elsworth, he emigrated to Australia and enlisted at Brisbane in August 1915. Parnwell was serving with the Cambridgeshire Regiment, has no known grave and is listed on the Tyne Cot Memorial.

Battle of the Somme (1st July to 18th November 1916)

Five Elsworth men died during the course of the battle. Four of them, Arthur Circus (21), Herbert Desborough (28), George Percy Driver (24) and John Smith (23) have no known grave and are listed on the Thiépval Memorial. All four served with the Suffolk Regiment which suffered heavy losses at the Somme. Frederick Childerley (19), who served with the Royal West Kent and Queens Own Regiments was buried at Serre Road Cemetery No 1. Alfred Bishop (40), who served with the Hampshire Regiment, died back in England as a result of wounds sustained at the Somme. He was buried at Elsworth

Particular Baptist Chapelyard in Boxworth Road.

Arras (9th April to 16th May 1917)

Thomas Edwin Circus (28) serving with the Suffolk Regiment and James Smith (34) serving with the Middlesex Regiment both died during this battle. Neither has a known grave and both are listed on the Arras Memorial.

“The Advance to Victory” or the 100 Days Offensive (8th August to 11th November 1918)

The Allies’ final offensive of the war saw the death of John Hinson (38) who served with the Rifle Brigade. He has no known grave and is listed on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial. Stanley Methuen Manning (18), serving with the Essex Regiment, also died in this offensive – he is buried at the Trefcon British Cemetery.

Prisoners of War and others

Charles Clark (28), who served with the Northamptonshire Regiment and died in December 1917, may have been a PoW. He is buried in Germany at the Niederzwehren Cemetery near Kassel, but this cemetery was used by the CWGC after the war to bring together burials from several scattered locations in Germany.

John Desborough (28) served with the Suffolk Regiment. He was murdered in February 1918 by a German guard at his PoW camp and was buried at Cologne Southern Cemetery.

Frank Philip Kirby (25) served with the London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers). He died in September 1916 at a hospital behind the lines and is buried nearby at the Bois-Guillaume Communal Cemetery near Rouen.

Missing from the Elsworth War Memorial

William Braybrook (23) was an Elsworth man who died at the Somme in 1916. He appears not to have been included on the Elsworth War Memorial for family reasons, but is listed on the war memorial in the churchyard of All Saints Parish Church at Pidley-cum-Fenton. Braybrook had enlisted with the Huntingdonshire Cyclists Battalion, a Territorial unit, which was fondly known as “The Gaspipe Cavalry”, and

later served with the Bedfordshire Regiment. He has no known grave and is listed on the Thiepval Memorial.

It is our hope that more information about all the Elsworth men who served in WW1 will eventually become available on the Elsworth Chronicle website <http://www.elsworthchronicle.org.uk/> If you would like to get involved with this research, or to find out more about it, please contact Paul Harding on 01954 267218.

Paul Harding & Kazio Bienek





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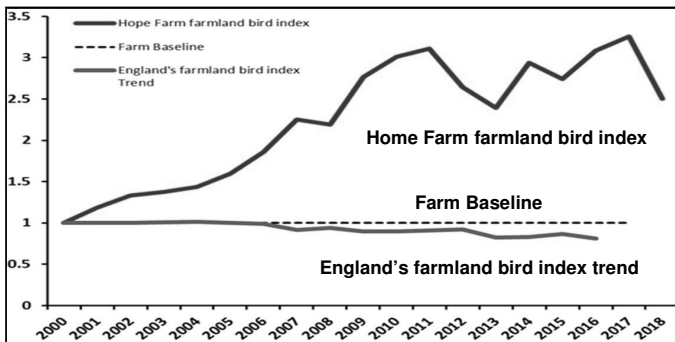
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Alan Farrow on 01954 267472 or e-mail farrow16@googlemail.com

OUR NEIGHBOURS AT HOPE FARM [RSPB].

The looming rains and the explosion of rustic golds and oranges colouring the landscape can only mean one thing...winter is coming. For us at Hope farm this means that the summer crops are long harvested and the winter-sown crops have been in the ground for a few weeks now. This shift to autumn has seen the last of our summer wildlife monitoring concluded, allowing us to reflect on how a particularly wet and cold spring followed by a hot and dry summer has affected our wildlife.

The breeding bird index for Hope farm was down from last year's record high of 226% above the baseline index of 2000 when the farm was bought, to 150% above baseline this year (see graph below). The presence of winter storms way into March made a difficult crossing for many migrants and the quick turn to the scorching temperatures called an early end to the breeding season for many species with the hard ground, wilting vegetation, and lack of water limiting their resources. Despite these challenging conditions 41 species were recorded as holding territory in 2018 with 494 individual territories, a significant increase compared to the 301 territories of 35 species in 2000. Yellowhammers have fallen from 34 to 27 territories, and alas both Corn Buntings and Yellow Wagtails were absent as territory holding species. Lapwings and Grey Partridges did well with 3 and 7 territories respectively and excitingly Reed Warbler was confirmed as breeding for the first time with two pairs nesting in one of the wet features created on the farm.



Whilst the sizzling summer may have caused hardships for our feathered friends our fluttering friends flourished! This year has seen record numbers of butterflies recorded in the Hope farm butterfly monitoring programme with summer 2018 having a butterfly index of 223% above our year 2000 baseline. Many species, such as the Common Blue, exceeded expectations with over 600 individuals recorded. This record accounts for 46% of the total number of this species recorded in the last 17 years! An incredible total of 24 species were recorded, including the White-letter Hairstreak which was recorded at the farm for the first time.

The coming winter brings different challenges to our wildlife as the landscape becomes more hostile. Food becomes limited for birds as many invertebrates hunker down in the beetle bank, or underground to wait out the frosts and the vegetation recedes. As part of our countryside stewardship agreement we offer support in the form of winter bird seed mixes which include; quinoa, mustard and barley, and provide particularly important sustenance for species such as Yellowhammer, Corn Bunting, Linnet, Reed Bunting, and many more. The difficult start to the season means this crop hasn't produced as many nutritious grains as we would have liked and is unlikely to provide as much seed as previous years. However, like many nature-friendly famers, once this resource is depleted we will start scattering out supplementary seed food by the sackful to keep birds going until spring. Hopefully, with the support from us and many other farms we can give these birds the chance for a more successful breeding season next year.

The over-winter food and protection provided here brings in huge numbers of many bird species offering an amazing spectacle that's easy to see by walking the farm's footpaths. As a new addition to the team here as a research intern this is my first winter with Hope farm and I already cannot wait to wade out into the cold to witness these birds flock in in their hundreds, and I hope you will too!

Sophie Mott
Hope Farm Research Intern

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ELSWORTH SPORTS CLUB

It is with sadness that I begin my report following the recent sudden passing of Jan Bienek, known as Kazio to most. Over the last few years Kazio has been a regular member of the snooker quartet on a Monday morning in the pavilion. He was a good friend, helping me in many ways, and also to Bill and the Sports Club, and I am sure to many others. I am pleased to have been a friend. Kazio - Rest in Peace.

The football season is now under way, but as for the last few years, Elsworth hasn't a team. If there is interest and anyone is willing and able to form a side, please contact either Bill Knibbs or myself. Swavesey Spartans are again using the ground on Saturday mornings as their home venue.

The cricket season finished in September. After a promising start our team faltered slightly when two matches had to be conceded through lack of players. A stronger finish saw the team complete the season in Cambs Junior League Division 5 West in third place. Matches were also played in Division 3 of the Business League on mid-week evenings. Net practice will be available before the start of the new season - any prospective players should contact either Bill Knibbs on 01954 267266 or Craig Miller on 07730 212219.

The table season began in September. Elsworth has two teams in the Cambridge League and three in the Ely League. Although early days in the season, Elsworth 1 are again finding life tough in Division 1 of the Cambridge League, but Elsworth 2 are faring better in Division 3, currently in third place. In the Ely League, all three Elsworth teams are performing well in their respective divisions - 1, 2 and 3. Club evenings are arranged when there are no matches, and anyone interested in playing should contact Bill Knibbs.

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

Roger Fenson [Tel: 01954 267534]

ELSWORTH, KNAPWELL AND CONINGTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The topic at our October meeting was the remarkable story of Heffer's Bookshop in Cambridge. We were fascinated to learn of its roots, which date back in the late 19th century [1876] when William Heffer opened a shop in Fitzroy Street. Few would have imagined the success the future would bring, for William was the son of an agricultural labourer and he had no literary background himself, being employed at that time as a groom. This first shop was essentially a stationers with the added attraction of some toys. Books were to be added to include texts for undergraduates at discounted prices. Soon printing and publishing were added.

Twenty years later another shop was added at Petty Curry, which was to be replaced in 1970 by the Trinity Street site, a move which proved to be a very good move financially, with the shop selling many academic books. At one time there were ten Heffer shops in Cambridge, one of which was devoted to Penguin books, becoming in 1957 the first bookshop in the United Kingdom to sell these books. Another of particular note was Heffer's children's shop, opened in 1969. All have now closed, with the exception of the grand principal shop in Trinity Street.

Until 1999 Heffer's had remained a family firm, spanning four generations, but in that year it was taken over by Blackwell's of Oxford, another family concern. The value of its name was clearly regarded as very important, for the business retains the name, which stands out boldly on the Trinity Street store.

The above is but one of many talks given over the year. Others have focussed on topics ranging from 'Essential Oils At Home for Health and Well Being' to 'All About Alpacas'. Ladies of the village do join us if our programme seems of interest.

Isobel Farrow [Tel: 01954 267472]



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