

The Elsworth Chronicle



Issue No. 10

January 1997

We must apologise for the magazine being late; regretfully our last printers were unable to do the work. We are most grateful to Express Printing of Peterborough for this edition.

THE SAMUEL FRANKLIN FUND

For more than three hundred years our village has been fortunate in having benefactors who have given money to help those in need. Thomas Campion's will of 1614 set up the oldest surviving charity by providing for 6 shillings 8 pence to be paid out yearly.

Some bequests have ceased over the years such as Jane Desborough's. She left £10 in her will of 1698 and the interest of 10 shillings per year was for the benefit of the poor. Similarly Rose Desborough gave £10 in the following year to provide bread and the same amount to provide for the education of poor children.

In 1993 the remaining nine small charities were combined into one with the approval of the Charity Commissioners. These combined charities are known by the name of the largest charity - The Samuel Franklin Fund. The Samuel Franklin Charity dates from 1695 and provided almshouses in Cordell End for three widows until 1961. Samuel Franklin was a nephew of Richard Franklin who became Rector of Elsworth in 1614 and he is also commemorated in the name of Franklin Close.

In 1995 I look over as Chairman of the Trustees from Dr. Robert Evans who had been Chairman from 1963 and who undertook the work of amalgamating the nine charities. The Trustees would also like to thank Mr John Thurnley for over 30 years service as a Trustee. We welcome in his place Mr John Barratt as the new Trustee. The five Trustees work on a voluntary basis without remuneration and we are grateful to them.

The Trustees are allowed by the Trust Deed to make grants to those in the Parish of Elsworth who are less well off and in need of help because of illness, infirmity or hospitalization, or starting an apprenticeship or similar. In addition, grants may be made to institutions which cater for the sick or elderly of the village and donations of £250 have recently been sent to the Papworth Day Centre and the Orchard Centre at Hinchingsbrooke Day Hospital.

The Fund's income may vary from year to year but, although it is not a requirement, a distribution of grants is usually made to individuals twice a year. The Trustees have to satisfy themselves that 'individuals are deserving and in need' and benefits are no longer restricted to widows.

It is important that those with sufficient income do not receive money which could be used to help others and anyone who receives a grant but feels that he or she should not be included should let the Clerk to the Trustees know.

Cases of hardship or need may be helped as they arise and should be brought to the attention of a Trustee or the Clerk to the Trustees, Mrs J. Howard, 30 Rogers Close (267569). Applications are always treated confidentially.

The charities were started by generous local people who wished to help others in the village and this still applies: donations or legacies in wills may still be made to the Samuel Franklin Fund.

*David Hollier,
Chairman of the Trustees*

WILDLIFE



February

Tawny Owls, like many owls, are rarely seen as they are active mainly at night, feeding on birds, mice and other small mammals. They rely on wooded areas in which to live, and will roost in trees during the day. At this time of year, the first Tawny Owl eggs are being laid. Listen out, and look for pellets on the woodland floor. These can be dissected to find out what the owl has been eating, giving vital clues as to which mammals are living in the area.

March

March is the best month to go frog watching! They are returning to their breeding ponds to spawn, and you can begin to watch the process of spawn through tadpoles and froglets to frogs. The spawn of frogs and toads are distinctly different, frog spawn can be seen in clumps, floating in the water. Toad spawn is seen in strings, attached to plants under the surface. To find out more about ponds and other wetland habitats, contact The Wildlife Trust on 01223 846363.

MEMORIES OF ELSWORTH LADIES' FOOTBALL TEAM AND SPORTING DAYS GONE BY

The past has gone and cannot be changed, and some people may feel that it is not always wise to reflect about days gone by. Yet all of us at some time reminisce about what has happened in the past. Those of us who have lived in the same area for many years, particularly in rural communities, will have seen many changes taking place around us. Change is inevitable and we have to concede that there are many areas where progress has improved the quality of life for some individuals. Even so, one cannot help sometimes feeling rather sad about the diminishing and often disappearing services and activities that have vanished from our locality, together with much of the community comradeship that had always appeared to exist.

Being a keen sports person myself, activities of a sporting nature have always been of interest to me. I recall the very strong local support that was given to Elsworth Sports Club during the 50's, 60's and 70's and possibly early 80's. The village had football and cricket teams that were a force to be reckoned with, and it was a simple task for the various captains to muster 1st and 2nd teams, which consisted of mainly local people.

During the sixties and seventies, Elsworth also had a very active ladies' football team. Admittedly this started off as a bit of fun during feast week activities (in those days there was a different attraction each day throughout feast week), but as interest grew, and skills improved, it became a regular team which travelled over a fairly wide area to play matches. The original team was made up entirely of Elsworth ladies. I remember very clearly our very first game which was played in pouring rain, the players soaking wet and plastered in mud, but nevertheless, greatly enjoyed by all who took part, providing a great deal of laughter for those who had turned up to watch the event from the sidelines.

To return to the present, sadly we have seen a decline in support and today mustering teams at weekends causes headaches for captains as they seek to muster teams from wherever they can find someone available or willing to play. One wonders what will happen when the people behind the scenes (who do all the leg work) eventually call it a day. Will there be new blood to take on all the tasks? Perhaps, though, the future will see some return of support as we now have a schoolboys' football team and a table tennis club. There are also some stirrings and interest in providing a tennis court or possibly a bowls green, but of course this will depend on how much support local people are willing to give. I would like to feel that that Elsworth is still a caring community and that we might be able to improve the recreational facilities within the village for young and old alike.

Maureen Stevens

It may not generally be known that Maureen was a trialist for the England football team; she was too modest to mention it in her article

Editor

THANK YOU ELSWORTH

CAMSIGHT (The Cambridgeshire Society for the Blind and Partially Sighted) would like to thank the residents of Elsworth for their generosity and, in particular, the very kind people who collected on our behalf between 1st-15th July this year. The village raised £59.98 towards helping blind and partially sighted people both in the county and at our Resource Centre in our new premises at 167 Green End Road, Cambridge CB4 1RW, Tel: 01223 420083. We are most grateful for this boost to our funds.

*Mrs Vicki Russell House to House
Collections Co-ordinator*

Camsight recruits volunteers to support visually impaired people in their own homes; offer transport; act as befrienders to read letters and books; provide company on walks or shopping; attend social activities or simply have a chat.

We are in desperate need of volunteers in your area if anyone can spare as little as an hour a week please contact Jenny Nolle on 01223 420033



The original team - how many can you spot?
Answers on the back page



Maureen Stevens in action - 1969

ODD JOTTINGS

Photographs of Elsworth

Liz Sim is endeavouring to gather together photographs depicting Elsworth over the years. She would be most grateful if readers who have prints of interesting scenes, events, buildings or people of note would contact her - telephone 267345. It is proposed that the collection should mark the millennium. Photographs could be loaned, donated or made available for photocopying.

Speed cameras - A428 near Bourn

The A428 near Bourn is an accident problem site, and although accidents may be result of a number of factors, speed is regarded as being of note. The Highways Agency, which is responsible for this road, is consequently funding the installation of a speed camera, and one is likely to be operational within the next month. There will be extensive signing of the route to warn drivers of the presence of the camera, although its location will not be indicated.

Use this space to advertise

This magazine is distributed to every home in Elsworth. Contact Alan Farrow (01954) 267472 or Liz Sim (01954) 267345 for details.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Cambourne

In spite of prior protestations from Elsworth Parish Council and other bodies and their earlier strong stance on the matter, South Cambs District Council has given way and accepted McAlpine's revised plan whereby a bridge and roundabout access serving the Knapwell/A428 junction is no longer to be a part of the scheme.

The present proposal seems ludicrous and potentially very dangerous. When making application originally, McAlpine submitted Scheme A below. Later, having persuaded South Cambs that the settlement should be accepted - in spite of statements from the County Council that such a settlement was not required and advice from academic and professional planners that if there was to be a new settlement it should be located east of Cambridge - McAlpine withdrew their original proposal and submitted Scheme B below.

In accepting the revised proposal, South Cambs have deemed that it is acceptable that traffic from Knapwell should endeavour to manoeuvre into a speeding line of traffic from the dualled section immediately to the west and that traffic from Cambridge destined for Knapwell and beyond should be asked to cross such a flow of vehicles. Difficulties for drivers endeavouring to turn to St. Neots and places to the west from Knapwell are equally disturbing.

The outlook is worrying. It is possible, however, that the Department of Transportation might redeem the situation in part by dualling the A428 to Hardwick from the new settlement, but at a time of cutbacks on road schemes, this is far from certain.

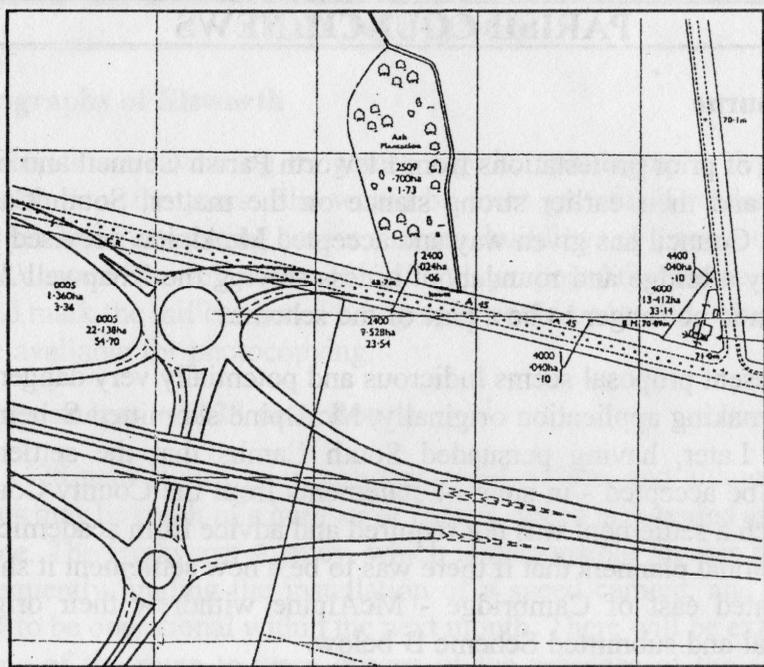


Fig I
'Scheme A'

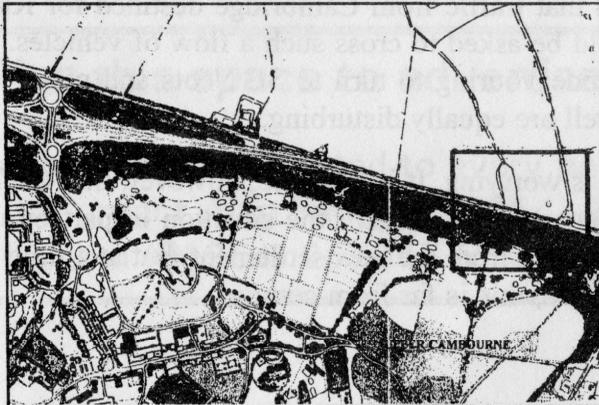


Fig II
'Scheme B'

(Inset shows area of Fig I)

It will be seen the dualled carriageway is now well to the west of the Knapwell junction

Brook Street - Roadside Damage

The damage caused by vehicles parked on the brook side of this road is very much regretted. A place of attraction has been made an eyesore. In an endeavour to rectify the matter the Parish Council together with the County Council has embarked on a scheme whereby geoblocks will be embedded to check erosion. In essence, plastic blocks - sufficiently robust to take the weight of a fire engine - will provide a chequered base through which grass will grow and flood water drain.

The Brook - Drainage Impediments

Over the course of 75 metres or so downstream from the culvert outflow off Paddock Row, fallen trees, debris and other obstructions have been removed. We are most grateful to Malcolm Broughton, John Throssell and John Shanks for their endeavours. Some dredging remains to be done, but first a flush flood is awaited in the hope that the work already undertaken might improve the flow sufficiently to flush silt from the culvert.

St. Ives Bus Service

After constant pressing we are very pleased to report that the Monday morning St. Ives bus service has been reinstated by Whippets. A bus now leaves Elsworth at 9:30am, with a return available at 11:45am from St. Ives. Let us hope that the service will be sufficiently well used for the service to be retained permanently.

Village Handyman

Ron Stevens has been appointed to replace Len Bosworth, who has retired. We are most grateful to Len for all he has done over the years in assisting to keep Elsworth tidy and attractive. We welcome Ron and wish Len every happiness in the years to come.

Elsworth Moto-park

Permission has been granted by South Cambridgeshire District Council for increased use. Now the site may be used on 77 occasions, of which only 25 may be on a Sunday.

Play Equipment

The Recreation sub-committee is investigating possible improvements.

Street Lighting

The Parish Council expressed its disapproval of a County scheme to reduce street lighting in the village by one in eight and declined to identify lights for extinction. We are pleased to report the scheme was dropped by the County Council.

Road/Path Salting and Gritting

The County Council is responsible for gritting the main roads but we are asked in the village to apply salt elsewhere where necessary. Containers with salt and piles at strategic places will be seen. Regretfully Brockley Road will not be gritted by the County and you are asked to be particularly careful when conditions are icy.

Appearance of the village

Readers are asked to contribute ideas as to possible improvements which could be made to the appearance of the village. Please contact any of the Parish Councillors.

ELSWORTH C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are eighteen months on from the OFSED report and are implementing the inspectors' recommendations. Janet Rayment has attended a series of courses on the High Ability Child. The timing of the school development plan has been changed to run with the financial year. We are endeavouring to maintain the High Standards which were remarked on by OFSED.

We are concerned about the problems of parking and turning in Broad End and general access to the school. The negotiated replacement of the double decker bus by a minibus will help to alleviate the situation. Plans for a new school access have been prepared and forwarded to the Diocese and LEA for their consideration.

School security is understandably very high on everyone's agenda. New security locks are being fitted to all external doors. Feasibility studies and plans of a revised front of school layout to incorporate new offices for the head teacher and secretary have been prepared. The repositioning of the secretary's office will allow clear vision of the school gate and front door. Class 3 and Class 4 are both to be extended in these alterations. Funding for the project is being pursued and we are confident of success.

*Nicholas Wright
Chairman*

ELSWORTH AND KNAPWELL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We meet on the second Wednesday in the month at 7:30pm in the School Hall.

Elsworth & Knapwell W.I. was formed in 1923 and has been going strong ever since. We are a friendly group with a traditional and modern outlook, and have a wide variety of guest speakers ranging from the arts, business and politics.

You can be sure of a warm friendly welcome at Elsworth & Knapwell W.I. Our president is Sue Chapman, (01954) 267568.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH



After 35 years of ministry in Elsworth, the Rev. Hugh Mosedale retired in August, having held office for the longest period of any one person since Matthew Holworthy completed 36 years in 1827. £229 was contributed by villages for a retirement gift, the money being used to purchase a carriage clock and a Robert Sayle's token for the purchase of items of his own choice for his new home from shops in the John Lewis group. The gifts were presented at a gathering at the Rectory in Boxworth on the 14th September, when also parishioners from Boxworth and Knapwell said their farewells. Hugh now has a flat at New Barnet, located almost opposite to where his sister lives. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

Sadly, the Bishop does not intend to appoint a successor as Rector of Elsworth; thus an office maintained continuously from 1349 or earlier is to come to an end. This does not mean our church is to close. The plan is to incorporate it into a larger administrative area covering eight other parishes which will be served by a team of three - a rector, a vicar and a curate, with the last named living in Elsworth. Until such a scheme materialises, a Priest-in-Charge has been appointed to cover Elsworth, Boxworth and Knapwell. In this capacity we are very pleased to welcome the Rev. Doctor Michael Reiss, of Comberton, who has undertaken to add this commitment to a full-time teaching post at Homerton College. We extend to him a very warm welcome.

A.W.F.

PLOUGH PEOPLE

This is the tale of an incident that happened in my house but, sadly, not to me.

It must be said at the outset that my husband is not prone to believing in ghosts or any happening that cannot be proven and has little time for those (including me) who do. However

One winter my husband had started a cold and has been tossing and turning for hours. It got to about two or three in the morning when he decided that he had had enough of this and went off to sleep in the spare room. He was just drifting off to sleep when he heard voices, upon waking he realised that these voices seems to be actually *in* the room with him as well as outside the window and they were not happy. Something had upset quite a few people. He was wide awake by this time and could see no one. Being wide awake he realised how ridiculous these thoughts were but he could still hear the voices. He buried his head under the pillow but could still hear the voices. He got up, went to the window and looked out but he could see no one but could still hear the voices. It was as though a crowd of people were walking up the path between our house and what is now the garage and they were definitely not happy, quite frightening in fact. He opened the window, shouted at them and went back to bed, eventually they went away.

My husband swears this is what he heard (I know he was stone cold sober at the time) and, as I said, he has no interest in these things at all but I believe him when he says this is what happened.

It must be said that our house was a pub for many years, from the late 1800's to about 1950ish. It sounds to me as though someone called 'Time' and the assembled company did not like it.

A favourite food? he has many but this is a good seasonal favourite.

Roast Chicken with Roasted Vegetables.

The chicken - roast in the normal way.

The Vegetables.

Juice of one lemon	Red Peppers
Potato	Celery
Swede	Leeks
Turnip	Onions
Parsnip	

Any combination of favourite seasonal vegetables that will roast.

In a roasting pan melt enough butter to coat your selected vegetables and add (optional) 3 cloves garlic, crushed.

Prepare vegetables and cut into approx. 1" cubes. Coat with butter and squeeze over the lemon juice. Cover the pan and roast for about an hour when the vegetables should become tender. If you keep the lid on while roasting the red peppers will keep their colour. Brown for a further twenty minutes or so.

A simple dish but an all the year favourite in our house.

Gwynith Gerloch

THE HOSPICE SHOP

30 REGENT STREET, CAMBRIDGE
(THE FRIENDS OF ARTHUR RANK HOUSE & BROOKFIELDS HOSPITAL)

**WE ARE ALWAYS MOST GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS OF GOOD QUALITY
CLOTHING, BOOKS & BRIC A BRAC**

**THESE SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE SHOP DURING OPENING
HOURS 10.00am - 4.30pm, MONDAY - SATURDAY**

**PLEASE: DO NOT LEAVE BAGS ON THE DOORSTEP OVERNIGHT
SHOULD YOU NEED GOODS TO BE COLLECTED, PLEASE RING
CAMBRIDGE 462452**

The Hospice Shop is on the left-hand side of Regent Street, immediately after the entrance to Downing College (opposite Pizza Hut restaurant). If you are delivering goods you can park outside on the double yellow line (the traffic wardens are very friendly and turn a blind eye). As it is a cycle way you should leave room for a bicycle to pass between your vehicle and the kerb.
Thank you

EAST ANGLIA IN BLOOM

Judgement on Elsworth - July 16th

A very picturesque village with a number of thatched properties with well cared for 'Cottage Style' gardens.

The judges found a clean, neat village with no litter or dog fouling. Bins were evident and being used.

The Churchyard, War Memorial and Playing Fields were clean and well maintained. The small allotment site was well cultivated and a credit to the ploholders.

The gardens of Rogers Close were colourful and well maintained, with the Poacher P.H. having a really good display together with the George and Dragon making a good effort.

The judges felt that Elsworth is suffering from the move up to the higher category of Large Village and needs more input from the community with some Best Kept Garden and Basket/Container competitions to build on the nucleus of floral displays seen this year.

DH/VC

ELSWORTH SPORTS CLUB

In the last edition of the Chronicle, we left the first eleven cricket team in a not too strong position in the league, but hopes were being expressed that relegation would be avoided. And so it transpired; the team finished the season with credit in the middle of Division 2. In Division 6 of the Cambridgeshire league, the second eleven also performed creditably, finishing in the top half of the division.

To turn to football, Elsworth won promotion to Division 4A of the Cambridgeshire league and at the time of writing are placed in the middle of division. Those who support our team will have been delighted at the new kit, which has been generously part-sponsored by Quick Fix of St. Ives. Support from outside has come also from The Golden Ball at Boxworth, taking tangible expression in the form of a match ball.

HOME-START

Cambridge & District

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for people who are willing to visit families with young children, to offer them friendship and practical help.

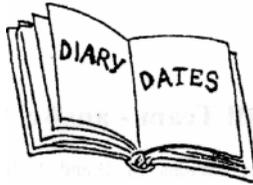
If you have had parenting experience and feel you could help a family through a difficult patch, please contact

Beryl Riley / Stella Cornell, Home-Start: Cambridge & District

Centre 4A, Gonville Place, Cambridge CB1 1LY

Tel: 01223 322523/460523

Home-Start is committed to an equal opportunities policy.



FEBRUARY

- 1** Football - Elsworth v. Fowlmere Reserves
- 8-9** Wildlife Trust - Toad Fencing work party - meet 10:30am at Three Horseshoes pub at Madingley.
- 10** Wildlife Trust - "Wildlife and the Law" by Steve Parnwell - 7:30pm at Swavesey Village College
- 21** Wildlife Trust - "A Taste of Scottish Wildlife" - 7:45pm at Cottenham Village College - contact 01954 251544
- 22** Football - Elsworth v. Sawston Rovers Reserves
- 24** N.W.R. - Meal at the George & Dragon

MARCH

- 1** Football - Elsworth v. Comberton Utd 'A'
- 8** Football - Elsworth v. Litlington Reserves
- 9** Wildlife Trust - "Ecology of Ancient Woodland" - Oliver Rackham - at Mill Lane, Cambridge - contact 01604 405285

- 18** N.W.R. - Playreading - 15 Paddock Row
- 19** Parish Council Meeting
- 21** Wildlife Trust - Joanna Pinnock of BBC Natural History Programme will give an insight into work behind it all - meet Cottenham Village College - contact 01954 251544

APRIL

- 10** N.W.R. - Games Evening at Prestwold, High Street, Conington

MAY

- 7** N.W.R. - Video and Discussion at 30 Rogers Close
- 21** Parish Annual Meeting

JUNE

- 4** N.W.R. - Garden Visit to The Twibells - 31 Smith Street
- 14** Parish Council Meeting
- 23** N.W.R. - Planning Meeting - 48 Boxworth Road
- 28** Church Fete - Sports Field

Elsworth Ladies' Football Team - answers:

E. Heifer, V. Goodfield, C. Brand, M. Stevens, M. Brand, S. Stevens, V. Desborough, D. Reed
J. Thornhill, S. Pamell, D. Stevens