

The Elsworth Chronicle



Holy Trinity Church

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ELSWORTH CHRONICLE

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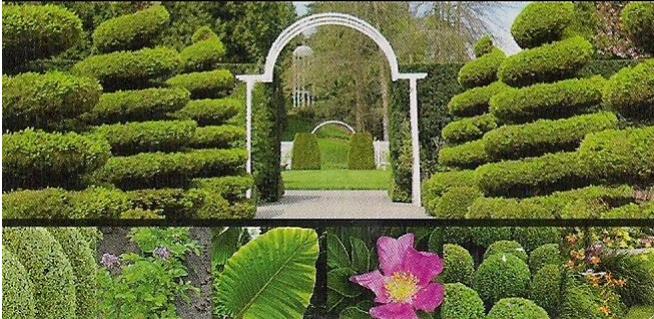
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TRANSPORT - PLEASING DEVELOPMENTS

The bus service to St. Ives has been saved! After over two years of discussions an earlier proposal by the County to discontinue the direct service to St. Ives has been dropped and the present commitment is to remain, which in fact is a marked improvement over two years ago when talks began, for the service now operates on five days a week. Readers might recall that the direct link with St. Ives had been retained until agreement had been reached.

We are clearly grateful that a direct link with St. Ives has been retained. However, public transport provision for Elsworth for those without cars is poor, but passenger patronage, or lack of it, determines what is provided. Many in the village would welcome a link with Cambourne but it is unlikely that this would be provided on economic grounds by conventional means. But a less conventional approach by means of a “demand response” service could well meet our needs while at the same time ensuring that vehicles only run when required.

An earlier edition of the Elsworth Chronicle has described the “demand response” scheme. In essence, the vehicle only runs when a request is made in advance of the proposed journey. If a regular link with Cambourne was desired by several people for, say, Thursday mornings, both the bus providers and the village would benefit, the former through a pleasing number of passengers, and the latter from what Cambourne, with Morrison’s shop prominent, has to offer. The scheme need not be restricted to this, but as a starter it would seem a viable way to promote the service.

The case for a “demand response” service is sound. It has been available to parishes south of the A428 for many years, is provided for parishes in the Hunts District Council area, and now East Cambs District Council is considering a similar scheme. We, between the A428 and the A14 would seem an island of neglect, which, hopefully, can be rectified. To this end we are to

seek support from our neighbouring parishes, for the County would now seem more sympathetic to our pleas.

Two other available services for those without access to a car are relevant here and might not be known to all, namely the Surgery Run and the hospital car scheme. The former enables patients for the Papworth surgery to book in advance for appointments on Thursday mornings, informing the receptionist that transport is required, to be provided by Elsworth volunteer drivers. The hospital car scheme is not quite as straightforward - the need for transport has to be authorised by a G.P. against stringent criteria it would seem, after which, if deemed necessary, transport is arranged by the hospital authorities for subsequent appointments.

By means of the schemes outlined above, the delights of living in Elsworth may be enjoyed into advanced years. And in addition the community car scheme, the subject of a note in the last edition of the Chronicle, can provide access to those areas not served by public transport.

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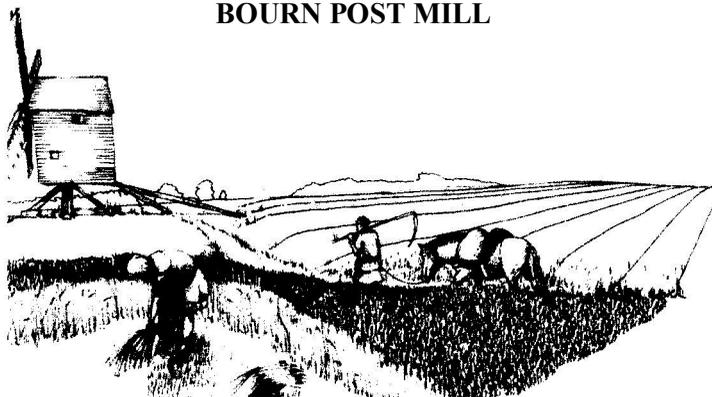
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BOURN POST MILL



It might not generally be known in Elsworth that we have within but three miles of the village an important and most interesting scheduled ancient monument. In mind is Bourn Post Mill, one of the oldest mills in the country, dating back to at least 1636, but it might well pre-date this.

The building is supported on a central post - hence its name - which in turn is supported by a trestle. The body of the mill is turned on this central post so that the sails catch the prevailing wind. The whole building may easily be moved by its tailpiece, which projects from the base of the elevated building. The mill extends over two floors, the upper containing the grinding stones, power being provided, of course, by the imposing sails.

The mill is well worth a visit. You can try your hand at turning the building on its post or if that doesn't appeal, enjoy an informative tour of the interior. While there, you might reflect on the changing landscape witnessed by the

mill over the centuries. In medieval times (depicted in the illustration opposite) grain would have been brought by pack-horses along trackways; later with enclosure in the early nineteenth century, a landscape of small hedged fields evolved; and to-day another marked change is the mass of houses of nearby Cambourne linked to the mill by footpath. The official guide pamphlet notes that the last miller at Bourn was George Papworth, whose father was the landlord at the 'The Fox' in that village. The cause of its demise was the introduction of a paraffin engine in the nearby barn in 1926, which made the mill redundant. It is now in the care of the Cambridge Preservation Society.

The mill is easily found, being situated on a clearly defined footpath off the Bourn/Caxton minor road. It may be viewed from the outside throughout the year, and examined within during Summer Open Days - the dates this year are 15th May, 26th June, 24th July, 14th August and 11th September. Contact may be made by telephone on 01954 719745 or www.cambridgeppf.org

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Obituaries



MARGARET GRANGE



SUE STEVENS

Two sisters who for many years were prominent members of our village have sadly passed away within a few months of each other. The funerals of both saw Holy Trinity Church packed - well deserved moving tributes.

Margaret, whose funeral was in December last, was born on the 18th August 1948 at Bourn, where she lived until marrying Robin, then of Brook Street in Elsworth. For many years they lived at No. 17 Brockley Road before moving to Knapwell and later to Papworth Everard. Together they provided a loving home for many children in need through fostering, involvement and care which has flowed into the next generation. The lives of so many have been markedly enriched by the love and attention provided by Margaret and Robin.

Sister Susan was born on the 7th January 1940 and died on the 16th February this year, becoming a member of the Stevens family on her marriage to Terry. Together they made home in Brockley

Road and later at Smith Street, where they remained until moving to Papworth Everard. They had three children and were to become grandparents to eight.

Sue and the family gave much to our village - see also Elsworth Chronicle No. 19 - But this did not cease when Sue and Terry moved to Papworth. Medicines are still delivered by members of the family from the Papworth surgery to those in Elsworth unable to collect them for themselves, and Sue was a member of the Elsworth Church flower decoration team until shortly before she died. As with Margaret, the love and respect of Elsworth was shown at her funeral, and clearly Elsworth remained warmly in her thoughts.

JUBILEE CLUB

Two excursions have been planned for this year - to Hunstanton on the 2nd June and on the 28th July to Lowestoft. We leave Elsworth at 9a.m. from The Poacher and return at 4.30 p.m. To book seats, please contact Betty Simcock on 01954 267470. The charge is £10 for adults and £5 for children. All are welcome - subject to the number of seats available - you do not have to be a member of the Jubilee Club.

Our monthly meetings continue to be popular. We meet on the first Thursday of the month at Elsworth School in the afternoon from 2.30 to 4.30. In March we had a selection of short films and in April our speaker dealt with 'How we were in the Forties'. In May the subject was 'Inspirational Women'. Earlier In January we had our usual celebratory lunch at the George and Dragon, always a happy occasion. To look to the future, in addition to the excursions noted above, our speaker on July 7th is to focus on Jersey Zoo, noting in particular the work of Gerald Durrell.

Membership is open to all. If you are not a member, do join us - there is no membership fee. We are always pleased to see new faces - come without commitment to join.

Betty Simcock [Tel: 01954 267470]

RETIREMENT REFLECTIONS

INVOLVEMENT WITH THE ROYAL FAMILY

Having retired from work I have now started a new project in attempting to keep an old 1680s cottage in Brockley Road going with some updates and improvements to what was a 1960 extension. This is well on the way, but as is usual, the final touches - putting up fences, gates etc. - are taking a little longer than I thought, of which I am reminded by my wife.

My career had been with the railway industry, involving me, in part, with the Royal Family, of which I am proud. It began in 1972 and by 1980 I had become a train driver, working trains all over East Anglia to and from King's Cross, Liverpool Street, Norwich, King's Lynn, Peterborough and Birmingham. In 1988 I was asked to become a Traction Inspector, which was an achievement in itself as at 33 years I was the youngest Traction Inspector in the area. After starting as an Assistant Traction Inspector I qualified as a full Grade E Inspector which allowed me to pass trainee drivers out as fully qualified mainline drivers who could drive in any part of the country, including high speed trains.

On occasions I was asked to be Inspector/Manager to ensure that V.I.P.s - notably the Queen, Prince Philip, Lady Diana, Prince Charles, and Princess Margaret - were looked after and that there was adherence to matters of safety. As you can well imagine there were times when things did not go as smoothly as would be hoped. Take, for example, an occasion when Princess Margaret was in a train travelling from King's Cross to King's Lynn. Someone came forward

and tapped on the driver's door and stated that Princess Margaret had asked to speak with me. I proceeded to where the Princess was seated and having introduced myself was told that the heating in the coach was inadequate, which to be fair was correct. I apologised and said I would investigate to see what I could find. As you can imagine, I did all I could to find and repair the problem, but to no avail... I said I was sorry but could not find the cause. The Princess said 'I didn't think you would', at which I smiled - big mistake! By this time her detective had a broad grin on his face. I was asked by the Princess to sit opposite her, which I did. Princess Margaret was aggrieved to see bad language engraved on the glass near to her seat, which I could not see from where I was sitting. I had to go down on my knees in front of her to see what was written. It was a reference to a lady of disrepute. Complaints then came concerning chewing gum all over the floor, poor lighting and seating. I could only agree with everything that was said. The conversation then turned to the youth of to-day and why people put chewing gum all over the floor, and wrote things on the window like that. I replied 'Unfortunately chewing gum, as you can see, is everywhere, and that discipline to-day is at an all-time low, and the public can get away with it'. The Princess agreed with me and said I could return to the driver's cab. As I left the first class area I turned and said I was very sorry about the heating, but I would endeavour to make sure the train arrived early at King's Lynn for her, at which the Princess replied with a smile 'If you do, it will be the first time.' Just to let you know we were two minutes early into King's Lynn.

Other memories come readily to mind, such as the occasion when the Duke of Edinburgh became very angry due to the fact that his train had been cancelled at Cambridge. Oh dear.....! This tale will have to wait for another day.

Patrick Ross



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ELSWORTH SPORTS CLUB

To begin this report I wish to pay tribute to a good friend of the Sports Club, Doreen Stevens, who passed away on the 14th April. In earlier years Doreen was a keen supporter of Elsworth football team, husband Bert being a regular member of the side, and the welcome supplier of the half-time oranges. She was always willing to help with various secretarial issues and more recently was the M.C. at our regular whist drives, an act which is proving difficult to follow. Thank you, Doreen.

Although Elsworth has not fielded a team this season, the pitches have been in regular use as Swavesey Spartans girls' teams have used Elsworth as their home venue, and on a few occasions Swavesey senior team has used the main pitch when their regular one was unavailable.

If there are any budding players and/or coaches interested in forming a future Elsworth team, please contact either myself or Bill Knibbs or Anthony Taylor.

The table tennis season has now drawn to a close with most of the Elsworth teams enjoying a reasonably successful season. In the Cambridge League, Elsworth I finished third of ten teams in Division 2B and reached the semi-final of the Divisional Cup. Elsworth 2 struggled to field a regular team over the whole season and finished bottom of in Division 2A and will unfortunately be relegated. Elsworth 3 finished fourth of ten teams in Division 3B.

In the Ely League, Elsworth 1 finished fifth of nine teams in Division 1, and after narrowly losing in an early round of

the Handicap Cup played the remainder of the season in the Handicap Plate. All matches in the Plate were against Division 2 or 3 teams, thereby conceding several points to higher handicapped players. However, the team triumphed and defeated Fulbourn 4 by 5 – 2 in the final. Elsworth 2 finished sixth of nine teams in Division 2 and Elsworth 3 finished second of nine teams in Division 3, thereby gaining promotion. Anyone interested in playing table tennis should contact Bill Knibbs on 267226.



Elsworth Handicap Plate Winners - Roger Fensom on the left.

The cricket season begins this month and Elsworth has again entered a team in the Cambs League [Saturdays] and the Business Houses League [mid-week]. In the Cambs League the team will again be playing in Division 4 South of the Junior League.

Net practice is available on some evenings. Anyone requiring further information should contact either Bill Knibbs on 267222 or Anthony Taylor on 268042.

Indoors in the pavilion, snooker is played on Monday mornings, and whist drives monthly on Friday evenings commencing at 7.30 pm. Wednesday afternoon carpet bowls was suspended due to lack of support, but it is hoped that it will be possible for it to be resumed.

Roger Fensom [267534]

TO MAKE YOU SMILE

A Moral Dilemma

You are driving down the road in your two-seater sports car on a wild stormy night, when you pass a bus stop where you see three people waiting for a bus:

An old lady who looks as if she is about to die
An old friend who once saved your life
The perfect partner you have been dreaming about.

Which one would you choose to offer a ride, knowing that there could be only one passenger in your car? Think before you continue reading.

This is a dilemma that was once used as part of a job application process. You could pick up the old lady because she is going to die and therefore should have preference; or you could take the old friend because he once saved your life and this would be the perfect chance to repay him. However, you may never be able to find your perfect mate again.

The candidate who was hired [out of 200 applicants] had no trouble with the answer. He simply answered "I would give the car keys to my old friend and let him take the lady to the hospital. I would stay behind and wait for the bus with the partner of my dreams".



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“I got lost in the trenches!” Not a remark you would normally hear from a W.I. member, but last year Cambridge Federation organised a tour of World War I sites. Just an example of the many events the Federation arranges. Talks and workshops are usually based at the Federation H.Q. at Girton and a newsletter keeps all the members of the 68 Cambs W.I.s informed of events.

Back in Elsworth, our speaker in January was a foot care expert who, amongst other tips, advised shopping for shoes in the afternoon, choosing well fitting shoes and cutting toe nails straight across. In February we had an informative talk about the way of life of the Romany people, enriched by stories and incidents from the speaker’s own family life.

At our business meeting in March we thanked Margaret Stevenson for her Presidency over the last three years and welcomed Helen Osborne as our new President.

Fraud practitioners were the subject of our April speaker - a timely warning to be alert, especially to unsolicited phone calls. In May the National Resolutions are discussed and voted on. Looking further ahead to June, the speaker will tell of life working in the exclusive store of Heyworths in Cambridge in the 1940s - 1950s, while July sees us in the wilds of Antarctica.

Visitors are always welcome and there is time at the end of the evening for chatting and delicious snacks.

Isobel Farrow [267472]

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