

The Elsworth Chronicle



Holy Trinity Church

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ELSWORTH CHRONICLE

[Established 1990]

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ELSWORTH CHRONICLE WEBSITE

I am very pleased to welcome Dr. Tom Hogan of Boxworth Road as the new Chronicle website facilitator following the very sad death of Kazio Bienek.

It is good that the excellent work of Kazio is to continue. The quality of the website built up by Kazio was appreciated not only in the village, but also outside. Back in 2017 Mike Petty, the founder of the Cambridge Collection at the Central Library in Cambridge who also is a prolific writer on local history and a recognised authority on the history of Cambridgeshire, was to write the following note to the editor:

“Might I just commend you on your excellent website and especially the way you have used it to share information about Elsworth’s past. I really do think it is a model that others might seek to emulate.”

Any reader who has photographs of ‘Old Elsworth’ or material of interest which they would like to be added to our village website is asked to contact Tom Hogan by e-mail [thogan@pathwaysystems.co.uk] or telephone [01954 267166]. Through Tom the parish archives remain in good hands. We are most grateful to him.

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ELSWORTH INTER-LANE CRICKET CHALLENGE

In the November edition of the Chronicle a feeler was put out regarding a six-a-side inter-lane cricket competition. Some have shown enthusiasm and seem keen to participate, but as yet there have not been responses from all lanes/roads. You will recall teams may be of mixed gender, and age is no barrier [upwards or downwards]. Cricket gear will be available on the day, but players may, of course, use their own pads and bat.

Provisional dates in mind are one from June 9th, June 16th, June 23rd, June 30th but these have to be finally confirmed with the Sports Club. All are Sundays. The date finally selected will be determined by the overall availability of players on a particular Sunday.

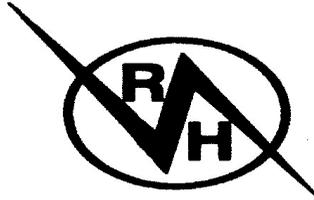
Time passes on rapidly and it is now necessary to establish which lanes/streets are able to form teams. People willing to take part are asked to let me [AWF] know as soon as possible either by e-mail [farrow16@googlemail.com] or by telephone [01954 267472], leaving a message if we are out. Please give your lane/road, and note at the same time any of the dates above which are not suitable. If you already have a group, all names could be given at one time. Again, responses as early as possible would be very much appreciated. If there are no responses from any lane/road by the end of May, that potential team will not be able to take part as time has to be available for the tournament to be organised.

It might be helpful to give again the lane/street groupings.

1. Boxworth Road + Orchard Close
2. The Drift + Cowdell End + Constellation Park
3. Roger's Close + Duncock Lane.
4. Paddock Row + Franklin's Close
5. Fardell's Lane + Broad End.
6. Smith Street + Rogues Lane.
7. Brook Street + The Causeway + Church Lane.
8. Brockley Road + Cotterell's Lane + Spigot Lane.

It should be a 'fun day', with tea being provided by the Parish Council. Again, please respond as early as possible.

AWF



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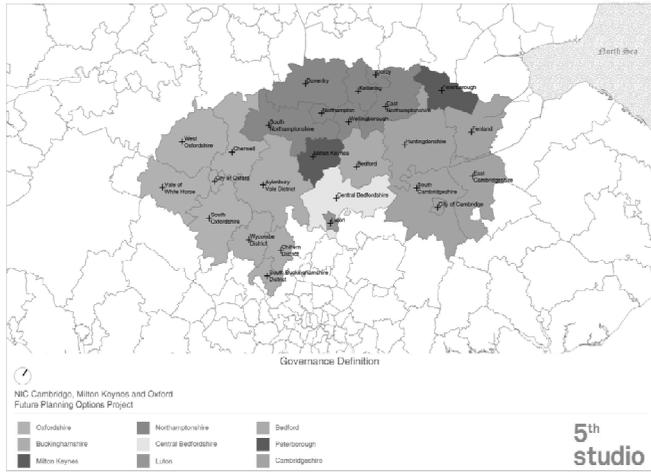
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OXFORD – CAMBRIDGE CORRIDOR



From time to time snippets in newspapers refer to a possible greatly enhanced communications scheme linking Oxford and Cambridge. Many, no doubt, attended the presentation at Cambourne of alternative possible rail routes and earlier submitted views on the dualling of the A428 west of the Caxton Gibbet.

In view of the abysmal public transport facilities here and the congested state of the roads, the proposals would seem welcome. But they will come at a price – they constitute the life-lines of the proposed Oxford – Cambridge Corridor, about which H.M. Government has before it a commissioned study from the National Infrastructure Commission, which could result in the urbanisation, in total, of an acreage of the extent of present-day Birmingham, on which to construct some one million new homes and provide some 1.1 million new jobs. The area of particular relevance to us, that stretch of the Corridor east of Bedford, could alone be asked to accommodate some 70,000 plus new homes.

Such figures are alarming in that they would mark a huge inroad into the rural scene. Conjured up are thoughts of the massive expansion of

London in the Inter Great Wars period of the 1920s and 1930s into rural Surrey, Kent and Middlesex following the expansion of the railways in that period. Greater London with its seemingly endless roads and streets was thus formed.

Even now before any possible future major developments, this area west of Cambridge would seem to be on the path of ever increasing urban expansion from Cambridge and the prospect of even more buildings would be a matter of concern. Fortunately, though, the appointed Commissioners seem aware of the need to prevent linear development and stress the importance of clear breaks between urban developments and the rural landscape.

The Infrastructure Commission's study is lengthy – some 144 pages - and thorough, presenting many alternatives for consideration. It is by no means prescriptive, but the evidence provided gives an indication as to what is likely to happen if political considerations are put to one side. It would seem that the most likely areas for new development - as distinct from existing towns - affecting us would be to the south and south west of here. At Bassingbourn a possible new town might be developed on M.O.D. land where the barracks were located, which would link well with possible development of land south west of Bedford, where brick-making formerly characterised the landscape. Sandy, another suggested possible site, also lies in this area south west of Cambridge. If these sites are chosen for development, it would seem most likely that the proposed Oxford – Cambridge rail link would be directed along this line rather than via Cambourne.

Should, then, we feel complacent regarding possible urban development in this area? Not so. Elsewhere, not so long ago a suggestion was made that the St.Neots – Cambourne area could be further developed as an expanded garden town; if so, Elsworth could well be absorbed. Putting this to one side, further development along the A428, the A1198 and the A14 could be a danger, although, as noted, The Commissioners do not favour straggling developments. Either way, the engulfment of Elsworth in an urban sprawl would be an anathema to those of us who dwell here because of the delights of living in a small rural settlement, and that must be a majority, for most live here by choice.

Cont. over

The development of the Oxford – Cambridge Corridor is still at the discussion stage and the way forward could be influenced by the known views of residents in the area. Sitting back now to await developments would not seem an option, as once the minds have been made up by those with the power of implementation, public consultation would then bring little change. The improvement of the A428, now to be implemented, could suggest specific urban developments west of Cambridge - perhaps Cambourne in this area - and therefore the advantages of the sites south west of Cambridge noted above need to be highlighted. It could be that in these areas development could be overall advantageous.

Could refuge be sought in the Local Plan? It might well be thought that all will be well as we are protected by it. But the current Plan expires in 2031. What of the period after that? The expiry of the present Local Plan could bring the inauguration of the developments proposed in an Oxford – Cambridge Corridor Plan. At such time, the District Council could be put under pressure by H.M. Government to implement the urban development scheme, as it was over recent directives to plan for the high number of new homes dreamed up in Whitehall before the current Local Plan would be accepted. The findings of the Commission are now with politicians, both national and local, and doubtless Nick Wright, our District Councillor, and Heidi Allen would be very pleased to receive the views of parishioners, as hopefully would the Mayor of Cambridge and Peterborough. The report of the Commissioners may be viewed by Googling 1711-NIC-Final-Report, which will lead you to “Final Report Cambridge, Milton Keynes and Oxford Future.....”. Further information can be obtained from the C.P.R.E. [Campaign for the Preservation of Rural England] which is actively involved in pursuing the matter. Maybe all will be well with concerted effort and Elsworth will remain surrounded by fields, and communications will be greatly enhanced. No doubt many in the Bassingbourn area will fight their corner and it will be up to residents here to do the same.

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Obituary



JOHN WAKELIN

January 1929 - October 2018

John Wakelin lived at 'Upperfield' in Church Lane from 1972 until his death in 2018. He came to Cambridgeshire in 1965 on being appointed Headmaster of Huntingdon Grammar School [Hinchingsbrooke]. Some six years later John had to supervise the radical change to a comprehensive school consequent on H.M. Government legislation.

Following retirement in 1985 through ill health, John took an active part in national politics, being the prospective Liberal candidate for Cambridge City. However, he was unsuccessful at the poll. He also took an interest in parish affairs, being Chairman of the parish council here for a short time. Much of his time subsequently was devoted to research and writing books on education and sociological matters, addressing solutions to the problems of the country and had published "Good Life in the Good

Society” in three volumes, and more recently books on education and “Welfare without Benefits” .

John was born and bred in Essex, near Maldon where his father farmed, and was educated at Maldon primary School and Maldon Grammar School, where he was Head Boy for two years, and from which he won a place at Christ Church College, Oxford to read History. Before taking up his place, however, he was to undertake his National Service obligation in the army from which comes the following anecdote.

At bayonet practice when recruits were ‘encouraged’ to rush in and stab dummies, John asked the sergeant “Sergeant, don’t you think that this is harmful to the soul?” To which the sergeant apparently replied “Wakelin, a bayonet in your hands is harmful to nobody! “

After Oxford John became a schoolmaster, teaching history, first at Forest School in Outer London and then as Head of History at Queen Elizabeth School, Barnet, before taking up the Headship here at Huntingdon Grammar School, as noted above.

John was a man of routine. The orderliness of the time-table associated with the functioning of a school permeated into his private life, where the day’s activities had their rightful place. He was a caring man, not only for people but also for animals and the environment - in the grounds of ‘Highfields’ he planted trees over some 50% of the land. A man of integrity, insight and truth, he attracted loyalty and affection. He trusted people, always showing confidence in their ability to succeed in the tasks asked of them. His wife, Jennifer, pre-deceased him and he leaves two children, Anne and Richard, eight grandchildren and a great grandchild.

Obituary



JEAN MILDRED THOMAS

30th April 1924 – 20th March 2019

Jean, of 5 Orchard Close, lived in Elsworth for some 65 years, during which time she was very much involved with activities in our village. She was the longest serving member of Elsworth W.I., was a member of the Jubilee Club from its inauguration in 1977, and was active in teaching others in the village to play bridge. She hosted many garden parties in aid of various charities and at one time participated in the local sewing club.

Jean had spent her early years in Brightlingsea and attended school at Colchester. Her father, Robert Stone, was a very keen sailor and was the designer and builder of the Brightlingsea One Design sailboat [BOT], the first of which was named 'Jean'. Having been raised around sailing, Jean's love for the activity was to remain throughout her life. When the Second World War broke out in 1939, Jean was 15 years of age, and some two and a half years later she was to join the navy as a Wren, serving at the Brightlingsea base from 1942 to 1944. The latter year was a momentous one for Jean, for not only was she 'demobbed' but she was to marry an American

G.I., Leonard Wright, from which union their daughter Valerie was born. They continued to live at Brightlingsea for several years before moving to Cambridge where Jean was employed in legal secretarial work. Sadly Jean and Leonard parted after eight years of marriage.

A new chapter in Jean's life began in the late 1950s when Jean met Michael, whom she married in 1960. They were soon to move to Elsworth and enjoyed 45 years of happy married life until Michael died in 2005. Together they ran the Modern Hand Laundry in Cambridge. Her love of sailing remained, and she and Michael actively enjoyed sailing back at Brightlingsea. Jean was an honorary life member of the Brightlingsea Sailing Club and the Colne Yacht Club.

Some of Jean's wide interests are noted above. In addition, she was an accomplished water-colour painter, and a gifted needlewoman, making many of her own clothes. Jean leaves her daughter, Valerie, two grandchildren, three great-grandchildren as well as many nieces and nephews and their children from Michael's line. Her family was very important to Jean.

ELSWORTH WALKING GROUP

We walk on the second Sunday of the month in and around Elsworth and surrounding areas (~15 mile radius.) Walks are usually between 5 and 6 miles in length and take approximately 2 hours.

Our next three walks will be on 9th June, 14th July and 11th August. Come along and try one.

For more information please contact Tom or Lyn Hogan on 01954 267166 or tom&lyn@pathwaysystems.co.uk

ELSWORTH SPORTS CLUB

The football season has now passed by and once again Elsworth has been unable to field a team, although some interest has been shown and possibly we may be able to enter a team in the Cambs League for next season. Anyone interested in playing should contact either Bill Knibbs on 01954 267266 or myself. The facilities have continued to be used by Swavesey Spartan teams, mainly on Saturday mornings.

The table tennis season finished at the end of April. In the Cambridge League Elsworth 1 finished 10th in Division I, with Elsworth 2 finishing 4th in Division 3. In the Ely League Elsworth 1 finished 5th in Division 1, Elsworth 2 finished 4th in Division 2 and Elsworth 3 5th in Division 3. In the Handicap Plate competition Elsworth 1 lost in the first round but Elsworth 2 enjoyed success going on to win the trophy beating 1st Division Fulbourn 1 in the final by 5 – 2. Elsworth 3 did not compete in the Handicap competition.

Club and social table tennis evenings are arranged during the summer months and also during the playing season. Anyone interested should contact Bill Knibbs on the telephone number given above.

The cricket season commenced as usual at the beginning of May, with Elsworth competing in the Cambs Junior League Division 4 West, matches being played on Saturday afternoons. The home fixtures are: 15th June v Bar Hill; 13th July v Steeple Morden; 20th July v Hardwick/Caldecote 2; 10th August v Great Shelford 3. The team also competes in the Business Houses League, matches being played on mid-week evenings. The Home fixtures are: 28th May v Royal Society of Chemistry; 25th June v Scorchers.

Any prospective new players should contact either Bill Knibbs – number above - or John Wilkins on 01954 267595.

Snooker is played in the pavilion on Monday mornings, and monthly whist drives are held on Friday evenings commencing at 7.30 pm. It is hoped to re-start carpet bowls in the near future as renewed interest has been shown.

It might be of interest that the pavilion has recently been re-decorated, both inside and out, and is available for hire, along with the appropriate facilities.

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Elsworth Conington and Knapwell Women's Institute

At the April meeting, the speaker was Mrs Fran Saltmarsh who gave a lively and interesting talk about the "History of Georgian Costume and Society". The Georgian era spanned a long period from 1714 to 1830. It encompassed the Age of Enlightenment and saw the development of steam power and other innovations, while John Nash designed the Brighton Pavilion for George IV.

At the beginning of the era, dresses were made from expensive silks and brocades with wide side panniers. The architecture of the period reflected this with double doors and wide staircases to frame the fashion. Shopping was a social event, people went to see and be seen. Left and right shoes were identical and highly decorated with paste jewels which would have sparkled in the candle light.

The French Revolution heralded the softer Empire lines, and the influence of the Grand Tour meant a shift to more classical lines. By the 1820s sleeves have mushroomed making waists look smaller. The Empire line still required women to wear stays, and dresses were made from printed muslin imported from India. Men's fashion was as showy as that of women. Initially, jackets were long and flowing, becoming shorter and closer fitting over time. False bottoms, padded calves and shoulders were all worn to improve the silhouette.

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month (except August). Visitors are most welcome.

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BEE has recently provided a grant to The Cambridge Organic Food Company, allowing it to increase its usage of electric delivery vehicles.

The availability of electric vans with a longer range meant that the business could consider extending the electric powered delivery service to the furthest reaches of their customer base by replacing their diesel van for a new electric one.



The business is very focused on sustainability and already utilises electric vehicles for local deliveries of their fresh organic veg boxes, sourced from local farms to homes in and around Cambridge. However, previously, the limited range of electric vehicles meant that they couldn't reach their further afield clients without using their diesel van.

The Cambridge Organic Food Company successfully applied for a grant of £4,870 from BEE towards the purchase of a new electric van, thus enabling them to further enhance the company's credentials in terms of environmental performance. The investment will realise estimated annual carbon savings of two tonnes.

The pot of grant funding is limited and businesses are urged to register their interest by 30th June 2019 at www.beecp.org/sign-up or call 01733 882549

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JUBILEE CLUB

We have had some very interesting speakers to start our year and are now looking forward to our outings:

Wells-Next-The-Sea Thursday 30th May 2019
Southwold Thursday 25th July 2019

The excursions are not just for members of the Jubilee Club - all are welcome. On both occasions the coach will leave at the bus stop opposite The Poacher at 9 am and the return journey will commence at 4 pm. The cost is £10.00 for adults and £5 for children, payable to Betty Simcock, whose telephone number is given below, through whom bookings should be made.

The Jubilee Club is open to everyone in the village. We meet on the first Thursday in the month in Elsworth School Hall at 2.30 pm. If you haven't been to one of our meetings or tried an outing, an open invitation is extended - you will be made most welcome. For further information please contact Betty on 01954 267470.

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