

The Elsworth Chronicle



Issue No. 12

October 1998

ELSWORTH BIDS FAREWELL TO ANNE

No one entering Elsworth School could fail to be impressed by the atmosphere prevailing - warmth of feeling, courtesy, application to work of pupils and staff, attractiveness of the rooms particularly the wall displays. Such have been fostered under the leadership of Anne Dixon who resigned from the Headship this July.



Such impressions are more than surface features. A very favourable OFSTED inspection some four years ago on the quality of education points to this as do the school's SATS results [attainment tests set by the Department of Education] which place the school among the ten best in the County. Recognition has come nationally too, with the school being considered by the Sunday Times for inclusion among the best schools in Britain in a forthcoming review.

A Headteacher is intrinsically bound to the school; hence the introductory content on the state of Elsworth School. This is particularly true when the tenure of Headship extends over a considerable number of years, as is the case with Anne who was appointed fourteen years ago.

Prior to coming to Elsworth, Anne was a Scale 3 teacher at Union Heights Junior School. Her first impressions of the school could almost be regarded as love at first sight. "We drove out to look at it and I thought it was the most wonderful school. The selling was brilliant." Her love and loyalty have remained. When she accepted the Headship she thought she would only stay for three or four years, but her feelings were such that she didn't wish to leave. As with any relationship the passage of time marks change. Of these Anne picks out the greater

involvement of school governors now as being prominent, a matter she views with favour, and, the widened area from which the school draws its pupils, some 50% now coming from beyond the parishes of Elsworth, Knapwell, Boxworth and Conington. Again, a matter for satisfaction.

In September Anne will take up the position of Headteacher at Shirley Infants in Cambridge, a school quite different from Elsworth - it caters only for infants; in numbers of pupils it is three times that of Elsworth; it is in an urban area in the Chesterton district of the city. She will miss Elsworth very much, mentioning the staff, governors, parents and particularly the children and Betty Evans who over the years has given so much to the school with regard to writing and producing plays and more recently passing on to children her skills at calligraphy.

A new chapter in Anne's life is about to unfold. Gone will be the tedious daily journey from and to Cambridge along the increasingly congested A14. Instead her school will be only five minutes from home by car. As yet the prospect of cycling does not seem to appeal, but the Cambridge tradition of pedalling with a large basket on the handlebar crammed with papers could perhaps materialise one day. Those whose journey takes them along Elizabeth Way during morning migration to work might well be able to wave to Anne as they wait for the traffic to move; unless of course she does take to two wheels and escapes via the peace of Stourbridge Common on her way to school. Wherever she might be, I know she will have the good wishes of Elsworth with her.

A.W.F

AN ENCOUNTER IN BROOK STREET

The following story was told to me by Dorothy Pearson who lived in Rogers Close. Those who remember her will know that though elderly, she was an astute, North Country lady, not giving to imaginings.

Early one evening she was making her way to visit her daughter, Pat Chapman, who was at the time seriously ill at home. As she turned into Brook Street she was puzzled to see, just in front of her, an odd figure dressed in black, with a black shawl around her shoulders and a quaint little black bonnet on her head. Dorothy was intrigued by her unusual appearance, and so she tried to catch up with her in order to see who she was. However, as she quickened her step so did the figure in front of her, always keeping the same distance between them. Then briefly the lady turned her head and looked straight at Dorothy. Her face was very white and she looked both ill and sad. She had fair hair and was perhaps about forty years old. She then turned up The Causeway towards the Church. Seconds later Dorothy reached the corner, but when she looked, the road was empty. Of the lady there was no sign.

She retraced her steps back to her daughter's cottage. As she stood in the hall there were three very loud knocks on the front door. Since she was near to the door she was able to open it immediately, but there was nobody there. There was no one on the pathway, nor on the road below.

These events worried her very much, as she saw them as a warning of her daughter's health. Pat died shortly afterwards.

Sheila Shanks

ELSWORTH NEW SPORTS PAVILION

UPDATE ON CURRENT SITUATION

For the benefit of those who may be new to the village, the existing pavilion is in such a dilapidated condition, that it is now necessary to demolish the building and replace it with a new facility. As we do not have a village hall, the pavilion also doubles up as a much needed community resource at an affordable cost to function organisers.

We are fortunate to have such a lovely and well kept green area in the centre of our village which is available for both sports events and for the community to use for social occasions. The sports field is looked after voluntarily by members of the sports club, and therefore does not incur any upkeep costs to the residents of Elsworth.

To enable these facilities to continue, it is essential that a new Pavilion is built in the near future. A new pavilion will also help the Sports Club to provide additional facilities for sports other than football and cricket, and hopefully encourage new members to join and put forward new ideas.

The Sports club has already started to encourage younger people to show an interest by organising junior cricket coaching every Sunday morning with a professional coach, and is also sponsoring club members to go on various coaching courses to ensure that the training will continue. It is hoped that the club will be able to field a junior side in both cricket and football in the future, and with the help and support of the local community, it may be possible to organise other sports also.

Obviously there has to be a great deal of fund raising for the project, but the Pavilion committee are confident that together with local support and various grants that may be available, we shall achieve our aims, and see a super new Pavilion on the sports field in the near future which will also be an asset to our lovely and well kept village.

Fund raising has been going on since last November, and to date we have raised approx. £2,500 which is an excellent start. We have also been able to obtain a grant of £20,000 from South Cambs. District Council, and £2,000 from Elsworth Parish Council. There are also applications pending to the lottery and other organisations, which hopefully will be successful.

Unfortunately applications for grants from the Lottery and such tend to take a long time in being assessed, and the present Pavilion is in such a poor state that the Sports Club will have to make some basic repairs to enable the sports programme and fund raising to continue throughout the winter. This will involve making repairs to the roof in particular and some internal work. Obviously the cost of this work needs to be kept to a minimum and we will be looking to members for help with the work, but we would also appreciate help of any description that anyone in the community might be able to offer.

FUND RAISING IN THE PIPELINE

On the 20th September we had a sponsored Village Treasure Hunt. This was organised on the same format as our sponsored walk earlier this year, but individuals were sponsored for the clues they solved rather than the miles they walked.

DOUBLE YOUR MONEY DRAW

Tickets are £5.00 each and are available from committee members. Tickets are limited to 200 only so please book them as early as possible. The first draw will take place on 10th October, so all cash and counterfoils must be returned by 1st October. There will be 5 fortnightly draws starting at £15.00 followed by £30.00, £60.00, £120.00 and the last one £240.00 which will be drawn at our Quiz Night on Saturday 5th December.

When possible the draw will take place at a fund raising event, such as the Bingo and Beetle Drive in the Pavilion on Nov. 7th, or at the local

football match / pub. Each winner's name and number will be posted on the sports fixture board near the bus shelter.

Last, but equally important, the Sports Club are keen to encourage anyone who would like to join them and swell the membership. It may be that cricket and football are not your forte, but now is the time to get involved in the future planning of our sports facilities. Membership is only £10.00 per year.

Maureen Stevens, Secretary

JOTTINGS FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The role of a county councillor divides fairly neatly into two parts; the first is to represent you on the county council, to try to ensure that you get a good deal and to represent the county council back to you. The second, is to keep the county council running and this is especially relevant if your party is the party in power. Some parish councils ask for an annual report from their county councillor at the annual parish meeting. As this is not universal and many people cannot attend the annual parish meeting, I thought I would devote this article to a kind of annual report on what I have been doing for the past twelve months.

After the election I was appointed to the post of vice-chairman of the policy committee, which in reality is a purely honorific title. However, policy committee is the main committee within the structure of Cambridgeshire County Council and so I was able to see the overall strategic view of the council. In addition I was appointed to a number of sub-committees (mainly known as Service Advisory Groups or SAGs). These included responsibility for the council's property, human resources and also the Schools SAG; this is responsible for matching school buildings with demand for places and for advising on some of the key policy issues in the education department. One of our early tasks was to supervise the dismantling of the nursery vouchers scheme

and its replacement by something which seems broadly similar.

In September 1997 there was a mini reshuffle and I lost schools and took on instead environment and transport as the vice-chairman. Since Christmas I have been very heavily involved with the Cambridgeshire Capacity Study. This has involved attending a great deal of consultation meetings throughout South Cambridgeshire, Cambridge City and Fenland, some of which were more heated than others! My reward, if it can be described as that, was promotion in March to chairman of environment and transport committee, although I have now given up all my duties with policy committee. Connected with that I sit on the County Council South Cambridgeshire Area Joint Committee, the strategic planning SAG and the Economic and Community Development Panel. I also represent the county on the joint panel with the new Peterborough Unitary Authority. Chairing a committee, essentially being responsible for policy relating to all environment and transport issues within the county involves a great deal of work, but at the same time it is a fascinating area to be involved with. It makes for a lot of paperwork, but I have certainly found life in the county council during the last twelve months a very exciting place to be.

I am always available for consultation, either in person or by phone, letter or e-mail. I can be reached at the address or telephone number below.

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Elections

At the May meeting, Maureen Stevens was elected Vice-chairman and Alan Farrow re-elected as Chairman.

Grass Close Play Area

The alterations to the play area on the sports field referred to in the last edition of the Chronicle have been completed and now provide enjoyment for many young Elsworthians. The slide has been replaced by a modernised, safer model; the swings modified where necessary and a safety surface laid around the play equipment.

Road Improvements

Haunching of the western slope of Rogues Lane has been completed and this road now provides a far safer route in and out of the village. Its increasing use by heavy lorries might well cause further damage to the edges and to guard against this, and to reduce the passage of unsuitable vehicles, the Parish Council is supporting moves for weight restrictions to be imposed on minor roads, apart, of course, for vehicles serving the village or its neighbourhood.

Brockley Road was omitted from the relevant surface dressing programme of the County Council owing to a computer (?input) error. It will be included in the next programme at the beginning of 1999 along with work on Duncock Lane.

Culverts

Culverts in Paddock Row and from Avenue Farm to the Poacher have been investigated and cleared where necessary, and the headwall of the former where it enters the brook has been rebuilt by the County Council.

Grass Cutting

Complaints have been received about the poor standard of workmanship and clearance by the contractors who cut the village grass verges. It would seem the equipment used was unsuitable for the task and the matter has been taken up with the contractors by way of the County Council.

School Servery

Regretfully some items of cutlery have been removed from the community kitchen in the school. The Parish Council has replenished the missing items and asks that organisations using the servery should check that all items used are replaced. Although most users of the servery leave it in a clean condition, there are occasions when it looks neglected. Similarly care should be taken that cups are adequately washed; on occasions a sticky residue has been encountered when items have been brought out for use. All users are asked to leave the servery as they would expect to find it.

Re-cycling Bank

Re-cycling facilities continue to be well used and provide a useful source of income for the village. Perhaps greater use could, though, be made of the paper bank; it would seem some still put newspapers out for the dustmen to collect.

Receptacles are clearly marked and only the appropriate items should be inserted. Other items should not be left on the site; unwanted doors, upholstery etc. should be taken elsewhere, perhaps to the rubbish tip at Milton. Alternatively South Cambridgeshire District Council Environmental Health Dept. could assist - tel.01223-443000.

Dog Fouling

Attention is drawn to the increased fine levied for dog fouling; now £1,000. Parishioners are asked to use bags or pooper-scoops.

Best Kept Village Competition

Elsworth didn't progress beyond the first round this year, coming third in its heat behind Fen Drayton and Dry Drayton. The Villages in Bloom competition results are not yet to hand. The fine display of daffodils, however, undoubtedly greatly improved the appearance of the village in the Spring; we in Elsworth are aware of this even if their beauty was not apparent to judges later in the year, although they were able to see photographs.

Traffic Survey

A four day survey conducted by the police in Boxworm Road in August revealed that of 2,315 vehicles travelling towards Boxworth, 74.9% exceeded the speed limit, while of 2,695 vehicles heading towards Papworth, 58.5% were speeding. 116 vehicles were recorded as travelling above 50 m.p.h.

Percentage of vehicles travelling at 36 m.p.h. + = 44.95

41 m.p.h. + = 21.83

Incredibly, a car was seen with spinning wheels over the survey lines, presumably in an attempt to erase them.

Cambridgeshire Capacity Study

The Parish Council supported the view of the District Council that there should not be further large scale development in South Cambridgeshire in the next 20 years.

So much development has already been approved. Our area west of Cambridge is to receive some 5,000 of the 9,500 new dwellings already designated for South Cambridgeshire. Some of the options presented by the County would add greatly to this, one up to 22,600 dwellings.

Large-scale development already approved include:

Cambourne	3,300 dwellings	(8,000+ people)
Papworth	1,000 dwellings	(2,600+ people)
Highfields-Caldecote	400 dwellings	(1,000 people)
Longstanton	500 dwellings	(1,250 people)

But the main road network at the present has reached saturation point; vehicles using the roads to and from the midlands and the north make travel on such roads a nightmare and increasingly our minor roads are being used as 'ratruns'. The developments noted above would seem most disturbing unless first attention is given to the road network and infra-structure. In addition, traffic growth is forecast to increase by 30% - 40% whether or not there is growth. (South Cambs.). An analysis of the options is alarming. The figures extracted and noted below for new dwellings relate only to this area.

Option 1. Minimum growth. Recommended by South Cambs. Existing commitments plus small-scale developments.

Option 2. Urban concentration across the County. Existing commitments plus 9,000 dwellings in this area: (St Neots 3,000; St. Ives 500-2,000; Huntingdon 5,000). Population increase some 22,500 people.

Option 3. Urban concentration in South and West Cambridgeshire. Existing commitments plus some 6,400 new dwellings in this area: (St. Neots 500-2,000; St. Ives 500-2000; Huntingdon 4,000; Needingworth say 400). Population increase some 16,000 people.

Option 4. Public transport corridor across the county. Existing commitments plus some 14,800 dwellings in this area: (St.Ives corridor 3,300; St. Neots 3,000; Huntingdon 7,500; St Ives 500-2,000). Population increase some 37,000 people.

Option 5: South-West public transport corridor. Existing commit-

ments plus some 22,600 dwellings in this area: (St. Ives, corridor 9,000; Huntingdon 9,200; St.Ives 500-2,000; Needingworth say 400; St.Neots 3,000). Population increase some 56,500 people.

Option 6: Dispersal in north and east Cambridgeshire. Existing commitments plus some 4,550 dwellings in this area: (St.Neots 3,000; St. Ives 500-2,000; Needingworth say 400; villages say 150). Population increase some 11,400 people.

To all the above must be added 5,000 dwellings for which commitment has been made.

BETTY EVANS



Betty Evans celebrated her 80th birthday earlier this year. In this photograph she is contemplating nothing more serious than cutting the magnificent cake before her. With Betty and Robert is a familiar figure to many, Catherine Lofts, a former Head of our School

ELSWORTH SPORTS CLUB

CAMBS CRICKET FESTIVAL - UNDER 11's

Elsworth entered a team in this tournament which was held at Longstanton on 23rd August.

As our team had only been formed 3 weeks before and as they had not actually played in a match, they were obviously rather apprehensive about playing in the tournament. Unfortunately some players were not available to play on the day but those who were showed a great deal of enthusiasm and excitement.

Unfortunately rain prevented the tournament from being fully completed, much to the disappointment of everyone. As all the teams had played the same number of games, it was decided to make the winner the team which had scored the most points overall.

When the scores were added up, Elsworth and Hardwick had the same number of points, both having won all their games. It was then decided to look at the number of runs both sides had scored overall. Elsworth lost the winners cup by only 1 run, ending with a total of 533 to Hardwick's 534.

However, Elsworth players came away with a runners up medal and a certificate each, and a beaming smile on all their faces. They can certainly hold their heads high after such a magnificent performance and look forward to better things in the future. Those of us who watched the games were all very proud of our Elsworth team. Well Done.

The members of the team were: Alice Throssell, Edward Merola, Craig Lewis, Tally Wright, Flurry Wright, Laura Collett, Emma Rushmer, Fergus Tevlin and Richard Smart.

As it is now the end of the cricket season there will not be any more games this year, but training will start again next Easter, so if anyone under the age of 11 years is interested, please contact Julie or Mike Lewis on 267631 so they can let you have the relevant information about next years programme, thus making sure no one is missed out and that parents are kept fully informed.

Maureen Stevens.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH



The newly installed Bishop of Huntingdon, the Rt. Rev John Flack has conducted two services at Elsworth this Summer; on the 2nd July a large congregation was present for a confirmation and baptism service and on the 20th September he was a welcomed preacher at the Harvest Festival. At the former it was good to see both adult and young people professing their faith, and to welcome Bishop Isingoma Kahla from Katanga, at the time in this country for the Lambeth Conference.

Readers are asked to keep the evening November 28th free of other engagements if they can so as to come to hear Jonathan Jones on the organ at the church. The re-built organ is superb and it promises to be a very good recital indeed.

ELSWORTH NATIONAL WOMEN'S REGISTER

Meetings are held in members' homes at roughly three weekly intervals. We try to appeal to all tastes by making our programme as varied as possible.

During 1998 our programme included very interesting demonstrations of aromatherapy and silk painting, with chances to experiment. We also had discussions on such items as "Old wives tales", pet hates and herbal remedies and cooked some delicious French dishes. A visit was made to the Arts Theatre to see a John Godber comedy - "It Started with a Kiss", and a few members attended a very enjoyable event organized for local N.W.R groups at Kentwell Hall.

A copy of our current programme is on the Notice Board in the village. If you are interested in joining please contact either of our local organisers - Marion Randerson (267461) or Janet Barrett (267627) who will be able to give you any further information that you need.

CAMSIGHT

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 20th June - 6th July this year. The village raised the magnificent amount of £132.81 towards helping blind and partially sighted people both in the county and in our Resource Centre at 167 Green End Road, Cambridge CB4 1RW, Tel. 01223 420033. We are most grateful for this wonderful boost to our funds.

Mrs Vicki Russell

House to House Collections Co-ordinator

VOLUNTEERS AT ARTHUR RANK HOSPICE CAMBRIDGE- COULD YOU HELP?

Volunteers play an important part in the care of patients and their families at Arthur Rank House. Their role is to complement the work of the paid staff helping them to provide the best quality of care. They provide services e.g. running the Tea Bar, in reception, driving patients and relatives, to supporting staff with patient care e.g. helping in Day Care, in the in-patient and out-patient areas and providing complementary therapies. Volunteers also provide emotional support to bereaved relatives and will visit patients at home to provide companionship and a break for the carer. All volunteers are carefully selected to work in this sensitive area and receive ongoing training and support.

All volunteer activities are supported by The Friends of Arthur Rank House.

For further information please contact:

Mrs Chris Mulvey, Voluntary Services Co-ordinator, Arthur Rank House. Tel. Cambridge 723145

THE CONTRACT

The man's very reputation and livelihood were at stake. He was both vulnerable and very frightened.

He also knew that should a word of his problem get out that he would be ruined both personally and professionally.

He really didn't know which way to turn.

Tom was a brusque and aggressive businessman who despised any form of weakness in others.

That he should have found himself so completely at the mercy of another was a bitter pill to swallow.

The tables of life had been turned and Tom didn't like it one little bit.

He sought out Dave, an agent also known as The Assassin on the watches. Dave, the consummate professional was a desperate solution to his desperate problem

A meeting was arranged and plans went ahead.

The night was moonless and still.

There was no one about, only Dave, the watcher.

He didn't move a muscle, he watched and waited.

His dark form blended perfectly with the tree's dark shadow. Black from head to toe, he stood motionless but his every sense was aware of even the slightest whisper, of the smallest or the lightest of movements.

Dave could remain frozen like this for hours.

Watching and waiting were all part of the job.

Without a sound, almost without movement he eased his aching and stiffening muscles.

Nothing moved around him.

Still Dave watched and waited.

Initially he sensed rather than heard or saw the slight movement on the roof of the factory above him.

He watched the small dark shadow creep smoothly behind the irregular parapet of the factory's flat roof.

Dave waited patiently as the slim shape crept warily down the drain pipe towards the slightly open office window.

No sound betrayed the intruder's entry into the factory. Dave's killer instinct switched into red attack mode. Every muscle and every fibre of his being was ready for the next move.

Swiftly and silently Dave sought the deeply shaded shelter of the fire

escape for the next stage of his plan.

After an eternity of patient observation he heard the slightest of sounds as the intruder started to retrace his steps along the factory's flat roof.

With savage precision and deadly accuracy Dave attacked the furtively moving shadow.

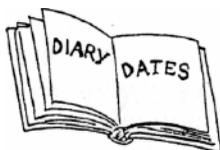
One hard swift and perfectly directed blow was all it took. Within seconds the intruder lay lifelessly at Dave's feet. He had done exactly what the factory owner had hoped.

Tom's problem had been dealt with.

After all the mouse had been a dreadful problem in the chocolate factory and Dave was, without a doubt, the best mouser in town.

Ann Thorogood

(Ann formerly of 48 Boxworth Road, has now moved back into the district, having a house at Papworth - Ed.)



OCTOBER

- 15** N.W.R. Organic and genetically modified food - Diane Bridgwater
- 17** Elsworth football club v. Fenstanton - at home
- 24** Elsworth football club v. Ashdon Villa Res. - at home
- 31** Elsworth football club v. Warboys Town 'A' - at home

NOVEMBER

- 3** N.W.R. Play Reading - Marion Randerson's home
- 11** W.I. "Affinity" - Gill Linsell
- 14** Elsworth football club v. Earith United Res. - at home
- 28** Elsworth football club v. Buckden Res. - at home
- 28** Holy Trinity Church Organ recital - J. Hellyer-Jones

DECEMBER

- 2** W.I. Christmas Party
- 12** Elsworth football club v. Little Downham Res. - at home
- 15** N.W.R. Christmas festivities - Margaret Cooper's home