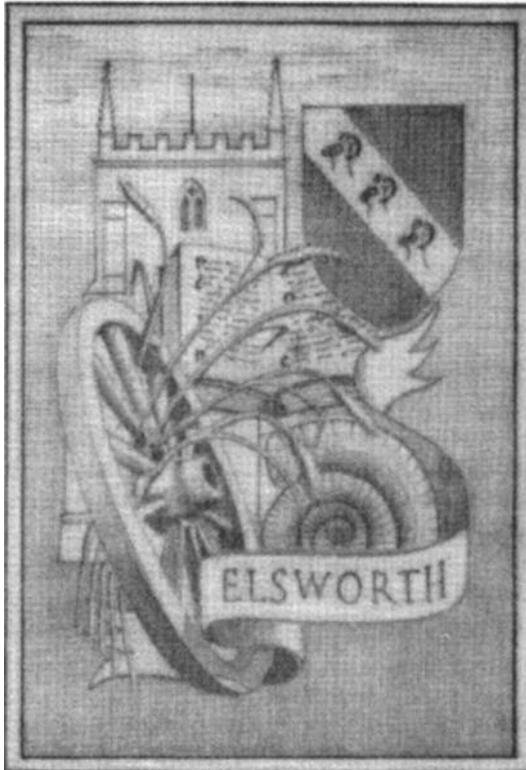


THE
ELSWORTH CHRONICLE



No. 1

December 1990

The Elsworth Chronicle

Few would deny that Elsworth is one of the most attractive villages of the many which surround Cambridge. It is a delightful place in which to live, not only because of its visual attractiveness and pleasing compactness, but also because it contains a host of most interesting people. Much goes on in the village; it is far from being just a sleepy dormitory of the nearby city, although much is unheralded and is perhaps known only to those intimately involved. These pages exist to spread knowledge of some of these activities and hopefully to throw light from time to time on matters pertaining to the village and its heritage.

It is planned to produce the magazine - if this is not too grand a word - three times a year. News of local societies will be contained in each edition and from time to time focus will be on one in particular. This time The Beavers' Club, which meets at the home of Betty and Robert Evans every Thursday, is in the limelight. Membership of this group is open to all between the ages of 8 and 16 years.

A publication such as this is only as good as its contributors. Do keep the present editor in touch with events, whether as an individual or club/society official. Short articles would also be most welcome.

Tel: Alan Farrow Elsworth 472 or call at the Old Rectory

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

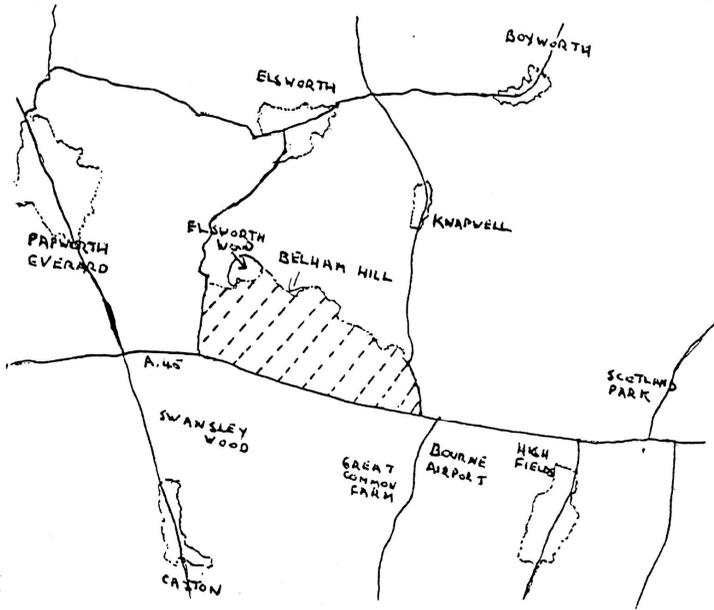
For six hundred years or more villagers of Elsworth have made their way to our church on the hill to attend services. Even some of the medieval furniture remains within. How the world has changed around this centre of peace over the centuries! Continuity is maintained, of course, by weekly Sunday services, the details of which are contained in the Rector's monthly letter. All are most welcome to these services and also to the special events and services held from time to time.

Regarding a recent special service, we were delighted to welcome the former Primate of All Ireland, Archbishop Simms, to the Harvest Festival. It was good to see so many in church. A week later another large gathering listened with attention and obvious pleasure to a concert of 16th - 18th century choral music conducted by Ian Moore.

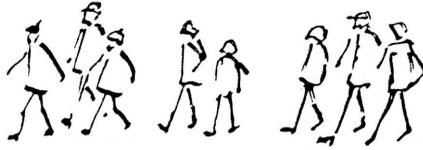
Details of Christmas services will be found in the Rector's letter to all parishioners and on the church notice boards. For the diary, readers might like to note that the Bishop Michael S.S.F. is to preach at the church on the occasion of the Patronal Festival on 26th May 1991. An open invitation is extended to all.

PROPOSED NEW TOWN ON THE A45

A Public Enquiry was held at The Maltings, Ely over several months earlier this year. The Inspector is now considering the evidence before submitting his report to the Secretary of State early in the New Year. Eight proposals from developers were put before him: these were Belham Hill, Scotland Park, Swansley Wood, Bourne Airfield, Great Common Farm, Highfields, Hare Park, and Allington. Those of the west, of particular concern to Elsworth, are shown on the sketch with Belham Hill shown by broken diagonal lines.



This is not the place to comment on the strengths and weaknesses of individual proposals. However, it should perhaps, be recorded that the County Council, the City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council all favour a development east of Cambridge, and East Cambridgeshire District Council is not opposed to such a view, which would enable the new settlement to form an integral part of a desired eastern corridor towards Ipswich. Of particular note, as far as Elsworth is concerned, is that South Cambs., while favouring a development to the east of Cambridge, stated that if the Secretary of State insisted on a site to the west it considered that Belham Hill was the most suitable. Such a development would make a marked impact on Elsworth for the application is for a town stretching between the main road from Knapwell to Brockley Road near Elsworth Wood, constituting some 3,000 houses and a commercial section. We must await the Inspector's verdict and the subsequent view of the Secretary of State.

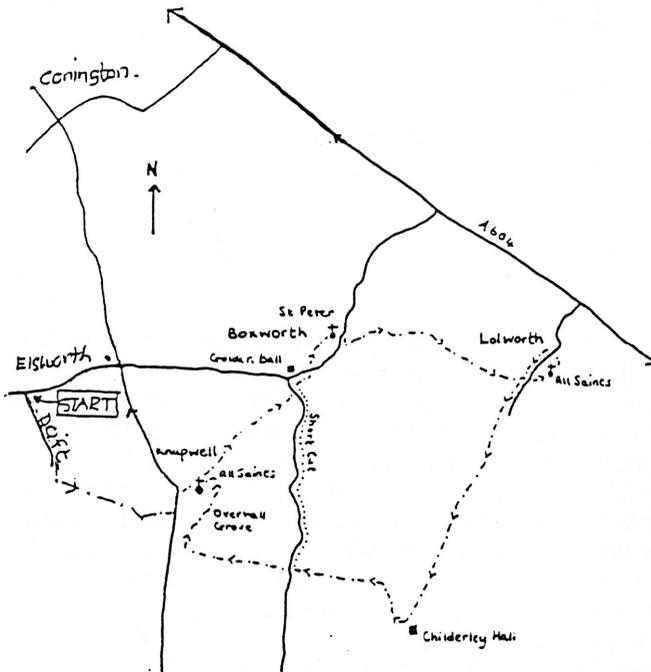


WALKING GROUP

Readers who are interested in walking and exploring our local footpaths and byways will be very pleased to note that Rita Backhouse has recently organised three very successful local walks and proposes to continue to do so on the second Sunday of each month. Further details from Rita on Elsworth 342. All are very welcome; join the group for a day of companionship, laughter and good exercise.

The first walk will give some idea of what to expect on an outing. The group embraced a fair age range, from some 10 years to the Middle Aged and quite clearly no one in the family would feel out of place. The route was from Elsworth via Knapwell, Boxworth and Lolworth. Tea was taken at Lolworth and a most welcome bowl of soup was provided at Rita's house at the end of the walk.

Other recent walks were to Papworth Everard, Yelling and Papworth St. Agnes on the 11th November and to Conington, Fen Stanton and Fen Drayton on the 9th December.



THE BEAVER CLUB -

Betty Evans

The Elsworth Beaver Club has been going for 35 years and is the oldest youth club in the village. It is not to be confused with the latest junior branch of the Scout movement with the same name. Elsworth Beavers have no constitution and are so-called because the members are intelligent and industrious beings who live in separate homes and lead a community life. They busy themselves at work and play throughout the year at their lodge, No. 55 Boxworth Road, our home.

The Club had no official start and no opening ceremony. It just happened. We moved into our house in April 1955 and inherited a solidly built pair of swings which the former owner, Mr. Walter Scambler, had built for his two young children, Ann and Anthony. We had not been in the village forty-eight hours when our door bell rang imperiously. A tradesman wanting our custom, I thought, going to open up. The bell jangled again, and this time did not stop. Clearly they had insistent hawkers in these parts. I turned the door handle cautiously and looked out. Two small boys of identical size, with brown faces and mischievous looks, stood grinning at me like pixies.

"We've come to play on the swings", they said, introducing themselves as John and Allen Rolt, twin brothers, aged eight. Their acrobatic performance on the swings was impressive, and one hour later they rang the bell and asked to come again. As they drank some orange squash and ate two flapjacks each, I learned that their father worked for Mr. Scambler in his agricultural engineering business just down the road on the old prisoner-of-war camp, which later developed into Castle Acre industrial site.

Two days later the twins returned, a football gripped under John's armpit, and we granted them leave to play on the lawn. Everyone knows that to have a good game of football you really need more than two players, so I was not surprised when the twins then suggested that they should bring their friends next time. The neighbours quaked as they watched the gang stroll past their gates, for they were the wild lads of the village. "They'll ruin your flowerbeds and break your windows", they warned. So we grassed down the beds and Mrs. Scambler sighed, for she was a great gardener.

While all this was developing the Rector, Brian Dupre, called on us. He was having difficulties in controlling his girls' confirmation class, and asked if I could help. The idea was that he should have them half-an-hour's instruction and then pass them over to Miss Boot and me for handwork; he thought it would be profitable for them to make things for the church fete. (Miss Boot was a teacher at Swavesey School to which the Elsworth children went at eleven-plus before the Village College was built.) I agreed, and once a week I went up to the big rectory, which was cold, dank and dreary even in summer, to join the sewing bee. We made toys and lavender bags, aprons and oven gloves, and at the end of the course we had enough goods to cover the Rector's large draw-leaf dining table.

Beaver Club (continued)

At the class the girls asked if we could continue the handwork sessions. The Rector looked relieved when I said I'd be happy to, but that it would be easier if the girls came to me; and thus it came about. On 9 October 1955, we held our first handwork evening with Kathleen Rolt (cousin of the twins), Daphne Tabraham (later to become Mrs. Reed, our former primary school caretaker), Sheila Dawson, Shirley Parnell (who was so deft with the needle that is now a tailoress), and the Stollery sisters Lilian and Ann. Others quickly joined and soon we had eleven of them grouped round our kitchen and dining room tables, and we took up canework, leather work and jewellery making. We had refreshments, and some liked orange squash and some liked lemon, but we always seemed to have the wrong amounts made up. So one night I poured the one into the other and everyone was happy. We called it Club Mix, and we are still serving it today.

It was Billy Knibbs who persuaded me to have a boys' night. His grandad, Mr. Tom Knibbs (who ran the shop and farmed), rented our field for his cattle. Billy was always with him and saw what was going on in the house on Thursday evenings when my husband (a tutor at St. Catharine's) was in College. David Goodfield and John Andrew joined the pressure group and so College-tutor-nights became club evenings. The boys took up cane and leather work, and the best object ever made was a large linen basket by Peter Parnell for his mother. A labrador could have slept in it.

In 1957 we went to Canada and I saw a beaver lodge in a lake in the Rockies, and when I returned home I gave the club its name. We had a badge made by a firm in Birmingham and this was an award of merit. We had cricket, football and rounders teams and we went round the villages playing other junior groups. All this at a time when there were no Cubs, Brownies or Scouts in the village; when television soaps were not yet eating into leisure time; and homework was something to do on the bus next morning.

We have sometimes launched into specialist activities. In 1958 we found a dancing master and formed a ballroom dancing group. The lessons were held in the school and each session ended with a Dance. The music was provided by the Walker brothers, two lively young men who built houses by day and were dance band leaders by night. They developed Cotterell's Lane. Another particular group was the motor bike scramblers, who came on Saturday afternoons. They built a track in the field - the cows had been given notice to quit - with a water splash through the pond, and they raced round with more noise than speed and survived some dramatic spills. These riders, David and Peter Desborough, Stephen Cooper and Nick Thurley among them, then graduated to Andy Lee's new motor park by Elsworth Wood and have since won glory for themselves up there and on circuits in the region.

Beaver Club (continued)

Success, too, came to the swimmers. Before the pools were built at the local schools we took groups to Parkside in Cambridge each week, on a rota basis for so many wanted to come. Non-swimmers were given informal instruction from those of us who knew the strokes, and the learners were given free refreshments in the bar upstairs when they made it for the first time across the width. We are still swimming today, but now everybody knows how and we go to St. Neots, where the water is warmer and there is a splendid slide.

The beaver is believed in Canadian folk lore to have originated from a woman with brown hair wearing an apron who refused to leave a pool that had been formed when she dammed a small stream. Our beginnings were as simple as that.

The Parish Council

Last June I took over the post of Clerk to the Parish Council. Mr. Ken Allchin who had acted in this capacity for many years resigned but has been kind enough to help me in the last few months and has thus enabled me to come to grips with some of the more puzzling aspects of this job. For that I would like to thank him.

The parish council meet in the school hall every two months on the third Wednesday of the month to discuss items raised by local people. The agenda and the action minutes of these meetings are posted on the parish council notice board which is situated near the brook on Knibb's side of Smith Street. In addition to this, notice of all planning applications to be presented to the parish council is posted on the notice board. Planning meetings are held in the sports pavilion to consider these applications as they arise.

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL REFUSE COLLECTION CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR BANK HOLIDAY

No refuse will be collected from Tuesday, 25th December 1990 to Tuesday, 1st January 1991 inclusive.

Special working arrangements will apply for the immediate pre Xmas period; Monday and Tuesday Parishes will receive a collection on Saturday the 22nd December & Monday, 24th December 1990 respectively.

The Refuse Collection Service will recommence on Wednesday, 2nd January 1991 with DOUBLE COLLECTIONS taking place on the normal scheduled collection days.

Implications for Elsworth -

- (1) There will not be a collection on Mon. 24th December. Instead it will be on Saturday, 22nd December
- (2) There will not be a collection on Monday 31st December.

Liz Sim.

A few notes on activities within South Cambs District Council during the last year

The Housing Department has moved from being a "provider" of houses to the role of "enabler" of other agencies, such as Housing Associations, to provide housing. There is one exception and that is the sheltered accommodation for OAPs, where there is a growing demand. There are no plans for such a scheme in Elsworth, but the plans have been drawn up for six bungalows in Boxworth. The Council is also encouraging applicants for council accommodation to consider "Equity Sharing" as a step onto the home ownership ladder. Simply stated, it is part ownership - part rent.

Those villages who "suffer" from a Monday refuse collection are already pressurising the Environmental Committee to effect a change of day, when the refuse contract comes up for renewal.

The General Purposes Committee has agreed to assist those Village Colleges with schemes that enable dual use of their facilities, to the tune of £90,000. Swavesey Village College has been successful in such a bid. The Council is also promoting and funding the establishment of a country park at Milton and has made a substantial contribution (up to £90,000) to the extending of the Wandlebury recreation area.

Two major debates have been going on within the Planning Committee. The first was the County Council Structure Plan (1986-2001) and the subsequent public enquiry for a 3,000 dwelling village along the A45 corridor east or west of Cambridge. This was completed by the end of August and the Inspector is now assessing his response and recommendation to the Minister. There is no timetable for such a response. The second matter has arisen out of the County Council Policy statement and that is the Local District Plan. Each and every one of the villages in the South Cambs area has been looked at by the Committee and placed in one of four categories:

- (a) Rural growth, up to 400 dwellings] + group developments
- (b) Limited rural growth, up to 200 dwellings] (up to 8 dwellings)
] and infilling
- (c) Group villages, groups of 8 dwellings plus infilling
- (d) Infill only

Elsworth has been placed in the third category.

As with the County Council Structure Plan, the Local District Plan is going through a public enquiry for the Inspector to hear up to 1500 representations made by interested parties and then to report his assessment and recommendations to the District Council. The enquiry began sitting on 15th October and is likely to continue well into the new year. Anybody wishing to make representations should contact Mrs. Follenfant at South Cambs Hall.

K.C. Collett
District Councillor

NOTES FROM ELSWORTH SCHOOL

At Elsworth School we have experienced the changes that have affected schools in England and Wales. Perhaps the biggest of these has been the introduction of Local Financial Management. We, the Governors and Staff have to plan and manage our own budget, including salaries, fuel, lighting, books, materials and even water and refuse collection - now that we pay for their removal, we look at the black plastic sacks with a more critical gaze!

The introduction of the National Curriculum gave us the opportunity to take a long look at what we teach and how we do it. We are now wondering what assessment and testing at age 7 holds in store for us. We view it with some mixed feelings as we still don't know what form the tests will take. We do already use other nationally available tests with the children and the results of these are available to parents.

In a primary school, Christmas begins early and we're in the middle of planning ours. This year we have a whole school production of a musical play 'Wind in the Willows', written, produced and directed by Betty Evans and Carol Sims. The last day of term will be very hectic with our Christmas Service in the morning and party in the afternoon.

Before then we are looking forward to a visit from a puppet theatre, which we are sharing with Fen Drayton School. We do work very closely with the other schools in our area - Bar Hill, Fen Drayton, Longstanton, Over, Papworth, Swavesey, and of course, the Village College.

We're very proud of our school teams. Our netball team played incredible well, modestly forbids us giving the score. It is another way of our pupils meeting those from other schools.

So much happens at Elsworth School but the aims remain the same - to provide a caring but challenging and stimulating environment for our children. Don't forget we have an open door policy, so if you want to visit us, please come. We'd like it even more if you wanted to spend an hour or so in the classrooms helping!

ELSWORTH NATIONAL WOMEN'S REGISTER

The Elsworth NWR has been active for some two and a half years in the village, and with a current membership of sixteen livelyminded women, it would welcome new members.

The NWR is a women's organisation which in Britain has over 1,000 groups. The aims of NWR are to offer all women the opportunity to take part in the informal discussion of a wide range of topics, both serious and light hearted. Members will often research a subject then present the facts for everyone to discuss. On other nights we have a speaker, and in the past have heard interesting speakers from the Citizen's Advice Bureau, a forensic scientist, and a solicitor amongst others. Subjects we have discussed range from matters as diverse as body language to soap operas!

All meetings are held in members homes. We also have pub and restaurant outings, theatre trips, barbecues and FUN!

If you think you might be interested, come along to our coffee morning or contact Louise Maddison on Elsworth 347 for further information. Our programme until Spring will be found in the 'Dates for your diary' section.

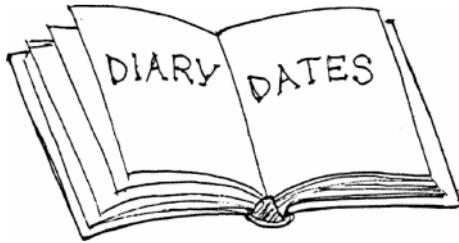
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The W.I. meets regularly in the School Hall on the second Wednesday of the month. Meetings are open to all women of the village. It is a thriving group, attendance normally being 25-30 and the subjects covered are most varied. This year, for example, topics have ranged from bee-keeping, to menopausal problems, to astrology, to forensic science, to creative movement and dance to name but a few. Any one not a member desiring information should contact Lyn Hogan on Elsworth 254.

JUBILEE CLUB

The Jubilee Club hold their meetings at Elsworth School in the Hall on the 1st Thursday in the month, at 2.45 p.m. during term time. We have a variety of speakers, entertainments and outings. Each month we have a bring and buy and book stall. We finish with a cup of tea and refreshments. We are mainly Senior Citizens and we would very much welcome some younger members so do please come along as we shall be very pleased to see you.

Secretary - Eileen Grange



DECEMBER

- 12th** National Women's Register.
"Rights, Rituals and Relatives - will you enjoy Christmas?"
Drinks and mince pies
- 12th** Women's Institute - Christmas party for members.
- 16th** Holy Trinity Church - Carol Service - 3.30 pm
- 24th** Holy Trinity Church - Midnight Eucharist service - 11.45 pm
- 25th** Holy Trinity Church - Holy Communion service - 9.30 am
- 30th** Holy Trinity Church - Holy Communion service - 9.30 am

JANUARY

- 3rd** Jubilee Club - Christmas lunch at The Poacher
- 9th** Women's Institute - Members' Evening
- 16th** Parish Council Meeting

FEBRUARY

- 7th** Jubilee Club - A.G.M. and Bingo
- 7th** National Women's Register
"School days - were they the best days of your life?"
Would you send your children to the same school you went to?
- 13th** Women's Institute. Cambridge Colleges
Speaker - Mrs. Wiesinger

MARCH

- 7th** Jubilee Club - Talk by Dr. Emerson
- 13th** Women's Institute - A.G.M.
- 20th** Parish Council meeting

MAY

- 15th** Women's National Register
"What shall we do with the wrinkles?" A discussion on what the options are for the care of geriatrics when they can no longer take care of themselves.
- 26th** Holy Trinity Church Patronal service - Preacher Bishop Michael