

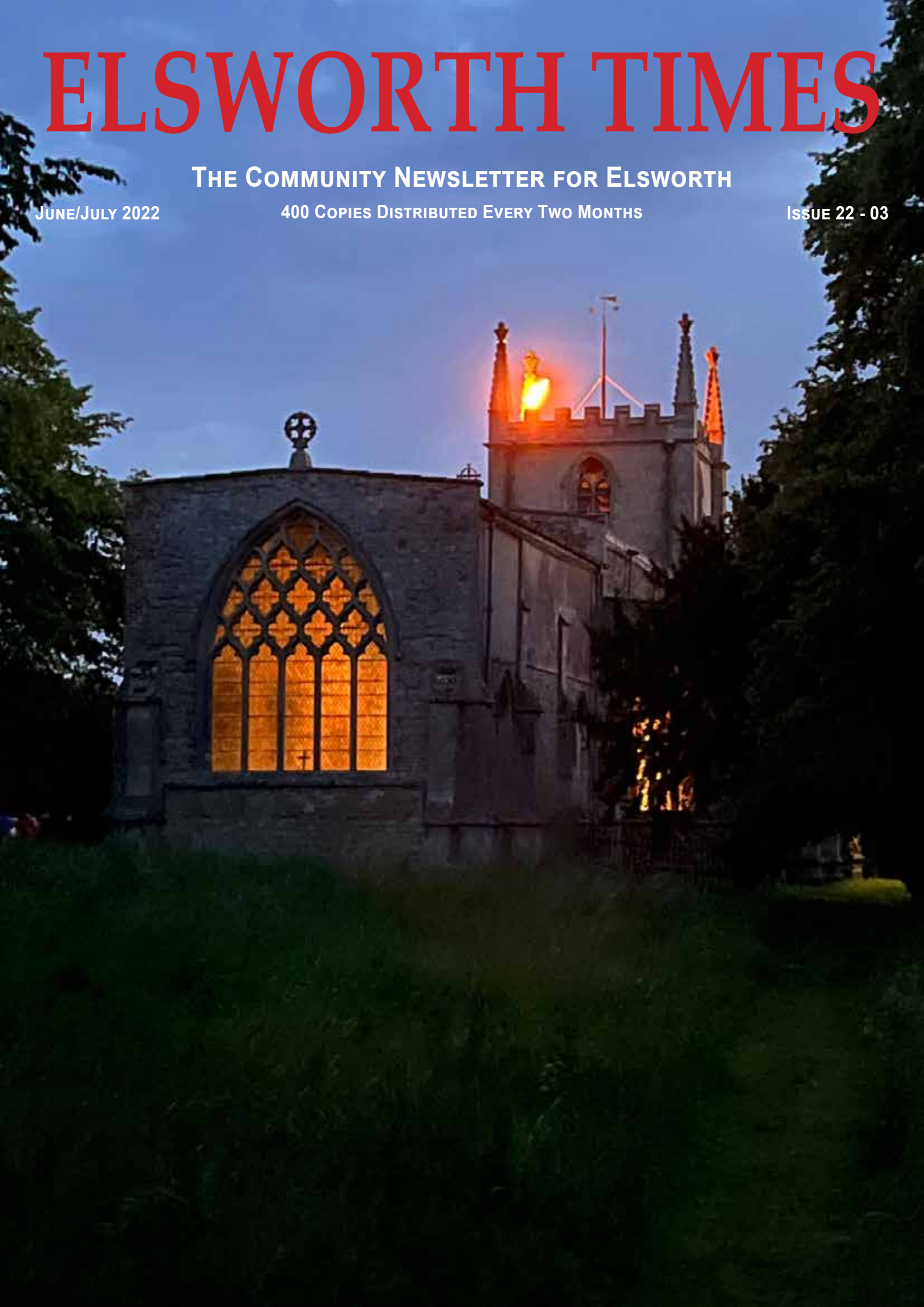
ELSWORTH TIMES

THE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FOR ELSWORTH

JUNE/JULY 2022

400 COPIES DISTRIBUTED EVERY TWO MONTHS

ISSUE 22 - 03



USEFUL NUMBERS

Elsworth Times Editor

Sue Taylor – set.taylor@btinternet.com

Elsworth Times Adverts

janetpendrill@gmail.com

Police Community Support Officer

Non Emergency - 101

Emergency - 999

Community Fire Safety Officer

01223 376217 or Emergency - 999

South Cambridgeshire District Council

08450 450500 or 01954 713000

Parish Clerk

Liz Sim - 01954 267664

clerk@elsworthvillage.com

Parish Council Web site address

<https://elsworth-pc.org.uk>

Doctors' Surgery

Papworth - 01480 830888

Bourn - 01954 719313

Appointments 01954 719469

Parish Church Contacts

Chris Westgarth - Team Administrator

01480 839933

The Rev Nigel di Castiglione

01954 267241

Elsworth Primary School

01954 267272

Elsworth Show

Sonia Hegan - 01954 267743

Elsworth Sports Club & Pavilion

Secretary - Chris Woodbury

secretary.esc@outlook.com

Bookings for the pavilion Kim Pleszko

bookings.esc@outlook.com

Swavesey Village College

01954 230366

Elsworth Shop

01954 267951

www.elsworth-shop.co.uk

Tree Warden

Paul Harding – 01954 267218

Fardell's Lane Nature Reserve

Louise Hanzl - 07785 614303

Elsworth Walking Group

Contact Tom or Lyn

01954 267166

Tom&LynHogan@pathwaysystems.co.uk

New Editor for the Elsworth Times

This month you will start to see some changes to the Elsworth Times. A new editorial team is in place, and the key members are

Sue Taylor – set.taylor@btinternet.com

Chaya Robertson - Ruth Fleischer - Clair Harrison

All articles for next month's edition should be sent to Sue, but the team will be working together to get a balanced view of village life and try to publicise all the wonderful things that happen in this village. Talk to any one of us for more information.

Adverts should still be sent to the printers – Janetpendrill@gmail.com

East West Rail Drop-in Event

Cambourne: Wednesday 20 July, 2pm - 8pm

The Cambridge Belfry, Back Lane

Cambourne - Cambridge - CB23 6BW

Keep in touch

If you have any questions about the events or would like to speak to a member of the team, please email the team at contact@eastwestrail.co.uk or call on 0330 134 0067



Registered Charity
No: 1044680

The cost is £13 per day including tea and coffee and a delicious two course meal cooked by our resident chef, Jane. We meet every Tuesday between 10am and 3pm in The Community Centre, The Close, Papworth Everard. The Centre is fully wheelchair accessible. Transport is available in certain cases.

It is not now necessary to be referred by your G.P

Contact: Jenny on (01480) 492697 for further details (if no answer please leave a message or name & number, we will call back)



IMPORTANT DATES

Mobile Library – The Poacher, Second Thurs of the month 2.35pm - 2.55pm

Post Office services from the pavilion: Tues 2-4, Thurs 12-2pm

BIN COLLECTION DATES

Bin Dates	Black Bin	Blue Bin	Green Bin
Thu 23 Jun 2022		✓	✓
Thu 30 Jun 2022	✓		
Thu 7 Jul 2022		✓	✓
Thu 14 Jul 2022	✓		
Thu 21 Jul 2022		✓	✓
Thu 28 Jul 2022	✓		
Thu 4 Aug 2022		✓	✓
Thu 11 Aug 2022	✓		
Thu 18 Aug 2022		✓	✓

CLERK'S COLUMN

LIZ SIM PARISH CLERK

Telephone: 01954 267664

e-mail: clerk@elsworthvillage.com

CHAIR'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

An abridged version of the report given by Peter Deer to the Annual Parish Meeting on 18 May 2022.

Covid restrictions meant that the last time I was able to give an in-person report at an AGM was in April 2019. Then what was essentially a "new" PC had been in existence for just less than a year.

The PC had wanted very much to be proactive and get something done about: the roads (there is still a way to go, but Highways have undertaken works in Brockley Road and Rogues Lane, while the PC also got hold of two speed monitoring units); the car park between the Shop and the Sports Pavilion (this has been resurfaced and drainage installed); smartening up the bed around the village sign (which has now been done); and rethatching and repairing the bus shelter (now completed).

More recently the PC was pleased to appoint Louise Hanzi as Warden for Fardell's Lane Nature Reserve (a report on what she's been up to appears elsewhere in this edition of the ET). The PC is supporting the Jubilee celebrations in the village, including the dedication of 2 trees – one in School and the other in FLNR and providing wildflower seeds to the schoolchildren.

Largely thanks to two generous donations, we have been able to move forward with refurbishing the children's play area, which is being dedicated as the Platinum Jubilee Play Area. Except for the large slide, the old play equipment has been removed and the ground has been prepared for the installation of new equipment in July. As well as the donors, enormous thanks is due not only to members of the PC who have been involved in developing the project, but also to those people in the village who have helped remove the old equipment and those who lent some heavy machinery to speed the work.

A lot of things of direct relevance to Elsworth (but perhaps largely out of sight to most parishioners) have also been going on. Just one example is East West Rail's consultation exercise about an Oxford-Cambridge rail link in which they dropped the bombshell that they were proposing to locate a station for Cambourne just south of Knapwell with associated opportunities for significant housing development. We circulated a questionnaire to get residents views and have been representing these in the many and varied discussions with other PCs, pressure groups, our MP, HM Government and SCDC, while also actively supporting the campaign to get EWR to publish a business case for the rail link. If you want to follow events and make comments, the Elsworth & District Facebook page is worth a look. Meanwhile, EWR is continuing to work on the rail scheme and is due to produce report on outcomes of their consultation exercise later this year.

Three of our Parish Councillors are standing down (Rob Askham, Alison Brolis, and David Pope) and I want to pay tribute for the work they have done for the village by serving on the PC. We have one new councillor (James Howell) who has already got himself a job or two. I also want to take the opportunity to record many thanks to Liz Sim for her work as Parish Clerk.

A final word of thanks. At the APM I asked for volunteers to co-ordinate the content of the ET and Sue Taylor (who had done the job in the past) has kindly stepped up to the plate again.

Written by Peter Deer

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS



The Jubilee celebration in the village was a happy occasion for everyone to celebrate her Majesty's incredible achievement of 70 years on the throne. Much hard work went into organising the various

events and the thanks of all residents go to all involved for providing a great opportunity for this community to get together. How very good it is to see events starting to get underway in the village again.



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

May 18th 2022 saw the first Annual Parish Meeting since April 2019. Although it was a much quieter meeting than the usual Annual Parish, (undoubtedly because given the still ongoing covid climate, the social part at the end of the meeting was not held!) fourteen parishioners attended along with District Councillor Mark Howell. The meeting was chaired by Mr Peter Deer, Chairman of the Parish Council whose report appears in this publication. Other village organisations whose representatives normally attend this meeting were asked to submit their reports for this edition of Elsworth Times too. A summary of the Council's income and expenditure for the financial year ending March 2022 was presented, with a breakdown of income and costs outlined in detail. The Parish Council intends to use all the funds held from section 106 agreements for the renewal of the play area, as well as monies from its general funds and the donation monies from Mr John Wakelin. The Wakelin family has agreed these funds can be used for this purpose rather than the reinstatement of full postal facilities in the village following the closure of the post office on The Causeway, as was Mr Wakelin's request when he donated the funds. The precept for the coming year has been minimally increased by £1,000 although expenditure is expected to rise considerably in the current climate. The same cannot be said for income! Residents present at the meeting were asked whether the publication of the Elsworth Times was worth continuing. There was unanimous agreement that it should continue. Sue Taylor has agreed to take over as editor for the coming year which is very welcome news.

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Peter Deer was elected as Chairman of the Parish Council again. However, he advised that he will not continue as chairman for the full term. Members agreed not to elect a vice chairman at the present time. Only five people put themselves forward for election at the May elections (Alison Brolis, Rob Askham and David Pope decided not to stand again) so no ballot was held. The Council therefore has four vacancies, as the full complement of members is nine. The council is seeking to fill these by co-option.

The Council approved and signed the Council's Annual Governance Statement 2021/2022, the Council's Accounting Statement and Certificate of Exemption for the year ending March 31st, 2022 and noted the Annual Internal Audit report 2021/22. All these documents are available on the PC web

site. The Certificate of Exemption is permitted if neither the PC's income nor expenditure goes over £25,000 in the financial year. This allows the Parish Council exemption from an external audit which is fairly costly.

Two requests for funding were considered at the meeting.

- Elsworth Sports Club requested that the PC consider changing its previous offer of £650 towards pavilion cleaning costs to grass cutting costs and increase the amount. Members recognised that the playing field is used for more than just Sports Club activities and agreed to consider funding a donation/grant to the Sports Club as a contribution toward the costs of grass cutting of up to £1,500 for the coming year, to be reviewed at the end of the year. This would be conditional on the inclusion of regular cutting of the children's play area and the use of the pavilion free of charge for parish council meetings. This proposal will be taken back to the Sports Club Committee for their consideration.
- Elsworth Preschool wishes to make an application to the Parish Council for funding to support various upgrades and improvements to the Pre-School. Members agreed that they were prepared to consider offering some funding and are looking forward to receiving more specific details and costings of the proposals.

PC APPOINTMENTS FOR 2022-2023

- Parish Tree Warden - Paul Harding
- Fardell's Lane Volunteer Warden - Louise Hanzli
- PC representatives for The Village Community Flood Group - Philip Sleightholme, James Witherow, Peter West
- Elsworth Sports Club Committee - Rob Askham
- A Broadband Champion for the village - James Howell

David Pope has agreed to continue to represent the PC along with Peter Deer for the East West Rail consultations. Other meetings on engagement matters come up often and the PC will deal with allocation of representatives as these arise. Margaret Stevenson agreed to represent the PC on future consultations/presentations about the new A428 proposals.

Cllr Howell is still our District Councillor after his re-election in May. Following Nick Wright's retirement, Peter Sandford (Lib Dem) was elected as the other councillor for our ward. Cllr Howell updated the PC on various matters including the success of the company set up by SCDC, Ermine Street Housing, which is progressing well and bringing in a good income for the DC general funds that helps reduce the precept. Houses purchased with a loan from the council are rented at market rates. They were owned by the DC but are not council houses. He also advised that BT would not be maintaining copper wiring after 2026.

PLANNING

Planning Applications considered.

- 22/00534/HFUL 8 Spigot Lane. PC comments neither objecting to or supporting the Planning Application. Comments related to construction works and access to the proposed site
- 22/0400/TTPO 8 the Causeway. PC recommendation: Support
- 22/0407/TTCA 41 Brook Street PC recommendation: Support removal and replacement with a new variety of tree. (note – Decision received from DC 18.05.22. No objection.
- Notification of Planning Applications - For Information only
- 21/04671/CONDA Barn At Browns Farm Boxworth Road Elsworth Cambridgeshire Submission of details

required by condition 9 (Contamination) of prior approval application 21/04671/PRIOR

- 20/04791/CONDA Land to The South Of 29 Brook Street Elsworth
- Proposal: Submission of details required by conditions 6 (Foul Water Drainage), 7 (Flood Resilience), 11 (Tree Protection), 12 (Traffic Management), 13 (Biodiversity Enhancements), 14 (Breeding Birds), 16 (Windows), 25 (Energy Statement), 26 (Landscaping Plan) and 31 (Boundary Treatments) of permission 20/04791/FUL
- 21/05155/FUL 54 Boxworth Road Elsworth Cambridgeshire. Non-material amendment on to roof over openings rather than replace with roof lights. 21/05155/NMA1

APPLICATIONS DETERMINED/CLOSED BY SCDC

- 22/0161/TTCA 11 Cotterells Lane Elsworth Cambridge Cambridgeshire CB23 4JR. No objections
- 22/00706/HFUL 3 Brook Street Elsworth Cambridgeshire CB23 4HX Granted Permission
- 21/04671/CONDA Barn At Browns Farm Boxworth Road Elsworth Cambridgeshire CB23 4JQ Discharge Condition in Full
- 22/00571/HFUL 7 Church Lane Elsworth Cambridgeshire CB23 4HU Granted Permission
- 22/0407/TTCA 41 Brook Street Elsworth Cambridge Cambridgeshire CB23 4HX Have No Objection To

DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2022

July 20th - September 21st - November 16th

ELSWORTH PLAY AREA UPDATE

While the current uncertain and occasionally wet weather



is disappointing for many expecting June sunshine, for those involved in the new Elsworth Play area project the odd shower of rain is welcome in ensuring that on the areas where the old equipment has been removed the new grass will grow lush and green. In dry weather though it has to be

watered daily, a task which is being done by Rob Askham who is managing the project on behalf of the Parish Council.

The removal of the old play equipment was done in two stages from 6th May under Rob's supervision, firstly removing the old swings, small slide, rockers and climbing frame and then local farmers used their heavy equipment to dig out tons of old cement and fill in with topsoil. The area was re-seeded, and fingers crossed (and lots of watering!), it will grow successfully in time for the installation of all the new equipment which includes a trim trail, new swings, climbers and springers. Weather and material supplies permitting, this should happen in July in time for the summer holidays.



Peter Deer & Margaret Stevenson

theWI

ELSWORTH KNAPWELL AND CONINGTON

INSPIRING WOMEN

For the first time in its existence the National Women's Institute had to close its doors for over a year because of COVID and so from April 2020 until July 2021, when we had a socially distanced but very welcome summer get-together, no face-to-face meetings could be held, an unprecedented situation even through World War II when the WI remained very active.

However, by September 2021, our meetings were back on track, this time in Elsworth Sports Pavilion, and we welcomed five new members, a much needed boost to our membership. Our annual Christmas meal at the George and Dragon was much enjoyed and since Christmas meetings have been well attended and enjoyable.

The best laid plans go sometime wrong, however, and just a couple of hours before our latest meeting on 8th June our speaker had to cancel and so the meeting became more informal, a catch-up on WI news both local and national and then an appropriate Jubilee quiz and our usual refreshments, supplemented by a delicious birthday cake for one of our members.

Our next meeting on 13th July is our annual summer social event which this year will celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. However, one event looms large on next year's calendar – in 2023 our WI celebrates its centenary and we are currently deciding how to celebrate this auspicious event. The first Elsworth WI meeting was held in the school hall (hire 8 shillings) on 23rd March 1923. Each member had to bring their own food plus sugar and the talk was on "Constructive and Decorative Stitching". We hope to remember the social importance to the village of our organisation that these intrepid ladies began, which continued through the war years and the nearly 80 years since then. Today Elsworth, Knapwell and Conington WI is flourishing and it is important for us to remember all the members, past and present who have contributed to its 100 years' successful existence.

P.S Elsworth, Knapwell and Conington WI has been a focus over the years for ladies in our three villages wishing to make friends and develop their arts and craft skills (and not just making jam and singing Jerusalem). We are always keen to attract new members to ensure the WI continues for many more years. We have monthly meetings, usually with a speaker, and many various and diverse topics are enjoyed. We finish with refreshments and an opportunity to chat and catch up with news. If you are interested and just want to give the WI a try you are very welcome to come along to a meeting of your choice and see what you think. We meet at 7.30 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Elsworth Sports Pavilion.

Margaret Stevenson - June 2022



Save the date!

The 64th Elsworth and District Show

Sunday 4th September 2022

At the Pavillion and Sports ground

All the usual attractions and refreshments to
celebrate the end of summer

Photo classes	The Jubilee Our Village Peace Windows
Adult Art	This year there is an extra class - Jubilee - any medium There are new Handicraft classes - Woodwork and ceramics/pottery
Children's art	The Crown Handicraft - Crown from recycled materials
Floral classes	Platinum Jubilee Blue and yellow Arrangement in an egg cup

We are very much in need of helpers over the weekend. If you can spare even the odd hour it would really make a difference. Contact Sonia 267743 to sign up or if you would like to have a stall.

Get planting, making and creating!

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HOLY TRINITY CHURCH - ELSWORTH



Don't delay what needs fixing day!

Snippets of social media or gossip in some newspapers indicates that, for all the joy over the Queen's platinum jubilee celebrations, significant tensions abound in relationships between some of the 'royals'. They are human beings who face challenges and stresses familiar to us all. At the

same time, the absence of family brings a host of other problems – loneliness, isolation, who to seek help from in times of need or frailty being just a few. The contrast ought to be a salutary reminder to those with family to treasure who we have and make this an incentive to mend fences and build bridges when problems erupt. We all know this is easier said than done, as current international events remind us.

People of faith are not excluded or cosseted by their belief in God; it is not long before we come up against other people of faith who see the same issues we wrestle with from a different perspective and with a different set of core beliefs. This summer such tensions may be on view among Anglican Christians. The Archbishop of Canterbury has invited Anglican bishops from around the world to a conference being held during July in Canterbury. Already some have declined the invitation and others are sharpening their political weapons. See how these Christians love one another! It may not be pretty; it may seem largely irrelevant to many. Equally, it could be an event that ends up being an occasion for healing, growing mutual understanding and respect and offering some much-needed reflection to a world teetering on the edge of disaster over climate change and other global issues. One

of the mistakes I notice, when people disagree, is the desire to hide behind a mindset that says, in effect, 'You've not heard me unless you agree with what I think and feel ...' Unless we move beyond that sentiment the barrier usually grows, the hurt deepens and the opportunity for reconciliation becomes more remote.

My first boss (in the real world!) volunteered some advice to me just 2 days before Annie and I were married. Over a cup of coffee, he told me succinctly he got married in the late 1950s, had children in the '60s, got divorced and remarried in the early '70s ... because all our friends were doing it then ...". He told me his second wife was a much nicer person than his first and clearly they were happy together; but with tears in his eyes the advice was, 'Nigel, if you get married, stay married.' He was echoing pain he knew first-hand - how some decisions have irrevocable outcomes that can outweigh the issues between us; especially looked at again with hindsight.

Today (as I write) the news on TV is of the 5th anniversary of the Grenfell disaster and the 40th anniversary of the ending of war in the Falklands; both were terrible in terms of the loss of life and the ongoing and still unresolved traumas for so many directly involved – including the inability of some to come together, to re-unite, forgive, say sorry and rebuild. For some being locked years later is down to the decisions of others they can't alter or influence, which makes such things matters for society as a whole. 'Don't let the sun go down on your anger ...' wrote St Paul in one of his letters. Christians may be just as bad as others when we fall out, misbehave and hurt others by accident or intentionally. We have a bigger narrative from which to offer hands of healing and reconciliation, open to all if we are ready to use them; even if sometimes we are not good enough at practicing what we preach!

Nigel di Castiglione - Team Rector



ACCESS: Potato weigh-in

Access's next community event will be the Elsworth Great Potato Grow-Off Weigh-in (phew!) on Saturday 2nd July, 10-12. If you've already bought the 'potato kit' you need to bring the grow-bag to the Churchyard for weighing - there will be prizes for children and adults in 'Heaviest Single Potato' and 'Heaviest Total Crop'. It's likely to be quite competitive so we will be borrowing some finely-tuned scales! There will be refreshments while you wait and we look forward to seeing you there.



We were delighted to raise over £850 at the first plant sale held in the churchyard on Saturday 21st May. We would like to thank everyone who contributed – all the dedicated plant growers who shared their lovely plants with us and put in lots of time and effort to produce so many wonderful things, the cake bakers and the

bunting hangers, and of course everyone who turned up and supported the sale – the most important of all. All the funds are going to improve the access to the church for

wheelchairs and buggies, and to make the church a more usable and accessible space with a kitchen and WC in the long term plan.

The aim is to make a space that everyone might use perhaps for meetings, clubs or any social event.

Our future fundraising includes a Concert in the Church in the autumn and an Apple-Press Party - so you can bring your windfalls to make juice or, even better, cider. Details will be published in the next edition of the Elsworth Times.



Fardell's Lane Nature Reserve Update

Work was carried out at the end of last year to cut back brambles and elder regrowth which enabled us to plant 7 saplings in February.



The Pre-School Forest School is making good use of the reserve on Friday mornings, looking out for badger fur, exploring the paths, putting up a swing and hammocks

amongst many other things.

We have put up three bird boxes with a 25cm hole suitable for blue, coal and marsh tits (near the Forest School area), one with a 28cm hole suitable for great tits



and tree sparrows and one with a 32cm hole suitable for house sparrows and nuthatches. Two of the bird boxes were kindly donated by Ken Brocksom and three by Bridget Gaskill on behalf of RSPB Hope Farm.

The steps on Fardell's Lane have been replaced as they were rotten. We now have three new pressure treated sleepers with rabbit wire attached to the top of the sleepers to create grip when walking on them.

We submitted an application

for a Tesco Community Grant to fund the restoration of the pond (if viable), to provide more facilities and improve access to the reserve. A big thank you to everyone who sent a letter/email in support of our application and especially to Ruby and Diamond classes at the Primary School who wrote lots of lovely letters with some brilliant ideas of how to enhance the reserve. We just have to wait and see if we are successful, hopefully we will know in July.

We are also hoping to create a wildflower mound. The children from the Primary School are growing wildflowers from seed and we hope to be able to plant them out before the start of the summer holidays.

We would like to increase the diversity of wildlife in the reserve so if anyone would like to donate/build a bird/bat box, let me know. Likewise we always need wood chippings so please let me know if you have any spare.

A tree surgeon from UK Power Networks came to look at the trees on Fardell's Lane which are growing through the overhead power line that runs parallel with Fardell's Lane



and part of the reserve. Work will be carried out to prune trees once the various permissions needed have been granted.

I would like to thank all the volunteers for their hard work and enthusiasm, nothing would get done with you giving your time. If anyone would like to join the work parties please let me know. A special thank you to Paul Harding for his advice and support while I am finding my feet in this role.

Louise Hanzi – thehanzis@gmail.com

Elsworth Swifts

These days, if you stand around at the west end of Smith Street, Elsworth on a nice summer evening, you may see up to 30 Swifts charging around in the sky. It wasn't always like that, or maybe it was some decades ago; Swifts have declined in the UK by over 60% since 25 years ago, when proper monitoring of the Swift population started.

Back then, we were already aware that Swift numbers were plummeting, but it took until December 2021 for Swift to be added to the Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC).

Prior to 2015, we were not aware of any Swifts breeding in Elsworth. This may not be surprising, as nationally there is about 1 pair of Swifts to every 1300 people. Elsworth, with a population of ~600, wouldn't even merit 1 pair of Swifts!



In 2015, we installed 3 nest boxes on the southwest-facing gable of 35 Smith Street, home to Ali & Sean Thompson. Swifts soon moved into one of the nest boxes, attracted to Swift calls played through a small speaker near the boxes. By 2017, 2 of

the boxes were occupied, so we added 6 more boxes on the annex gable. By 2020 all 3 boxes on the house and 2 on the annex were occupied so we increased the boxes on the house gable to 6. In 2021, 5 pairs occupied the house boxes and 2 pairs returned to the annex.

At the same time, not to be outdone, Paul and Gaynor Solon next door have installed 10 boxes under the eaves of their house, resulting in 5 occupied boxes in 2021.



There is plenty of scope for many more Swifts in Elsworth, should anyone have a desire for nest boxes under their eaves. You can email me at actionforswifts@gmail.com, phone 01223860400.

You can read about Swifts and our projects on actionforswifts.blogspot.com

<https://www.facebook.com/Action-for-Swifts-1004173086267940/>

Dick Newell, June 2022



Elsworth School



At the start of the Summer term Sapphire and Emerald class (Reception and Key Stage 1 children) enjoyed a visit to Hinchingsbrooke Park as part of their minibeast topic. The children and adults had a fabulous time and took part in pond dipping, fire

lighting and minibeast hunting.

The staff at Hinchingsbrooke Park were very welcoming and the children thoroughly enjoyed their first school trip at Elsworth C of E Primary school. They are looking forward to more school trips in the future.



We ended the first half of term with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. In preparation for our Garden Party and tree planting ceremony, each class spent time learning about the Queen's history, creating portraits of the Queen (at different times in her life) and making bunting. The School Council organised a Jubilee Bake-Off and they had some amazing and delicious entries!



Elsworth C of E Primary School would like to thank the Parish Council for arranging a Jubilee tree for us which was planted in our school grounds, and for the wildflower seeds each child received. The children have planted the seeds and when the saplings

are strong enough, they will be transplanting them to the Wildflower meadow in Fardell's Lane Nature Reserve.



ELSWORTH PRE-SCHOOL



It has been an exciting, fun-filled half-term at Elsworth Pre-School!



We have all been busy making crowns, keep-sake Jubilee medals, flags and bunting as we've been learning about The Queen's Platinum Jubilee! The children were all very excited to bake cakes, biscuits and make sandwiches in preparation for

a Jubilee tea party with their family and friends. We made royal invitations and posted them to our parents too!

The children have been making choices about their learning experiences including being part of the local community more by walking to the post box to post letters to family and buying ice-creams from the shop as a treat on a sunny day!



Forest School is back, and we have all been exploring, building our confidence and resilience as we climb, swing, balance and problem solve in our play in nature. The children found a newt and so many different insects showing care and consideration

for them as they learned about their micro-habitats.

We are open for a Pre-School tour now too with spaces available! If you would like to visit and see our welcoming, friendly team and learning environment please do get in touch we're



always happy to help and answer any questions you may have.

Telephone: 01954268050
email: elsworthpreschool@outlook.com website: elsworthpreschool.org



ELSWORTH PRE-SCHOOL



Places Available Now

We are open Monday - Friday 8:55am to 2:55pm
with the option to start at 8:30
for a small additional cost.

We do half sessions; 8:55-11:55 or 11:55-2:55

We accept 15 and 30 hour funding

We do Forest School Sessions on a Friday morning.

Supporting Ukrainians and their families in Elsworth

Over thirty local families have offered to be part of the Elsworth Support Group; six seeking to host families escaping war in Ukraine and others offering to help to host the visiting families with support, resources, time, service and finance. As I write we have three Ukrainian guests and several other families still waiting for the bureaucracy to clear but with their doors wide open. Sixty-five thousand refugees are in England from Ukraine, that's around one to every thousand people. Elsworth has a population of six hundred and thirty; a couple of hundred families maybe. With three guests here already that's one to two hundred. There's a lot of heart shining through the highways and byways of the village.

I know from the sentiments expressed in the many emails we receive that so many people care. Offers of support and help have come in all shapes and sizes. 'I have spare beds and duvets, crockery to loan... I'll give English lessons to any village refugees, children and adults... I will help with lifts and meals... Navigating local government and services... Happy to help in any way I can... I have a printer available in the Elsworth business park... We can help with transport... We have a garden with a trampoline... I could help with dance, singing, crafts for younger children... We could cook meals... Laundry... A friendly chat and a coffee... Happy to give some money... My art studio to draw/paint/collage/sew/knit/crochet... The Sanctuary Foundation video gives hints and references... Elsworth

Sports Club if there is something that the Club could provide... Counselling skills in bereavement... Engaging the skills of the refugees in the community... Arranging or running trips out/visits... Listening to people's stories... Assistance in getting to a meeting, medical appointment... Help filling out forms... Companionship... Preschool procedures... GP registration... Help with getting National Insurance Numbers... I speak Polish, used to speak good Russian and currently learn Ukrainian... Contacts with the humanitarian aid organisations in Poland... Try Cambridge University Ukrainian Society.'

We have helped our Ukrainian guests make links with guests in Conington and Boxworth. Maybe you could tell us of other potential links in other places. Katja, one of our guests, whose sister and English brother-in-law live in the village, has immediately and generously offered to help with any new arrivals from Ukraine. She is a professional translator between English, Ukrainian and Russian.

We all understand that for hosts there is long term responsibility, love and cost involved. Everyone is welcome to offer help with our guests and it's never too late to let us know. As many know other Ukrainian guests are hoped for but it might be months before they arrive. Maybe we could find ways to help refugees from other conflicts? I am sure there are others in the village who care and want to help as well and will find other ways to do so, which is great. The Elsworth Support Group will need a long shelf life. Please hang-in there and please join us if you can.

peter_newton3@yahoo.co.uk

Artist Studios in Elsworth and Hilton Open to the Public this July



This July artists throughout Cambridgeshire are opening their studios to the public. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet a variety of artists in their creative spaces and see their work first hand. Free printed guides will be widely available in shops, galleries, libraries and other locations from June. Details of studio locations, opening times and other information on all artists can be found online at www.cambridgeopenstudios.co.uk.

The studios in Elsworth and Hilton listed here will all be open to visitors from **10am to 5pm on 16th - 17th and 23rd - 24th July**. We look forward to seeing you there!



Sarah Hutchinson | Studio 185
Pastel, watercolour and acrylic
7 The Drift, Elsworth



Jessica Hutchinson | Studio 185
Gouache, digital and watercolour
7 The Drift, Elsworth



Ernie Butler | Studio 186
Oil and charcoal drawing and painting
10 Smith Street, Elsworth



Sherry Rea | Studio 187
Printmaking and painting
Carpenters, Broad End, Elsworth



Ann Brown | Studio 188
Pencil and watercolour
9 Church Lane, Elsworth



Lynn Norton | Studio 216
Mixed media, pastel and acrylic
Hilton House, Graveley Way, Hilton



Nina Sage | Studio 217
Relief printmaking
3 Pecks Close, Hilton

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**A428 Development Cluster
Forum: Cambourne**



Wednesday 6 July, 6pm onwards

**A428 Development Cluster
Forum: Bourn Airfield**



Wednesday 6 July, 6pm onwards

These forums are held back-to-back on the same evening.
Please see website for joining instructions and estimated timings: www.scambs.gov.uk/communityforums





Time flies by when you're the driver of a train.

Also, it seems, when you are chair of the shop committee.

Only people over the age of 50 are likely to understand the first sentence of that statement!

I can hardly believe it's 5 years since I took over the role from Janet Bell, and it's even more difficult to consider how much the world has changed and what has happened to that world during those 5 years.

I have been mulling over the content of this article, specifically what to say that's new and fresh, but also whether to try and persuade you that my tenure to date has been full of excitement, adventure and really wild things, to quote the late Douglas Adams. The reality is that despite it containing some elements of those, particularly during the last two and a bit years, not much has changed in terms of the shop itself albeit a few past and current/pending personnel changes (more on that shortly) and for inspiration I decided to read my very first entry in this fine publication from way back in 2017.

I make no apologies for plagiarising my own words here, as so much of what I said remains true and relevant.

It remains vital that the village has its own shop, particularly for those who find it difficult to shop further afield, if we as villagers are determined to continue making our community the very best it can be.

It is just as important to provide everyone, including the many who are able to shop elsewhere and understandably do so for their weekly groceries, the convenience of popping in for a drink or sandwich, the range of local produce we sell, or for things they've run out of or forgotten such as the staples of milk and bread, chocolate and cake!

Like all our fabulous and committed volunteers, I want the shop to do well to ensure it remains open for as many of the advertised hours as possible and therefore viable to carry on doing so.

The biggest challenge facing the shop, and indeed many similar ones around the country, remains apathy, plain and simple.

For the benefit of new readers, but slightly foreshortened to hopefully prevent everyone else from getting bored and wandering off, I will mention again events which remain strong in my mind so many years later and gives rise to my strong feelings on this subject.

In a previous life as a business bank manager, I saw a number of shops and local post offices ultimately fail which had been set up and funded based on business plans containing letters of strong community support.

Over time however the novelty wore off and many people went back to doing their entire shop at the supermarket or calling at the petrol station for milk or bread, with footfall

at the local shops all but disappearing save for a few customers who had little of no other choice due to personal circumstances.

Just as when I wrote the original version, our situation is nowhere near as bad as that, and of course no-one wants it to become that way. We are in a fantastic position, principally because we still enjoy vast local goodwill because the shop is a community concern rather than a business run for profit.

That isn't to say however that we are immune from such events. The importance of the shop really came to the fore during the worst of the lockdowns. Most of our volunteers and managers were both happy and able to continue serving the community during what was a truly awful and uncertain time. Footfall and purchases were higher than they had ever been as more and more people realised what they could buy a short distance from their homes without having to go to the supermarket. The shop remained open all the way through, we had lots of new volunteers who suddenly had more time on their hands and wanted to contribute.

The darkest clouds are a backdrop for the brightest rainbows.

It appears (thankfully and with fingers firmly crossed) that the worst of Covid is now behind us, and naturally things are changing again as a result. People are back at work to a large degree and so many aren't able to carry on volunteering, and footfall has tailed off, sadly to a point where it is lower than in the pre-pandemic months. In recent months the number of SOS emails from the managers has increased for volunteers to cover shifts thus preventing the shop having to close for several hours.

Having taken part in the most ridiculously successful and joyous party almost 9 months ago to celebrate the shop's first 10 years, the committee and managers remain resolute in their determination to ensure a 20th.

The only way that can happen is for you, lovely people, to come and buy things, even if it's just a few items once a week.

The shop of course still needs to be open for customers to actually buy that stuff, and so we need even lovelier people to not only buy things but to come and help out for a few hours every so often or even once of more times a week!

Getting involved in the shop also remains a terrific way of meeting people in the village and finding out what's going on in the community, as most groups advertise in the shop. I can honestly say that, had it not been for our involvement with the shop starting over 10 years ago, Sue and I would probably know only a fraction of the people in the village that we do.

Without the continued support of the customer and volunteers we already have, plus as many more as we can get, those convenient 'pop-ins' mentioned earlier may eventually become not quite as regularly convenient.

We still have something fabulous even if it is easy to forget what life would be like without it. Please come and support us if you don't already. I make no apologies for using this cliché again; USE IT OR LOSE IT.

Right, that's the tubthumping over and done with!

I must end by passing on the shop committee's heartfelt thanks, admiration and affection to two individuals without whom the shop wouldn't be what it is today, and I might not even be writing this!

Janet Bell who will be shortly carrying out her threat to move North was there right at the start when the shop was little more than a twinkle in the milkman's eye, including the planning of the whole thing including the grants etc which allowed the whole thing to become a reality.

Jan Parr was also there from the very start and has been the shop's manager and/or co-manager all the way through thick and thin, working tirelessly both front and rear of the house often for many more hours than for which she was actually employed. Jan has now decided to step down but intends to continue in the shop as a volunteer as and when possible.

Both Jan and Janet will be very much missed in their respective roles notwithstanding that wonderfully dedicated committee members and managers remain, and we need the support of everyone else out there just that little bit more.

I am sure everyone reading this will join the committee in wishing these two amazing individuals the very best for the future and also giving heartfelt thanks to them both.

David Sampson
Chair – Elsworth Shop Committee

THE ELSWORTH VILLAGE SHOP NEEDS YOU!

Our village shop is manned by wonderful volunteers, donating an hour or more a week serving customers. Some work alone some with friends, spouses or partners. Hours are very flexible. Most volunteers have set hours that they



choose to do, but we also welcome anyone who could cover for holidays/illness.

We also need Saturday/Sunday morning volunteers. We open from 9-12, so you would be trained to open up/cash up at the beginning/ end of the shift.

Our shop is a lovely place to work, especially for anyone new to Elsworth – you will get to know EVERYONE!

Please contact us at:

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AGM

Thursday 7th July
7.30pm
in the SPORTS PAVILION

Meeting open to all
Shareholders

Refreshments available

Advance copy of accounts available.
Email treasurer@elsworth-shop.co.uk

THINGS ARE AFOOT AT ELSWORTH SPORTS CLUB!

This excellent facility is available to hire and it would be wonderful to see a variety of community interests and events being held there - groups and private bookings. And lets go along and support what's happening. If you want to make a booking, contact kplesko@aol.com



Most of you will be aware that our invaluable post-office facility is hosted there on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but we are being encouraged to put the building to much more use.

THE ELSWORTH JUBILEE CLUB meets here on the first Thursday of the month and would love to see some new faces. They have interesting speakers, a raffle and refreshments. An excellent opportunity to meet people and enjoy an evening of entertainment. July will also see the first Jubilee Club outing since Covid. This is on Thursday 28th July to Southwold, leaving at 9.00am and leaving Southwold at 4.30pm. Tickets are £15.00 for adults / £7.00 for under 16's. Payment due at time of booking. Cash or cheques made out to 'Elsworth Jubilee Club'

To book, contact Rita Backhouse at: ritabackhouse@btinternet.com.

ELSWORTH PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Elsworth was always going to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in style and in spite of disappointingly damp and chilly weather during the weekend the events, long planned, were much enjoyed by who attended.

On the Thursday 2nd June our church beacon was one of thousands lit across the country in celebration of the start of the Jubilee festivities and many residents were able to enjoy the spectacle, a glass of wine and singing the national anthem.

On Friday morning, the day of the Jubilee Party, the organisers and several volunteers set up the four marquees in the Sports field and on Saturday am more people came to help with the lighting, bunting (100 plus metres!) seating and tables. The school had kindly donated all the art work the children had made for their own Jubilee party and the many collages of the Queen certainly brightened up the Pavilion.

On the Saturday evening at 7 pm, as people began to pour across the field to the marquees, the bar opened, the music from the band, Blind Panic, started up and people grabbed seats in the marquees to enjoy their drinks and meet up with friends. In fact it was the children who first got enthusiastically on to the "dance floor". They were having a great time and hopefully will remember the Platinum Jubilee for years to come. Eventually braving the chilly weather with coats and even gloves, the adults were dancing and by the end of the evening most taking part enthusiastically. A great evening, must do it again etc. was the verdict from many.



Preparing to light the Beacon



Drinks before the Beacon is lit



Saturday Night Bar



Blind Panic

ELSWORTH TIMES JUBILEE



Saturday Night Party



Saturday Night Party



Look who dropped in !

On Sunday 5th, there was no let-up for the organisers as the marquees and the Sports Pavilion had to be got ready for the Jubilee picnic/barbecue. The weather was disappointingly drizzly but a good number of stalwarts turned up with their burgers, sausages etc. to enjoy a social get-together under cover of the marquees. Four ambitious ladies from the village had each prepared (from scratch) the very complicated lemon and amaretti trifle, winner of the national Jubilee pudding competition, and people were invited to taste these and give their verdict. In the Pavilion, a haven from the cold outside, ladies from Elsworth WI were serving free tea, coffee and an amazing display of over 200 home-baked Jubilee cupcakes.

They were kept busy most of the afternoon as people came in for a warming cuppa. At 2 pm everything stopped for the children's Best Made Crown competition, a difficult decision for the judge, Rita Backhouse, as the entrants were all so good with obviously a lot of time and effort involved in construction of their crowns. Another enjoyable and hopefully memorable occasion for Elsworth annals despite the weather.

The organisers are so grateful to the many volunteers, too many to mention individually, who came along prior to each event to help set up marquees, lights, seats, tables etc, who served in the very busy bar on Saturday night and who manned the barbecues on Sunday under a dripping gazebo. Many more helped with clearing up the Pavilion and the field on Sunday and on Tuesday evening, once the marquees had dried out in the sun, people turned up again to take them down. Thanks to everyone for their efforts and for helping to make these celebrations enjoyable for all those who attended.

Margaret Stevenson



BBQ Team



Who's for a Burger ?

ELSWORTH TIMES JUBILEE



Rita Judging the Children's Crown Competition



WI serving refreshments



One of the Marquees



Relaxing with a drink



Jubilee Puddings



Lunch