



£1.50

# *The Village*

**ELTON'S MAGAZINE** Autumn 2015 Issue 123





*The lupins stand tall in Miriam Upex's garden. Photo R. Ackroyd*



*Glasses of pimm's are enjoyed on the day by Aaron and Faye Vervasis. Photo R. Ackroyd*

## NOTE FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Welcome to the autumn edition of The Village. Another summer is drawing to an end, with the nights closing in and the temperature dropping. The passing of the seasons always make us aware of change and in this edition we have some interesting photos of the changing face of Elton. See pages 59 and 60 (the back cover) for images, and page 26 for information.

Some of the highlights of the summer can be found in the magazine. On pages 30-33 there are some beautiful photos and an update on the popular garden trail. In June the Elton Society held their AGM with Mike Lumb entertaining the audience with interesting facts about The Elton Railway Station.

Alex Baird has provided us with an update on the defibrillator which is situated in the telephone box on Middle Street, see page 25. It is reassuring to know that it is always there if we should need it.

The summer season always tends to have less happening in the village as lots of people are busy with holidays and family, but this all changes in the autumn and this year is no different. You can see details of forthcoming events throughout the magazine, but on page 7 we have tried to condense the information into a forthcoming dates diary so you can have dates all in one place. If you can think of any exciting events coming up in December, January or February that we can put in the diary next issue, please let us know!

We hope you enjoy the magazine, as always we could not produce this without the help of our regular contributors who provide us with all of the information and the photographs that you all get to see, our thanks goes to them. The companies that advertise in the magazine are also essential to the success of this magazine; without their contributions there would be no magazine. Please support these companies and mention where you saw their advertisement.

Happy Reading

*The Editorial Team*

### Apology

*The observant and astute amongst you will have noticed a seasonal error in the advertisement for The Walled Garden on page 23 of the last issue.*

*Our printers, PPS Print, apologise to The Walled Garden and our readers for using an incorrect advertisement.*

# IN THIS ISSUE

## Shop & Post Office Opening Hours

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays:

7am to 7pm

Wednesdays: 7am to 1pm

Saturdays: 7am to 6pm

Sundays: 8am to 1pm

Miss Julie Moore of 25  
Overend picks up  
prescriptions for the  
village for a small charge

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## NUMBERS TO NOTE

### DOCTORS

#### Oundle Surgery

8.30am - 6pm

Monday to Friday by appointment

[www.oundlesurgery.nhs.uk](http://www.oundlesurgery.nhs.uk)

#### Wansford Surgery:

Dr A.R.S. Takhar, Dr R.E. Nally

Repeat Prescriptions

[www.wansford.co.uk](http://www.wansford.co.uk)

### DENTIST

#### Townley House

36 West St. Oundle

#### PARISH CHURCH

#### Acting Church warden

Chris Milton

#### HAIRDRESSER

'Curl'

#### GARAGE

Pick Arthey, Oundle

#### CHEMIST IN OUNDLE

C.J. Simmonds

#### PARISH COUNCIL

Wendy Gray

[www.eltonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.eltonparishcouncil.org.uk)

#### CHURCH COUNCIL

Mrs. J. Milton (Sec)

#### METHODISTS

Rev Langley Mackrell-Hey

[revlmh@gmail.com](mailto:revlmh@gmail.com)

#### ELTON SOCIETY

Michelle New

#### VETERINARY SURGEON

Yarwell Veterinary Surgery

Oundle Veterinary

[www.oundlevets.co.uk](http://www.oundlevets.co.uk)

Oundle 273408

(01780) 782342

(01780) 783994

Oundle 272515

Oundle 280415

Oundle 280500

Oundle 273542

Freephone 0500 323330

01778 441312

Oundle 280415

01733 575147

Oundle 280741

01780 783910

Oundle 273521

New Lodger Veterinary Centre, Polebrook 01832 270201

#### HIGHGATE HALL (reservations)

Sally Gunning

Oundle 280600

#### WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Liz Harvey, secretary

01733 232505

#### SCHOOL

[office@elton.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@elton.cambs.sch.uk)

Oundle 280314

[www.eltonprimary.co.uk](http://www.eltonprimary.co.uk)

#### POST OFFICE

Oundle 281545

#### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

David Strowbridge

Oundle 280674

#### HUNTS DISTRICT COUNCIL

#### RAILWAY ENQUIRIES

#### ANGLIAN WATER

#### ELECTRICITY EMERGENCY

#### LUNCHEON CLUB

Mrs Christine Roberts (Sec)

01480 388388

08457 484950

0845 145145

0800 7838 838

Oundle 280378

#### Oundle Care Committee

Jane Cummins

Oundle 280556

#### KEY THEATRE

[www.peterboroughkeytheatre.co.uk](http://www.peterboroughkeytheatre.co.uk)

01733 552439

**Front cover: A penny for the guy on Overend.  
Photo: Les Ranford.**

**Back cover: Photo: Les Ranford**

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# BONFIRE NIGHT

**Saturday 14th November**

**We are intending to hold this years  
Bonfire Night at the usual location off  
Overend**

**(subject to the formal consent of Elton Estates and Graham Robinson)**

**on Saturday 14th November.**

**Gates open at 6pm.**

We will have our usual spectacular fireworks display, a giant bonfire, hot and cold drinks, a bar, BBQ food and of course our Guy Competition. It would be lovely to see even more Guys this year (and not just from children ) with celebrities, royalty, politicians, and even Lords in strange attire welcome.

As usual no personal fireworks of any description can be permitted but a glorious and fun evening certainly is.

*Mark Holman*

Chairman Elton Bonfire Club



# REGULAR EVENTS

**Meetings are sometimes changed at holiday times and we advise you to call the contact**

If you would like us to publicise your event, please contact us at [Editor@eltonmagazine.com](mailto:Editor@eltonmagazine.com) or c/o Potters Cottage

## Weekly

Knit and Natter	Elton Chapel	Tuesday 2-4pm	Wendy Willis: 280276
Woodcarving Classes	Highgate Hall	Monday 8.45am-12.15pm, 1.30-5pm, 6.45-9.15pm Tuesday 8.45am-12.15pm	Glyn Mould: 07753 298501 Phone for course information
Pilates Classes	Warmington V. Hall All equipment supplied	Wednesday 9.30-10.30am	David Daniels: 07944 298406 or <a href="mailto:bootcamp@hotmail.co.uk">bootcamp@hotmail.co.uk</a>

## Fortnightly

Luncheon Club	Highgate Hall	11.30am-2.30pm Every 2nd and 4th Thursday	Christine Roberts: 280378 All retired people welcome
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## Monthly

Coffee and Chat	Elton Chapel	10am -12.00pm Every 3rd Wednesday	Madeline Stewart 01832 273867
Chess Club	Elton Chapel	7.30pm Every 3rd Wednesday	Madeline Stewart 01832 273867
Elton WI	Highgate Hall	7.30pm Every 2nd Thursday	Davina Lescott (President): 01733 248029 or Liz Harvey (Secretary): 01733 232505
Parish Council	Highgate Hall	8pm Every 3rd Tuesday	Wendy Gray: 01778 441312
Mobile Library	Overend Bus Shelter	11.45am- 12.15pm Every 4th Wednesday	0345 0455225 or <a href="http://Cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library">Cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library</a>
Communicare Social Group	Yarwell Village Hall	10am Every 3rd Friday	<a href="mailto:superfoguik@aol.com">superfoguik@aol.com</a> or <a href="mailto:wendy.spencer22@yahoo.com">wendy.spencer22@yahoo.com</a>
Chapel Community Library Coffee & Cakes	Elton Methodist Chapel	10am-12noon Every 3rd Saturday	Madeline Stewart 01832 273867

## ELTON DIARY- September to November 2015

Day	Time	Event	Location
Tuesday 8th September	7 for 7.30pm	Talk on The History of Elton Hall & The Proby Family	The Billard Room of Elton Hall
Wednesday 16th September	7pm	Chess Club	Chapel
Saturday 19th September	10-12pm	Library	Chapel
Friday 25th September	7:30pm	Chapel Harvest Supper	Highgate Hall
Sunday 27th September	10:30am	Chapel Harvest Service	Chapel
Sunday 27th September	6pm	Harvest Thanksgiving Service	All Saints Church
		To follow: Harvest Supper	The Black Horse
Friday 9th October	7.30pm	James New Jazz Evening	Highgate Hall
Saturday 10th October	7:30pm	Huntingdon Guitar Ensemble	All Saints Church
Saturday 17th October	10-12pm	Library	Chapel
Wednesday 21st October	7pm	Chess Club	Chapel
Friday 30th October	7:30pm	Music for Quiet Places	All Saints Church
Sunday 8th November	10:45am	Village Remembrance service	All Saints Church
Saturday 14th November	6pm	Elton Bonfire Night	Overend
Wed 18th November	7pm	Chess Club	Chapel
Friday 20th November	7:30pm	Wine Tasting for All Saints	Highgate Hall
Saturday 21st November	10-12pm	Library	Chapel
Friday 27th November	TBC	Auction of Promises Fundraising Event	Highgate Hall

## RAF Voluntary Band



On 4th July, an audience of 80 plus gathered at All Saints Church to listen to the music of the RAF Wyton Voluntary Band. Led by Bandmaster Graham Sutherland we were treated to a wide and varied programme including traditional

band music, film scores, television themes, The Dam Busters March and the RAF March past, followed by The National Anthem. The band received a standing ovation at the end of the concert.

A special thanks to all who made this a night to remember which raised £500 for Church Funds.

## Penned from the Pulpits

As I write this, the oil seed rape is being harvested and carted through the village. As you read this, you will see that the Harvest Thanksgiving services are being held in the Church and the Chapel at the end of the month, not forgetting their Harvest Suppers!

There is a poem by Gerard Manley Hopkins which speaks of 'Hurrahing in Harvest' and I'm sure that many of you know the opening words of John Keats' poem 'To Autumn' which starts: "Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness!"

I wonder, have you ever thought of yourself as a fruit? And if so, what sort of fruit might you be? Perhaps a pear – juicy and ripe, yet so easily bruised. Or an eating apple – succulent and sweet; but where did that maggot come from? And then there's a cooking apple – a sharp tang to the taste but delicious with a soupçon of sugar. Or an orange – we usually eat the insides, but the rind helps to make a rich marmalade. And a tomato (is it a fruit?) – soft inside but sometimes with a tough skin that's hard to pierce. You could play psychological games with the idea and I could continue, but you get the drift. It takes all sorts of fruit to make a delicious compote; it takes all sorts of people to make a cohesive community; all different, but all with their own unique taste and texture to blend together into a whole.

In one of his letters, the apostle Paul wrote about 'the fruit of the spirit' as being the attributes to which we might aspire. They are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Which of those best describe you, or me, for that matter? And which of them do we find more difficult to demonstrate, I wonder?

If we are able to make these attributes our own and be the essence of our conversations and communications with others, then at least our small part of the world here in Elton would indeed be fruitful as it can be.

*David Parkes*



### Pet of the Season

**Name:** Frankie

**Breed:** Mixed breed Rag Doll

**Lives:** Duck Street

**Owner:** Evie Venum

**Age:** 5 years

**Likes:** Sitting in boxes, bags and on clean washing, and walking on the bed with muddy paws.

**Dislikes:** Other cats!

If you would like to include your pet in Pet of the Season, please contact us at [Editor@eltonmagazine.com](mailto:Editor@eltonmagazine.com) or c/o Potters Cottage.



## Elton School of Music

On Saturday 27th June, Helena Mckillop my piano teacher organised a wonderful piano concert for her students at Elton chapel. It was my 2nd concert, I love it because everyone dresses up and we have a large appreciative audience to play in front of. Many of the students had played at last year's concert, and they had all improved so much. It was also lovely to have new students I had never heard before, everyone sounded amazing. After everyone had played and the applause had ended we got to celebrate with drinks, treats and more piano playing, the perfect end to an amazing afternoon. A big thank to Helena and Elton Chapel for letting us use the chapel and their piano.



By *Chloe Williamson*

On Saturday 27th June, our annual Summer Music Concert took place, and it was a great success. A keen group of local young pianists played their selected pieces to an eager audience of family and friends. The concert, held in Elton Village Chapel, allowed each student to show their progress and ability. The performances were excellent and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We look forward to seeing our talented young musicians enhance their skills in the future.


Regards, *Chloe Hayes*


There has been lots of success with the Elton School of Music, and I would like to offer my congratulations to the following students:

- Eloise Baxter for passing her grade 1 piano exam with distinction, and then her grade 2 in a record 7 weeks.
- Erin Baxter for getting her prep test.
- Sebastian Higgins for gaining a distinction for his grade 4 piano.
- Both Rachael and Charlie Clapp who passed their grade 5 theory with flying colours.

Well done to you all!

*Helena McKillop*





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## ELTON PARISH COUNCIL

Introducing another Elton Parish councillor:

### **Amanda Owen**

My family and I moved to Elton in 2011. I have worked in the village shop for just over a year and up until this summer both of my children attended the village school.



I decided to join the Parish Council because I think there is great satisfaction to be had by serving the community at this level. I'm eager to help maintain all elements of the village plus making provision for changes which may need to be made, to ensure our community remains vibrant. I am fully committed to helping influence decisions for the benefit of the people I will serve. I look towards preserving our village as well as seeing our community change for the better. For me, being part of the decision making processes is something that I can look upon with a sense of achievement and pride. I will endeavour to maintain my enthusiasm, good humour and keep an open mind to best serve the interests of our wonderful village.



**PLUS**

# Orton Hall Hotel & Spa ★★★★★



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- The Great Room or the Orton suite for weddings, dinners, dances and presentations
- Ample parking

## SPONSORED PARACHUTE JUMP

On a fine but windy Fathers' Day in June, Simon and David Parkes bonded in a new way with a sponsored 'sky-dive' in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association. Between them, they raised £2000 including Gift Aid, so a big 'thank you' to everyone who very kindly and most generously sponsored them.

There were 13 people who jumped at Sibson Airfield in support of MNDA that day and so far more than £14,000 has been raised in total between them. With them and supporting them were a number of people living with Motor Neurone Disease at various stages in the condition and it brought home quite emphatically the reason for jumping out of a perfectly good plane without a parachute! David's instructor (who had 2 parachutes, main and reserve) is a serving soldier with the Parachute Regiment and a former team leader of their sky-dive team, The Red Devils, so he was in very safe hands.



*Simon and David Parkes at Sibson, taken by Shirley Strowbridge.*

The experience was amazing and exhilarating from looking down at Elton, Nassington and Yarwell villages from the air, to pitching head-first from the aircraft from about 2 miles up, (there is absolutely no sense of plunging earthward at 120mph), on to gently descending under the open canopy and finally a safe landing. If you get a chance to sky-dive – do it!

And thank you once again to those who enabled Simon and David to enjoy that experience whilst raising money for the MNDA, and to those who came along to Sibson to encourage and to provide much needed sustenance whilst waiting to fly heaven-ward.

*David Parkes*



**Do You Know ... .. Elton has its own chess club,  
all be it, in its infancy.**

We are a small group with varying levels of skill. That said, we are an enthusiastic group and if you are a novice, all the better because this could be a new hobby and promises to be a fun experience.

When and Where: Every 3rd Wednesday from 7-9 pm in the Library of Elton Chapel.

Contact: Dcn John Brobbey 01733 688263.

## ALL SAINTS CHURCH FUTURE EVENTS

This autumn we have a continued programme of events taking us up to the Christmas season.

- Elton Hall was originally the seat of the Sapcote family who built the gatehouse tower and chapel that still exist today. In 1660 the Sapcote house was acquired by Sir Thomas Proby who had married the daughter of Sir Thomas Cotton who owned the Manor of Elton. The house has been in continuous occupation by the Proby family since this date.

All Saints Church has a number of stained glass windows, tombs and monuments that were donated by the Proby family.

On the 8th September (7:00 for 7:30pm) Sir William Proby will be giving a talk in The Billard Room of Elton Hall on "The history of Elton Hall and the Proby family". Tickets £7.50 (includes refreshments) are available from Chris Milton or any of the PCC.

- On 27th September the monthly invitation service will be a Harvest Thanksgiving: after a short service at 6pm in the Church we will transfer to the Black Horse who have once again agreed to provide a Harvest Supper. The price will be the same as last year: £10 with 20% going to the Church, and tickets will be available from members of the PCC.

It is well worth remembering that the practice for giving thanks for the harvest was introduced at All Saints by Reverend Piers Claughton in 1845 before it became a widely accepted practise.

In October we are holding two musical events:

- On the 10th October we have a concert provided by the Huntingdon Guitar Ensemble. They are a classical guitar ensemble with ten members, the majority of whom are at least grade 8 players all with performance experience. Their music covers a wide range, from early music to pieces written more recently, with a variety of styles incorporating classical, folk, Spanish and modern. They also use flute and voice to add variety and interest for the audience. They use no amplification so their sound is natural and easy on the ear.
- The 30th October sees the Oundle Festival – Music for Quiet Places coming to the Church with Project Jam Sandwich. This is a dynamic collaboration of instruments and genres, adding their stamp to folk music from all over the globe. This impressive line-up of violin, cello, guitar, double bass and percussion includes BBC Young Musician of the Year Category Finalists, Royal Over-Seas League winners and international concerto soloists who met whilst studying at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.



Their explosive live performance and captivating collection of influences have immediately situated Project Jam Sandwich as rising stars in their field. Ranging from the music of Bulgaria to South Africa to Scotland, they concoct their own charismatic arrangements with exhilarating improvisation, scorching rhythms and beautiful melody

Performance highlights include a BBC Radio 3 broadcast of their BBC Prom at the Royal Albert Hall, BBC Radio 3's In Tune Programme and a string of the UK's most prestigious music festivals

- On the 20th November we will again be hosting a Wine Tasting evening with wines provided by Amps of Oundle. This event was very popular last year; not only were there a number of wines to try and food to sample but it was a great social event for the village.

*Chris Milton*

## **“Live Jazz Evening”**

### **Highgate Hall – Friday 9th October**

Hi, my name is James and I currently attend the King's School, Peterborough. In Summer 2016, I will be going on an Outlook Expedition to Mongolia and China. I will be helping out at a summer camp for orphans for a week on the outskirts of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. We will be focusing on 50 children, aged between 6-13, who come from some of the poorest families in the area to give them an escape from city living. Instead of being left alone at home or living on the streets, the children get to stay in the day care centre where they receive healthy meals, education and assistance with their homework.



To help finance this I will be holding a Jazz concert at Highgate Hall at 7.30pm on October 9th with Martian Jewkes on the piano and saxophone, Sara Hawkes singing and myself also on the piano. Tickets are available to purchase at £12 and will include light refreshments. As tickets are limited, please email [michelle.familynew@googlemail.com](mailto:michelle.familynew@googlemail.com) to order your tickets as soon as possible.

This is going to be a wonderful experience and I hope you will be able to support me with raising funds for this trip.

Many thanks.

*James New*



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## NEWS FROM THE CHAPEL PEWS

After masses of fundraising and applications to various 'grant giving' organisations, the repairs to the Chapel Roof have started. Costing about £42,000 they are due to be completed in mid September. Meanwhile there is no Library or Chess Club at the Chapel, and no Sunday services for they will be held at the Highgate Hall ... watch for notices posted outside of the Chapel and at other prominent places around the village for more detailed information on these services.

Now, given that we expect to get the Chapel back from the contractors in September here is a run-down of what is happening after that; some dates for your diary or the household calendar.

25 September, 7.30pm The traditional Harvest Supper event at the Highgate Hall.

27 September, 10.30am Harvest Festival Service in the Chapel.

29 & 30 October Thrift Shop at the Highgate Hall; all manner of things on sale from basic bric-a-brac to the more expensive, and sometimes rather 'choice' items.

27 November Auction of Promises fundraising event at Highgate Hall.

20 December The annual Chapel Carol Concert or 'Carols by Candlelight' service.

24 December Christmas Midnight Communion Service starting at 11.15pm

25 December Christmas Day service at 10.30am.

A bit more about the Auction of Promises. If you can 'promise' something for the auction that you think may be a treat or of practical help to someone then please do so. Just telephone Madeline or Charles Stewart on 01832 273867 or David Strowbridge on 01832 280674.

Now for something a little different. On Saturday 25 July about 28 of us went on a Chapel organised coach trip to Lincoln to see the Magna Carta in the afternoon and a performance of Tim Rice's and Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Jesus Christ Superstar" at Lincoln Cathedral in the evening. Unbeknown to most of us the Magna Carta viewing (quite an emotive experience, really) in the Castle coincided with medieval pageantry and sideshows in the grounds; an interesting and entertaining afternoon! But then 'Jesus Christ Superstar' in the evening; a truly magnificent performance of the musical (can one say 'extravaganza'?) with apparently a cast of 197 souls of all ages; and the lighting of the cathedral was really quite dramatic to behold...but now I'm going on a bit and I don't want to make you envious!

*David Strowbridge*  
Methodist Church Council Secretary

## ELTON SOCIETY AGM

The 26th Elton Society AGM took place at Highgate Hall on the 12 June with 38 people in attendance. The Society exists for the benefit of our village and all residents are automatic members and can either be nominated to stand as a Trustee or work alongside the committee to ensure that Elton continues to be a pleasant place to live, work and play.

During the formalities of the meeting, the annual accounts were presented by Julia Mocanu showing that main sources of income were generated from May Day and Film Nights. The society is a non-profit making charity and any income received is used towards projects in our village. The Society recently supported Alex Baird's Defibrillator project (as situated in the telephone box at the end of the School Lane) and the development of Elton Primary School's Trim Trail which is a play area facility open to all.

The Society has hosted many social events, namely May Day, Film Nights (a big thank you to Tony Ackroyd and his team), bike event to celebrate the Tour de France (a big thank you to Richard Donoyou) and 'Carols on the Green' with the support of The Crown Pub and local musicians Helena McKillop and David New. These events do involve a lot of work and the feedback is extremely positive. However in recent years, with increasing popularity of May Day and low numbers of volunteers, this has led to a change of direction which the Society can build on next May.

A new committee has been formed with Steve Brown as Chair, Julia Mocanu as Treasurer and Michelle New as Secretary. There continues to be 2 vacancies and any villager interested in joining us please contact Michelle tel: 280741. Lastly, Michelle thanked the work of Tony Ackroyd, who stepped down from The Elton Society after many years of support – what a star!



*Michael Lumb explains his model of the old Elton Station to much interest.*

Following the meeting, Michael Lumb presented a talk based on the history of Elton station. Michael's long-life interest in railway history and research of Elton station from 1845 certainly came across. It's certainly a privilege to have had a local resident speaking about this area of Elton's history which could easily be overlooked. Michael also showed us a model of the station which helped visualise the building and location. Today the area is fully over grown and inaccessible however following this highly informative talk, you could imagine what it was like to have had this facility on our





doorstep – a big thank you to Michael.

No AGM would be complete without refreshments and the Society would like to thank Sarah Truman for purchasing drinks, to those who serve our drinks and to Julia Mocanu, who added a personal touch by supplying beautiful decorated cakes - you're all amazing.

*Michelle New*  
Elton Society Secretary

## HIGHGATE HALL 200 CLUB REPORT

This long running lottery is giving opportunities for you to win cash, whilst supporting our great village facility. Many people have re-joined but we still have a 14 numbers left over. We are hoping for another successful year, aiming to again get to the maximum 200 subscribers to the club. The first 4 months draws have been held at the Highgate Hall Committee meetings and the village post office, and the recent winners are listed below.

Month	#	1st prize £30	#	2nd Prize £20	#	3rd Prize £10
Jun - 15	108	Mrs M Kirk	41	Mr S Pearce	68	Miss E Facer
July - 15	43	Mrs A Jackson	141	Mrs S Curtis	4	Mr M O'Neill

This small lottery usually brings in £1200 for the Highgate Hall main account, thus enabling us to keep letting costs down and retain our special village resident, letting charges.

Therefore if you or friends want the opportunity to win the monthly prizes please don't forget to send in your fee. It's only a small amount (£12 per year) and there are 3 prizes each month with the BIG £200, £100 and £50 prizes to be drawn in October. Your support will greatly benefit the up keep of our fine village hall.

*Chris Milton* – 200 Club Promoter  
Telephone 01832 280415

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**[www.youngsveterinaryhospital.co.uk](http://www.youngsveterinaryhospital.co.uk)**

## *Wine Tasting*

We are having another Wine Tasting in the Highgate Hall  
on **20th November 2015 7.30pm** start,  
in aid of Church funds.

We have lots of projects on at the moment including new entrance steps and the stained glass windows need some restoration and cleaning so your support would be very welcome.

Philip Amps from Amps Fine Wines will be showing some of his "festive" wines to help the season go with a swing.

**Supper will be included and the cost will be £10.00,**  
the same as last year.

We all had a great time last year so hope you can join us for another fun evening. Look out for the "YELLOW" posters!!

*Gill Thompson.*

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# Know Your Neighbour

In this series, we ask Elton villagers to reveal themselves in 13 Questions

Name: George Edis



**1. How long have you lived in Elton?**

Since birth – 18 years.

**2. Describe yourself in three words ...**

Kind, honest and ambitious.

**3. What would be your dream job?**

Speedway Rider – but as I'm a Trainee Accountant I guess it should be something like a Chartered Accountant or Finance Director.

**4. What would be your last supper?**

Either a Curry or Chinese... too hard to choose!

**5. Name your favourite television soap**

Eastenders.

**6. Marmite, love it or hate it?**

Love it!

**7. Name your favourite soup**

Heinz Tomato soup

**8. What sound do you love?**

Listening to the waves at the seaside.

**9. What or who makes you happy?**

Watching Speedway, going on holiday and being with family and friends.

**10. What is the worst place you could get stuck?**

In a traffic jam on my own without a SatNav.

**11. If you were famous, what would you be famous for?**

CEO of a large company – one day I hope!

**12. What's your earliest memory?**

Throwing a bottle at my sister and it hitting her on the head – not that she will remember!

**13. Where is your favourite part of Elton?**

Down by the river sitting on the pontoon.

## ELTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Now, I know this is banging on about things, and what right have I to badger people about what they should or shouldn't do, but it's about domestic heating fuel...again!

When do the clocks go back? I've checked and it's 25 October but towards the end of September sunset is about 7pm and sunrise 7am (my maths says that's 12 hours between these times, right?). Well. I'm writing this article in late July, so the magazine will be, in a manner of speaking, "dropping on your doormat" in early September. Now, some may remember (and only too well, sadly, if you fell a victim to this) that there was a little spate of domestic heating fuel thefts last winter. Some of you also may remember that I wrote an article in February about crime prevention and heating fuel tanks. Well, like I said, it's not for me to tell people what they should do, far from it, but would it be worthwhile, do you think, to put your mind to your fuel heating tank security before the longer nights – even dark evenings – set in?

Being a victim of crime, especially violent crime or burglary, is the most dreadful

experience so I would not wish to devalue or disregard the feelings of any villager who has been a victim of (or had a close friend or relative who has been a victim of) any of these crimes but it is a fact that they are thankfully rare events in Elton, but I think it is probably correct to say that fuel theft is the predominant crime. We live in a quiet, rural area where, it's probably true to say, fuel tanks are plentiful (be they domestic, agricultural or on boats) and it's so easy to drive about and spy on whose taking a delivery of fuel from a tanker, and hence know who will have a full tank and whereabouts it is on the property.

So, if you are interested in more on the subject there is much more to see on the internet – just type 'fuel tank security' into the search engine. However if you want a more 'intimate' experience you can telephone Cambridgeshire Police on 101 and ask for Crime Prevention...although I have to be honest here, I think the answerphone system could do with improvement (I've told the police this) and you may well end up leaving your number for the police to call you back.

*David Stowbridge*

# Turning over a new leaf at The Walled Garden

New owners, Nick & Christine Smith took over the Walled Garden 18 months ago, and since then things have been looking up. *"I was hooked by the centre the minute I saw it. Our aim is to restore it to its former high standards,"* said Nick.

Christine said *"In the tearoom, we've already made many changes. These include new decor and furniture, award-winning Illy coffee, wines, local ciders and beers, homemade meals, and seasonal specials. We've just introduced old-fashioned ice-cream sodas and coke floats for those hot summer days! There's more to come, and we're pleased to say trade is growing well."*

Kate, who has worked in the centre for over 16 years, said *"Plants and trees are the backbone of a really good garden centre. We now have more shrubs, perennials, alpines and trees to choose from, more than in many big centres. People come to us for choice plus advice when they need it, and we are very happy to help."*

Their most recent introduction – 'Tastes of East Anglia' – is a new departure for the centre, with pickles, jams and marmalades, cakes and biscuits, plus wines and drinks, all made in the region. *"The response has been very positive, and sales are brisk. We also now sell honey made in Elton – while stocks last!"* Christine added.



## the walled garden at elton hall garden centre tea rooms

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**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November**

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

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9.00am, 11.15am and 1.30pm

**Please telephone the school office on**  
**01832 280314 to book your place**



## Elton Community Public Access Defibrillator (CPAD)



As many of you may know, Elton has been privileged to have a defibrillator installed into the telephone box on Middle Street for over a year now. I am pleased to report that, as yet, there has been no occasion that has required its use, but we can all be secure in the knowledge that should anyone need it, regular maintenance checks are carried out such that it is safe, effective and always available for use, night and day.

Did you know that sudden cardiac arrest claims around 150,000- 200,000 lives each year in the United Kingdom, with survival rates being around 5-10% outside of a hospital setting? If a person's heart has stopped due to an accident or heart attack and is in a rhythm called ventricular fibrillation, the only way to get the heart ion to a more regular, sustaining beat is to pass an

electrical charge through the heart muscle. The 1st 3-4 minutes are the most vital for the collapsed person and, if first aid and a DEFIBRILLATOR are on hand, then the chance of survival will increase considerably.

These statistics are especially important to bear in mind for a village such as Elton, which is a considerable distance from the nearest hospital. Defibrillators are now being installed into a number of isolated villages across the United Kingdom, including local villages such as Fotheringhay and Woodnewton, and have already been shown to save many lives.

In the event of an emergency, you need to dial 999 and the operator will provide you with an security code in order to access the defibrillator for use until an ambulance arrives. No first aid training is required as the device is very simple to use and clear step by step instructions are given. The CPAD is very safe to use and there have never been any reports of a defibrillator harming the patient, user or bystander.

I would like once again to thank all parties involved in raising monies for this defibrillator, primarily The Elton Society, as well as a number of local charities and Elton residents.

*Alex Baird*

# Village People

## Academic Success

Congratulations to Alice Rice. Through dedication and extreme hard work, she has achieved a First Class Honours degree in Psychology. All her family are incredibly proud.

## One wedding leads to another

Congratulations on the engagement of Abby Shrive of Highgate Green to her partner Daniel Jones. Abby met Daniel at her sister Nicola's wedding in 2013, and after conducting a long distance relationship over the past two years between Elton and Wales, Daniel is due to move to the area. He proposed outside Elton Church where they first met, and where they are due to marry in 2016.

## Wedded bliss

Congratulation to Jennifer Louise Haigh, granddaughter of Shirley and the late Ernest Purnell of Faber Lane, who was married to Roger Simon Ashman in the village Parish Church of All Saints on Saturday 26th July. The newlyweds spent their honeymoon in The Maldives and Sri Lanka. We all wish them every happiness in their lives together.

## More from Moore

Heightons Garage is now no longer. Ex employee of 36 years, Brian Moore, has moved onto pastures new, combining his love of gardens and garages. Starting a new business in Elton, servicing and MOT's for cars, and garden maintenance, good news for loyal past customers...

## A Recent Memory of Elton

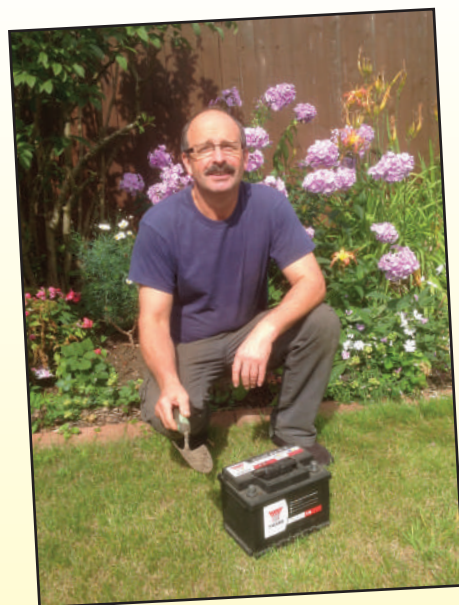
We must read historic references to have an image of the changing face of Elton and how it has developed through the ages. As the centuries have passed, changes have come about within the lifetimes of some of our older residents who can recall how Elton used to be when they were young. And then there are changes that have happened in recent years, but how quickly our memories fade. For instance, can you remember what was on the site before Carysfort Close was built? That was only eight years ago. And surely we'll never forget Heighton's Garage, will we?

In Middle Street the old barns, where Miriam Upex once worked as a land girl, have been redeveloped just this year but how soon will we forget those earlier images? Just for illustration, please see the back inside and outside cover for some before and after pictures to jog your memories.

If you have some before and after pictures in or around Elton then let the Editorial Team know. They'd love to see them.



*Alice Rice*



*Brian Moore*



*Jenny and Roger Ashman*



*Abby and Daniel*



## LIFE AT CARYSFORT CLOSE

I do hope you have had a good summer. I have enjoyed the sunshine, sitting on my balcony with the crossword and/or a good book when possible, and have endured the wind and rain during the non-summery parts of the summer!

I do a lot of knitting and nattering, but not with the Tuesday group. However, they invited me to go with them to Ellys Hall in Great Ponton, and to the Easton Walled Garden at Easton, just off the A1 beyond Colsterworth. Both were very enjoyable afternoons in April and July.

We said goodbye to Sylvia and John Andrews who have moved to pastures new in mid-Lincolnshire to be even nearer to their son now that they don't have the use of a car. We enjoyed their company during the two years they lived here.

Margaret and John Butler left us for 8 weeks to visit their son, daughter-in-law and grand-daughter in America. It was so good to see them back and to hear about all the gadding about they did in that vast country.

Several of us continue to enjoy the Senior Citizen Lunches on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month and we enjoy enormously the annual events of Elton May Day, the visit of the Corby Male Voice Choir and this year, again, the Elton Open Gardens Day. The Chapel Library is great, too, although one month I brought a book home only to find, on reading the first chapter, that I had previously read it! Very annoying and I obviously hadn't taken enough notice of the title!

I'm sorry to say that an over-large number of Carysfort Close residents have had surgery appointments, hospital appointments, with some hospital stays. Only to be expected, I suppose, but we don't like feeling under the weather do we, however old we are!

Many congratulations to Audrey and Brian Davies on celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary in June. Not many of us achieve that, do we?

And, finally:

*Yesterday is gone – so forget it.  
Tomorrow is yet to come – so don't worry.  
Today is here – so use it.*

*Pat Sanson*

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## SEPTEMBER

	Date	Age
Jonathon Hipwell	3rd	16
Eve Jackson	6th	14
Harry Benstead	9th	11

## OCTOBER

	Date	Age
Emily Truman	11th	18
James Christopher New	17th	17
Eleanor Edis	27th	16

## NOVEMBER

	Date	Age
Daniel Nugent	2nd	18
Woody Cuthbert	5th	2
Matthew Herbert	19th	18



If you would like a birthday mention, please contact Amanda Rice on 01832 280225 or email

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# Elton Garden Trail



*Tony and Shirley Johnson take a well-earned rest within their garden (Little Garden House, the smallest garden on the trail).*



*Kate and Pete Taylor pose by their 1965 Jaguar E Type that was on display for trailers.*



*Ashley and Mark Holman call to each other be*



*David Tansley's MGA Twin Cam stood within the grounds of Mulberry House.*



*Stuart, Nick and Fiona McPherson welcome guests to Jelly's Yard with jugs of Pimms.*





er between their shifts on Gillian's plant stall.



Julian Lock with his 1952 Ferguson Tractor parked in the front garden of Ailington.



During the presentation evening, the cheques for the funds raised were presented by organisers David Housden and Gill Thompson to Chris Milton, Church Warden for All Saints Church, Charles Stewart, Chapel Treasurer, and Richard Smith, Treasurer of the Church Fabric Fund.



The first garden on the trail (Sue and Julian Lock's) offered visitors a taste of what was to come.

For more Garden Trail photographs, see the inside front cover.

# Elton Garden Trail - One of the best!

A number of years ago the Best of British magazine singled out our Garden Trail praising it highly as being "one of the very best events of its kind in the country". Most of our visitors who enjoyed the experience would have agreed. As many left they asked, "When is the next one?"

The trail began at Ailington, Overend, with Sue and Julian Lock, where Trailers could admire both flower beds and vegetable plots. The start of the Children's I-Spy Trail, one question - "What flies over the church?" - stumped some of them. Not a rook or a pigeon, but a flag! Also on show was Julian's faithful Ferguson T20 tractor manufactured in 1952.

The next stop was Mulberry House in School Lane, home of Lynne and David Tansley, a garden that was once the site of the famed Vinco Bicycle Works, a Victorian enterprise. What is now a garden of contrasts still holds some magnificent machinery in the elegant shape of David's MGA sport car.

At Jelly's Yard in Middle Street, Fiona and Stuart Mcpherson, assisted by their son Nick were on hand to serve a sparkling glass of Pimm's, as visitors listened to the talented Recorders Galore group. The other attraction was the ornamental pond with water lilies.

Across the road, Jane and Tim Cummins were on duty at their Littlefields home. Beyond the spacious lawns, with its central flower urn under a tall conifer, the well established herbaceous borders hid a secret. Children were asked to find the Secret House, where a big Teddy Bear was there waiting for them!

The old Methodist Chapel building is 150 years old this year and many Trailers

popped in to see the interior - and also relax with a cup of tea and refreshments served by the Chapel ladies.

Round the corner in Chapel Lane, the smallest garden on the Trail, the Little Garden House, once a milking parlour, was again marvelled at. So much to see, so much variety in such a small area!

Across the road Anne and Tony Ackroyd were pleased to share gardening conversation, with many visitors approving of the raised beds growing an amazing variety of salads in a very small space.

In Duck Street, the garden of Maureen and George Martin was not officially open, for most of this very traditional cottage garden can be seen just over the fence. However, many visitors were invited to see the pleasant garden at the rear of the house, with some buying honey provided by George's bees!

At the Allotments in Back Lane, Richard Donoyou was on duty and kept extremely busy with curious people who wanted to know something about the various beds growing vegetables for home consumption.

A little higher up the Lane at Sunflower House, veteran car enthusiasts drooled over Peter Taylor's two restored cars, his 1965 Jaguar E Type and a 1980 Triumph TR7.

On Highgate Green at Highgate House, Brenda and David Parkes chatted with visitors. Their fairly small plot is packed with interesting features. The original layout they inherited ten years ago has been completely changed with patio areas and a surprising variety of plants growing around the lawn.

Across the Green, Miriam Upex smiled a welcome to many. Her daughter Gill is the

main gardener but she had set-up her plant stall by the Village sign. There was much to see from the attractive front garden to the rear where one followed the path around the 60 year-old apple tree grown from a pip, before a climb up a few steps to the evening patio.

To complete the trail, refreshments were provided at Highgate Hall by a team of Church ladies.

So many people contributed to the success of the day. We have so many to thank. First Graham Robinson for allowing his field to be used for parking. Then the stewards, the parking team, those on the plant stall, selling tickets and manning the tombola, and the tea ladies from the Church and Chapel. Our apologies if we have missed anybody.

Gardeners who opened their gardens,

together with the helpers gathered for a social evening at the home of Tim and Jane Cummins when cheques were presented to the Parish Church and the Chapel. Around 250 people came to the village to take the Trail, and entrance fees, together with the sale of teas, Pimms and plants raised just over £3000. After expenses were deducted our Churches received £1500 each. David Housden, chairman of the Elton 50/50 (the congregations of the two churches working together) which organised the Trail paid tribute to Gillian Thompson, the hard-working secretary. He thanked everyone who had come forward to open their gardens and all those who had willingly helped to make the event a success.

*David Housden  
& Gillian Thompson*

Chairman and Secretary, the Elton 50/50

## Wendy J. Brooks

B. Sc. (Hons) M. Ch. S.

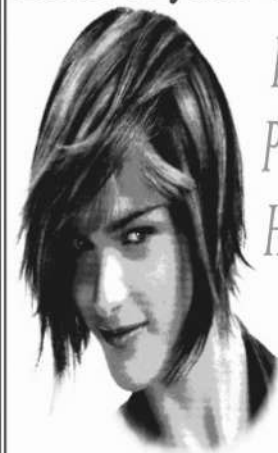
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## NATIONAL AWARD FOR DEREK

Over 55 years service to football by our former Postmaster Derek Venum has been recognised by the "Unsung Hero" award which is presented annually by the National Non-League Paper together with the Non-League Football Association.

The surprise trophy which was presented to him at a ceremony at Fulham's Craven Cottage in London was a perfect 80th birthday present.



His father Jack was a player and director of Peterborough United and he brought Derek up to love the game. For his entire life football has been his prime interest and over the years he has filled many roles in the sport. At one time he managed the Peterborough United youth team - this he says was a very special time for him as he has always enjoyed the opportunity to encourage youngsters to take up the sport. He also scouted for Arsenal and Norwich and served the Northamptonshire FA as a player, coach, administrator, scout, director and president.

Asked why he had dedicated so much of his life to football he answered with a quote by Winston Churchill who said, " 'If you love what you're doing, you haven't got a job'. I just love football...".

An interview with Derek after receiving his award can be viewed via the following link.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Jy1a7R66nl>



### **Birthday Celebrations**

Derek celebrated his 80th birthday on 23rd May with a party attended by family and friends at Highgate Hall. Here, surrounded by family he cuts the cake.



## EVEN MORE FROM MOORE

Villagers cannot fail to know Julie Moore, sister of Brian. Julie has attended All Saints Church here in Elton all her life and was baptised there by the Revd Jamie Mackay not long ago. She was confirmed recently, not at All Saints but at the Church of Christ the Servant King, Hampton.

The stark reality of why God is embraced was revealed by four of the confirmees. Each, in their own way, spoke of the extraordinary pain that they had experienced in their lives, and the joy they had received in discovering the bounty of things unseen when they arrived at God's door and found it open.

It is always both exciting and nerve wracking when you are waiting your turn to take part in a momentous occasion. So it was for Julie. As she climbed the few steps in the church to be confirmed by Bishop Donald of Peterborough, it was a blessing that Revd Jamie, who had travelled from Derby for the sole purpose of presenting Julie, was there to lend a guiding hand.

When all had been confirmed, Julie's sheer joy and excitement were there for all to see and almost bowled over some of us. Wonderful.

*A Villager*



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# ELTON'S RAINFALL

"...but not a lot!..."

Recorded rainfall in Elton during the second quarter of 2015 was as follows:-

April 2015:	10.5mm	(0.41in)
May 2015:	37.5mm	(1.48in)
June 2015:	13.25mm	(0.52in)

This gives a rainfall total for the year-to-date (January-June inclusive) for 2015 of 144.25mm (5.68in).



During this period our area has generally seen a good deal of fine, dry and settled weather (under high pressure to the south or west usually) with temperatures often at or above average, with strong sunshine, and very little rainfall. When cooler, cloudier and less settled weather has intervened, it too has brought little meaningful rain. Almost a barbeque summer one might say...

So, looking back, my notes for April included the first sightings of the Brimstone butterfly on the 7th, and the house martins on the 16th. Only 1.0mm rainfall was recorded between the 4th and the 13th, and then nothing more until the 26th. I believe I witnessed the last frost of the season on the 27th April when the overnight minimum temperature was +0.4degC. I tend not to wake up as early as I used to, so it is just possible that there may have been a slightly later one, if so it could only have been four or five days later when the overnight minima were +1.2degC (April 30th/May 1st) or +1.3degC (May 1st/2nd).

The first weekend of May gave us 9.0mm (0.35in) rain on Sunday the 3rd, then 11.0mm (0.43in) overnight on the 4th/5th. During the following two days and nights, the 5th and 6th, we experienced particularly rough winds. After this, the most significant rainfall occurred over the 18th and 19th of May – 9.0mm (0.35in) in total. The highest and lowest May temperatures were 21.0degC (11th) and 1.2degC (as above).

The month of June again gave us very little rain but plenty of warm weather. The second half of the month produced a consecutive run of especially warm days which culminated in a maximum temperature of 30.2degC (86.4degF) on the 30th. This was as a result of a tropical continental air-mass across mainland Europe which had been dominating our weather, with (for example) Paris reaching a temperature of 40degC (104degF). Could it last? Our recorded lowest June temperature was an unseasonal 5.1degC on the 14th/15th.

Throughout the subject three months under review, we have experienced some remarkable evening skies and sunsets whose spectacle was of indescribable beauty. These warm evenings (at the time of writing) I find that the structure, form and hues can best be studied in an unhurried manner at an agreeable slightly elevated location; time to contemplate weather lore.

*Brian Willis*

## *Things you may have missed*

# NOTED BY NOTLE

### NO TRUST?

I offered a £20 note in payment for an item at a store in Peterborough and the cashier looked at it, turned it over then used a scanner to see if it was authentic. My change included a £10 note. Now I have read that there are a lot of counterfeit tenners in circulation so before accepting I asked for the note to be scanned to see if it was genuine. This puzzled the cashier who called a manager over, he seemed equally unsure, and I might add, somewhat annoyed. With ill grace my request was granted. Is trust no longer a two-way thing?

### MUCH TOO SWEET!

It is proposed to slap extra tax on certain sweet drinks which are proved to cause obesity. I do not think increasing the price will stop people drinking it - let's face facts, there is no doubt that many are actually addicted to them. Just look at the kids drinking them - then look at their parents! The population is growing - not just in numbers! (I had a most uncomfortable ride on the bus from Peterborough - just as well I am a little skinny chap - my fellow passenger needed almost all the seat). Doctors all agree that the huge amount of harmful sugar in the offending drinks should be reduced - the future wellbeing of so many

young people depends on it. Apart from being overweight, there is also a risk of diabetes. If they can put a special tax on a drink, surely the authorities have the power to ban the sales of them altogether unless they comply and change the recipe. After all - one cannot sell poison as a beverage and the effects on many people are almost as bad. Facing the wrath of the huge American corporations who own the makers, have our politicians got the guts to do it? Surely, they have a duty to protect the public - even the stupid ones who continue to guzzle it down, even knowing the facts. But will they?

### PRACTICAL PEOPLE WANTED

A number of nice people I know have come to me for advice (yes - It does happen!) usually on behalf of children who have left university with a degree in "media studies". These young people all hope to make a name for themselves with a job on a newspaper, magazine or the BBC. Unfortunately it is a shrinking market and there are now many fewer opportunities for this type of job than in the past. For example our own Peterborough Telegraph until recently was published every evening - that took quite a lot of filling with news. Now, along with many others, the evening editions no longer appear and the paper comes out

once a week. When this change came the paper lost quite a number of trained and experienced reporters - many of whom are now seeking employment. This trend has been repeated all over the country. Personally I think that many young people who are guided towards these Media courses would be much happier studying something practical with the real hope of employment at the end of it. We are short of plumbers, electricians and the like - good honest callings, reasonably paid with plenty of job satisfaction.

Once upon a time it was customary for every major British company to have an apprentice school. These were properly staffed and depending upon the skills being taught training lasted from three to five years. There was a demand for places from young people who preferred a practical course rather than spending time at university. On completion of their courses, they took their places in industry, many going right to the top. To save money, regretfully, many companies decided to get rid of their apprentice schools believing they could easily recruit young graduates from elsewhere. This set a trend and other companies followed suit. No wonder we are now lacking the skills desperately needed to keep our industries going and have to look elsewhere for suitably experienced people.

### **PUSHY CHARITIES**

I don't know how many of our readers suffer with calls from pushy charities - I am usually a polite chap but at times I feel like saying something my old mother

would not approve of before I put the phone down. Nothing one says stops them calling. However I have hit on a good wheeze which seems to be working. When the gentleman/lady representing this or that charity rings and asks for Mr Notle - I answer to say - "Sorry - he has moved from here - I am here just as a temporary tenant. No, I am not a family member, no I have no idea where Mr Notle is". Then I suggest that they send a letter addressed to him and I will pass it on to the landlord. So far, no letters - but a big reduction in calls!!

Telephone calls from pushy charities are one thing - what about the avalanche of postal appeals? Last month I thought I would count - even I was astonished to realise I had received 23 letters, some accompanied by unwanted gifts - three in fact from the same charity. There were also books of raffle tickets one is expected to buy or sell. Many have the same return address - the charities obvious use the same agency to bother us with; requests for communications to stop are ignored. So I now use the pre-paid envelope - cross out the return address to the agency and insert the name and address of the charity's HQ, writing to the chief executive. This is usually found on the accompanying letter. This has helped but I am now getting letters from charities I have never heard of. I firmly believe that if we can afford it we should support charities - most of us have a favourite. But of late, it seems to have got out of hand.

*Seton Notle*

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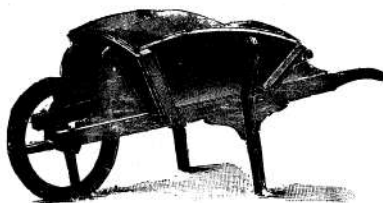
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## Happenings at Elton Hall

It is proving to be a busy year with a large number of groups coming round the house. We have a new Events Manager, Marion Bauer, who has literally been thrown in the deep end as she has arrived in the middle of the season.

We have held our first wedding in the Orangery in the garden at Elton Hall since it was licensed, (together with the Old Billiard Room), earlier this year. The Orangery is a lovely setting in the summer when the flowers are looking their best. The couple had their photographs and reception in the garden, before retiring to a marquee for the wedding breakfast. It was a very happy day for all concerned.

On July 17th we had our annual cricket match against Burghley House. Our team, headed by Rory & Alexandra played the Burghley team led by Orlando & Miranda Rock. Competition was extremely stiff and although we lost this year, the series stands at three all. It was a wonderful day and there was just enough breeze to keep everyone cool. We enjoyed a fantastic lunch in the garden of the Black Horse and, as you can see from the photograph, it was a very long table.



*Sir William and Alexandra enjoying the cricket.*



*Lunch at the Black Horse.*



*Team Elton coming to terms with their loss.*

We are hoping to extend the car park at the Black Horse. This will provide more space for their clients, but also, most importantly, it will provide more parking spaces for parents dropping off their children at the school. It can be quite a crush, especially in the morning. A revised planning application will shortly be submitted to Huntingdon District Council. The school are also applying for planning permission to re-configure their class rooms to provide better teaching spaces for the children.

As many of you will have noticed, the railings in Middle Street are being renovated. We think that they were placed there during the second half of the 19th century by the 4th Earl of Carysfort, when there were three drives in total. One came in from Warmington, by the Gatehouse which is lived in by Martin Yates; one from the old road to Peterborough, known as Keepers Lodge which came down Greenhill, along the avenue and over the present road which was then just a muddy track and the last, from Middle Street. Somehow, these railings and gates have incurred a lot of damage over the years and need attention as well as painting.

At the time of writing this we are just about to start harvesting the oil seed rape. The crop is unusually low this year as a consequence of the long cold spring. One of the challenges of farming is that, despite all the modern technology, the weather still plays the biggest part in determining the yield and it is extremely difficult to predict the result, especially with oil seed rape.



*Sophie Wells in the fireman's cherry picker.*

The Fire Service visit the Hall on a regular basis to check the water supplies and to familiarise themselves with the house and grounds.

Sophie Wells, our Estate Secretary and Property Manager, enjoyed a trip in the fireman's cherry picker, way above the height of the tallest tower on the Hall. Whilst pointing out many of the buildings to the Firemen, she got fantastic views of the Hall and Grounds from her bird's eye view.

*Merry Proby*



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## QUICKBEAM - BIG DADDY

The Small-leaved Lime trees planted on Stocks Green, Block Green and elsewhere in Elton to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee have a Big Daddy growing close by in Elton Park. Big Daddy is a magnificent tree and shows how splendid our trees might become one day. Big Daddy stands beside the public bridleway, on the right-hand side, just beyond the turf-cutting fields - if you are walking from Elton in the direction of Warmington. The tree has a girth of over 12 feet (3.79 metres) as measured with the help of my fellow botanist when we visited the tree recently. Professor Donald Pigott, who is a world authority on lime trees, has worked out a scale of tree age and girth for parkland



*The botanist standing on the ground to the right gives an idea of the size of the tree.*



*The trunk of Big Daddy reaching for the sky.*

limes. Using his scale Big Daddy could be 250-300 years old. In the late 18th century landscaped parklands were being laid out around stately homes, for example at Burghley House. Elton Park may have had similar landscaping about this time, including the planting of the sapling that has become Big Daddy.

If you are wondering why Small-leaved Limes are called 'small-leaved', when our young trees don't have particularly small leaves compared to the limes on Middle Street (which are Common Limes and Caucasian Limes), the answer is that only

older branches and stems have small leaves. Leaves on suckers and young shoots are not typical. Big Daddy has small, neat leaves which are bluish-green underneath. Also it can be distinguished from the other limes by its flower heads, which stick out in various directions, including upwards, in contrast to the drooping flower heads of the limes on Middle Street.



*Flower heads (before the round buds opened) sticking up from among the small leaves on a branch of Big Daddy.*

The choice of Small-leaved Limes for planting in our village continues a long connection between these trees and humans. The wood is relatively soft but of uniform structure and was useful for carving into bowls, mugs, spoons and other domestic items. Also fibres were extracted from the inner bark (called bass or bast) and woven into ropes, cords and threads. Lime wood is ideal for more decorative carving, for instance Grinling Gibbons used lime in his astonishingly complex carvings for churches and great houses in the late 17th century. Today lime is still valuable. Britain's declining populations of pollinating insects, including bees, make – well – a beeline for the immense masses of flowers carried by lime trees.

Elton's young Small-leaved Lime trees are growing well, even those on Stocks Green that were vandalised a few months ago. These saplings have recovered and sent out new shoots, one of which has been selected on each tree by Treebeard to be the new trunk-to-come. A dedicated group of volunteers are ensuring that the trees are well-watered, which is vital if they are to successfully establish in the face of the extended dry weather this year. It is inspiring to think that they could rival Big Daddy in 200 years' time. If that sounds a long time consider that the settlement of Elton has been here for over a thousand years. Waiting 200 years for magnificent limes to mature is not long on the village's time scale!

*Quickbeam*

## ***Scribblings from School***

Special reporters, Austin and Thomas Owen, were now so enthusiastic and yet understandably had been nervous about taking part in Elton School's superb 'end-of-year' production at Nene Park Academy entitled 'The Key Master' as they related the story-line. They said that it was history made fun, not boring in the slightest. Every child in the school took part as they re-lived in drama and music the events that happened at significant times in the history of this country through the main character – the Key Master – a supply teacher, who unlocked the key to understanding the significance of our past: conflict between Saxons and Normans (enacted as opposing football teams!), medical treatment with leeches in the time of Henry VIII, defrauding the revenue through smuggling, people made redundant through the innovative machinery of the Industrial Revolution, exploitation of men, women and children in Victorian times, universal franchise through the sacrifice of Suffragettes and the plight of Evacuees during WWII (of whom we have at least one living here in Elton). [Here, a pause for reflection – how many of these themes are found in quite different but yet remarkably comparable situations today?] But then, the Key Master gave a fore-sight into 2065, a desolate land full of unwanted poisonous chemicals and rampant pollution with no animals and few humans. Austin and Thomas and all their fellow pupils realised very graphically and yet in a fun way that what we have done and what we do now affects the future for either better or worse. It's changed their perception of the world as it is and how it can be. Perhaps their parents and

grandparents took that message to heart too. We thank all the staff at the school for their own enthusiasm and hard work to stage such a magnificent production with such an important message.

The rain held off just long enough to allow pupils and parents to enjoy the annual Sports Day on the school field in the sun. Every child participated both within their own year group and also as part of a house team. The energy they all put into the races was amazing to see. Congratulations to the Red Team and their Team Captains who inspired them to win by a narrow margin, and commiserations to the Yellow, Blue and Green Teams, all of whom were a credit to their school.

How to successfully accommodate the existing children within the school has greatly exercised the minds of the Head Teacher, Mrs Rebecca Ford, the Teachers and Elton School Governors. Parents and carers have been informed that for this next year, for example, years 3, 4 and 5 would be divided into 2 classes with all the children from year 3 and some children from year 4 in one class and the remaining year 4 children with all the year 5 children in another class. This emphasises the urgent need for an extra classroom. After initial consultations both locally and with the county, the plans for a proposed extension have been extensively amended and are due to be resubmitted as a formal planning application shortly. In order not to delay building work after a hoped-for acceptance, the Architect, the Head Teacher and one of the Governors



interviewed 4 potential companies to undertake the work which is straightforward in itself but complicated by the ongoing needs of the school, the local residents and the wider community, and the immediate environment. Two companies were shortlisted, both of whom are capable of undertaking the work but who also showed a clear awareness of and sensitivity to these other significant factors. 'Scribblings' will continue to report as the process and progress continue.

There were tears at the Leavers Service at All Saints Church on 22nd July as some rejoiced at the beginning of the summer holidays, whilst others were sad because for the 20 of them in Year 6 it was their

last day at Elton School. As ever, the young people excelled as they sang, read the lesson and led the prayers. Each of them received a Youth Bible which we hope will not only remind them of happy days in Elton but be a guide for life in the years to come.

As you read this, the new pupils will be getting ready to come to school for the first time, and we wish them well in their learning and in their lives.

Parents of prospective pupils for 2016 are asked to note the information on page 24 about Open Days for them to visit the school.

*David Parkes*

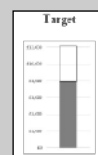
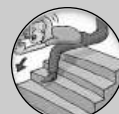
## Addressing a Safety Hazard at All Saints Church

For over twelve months we have been concerned with the Church entrance. Firstly there is a safety issue concerning the steps into the Church; there is no handrail and additionally there are reduced lighting levels. As a result we had three instances where people fell down the steps; luckily there were no serious injuries. Secondly there is limited wheelchair access to the Church.

A scheme has been developed to address both issues. We will have a handrail by the steps at the south door, and a dedicated disabled entrance with a permanent ramp at the West door. The plans have now been approved by Ely diocese, the tendering process is completed and the contractor has been identified. Work is due to start in late September/October. The total cost of the project is a little over £12,000. An appeal has now been launched to find the money needed to complete these vital improvements.

It is pleasing to report that we have already had some very generous donations and together with the share of the Garden Trail proceeds we are well on the way to raising the required sum.

Hopefully we can work together to ensure the safety of visitors to our Church, Donations should be passed to either of the Church Wardens: Chris Milton 01832 280087 or David Tansley 01832 280546





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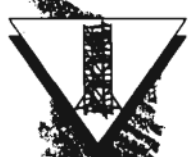
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## Communicare Report

### Patient forum group – Wansford and Kings Cliffe Surgeries

The first of the newly scheduled quarterly meetings in June was poorly attended by only 10 patients – this was disappointing as the guest speaker, Maggie Fay, Practice Educator from Thorpe Hall gave a most interesting talk about the Sue Ryder charity's hospice, how it is funded and currently run. She also spoke about the new wing which adjoins the old house and which was opened for patients in July. It provides twenty en-suite mostly single rooms all with doors opening onto the gardens within four sections, each decorated with a seasonal theme. Two 'shared' bathrooms provide large bathing facilities incorporating ambient lighting and music to enhance patients' relaxation, and a quiet 'Sanctuary' which serves as a quiet room and provides for people of any faith or none. Currently the hospice needs £1.2M to sustain the new wing providing quick response to GP referrals – funding from outside sources depends on keeping the occupancy rate as high as possible. As well as income from Sue Ryder charity shops throughout the local area, the hospice works with a 'charity partner' – Morrisons – who help to fund the provision of 'hospice at home'. All new nursing staff are trained to carry out their work both within the hospice and with patients at their own homes. There is also a close liaison with the Marie Curie charity helping to cover home assistance. A new events company will oversee activities within the old building such as weddings and corporate events – a major source of income for the charity. The onsite charity shop and coffee shop remain and it is hoped that the 200 or so volunteers will help to develop extra attractions as and when funds are available including an urban farm, a summerhouse and a vegetable garden.

Following the resignation in July of Michael Bacon, the chairman of the Borderline Patient Forum, the Revd David Parkes has been elected as the new Chairman with Wendy Spencer (from Wansford) and Ann Fear (from Whittlesey) as joint Vice Chairs. The bid by Peterborough & Borderline for the Prime Minister's Challenge Fund was one of 37 successful entries throughout the country through which there will be weekday 8am-8pm hours of GP cover to be delivered by individual surgeries operating within localized 'hubs' and also at weekends by a GP based at Peterborough City Hospital Emergency Department. Wansford Patient Participation Group is being represented on the board working to set up the new arrangements as patient involvement is considered extremely important. Further details of the new enhanced services will be made public in due course.

A new patient facility should become available shortly - 'E-Prescribing' – a prescription issued at another location (hospitals, etc) can be transmitted back to the Wansford pharmacy for action. A robotic system is also being installed in the pharmacy to speed up shelf stacking and issuing of medication. The next meeting is our AGM on Wednesday 9th September 6.30pm at Wansford Surgery – all patients are warmly invited to attend.

*Wendy Spencer*

## ALL SAINTS CHURCH STAINED GLASS



As many in the village will know our Parish Church has recently undergone extensive repair and restoration work and much of this has been achieved by the hard work and generosity of a number of individuals. But sadly, a bit akin to the painting of the Forth Road Bridge, this work is never really completed and so it is that we now find that one of the Church's finest treasures, the wonderful stained glass windows, are now in need of repair, some urgently and others maybe not quite so urgently. For a Parish Church, the size of All Saints, we are incredibly lucky to have amongst our windows works by Sir Edward Burne-Jones, Rosetti, William Morris and Clayton and Bell, some of the greatest stained glass designers of their generations and the Fabric Committee feel that it is vitally important that these pieces should be maintained for future generations.



Work that is immediately necessary includes cracking and bowing of some panes, seriously weakened leadwork and sadly, but perhaps inevitably, some projectile damage. The intention is to complete all the repairs that are necessary and also to erect some protective screening again

where necessary.

A small committee has been established to manage an appeal to raise the necessary funds. It is pleasing to note they have already received a generous donation and are confident that the target can be achieved. Local residents have shown great generosity towards the Church in the past and we hope that once again we will be able to rely on local support.

Donations should be handed to John Vartan at Wedgegate House, Back Lane, Elton. By completing a gift aid form it will enable (if the donator is a tax payer) to increase the sum donated by 25%. Additionally there are tax benefits for higher tax payers.

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# Bird Notes

*by David Housden*

## YOUNG BIRDS!

One of the joys of late summer is the number of young birds about (I am talking of the feathered variety!). A family of blackbirds - the young seem to be the same size as their mum and dad - are squawking for attention on my lawn. This in fact is their second breed. The parents are doing a good job - but it must be hard work being followed about by demanding offspring. Fortunately the young soon get the idea and before long fend for themselves. On the river going towards the Red Bridge I was pleased to see a family of moorhens - obviously just hatched. It takes very little time before the nestlings leave their floating home to try out their in-born swimming skills. I counted eight tiny balls of black fluff bobbing up and down as they tried to keep up with their parents. These little things are very vulnerable - plenty of enemies out there waiting to snap them up - although they are so small they can hardly be called a meal. I have not seen it myself but a fisherman friend told me that sitting quietly on the bank he saw a moorhen family party paddle by. Then there was a big splash right in the middle of the family flotilla and he had a glimpse of a pike - the freshwater shark - coming out of the water, its side flashing in the sun. When the surface became smooth again one of the young moorhens had

gone. In my walks I have seen the young family again but I am afraid the group has got smaller and smaller until there seems to be just two babies left. This of course is why so many small birds - like the tits, wrens, etc - have large families. In this hard world only a few survive to carry on the species.

## FEWER BIRDS IN THE GARDEN?

Someone mentioned to me that they have fewer birds in their garden than earlier. Even the feeders put out are neglected. I have been asked why? The answer is very simple. Go outside the village and at this time of year there is a real abundance of food - the berries and fruits of the hedgerows are ripe and ready for the taking. So we should not be surprised that our birds are in the fields and raiding the hedgerows. When this easy harvest is over and the days get shorter the food we put out in our gardens will again attract them back. Another benefit during the autumn season (for my eyes are not what they once were) is that as leaves fall and branches become bare, one can observe the birds so much more easily!

## SWIFTS and other birds

Of late there seem to be many more swifts around than early in the year, especially at the bottom of the village by the Chapel. It's a real delight to watch as

they play follow-my-leader, their screaming voices adding to the spectacle. Did you know that a bunch of swifts is known as Flock? There is a collective noun for most species of birds, dating back many, many years. A group of goldfinches is called a Charm (how very descriptive of this lovely bird), geese as everyone knows are a Gaggle. Then there is an Exultation of larks (so few

these days), a Parliament of owls, a Raft of ducks, a Mutation of thrushes. I could go on, but just one more - so aptly named - a Murder of crows!

## A WELCOME RETURN

I think I may have written about my special blackbird which never fails to delight me. Well, not one blackbird - in fact there have been a whole succession

of them. When we first came to the village over twenty years ago we were greeted by a blackbird which was rather special. Here and there on his wings he had patches of white. Piebald blackbirds are not unknown but there are few about. We were pleased that he visited our garden every day (perhaps it was the tempting food we put out!) and he was happy to take up residence which we hoped would be permanent.

However, come spring-time he disappeared - obviously he found mate elsewhere. But by early autumn he was back - accompanied by a son distinguished by a flash of white on one wing! Since then, every year in late summer male blackbirds have arrived - usually just the one - foraging on the lawn - easily recognised by a patch of white somewhere on him. After brightening our winter days they have left us to return again around this time of year. One can be fairly



*Goldfinch. Picture by Les Ranford.*



certain that all these friendly birds are the descendants of the blackbird that made our first days here so interesting. My semi-resident bird was around last winter - and off in the spring. Sitting outside a few minutes ago - there on the lawn - confidently hopping around was a blackbird - with a startling flash of white on its right wing! Welcome back!

### BEWARE GULLS!

Sea gulls have been in the news of late. Reports of people and pets being attacked have appeared in the press of late. All sorts of reasons are put forward why this is happening. By a small harbour in west Scotland is a renowned fish & chip shop. People sit on the side as gulls fly by expectantly. The trick is to throw a chip in the air - very few touch the ground - the gulls dive to catch it! It's wonderful to watch their aerobatics. But they keep their distance and are not threatening. All the gulls seen flying over us - usually black-headed and herring gulls - are en route to their feeding areas - council tips are a favourite. Once, one winter, a solitary black-headed gull actually landed in my garden to pick up scraps I had put out. It is the only time one has ventured down that I can remember. I think we can sleep easily at nights!

### DYING TO GET HOME

Friends who live in Malta invited me to visit them. Knowing my interest in birds they introduced me to a neighbour, a member of a Maltese bird club, and also an enthusiast. Invited to his club I went, unaware of what awaited. A huge hall, its

shelves filled with stuffed birds, shot by members. I was appalled - especially when he proudly pointed out an Eleanora's Falcon he had personally downed, a very rare bird on the "at risk" list. The birds of prey gallery displayed eagles, falcons and hawks. In little groups wheatears, wagtails and warblers, pied flycatchers, swallows, martins and many more. It was really sickening. My new "friend" was sorry I had missed the shooting season - it was such fun, he said. Club members line the crest of a valley waiting for migrating birds which fly over in flocks. Birds from Africa converge in large numbers over Malta, continuing north up Italy to traditional breeding grounds. Those bound to us from South Africa fly some 5-6000 miles, over deserts, etc - around 200 miles each day, bad enough, then through a hail of gunfire - all in the name of so-called sport. Most victims are left where they fall - only rarer birds being collected for stuffing.

The people are very pleasant, but I personally will never take a holiday in Malta again. I wonder this year how many of our favourite visitors died there trying to get home to us?

### MAGIC TO COME

Every season change brings its own particular magic: different birds, different experiences. Whatever the weather - our birds never fail to entertain. Wrap up and get out! Happy Birding!

*David Housden*

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## **DEADLINE REMINDER**

**Please send all contributions, photos and news for Winter edition 2015  
to arrive no later than 19th October 2015 for publication at the end of November.**

**Diary dates to cover December 2015, January and February 2016.**

**Please note: Publication does not imply that The Village endorses views  
expressed by correspondents.**



The old milking parlour on Middle Street transformed into Potters Barn.  
*See page 26 for more information*







## A Recent Memory of Elton.

*See page 26 for more information*

