



The Village

£1.50

ELTON'S MAGAZINE

Autumn 2013

Issue 115

REMEMBER LAST SUMMER?

Last year's Autumn issue of The Village showed images of flooded roads in Elton after a summer of rain. It was a different story this year!



Note from the Editorial Team

Hello and a warm welcome to the autumn edition of The Village. What a beautiful summer we have had, the combination of warm, cloudless skies and frequent overnight rain has left Elton looking even more beautiful than ever. The gardens appear fuller and more fragrant; the hedgerows are full of birds and butterflies; and there are lots of people out and about. What a great time to see people and to catch up!

In this edition we are looking back at the summer. We have an update on Jenna Stuart's further success in garden shows (see pages 10 and 11). On page 34 there are some stunning photographs of China courtesy of Benome and Johann Marais. As well as looking back we have information on a few changes within the village. On page 42 there is an explanation of the changes that can be seen down by the river next to the mill and on page 49 there is information about the changes happening at the Black Horse pub.

It was with great sadness that not only the editorial team but the whole village learnt of the death of Mary Housden. Mary was a much loved and respected friend to many in Elton. Our thoughts go to her husband David who has for many years been the force keeping The Village in production, even now at this difficult time he has found time to provide articles and photographs. See pages 26 and 27 for words and photographs in remembrance of Mary.

We hope you enjoy this edition of The Village. As always we would like to thank all our contributors and advertisers without whom this magazine could not continue. If you have a spare hour or two every month and would like to get involved then see the article at the end of this editorial for more information.

The Editorial Team

ADVERTISING CO-ORDINATOR REQUIRED

After numerous years of working on the Elton Magazine, Les Ranford our advertising co-ordinator would like to have a break and work on other projects. However, we will not be losing him as he will still be supporting the magazine with photographs and articles. The editorial team are therefore looking for a volunteer(s) to take on the advertising role from Les.

It is not an arduous task; far from it, for the majority of the advertisers are loyal to us and continue to advertise with us. The process is streamlined by pre-printed labels and pre-prepared advertising. The role requires some co-ordinating with the printers before each issue is produced, that is four times a year, and helping new advertisers when space becomes available.

This is a rewarding role requiring only a few hours a month, but plays an important aspect in the production of our magazine. If you are interested or would like to know more, contact Les (see inside back page) or one of the editorial team for further details.

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Shop & Post Office Opening Hours

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays:
7am to 7pm
Wednesdays: 7am to 1pm
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Miss Julie Moore of 25
Overend picks up
prescriptions for the
village for a small charge

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Back cover photo: R. Ackroyd

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

We have been involved in fund raising events for Elton Church for many years, but due to our own ignorance it was not until earlier this year that we learnt that donations to the 'Church Fabric Fund', or to give it its full title, 'The Elton Church Fabric Appeal Fund', could only be used for work on the Fabric of the Church as identified by the Diocesan Architect following his inspection, which normally takes place every five years.



We thought that the Fund had been started originally to provide funds for the "Church" which could not be used for paying the Vicar's salary and other expenses associated with the Benifice of Elton, Stibbington and Water Newton. The mistake we made was thinking that the words 'Church Fabric Fund' meant anything to do with the Church, boiler, toilets, entrance gates, for example, rather than just the Church Building.

There is another, less well known fund, known as the 'Elton Fabric Fund', under the control of the Parochial Church Council, i.e. the P.C.C. This fund can be used for a much wider range of purposes such as a new boiler, better facilities for disabled people, provision of toilets and all those things which can make a Church Building more hospitable and useful.

We thought it important to make the existence and the purpose of the two funds known to as wider audience as possible.

If you wish to contribute to the P.C.C. 'Elton Fabric Fund', forward your donation to Chris Milton, the P.C.C. treasurer. If you wish to contribute to the 'Elton Church Fabric Appeal Fund', forward your donations to Richard Smith, the Church Fabric Fund treasurer.

Geoff and Carol Mee

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 or c/o Potters Cottage

Weekly

Knit and Natter	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 bootcamp@hotmail.co.uk

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

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	Chris Truman: 280503
Mobile Library	Outside village shop	11.50am- 12.20pm Every 4th Wednesday	0345 0455225 or Cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library
Communicare Social Group	Yarwell Village Hall	10am Every 3rd Friday	superfoguk@aol.com or wendy.spencer22@yahoo.com

PENNED FROM THE PULPITS

I am writing this as the village school has just broken up for the school holidays; you will probably be reading this as they prepare to return to school after the holidays. Doesn't time fly?!

This reminded me of the origin of holidays. In years gone by, people in service (and many others) only had a day 'off' on Christmas Day, Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Whit Sunday. These are all 'holy days' in the Church's calendar. In time, these 'holy days' became 'holidays'. And we have added to them greatly over the years so that the 'holy' bit has long been forgotten.

But a 'holy day' is intended as a day of rest (that's what 'sabbath' literally means). It is a day to recover and recuperate from the daily grind and to be refreshed and renewed to resume work.

I wonder, whether you have had a holiday over the last few weeks to fit in with the children (or in my day the annual works holiday) or whether you are retired and able to take a holiday at some other time, is it a time for you to recover and recuperate, a time for you to be refreshed and renewed?

Within their 'Rule of Life', even today Augustinian monks try to find a balance in each day; a third of the time for God in worship, a third of the time for others through serving the community, and a third of the time for themselves. So part of each day becomes both a 'holy day' and a 'holiday'. That sounds right and good to me.

What about you?

David Parkes

ELTON SOCIETY AUTUMN FILM NIGHTS

We now have an enthusiastic team who will put on the Elton Society films this autumn. Films will continue to be screened on Thursdays and there will be no increase in the admission price of £4. Wine will stay at £2 per glass and fruit juice at 50p.

The finances will be now looked after by Anthony and Hilary Wharton. Louise Parker will produce the posters. Julia Mocanu and Lesley Martin will look after the bar. Anne and Tony Ackroyd will book the hall and projector and order the films. Steve Brown and Peter Bense will continue to fulfil their vital role as our projectionists.

The first film will be screened in October and details of the programme will be circulated in September.

If you have any suggestions for films you would like to see, please do get in touch.

Tony Ackroyd, 280386

SCRIBBLINGS FROM SCHOOL

We wish that in this edition we could have included the 'Scribblings from School' in the format in which they were written: the Headteacher, Miss Rebecca Richards, wrote this in her own fair and fluent hand:

Sports Day

Our hopes were dashed on Friday 28 June when the event was cancelled due to rain, but took place the following Friday. It was a lovely sunny day and a great time was had by all. We ran many traditional events; relay race, egg and spoon, sack race and an obstacle race. It was a closely fought battle, but the Blue Team triumphed overall for the first time in more than 25 years. The shields in school date back to 1985 and this will be the first time since then that they have been engraved with 'BLUE'. Congratulations to Mr. Shaw and his Team.

Summer Concert

The evening performances of 'Journey through the Bible' were held in blistering temperatures on the 10th and 12th July and were well attended by parents and grandparents. Despite the heat, the children put on an exceptional show demonstrating their many talents, including singing, acting, dancing and playing instruments. The audience was so impressed that the collection over the two evenings amounted to a staggering £362.86 which will now be used to fund further events and resources for the children. Next year we hope to find a new venue which will hold a larger crowd and make our summer concert even better!

Year 1 and Year 2 Rounders Festival
Nene Park Academy hosted a rounders

festival for children in Y1 and Y2 on Thursday 18th July. Our children played 6 games and won 5. They came 2nd in the tournament overall, so well done to them!

Growing Numbers

As our delightful school grows in popularity and news of the outstanding provision here travels, so too do the number of children. We have grown from 88 to 126 over the last 3 years and we are very pleased to welcome 22 new children in reception in September. We just need more space now to play and work in!

Staff News

We are very excited about Miss Webb's wedding this summer and will welcome her back as Mrs Hannam in September. Our grateful thanks to Becky for these 'Scribblings', to which we would add:

Year 6 Leavers' Service

Friday 19th July was an emotional occasion for 6 children who will be going to new schools in September; there were tears from some of them as they left All Saints Church for they leave part of themselves behind as they move on. Revd Jamie Mackay likened the school to Noah's Ark, a place where special people are cared for and prepared for entering a big new world, but also a place from which they go out in faith and trust. Miss Richards paid tribute to how all the children had developed during their time at the school, making outstanding contributions to the school, so much so that for the first time it was two of them, Edie Murphy and Kathrin Wyatt, who shared the Area Shield.



THE LAST POST

The last post is the bugle call for infantry or trumpet call for cavalry which signals the end of the day as the duty officer completes his inspection of all the posts surrounding a military camp. It is

also used to signal the end of battle when the injured may be retrieved and the survivors may lay down their arms. The custom dates from the 17th century when British troops were stationed in The Netherlands.

There is a most poignant story of its inception in the USA in 1862. Captain Robert Ellicombe was fighting with the Unionist (Yankee) army at Harrison's Landing in Virginia, and in the dark towards the nearby Confederate army he could hear a wounded soldier moaning in pain. Braving the gunfire whizzing above his head, he crawled to the man and dragged him back to his own lines. There he realised that this was a young Confederate soldier who then took his last breath. In the light of a lamp, Captain Ellicombe's face went ashen, for he was looking on the face of his son who had gone south to study music and, unbeknown to his father, had enlisted in the Confederate cause.

Captain Ellicombe requested his senior officer to allow a military funeral, which was granted even though the dead soldier was one of the enemy. However, Captain Ellicombe's accompanying request for a military band was refused and only a bugler was permitted. So, over his son's corpse was first heard the haunting tune of The Last Post, taken from some scribbled musical notes found in the pocket of his son's uniform.

When I hear The Last Post played on Remembrance Sunday in All Saint's churchyard, not only shall I remember those whose names are inscribed on the War Memorial, but also Captain Ellicombe and his tragic son, and all those who grieve for sons and daughters.

We are most grateful to Geoff Mee for bringing this story to our attention.

David Parkes



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JENNA STUART SHOW GARDEN



All the way back in February when plans for the show garden were underway, it was hard to envisage what our garden would look like and what reaction we would get. Yes, we had a concept, a strong theme, but still it was hard to see the garden come to life when it is the first garden you have built, from concept to completion. I am so pleased with the reaction that we got, even though our earlier garden at RCHS Gardening Scotland was described as being 'controversial'. But through the controversy the judges marked us on how well we executed the brief and awarded it a 'Silver Gilt Medal' and the 'Best Show Garden Award'. I was so

pleased with the result, everyone on our team worked really hard, now we had to set our sights on RHS Hampton Court.

This flower show is considered the biggest in the world, so for a student team to exhibit this is a privilege in itself and to win a medal would just be the cherry on top. I wish I could say that everything ran smoothly, but such is life and that rarely happens. We managed to build the garden in just over six days and then I had the duty of watering and feeding the plants and implementing the details until the judging day. Without a car I estimated I walked over a marathon from where I was staying (in a tent for 21 nights, now that's commitment!) to the site for that week alone. Over the time of construction we made good friends with the people from the show gardens around us and had some fun and laughs. The judging was a bit intimidating; I had to stand and talk to the judges non-stop for about two minutes trying to mention things that weren't in the brief but were still needed to be acknowledged in the garden. They had complete poker faces for the whole thing; it was quite nerve racking. Then the press day came around and the BBC came to film us along with the filming they did with us up in Perth. We didn't know our results then so we were all a little nervous through the morning. But our wait wasn't for long as a

lady walked straight up to me mid-afternoon and asked 'are you the designer?' to which I replied yes and then she produced a 'SILVER GILT' medal card and handed it to me.

'Silver Gilt.' Looking at the standard of the gardens around me, I couldn't quite believe it, and we had won a high scoring medal at the biggest flower show in the world. I was so happy, all of the team's hard work paid off, and now we have two 'Silver Gilt' medals and best in show award to put on our CV's.

Everyone has kept on asking me 'would you do it again?'. During the build-up I would have said no; during the press day I would have said maybe; but after the results I now say yes. There is only one way to get gold and that is to do it all over again.



Jenna Stuart, Brawn Way



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CHARITY PADDLE

After last year's paddle across the English Channel, Les Ranford undertook another charity paddle with Kayleigh, one of the younger members of the Packers Canoe Club. Kayleigh's family had been touched by cancer and she wanted to support the charities by raising some money for them.

In an old K2 kayak they paddled some 53 miles from Bedford to Ely. Starting in sunny conditions, they paddled through squalls and heavy downpours. At times the wind howled along the river making the paddling very tricky especially as K2s are designed for speed and are extremely wobbly at the best of times.

Notwithstanding the conditions, they successfully paddled into the outskirts of Ely on a late summer's afternoon, although still raining. Many hundreds of pounds were raised and their thanks go to everyone who sponsored them.



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RIVER SWIMMING

With the uncharacteristically warm weather that we have received this summer, and the lack of pools in every back garden that has become common in warmer countries, it is no surprise that taking a dip in the cool waters of the river has become common practice for many. However river swimming is much more than an activity taken up on a few warm days each summer. In fact it has consistently been a popular activity along the River Nene for those who dare to brave the sometimes chilly waters and their often murky depths.



Swimmers enjoying the river in Elton.

So what can someone expect if they want to upgrade from dipping their toe in to swimming a few miles. Firstly, the River Nene is the ideal place to do it as, although some walking past the river may contest, it is one of the cleaner rivers to swim in. Many of those who swim regularly prefer river swimming to pool swimming as a form of exercise for a number of reasons. It is far cheaper than pool swimming (it's free); you don't have to stop every 12.5, 25 or 50m and turn around; you avoid the hustle and bustle of busy pools and lanes; and finally, if you have time to take it in as you are slicing through the water, the scenery is far more interesting. And only very occasionally have those who do it regularly been graced with the presence of a fish brushing past their leg.

If you are interested in river swimming, there are a couple of safety points that should be noted. For the recreational summer swimmer a hat is not always necessary, but if you decide to swim more regularly, a hat not only provides important warmth for your head but a brightly coloured one will help people to see you. Swimming with others is another snippet of advice; safety in numbers. But if this isn't always possible, be sure that someone is aware of your planned swimming route. With regards to the temperature of the river, in summer it is easily in the teens even at night (often if you swim at night the water will be warmer than the air temperature). Don't stop swimming as the water gets colder, just be aware of your limits and only stay in the water as long as is comfortable. Winter swims can be mere dips, from five minutes to just five seconds if it is too chilly. It does get easier the more you do it, and

the more work you put into swimming, the warmer you will become. You can of course upgrade from a simple swimming costume to a wetsuit should your body desire.

Don't necessarily be deterred from swimming when the river is swollen, just err on the side of caution. Watch out for unknown obstacles that may have been washed into the river; swim in familiar surroundings and check accessibility as the usual banks and exit routes may not be visible; and be wary of the speed of flow of the river, not swimming beyond your ability. Or take the increased flow as an opportunity to beat a personal best at swimming down stream.



To end the safety spiel, remember that although the river is public, avoid getting in and out on private land, choosing areas with easy access so as not to damage the river bank, and always be mindful of nesting animals. And finally, especially when people take to the river on vessels in the sunny weather, although the rule is to swim to the right of boats, generally just get out of the way. They are more often than not much bigger than a mere swimmer, and may well not even see you coming.

Of course there is nothing wrong with keeping your visits to the river recreational, but do remember to take certain precautions and obey certain rules. For example in Elton, be wary of swimming too close to the lock, at either side, as well as jumping from structures into the river. Few residents who lived in Elton in the 1990s will forget the serious accident of a young Phillip Dunnell when jumping from the lock: a stark reminder to always take care when around the river.

If you do decide river swimming is for you, popular swimming routes in the area are Cotterstock to Tansor, and maybe back again, adding a bit more distance by starting from Oundle. Or you can go for a proper swim and reach from Oundle as far as Fotheringhay or Elton. Only once have I witnessed a swim from Oundle to Elton. It started on a Monday morning at about 8am in Oundle with fifteen swimmers, and ended four hours later in Elton with seven swimmers as various levels of swimming ability had dropped out at the Tansor and Fotheringhay checkpoints.

The next stage is to complete a night swim. For those with apprehensions about slipping into the river at night, once you overcome the initial fear the rest is easy. You do however have to cope with the risk of standing in various messes as you walk to the river's edge, or brushing past stinging nettles and brambles. Learn your route to minimise such unpleasant experiences, but know that the river is only a few more steps away where feet can be cleaned and stings soothed. As common sense dictates, a night swim is best done with company, or with someone seeing you in the river and out at the other end if your chaperone isn't brave enough to take a dip. Once in and drifting peacefully (drifting during the night is far more enjoyable than a powerful swim) down the river, ideally on your back allows for a beautiful view of the night sky and the time (and forced patience as you float downstream) of seeing



Regular river swimmers.

shooting stars, providing there are no clouds. Just be sure to know the route the river takes as with little visibility, you don't want to be swimming into the banks. Then have warm clothes ready for when you get out, if you are cold, so you can warm up gradually.

Then once you have conquered the river, what's next? A triathlon, swimming the Thames, or a relay of the English Channel...

Emma Strowbridge

Important advice to remember:

- Watch out for weeds and other submerged hazards that one could become tangled in or hurt themselves on.
- Assess the depth of water before jumping in. Hitting a river bed can cause lasting injuries.
- Be aware of currents and swim only in areas you are capable of swimming. Ensuring you have exit routes planned further down the river should you get carried away further than expected. Also watch out for eddies (the swirling of water and the reverse current when water passes an obstacle), most commonly after locks.
- Do not obstruct other river traffic (that will most likely be bigger than you).
- Never swim or mess around near the water after consuming alcohol.
- Water means things will be slippery, and with algae and vegetation growing around rivers, watch out for slippery surfaces when getting in and out.
- Watch out for dramatic changes in temperature, especially when jumping in and reaching deeper areas of the river than you would when swimming. The temperature change can throw your body in to shock.
- Cover cuts and avoid swallowing water when in the river because of the risk of contracting water borne diseases. Weil's disease (Leptospirosis) is one of the more widely known, caused by water being contaminated by animal urine. The Olympic rower Andy Holmes passed away from the disease in 2010.
- In particular in Elton, if swimming (or jumping from, which is not advised) the iron bridge, be aware that you are down stream from the sewage works.
- Finally, never swim alone. Have someone in the water with you, or watching over you at various points.

THE LYRE OF UR

The lyre that prospered



were found near most of the courtiers. The bodies of guards – six men with weapons – lay near the tomb's entrance.

This is the remarkable backdrop to the story of the finest of those instruments, the Gold Lyre of Ur – recounted

The women – all 68 of them – were laid out in death as though they had simply fallen asleep.

They wore intricate headdresses and necklaces of beaten gold, delicately fashioned into leaves and threaded together with beads of semi-precious stones – the vibrant blues of lapis lazuli, and brownish-reds of carnelian. Among the scarlet-clad bodies lay a harp, and the remains of three decorated lyres. One of the lyres was spectacular, with a magnificent gold bull's head near its base.

This was a scene of apparent mass suicide from 4,500 years ago. What was an elite or royal grave was discovered in present-day Iraq - ancient Mesopotamia - some 60-feet below ground, in 1929. One woman was found, poignantly, with her arm still cradling her instrument. It looked to archaeologists as though the musicians, having taken a sedative or poison, had played to the very end. Cups

in captivating detail at the Elton Society annual meeting, at Highgate Hall, in June. The village was privileged to welcome as guest speaker Andrew Lowings, a Cambridgeshire civil engineer and harpist who, with a host of volunteer craftsmen and supporters, has brought this, the world's earliest-known stringed instrument, back to life.

Mr Lowings described how the project to recreate the Gold Lyre of Ur – the original was badly damaged during looting at the national museum in Baghdad in 2003 – had 'pretty much taken over' his life for a decade. He was intrigued, at first, by the story itself.

'It moved me that, apparently, these musicians played to the end. I was spurred on to find what happened.'

Music, his passion, was an international language, he said. And as news spread of efforts to remake a playable version of the eight-stringed instrument – the national symbol of Iraq – using authentic

materials, he received help in spite of the war and its aftermath.

The lyre was made largely of cedar – a wood with sacred symbolism in Mesopotamia, the region between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. One day he received a telephone call. 'Hello Mr Andy, we have your wood. Come and get it.'

The call was from Baghdad, and the wood was in a safe-house. The question was how to get it here. He called RAF Wittering. They said: 'We've got a war on, sir. But we'll put it to the chaps on the ground in Basra.'

Unbeknown to Mr Lowings, 'Operation Plank' swung into action. A few weeks later, the wood had been flown in to Brize Norton. It was a marvellous gesture.

A friend, an instrument maker in Wales, started building the lyre. Black bitumen, of the sort used in Sumerian times, was used to attach lapis lazuli, pink limestone, and mother of pearl. A South African company generously donated gold for the



bull's head, which took a year to make. The off-cuts were used to re-create the jewellery the women had

been wearing when they died. Even the cloth cover for the lyre – showing the reed houses of the Marsh Arabs to the

south of Baghdad, and who are thought to have descended from the Sumerians – was made and donated by a woman from the city.

Although the Baghdad museum remains closed to the public, the re-created Gold Lyre of Ur, which entailed more than five years' work, was taken by Mr Lowings to Baghdad this spring.

'It was a great honour,' he said. 'I wondered what I was letting myself in for, but they gave us a magnificent welcome.' Roads were closed, the lyre was given an escort, and Mr Lowings played in front of more than 1,000 people. 'It was a great moment,' he said. 'Music connects us all.'

Just six weeks later he was in Elton to talk about – and to show – the lyre to a smaller, but enthusiastic, audience.

The Elton Society would like to warmly thank Mr Lowings, and project administrator Jennifer Sturdy, for a fascinating evening.

Further details of the lyre, and the work of those involved, can be found at www.lyre-of-ur.com. A CD of poetry, and music played on the instrument, is also available.

* The excavations at Ur were led by Sir Charles Leonard Woolley (1880-1960). One of his assistants was Max Mallowan – and it was at Ur that Mallowan met Agatha Christie (1890-1976). They married in 1930. Agatha Christie's experiences inspired her to write the Poirot mystery *Murder in Mesopotamia*.

R Ackroyd

ELTON SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

The 24th annual general meeting was held at Highgate Hall. Steve Brown welcomed all to this, his fourth as chairman.

Annual Accounts:

Richard Donoyou presented the accounts, which showed a healthy position despite the society being a self-financing organisation. The main outgoing is the annual insurance premium, which is compulsory and covers the society for all its activities. Income had come from May Day and the film nights. The treasurer invited questions, but there were none and so the accounts were adopted.

Chairman's Report:

Steve spoke of the enormous team effort required and thanked the whole committee for their support. In the past year, the society has been involved with film nights (thanks to Tony & Anne Ackroyd), Christmas gifts for seniors, Christmas on the Green (thanks to David New, Helena McKillop and The Crown Pub), Litter Pick (thanks to Derek Harris, Richard Bizley & The Crown). May Day saw more than 1,000 visitors; a big thanks to Amanda, Sarah and their team for making this a fun and successful event.

These events will continue into the future but with new people leading the teams. Litter Pick will be championed by Oliver Nicholson, May Day will be headed by Vanessa Adamson.

Steve invited anyone interested to join the committee, saying that the group was always looking for new ideas and help to

run events. Volunteering to help your community is a great way to enjoy village life.

As the society has a surplus of funds we wish to make a few small grants to worthy local projects. Applications for funds were invited from community groups. Successful projects will need to meet the society's aims to maintain Elton as a pleasant place in which to live, work and play.

Election of Trustees:

The following trustees were elected for 2013/14:

Steve Brown, Amanda Rice, Tony Ackroyd, Vanessa Adamson, David Housden, Jo Hughes, Michelle New, Louise Parker, Mark Holman, Oliver Nicholson, Sarah Truman, Richard Donoyou, Julia Mocanu and Fay Vevasis.

At the 1st meeting of the new committee, the principal officers will be elected; i.e. chair, treasurer and secretary.

Retiring Committee Members:

Flowers and cards were presented to Anne Arculus and Hazel Rankmore and later delivered to Flora Taylor in recognition of their time served on the committee. Steve thanked them on behalf of the residents, each one having served the community for more than 20 years.

There then followed a talk by Andrew Lowings about the international Gold Lyre of Ur project.

Steve Brown

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ELTON'S RAILWAY, CALLING ALL READERS - CAN YOU HELP?



Photograph by John Alsop, showing the boarded-up Elton Station in 1967, three years after withdrawal of passenger trains from Peterborough to Northampton, when a single track remained on the truncated route to Oundle for the weekly goods train until 1972. Does anyone know when the building was demolished?

I have been invited to give a talk in Peterborough in the New Year about Elton's railway and am appealing for anyone with any information, especially reminiscences or photographs, to please get in touch via the magazine. I hope to include a short article in the winter issue to mark the 60th anniversary of the closure of Elton station, including some previously unpublished photographs. This will hopefully include some new material gleaned from residents past and present to supplement my original researches at the County Record Office in Huntingdon, the National Archives at Kew and the National Railway Museum at York. My first article for 'The Village' was published to mark the 50th anniversary of closure whilst David Housden was still editing the magazine single-handedly. I have been unable to find out why the route taken by the line from Oundle to Elton was changed from the proposed one via Fotheringhay to the direct one via Tansor and when the building was demolished, but I believe it could have been as late as 1975 - does anyone know? Please contact me via the magazine (email Editor@Eltonmagazine.com) or c/o Potters Cottage if you have any information.

Mike Lumb

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HIGHGATE HALL 200 CLUB REPORT

Summer has certainly arrived and so have cash prizes for some village residents, see below. Other ticket holders can take solace from the good weather and thought that you are supporting our great village facility.

This small lottery usually brings in £1200 for the Highgate Hall main account, annually, 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 join next year, tickets go on sale in November. 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.

Recent lucky winners, were:-

Month	#	1st prize £30	#	2nd Prize £20	#	3rd Prize £10
May-13	75	Tim Marvin	99	Keith Pike	146	Carl Ringham
Jun-13	110	Rosemary Rowntree	32	Sue Dobson	46	John Gemmell
Jul-13	4	Anne Arculus	129	Margaret Upex	9	Mary Barraclough
Aug-13	89	Michelle New	166	Jean Hankins	98	Sue Pearce

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COMMUNICARE

Our meetings held in May and July have been well attended due probably to guest speakers Drs Amrit Takhar and Nigel Hume talking about subjects which appear to have generated interest amongst patients, particularly those whose families are personally affected by the conditions discussed. Dr Takhar spoke on 'Reducing the Risk' - the prevention of cardiovascular disease and how this can be helped by certain measures – he distributed leaflets outlining factors which affect risk and how small changes in lifestyle and diet can reduce that risk. He also explained the use of statins in the treatment of high cholesterol and informed patients about the ongoing health check programme for those aged between 40 and 75 – this is a national project aimed at highlighting risk factors and if necessary giving advice on potential preventative measures. He is currently working on a CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) project along with local authorities looking at ways in which the younger generation can be made more aware of potential later in life problems. Dr Hume's talk was on 'Dementia – An Overview' where he gave a clear and concise explanation of this condition, risk factors, methods of possible prevention and treatment, with an extremely informative Power-Point presentation. Both talks prompted good interaction with the audience and there were many questions from the floor – attendees were asked to put forward any more health related subjects that could be of interest for future talks.

Work on the new car park has temporarily been put on hold due to a problem with the dropping of the kerb and the lighting of the link path, due to the oil pipeline which runs across the paddock. Both these issues are currently being addressed.

Following receipt of some generous donations it has been possible for

Communicare to provide funds to purchase a new 24hour ECG (electrocardiogram) machine which is now in use. It was also agreed to fund the purchase of two 'stand-alone' machines. One that monitors blood pressure, height, weight and body mass which will be sited in the reception area at Wansford for patients to use at their own convenience. A token for its use will be issued by reception staff and the printed results slip can be handed in for details to be logged on patient records. The second smaller machine will only measure blood pressure but will operate in the same way and be installed in reception at Kings Cliffe surgery. This equipment is now on order and as the cost was not as high as had been anticipated it was agreed that available funds should be used to purchase two suction machines for the resuscitation equipment.

It has been confirmed that the new national '111' service is still not operative in this area – patients should continue to contact the surgery for information on out of hours services.

Our next meeting will be the AGM on Wednesday 4 September 2013 (Wansford Surgery 6.30pm) when Dr Rhiannon Nally will speak about a project in which she has been involved; 'Elderly People's Pilot Project – Transforming the Patient's Journey'. A notice of agenda and relevant nomination details for officers' election will be posted on the Communicare notice board in Wansford reception.

The social group's coffee mornings are now being held at the Kings Cliffe Active Site hall on the third Friday of each month at 10am. Anyone wanting further information about this group and the various activities please contact Clare Wagstaffe – Tel: 01780 470437, email: superfoguk@aol.com.

Wendy Spencer

Elton Methodist Chapel Thrift Sale

Thursday 3 October: 10am-3pm

Friday 4 October: 10am-1pm



Highgate Hall



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Wendy J. Brooks

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

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SEASONAL HEALTH & FITNESS WITH SARAH

Wow, what a summer! Weeks of sunshine, long warm evenings and proper tasting strawberries, exactly what we had all hoped for. Inevitably, although autumn is upon us with its beautiful colours and cooler temperatures, it is considered a transitional time of year and

many can fall off the exercise wagon, but with correct motivation, it can be a time for new opportunities and different challenges.

1. **Take advantage of the weather.** It is a great time of year for heading out. The air is cooler making long cycles or runs easier enabling you to push yourself harder! The extra bonus is that the scenery is spectacular!
2. **Dress accordingly.** With temperatures dropping it can put some people off from exercising outdoors. The key is to wear windproof clothing and layers. Once you're out and warmed up then you can slowly shed the layers as necessary.
3. **Drink plenty of water.** People feel less thirsty when it's cold outside but staying hydrated is still as crucial in autumn as it is in the heat of summer. Lack of hydration will lead to early fatigue and poor recovery rates.
4. **Drink tea.** Drinking hot drinks will keep you warm in the colder temperatures but green and black tea contain antioxidants which help fight infection as flu season approaches.
5. **Strive for the 3 C's.** Commitment, convenience and consistency. You have to make the commitment to exercise, put it in the diary or on the calendar. It needs to be convenient ie a nearby gym or an activity at/from home. It has to be consistent, 10 minutes daily is better than an hour once a month.

6. **Exercise early in the day.** As the days shorten we tend to feel more tired in the evening as it feels later that it actually is. If you schedule exercise in earlier then it is out of the way allowing time to relax in the dark evenings.
7. **Deal with the darkness.** If you can't exercise earlier in the day then you will have to do so in the dark. Be safe and wear reflective gear and make sure bike lights are working and clean.
8. **Turn jobs into a workout.** Raking leaves and gardening can burn over 200 calories an hour!
9. **Remember the 30 day rule.** It takes approximately 30 days for your body to adapt to new lifestyle changes. Stick with it for a month and it WILL get easier!
10. **Mix it up.** Often autumn is a time when new classes begin. Join up for Zumba or Bootcamp, they are great sociable activities and more importantly fun!

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A TRIBUTE TO MARY HOUSDEN

Mary was born in Woodbridge, Suffolk on December 31 1929 – a time of austerity and uncertainty. The family moved to Bedford so her father, Stuart Loxley, could obtain work. He was later called up to serve in the RAF and as part of the war effort Mary's mother, Carole, worked in a munitions factory. Despite being a young schoolgirl, much of the household work and responsibility caring for younger siblings, John and Colin, fell to Mary, which she did very willingly. Already, a mark of the Mary we all knew and loved – ready to turn her hand to, and excel at whatever needed to be done.

When Mary and David's paths crossed, he engaged her in conversation with an improbable chat up line, "Would you like a pea?" Evidently, to win Mary's heart he had raided his father's garden (for peas were then rationed). And their hearts remained entwined throughout their long lives together, celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary, where-else but in Elton Chapel, in February 2011.

As David's own career progressed, often being away from home, Mary supported him wholeheartedly and ensured that their children lacked for nothing. In the process, Mary found herself in a box at Royal Ascot, at a Palace Garden party, at receptions at No. 10 and even the White House, and once flying on Concorde with VIPs – always carrying this off with great charm, warmth and genuine flair.

Mary had an innate sense of design, colour and an eye for unusual artistic flourishes; she was a perfectionist too! This was seen as Mary mastered the art of cake decoration and wedding cakes were her speciality. She also won awards for flower arranging and organised floral tributes for special days at the Chapel or special celebrations. As many of us can testify, these were greatly appreciated by us all.

When Mary and David moved to Elton in 1992 they quickly became a part of the village community; Mary's caring personality endeared her to so many of us. This was a happy, peaceful and fulfilled time for them both. Their garden was a delight to Mary, as was her contribution to so much of the village's activities – always keen to help, offer support, or contribute when needed. She was selfless and modest, but brightened up any occasion with her smiles and laughter. Mary thrived on her friendship with us all, and her faith and fellowship in the Chapel with its congregation was a great strength to her.

The past few months were difficult for Mary, but her good humour, love and happy smile remained undimmed. In the past couple of weeks of her life Mary tended her garden again and enjoyed arranging flowers. But on Friday 21st June, she suffered a severe stroke from which even Mary could not recover, and so her life ebbed peacefully away with her family around her, at one with her Maker.

Perhaps the last word remains with Mary and David's granddaughter, Charlotte, who

wrote this of her grandmother, "So many things will keep the memory of you bright and vivid: you are the smell of baking cakes, the sparkle in Grandad's eye, the birds singing in the garden, the hedgerow blossom in the spring, the flowers in the summer, the fireworks in the night sky."

Mary, we will miss you greatly.

And the Thanks from Mary's Family

On behalf of our mother Mary's family we would like to thank the people of Elton for the many kindnesses we have received during the recent times which have been so difficult for us. The outpouring of love and affection for our dear mother has been truly astonishing and we have so many people to thank for their support.



Mary on 2 June, tending to her alliums. Started from four bulbs, the last count was nearly seventy.

We would like to thank the ladies of the Chapel flower team for decorating the Chapel which our mother loved so dearly. The flower arrangements were truly beautiful and were a wonderful tribute to her.

We would also like to thank the ladies of the WI and all those who rallied round, baking cakes and organising Mary's 'Tea Party' at Highgate Hall. Being able to cater for the two hundred or so people attending at such short notice was amazing. The event was a marvellous celebration of our mother's life and her friendship with you all.

We are also especially grateful to those kind people who willingly opened their homes to provide accommodation for members of the family, some of whom had travelled long distances to be present. Without your help, gathering the family together would not have gone so smoothly.

Elton has shown us what a wonderful community it is. Our father has been inundated with messages, letters and cards and it gives us great comfort to know that he has so many dear friends on hand offering him support.

Again, with heartfelt thanks,

Jane, Mark and Stuart Housden

LIFE AT CARYSFORT CLOSE

Life at Carysfort Close continues to be interesting... Most of us enjoyed the beautiful summer weather in July, but perhaps that's because we can do as much or as little as we like when it's very hot! Personally, I love the warmth, and always have done.

We were pleased to welcome Cheryl Brothers to CC in May. She has always lived in the Peterborough area and came here from Glinton. One of her two daughters lives within a few miles of Elton and the other in Eye. She tells me she has settled in well and is really enjoying living here.

We all congratulated Audrey and Brian Davies on celebrating their wedding anniversary in June – 63 years! Isn't that wonderful?

Four of us regularly go to the Senior Citizen's Luncheon Club. When this magazine is published we shall again be enjoying our twice-monthly meals but as I write Christine Roberts and her team have one more lunch to prepare and then there are no lunches in August. Do we starve? Probably not!

Two of us visited a wonderful open garden in May – under the National Gardens Scheme – in Titchmarsh. It was a sunny, warm day and the garden was superb. Highly recommended if it should be open next year, and not too far to go.

As ever, Carysfort Close was represented in the audience at The Male Voice Choir Concert and at the Elton Society AGM when we saw a magnificent copy of the famous Gold Lyre of Ure.

We've had a wonderful view of the scaffolding at the Church for several months now! However, it's good to know that the work involved is completed. Several of us went to see the flowers which decorated the pews and the pedestals for the wedding in July. Truly magnificent. Hopefully, the bells will soon be ringing again after the interesting talk in the Chapel encouraged several people to try their hand at the 'pulling'. We shall wait to hear (literally) if the recruitment drive was successful. For those of us who remember the five years of war, when the sound of church bells would have meant we had been invaded, they are always a reassuring sound.

Sadly, Audrey Murphy's little dog, Milly, has gone to the great kennel in the sky. We all miss her, as do many dogwalkers in the village, and we all feel for Audrey.

On a personal note, my washing machine 'died'. On its final spin it made the most horrendous noise – I thought a bomb had gone off. It wasn't that, though, it was the drum on the move! John Lewis came up trumps, as usual, so now I have a more up to date model which, touch wood, is working well.

Pat Sanson

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

SEPTEMBER

Date	Age
Jonathon Hipwell	3rd
Eve Jackson	6th
Thomas Jackson	10th
Hannah Louise New	19th

OCTOBER

Date	Age
Eleanor May Rice	6th
Emily Truman	11th
Sophie Mason	15th
Ellis Barnes	16th
James Christopher New	17th
Annabel Hipwell	23rd
Eleanor Edis	27th

NOVEMBER

Date	Age
Beth Dalglish	1st
Daniel Nugent	2nd
Matthew Herbert	19th
Ben Edis	19th
George Edis	24th
Aston Barnes	29th



If you would like a birthday mention, please contact Amanda Rice on 01832 280225 or email Editor@Eltonmagazine.com

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VILLAGE PEOPLE



Shrive Wedding



Willis Wedding



*Arculus
Wedding
Anniversary*



Garner Wedding



Mary's Flowers



Betty's 80th



*Hannah New
– Year 11 Ball*



Paul the Postman

Shrive Wedding:

Robert and Julie Shrive of Highgate Green celebrated the wedding of their youngest daughter Nicola to Ian Thomas at Elton church on Saturday 20 July, with elder daughter Abby acting as one of the bridesmaids.

The newly married couple then took a two week honeymoon in Mexico before returning to their home in Melton Mowbray.

The family would like to thank all their friends who helped to polish and clean the church prior to the wedding and also to Gillian and Miriam Upex for the flower displays in the church. In addition they would also like to extend a special thanks to Andy Brown from CEL, the restoration contractors, who ensured the scaffolding was removed before the blushing bride walked down the aisle.

Willis Wedding:

Verity Willis, daughter of Wendy and Brian Willis of Over End, celebrated her wedding to Billy Murphy on Saturday 15 June at Elton Chapel, with family, friends, and their young daughter Kya present. The newly married couple penned a note for the magazine:

'Thank you to all the wonderful people at Elton Chapel who made our wedding possible. We would like to give a special thank you to all of the ladies who decorated the chapel beautifully with fresh flowers. It looked absolutely stunning. Thank you all so much, we had the most perfect day. With love from Verity and Billy!'

The picture shows Wendy holding baby Kya, Billy, Verity and Brian outside the chapel after the ceremony.

Garner Wedding:

James Garner, the son of Peter and Sue Garner of Elton, celebrated his marriage to Natalie Rothwell, daughter of Dee and David Rothwell of Warmington on 24 May at Warmington Church.

We wish all the new couples every happiness in their future together.

Arculus Wedding Anniversary:

David and Anne Arculus were joined by family and friends at their home in Duck Street to celebrate their ruby wedding anniversary at the beginning of August.

Congratulations to you both.

Mary's Flowers:

Mary Housden was delighted when she was asked by the Chapel flower team to make an arrangement for the entrance to the Chapel for Verity's wedding.

Annette brought to her at home the flowers needed, and later she went to the Chapel to see the completed decorations. The picture shows, from the left, Brenda Parkes, Jackie Moore, Annette Adams, Mary Housden, Joan Wylie and Mary Jane Duckworth.

Betty's 80th:

Betty Johnstone celebrated her 80th birthday on 15 May. Following the morning service at Elton Chapel, where Betty has been a steward for many years, family and friends joined together at Oundle Golf Club to celebrate.

A very happy Betty is pictured with son Michael (2nd from left), daughter Carol (3rd from left), daughter Shona (3rd from right), and four grandchildren.

Hannah New, Year 11 Ball:

Hannah New attended her first Prom, organised by the Young Enterprise Team, to celebrate the end of Year 11 at The King's School, Peterborough. The Prom took place at the Great North Hotel on the 5 July 2013 and Hannah thoroughly enjoyed this evening and the preparations leading up to the event!

Paul the Postman:

It was the hottest summer for years - and it made sense to wear a hat. Elton postman Paul Simcox sports outback-style headgear, issued by the Royal Mail as temperatures started to soar in mid-July. Paul, 47, said: 'They are a lot cooler than the baseball caps, and protect the back of the neck.' The work was fine in the heat, 'as long as you have enough water with you.'

Paul, village postman for half of his 18-year career, is a familiar sight in shorts ... even in far more bracing weather.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH PEWS

It was a beautiful summer's Saturday morning when villagers were invited to "Meet the Vicar" in the garden of Sue and Julian Lock, and many took the opportunity. The Revd Jamie Mackay and his wife Linda moved effortlessly around the groups of folk who were congregating on the lawn, supping their tea or coffee and tucking into scrumptious scones and cakes. To add to the occasion, there was a raffle and stalls of goodies for sale. Our grateful thanks to all those who helped to make this such a pleasant event.



Meet the Vicar', Revd Jamie Mackay with his wife Linda meeting villagers at the home of Julian and Sue Locke.

The group of churches for which Revd Jamie is Rector or Priest-in-charge has re-arranged the pattern of services based on a 4 or 5 Sunday month. A list for all the churches in the group can be found on the notice-board in the porch of All Saints, but the effect for Elton is:

Week 1:	Sunday	11.00am	Holy Communion using Common Worship
Week 2:	Sunday	6.00pm	Evening Worship
	Wednesday	TBA	Holy Communion using Common Worship
Week 3:	Sunday	6.00pm	Evening Worship
Week 4:	Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion using Common Worship
	Wednesday	TBA	Holy Communion using Common Worship
Week 5:	Sunday	11.00am	Rotated around the churches of the group
	Sunday	6.00pm	

Time of the Wednesday communion service which will begin in October has yet to be announced.

Of special note:

- The service at 11.00am on Sunday 6th October will be Harvest Thanksgiving.
- An additional service at 10.45am on Sunday 10th November will be a United Service at All Saints with folk from the Methodist Chapel for Remembrance Sunday.

Jane Milton



Pet of the Season

Name: Charlie.

Breed: Border Collie.

Lives: Highgate Green.

Owner: The Shrive family.

Age: 9 years.

Likes: Running around fields, catching balls and Frisbees,

visitors, and attempting to eat human food.

Dislikes: The vets, being bathed, and having his teeth brushed.

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

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF OUR CHILDREN

On 15 the April we followed in the footsteps of our children and with backpacks lightly packed, we set off for China from Peterborough station. We had a broad itinerary which would cover over 6000 miles and we would call numerous youth hostels home for the next six weeks.



Starting in Hong Kong we made our way to the Karst Mountains and rice fields around Yangshou, from there, on to the Tibetan border region. We hiked through Tiger Leaping Gorge along the upper Yangtze, danced on the square in Shangri-la, fell in love with the pandas in Chengdu, walked through the misty forests of Emei Shan, cycled the ancient city walls of Xian, where we also met the terracotta army eye to eye, climbed the mountain peaks of the amazing Hua Shan, we wandered the cobbled streets of Pingyao, cycled through the Hutongs in Beijing, climbed a 1000 steps on the great wall, bought pearls on strings, strolled through the no longer Forbidden City, met up with fellow Eltonians, Simon and Susan Northcott in Nanjing, admired old and new skylines in beautiful Shanghai, climbed the temple ruins of Angkor Wat and finally did just nothing on Koh Chang.



Left to right: Benome, Simon, Sue and Johann.

We cycled, we walked, we crawled through tunnels, we put our lives in the hands of crazy tuk-tuk drivers and even crazier taxi drivers, we flew, we swam, we slept with strangers on overnight trains, we sat next to baskets of dried fish on public buses, we sped along in bullet trains and maglev trains and we walked even more.

We met amazing people along the way, we laughed with young people teasing us and practising their language skills, we watched children at play on dusty roads, we ate fried dumplings, steamed dumplings, pulled noodles, long noodles and short noodles in all kinds of strange and familiar tasty dishes. We found the public spitting strange but admired their ancient art and sophisticated culture.

We were in awe of the sheer size and dizzying heights of Hua Shan and will never forget the chill in the early morning sunrise at Halfway House deep in the Tiger Leaping Gorge. Listening to the Elton yard sparrows as I write I am once again transported back to the gorge and I hear the same sparrows and know now we are all different and we are all the same.

Benome Marais

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THE FUTURE OF ELTON CHURCH

Our Church is an amenity for all the people of Elton and is used both for regular worship as well as weddings, funerals, christenings and school services. We have, with significant help from the Fabric Fund, now almost completed the roof refurbishment and we are grateful to all those who have made financial donations.



However in addition to being responsible for maintaining the Church building in a good state of repair, we as a community are also financially responsible for the annual running costs (insurances and energy costs are over £4,000 per year). Plus each church is required to cover the cost of its priest, currently this is in the order of £44,000 per year (this is what our Parish share covers). The good news for us is that as we share the Revd. Jamie Mackay with four other Churches we can share the cost.



Overall this brings our annual running costs to £13,000 per year, these costs are borne totally by the PCC incomes and are outside of the scope of the Fabric Fund. However our current annual income is significantly lower than these costs, the balance being made up from the small reserves held in the PCC accounts.

The PCC in conjunction with Jamie are currently implementing changes with the aim of increasing the size of the congregation and increasing the number of events held in aid of the Church.

Whilst not wanting to fear the worst, if we can't cover the running costs then we will have to close the Church to regular worship. Additionally it will not be available for other activities such as weddings, christenings and funerals. This would be a great pity given the efforts made to repair the roof.

If you have any ideas or feel that you could help, please contact Chris Milton (PCC treasurer) on 280415.

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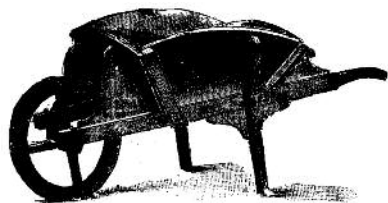
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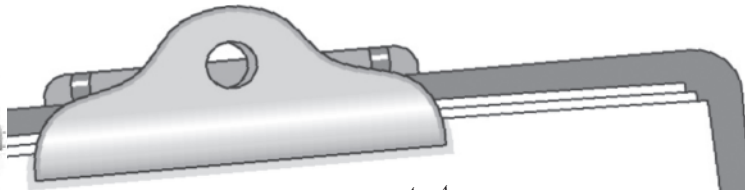
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POTTERS PATCH



Smoked Salmon and Spinach Roulade

1/2oz Butter
1 Chopped Garlic Clove
5oz Spinach leaves (cook in the microwave for 2 to 3 mins covered without water then squeeze out excess water)
4 Eggs (separated)
1tsp Chopped Rosemary
Pinch Nutmeg
Salt and Pepper

Filling:

7oz Full Fat Cream Cheese
3tbsp Greek Yoghurt
4 Spring Onions thinly sliced
4oz Smoked Salmon
2 Ripe Tomatoes thinly sliced

1. Line a swiss roll tin with grease proof paper (cutting the corners to make a good fit).
 2. Put the butter into a saucepan and add the garlic, cook gently until the butter melts. Remove from heat and stir in the cooked spinach, cool.
 3. Beat the 4 egg yolks, rosemary and nutmeg together and add this to the spinach mixture.
 4. Whisk the egg whites until firm but not dry. Fold 3 tbsp into the spinach mixture then fold in the remainder.
- Spread the mixture onto the prepared tin and bake at 190C, 170C fan, Gas mark 5 for 10 to 12 mins until the mixture feels firm. Remove from the oven, cover with a damp tea towel and leave to cool.
5. For the filling mix the cream cheese and yoghurt together and add the onions.
- Carefully turn out the roulade and spread with the cream cheese mixture top this with the smoked salmon and then the tomatoes. Carefully roll the roulade and wrap in foil and chill.
- Serve in slices with a green salad and dressing (oil, honey, salt and pepper and lemon juice)
- Could be used for a starter or 2 slices as main course.

Olive and Sun Dried Tomato Breads

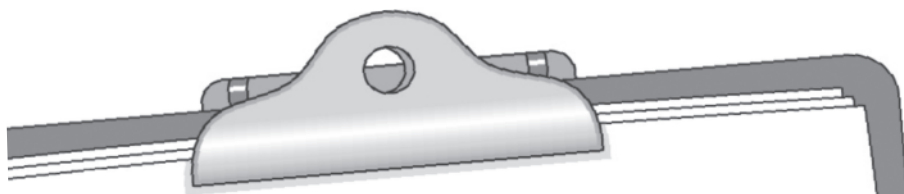
Bread dough:

15oz Strong White Flour
1 tsp Salt
1 x 7oz sachet Yeast
Black pepper
1/2 pint luke warm water
1 tbsp Olive Oil

Fillings:

4oz Sun Dried Tomatoes (drained and chopped)
1 tbsp Chopped Parsley
1 tbsp Basil
1 tbsp Coarse Sea Salt
4oz pitted black olive (chopped)

1. Put the dry ingredients into a bowl and pour in the water and oil, mix to a soft dough.
2. Knead until smooth and elastic and place in an oiled bowl and cover with cling film and leave to rise (prove) in a warm place for about 1 to 1 1/2 hours, until doubled in size.
3. Lightly oil 2 baking sheets.
4. Knock back the risen dough and knead for 2 to 3 mins. Divide into 2 pieces. Roll out each piece into an oblong 9 to 10 inches, a wide oblong shape. Spread one with the tomatoes, parsley and basil and the other with the olives.
5. Roll up each piece and place on the trays with the seam underneath. Make five slashes on the top of each loaf and cover with oiled cling film and leave to rest for about 1/2 hour.
6. Brush the top with water and sprinkle with salt. Bake at 230C, 210C fan, Gas mark 8 for 15 mins and then reduce temp to 190C, 170C fan, Gas mark 5 and bake until golden (about 10 mins).



Hazelnut and Blackberry Meringues

4oz Roasted Hazelnuts
6oz Egg Whites
12oz Caster Sugar
1/2 pint Double Cream
8oz Blackberries

Sauce:
3/4lb Blackberries
5 tablespoons
Icing Sugar

1. Finely chop the nuts in a processor.
2. Whisk the egg whites until stiff. Gradually add the caster sugar and then fold in the hazelnuts
3. Line a baking sheet with greaseproof paper.
4. Pipe the meringues with a plain nozzle into individual rounds forming a "nest". Bake at 150C, 130C fan, Gas mark 2 for 1 1/2 hours until crisp.
5. Prepare the sauce by stewing the fruit until soft and add the icing sugar Puree and sieve.
6. Whip the cream with 1/2 tsp vanilla essence and 1 tablespoon caster sugar until stiff.
7. Pipe the cream onto the rings of meringue and top with the blackberries, drizzle with the sauce and serve.

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ELTON FISHERY, TALES FROM THE RIVER BANK

A chance meeting with Lindsay Horsman, the Vice-Chair of The Peterborough and District Angling Association, who was fishing on the backwater produced the following informative and interesting article:

During the early part of 2013 a rumour began to emerge within the fishing community that fishing on the River Nene (and backwater) at Elton was to be closed to anglers. The decision was brought about because of the problems being encountered by the various landowners and the villagers of Elton. Apparently an excessive amount of litter was being left about and cars were being parked indiscriminately throughout the village. When this news came to the attention of The Peterborough and District Angling Association (P&DAA), they decided to try and find a solution and enable fishing to continue.

The P&DAA is a long-standing organisation (founded in 1875) which currently controls the fishing rights on the River Nene from Wansford to the 'Dog in a Doublet' at Whittlesey as well as the lakes at Ferry Meadows. This leasing is done through various bodies including the Nene Park Trust, Milton Estates and the Environment Agency. P&DAA also controls some fishing around Spalding as well as itself owning some stretches on the Nene. Several members of the Committee have more than 40 years service.

Concerned by these rumours, the P&DAA approached the various landowners involved and presented a case to them suggesting how the river bank at Elton could be managed by the P&DAA. As a result, a lease has been granted under the auspices of 'Elton Fishery'.

Its requirements are:

- ⊗ There will be a fee to join Elton Fishery (EF) and anyone wishing to join must also be a member of P&DAA.
- ⊗ Membership will be limited but reviewed periodically to allow for adjustment as necessary.
- ⊗ Preference will be given to residents of Elton; to encourage local juniors there will be no fee to join EF but for insurance purposes they must be junior members of P&DAA for a fee of £5 per year.
- ⊗ All members will have read and agreed to abide by a set of rules drawn up by the EF.
- ⊗ All applicants for membership of EF must provide two passport size photos; each member will be issued with a pass containing one of the photos which must be produced when asked for by a bailiff or any other member.
- ⊗ A key will be provided for the entrance to EF through the main gate.
- ⊗ A car parking area is provided within EF where all members are expected to park.
- ⊗ There will be no Day Ticket fishing allowed.

The head bailiff for Elton Fishery is Mark Fox (a local man), and other bailiffs will also assist in what it is hoped will become a very successful fishery.

If you want to learn about P&DAA, or indeed join Elton Fishery, do look on the web-site: www.peterboroughfishing.co.uk

There are currently three villagers who are members of Elton Fishery: Alan Wharton, Jack Williamson and James New. How big was that fish you caught, fellas?

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOUR

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

Name: Jo Hughes



1. How long have you lived in Elton?

Since May 1966

2. Describe yourself in 3 words ...

Fit, fat and over forty!

3. What would be your dream job?

My own – Interior Designer

4. What would be your last supper?

Home cooked food with family and friends

5. Name your favourite actor/actress

Dustin Hoffman

6. Marmite, love it or hate it?

Love it!

7. Name your favourite soup

French onion soup

8. What sound do you love?

Wind in the willows

9. What or who makes you happy?

Birdsong and sunshine as it changes over the year

10. What is the worse place you could get stuck?

In a queue!

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

An Artiste, or is it Artist?

12. What's your earliest memory?

My big brother Mike

13. Where is your favourite part of Elton?

My home, The Island



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WARMINGTON PLAYGROUP

After a wet few days, the rain held off for our annual sponsored toddlethon around Warmington. The children thoroughly enjoyed hunting for the hidden duck posters on their route and some were disappointed that the puddles had dried up!

Once back at the village hall they were presented with a medal and certificate before partaking in lots of fun games and eating a yummy cake or two! The afternoon was a great success and we raised over £650 for Warmington Playgroup, which is a registered charity.

Huge thanks must also go to the businesses who donated so generously to the raffle: The Red Lion, Warmington; Orton Meadows Golf Course; Nene Valley Railway; Oundle Tennis Club; Oundle Swimming Pool; Glebe Stores; Boden; Curl Hair Studio; Beauty with Ruth; Smiths at No 4; and Oundle Co-op.



Warmington Playgroup takes children from 2-4 years and runs three hour sessions every weekday morning, with an optional half hour for lunch. There are currently FREE funded places available. To find out more about Warmington Playgroup or to arrange a visit, please contact Amanda on 07914 070801 during pre-school hours or email warmingtonplaygroup@gmail.com

FUND RAISER

Harriet Claypole is 15 years old and lives in Tansor with her parents, Lisa and Roy, and two younger brothers, Ben and Will. During a break from her A-level studies at The Kings School Peterborough, Harriet is planning to join a month long trekking expedition across Namibia and Botswana during the summer of 2014 but in order to take part, has to raise funds to cover the cost of the trip. The group will be working in disadvantaged communities and getting involved in community projects – helping to improve local facilities such as schools and nurseries. Harriet, with help from her mum, is organising a

Ball on Saturday 12th October 2013 at Elton Furze Golf Club.

There will be a drink on arrival, a three course meal, dancing and an Auction of Promises.

Tickets are £35 each, tables of 10.

Call Harriet or Lisa on 07879 620196 to book tickets.

NEWS FROM THE CHAPEL PEWS

Many of you will know of the sad passing of Mary Housden but I feel I have to make mention of it here because she was such an active and well-loved member of the Chapel congregation. Much has already been said by many about Mary's contribution to the village, but she contributed so much to Chapel life over the 20 or so years since moving to the village with her husband David, and will be sadly missed.

On a far happier note there was the wedding of Verity Willis and her fiancé Raymond Murphy on 15 June at the Chapel. Quite some time since we last saw a wedding at the Chapel I seem to recall.



Corby Male Voice Choir

As promised in the last edition of the magazine the Corby Male Voice Choir duly entertained at the Highgate Hall on 7 June and as always, an impressive and enjoyable performance it was. Apparently it was the 25th annual concert that the Choir has given in Elton so how about that!

Now, readers of News from the Chapel Pews will recall that, in the Spring edition of the village magazine I gave a list of forthcoming dates to remember, but just to keep you on your toes I'll briefly mention them again....

Friday 4 October: The Chapel Harvest Supper in the evening at the Highgate Hall followed 2 days later by...

Sunday 6 October: The Chapel Harvest Festival Service at 10.30am

Sunday 10 November: The Village Remembrance Day Service

This service will be held at the Parish Church jointly by All Saints Church and the Chapel (no service at the chapel itself on that day), starting at 10.45am. It will include a short service at the war memorial in the churchyard at 11.00am

Then ... Sunday 15 December: Chapel Candlelight Carol Service.

As I wrote in the summer magazine, a service worth coming to!

However, what I did not mention is that the Chapel Thrift Shop which will be open for business at the Highgate Hall on Thursday and Friday 3 & 4 October (10 – 3 on Thursday, 10 – 1 on Friday) selling a variety of merchandise including clothes. Refreshments are available...always good to know!



Elton Chapel incoming church secretary David Strowbridge with church treasurer Charles Stewart



Ashley Mather, the retiring Church Secretary, with Church Stewards Evelyn McGeachy, Betty Johnstone, Dorothy Osborne and Madeline Stewart, with the Minister, Revd Trevor Sands.

Finally, there is the annual Advent display at the Chapel on 30 November. For the event the Chapel will be 'decked out' (are these the words to use?) for public display along a theme of 'Signs and Symbols', with static and maybe moving displays to illustrate ways in which we consciously and subconsciously use signs and symbols to express our thoughts and emotions. So, that's 30 November; put it in your calendar and pop in to see it all at the chapel on that date.

David Strowbridge

BUZZ-NESS NEWS

A Hive of Activity in River Lane

George Martin, one of Elton's resident bee experts, was called out on a mission in the summer to deal with a swarm of bees in Sue and Keith Pike's front garden. Suited and booted, George called in his bee buddy Ruth Stapleton to help him collect them up. George is always on hand to provide advice on bee related matters. In this case Ruth, who lives in Lilford, took the swarm home with her much to the relief of Sue and Keith.

Les Ranford

Busy Bees

The sight of a swarm of bees dancing in the air before entering a crevice under the guttering initially alarmed the Marais family in Rectory Farm Court. However they were assured by an expert that the insects – a type of bumble bee – were harmless. The swarms seldom exceed 100 in total and the only disturbance humans would get is a gentle drone as the bees leave and enter their temporary shelter.

David Housden



Elton WI always seems to have an interesting and sometimes unusual programme of events. One of the most recent speakers was Peter Edwards; he talked to us about Antiques and Collectables. He works as a dealer and he brought with him a varied selection of items; we tried to guess the value and in some cases what it was for. He was keen to impart his knowledge and he told us that by far the best place to get a bargain is the local auctions. If you have never been to one, go along to Goldsmiths in Oundle or Batemans in Stamford.



Members of the WI enjoying a tour of Deene Park.

In June instead of our usual monthly meeting we had an outing to Deene Park. We had a good guided tour with a very knowledgeable guide, followed by a ploughman's supper. It is well worth a visit.

Ladies are usually interested in makeup and we had a very enlightening romp through the history of makeup with Jill Collinge. Jill is an accomplished speaker and she shared with us lots of horrific stories about the lengths people will go to keep up their appearance. The quote that is supposed to have come from Queen Elizabeth 1 says that she had a bath monthly "whether I need it or not"!



Deene Park.

I am writing this in the middle of the July heat-wave and finding it hard to look forwards to the autumn part of the programme. We are going to be hearing

about the 'Ghosts and Witches of Cambridgeshire' in September, followed by 'Gleanings from Peterborough's Past' in October. Our AGM in November also

includes a talk about 'Floral Treasures of Cambridgeshire', bringing us almost to the end of the year. I feel as though I am wishing the time away, when really I just want to enjoy the sunshine while it lasts. Please join us ladies; we meet on the second Thursday of the month usually at 7.30pm at Highgate Hall. We also have a walking group, we walk on the second and fourth Friday of the month, you do not need to be a member of WI to walk with us, friends and partners are welcome to come along as well.

We were sad to hear of the death of Mary Housden. Mary joined our WI shortly after moving to Elton over 20 years ago, but she had been a member of another WI for many years prior to that. One of my memories of Mary is that she made the most lovely flower buttonholes. When it was our turn to host a Group meeting, the 'buttonholes' were presented to the Presidents of the five WI's in our Group. We were delighted to be asked to contribute to the 'Tea Party' to celebrate Mary's life; we made cakes, of course. I think Mary would have been pleased with the array.

Kate Taylor

The Black Horse

The Black Horse is undergoing major refurbishment at the time of writing but is due to reopen its doors in mid September.

The proprietors will announce the opening of a new function room to cater for private parties/dining and meetings. Weddings and large parties will be catered for in a planned marquee from spring. A new courtyard in addition to the sun terrace will attract those customers who prefer al fresco dining and relaxing with friends and family.

There is a wide range to choose from on the tapas, lunch and dinner menus. The new Black Horse will provide entertainment in the form of music and dancing every Friday and Saturday night with live music every Sunday afternoon from 5pm.

Elton Bonfire Night

Saturday 9th November

Once again we will be holding this great event on the rear field opposite Heightons garage.

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NOTED BY NOTLE

Letters to the Editor you may notle have noted:

Sir, The fashion business never fails to entertain. Why, may I ask, has it become the "in-thing" for models to stand with toes pointed inwards? It is unnatural and certainly ungraceful. Any infant school teacher will tell you that it is the classic pose adopted by little girls when they have wet themselves.

Sir, Your editorial today endorsing the privatising of Royal Mail states that the universal service obligation with deliveries at one price, six days a week is now enshrined in law. This must be reassuring to those who fear that many rural areas will suffer. Their doubts were reinforced when in a recent broadcast discussion between the Secretary of the Postworkers' Union with a representative of the investing community, the man from the City said that it was obvious that people in remote places would have to pay more for their deliveries. He rather dismissively suggested that country dwellers should pay the extra for the privilege of living in beautiful places. The reality is of course that for generations the vast majority of ordinary rural folk have had little choice of where they live.

Sir, There was a time when we could always depend upon a streaker to brighten up dull moments at sporting and other public events. This amusing and harmless pastime seems to have come to an end. Will it ever return? Ashes?

Sir, I had an ex-RAF pilot friend who became easily frustrated when driving. Once in a hurry he decided that rather than wait in a traffic jam at a roundabout the quickest way was, as he said later, to "fly straight over". The wheel tracks through the central flower bed bore testimony to his flight path.

Sir, Tomorrow is Fathers' Day, (invented by the American greeting card industry). Our traditional Mothering Sunday - now often called "Mothers' Day" - (always around the middle of March) follows just nine months later. Do you think the events are connected?

Sir, No one would dispute the fact that Churchill was tough but he was never ashamed to show his emotions in public. There are many instances of him openly weeping. I never heard him called "unmanly" which is the fear many of us have if we succumb and react in this natural way to some of the very solemn moments which face us all from time to time.

Sir, I understand there are plans afoot to celebrate the 1914 start of the First World War next year and that the government has earmarked £55 million for the event. This so-called "war to end all wars" removed almost an entire generation of our youth who died in horrific conditions on the battlefields of France. In addition many thousands were wounded and disabled for the rest of their lives some from the effects of gassing. What is there to celebrate? The money would be much better spent on easing the sufferings of the victims of recent conflicts.

Sir, Will Straw's thoughtful article about energy needs (Opinion today) highlights the benefits of shale, wind and nuclear. Why do we appear to have forgotten water power? At a time when Britain was considered "the workshop of the world" most major industries depended upon water power. Our mill streams kept whole factories operating and unlike wind power the constant water flow seldom dried up. The streams and rivers are still flowing - why cannot they be harnessed once again?

Sir, The news that pensions for some people living overseas are to be curtailed is long overdue. Some recipients it is said have never been to the UK. Surely the time has come to look at others who have never made a contribution to the economic well-being of our country but nevertheless enjoy generous benefits in the way of income support, housing benefits, child allowances etc. I think EU immigrants should be offered exactly what they would receive if they stayed at home. And what a lot of nonsense paying out child allowances to parents whose children live in their home country. No wonder so many wish to come here.

Sir, How can one stop supermarkets putting misleading notices on fruit they sell? "Ripe and juicy - ready to eat" is proclaimed on the pack of Conference pears I purchased. Now past their "best before date" they remain rock hard. A similar "ready to eat" message appears on avocado pears - so solid they defy any attempt to be eaten for at least a week - sometimes longer. If fruit packaging instructions said something like "Ripen at home" that would be more truthful and acceptable.

Sir, Signals from faraway places do pop up from time to time. I once took delivery of a new Peugeot car and discovered that the radio would only receive French programmes. It defied all efforts to re-tune it. My wife wisely commented that we should not be surprised. After all, it was a French car.

Sir, Many years ago an old friend, Arthur Orde-Hume rode on a bus in Aberdeen. A large notice said "No smoking is allowed" so he lit up. The conductor pointed out the notice and asked him if he could read. Arthur said that he could and although he was pleased to know that no smoking was allowed he chose to smoke.

Seton Notle

TUESDAY NIGHT LIVE

Tuesday Night Live
will continue to thrive during the autumn,
meeting at 8pm in the Methodist Chapel
one Tuesday a month (surprise, surprise!)

At the time of this magazine going to print,
the programme is being finalised,
so please watch the village notice-boards
for up-to-date details.

KEITH PIKE ATT ACIB *Personal Taxation Adviser*

Are you worried about...

- completing your Annual Tax Return and Self Assessment correctly?
- claiming all the allowances/reliefs due to you?
- the complicated Capital Gains Tax rules?
- paying too much tax?

...if so, help is at hand.

For a personal confidential service,
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01832 281086

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EXHIBITIONS

PAINTINGS

PRINTS

KILN-FORMED
GLASS

COPPER
ENAMELLED
BOWLS

HANDMADE
CHAIRS &
FURNITURE

TEXTILES

CARDS

PICTURE
FRAMING



ELTON'S RAINFALL

"....and a long cold spring...."

Recorded rainfall for the second quarter of 2013 was as follows:-

April 2013: 22.0mm (0.87in)

May 2013: 56.5mm (2.22in)

June 2013: 18.5mm (0.73in)

These figures give a 2013 year-to-date (January – June inclusive) total of 233.25mm (9.18in).

The Met Office have confirmed that Spring 2013 (March/April/May) was the coldest since 1962, it was also the 5th coldest Spring in national records dating back to 1910. The main reason for this was the exceptionally cold March we experienced with its frequent easterly and northerly winds which brought cold air from polar and northern European regions.

As April came in, the cold easterly winds of March continued, with grey skies almost universally. On the 2nd the maximum daytime temperature was 8degC, on the 6th it was 11degC, then from the 8th/9th onwards it became slightly warmer, almost increasing progressively by 1degC per day. By the 14th it was 11degC at 7am with a maximum of 18degC. On the 15th we recorded our first sightings of the year of Brimstone butterflies and "our" House Martins – not bad considering it had snowed just three weeks previously (on March 23rd). On the 17th we had a particularly windy day which continued through the night and into the next day. I recorded what I believe was the last frost of the winter on the night of the 19th/20th. On the 26th an ultra-reliable Chapel Lane resident reported hearing the one-two of the cuckoo; that same day it turned cooler from the north with hail, thunder and lightning at lunchtime.

Apart from the first week of May which was rain free, there was rain throughout the month, notably 14mm (0.55in) on 14th/15th and 15mm (0.59in) on 28th/29th. The Bank Holiday (Monday 6th) May Day celebrations in the village (Wow, What a Scorcher! – further description seems unnecessary...) occurred in fine weather with a maximum temperature of 23degC and an overnight minimum of 11degC. Thursday the 9th was very windy all day long – a westerly. On the 25th, tours of Elton church tower were undertaken in fine, bright sunny weather.

From the last day of May until June 12th we had mostly sunny warm days with no rain. The remainder of June's meagre rain fell in almost equal weekly amounts, surprisingly. It may be remembered that June weather was generally kind to Glastonbury Festival goers and to the start of Wimbledon fortnight, but as June concluded the outlook anticipated fine settled conditions, could we believe this?

Brian Willis



ELTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Now I am retired (8 June 2012 was the date it happened...you know I used to be a Probation Officer, do you?) I get far less 'inside' information about crime and criminal behaviour in Peterborough and the villages around. However, I still have my contacts from whom I glean little snippets every now and again. Add to this the fact that, when I did retire one of the first things I did was buy a decent modern bicycle (note the 'modern' bit, last bought a bike nearly 30 years ago, a cheapo one at that!) and my mind has been exercised by bicycle security.

I gather that there is a bicycle stolen every minute in this country and recently I heard of a man who cycled home from work, left his bicycle in the front porch of his house, went indoors, came out again and...bike gone. Nano seconds is what it took in a quiet residential street. I have had professional dealings with those at the so-called 'career end' of the bike theft business who carry bolt croppers down their trouser legs or elsewhere about their person and just simply chop through the lock and off they go...as, of course, does your bike...and they are unfortunately very good and brazen at what they do.

Reading through police and crime prevention websites I see the general

consensus is that a cyclist should only use a good quality D-lock as poor quality locks at the lower end of the market can be easily sawn through or bolt cropped in seconds. I've also been told by Police Officers specialising in such things that it really pays to use two locks, preferably of differing designs, as the prospective thief then has two locks to cut (obviously) but if they are of different types then he/she has to use two different tools – too much hassle, too much time, too much risk. For my part, as a lay person, I guess it's also an issue of weight, though, as some locks are quite heavy.

I've also been told that locks should not lie on the ground (thieves then smash them with a hammer, apparently), you should lock up the frame and wheels (otherwise wheels go and leave the frame, and vice versa) and should have as much space as possible around them filled up with bicycle frame and lamppost (for instance) to minimise the chance of the lock being levered open.

David Strowbridge

Elton Neighbourhood Watch
01832 280674

PARISH CHURCH RESTORATION UPDATE



At the time you read this, the restoration of the new church roof and associated works will be substantially completed. No longer will the congregation have to sing God's praises whilst holding a hymn book in one hand and an umbrella in the other. The accounts will have to be finalised of course, however with the partnership of the Church Fabric (Appeal) Fund raising the money and the PCC ensuring all the bills are processed, we look for a smooth completion.

Although the new roof was the major concern, the five yearly architect's report also highlighted urgent repairs to and some replacement of stonework on the parapets and on the tower. In addition, much repointing of stonework on the tower was required. To resolve any thefts from the roof, we have replaced the lead with turn coated steel. All those added to the costs or affected timescales. Bat and slate surveys can take longer than one might imagine.

Inside the tower the contractors have added a wooden floor above the bells and replaced the very old wooden ladder that provided access to the roof. This has increased the safety of those who have to venture up in the course of their church warden duties.

For those who are interested, a video has been prepared and placed on YouTube. This records the progress up until a month or so ago. It will be replaced and updated to record the whole process once the works have been signed off. You can view it by entering 'Elton Church roof and tower repair work' to your YouTube app. It is well worth a look and highlights the conditions under which the stonemasons and contractors had to work.



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**If you would like any photographs seen in the magazine please
contact us on editor@eltonmagazine.com**

DEADLINE REMINDER

**Please send all contributions, photos and news for Winter edition 2013
to arrive no later than 24th October 2013 for publication at the end of November.
Diary dates to cover December 2013, January and February 2014.**

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

BELL RINGING

In July, Tuesday Night Live occupied its attendees with the topic of bell ringing. What a successful evening.

Starting with the Chapel's excellent Tuesday Live organisational skills, followed by a sizable audience of bell ringing supporters including several actual bell ringers from different locations, and excellent and entertaining speakers from Huntingdon District Bell Ringers Association, who as a surprise presented us with a fascinating display of hand bell ringing for which they almost received a standing ovation. The evening had to be a success, and so it was. Many thanks to everyone.

Interesting and enjoyable, and much to my surprise and delight we now have more than twelve apprentice Bell Ringers.

If you were not able to join us on this occasion and would like to try your hand at this ancient art, please contact our temporary Tower Captain, Chris Edis on 01832 280115

Who would have thought Elton's five bells had so many admirers.

Do we now need another bell?

Geoffrey Mee



Chris Edis (centre) in animated conversation with Phillip George (right) who revealed the intricacies of the art of bell ringing with Terry Walker (left).

