

The Village

£1.50

ELTON'S MAGAZINE Autumn 2016 Issue 127

Elton's Street Party



NOTE FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Welcome to the autumn edition of the Village. What a brilliant summer the people of Elton have had. Way back in June the village came together to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday, and whilst the rain made an appearance it could not dampen the spirits of the hundreds of people who brought food and drink to Middle Street to share with friends. See the opposite page and pages 24-25 for pictures and news of the event.

Summer is always the season of choice for weddings and this year appears to be no different for local residents and their families. Go to the centre pages to see the wedding celebrations as well as other exciting news in the Village People section.

Producing a magazine that is published every three months has the advantage of allowing plenty of time to ensure we have lots of photos and reports about events that have happened, but it also has the disadvantage that some changes appear after we have gone to press and have been acted on before we can report on it, so we thought we would use this column to bring to your attention two items that at the time of writing are just becoming public knowledge. Firstly is the plan by The Environment Agency to change the way that they manage flood water, which they admit could cause earlier flooding of the land adjacent to the river with the potential to affect homes. There was an open event to ask questions at the time of printing to which many villagers went and if you require more information on this then either visit The Environment Agency website or contact a member of the Parish Council.

The second item is the early expression of interest by a developer to build a garden village on the Sibson Airfield, Wansford Road. They are hoping to use the site to build up to 2500 new homes, a school, shops and other community facilities. The parish council are discussing this at their meeting in September, which is, as are all their meetings, open to the public. If you have any concerns then you can contact a parish council member or attend the meeting.

Looking forward to the next three months, there is plenty planned to keep you busy, The church are planning a barn dance held at the Black Horse and the WI are holding a quiz. See pages 10-11 and 5 for more information. Remember if you are planning an event in the village we will be happy to promote it for you.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the magazine and look forward to seeing you at some of the events organised for the next few months, please send in any photos or news that you have.

The Editorial Team

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Shop & Post Office Opening Hours

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays:
7am to 6pm
Wednesdays: 7am to 1pm
Saturdays: 8am to 4pm
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

Wansford Surgery:

Dr A.R.S. Takhar, Dr R.E. Nally
Repeat Prescriptions
www.wansford.co.uk

DENTIST

Townley House

36 West St. Oundle

PARISH CHURCH

Church warden

Chris Milton

HAIRDRESSER

'Curl'

GARAGE

Pick Arthey, Oundle

CHEMIST IN OUNDLE

C.J. Simmonds

PARISH COUNCIL

Wendy Gray

www.eltonparishcouncil.org.uk

CHURCH COUNCIL

Mrs. J. Milton (Sec)

METHODISTS

Rev Langley Mackrell-Hey
revlmh@gmail.com

ELTON SOCIETY

Michelle New

VETERINARY SURGEON

Yarwell Veterinary Surgery
Oundle Veterinary
www.oundlevets.co.uk

New Lodger Veterinary Centre, Polebrook
Elton Hall

HIGHGATE HALL (reservations)

Sally Gunning
Oundle 280600

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Shirley Clark, secretary
Oundle 270201

SCHOOL

office@elton.cambs.sch.uk
www.eltonprimary.co.uk

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Oundle 280415

Oundle 280500

Oundle 273542

Oundle 280314

Freephone 0500 323330

Oundle 280415

Oundle 280132

Oundle 280415

Oundle 280415

Oundle 280741

Oundle 280378

Oundle 280556

Oundle 280378

Oundle 280378</p

Quiz

Organised by
Elton WI

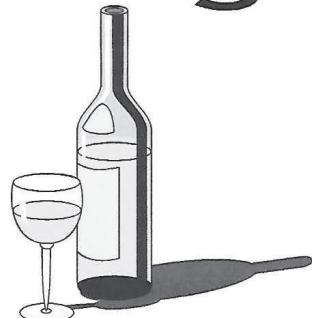


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Tickets available from Christine Roberts 01832 280378 or Elton Village Store

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	Elton Chapel	Tuesday 2-4pm	Wendy Willis: 280276
Pilates Classes	Warmington V. Hall All equipment supplied	Wednesday 9.30-10.30am	David Daniels: 07944 298406 or bootcamp@hotmail.co.uk
Zumba Classes	Highgate Hall	Wednesday 6.30-7.30pm	

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	Christine Roberts (President): 01733 280378 or Shirley Clark (Secretary): 01733 231992
Parish Council	Highgate Hall	7.30pm Every 3rd Tuesday	Wendy Gray: 01778 441312
Mobile Library	Overend Bus Shelter	11.45am- 12.15pm 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
Chapel Community Library Coffee & Cakes	Elton Methodist Chapel	10am-12noon Every 3rd Saturday	Madeline Stewart 01832 273867

Roll up, roll up, no need to book

I'm sure too many of us are completely oblivious to a jewel which visits Elton every month – the Mobile Library. Its rich treasures within will lead us towards a voyage of discovery, to spark the imagination, and beyond.

Most notably:-

- It's free to join;
- It stocks 2500-3000 books, and the stock is 'refreshed' regularly;
- It caters for all ages (including babies and teens) and tastes in reading;
- It is fitted with a lift, which assists those with mobility impairments.

The mobile library visits Elton every 4th Wednesday of the month, parking at the bus stop on Overend (at the top of Middle Street) between 11:45 and 12:15.

The Cambs CC mobile library service has been in existence for more than 40 years, and currently there are four vehicles in the fleet which serve the whole county; "ours" is based in

Whittlesey. Our very knowledgeable Mobile Librarian is Pauline Wheatley, a job she has been doing for 19 years, enjoying especially her "...service to the community...", but slightly less so in snow and icy conditions.

The mobile library has a small core of regular "customers" at present, but with plenty of scope for accommodating new recruits. Other services offered include Audiobooks, CD/cassettes/DVDs, greetings cards and postage stamps, as well as reading glasses. A small charge is made when ordering a new book. When away from Elton this service runs elsewhere within north Cambridgeshire on a monthly rota basis.

The overall impression is that of a very professional, civilised service to its users, both young and older; it is both sociable and yet vital – far more than just a book lending service. It looks to be safe for the next two years or so, thereafter financial factors allowing.

So, please support OUR mobile library, I'm sure Pauline would be very pleased to see you.



Community Speed Watch in Elton

Beginning last month, a number of local residents have volunteered to undertake Community Speed Watch. This is supported by Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Cambridgeshire County Council and Elton Parish Council with the aim of reducing speeding and improving driver behaviour within our village.

You may have noticed that there are sometimes 3 or 4 volunteers in high visibility jackets who are clustered around a mobile speed monitor which shows drivers any excessive speed of their car. Details of these speeding cars are passed on to Cambridgeshire Constabulary so that the Police can write to the registered keeper of the speeding vehicle. The driver will be asked to respect local speed limits in the same way as they would wish for them to be respected within their own communities. Cambridgeshire Constabulary may target persistent offenders.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary and its partners are committed to reducing road casualties and addressing anti-social use of the road. Communities, like Elton, are empowered to assist in this commitment, making neighbourhoods safer and improving the quality of life for all of us who live here.

If you would like to become one of these Community Speed Watch volunteers, do please stop and have a chat with them to find out more.

ELTON DIARY- August to November 2016

Day	Time	Event	Location
Tuesday's	2-4pm	Knit and Natter	Chapel
2nd, 3rd & 4th September		Celebration of Church Stained Glass	All Saints Church
Saturday 3rd September	7pm	Barn Dance and Barbecue	Black Horse
Saturday 17th September	10-12pm	Library	Chapel
Wed 28th September	11:45am	Mobile Library	Over End
Sunday 9th October	6pm	Harvest Thanksgiving	All Saints Church
Sunday 9th October		Harvest Supper	Black Horse
Saturday 15th October	10-12pm	Library	Chapel
Wed 26th October	11:45am	Mobile Library	Over End
Friday 4th November	7:30pm	WI Pudding and Wine Quiz	Highgate Hall
Sunday 13th November	10:45am	Remembrance Service	All Saints Church
Saturday 19th November	10-12pm	Library	Chapel
Wed 23rd November	11:45am	Mobile Library	Over End
Friday 25th November		Cod and Carols	Highgate Hall
11th December	6pm	Carols (after Church Service)	Black Horse

NEWS FROM THE CHAPEL PEWS

The previous edition of The Village magazine mentioned the Tuesday Night Live sessions at the Chapel and how readers would, by publication date, sadly have already missed two really interesting talks, one on 'The Godmother' project and the other on 'Christianity and Islam'. Well, sad to say that, if you weren't in the Chapel on Tuesday evening 21st of June (but lots of people were, mind) you will have missed John Vartan's simply fascinating talk about the life of his great-grandfather, a medical pioneer and missionary, who created the Nazareth Hospital more than 150 years ago and which is now one of the major medical centres in Israel, still caring for all religions and sects as it has done from the outset. (Please see the inside back cover, page 59, for photographs from the talk.)

Sadly, if you don't keep your eye on the chapel's website (eltonmethodist.org), or keep abreast of advertising around the village, you will have missed the next Tuesday Night Live (happening as this magazine is going to print). This one was at the Chapel on Tuesday 16 August and is titled 'So just what goes on behind the walls of the prison in Peterborough?' All being well Mark Holman will have been the speaker, for he has been there...but not as a resident!

Now, I hope that if you were feeling in need of refreshment on summer Sundays in August you made use of the tea and cakes being served in the Chapel to passers by or thirsty travellers or indeed anyone.

Do you need reminding that Christmas is only 4 months away? There are no firm dates for Chapel events and celebrations to publicise just yet with the exception of 'Cod and Carols' at Highgate Hall on the evening of Friday 25th November, but the next edition of the magazine will lay them out for you to read, mark learn and inwardly digest, as will the Chapel website, so be ready.

David Strowbridge



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News from the Church Pews

Autumn Services at All Saints Church

1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays 9.30am Service (either Holy Communion or Family Service)

2nd and 4th Wednesdays 10.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

2nd Sunday evening in September (11th) at 6pm is a Themed Service

2nd Sunday evening in October (9th) at 6pm is Harvest Thanksgiving

2nd Sunday morning in November (13th) at 10.45am is Remembrance Service

the church tour of the windows, announcement of the stained glass competition and afternoon tea.

9th Oct Harvest Supper Black Horse following short service in the Church at 6:00pm

11th Dec Carols in the Black Horse after church service at 6:00pm

£45,000 spent on Improvements at All Saints Church

Over the past couple of years since the roof renovation works was completed we have been making steady progress in improving the facilities and fabric of our church. These have been made possible by a number of generous donations, for which we are eternally grateful, and fund raising events. The PCC's overall aim is

Events at All Saints Church

2nd 3rd & 4th Sept Celebration of the refurbishment of the Church Stained Glass: Friday - flowers in the church, Saturday at 7pm - Barn Dance & BBQ at the Black Horse, Sunday from 3pm - in

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that we should make changes which will enhance and enrich the overall experience for people visiting our church which will lead to larger congregations and bigger attendances at other events held in the church.

Completed projects so far have been:-

- Improvements to the church entrance providing a disabled access via the West door and extending the south door steps with the addition of a hand rail. Total cost of the changes was £12,400 with a majority raised locally
- Refurbishment of the wonderful stained glass in the church. All windows have been cleaned, new protective grills added and damaged glass replaced. The total cost was £26,900 with the money raised mostly locally thanks to the leadership of John Vartan and his group.
- Additionally we have been able to replace the Altar Rail Kneelers and the tea urn, both of which were paid for through individual donations.

In Progress:-

- We have started the process to install a new sound system which will also have an auditory loop, the supplier has been selected and the planning application submitted to Ely diocese. The total cost of the project is expected to be £4,700 to date we have already received £1000 as a result of the donations made at Jean & Ray Sanderson's funerals.

The future:-

- It has been recognised that we are missing some basic facilities such as toilets and a kitchen with storage for tea/coffee making equipment. We also need to address the issue of a concrete asbestos boiler house at the back of the church before it becomes an environmental hazard. We are just

starting the concept phase and looking at the options available to us. The cost of such a project will be substantial and funding options will need to be considered. We would be pleased to hear from anyone who could help either in a professional or financial capacity with this initiative.

To date we have invested £44,500 in improving the infrastructure of the church addressing some of the issues that have cause distress to those who have or would have like to have visit the church.

Elton Churchyard

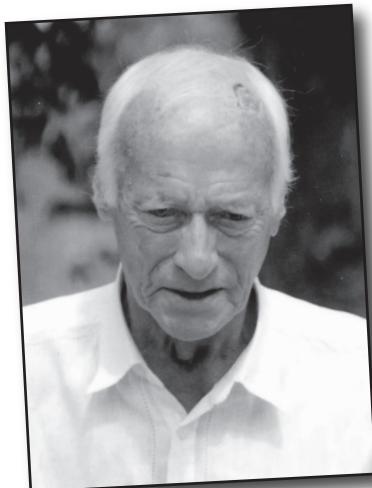
This year has been a challenging one for the trio of volunteers who regularly mow the grass in the churchyard due to the warm wet weather. The grass has been growing so quickly that cutting the grass in the churchyard has become like painting the Forth Bridge, as soon as they reached the end the grass at the start needed to be cut again. We are much indebted to Robert, Brian and Bill who have spent many hours mowing and strimming each year keeping our graveyard grass under control. Also we need to acknowledge Morris and up to last year Ray for helping to maintain some of the trees and hedges.

If you happen to be walking through the churchyard when the grass is being cut or the hedges being maintained please stop and thank them for keeping our wonderful churchyard neat and tidy. In addition if you are able, why not volunteer to lend a hand I am sure they would appreciate the additional support.

Chris Milton, Churchwarden

TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND SANDERSON

21st November 1935 to 27th June 2016



This tribute has been compiled by David Burton, Ray's brother in law, and was delivered in part at his funeral on Monday 11th July 2016 at All Saints Church.

Ray died just 8 weeks after his wife Jean and was determined to spend his last hours at his home in School Lane. A place where he would often be found, sitting on the steps, a glass of wine in hand watching the wildlife or chatting to friends as they passed by.

Ray loved life and being with his family was always important to him.

Ray moved to Elton with his parents when he was 9 or 10 years old and lived on St Botolphs Green. His father was manager of the Elton Estate Orchard at the rear of Lady Margaret Cottages and Ray, like Jean, attended Elton School. Friends told David that he remained at Elton School until he undertook an early apprenticeship at Baker Perkins.

He qualified as an engineer and worked on Jig and Horizontal borers in the factory, eventually joining Newall Engineering as a machine tool demonstrator. David said he remembered this period in his life particularly well, as he drove a huge demonstration vehicle all over the UK and Europe. His travels took him as far afield as Tokyo and David remembers Ray explaining in great detail about the views from the plane as he flew over the Arctic before returning home. When Newall Engineering went into receivership Ray joined Sheltons working for Manor Windows and continued in the Window industry until his retirement working for a Stamford based window company.

Both Ray and Jean were heavily involved in sports throughout their lives. In those early years many would remember Ray playing football on the pristine surface of the field opposite Berryleas. Ray was also an extremely good athlete and competed at County level in athletics.

When Helen and Chris came along Ray became their unofficial chauffeur taking them to all their various sporting events – for Chris that meant Cricket & Football, and for Helen Swimming, Trampolining and delivering her pony to the local gymkhana's.

The family were delighted that the bells were rung for the funeral. Ray was bell captain in the church for many years. He taught his daughter Helen, David, Chris Edis and many others to ring. He repaired the broken stays when it all went wrong and even climbed the flagpole on top of the church to fit a new lanyard on one occasion.

Ray was a much respected man; he was kind, considerate and had time for everyone - one of life's special people who had pride in his family and who will be greatly missed.

The family have asked that donations in his memory be given to All Saints Church, Elton, to assist in providing an Auditory loop in the Church.

NEWS FROM ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Our new priest, Rev'd Richard Gibbs, has been with us for 3 months. During that time he has spent a considerable amount of time out and about in the six parishes and three church schools getting to know the people who live in our villages. I have received a number of welcome comments expressing how much they appreciate and enjoyed being able to have contact with Richard.

However the more hands on approach have knock-on implications. If Richard is out working within the parishes he is not in the Rectory answering the telephone, emails, arranging meetings, eg, with wedding couples, as well as the large volumes of administrative work that seems to be a part of modern life. To enable Richard to be active in the parishes, which is what we all want, the churchwardens and PCC's across the group have agreed the employment of a part time parish administrator, which will be a paid position, the cost of which will have to come from PCC funds either via collections or specific fund raising.

Whilst we have been very successful in raising funds for the fabric of All Saints church we still need to be mindful that parish churches do not receive funds from either the government, the Church of England or Ely Diocese. The cost of running the church and employing a priest comes down to the individual churches like our own. The simple fact is that today we do not pay our way and we need to find a way of balancing income and costs to ensure we continue to have a parish church.

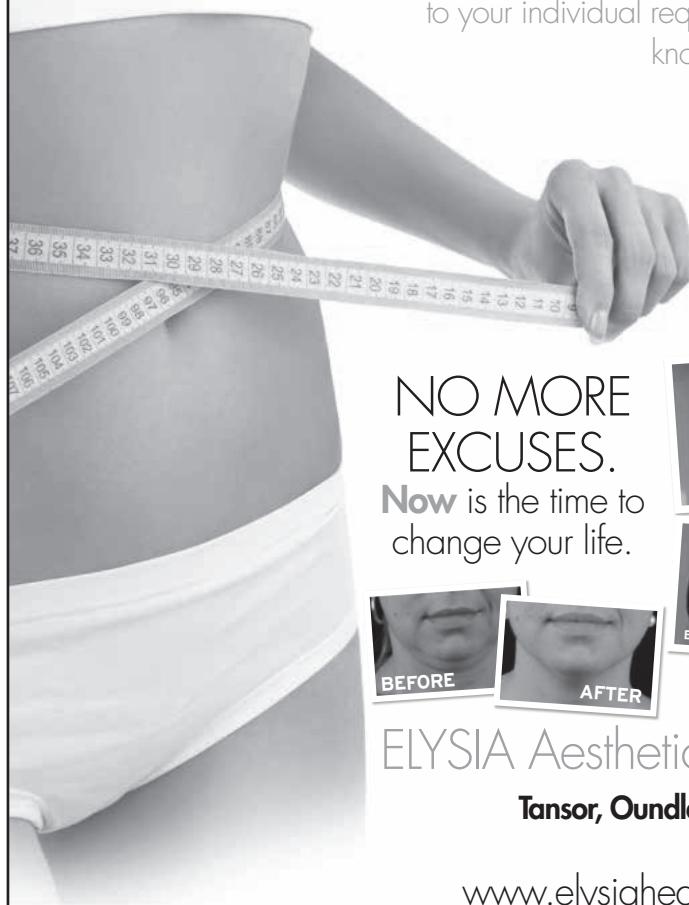
If you would like to help maintain the future of the parish church in Elton please contact Chris Milton for further information.

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THE BLADES FAMILY OF ELTON

Francis William Blades was born in 1843 to Hezekiah and Mary Blades of Little Bytham, Lincolnshire. He was one of seven children and the family moved to nearby Ryhall where they were at the time of the 1861 census.

Francis followed his father's trade as a stonemason and married Jane Fenn in Oundle in 1869. They moved into a cottage in Stocks Green and the marriage produced six children – Charlotte Ann, John, Ralph Abraham, Charles William, Mary Lizzie and Frederick James from 1871 to 1885 (I wonder if some of these are among the 'unidentifiable' children of the school photos in Alan Clark's excellent book). Jane died in 1899 and Francis in 1913.



Ralph Abraham (born 1877) was the only offspring to stay in the village and after marrying Jane Liddington Prudan, a shoe machinist of Northampton, in 1903, he lived in River Lane where their four children grew up. Ralph Abraham worked as a farm labourer until his early death in 1929. Jane died in 1944 and both were buried side by side in unmarked graves in the churchyard.

The eldest, and only son, Ralph was born in 1906, he married Daisy and was a postman based in Peterborough (photo). Ralph and Daisy had no children and Ralph died in 1978, his ashes were buried by his parents' graves.

Violet was born in 1908, married Arthur Gale and lived in Haddon from where Arthur ran the local bus service. Violet passed away in Peterborough in 2002 at the age of 93 and her granddaughter Sandra now lives in Elton.

Dorothy, born 1910, went to Kettering to work where she met and married my father, Bert Douglas. She passed away in 1999.

Ivy, born 1912, married Arthur Gurney from West Haddon but continued to live in River Lane until the family including their 3 children, Dawn, Barry and Marlene, moved into a newly built Highgate Green house. Ivy's garden was her pride and joy for more than 50 years. The Blades family were 'chapel people' and Ivy's memorial service was held in the chapel after she passed away in May 2000. Dawn and Barry still live in the village.

I never knew my Blades grandparents and earlier this year I was able to arrange for a family memorial stone to be placed on the graves in the churchyard. The Blades surname may have gone from the village but the roots remain...

*John Douglas
Peterborough*

Another season has passed and plenty has been happening at Elton W.I. and we are now looking forward to our autumn programme.

We had a lovely evening in May when Claire Hughes brought lots of plants for us to make our own hanging baskets and containers, I am making an extra effort to keep mine well watered.



In June we visited Sacrewell Mill which re-opened in July 2015 after a £1.8m restoration and conservation project partly funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Mill and buildings have been restored, and brought back memories and stories of people who worked there. The weather was lovely and we finished the evening with tea and cake.

Also in June a group of us went to see "The Wind in the Willows" at

Tolethorpe, another lovely evening, well worth going. The set was amazing! July was a more active meeting: "Exercise - Mind, Body and Soul". It was a really fun evening keeping fit, doing tongue twisters, remembering adverts and all to uplifting music.

We are very proud of one of our members Kate Taylor as she received an award from the Peterborough Council for Voluntary Service for her work as a Cruse Bereavement Volunteer. She received her award from Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire Sir Keith Pearson in the Town Hall in June.

We are not having a meeting in August but many of us are going to Boughton House, often referred to as "The English Versaille" for a guided tour.

In September the Huntingdon and Peterborough Federation of W.I.s are holding a W.I. Sports week offering Golf, Archery, Indoor Climbing, Nordic Walking and Indoor Target Shooting just to mention a few. Several of our members are participating so there is plenty to keep us active!

They are also having a morning with author James Nicol who has written a children's

book and a "Bee Tea" and talk by Richard Davies from the Peterborough and District Beekeepers Association in response to a Resolution in 2009 calling on the Government to increase funding for research into bee health. Progress has been made but there is still much to do!

This is just a selection of things to do beyond Elton W.I.

On Friday November 4th we are holding a Pudding, Quiz and Wine Evening at 7.30pm at Highgate Hall. Tickets are £10 available from me. You will be able to try up to six puddings (I mean proper puddings): sticky toffee, fruit crumble, pie, chocolate sponge, bread and butter pudding etc, with a glass of wine included and a quiz. Teams of up to six people. This is open to everybody and we look forward to a fun evening.

As usual we meet on the second Thursday of the month at Highgate hall at 7.30pm. Please ring me on 01832 280378 if you are interested in joining us.

Christine Roberts

LIFE AT CARYSFORT CLOSE

I'm writing this at the end of July – and what a summer it has been! Heat wave – rain – tennis – rain – football (don't mention it) – rain – heat wave and so on and, I mustn't forget this: a new Prime Minister! As far as the weather is concerned, I much prefer the heat waves to the alternatives, I must say.

Currently we are ticking over alright at Carysfort Close, but we were all saddened by the death of Sheila Whitehouse in early May. Sheila and her husband Philip moved here from Jersey during 2009 and Philip died not long afterwards. Sheila was a regular on the shopping trips to Stamford and thoroughly enjoyed Senior Citizen lunches in Highgate Hall. An avid reader, she would work her way through several books a week. We miss her.

CC residents have participated in various events during the summer, either helping or attending: Senior Citizen lunches, the Fun Sunday in May, the Chapel Library, W.I., the Antiques Roadshow in June, Tuesday talks in the Chapel, the highly successful fund-raising Garden Party in Sue and Julian's lovely grounds also in June. We are indeed lucky to live in a village where so much goes on.

And finally, from an un-named school magazine:

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Pat Sanson

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QUICKBEAM

When will it be Tulip time?

Our springtime tulip bulbs have flowered already this year but we are still waiting for another kind of tulip to make an appearance. We have been waiting for a very long time – in fact, over 30 years....

If you stroll down Back Lane in the direction of the river, and glance upwards at the trees visible above the hedge of Beulah House you will see a tree which has large leaves of a most unusual shape. Instead of coming to a pointed tip, each leaf looks like some creature has taken a bite out of its top. These leaves belong to the Tulip Tree, *Liriodendron tulipifera*. It got its name because it has flowers of a similar size and shape to our familiar garden tulips. It comes from eastern North America and was introduced to Britain as long ago as the 17th century. The Tradescants, who were gardeners to Charles 1, had the plant sent over from Virginia around 1638. It was described by John Evelyn in his book called 'Sylva', which was published in 1644. It became a very popular tree and was widely planted, particularly in southern Britain.

The Tulip Tree belongs to the Magnolia family and like other members of the family has showy flowers. The

large, greenish-yellow petals are each coloured by a beautiful pattern of orange. The flowers appear in spring and early summer and produce copious nectar, which in the tree's native land attracts bees and hummingbirds. Elton's bees could pollinate the flowers of the tree in our village but at the moment we can't provide the flowers. The tree is supposed to take about 25-35 years to reach its mature flowering stage. The Elton tree is at least 30 years old so anticipation is building to a peak amongst us tulip-watchers. The tree may have been held back a bit in its development because a branch from a neighbouring ash tree damaged it when it fell on the young tree a number of years ago. We have not seen any flowers this year but watch this space – or better, watch the tree itself next year!

Quickbeam



The spectacular tulip-like flower of the Tulip Tree, set amongst the tree's strange-shaped leaves. This tree was photographed in Peterborough's Central Park.

Things you may have missed

NOTED BY NOTLE

REFERENDUM

The Referendum result still remains a topic of conversation. I have been surprised by the stand taken by many friends. People who I was sure would vote to remain IN voted for OUT and vice versa. This applied in all parts of our village. I know whole families who were split on how they should vote. Whom did I vote for? The vote is a secret and I am not going to tell. As it was a "once only" affair the result will shape all our lives into the foreseeable future. Perhaps people over 75 should have been denied the vote. After all, it is the up and coming generation who will have to live with the outcome. Expressing this view I was soundly attacked by a group of old pals (Yes, I mean old - all in their 80's). They maintained that they had fought to keep this country free - and they have the experience to better assess the "pro's and the con's" than all the young things. Each to their own...

ANOTHER MAGGIE?

On taking office our new Prime Minister Theresa May soon got busy with her axe to get rid of many of her predecessor's cronies, quickly showing that she was a real toughie not to be messed with - just like Maggie. Nine members of the former cabinet - including George Osborne the Chancellor of the Exchequer - are now

demoted to the back benches. Gone are their ministerial cars, personal staff and for some their central London homes. I am sure they are asking what most thinking people are - why on earth did Mr Cameron decide on the Referendum? He did not have to. In the much acclaimed speech given by our new Prime Minister on the doorstep of No 10 as she entered for the first time, Mrs May told us that her government will be for everyone, not just the elite. She spoke with such conviction that who knows - many Labour supporters, fed up with the arguments about who should lead their party, may desert and join her side. Although some of her opponents have warmed to her, everyone seems to be asking the question - why did she save Boris the Clown? He led the Out campaign, so as Foreign Secretary it is unlikely he will be welcomed by our former EU partners, despite the fact that he speaks French fluently.

WORLD SOCCER CUP

England 0 - Iceland 2! Unbelievable! An interesting statistic in my paper - the England team which cost over £100m was soundly trounced by the Icelanders! Of the winning Iceland team only two were professional - the rest were amateurs! I am afraid this is not the only time that England have failed. Just before the Football World Cup in 1970

in Mexico a song was recorded by the English team who expected to do well. The words "Back home, we'll be watching and waiting...." was on the radio and played everywhere. When England were defeated in the quarter-finals by West Germany (3-2 after extra time) a cartoon in one paper showed an executioner, axe and block ready, standing on a quayside looking out to sea. The caption read "Back home, we'll be watching and waiting...."

However I have clear memories of 50 years ago when England did win the World Cup; (30th July 1966). Young and poor, we were camping in Portugal, the only English family on the site, our fellow campers all German. On the morning of the Final - England v Germany - we were courteously invited to watch the match on TV. At that time TV screens were very small and a set had been put up under a canopy. With our three children we were given front seats. Each time Germany scored there was a huge cheer from our hosts and beer flowed freely. Joy turned to silence when England scored the winning goal during the last moments of the game. We left quietly at that point, our children being somewhat puzzled. They had never seen grown men cry before.

BUMPER TIME?

Just opposite the Post Office in Oundle I saw a lady who faced a predicament - she had parked by the kerb - legally. However while she was away shopping two other motorists had parked so close - just about touching - one at the front, the other at the rear. She had no room

to manoeuvre her car out without hitting them so she just had to wait until one of the thoughtless motorists returned.

I recall my first stay in a central New York hotel. My bedroom overlooked a main street and early in the morning I was awakened by a series of loud crashes. I called the main desk to see what the trouble was. At first my query was not understood and a member of staff was sent to my room. He quickly diagnosed the problem. I was advised to keep my window closed. I had opened it as was my normal practice at home. I quickly learned that in NY if you parked you left the car in neutral with the handbrake off. Looking for a spot to park? Cruise around the streets, find a gap in the row of parked cars, then stick your nose in. You get behind the car in front, accelerate slowly to push it away. Nearly in? Now reverse and push the car behind you until you have made a parking spot for yourself. I quickly realised why the Americans referred to car bumpers as "Fenders". They were big and sturdy and did the trick. I never tried this trick in New York - but my American friends thought nothing of it!

Seton Notle

PS: Last word on the Referendum?!!

"It is enough that the people know there was an election. The people who cast the votes decide nothing. The people who count the votes decide everything."

Joseph Stalin

Elton's Street Party

in Commemoration of the Queen's 90th Birthday



On Sunday 12 June, villagers commemorated the Queen's special birthday by holding a street party down Middle Street.

Similar events were hosted throughout the country and Elton rose to the occasion by inviting residents, friends and families to come along, share food and get to know each other a little better!

The event was organised by The Elton Society and involved formally closing Middle Street - the first time, as recalled by a resident, who has lived in Elton all his life. Tables were dressed with homemade decorations, and Union Jack flags and bunting were arranged along many Middle Street trees, using a cherry picker, supplied and driven by Tony (Chapel Lane). Folks arrived just after noon with food and chairs galore and followed a warm welcome by Elton Society's Chair Steve Brown, who donned his union jack suit for the occasion!

Entertainment for "little ones" was provided in the form of a bouncy castle and an opportunity to decorate Royal Crowns. In addition to free candy floss, adults enjoyed a complimentary cup of fizzy drink whilst The Crown provided an open bar. Travelling along the tables' party goers were entertained by a magician performing an array of tricks involving spoons and playing cards and guests were encouraged to dress up using items from the dressing up booth and pose alongside a cut out picture of The Queen.

As music flowed and people relaxed it was great to think how Elton (again) has commemorated another Royal event, the last being the Diamond Jubilee, in 2012 situated at Elton Hall. Ideas and enthusiasm came from The Elton Society with a special thank you to Emma Stowbridge for leading the team!

Finally, we were visited by a couple from Arizona, who understood Steve Brown to be the Mayor of Elton - now there's an idea!

Michelle New



Know Your Neighbour

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

Name: Kathryn Taylor



1. How long have you lived in Elton?

Just over 18 months.

2. Describe yourself in three words ...

Outgoing, home loving, funny.

3. What would be your dream job?

A News Reader.

4. What would be your last supper?

Starter: one of my son's famous salads.
Main: lobster. Dessert: Eton Mess.

5. Name your favourite actor/actress?

Harrison Ford/Katharine Hepburn

6. Marmite, love it or hate it?

Love it!

7. Name your favourite soup

Scotch Broth.

8. What sound do you love?

The sea.

9. What or who makes you happy?

Being with my children.

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

The A14.

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

Painting.

12. What's your earliest memory?

Falling over the family dog in the sea and nearly drowning before my dad rescued me.

13. Where is your favourite part of Elton?

My house.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Date Age

SEPTEMBER

Jonathon Hipwell	3rd	17
Eve Jackson	6th	15
Harry Benstead	9th	12
Oliver Ruff	10th	10
Ava Darke	18th	2



OCTOBER

Ellis Barnes	16th	9
James Christopher New	17th	18
Eleanor Edis	27th	17



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

Editor@Eltonmagazine.com

NOVEMBER

Woody Cuthbert	5th	3
Aston Barnes	29th	12

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VILLAGE PEOPLE

Strowbridge wedding

Mathew Strowbridge, son of Shirley and David Strowbridge of Brawn Way, married his partner of seven years Naomi in Brighton in June. Although raised in New Zealand, many members of Naomi's extended family live in Brighton so the pair chose the city to hold a weekend long event. Renting a town house in the seaside location for themselves and their siblings to stay in, the pair married in front of eight members of their immediate family in Brighton town hall on Friday 24th June before enjoying fish and chips on the beach next to Brighton Pier. Then on the Saturday played host to a pizza party within the house to which sixty of their friends and family attended. The weekend wound down with brunch on the Sunday morning.

Nugent Slingsby wedding

Rita Slingsby, of Hayes Walk, married Jonathon Nugent of Brawn Way on Saturday 23rd July 2016 at 1pm at All Saints Church in Elton, with a service full of love and laughter. A red London bus and twelve bridesmaids made their wedding complete on what was a beautiful sunny day. They held a reception at the Black Horse, which was enjoyed by many villagers

Robinson wedding

Amy Robinson, eldest daughter of Graham and Suzanne Robinson of Stockhill Farm, Elton, married Neil Wooliscroft the Parish Church on 11th June. The photograph shows the couple being taken by decorated tractor to their reception at her home. The rattling cans suspended from the back attracted much

attention from well-wishers.

Kate Taylor award

Kate Taylor recently received an award for her volunteer work for the Peterborough Branch of Cruse Bereavement Care. The ceremony was held at Peterborough Town Hall and the award was presented by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire, Sir Keith Pearson.

Happy Birthday

David New celebrated a significant birthday early this year and so spent some time in Richmond (West London) where David New worked before moving to Peterborough. David and wife Michelle visited Kew Gardens which was amazing given the early May "heatwave", and then met their children Hannah and James and went to the Royal Albert Hall to see the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra play music from Queen.

Faber Lane garden

Michelle Snell had the idea to turn a waste piece of ground next to her house into the Faber Lane Community Garden. With plants and effort by other residents they now have an area full of colour that is also welcoming to wildlife. Michelle is seen in the photographs with Shirley Purnell doing some necessary weeding.

Welcome to Elton!

We would like to welcome a host of new residents to the village:

Danny Nicholls and Kayleigh Harbison have moved into Hayes Walk with their 8 month old daughter Faith, and five month old dog Oscar. Danny is from Huntingdon, and Kayleigh from Peterborough.

Sara Jackson moved into Hayes Walk from Farcet at the beginning of the year with her year old cat called Tigi.

Ingrid and Jeremy Hunter have moved from Clipsham into Stocks Green with their dogs Cosmo (Jackapoo) and Basil (Norfolk Jacket).

Emily Rayner and Camilo Zamudio have come to Elton from Cambridge, bringing with them their two French Bulldogs Sunny and Lulu, and their Chihuahua Eric.

Back Lane welcomes a number of new residents including Laura and Ollie Yiend who have moved from Wiltshire, with Roxy the Schnauzer/Jack Russell; Amanda Haley and David Allart who have relocated from Hampton; and Penny Coral who has come to Elton with her three Labradors Molly, Isla and Flora.

Returning to Elton are Fay and Matt Davies with their children Neve and William, and their black labrador Albert. They have all moved into Middle Street.

David Arculus celebrates

On Friday evening, May 20th, the High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire, Sir David Arculus, dressed in his uniform of black velvet and lace, complete with sword and held a reception in his garden at Berry Leas.

As part of his duties he is expected to meet and entertain the Judges, Magistrates, Police chiefs, Mayors, Council leaders, MPs, members of the Clergy, other High Sheriffs, ex High Sheriffs, representatives of charities and other civic leaders and dignitaries including members of the armed forces from, in and around Cambridgeshire. It was his pleasure to do so and he also included a few friends from Elton and

members of his family who helped the evening to run smoothly. Fortunately the weather was very kind and the feed back was appreciative.

Thanks go to many people including Mr Michael Fray who kindly moved his sheep to make way for parking in Berry Leas field and Mr Tony Martin, Cooks Catering, who provided excellent service and plentiful delicious canapés to go with the drinks.

A friendly evening concluded with a firework display from Simon Snow and his team which was enjoyed by the guests and others in the village too!

As the marquee was in situ and the family had gathered, the next day David celebrated his 70th birthday with a few of his friends while daughter Suzanne invited her friends to celebrate her 40th birthday. There was a lunch time BBQ and evening meal of fish and chips. There was plenty of entertainment for the many young children who seemed to be quite tireless and although the weather wasn't quite so kind by the evening, many families stayed and camped in the garden. Thus there was another party to be enjoyed by the stragglers on Sunday.

Anne Arculus is a trustee of a charity which helps young people leaving care, the Nene Valley Care Trust, so on Monday the marquee was in use again for a tea party which raised over £2,000 for the charity. It was very well supported and the guests were able to enjoy the garden.

He and Anne have met some wonderful people and learnt so much about Cambridgeshire already this year and are looking forward to the rest of the shrieval year.

VILLAGE



John and Rita



Mat and Naomi



Amy and Neil



Welcome to Sara Jackson.

PEOPLE



Kate Taylor



Faber Lane Garden



Michelle and David New.



David Arculus and harpist Eleanor Turner.

TRIBUTE TO SHEILA WHITEHOUSE

Sheila and her husband, Philip, made their home in Carysfort Close, in 2009.

Sadly Philip died within 6 months but Sheila continued to live there and loved it. She enjoyed the view from her favourite chair over the adjoining countryside, but best of all was making new friends, the companionship of shopping trips in the minibus to Stamford every Wednesday and social events on the estate. Sheila was one of the Thursday Gang for whom a weekly visit to the hairdressers was a key event. Indeed every two weeks, Thursdays were even more fun as they offered the opportunity for food and conversation at the Elton Luncheon Club, which she sorely missed while in hospital earlier this year.

Sheila & Philip lived in Jersey for over 50 years, raising their two children whilst running a family seaside hotel and then switching track completely and becoming glasshouse tomato growers. Sheila was a keen member of the local WI and the Flower Club and had many successes in flower arranging competitions for which Philip would gladly produce props and backdrops to ensure the best presentation of her work. They were a brilliant team.... different personalities who knew how to work to each other's strengths. Sheila's competitive nature also shone through when playing darts with her WI friends or cards with her five grandchildren – each of whom have recollections of hard-fought games where she would make no allowance for youth or inexperience!

Sheila and Philip had over 25 happy years of retirement during which they enjoyed watercolour painting and long visits to friends in Cyprus and the South of France. Sheila loved watching many different sports on the TV and was a passionate armchair supporter of Manchester United. Sheila's strong organisational skills and secretarial training served her well throughout her life, whether it was the alphabetical notebook to ensure that she didn't select a library book she had already read or her much loved 80th birthday iPad, which gave access to banking and window-shopping on the internet, keeping in touch with friends by email - and frequently sending her daughter, Sylvia, little 'to-do' reminders! Sheila was a taskmaster, firmly independent and sometimes demanding, but she was also kind, generous and supportive.

Although she made a good recovery from a broken leg in January, Sheila's health was badly affected and her lung condition worsened. Even so, it was a shock when a chest infection developed into pneumonia and she died on 16th May 2016.

Her Thanksgiving Service at Peterborough Crematorium (conducted by Rev Peter Konig) was attended by family and local friends who remembered her with affection.

We are grateful to her daughter for this Tribute.



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Scribblings from School

What a momentous summer term it has proved to be! Firstly, our present Head Teacher, Mrs Rebecca Ford, gave her notice to the governors for she had been selected to be Executive Head of The Horizons Learning Federation. At her farewell service in July, every class took part, each emphasising some aspect of Becky's wide-ranging role. The present Deputy Head, Mrs Claire Arnold, rightly described Becky as "brave, committed and children focussed", often going that extra mile to make sure that the school, its pupils and staff were the best they could be. In response, Becky commented that she had not thought of her role as a job, but a way of serving the community through its school. Every class gave Becky a unique piece of pottery, each decorated with flowers made by their thumbprints. Leaving gifts were also given by SPLATS, parents, staff and governors. Before he gave the Blessing to all gathered in All Saints Church, the Revd David Parkes remarked that Becky had been a blessing to the school. Elton school has been privileged and proud to have Becky as its Head for the last 6 years, and we thank her profusely for all she has given in so many different ways.

So, when it came to the Leavers' Service at which the school said "Farewell" (fare you well) to the 16 young people, including a number from our own village who would be starting at new schools in September, there was much laughter and hugs, and a few tears too. We hope that they will take to their new schools the values and virtues as well as the learning and the ethos of a caring community that they have experienced at Elton School.

Staff and school Governors were

delighted that after advertising nationally for a new Head Teacher and following a closely contested selection process, Claire Arnold was chosen on merit to take on that role from September. We congratulate her on her achievement. Changes were already afoot before the end of term as displays were demolished and corridors cleared in preparation for painting and a new start in September.

The term also saw the Revd Richard Gibbs begin to take collective worship in the school twice a month, and meet pupils and staff as he began his new ministry in the Stilton group which of course includes Elton.

And the Autumn Term, what does that hold? New pupils starting, not only little ones in EYFS, but in some of the other classes too as families move into the area and choose Elton school for their children. And some new responsibilities for not only Mrs Arnold, but for other teachers too.

And thinking further ahead: If you have a child due to start school in September 2017, Elton school warmly welcomes visits to the school during this Autumn Term on its Open Days of:

Tuesday 20th September

Wednesday 19th October

Thursday 17th November

Friday 2nd December

when there will be tours of the school commencing at 9.30am, 11.15am and 1.30pm.

If you would like to visit on one of these Open Days, then please book your place by telephoning the school office on 01832 280314.

David Parkes

ELTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



The other week I was walking through the glorious countryside that surrounds our village when a thought struck me, and I was surprised that it had never struck me before. Although I have, in my time on this planet, lived in several rural areas (Cotswolds, Mendips, Yorkshire Dales) I usually viewed crime in the villages as an extension to city/town crime...robbery, shoplifting, anti-social behaviour and that sort of thing. I have always seen the odd broken gate, smashed sign and damaged cattle trough (just take a look in the fields surrounding Elton) but I am sad to say that I have often seen these and other 'agriculturally related' crimes as being a bit separate from the crimes I have grown used to seeing in towns. But of course they are not, for they are still crimes and bring with them all the same financial, emotional and practical turmoil that follows from a damaged car, stolen laptop or whatever in the town. We all live in the countryside so rural and agricultural crime is part of all our lives if we care to think about it, or so it seems to me; it's not just for those who work in agriculture. So I did a bit of research, and this is what I found.

According to NFU Mutual Insurance statistics for 2015 (that's only 8 months ago, mind) Cambridgeshire was 5th in the list of 'rural' crime in the United Kingdom last year with it costing £1.7m (Essex top the table with £2.4m and Lincolnshire – just up the road from us - 3rd with £1.8m). No mention of Northamptonshire in the top 10 though, but its police force was, early last year

claiming "Rural crime has dropped by 15 percent in the last five years" but I'm always wary of such broad-brush claims for within them some crimes can drop and others increase. Perhaps unsurprisingly tools, quadbikes and fuel are the things most commonly stolen but I quote this next snippet from statistics as I thought it was interesting: "The cost of livestock theft declined marginally (up to 2015) representing more of a redistribution of livestock theft than a reduction as criminals move around to target vulnerable communities" but "Livestock crime is on the increase across Wales, the Midlands, East of England and Northern Ireland".

It is claimed that the true cost of crime in rural areas could exceed £800m. This figure is 21 times higher than previous, clearly inaccurate, figures and dwarfing earlier estimates. There is believed to be chronic under-reporting of rural crime - for 'rural' read 'agricultural' – with more than 27% not reporting the last crime of which they were a victim. There is, says the NFU surveys, an increasing fear, frustration and worry and "significantly lower satisfaction levels with the police than the national average" – as low as 32% rate the police as good compared to 63% nationally. So there you have it; I reckon I've got it easy with my property nice and safely locked up in my house and not vulnerably spread around fields and barns!

David Strowbridge
Elton Neighbourhood Watch



ELTON SOCIETY AGM

Elton Society Chairman Steve Brown stands with Kate Bateman, David Palmer, and Greg Bateman of Batemans Auctioneers and Valuers, Stamford.



David Palmer discusses items with Ian Kirk.



Kate Bateman meets David Atherton and Mary Nicholson.



Those attending the AGM enjoyed a talk from the valuers and auctioneers.

The annual general meeting of The Elton Society took place on Friday 17 June with 40 people in attendance. The meeting commenced with a welcome from Steve Brown in his 6th Year as Chair followed by a summary of how the society works alongside the Elton Community in matters relating to planning, the environment and the village festivities.

Twelve members of Elton village have stood for election however we have 3 vacancies and would love to hear from any person willing to come aboard with fresh ideas and a willingness to volunteer practical support. We meet once a month and enjoy spending time together socially. This is a great way to make friends and be a part of the village society that makes a real difference to all our lives living and working here in Elton. Please contact Michelle New 280741 for further details.

Following the meeting, Batemans

Auctioneers invited guests to handover items for valuation and in addition to the valuations, the speakers used their experience to talk more widely about the objects and in some cases this lead to highly entertaining discussions. There was an array of items from around the world and included a rare two penny blue stamp, a Victorian money box, a sword from Norman Cross, early Georgian spectacles, French decorative plates and an interesting journal with details surrounding capital punishment.

The team comprised Kate Bateman, David Palmer and Greg Bateman and they worked together to provide owners with interesting facts whilst keeping the audience entertained. The evening was highly entertaining and Elton was privileged to receive a group of experts, who have national coverage on our TV screens.

Michelle New

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Pet of the Season

Name: Sticky

Breed: Jack Russell

Lives: School Lane

Owner: Fiona and Dave Langlands

Age: 1 year

Likes: Scampering on the beach, playing chase with Dave, all the Owens (dogs and humans) next door.

Dislikes: Wearing dog coats.

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.

HIGHGATE HALL 200 CLUB REPORT

In 2015, 186 members meant that we were able to transfer £1180 to the Highgate Hall main account. This year currently we have sold 189 numbers so there are **still 11 left: please contact the promoter if you would like to participate.** Remember the big £200 prize will be drawn in September. The latest draws were held at the Highgate Hall management committee meeting, winners are listed below:

Month	#	1st prize £30	#	2nd Prize £20	#	3rd Prize £10
May 2016	155	Dr Peter Mills	177	Anne Arculus	21	Audrey Davies
Jun 2016	45	John Carroll	146	Sally Gunning	19	Mary Blatch
Jul 2016	190	Dr John Gemmell	100	Keith Pike	40	David Housden
Aug 2016	78	Betty Shawyer	176	Sir William Proby	76	Sue Dobson

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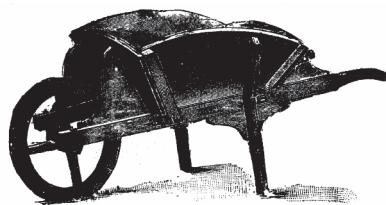
Jonathan Burton is a local resident and home visits are available

TRIBUTE TO LINDA CLAY



Linda spent her early years in Kilburn, north London, in a small flat with her parents and elder brother Raymond. When Linda was seven Raymond contracted meningitis and died, leaving a terrible scar on the family. Nevertheless, Linda had happy memories of playing with her cousins at the homes of aunts and uncles. In 1954 the family moved to Harlow New Town and a year later her brother Alan was born. Linda's junior school reports tell of a cheerful and lively girl who was an accepted leader but that her chattering sometimes got out of hand!

Linda always enjoyed school and continued to do well at Brays Grove secondary where her ability in maths became evident and, described by her headmaster as a vivacious person, she eventually became Head Girl. There could only be one choice of career for someone who loved school so much; Linda gained a place at Kesteven College of Education and qualified in 1967. In that year Nicola was born and given Linda's political views, it's not surprising an early outing was on a CND march.



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She began her teaching career and also studied at the Open University gaining her degree in December 1973. Two months later she met Peter and they eventually married in 1978. She was appointed Head of Maths at Jack Hunt School in 1975 and made Deputy Head in 1984. Her passion for solving crosswords came in useful as she composed the school timetable. Above all, Linda was a woman of principle and when in 1993 she disagreed with the schools' decision to become grant maintained, she resigned from her post.

So at the age of 46 she was left without an income and looked around for ways to make a living. Luckily she knew of a business with prospects but run by a hapless idler....and of course, Peter was happy for her to join him. She immediately reversed the business plan and began selling books for more than had been paid for them. She began to sell books by post and completely re-organised the bookshop. They were a most loving and successful partnership.

Linda and Peter then moved to Cornwall and spent many happy years there, renovating both house and garden, but when travel between there and Peterborough became too irksome, they returned to the Peterborough area, to Elton, to be closer to family and old friends.

Sadly, six years later Linda fell ill in October 2015 and what originally was thought to be a stroke turned out to be a rare disease likely to have a fatal outcome. By then Nicola and her daughter Maisy had also come to live in Elton and they proved to be a great help and comfort to 'Nana' over the next months.

Linda finally succumbed to her illness and her Thanksgiving Service was held in Peterborough Crematorium where family and friends from far and near remembered her with great affection.

We are most grateful to her daughter Nicola and her husband Peter for this Tribute.

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PENNED FROM THE PULPITS

There's a memorable scene in the 60's depiction of the Charge of the Light Brigade that sticks in my mind. As I'm sure you will know, the story is one of a brave - to the point of reckless - cavalry unit fighting in the Crimean War. Their orders intended a relatively safe objective but confusion led to them charging along the floor of a valley straight into the face of Russian cannons.

In the film, we see the noble, elegant cavalry soldiers lining up and charging full belt at the guns. We see them being met by a hail of fire and the sound and sight of horses and riders, some of them, reaching their objective. In a short time the scene is obscured by a great cloud of dust as the sound and fury of battle fades.

Slowly the survivors retreat through the grime, limping and filthy – robbed of their nobility. Then one of the men looks to his commanding officer and asks tellingly...‘Shall we go again sir?’ Clearly they are not ready or able to go again. But something of the soldier’s determination to complete his orders whatever the situation, drives him to ‘go again’.

The story is of many things – the futility of war, the nature of heroism, the strange twists and turns of history. We have seen this vividly portrayed on our TV screens and in our newspapers in the bombing of Syrian cities, the plight of refugees, the massacre of innocent people by rifle fire or even a lorry. But it's this idea of 'going again' that I want to pick up on. We can

be confronted by events any time of the year, but especially as the autumn is nearly upon us and so many things have to be done. Some of those things are more than just challenging or difficult, so it's worth reflecting on how we keep ourselves moving forward.

There are no glib answers when times are hard; our faith is often challenged as our lives unfold. The Bible doesn't give precise or easy answers. Instead it reminds us of God's promises, and here is one described by Paul in his first letter to the Christians in Corinth:
If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall. The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the testing to be more than you can stand. When it happens, he will show you a way out so that you can endure. (1 Cor 10:12-13)

Have you come across that promise before? Even if you have, it's very easy to forget when energy levels are low and hardship is getting the better of you. If you feel yourself asking, 'Shall I go again?', it's worth remembering that there is no moment in life when it is just you against your problems. God is also there, loving you and ready and able to lead you through every situation.

So, with September now upon us, I ask that you reflect on this good news, consider it in your thoughts and prayers, be encouraged and 'go again'!

Richard Gibbs

Tony and Shirley Johnson at Little Garden House

We celebrated our diamond wedding anniversary early in April. Everyone from Chapel Lane was invited to call in for champagne and cake, plus several friends from the village.

We had a wonderful afternoon with sunshine and we sat out in the garden drinking champers and eating the marvellous selection of cakes we had ordered.

It all went with a swing with laughter and happy people chatting.

The icing on the cake was when our doorbell rang at 8.00am and there stood our daughter and son in law, Caitlin and Daniel. They had taken the night flight from Singapore where they live and work, to be with us. We had no idea they were coming. What a fabulous surprise and gift for a very special day.

The next wonderful surprise was a hand delivered card from her Majesty the Queen!!

In June we visited Singapore to spend three weeks with Caitlin where we had a second celebration.



Communicare Important Information For Patients

Wansford and Kings Cliffe Surgeries to merge with Lakeside Healthcare "Super-Practice"

Wansford and Kings Cliffe Surgeries are in the final stages of agreeing a merger with Lakeside Healthcare, a 62 partner practice which is currently the largest in the NHS. The giant practice was formed last year when 3 surgeries in Stamford (St Mary's Medical Centre, Sheepmarket Surgery and Little Surgery) and the Oundle Medical Practice merged with the pre-existing Lakeside Healthcare which already operated surgeries in Corby, Kettering and Brigstock. Together these surgeries care for over 100,000 patients across Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire, Rutland and Lincolnshire. It is expected more surgeries will continue to join in response to the way the NHS is expected to operate in the future.

Recently I met with Dr Rhiannon Nally, one of the partners of Wansford and Kings Cliffe Surgeries (with Dr Amrit Takhar), to discuss the merger.

Why is this merger necessary?

The NHS continues to change and evolve. We want to continue to offer the best possible range of services to our patients, but in the modern NHS we will become too small to do that on our own. All over the country small surgeries are merging to create significantly larger groups with the resources to bid for new services for patients, to be provided locally rather than in hospitals. We have to change otherwise our patients will suffer the consequences of us not keeping up.

In what way will patients benefit after

the merger?

There are many different ways, all because we will be part of a much larger, stronger and more diverse organisation. We will be able to attract, recruit and retain the very best doctors and healthcare professionals to our area because we will be able to offer them a varied and exciting career. And as I said we expect to be able to bid for services currently offered in hospitals, for example outpatient services such as dermatology, ophthalmology, musculoskeletal treatments, geriatric medicine and mother and baby services. It is also possible we may be able to provide an ambulatory care service, community care and even have our own consultants in some areas. Of course it's difficult right now to say specifically what we will be able to offer, but our aim is certainly to increase our range and scope of services, dependent on how the NHS develops. This will mean working far more closely with the hospitals in the area as we try to integrate services. Lakeside Healthcare supports all the specialist hospitals in our area including the University Hospitals of Leicester, Peterborough and Stamford Hospital as well as Kettering and Northampton Hospitals. And training will continue to be important to us, in conjunction with the University of Leicester Medical School and de Montfort University.

So will we all have to travel to surgeries across the region to see a GP?

No, not at all. Patients registered with us will continue to see their GP at either the Wansford or Kings Cliffe surgeries. It's just that over time, I hope patients will be able to see a much richer variety of services

being offered in our surgeries. And we will still be able to refer patients to specialist services in the same hospitals we use now. I can't see any downsides associated with the merger for our patients, really. It's all good news as far as I can see, otherwise we wouldn't do it.

Has this got something to do with the Government demanding a 7 day a week NHS?

Well, that's in the mix too. There is a proposed requirement for surgeries to offer 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week opening hours. We would struggle with that at the moment but as part of a much larger group with many more doctors available, it becomes possible.

As a patient, do I need to worry about anything?

You really don't. We are positioning

ourselves to provide (in the jargon) more joined up, proactive and personalised care for our patients. That's the way the NHS is going. It's not going to happen instantly, but over time you will see an improvement in services. Dr Takhar and I have always wanted to provide high quality family medicine with a personal touch, and we will continue to do that after the merger.

When will the merger happen? We are quite advanced in the process now, but these things are not straightforward and we don't expect everything to be completely finalised until early next year. But we wanted to let our patients know as soon as possible.

Written by Martin Lewis and reproduced with acknowledgement to Living Villages.

Martin Lewis

Communicare Report

Wansford practice has appointed a new doctor – Fenella Powell – who joined the team in July. She qualified in 1997 from UCL originally training as a surgeon but then moved to general practice and now specializes in family planning and women's health.

In conjunction with our current campaign to encourage more voluntary drivers for our transport scheme, we are now also looking for people who might be prepared to man a telephone line for a few hours at home, maybe one day a week or fortnight, to provide co-ordination for this service – call costs would be reimbursed. This is currently carried out by surgery reception staff taking up valuable time. If you feel that you could offer some help on a regular basis, please contact reception.

Our next meeting is the AGM and will be held at Wansford on Wednesday 7th September at 6.30pm. This meeting with no guest speaker will provide an opportunity for patients to be informed and take part in discussion relating to current business matters; practice staff will also be attending to give an update of surgery news. All patients are, of course, most welcome and we look forward to a good attendance. If you require further information about Communicare or its social group's activities please contact Clare Wagstaffe on 01780 470437 or email: superfoguk@aol.com

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ELTON'S RAINFALL

Check the levels in the gauge, jot it down and fill the page.

Rainfall recorded in Elton during the second quarter of 2016 was as follows:-

April 2016:	56.0mm ²	(2.20in)
May 2016:	35.75mm	(1.41in)
June 2016:	84.0mm	(3.31in)

This gives a 2016 year-to-date (January to June inclusive) rainfall total of 329.75mm (12.98in).

Chronological observations during the period under review include:-

13th April: First sighting of the year of a Brimstone butterfly.

24th April: First sighting of house martins; we have two nests here under the eaves.

Throughout April, several white frosts were noted. The highest maximum daytime temperature recorded during April was 16.0°C on the 2nd, and the lowest maximum daytime temp was 8.3°C on the 16th. The lowest minimum overnight temperature was minus 0.9°C on the 17th and the 28th, with the highest minimum overnight temp being 7.4°C on the 4th. Sunday Funday on the first day of May was bright and sunny, immediately thereafter followed an increasingly warm week with a maximum daytime temperature of 26.1°C on the 8th, the highest for this month.

10th May: The UK's maximum daily rainfall of 27.0mm (1.06in) was recorded at Wittering today. This was such a contrast with Elton's 3mm overnight on the 9th/10th, plus 12mm overnight on the 10th/11th. Even if (by addition) we assume a total of 15mm (0.59in) fell within the 'midnight-to-midnight' data timeframe, it would still only represent 55% of Wittering's total, a surprising fraction in a distance of 10km. Also on this date, this month's highest minimum overnight temperature of 11.9°C.

15th May: The last white frost of the winter this morning with a recorded minimum overnight temperature of 1.2°C.

16th May: A very reliable Chapel Lane correspondent reported hearing his first cuckoo today.

31st May: A minimum overnight temperature of 10.2°C was followed by the day's maximum temp of 11.0°C, less than 1°C between night and day. Incredibly, Glasgow's maximum temp today was 24d°C.

1st June: This month's lowest maximum daytime temperature today, 11.3°C. Plus I heard the cuckoo at lunchtime.

5th June: A very warm sunny day for the Rutland show at Oakham.

6th and 7th June: This month's lowest overnight minimum temperature of 7.9°C (5th/6th) was followed by maxima of 23.8°C (6th) and 23.9°C (7th) – the month's highest temperature – then some lightning and distant thunder.

12th June: Elton's Street Party, celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday, was held in weather that was pleasant enough, so to speak. At 8pm there was a thunderstorm (good timing?) which gave 13mm (0.51in) of rain.

Between 11th June and 1st July there were only two days (17th and 21st) when no rainfall was recorded.

2016 is the 40th anniversary of the long hot summer of '76, largely remember for the prolonged drought.

BW

Happenings at Elton Hall

We are now in full swing with the house opening and we are having a busy season with well over fifty private tours of the house and garden as well as our publicised open days. We are at our maximum capacity level and everyone in the house and garden is working hard to keep it looking its best.

The gardens have been photographed extensively for a book on East Anglian Gardens which will hopefully come out later this year. We have a lot of visitors who appreciate the grounds and one of them, Sarah Steels, recently emailed us a photograph of some bees enjoying the alliums in the garden. She said 'I thought I'd share this photo (one of many) I took yesterday. Your gardens are beautiful! We had a wonderful afternoon.'



William and I had a lovely surprise when we received an invitation to St. Paul's for the National Service of Thanksgiving Service for the Queen's 90th Birthday on June 10th. As you can imagine, I had to have a new hat. It was a wonderful and very moving service for someone who has devoted her life to the benefit of her country.

Just before the end of the school term we



Standing outside St Paul's before the service.

had a leaving supper party for the retiring Head Teacher, Becky Ford. Most of the staff and governors were present and we held it at the Hall. It was a lovely evening and everyone appreciated the commitment that Becky has put in over the years. She was presented with rather a large bird table which was a bit of a problem getting into the boot of the car!

Amy Robinson (daughter of Graham and Suzanne Robinson of Stockhill Farm, Elton) married Neil Woolliscroft in June. This is a photograph of them returning to her home up Stockhill Drive.



Amy's new brother in law Stephen Woolliscroft was the designated driver of the going away vehicle. The tractor is practically a Woolliscroft family member: all three Woolliscroft boys learned to drive on it and their wedding was the first time it has ever left Staffordshire!

Meanwhile, at the Hall, we have had a number of events, including the BBC TV filming of Put Your Money Where your Mouth is with Eric (the knowledge) Knowles versus Danny (Del Boy) Sebastian, two weddings, an Audi Luxury

and Sport Car Ride and Drive Day and just recently, a Sausage & Cider Festival. We have been very lucky with the weather for all of these events and are very much hoping that this will be the case for the rest of the opening season.

And whilst all this goes on, maintenance continues at the Hall. We have just finished painting part of the West Front – part of the house or stables are done each year!

Merry Proby



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Bird Notes

by David Housden

As I write this nesting time is more or less over for most birds, although a couple of collared doves seem to be still busy! They have made two nests in the rose which climbs up the front of my house - both seem to have been abandoned before chicks appeared. I am afraid a pair of magpies may be the culprits, eggs and newly hatched fledgelings are certainly on their diet if they are lucky. At one time we also had the privilege of entertaining turtle doves, wonderful little birds. Now it seems they are a vanishing species as far as this country is concerned. However I do have a cousin who lives a little further south. She has assured me that once again a pair has nested on their land. Years ago they could always count on several pairs nesting and so far one or two pairs have never failed to arrive. Because of the interest of her birding friends she realises how lucky she is to play hostess to these lovely little doves.



A robin.

THE NEXT GENERATION

What we do see at the moment is, I am glad to say, quite a few young birds finding their way about. Initially they are fed and looked after by their parents, but comes the time when they have to fend for themselves. The adults have shown them how this is done and they soon get the hang of it. A confession: when I was a young lad, a keen bird watcher, I remember seeing a strange bird in the garden. I checked it out with my binoculars, then thumbed through my bird book in vain. Very puzzling. At first I thought I had found a new species (to me that is!). Later an adult friend put me right. I was looking at a juvenile starling! An easy error to make if you do not know! Initially they are brown all over and do not sport the spotted breast of the adults. I am glad to say there have been many this year - it has been a good season for them. Around my feeders one day I counted no fewer than 21 - mostly young, plus of course the very attentive parents. They were kept busy taking food from the feeders, back to the clamouring youngsters. Very noisy, and yes, very bold. They got used to me and I could stand just a few yards away without alarming them. Good to see them back when there have been concerns expressed in some places that starlings are on the decline.

I am not the only one to be enchanted by these noisy starlings. A reader who is house-bound called to tell me that watching birds from her window gives her

hours of enjoyment. Her neighbour charges the feeders and has put them up close to her window. A grandson gave her a small illustrated book on bird recognition and a whole new world has opened up for her. Although she tells me that some of the birds do not seem to be featured in her book. Young birds are often a puzzle. I responded to her call as she thought she was entertaining a new sort of tiny thrushes. (Her description to me). I went along and assured her they were in fact juvenile robins whose spotted breasts do mimic the song thrush! Not a redbreast among them!

ROBBERS

Although I try to feed small birds it would

seem that some of the larger types watch me from afar. As soon as I put out food my garden is invaded by rooks, young and old, and sometimes crows. The young do not know they should keep Mum while they steal - they just cannot remain quiet! They drive off the more worthy guests - the blue tits, great tits, greenfinches and the like. Sometimes they are joined by magpies. A knock on the window sends them flying! However of late a grey squirrel has also joined in the bonanza. He shins up the post holding the feeders to help himself. I know lots of readers think they are lovely little things. They obviously have not seen them kill and take fledgelings from the nest. Squirrels? I call them tree rats.



Feeding starlings.

BY THE RIVER

Once again the river has been a place which has given me much pleasure. I suppose most readers walking along the banks have spotted mallards shepherding their broods of ducklings across the water. Then there have been tiny coot and moorhen offspring. Paddling furiously to keep up with mother they are a real joy! Plus a couple of little grebe (or dabchicks we lads always called them). In the shallows by the banks herons stand motionless. Beware baby waterfowl - these hunters are only too ready to pierce anything within reach - be it fish under the water or tiny swimmers on the surface - a quick thrust then head back to swallow the catch. This year there has also been a white egret on the prowl. The water

does attract other species. The scratchy song of the sedge warbler delivered from inside the reed beds is often the only thing which betrays its presence. I noticed a reed warbler just by the red bridge and on most walks there has been a flash of electric blue as a kingfisher zooms past, usually just skimming the water. Plus of course our resident reed buntings, as noisy and active as ever. In the meadows by the river there have been several pairs of yellow wagtails - their coloured breasts rivalling the buttercups! Yes, the riverside is well worth a visit! But don't forget to look up! Our resident red kites, together with a buzzard or two are usually floating hopefully over.

TRAVELLING HOME

In late summer we will again witness the annual gathering of swallows, martins and swifts as they prepare to make the long return to those far away southern regions where they spend the winter in the sunshine. They zoom around snapping up flying insects in order to build themselves up for their often hazardous journey.

Regretfully I am afraid the "sportsmen" of Malta will again be anticipating their return and will be waiting to blast away as our little travellers fly over en route to Africa. How anyone can find satisfaction in this awful ritual beats me.



Goldfinches feeding.

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DEADLINE REMINDER

**Please send all contributions, photos and news for Winter edition 2016
to arrive no later than 26th October 2016 for publication at the end of November.
Diary dates to cover December 2016, January and February 2017.**

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

TUESDAY NIGHT LIVE – JOHN VARTAN



John Vartan with a picture of his Great Grandmother, and the author Malcolm Billings.

