

Isle of Ely Scrap Book



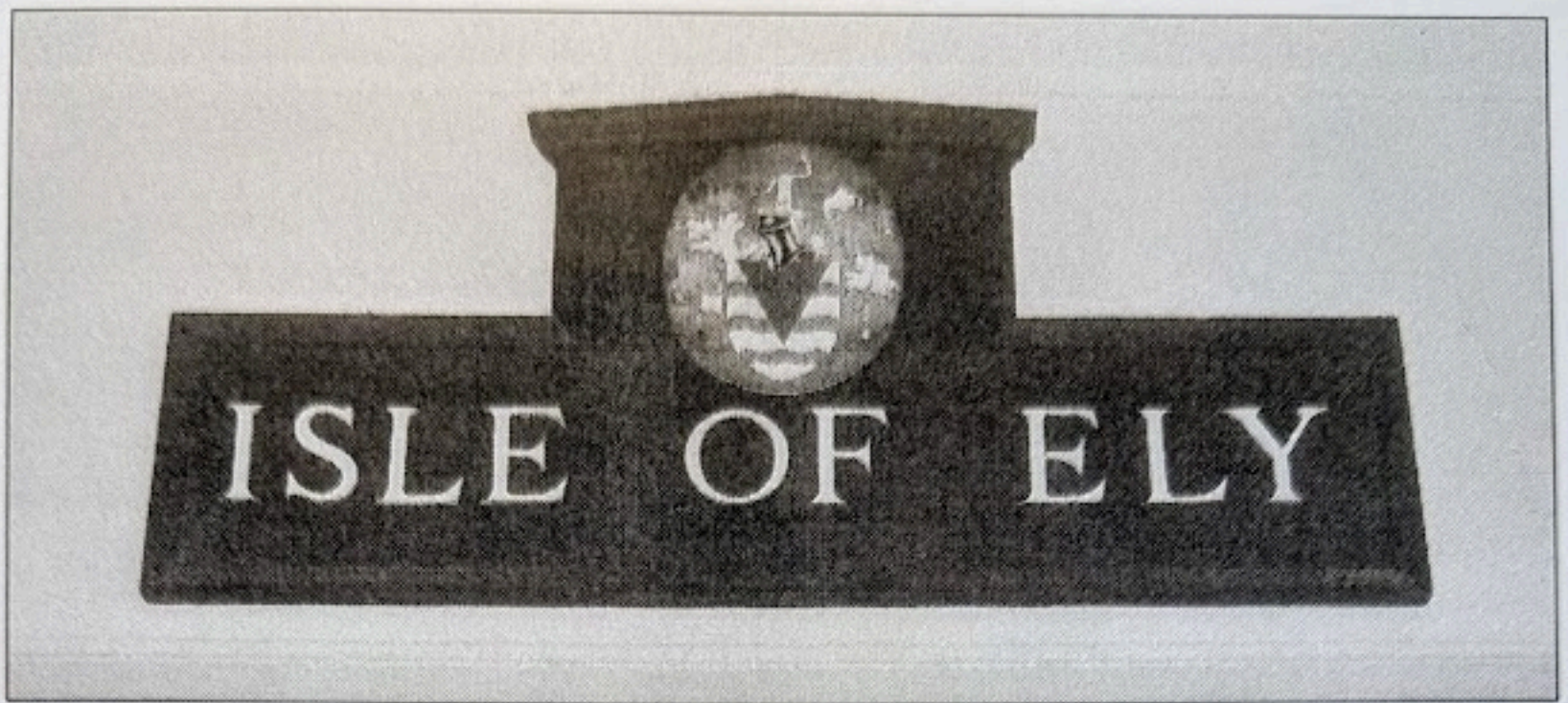
REMINDERS OF THE LOST
ISLE

For many years I have been collecting items/ephemera to do with the Isle of Ely. It is amazing that so little seems to have been "saved"; this publication shows photos and documents related and perhaps will encourage readers to unearth more so that a comprehensive collection can be made. LD

Since 1904 vehicles using main roads had to be registered ... the Isle prefix was JE and EB.

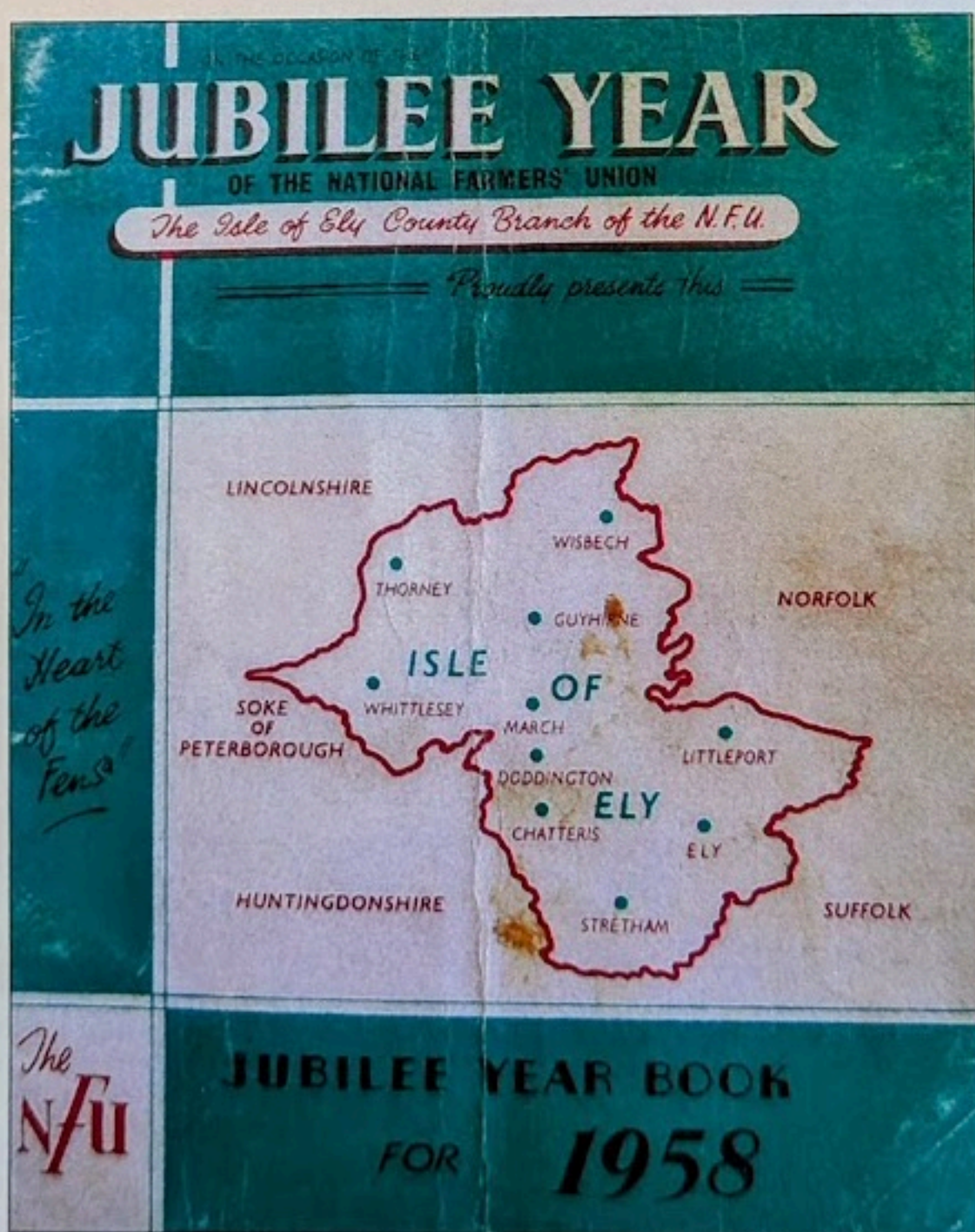


This heavy licence holder was discovered in an antique shop at Holt, Norfolk; any ideas where it was used? Dated 1911/1912.



Crest of arms for the Isle (granted in 1931); county display board in March Museum.

National badge of the Young Farmers with federation in inner circle; clubs were at Ely, March, Haddenham, Whittlesey and Wisbech.



The Isle branch of the National Farmers Union celebrated its Silver Jubilee in 1958; cereal and root crops dominate.

**HILLROW, HADDENHAM,
ISLE OF ELY.**

SALE OF
27 HORSES

i.e. Hackney Stallion, Coaching Stallion, Cart Stallion, 4 Cart Mares and Geldings, 2 Half Strained Mares, 6 well bred Nag Mares,
4 Cart Foals, 2 Nag Foals, Van Gelding, Piebald Cob, 2 Ponies and a Mule.

9 HEAD OF NEAT STOCK

Consisting of Red Cross Bred Angus Fatt Bull, Milch Cow, and 7 Bulls.

26 HEAD OF SWINE,

i.e. White Sow with 10 pigs, and 15 Store Pigs.

AN ASSORTMENT OF

ADDITIONAL STOCK AT SEVERAL PLACES

Farm Sales were/are popular get-togethers for farming folk; note the osiers and swine for sale words no longer in common use (willows and pigs). The ferry crossed the Old West River which was bridged in the early Twenties and is now a popular route to Cambridge via Cottenham.

**Twenty Pence Ferry,
WILBURTON**

ISLE OF ELY.

SALE of a high-class Growing

CROP OF OZIER'S

Comprising an area (more or less) of

TWO ACRES,

Situate abutting upon the Bank of the Old West River, within a few yards of

THE ISLE OF WHAT?

We used to live in the Isle of Ely
A name of which we were proud.
But in seventy-four the Boundary Commission
Said the name was no longer allowed.
Huntingdon, that nearby county
Also had to go that year
Together with the Soke of Peterborough
To make the enlarged Cambridgeshire.
So what does that mean to us living here-
Do we benefit from the change?
Big isn't always beautiful
And to many, County Hall's out of range.

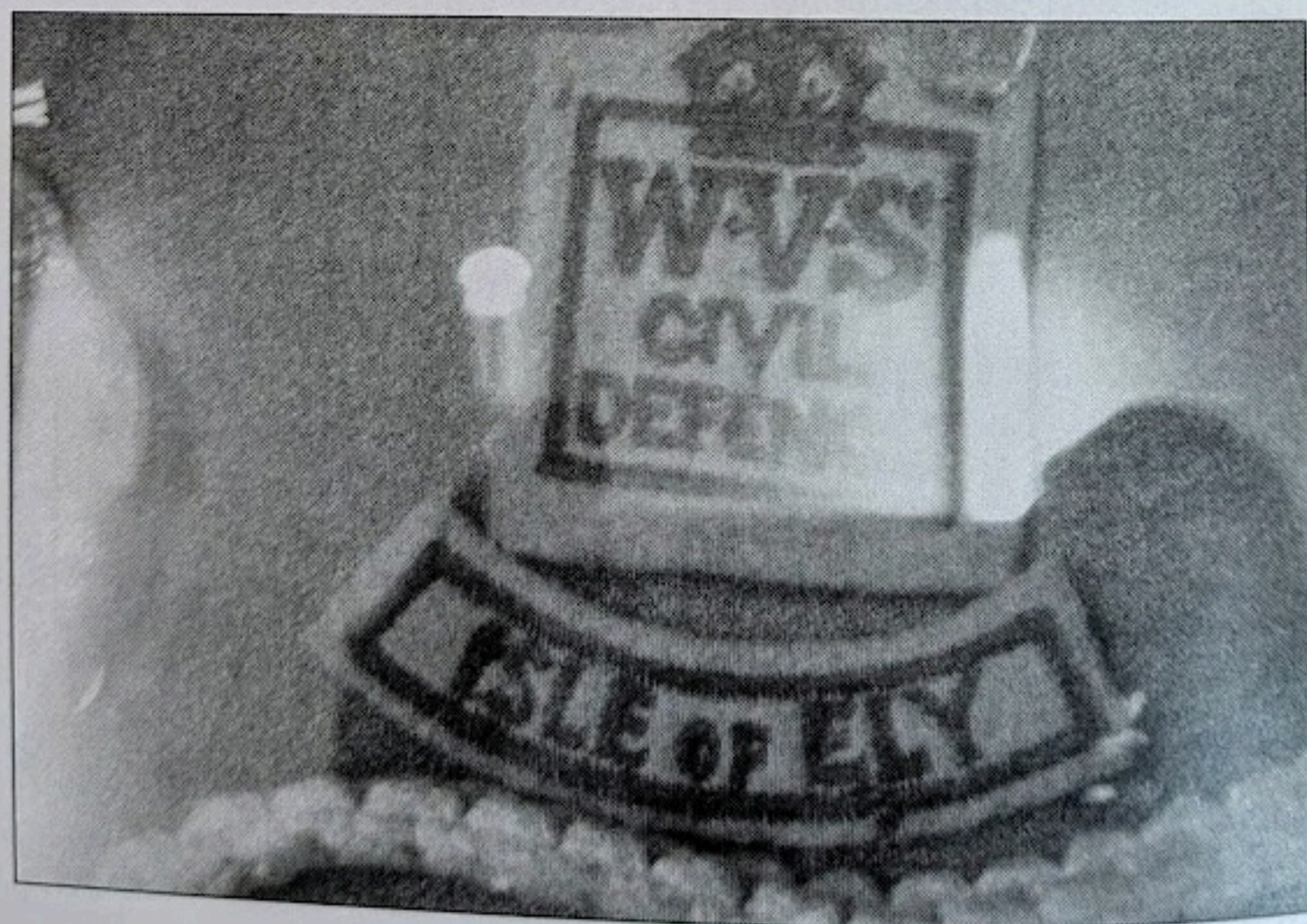
It was when Clement Freud became MP in the Seventies that one of his friends in the media asked: The Isle of Ely? Where on earth is that? Anywhere near the Isle of Wight? Those of us of a certain age (!) can well remember our school exercise books having ISLE OF ELY EDUCATION COMMITTEE neatly printed on them.....so what/where/ was the Isle and why is it rarely heard of in the twenty- first century?

The Isle of Ely (its name is derived from eels which lived in the watery marshes and which were a valuable commodity) was a separate administrative area since its foundation in the 1890's till its eradication in 1965 when the Isle was "joined" to the Old County of Cambridge (to become Cambs and Isle of Ely County Council)

In 1974 it was amalgamated with Huntingdon (Cromwell's home county) and the Soke of Peterborough.



The Civil Defence was active in the Forties and this arm band was photographed at Whittlesey Museum; the Fire Service plaque dated 1948 is held at the one in Ely.





*The Isle Police Constabulary (1841 - 1965)
was amalgamated with others to form the
Mid-Anglia Force and later became part of
Cambs Police.*



Isle of Ely County Council

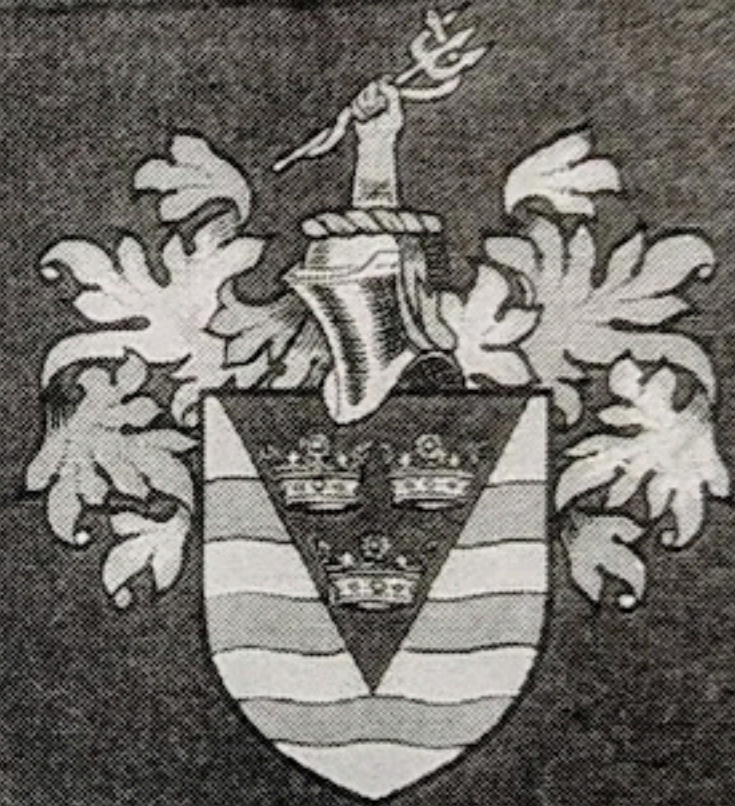
AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS

AIR RAID
WARDEN'S
CARD

Signature
of
Warden





ISLE OF ELY



Official Guide

PRICE 2/-

*Chatteris Museum has a good collection of such guides as this
and many documents related to the war years.*

	
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE MEDICAL CARD ISSUED BY THE ISLE OF ELY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BANK HOUSE, MARCH	
National Registration Identity Number <u>TDA13. 57. 2</u>	
To Mr. Mrs. Miss (Address)	<u>Rachel E. Pecceman,</u> <u>High St. Haddenham,</u> <u>ELY, CAMBS.</u>
Dr. <u>J. W. C. FARREATH</u>	Council Stamp 
In any correspondence with the Council, please quote your National Registration Identity Number.	
Form E.C.1.	

This card shows that the Isle had its own registration with HQ at March; the patient and GP are clearly stated.



The coat of arms in stone with an EEL coiled round the top, is on show at March Museum; March was the admin. centre for the Old Isle and the County Offices are now used by Fenland District Council.

*Much of the Fen area of the Isle is below sea-level.
The last two areas to be drained were the mere at
Whittlesey and Grunty Fen near Ely.*

“Grunty Fen”, why was it so named?

They had their reasons I suppose

But basically why or when

I don't think anyone knows

It was one of the last meres to be drained

Between Witchford and Wilburton it lies

Interlaced with very narrow roads along

which the traffic flies.

A beautiful Bronze Age torc

In 1844 was found there.

It is now in a Cambridge museum

So its beauty we all can share.

Until the time of the railways much farm produce was transported by water (Wisbech was an active port with its own steam tug named Isle of Ely, which is featured on the WWW)

A lot of the present-day roads were not really developed till World War Two.....barges carried sugar beet to factories at Ely and Lynn; bricks from kilns at Haddenham and Whittlesey (note the two spellings of that town, ea and ey both mean island);clay from Roswell Pits near Ely (now a Nature Reserve) for strengthening river banks; corn from fields to mills and coal to steam pumping engines at Stretham and Prickwillow (both of which are open to the public on some days in summer).



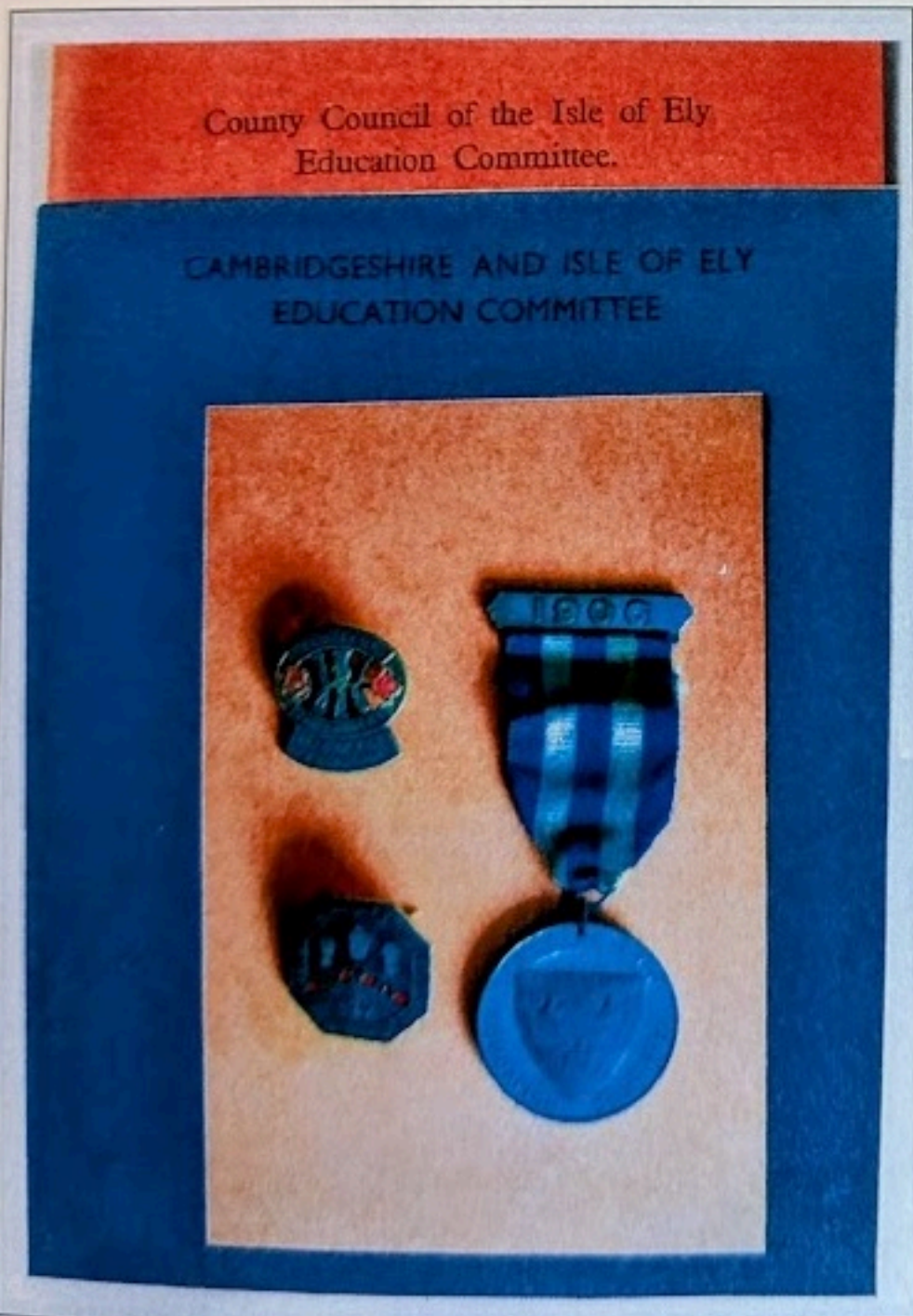
Skating on the drains, rivers and lodes was a winter past-time and in the summer fishermen came from afar.



A modern local brewery uses the name for one of its beers



Crested Ware became popular when trains brought people to the district; Littleport, Manea and Hadnam had souvenirs.



Education award 1906 and exercise books from schools pre-computer days.



ISLE OF ELY
Education Committee.

A 5667
73

..... Pupil's Name.

Nature Notes.

FEBRUARY.

SOME PLANTS IN FLOWER.—Aconite, Snowdrop, and Hazel.

Hedges are clipped and cleared of weeds and rubbish. The effect of this treatment should be noticed.

Barley and Oats are sown.

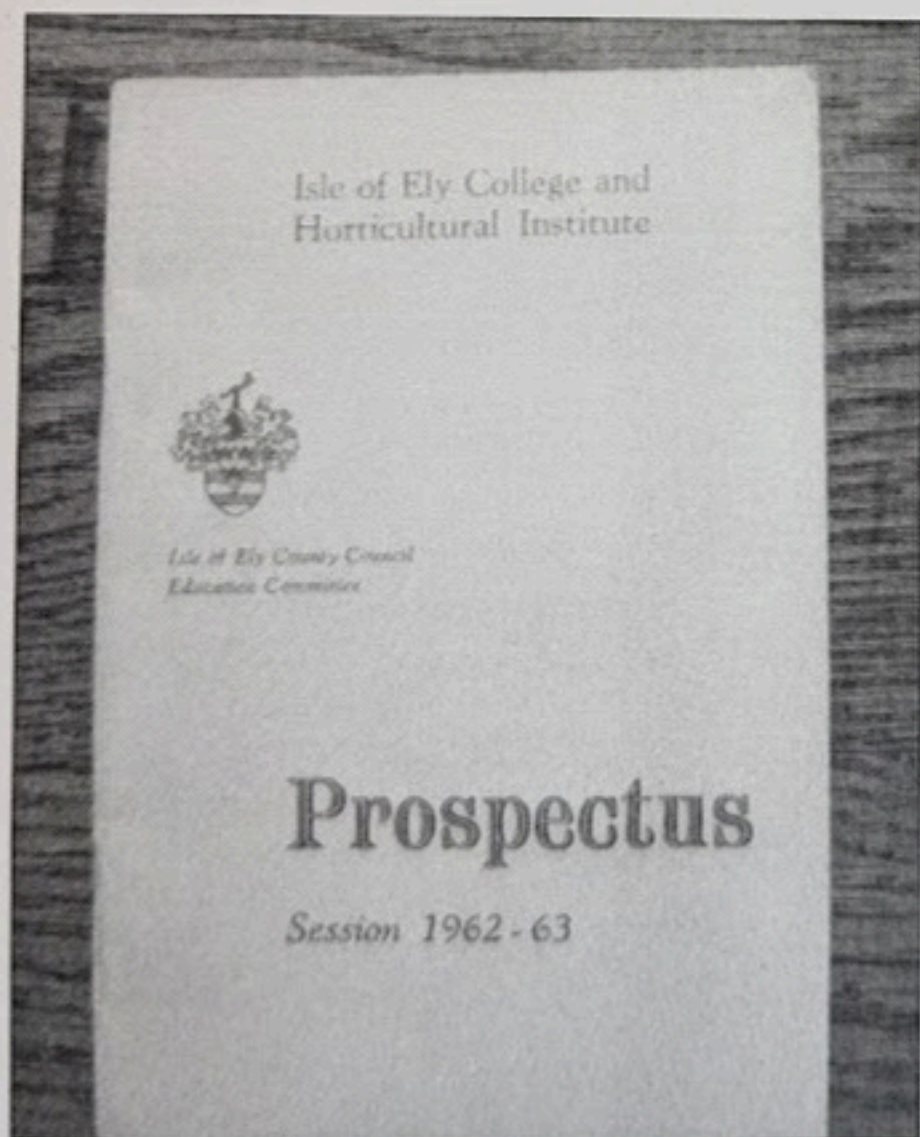
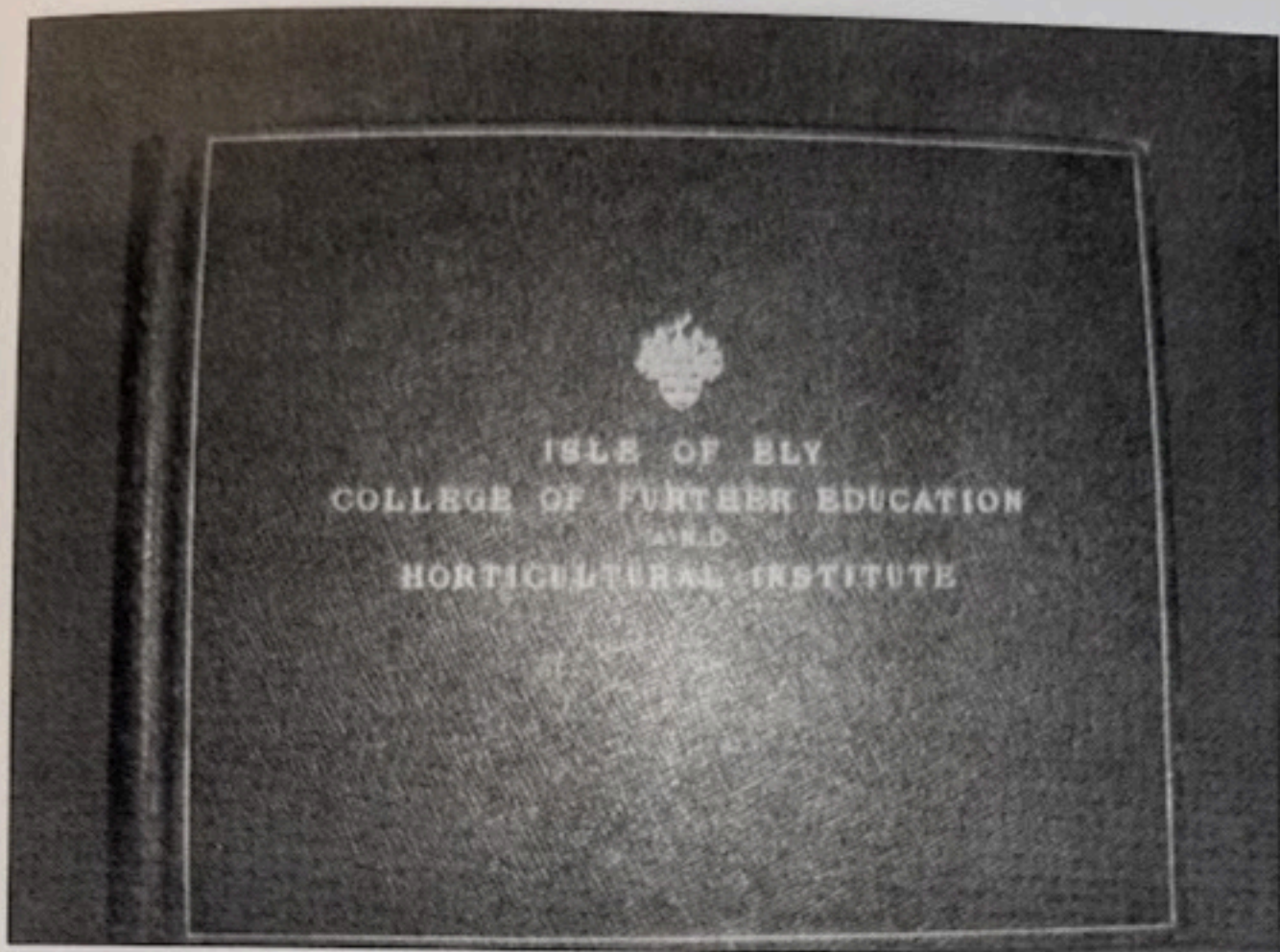
If a twig of the Horse Chestnut be procured we may observe the buds in pairs at right angles. If we carefully examine a bud we shall find the outer scales soaked in resin to keep out insects and rain, the thicker scales beneath, the papery scales, the coat of cottony down, the soft papery layer, the pad of down and the tiny leaflet. The buds of other trees should also be examined. The fruit buds of our garden trees are larger than leaf buds, and may thus be distinguished.

Thrushes and blackbirds pair and begin to build in February or early in March. Rooks come back to the old rookery and set about repairing old nests or building new ones.

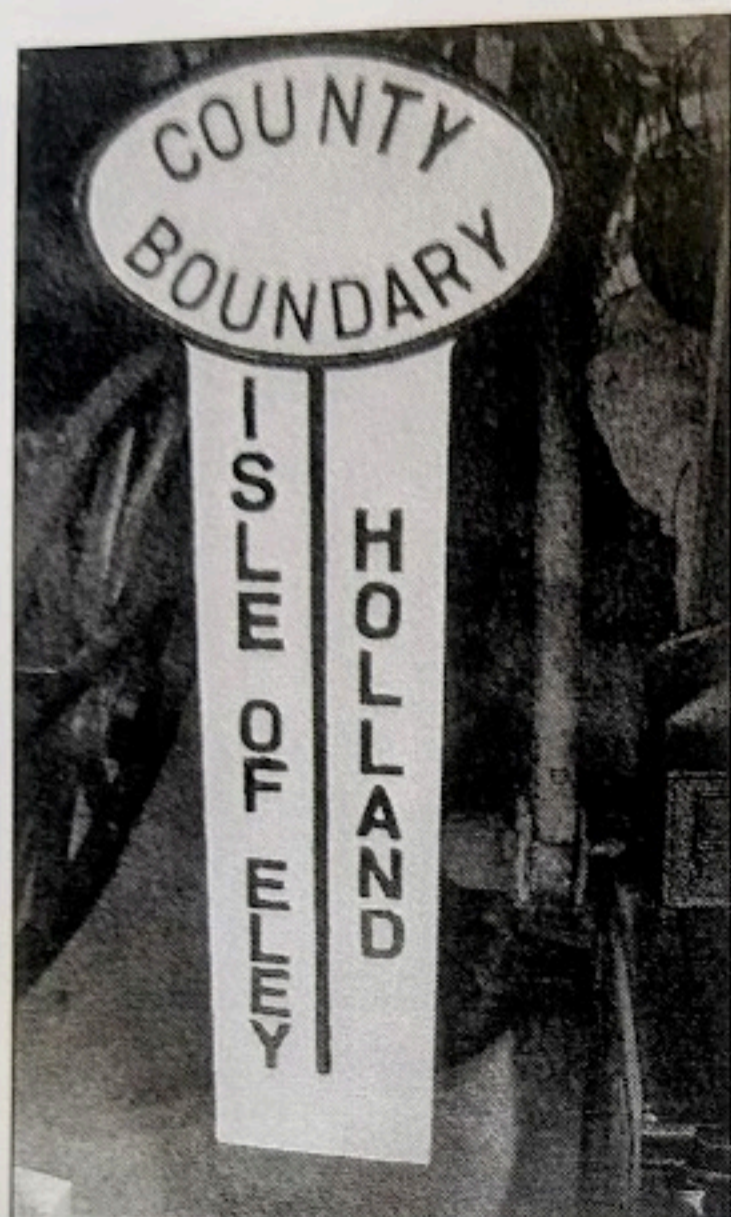
Frogs reappear.

Bats may again be seen.

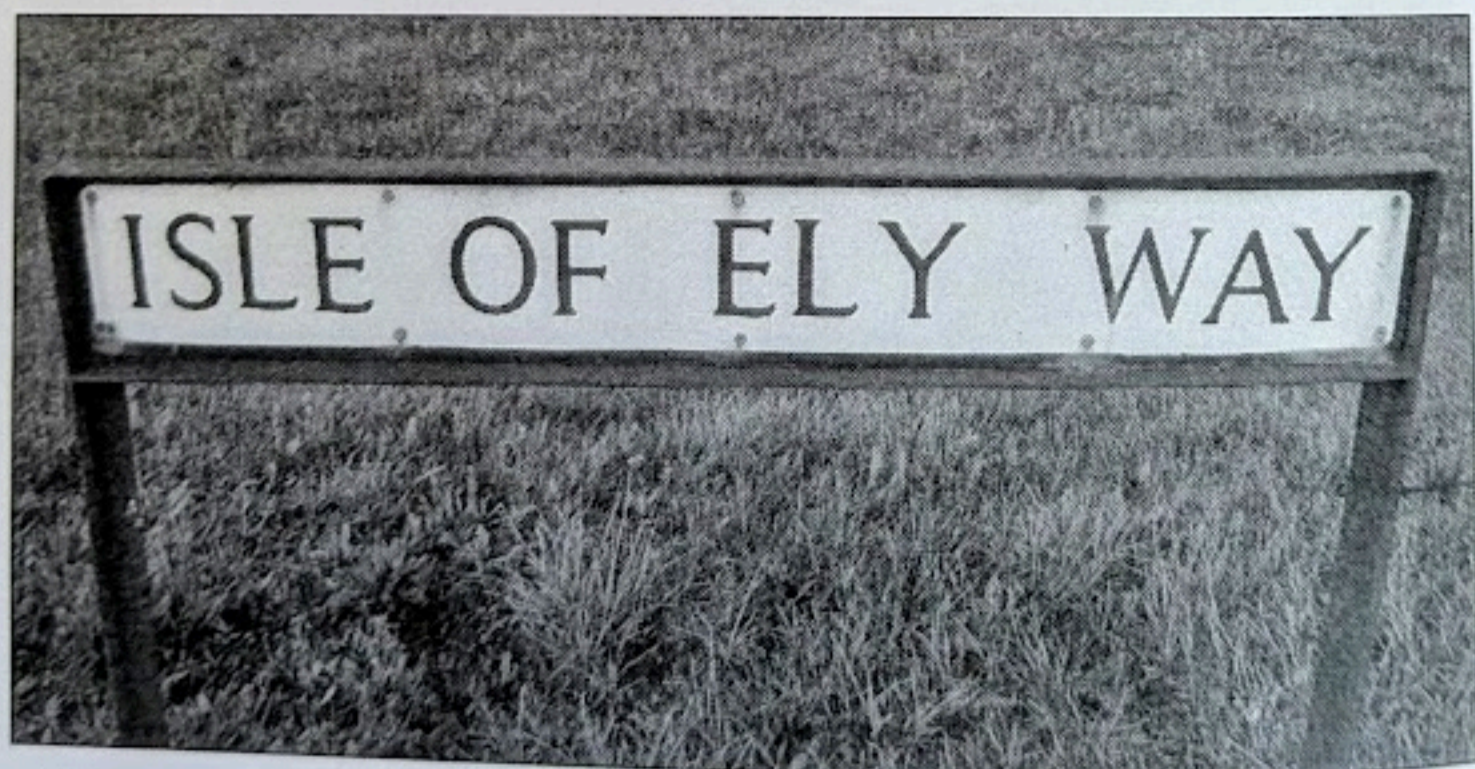
Beautifully - printed postcards were awarded to children for good work in Nature Study; there was a design for each month and today may be found at Antique fairs!



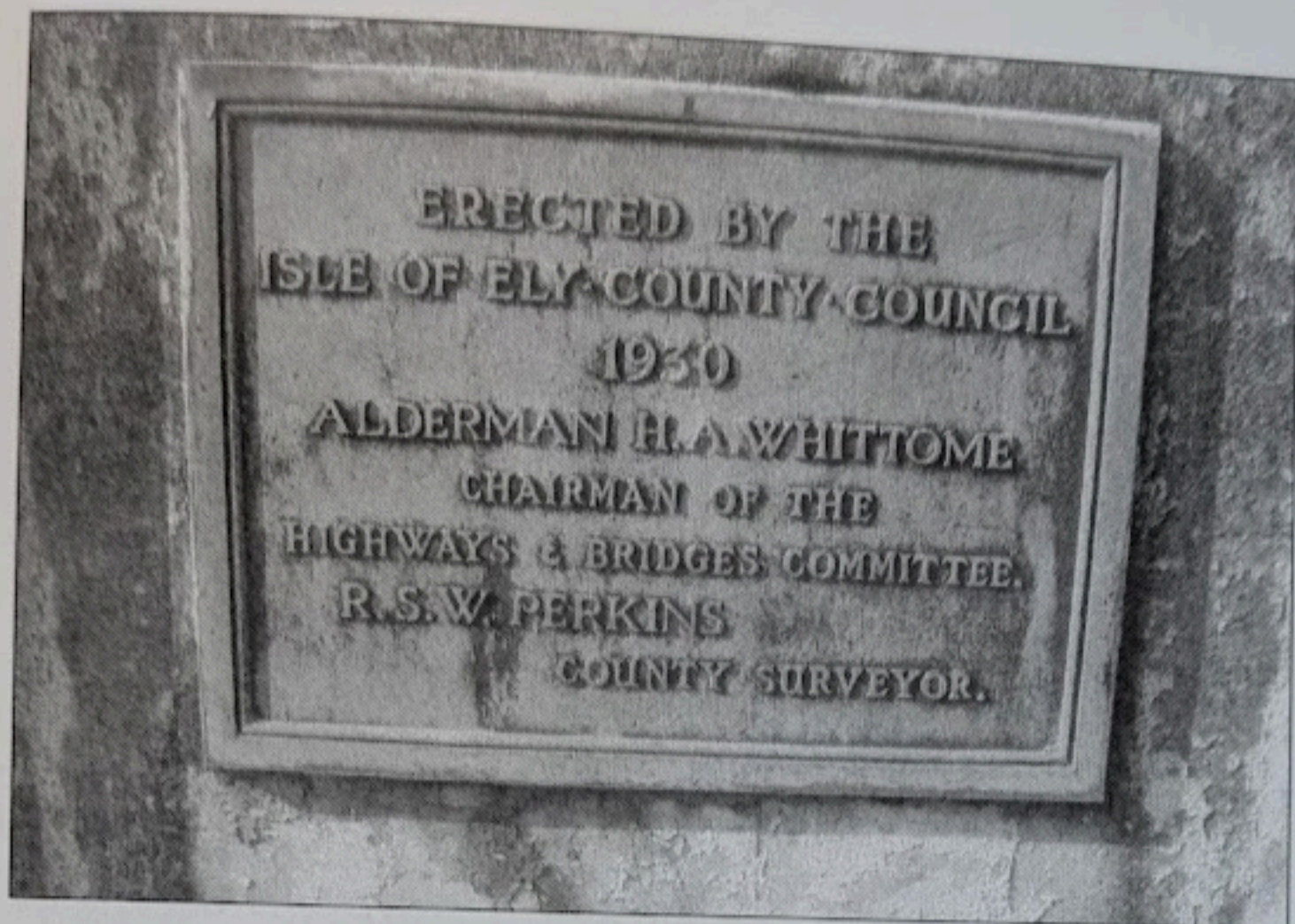
Wisbech, often referred to as "Queen of the Fens" was the place where the Isle College was built offering further education post 16 and a branch of the Cambs Farm College there is now part of the College of West Anglia. Pics are from Wisbech Museum.



This county boundary sign is misspelt (ELEY) and Holland is the south part of Lincs famous for growing veg.



The name is perpetuated by calling the bypass for Chatteris, Doddington, Wimblington and March the ISLE OF ELY WAY.



These two bridges carry important roads; the one at Mepal carried the A142 (now replaced with the 1986 fly-over) and the Childs Bridge is at the Denver Complex on the Norfolk border.



Today the only mention of the Isle of Ely in the telephone book is of the Isle of Ely Produce; what has happened to all the businesses which used to market themselves as being "in the Isle" or of the clubs featured in the cuttings? The following verses show a lament for what was.....

On the Eastern Horizon
we can watch the sun rise
Till behind Western Horizons
it disappears from our eyes.
No glacial action,
volcano or fault -
A landscape created
with banks made of gault.

Gone forever are the days when
The fifty-acre farmer went to plough the fen.
His work was hard, his profits small
But at least he had control, over all.

County Council of the Isle of Ely.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Preliminary Examination for Minor Scholarships,
21st March, 1941.

ARITHMETIC I.—Mental.

Time Allowed : 10 Minutes (10-35 to 10-45).

Begin at the beginning and go straight on, but if you cannot do any question leave it out and go on to the next.

QUESTIONS.		Write your answers here.	
1	$19 + 31 + 50$	1	
2	$176 \div 11$	2	
3	Take thirteen from thirty	3	
4	What must be added to 3s. 9d. to make 10s. 0d. ?	4	
5	$2\frac{1}{4} + 2\frac{1}{4} + 2\frac{1}{4} + 2\frac{1}{4}$	5	
6	How many more hours are there in March than in April ?	6	
7	What is the distance round a square whose side is 15 in. ?	7	
8	How many fifties are there in five hundred ?	8	

[TURN OVER

Who remembers the dreaded eleven plus exams? High/Grammar Schools were established for those children who were "successful" e.g. the High School for Girls was opened at Bedford House in Ely in 1905.

4623

TELEGRAMS: DRAKE, SUTTON, CAMBS.
PHONE: 4 SUTTON, ELY.
ADDRESS LETTERS: SUTTON, ELY, CAMPS.

PLEASE REFER TO



RICHARD DRAKE & SONS LTD

ESTABLISHED 1856

WHOLESALE FORAGE
MERCHANTS

LONDON DEPOT
514-523, ARNOLD R?
BOW, E

MARKETS ATTENDED
MARK LANE
MANCHESTER
BIRMINGHAM
ELY
SHEFFIELD
STIVES, Etc.



CUT CHAFFS OF ANY DESCRIPTION
MIDLAND REPRESENTATIVE
W. E. AUSTIN

MANUFACTURERS OF
Mr Geo Commins
Auctioneer
Ely.

PATENT PREPARED PROVENDERS
EAST ANGLIAN WORKS
SUTTON ISLE OF ELY

January 7th 1919

HAY & CLOVER

BALED STRAW

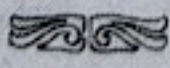
CLOVER MEAL

PATENT HAY
AND STRAW

MILLED STRAW

MIXED CHAFFS

QUOTATIONS
AND SAMPLES
FREE



Dear Sir,

With reference to your application for rent due to Estate of Mrs Roberts, we do not know anything about this.

Yours faithfully

RICHARD DRAKE & SONS Ltd.

Richard Drake

*Bill headings of businesses in
the Old Isle of Ely*

HARRY FEAST,
BUILDER & CONTRACTOR.

AGENT TO THE
LONDON & LANCASHIRE FIRE INSURANCE COY.

*Haddenham,
Isle of Ely.*

Sept 28 1904

ISLE OF ELY SCALE CO

MAKERS

WISBECH

COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE ISLE OF ELY

(EDUCATION COMMITTEE)

CLEAN MILK COMPETITION, 1930-31.

This is to Certify that

D. Peters

was a Milker in the above Competition, which extended over a period of six months, and was awarded a Certificate of Merit.

EDUCATION OFFICES
MARCH

Date *21st May 1931.*

Walter E. Howe Chairman of the
Sub-Committee
J. H. Anderson Inspecting Judge

Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Ploughing Society
Championship

This is to certify that W. D. Lee

Haddenham

has competed in the above Championship. 1953.

Signed

A. L. Taylor

President

L. T. Smith

Chairman

Isle of Ely Education Committee.



This is to Certify

That *Lorna Freeman*

attended the

Hailekenham C.P. Cooke's Infants School

373 out of 382 times during the

Year ended July 31st 1951.

J. C. Sandick

Chief Education Officer

C. O. Phye

Head Teacher



SCHEDULE III.

Local Education Authority Isle of Ely

LABOUR CERTIFICATE, No. 1 (a) (for total exemption after 13 years of age).

AGE AND EMPLOYMENT.

I certify that Rose Alice Shipp,
residing at Twenty Nine Ten, Wilburton
was on the 24th day of November, 19 13, not
less than thirteen years of age, having been born on the 27th
day of May, 19 06, as appears by the
Registrar's Certificate ~~(or the Statutory Declaration)~~ now produced to
me, and has been shown to the satisfaction of the local education
authority for this district to be beneficially employed.

(Signed)

Secretary

~~(or) Clerk~~ to the Local Education Authority.

other officer.

PREVIOUS ATTENDANCE.

I certify that Rose Alice Shipp,
residing at Twenty Nine Ten, Wilburton,
has made 350 attendances in not more than two schools during
each year for five preceding years, whether consecutive or not,
as shown by the (1) certificate furnished by the Principal Teacher
of the (2) Wilburton School.

(Signed)

Secretary

~~(or) Clerk~~ to the Local Education Authority.

(1) For this certificate, see Schedule VI.

(2) Here name School or Schools in which the attendances have been made.

(3) or other officer.

Dated the 24th day of November, 19 13.

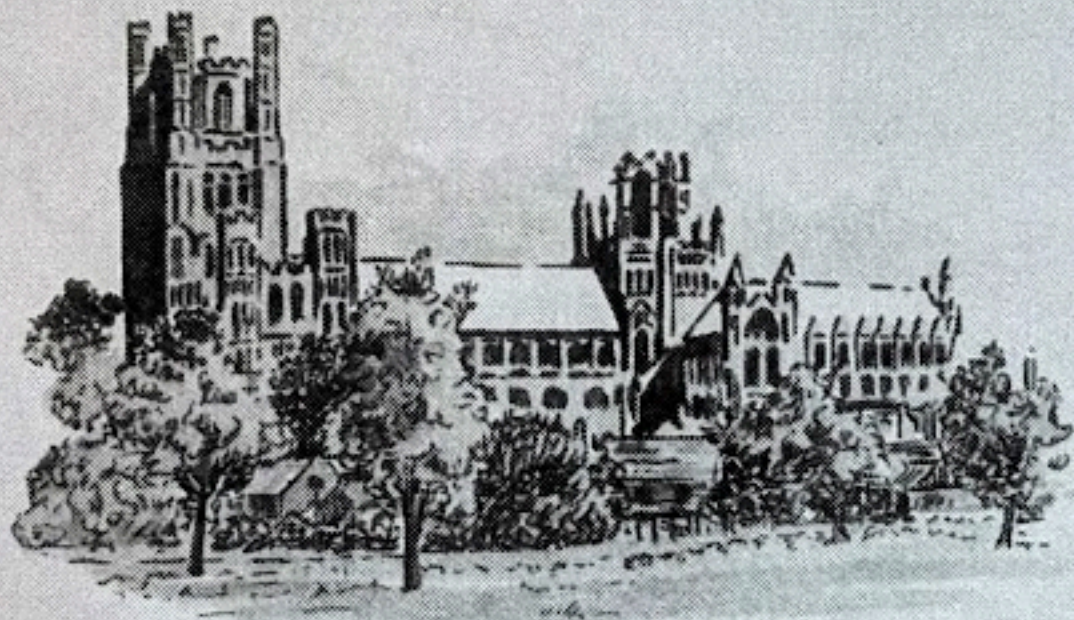
N.B.—In districts where the bye-laws extend to the age of fourteen this Certificate can only be granted if the bye-laws permit full time exemption on an attendance qualification.

THE ISLE OF ELY FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

PRESENT A



Souvenir Programme - 1/-



So, geographically speaking, the Isle of Ely must not be confused with the ISLAND of Ely (higher ground in the Fen Country), mentioned on maps as early as 1250 and on which settlements developed before the Fens were drained (and where Etheldreda founded her monastery in 673) nor with the DIOCESE of Ely (which covers hundreds of square miles in the counties of Cambs, Essex and Norfolk) ...no, the Isle is basically the northern part of the county of Cambridge. It has Wisbech at its northern tip and the Old West River at the south (which joins up with the Cam south of Ely). Clement Freud, a member of the Liberal Party, bought a house on the Bedford River at Mepal and was a very good constituency MP till the boundaries were changed to become North East Cambs and Conservative MP's were elected. It is amazing how quickly artefacts and references have disappeared; a photo of the Isle County

Councillors shows only two females – Jessie Tebbutt of Haddenham and Alderman Florence Barrett of Chatteris (seems that it is not only the House of Commons that lacks women!) The luxury county offices at March are now home to Fenland District Council. Books about the Isle are still available; Edward Storey, who lived in Whittlesey and Trevor Bevis of March continue to “fly the flag” for their own area of the Fens and the very last area of them to be drained was GRUNTY Fen, near Ely.

Places with Isle artefacts: all have websites showing details:

Bedford Hall, Thorney.

Museum of Cambridge.

Fenland Museum at Wisbech.

Ely, Chatteris, March and Whittlesey Museums.

Farmland Museum Denny Abbey.

Places to visit: Brochures from Tourist Information Centres at Ely/Wisbech ... and others.

Ely Cathedral, the jewel in the Isle.

National Trust site e.g. Peckover House on North Brink at Wisbech.

Octavia Hill birthplace on South Brink.

John Clare Centre at Helpston.

Mepal Outdoor Centre (water sports).

Swimming pools and sport Centres.

Stonea Camp (English Heritage)

RSPB site at Manea and others.

Many interesting churches e.g.

Leverington, Sutton-in-the-Isle.

Lock ups at Coveney and Parsons Drove and “pounds” for stray animals.

Ouse Washes interpretation centres

The Fen at Wicken (NT) and the Welney Wildfowl Centre are nearby but just

“outside” the Isle.



President: Martin Whitworth
Chairman: Derek Pickersgill

ISLE OF ELY ROWING CLUB

Home

About us

Latest News

Ouse Marathon

Fundraising

Members Area

Gallery

Welcome to The Isle of Ely Rowing Club!

Ely, United Kingdom

ISLE
VETERINARY
GROUP



Small Animal Surgery
Isle Small Animal Veterinary Group
West Fen Road, Ely, Cambs, CB6 2BZ
Tel: 01353 658333, Fax: 01353 653197

Large Animal Surgery
Isle Large Animal Veterinary Group
West Fen Road, Ely, Cambs, CB6 2BZ
Tel: 01353 658241, Fax: 01353 668776

Welcome to the Isle Veterinary Group

ISLE OF ELY
KOI



*Modern firms and clubs which still
make use of the name and thus
perpetuate the Isle of Ely.*

the **WI**
INSPIRING WOMEN

ISLE OF ELY

November News 2014

WI Office, March Community Centre, Station Road, MARCH PE15 8LE
Telephone: 01354 654284 Email: isleofelywioffice@btconnect.com
Office open: Tuesdays (not 2nd in the month) and Wednesdays 10am - 1.30pm

Isle of Ely Society for the Blind
(Est. 1923)



March Town Hall, Market Place,
March, Cambs PE15 9JF

ioesb@live.co.uk

☎: 01354 656726 With the compliments of the Secretary
Registered Charity No: 201355



Isle of Ely Arts Festival

June 2013

What of the Future?

The Isle of Ely has some of the best soil in the UK and is still able to grow magnificent crops, often two in a season, but like so many things in the Twenty-first century, CHANGE is the “in thing”....the pattern of farming is changing and the way of life is very different from that portrayed by Fen Poets William Harrison and John Clare. Who knows? With changes in climate will the Isle revert back to islands above the slubby landscape as it was before Vermuyden and the Adventurers set out to drain the fens? Let us hope that in the years to come the ISLE of ELY will live on in the life of its people albeit in a different style.



Both Ely (above) and Thorney (below) had religious settlements on their 'islands' as early as the mid-seventh century.





Museum Artefacts of pre-1965 vintage.



About this Scrap book, 2015

Grateful acknowledgement to Staff at Ely, Chatteris, Whittlesey, March and Wisbech museums for help and encouragement

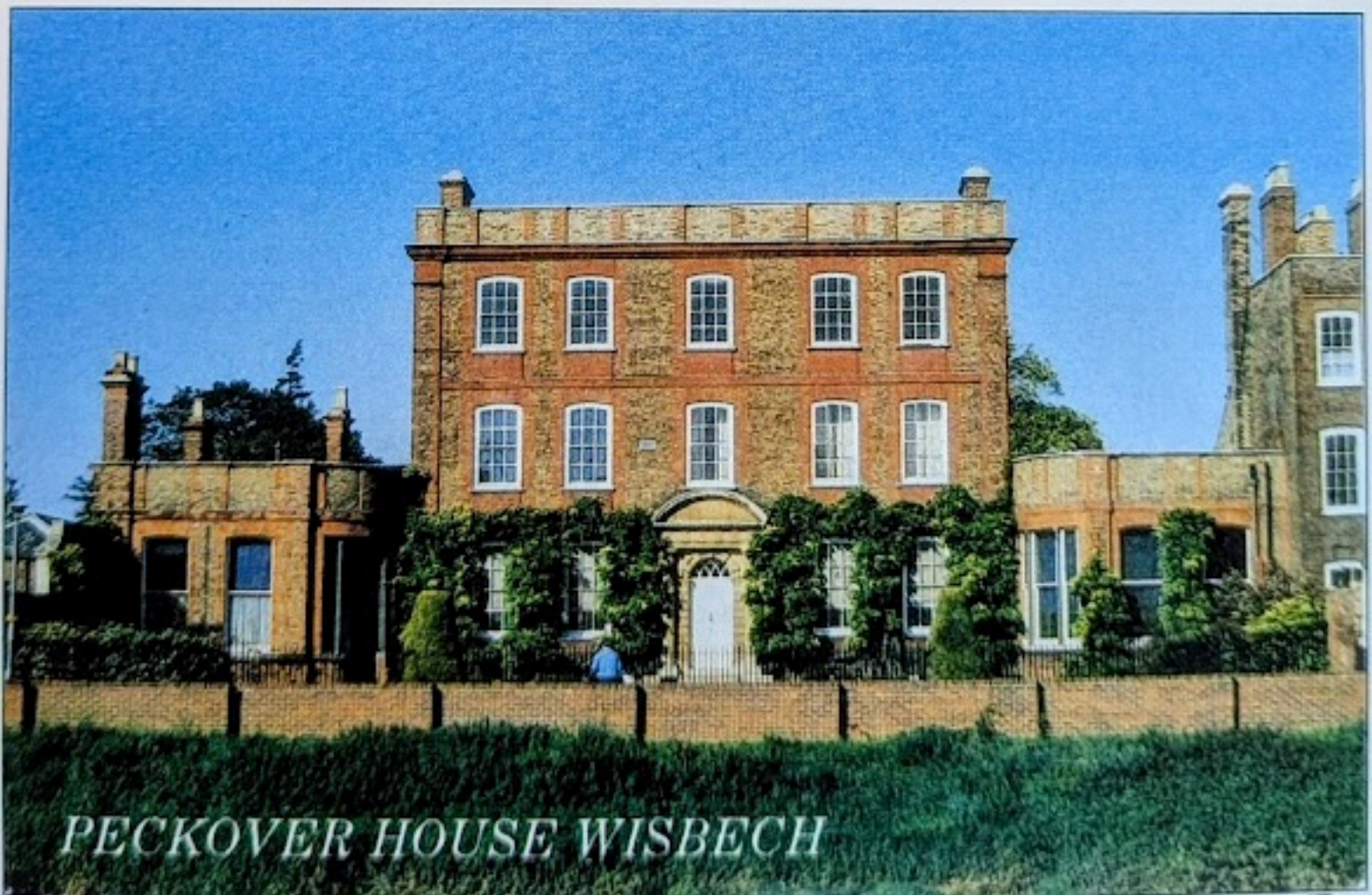
Richards of Chatteris for printing

Text and research – Lorna Delanoy

Art work and cover design - Michael Delanoy

Profits from sales will be given to East Anglian Children's Hospice

'Isle' mentions in Ely Cathedral –
Maj. Sir Harry Legge Burke – MP for Isle of Ely
Ethelreda Chapel dedicated to Burke &
Isle of Ely people who 'lost their lives' WW2



PECKOVER HOUSE WISBECH

Lt Col Ferris – Chief Constable of Isle of Ely 1841-1906
H. Tasley Huddington JP & Alderman of Isle of Ely
Memorial for those who lost lives in War in S. Africa
who came from Isle of Ely



SKETCH MAP OF ISLE OF ELY

£4.50

Printed by David J. Richards Ltd., Chatteris.