



The Elmswell Newsletter



More than thirty years of Parish Record... all the Community News...

DECEMBER 2022

On line at elmswell.suffolk.cloud

*Share in
Elmswell's pot of gold*

... see our editorial

*... and take a neighbourly
step into the New Year*

... see page 31



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EAA@elmswell.org.uk

Our editorial is designed to inform and to encourage debate. If you wish to comment, please do so via the office or by email at; eaa.elmswell.org.uk We reserve the right to edit any such contributions that we may use in a subsequent edition.

They've made us very cross.

Elmswell is angry.

Here's why.

'They' have, in recent years, piled on the development. We now have the largest population in Mid Suffolk, barring Stowmarket. Nevertheless, we still have to travel to the next village to see the doctor. Now they tell us that this arrangement will suit our children's schooling, too. Our five year olds will be queuing for the school bus to Woolpit or beyond.

Meanwhile, at School Road, fronting Pightle Close, on the last feasible site for a properly-sized and situated second Elmswell primary school, Mid Suffolk District Council's Cabinet has decided that, not only is this arrangement for Elmswell's children appropriate, but that they will make it worse by dumping yet another 50 houses in our midst.

To make a bitter pill even harder to swallow, they deigned to 'consult'. Not on whether we want another 50 houses. Not on whether our negotiations with the education authority and their own planning officers were making progress towards a better educational future for our kids. No. They were asking whether we liked the design of the houses that were, like it or not, coming our way. As if, in thinking about moving home, it is best to start with the colour of the new curtains.

Of course, our brighter reader will be pointing out that this is, 'double jeopardy'. In one move we lose our school site and yet gain the extra pupils moving into our 50 new homes. To join the early-morning queue for the school bus. Perhaps this is why there was, effectively, no notice given of the consultation session. We have checked...the room was booked at Wesley many weeks ago by a third party who could not say what it was for. We have checked further - the Parish Council was notified by an email arriving after 6.00pm on Wednesday for the session scheduled for the following Thursday. 7 days' notice. There were no posters. Clearly no time for an advertisement in the Newsletter. Nothing, our younger reader confirms, on Social Media.

In the spirit of a 'consultation', our Parish Council chairman suggested that more folk might like to be aware. Otherwise, without a little publicity, the scheme might be denied the full community scrutiny which, surely, lay at the heart of the consultation enterprise?

Word began to trickle out, which is when we got cross. Which is when the Press were contacted and petitions started. Which is why, on the day of the, 'engagement event', Wesley was full of confused and angry villagers being asked to comment on house-types and road layouts when the real question, 'why are you removing our last chance of education for our kids in their own village', left the consultants confused. No-one had told

them that this would be the first the village had heard of their lovely scheme. There was a sprinkling of officers present, equally bemused as to why we didn't want to assess the eco-credentials of yet another new housing estate. Of the Cabinet Members who had cooked up the idea in splendid isolation, there were none.

It was a little bloody – but it had an effect. The decision to press on with the scheme, already many thousands of pounds in the development, has been 'called-in' for scrutiny. It was accepted that the elite Councillors who had been promoting the scheme were not in possession of all of the relevant facts. They had not mentioned anything to their Planning officers who had, since January of this year, been meeting with the County Council Education Planners, Ward Members and the Parish Council to seek ways to avoid the unacceptable imposition of out-of-village education for Elmswell's children.

The Parish Council has asked to be allowed to address the Scrutiny Committee hearing which will review the matter. Parish Councillors will, as ever, remain in touch with their constituents. Watch this space.

Reason to be grateful, we suggest, for the voluntary efforts of Councillors and so many others, who have shaped our village in recent years. From those in the 1950's who hand-built the Memorial Hall and, less successfully, marched to save the village playing field where Oxer Close now stands. Who retained the library on the old hall site whilst kick-starting Blackbourne which has never stopped growing and adapting to accommodate our growing population. Who put together the Wesley land purchase bid and were responsible for the runaway success of the community hub which now touches so many lives. And who sought our permission to press on and purchase the Tavern site next door to take further an aspiration for genuine community-led local housing and the Elmswell Tavern as our community pub.

This latest scheme offers a new opportunity for all of us to play a part and to be involved. We have been asked to include with this edition a reminder of the chance to help shape the refurbishment of our pub into a customer-driven, family-friendly local serving our ever-expanding community with a bottom line which, as with Blackbourne and Wesley, seeks to show more than just financial profit. There is a community premium which the shareholders will, for ever, drive and shape to suit our village.

There can't have been a worse time in recent years to launch a share issue. We are where we are, and those driving this initiative clearly suggest that, despite the current circumstances, we can have some control over where our village is headed.

We have temporarily applied a brake to the damaging School Road threat to our children's education.

More positively, We can help encourage the proposal put forward by the aptly named, 'Elmswell Community Enterprise', and continue the drive for a better Elmswell buy taking a stake in the Elmswell Tavern refurbishment.



Every share purchased is a share in our future.



CLUBS & SOCIETIES

ELMSWELL ART CLUB

English portrait and landscape painter, Thomas Gainsborough, was born in Sudbury, Suffolk and he is considered one of the most important British artists of the second half of the 18th century. Although he was a prolific portrait painter, Gainsborough gained greater satisfaction from his landscapes including Cornard Wood, near Sudbury, Suffolk (1748); Landscape in Suffolk (1748) and Holywells Park, Ipswich (1750).

His childhood home is situated in the centre of Sudbury and has been undergoing significant redevelopment since 2019 and will be open to the public from the end of Autumn 2022.

The Gainsborough House website says that "...Reviving the artist's birthplace seeks to attract visitors not only from East Anglia and London, but across England and abroad. Nowhere else in the world will such a wide collection of Gainsborough's art and works by those he inspired, be seen in a single setting. It will provide spaces for exhibitions, displays and learning with four new galleries – a showcase Gainsborough gallery, a landscape studio with panoramic views over Sudbury, a community gallery and a temporary exhibition gallery/performance space."

Gainsborough's House is typical of the places we, as an Art Club, like to visit and we have recently appointed one of our members, Lilian Gama, as our Trips and Demonstrations Organiser. So, not only do our members get to meet up each week for a few hours of art, chat, coffee and biscuits but we also have three or four events to attend each year and I am sure that Gainsborough's House will be given serious consideration for a trip this coming year.



Façade of Gainsborough's House

Food Bank support; our members are actively contributing items for the Food Bank that is available from the Elmswell Tavern on Monday and Friday mornings. Many thanks to all for your generous contributions for such a worthy cause.



Finally, this month's paintings are watercolours by one of our most respected members, Henry Gow who, sadly, passed away in November. Henry was an excellent artist who was always ready to offer advice and to share his knowledge and experience with other members. Everybody at Elmswell Art Club held Henry in the highest regard and we all send our sincere condolences to his family.

ELMSWELL ART CLUB MEETS EVERY TUESDAY FROM 09:00 TO 12:00 AT THE WESLEY AND NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL ELMSWELL NEWSLETTER READERS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Eddie Douglas



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ELMSWELL EXCHANGE AFTERNOON WI

Things that go bump in the night and all things "mystical" !!! That was the topic for our meeting on the 2nd November. Graham Higgins joined us to tell us all about Denham, one of the most haunted villages in the country. We also heard about a few other ghostly apparitions in other Suffolk places, particularly Bury St. Edmunds. Julie, Graham's wife, joined us which was a treat as she is our West Suffolk Federation Chairman. The most poignant story was of a young 16 year old lass from Denham who, in 1640 at the height of the "Witchfinder" era, was deemed so beautiful that she must surely be bewitched. She turned the heads of the village men which upset their wives and girlfriends. She obviously needed to undertake a test for witchery. She was tied in chains and thrown down a well close to the church. Of course, she died. This proved that she was innocent !! Those were the days !

She was buried at the cross roads and

found long years later by workmen digging the road, still in her chains. She was then given a Christian burial in a neighbouring church yard. She is said to haunt Denham churchyard at night.

Picture on right. Graham discovered that the old well is at the bottom of his garden. She is only one of the local ghostly presences in the village. A very interesting and entertaining afternoon.

Our competition was a handmade mask. First was Lesley Clarke, second Maureen Davis and joint third Maureen Lazarus and Jayne Knights.

On Wednesday 16th November we are off to Scotsdale's in Cambridge for the day. An opportunity to do some serious Christmas Shopping.

Next month it is our Christmas Celebration. That means cakes with our tea and a chance to hear some lovely seasonal music from The Haughley Choir. We will also be presenting the prizes to the winners of our monthly competitions.



Who has accumulated the most points, I wonder ?? We will then all join together to finish with some christmas carols.

If you have any queries or are interested in our W.I. please contact Mary on 245022 or Maureen on 231033.

Maureen Davis

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Wesley
ELMSWELL

JOIN US FOR A
TUESDAY AFTERNOON TREAT
Tuesday 13th December 1.30pm - 3.30pm

£12 PER PERSON,
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Booking is required, please call into the Wesley or call 01359 244134.

December at ELMSWELL Tavern

- FRIDAY 2ND - FFOTM FELLAS - 'CHRISTMAS JUMPER' FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH - A night out with mates
- WEDNESDAY 7TH - CHRISTMAS BINGO @ 7PM
£8 for 3 games - prizes to be won
- SATURDAY 10TH - KILL ME KATE - BAND @ 7PM
- SUNDAY 11TH - FAMILY CHRISTMAS MOVIE @ 3.30PM
- SUNDAY 11TH - GARY'S POP QUIZ @ 7PM
100% of ticket sales go to local charities
- WEDNESDAY 14TH - FOLK CLUB @ 7PM
- FRIDAY 16TH - 80'S/90'S DISCO @ 7.30PM
- SATURDAY 17TH - WESLEY UKES @ 7PM
- SUNDAY 18TH - WORLD CUP FINAL @ 3PM
- WEDNESDAY 21ST - VILLAGE CAROLS IN THE TAVERN
- THURSDAY 22ND - CHRISTMAS KARAOKE @ 7PM
- SATURDAY 24TH - CHRISTMAS EVE PARTY NIGHT
- CHRISTMAS DAY - OPEN NOON - 3PM
- BOXING DAY - OPEN 1-5PM
- TUESDAY 27TH - CLOSED
- WEDNESDAY 28TH - CLOSED
- THURSDAY 29TH - CLOSED
- FRIDAY 30TH - OPEN 5-11PM - LFOTM LADIES LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH - A night out with girl friends
- NEW YEAR'S EVE - OPEN 4 - 8PM

WORLD CUP
The Tavern will be showing all of the World Cup games during normal opening hours unless we have another event scheduled

be entertained

The QUIZ is a ticketed event
£5 per person
tickets available from behind the bar

FUELLED BY Beer AND Christmas CHEER

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Follow us on Facebook & Instagram for more updates and reminders of all of our events



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ELMSWELL GARDEN CLUB

Our final meeting of the year was on Tuesday 22nd November at the Wesley. It was our AGM, which Catherine, our dedicated chairlady, kept fairly brief. The members are very grateful to her for all the work she puts in; planning speakers and outings, leading committee meetings and so much more throughout the year. She has done a sterling job. Fortunately, Catherine is willing to continue for another year. Many thanks!

After the AGM we enjoyed a wonderful evening hearing all about the work of a couple who described themselves as Accidental Winemakers.

Michael and Irene Rhodes had been living in Attleborough and as they neared retirement started to make wine as a hobby. Their 'hobby' grew and after a few years, despite several less than successful outcomes, they began to learn the tricks of the trade and made so much progress that they started to win prizes for their wine.

Eventually the couple decided they needed more land and moved to Thurston where they now have a much bigger vineyard producing red, white and rose wine. We had great pleasure in tasting the wines and hearing about their production. It was a most enjoyable evening and was a delightful way to end the year.

Just to remind you that the station flowers are planted and maintained by members of the Garden Club, led by Nick Chamberlin who is also our treasurer. I'm sure anyone using or passing by the station will have been cheered by the glorious display during the summer. It was a real challenge due to the drought and required more attention than ever, but thanks especially to Nick's efforts the display continued to look superb. The winter display is now in place. It will be interesting to see how it fairs as a very cold winter has been predicted....we'll see.

This seems a good place to also mention the work of Derek Rust who has been instrumental in arranging, with the Parish Council, for a Christmas tree to be placed beside the village sign opposite the station. Many villages have a tree to celebrate the festive season and Derek felt it was time Elmswell had one too. He's done all the 'spade work' and coordinated with the necessary people to have his dream realised. There have been numerous obstacles along the way, including the 'lockdown' but with a little bit of luck our first Elmswell Christmas Tree should be in place this year.

The Garden Club has several other committee members, each making a valuable contribution, in different ways, to the smooth running of the group. The

members are grateful to them all, but the committee is keen to encourage 'new blood'. It is hoped that others will be tempted to offer their suggestions and services to the committee. Without this group of people there can't be a club! If you're a member or prospective member, please think about becoming a committee member too. It's not an onerous task, and we try to keep meetings brief and not too frequent, but it is made easier when more people are contributing.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 21st February at 7.30 pm at the Wesley Hall - we don't meet in December or January. We're keen to welcome new members and hope that the club will continue to grow.



If you'd like to know more about the club please email elmswellgardenclub@gmail.com or phone 01359 242172 to speak to Catherine



ELMSWELL WI

After we had sung Jerusalem, Brenda welcomed Edwina Hughes, who spoke to us about dyeing and printing with plants. She had displayed an interesting array of plants as well as dyed and printed fabrics and information.

Whilst studying for a master's degree in Norwich, she became increasingly aware of the negative impact of chemical dyes and their effect on the climate. eg. Residue from dye factories is poured into rivers, polluting the water and killing wildlife. Many famous labels use these factories. Some members of the fashion industry have become more aware of these problems. eg Vivien Westwood, and there is now more emphasis on sustainability.

A girls woollen outfit, which dates from the Bronze Age, was found in 2015, and chemical analysis showed that it had been dyed using bark, nettles and other plants. Natural fabrics should always be used and should be thoroughly washed, before dyeing with plants. The colours obtained vary according to the fabric; the acidity/alkalinity of the water used; the time taken; the container, eg aluminium, iron, or copper, and whether heat is used. Plants are treated in various ways, when prepared for dyeing. Woad, Weld and Indigo have been used for thousands of years. Sometimes the whole plant is used or just the roots or leaves. Edwina brought some plants for us to use in different ways. Some people wrapped torn leaves up in damp fabric, others also

used a copper pipe or tried some printing, using leaves.

Very interesting results were achieved after about an hour. Edwina showed us different fabrics and the various effects created. They were beautiful. These fabrics may be used to make clothes, patchwork quilts, bags, or for covering books etc.

We all had a fascinating evening and it was fun to try out some of the dyeing and printing methods ourselves.

We are now looking forward to our Christmas social evening! How quickly this year is passing.....

Rosie Collins
01359 241652

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

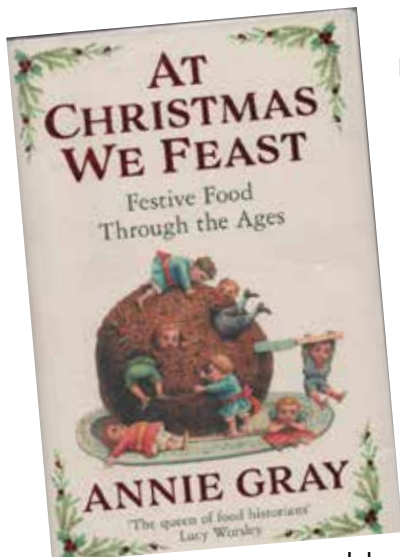
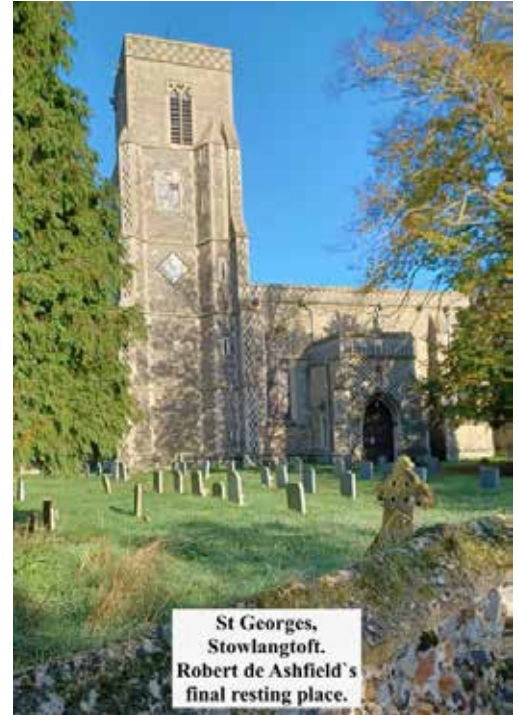


ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

Our November speaker, Dr Nick Amor, took us back to medieval times with his talk on how “Law & Order” was applied to keep the peace in Suffolk. The 14th Century was a period of turmoil and strife in Suffolk, as it was in much of England. Antipathy towards the abbey caused serious riots to break out in Bury St Edmunds in 1327. Furthermore, famines blighted the opening decades of the century and, in 1349, The Great Plague struck, from which roughly half the population of this county had died within a few years. A general uneasiness of the population followed and also a weakening of the prevailing feudal structures, particularly serfdom. Consequently, in 1381, clumsily introduced taxes ignited the general uprising across East Anglia and some southern counties – subsequently known as The Peasants’ Revolt. It was particularly bloody in Suffolk where John Cambridge, the Prior of the powerful abbey in Bury St Edmunds, was summarily executed by a mob as he fled across The Breckland towards the safety of Mildenhall. Today the heavily fortified abbey gateway on Angel Hill remains as a memorial to a troubled century.

Dr Amor was able to present us with a great deal of evidence about crime and punishment in 14th Century Suffolk. As a visiting senior fellow of The University of Suffolk and honorary research fellow of The University of East Anglia, he was well placed to do so and he had a great deal of real historical evidence to hand. However, he described a much more nuanced view of medieval law and order than can normally be gained from casual reading. His main thesis was that the fear of crime was much greater than the reality. For example, he asserted that, taking into account the very poor medical treatments available to victims in the Middle Ages, homicide rates compared very favourably with those of today. He also pointed out that most people could generally go about their business without too much fear of theft. Furthermore, law and order in Suffolk, as in much of England, was held in place by a developing network of appointed individuals, usually members of the aristocracy or gentry. They were known variously as ‘Justices of The Peace’, ‘Jurors’, ‘Justices of Gaol Delivery’ and, more curiously, ‘Commissioners of Oyer and Terminer’ (the latter being someone appointed to **look** at evidence connected with a felony and **determine** what should be done). The courts were generally kind to some of those caught in the act as they seemed to take the view that the miscreant was trying to provide for their family.

A member of the local gentry, Robert de Ashfield, held at least eight judicial appointments over an 18-year period from 1373 to 1391. He must have been a hard-working and reliable man, although he was probably not paid for his services to The Crown. He is still remembered today in Stowlangtoft, where he is buried beneath the chancel of the rebuilt church he paid for.



Book Review “At Christmas We Feast - Festive Food Through the Ages” by East Anglian author, Annie Gray - historian, cook, broadcaster and writer specialising in the history of food and dining in Britain from around 1600 to the present day. She has presented TV history documentaries including *Victorian Bakers* and *The Sweet Makers*, and appears on BBC Radio 4's *The Kitchen Cabinet*.

For many people, Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a turkey and trimmings, pudding and brandy butter. However, where do our traditions come from and, when modern writers ‘reinvent’ the Christmas meal, are they really doing anything so very different? Annie Gray presents a delectable (and often humorous) trip through time, from the earliest mentions of gluttonous meals at Christmas to the trappings and traditions of the present day. Tracing the birth of the 12-day celebration under King

Edward 1 to the restoration of holiday splendour under Queen Victoria, this book is organised by festive dish, and features classic recipes alongside vibrant cultural and historical context. From the familiarity of plum pudding and mince pies to the extravagance of boar's head and brawn, the book is stuffed full of recipes, doused with history and tradition and sprinkled with the joy of the feasts of Christmas past. Publisher Profile Books, £12.99, or borrow it from our local friendly library.





On 8th December, 7.30pm at Wesley Hall, IP30 9EE, we welcome back Sarah Doig and her musical friends for their *"In the Fields of Frost & Snow"* live music presentation of mirth and merriment, played on numerous traditional instruments. Their performance will also feature historical readings, detailing how the Festive Season was celebrated in the 16th and 17th centuries. Tickets are £6 (members) or £8 (visitors), available from 01359-242601, and the evening will include a splendid festive buffet supper with mulled wine.

And Finally May we take this opportunity of wishing all our readers the compliments of the Festive Season, with good health and happiness.



Elmswell History Group

For further information about our History Group, please visit our website –

www.elmswell-history.org.uk
or contact our Secretary, on 01359-242601

OVER 55'S

Our featured photo is of Countryholic when an evening of Country music took place at our meeting on Thursday October 27th {it was too later to feature in the November newsletter}

Our final events for 2022 are on Thursday December 8th when will be having an evening of cash bingo this will be followed by our Xmas Party on Saturday December 17th we will be starting at 5 00pm sitting down at 5 30pm with catering by Home Catering followed by entertainment by Brian Mann.

Menus for the Xmas Meal will be available from Thursday November 24th so if you didn't attend this meeting please contact me before the meeting on December 8th as we have to confirm numbers with the caterer by Monday December 12th.

For those members and friends who have booked and paid for the trip to Thursford on Wednesday December 21st

it is expected that the coach will pick up from 10 00am from our usual points with an expected arrival at 12 15am in time to get something to eat visit the shops and take your seats for the show with starts at 2 00pm.

Finally I would like to thank all my committee for supporting me throughout 2022 and especially a big thank you to Mary our young helper who has been a great asset to us all

I also have to say a big thank you to all the members for their support by coming to the meetings on a regular basis throughout the year and wish you all a Happy Xmas and the best of health in 2023.

Details of our 2023 meeting dates will be published in the new year.

Diann {241002}




CHARITY CONCERT

One never knows when tragedy will strike a family. Emily was a happy, healthy eight-year-old, a bridesmaid at her uncle's wedding. Three weeks later she died of a very aggressive brain tumour leaving her whole family shattered and bereft.

Addenbrooke's hospital in Cambridge works tirelessly to treat child cancer patients and offer help and support in such a situation as with the family of Bethany from Elmswell .

Emily's grandfather sings with the Edmund Octet so it was an easy choice of charity for us to support at our Christmas concert in the Wesley Centre on Saturday December 10. We will be singing to raise money for the Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust. Tickets cost £10.00 and are available from the Wesley Centre or phone 01359 240489 to reserve your ticket. The concert starts at 6.30





Olivia's Beauty Room

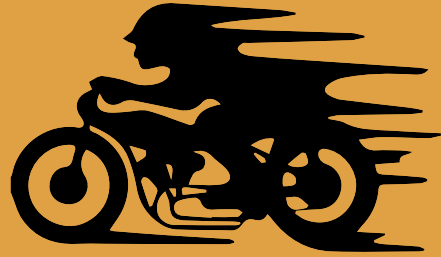
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ELMSWELL LIBRARY

Hello Elmswell,

Merry Christmas, Yule Blessings and have an enjoyable advent. You can get in the spirit with our shelves of Christmas books including the monthly display shelf.

If you still need to get you Christmas cards we have a selection available. There are a selection of charities supported through the sales including us, Suffolk Libraries, and then depending on the pack you choose includes Marie Curie, National Trust or Rainbow Trust.

Joff Ducks artwork will be up for the first part of the month. The exhibition includes prints of wildlife as well as oil paintings of landscapes and there are a couple of stocking fillers with fridge magnets and packs of postcards. 50% of any sales of anything by Joff Duck sold in the library goes to Suffolk Libraries.

From mid December the exhibition will be by artwork by Catalina Carvajal. You might have seen her colourful murals in the Stowmarket Library garden or while walking up Stowmarket high street. Catalina Carvajal is a Colombian artist based in Suffolk who draws inspiration from the places she has lived, the books she has read, people

watching and everything around her. She works in digital and mixed media and enjoys drawing objects, plants, landscapes, animals and anthropomorphic figures.

To help with the festive mood we are also going to have free mince pies / satsumas to enjoy while you sit and read the newspaper, take part in the crafts or have a natter. We do this each year in December but this year it works well with the warm spaces scheme.

We also have free packs of menstrual products available from Elmswell Library for those who struggle to afford them. If you need a pack you can pop into the toilet and pick up a pack. No questions asked. Our toilet is a unisex toilet so the packs are accessible to men and non-binary people who may need the packs for either themselves or for family and friends who need them but are unable to get to the library. Our Pride & Periods scheme is supported by our partner organisations East of England Co-op, Bloody Good Period and Suffolk Community Foundation. We can also accept personal donations of in date unopened packs if you would like to help.

See you in the library soon,

Miles

What's on at Elmswell Library?

Story Time

1.10pm – 1.30pm every Tuesday

The Keep in Touch Community Café

10.30am on Wednesday 21st December at the Wesley Café (every 3rd Wednesday)

Knit and Natter

2pm – 3pm Tuesday 13th December (every 2nd Tuesday of the month)

Adult Reading Practice

Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please book in advance.

Sunday Crafts

1pm – 2pm every Sunday

Lego Club

Every Sunday 11am – 12noon

Opening times

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 7pm

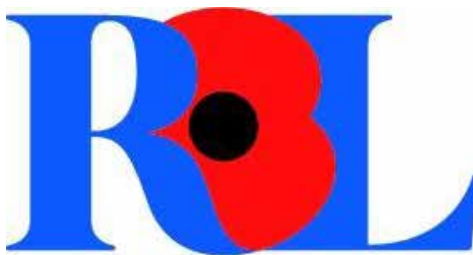
Wednesday: 2pm – 5pm

Thursday: 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 7pm

Friday: 2pm – 5pm

Saturday: 10am – 1pm

Sunday: 10am – 3pm



POPPY APPEAL

THANK YOU

I am delighted to report that the Elmswell village total raised for the Annual Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2022 was a staggering **£9201-07**.

In appreciating the current economic climate, your generosity has been outstanding.

This amazing amount has been passed to the Poppy Appeal and, will certainly help the charity to carry on providing vital assistance and welfare to our serving

and ex serving military personnel and their dependants, whose needs and requirements are as vital today as they were back in 1921 when the British Legion was formed.

There are so many people I would like to thank whose efforts and assistance greatly contributed to achieving this amazing amount.

- To the volunteers, some old troupers and some new recruits.
- To Ryan at the Co-op store who generously allowed us to have a table top in the foyer and, to all of his staff, who were very helpful and looked after the volunteers so well.
- To Elmswell Primary school, who happily promoted our cause.
- To the numerous businesses and organisations who helped with static boxes.

- To Elmswell Amenities Association and Parish Council, who offered us their support

The assistance of everybody concerned and the generosity of everybody who donated is greatly appreciated and I thank you all so much.

THANK YOU

Norman Plumpton (BIFF)

*Elmswell Poppy Appeal Organiser
(EJD 24)*

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.



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ELMSWELL'S FREE GIVE HOPE CHRISTMAS EVENT

WHAT

Christmas gifts for all; decorations; refreshments;
Christmas carols; children's entertainment

WHEN

Saturday December 10th, 10.00am – 3.00pm

WHERE

The Blackbourne

WHY

Christmas is a wonderful time of year but not if you can't afford it.
This year is tough for many so this is to help those who
may be struggling with the cost of living.

COST

Everything has ben donated and is **FREE** to anyone attending.
If you can afford to make a small donation this would be appreciated
and will help to restock the Elmswell food bank



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WESLEY UKULELE BAND

We had a great night at the Tavern on Saturday, 8th and noticed a slight jump in our 'regular' fans, which was very gratifying. Kevin couldn't resist putting a Uke in returnee fan John's hands and enticing him to do a number with us, which he did most competently. A young family who happened to call in also joined in and their two young daughters overcame their initial shyness and had a grand time! Our gig on the 19th, in aid of the Bethany Fund, involved the somewhat extended Edmund Octet, well over a dozen, who were incredibly good and did alternate sessions with us. They really connected with the audience, who readily joined in the sing-along section of their act. They

ended one session with with an Elvis song and we started our following stint with 'Hound Dog' featuring our own 'Elvis' and they were so taken with our Keith that they insisted that he joined them so they did 'Can't help falling in Love with You' three or four times due to public demand.

They have a charity gig at the Wesley in aid of Addenbrooks and I highly recommend it to you. It wouldn't surprise me if our Elvis didn't get a guest booking for it, too.

We have a busy December with our regular Tavern gig on Saturday 10th as well as our regular Thursday mornings at the Wesley. We are playing for the Baptists on the 5th and the following day

we have a lunchtime gig at the Rookery and a week after our Tavern gig we are back there for a party night on the 17th. We have a couple more potential performances but they haven't been finalised just yet. The band would like to wish both of our fans and anyone who may have heard us by mistake, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Sadly, this one might not be all it should but, if the material side of it is toned down, it might allow the spiritual side to dominate.

Some of the Ukes featuring newcomers Rosie, Irene and Mary and some of the choir with 'our Elvis'. Can you spot him in the Ukes' photo?



For information please call Kevin on 01359 240604 Or email: Kevin.Knock99@gmail.com

FOOTPATH WALK SUNDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2022

On a rather dull Remembrance Sunday morning 10 walkers met as usual at the village sign and at 11.00am and paid their respects with silence and reflection.

The group set off north then east through the industrial estate to join up with Hall Lane on the old Bacon Factory housing estate then on to FP11 on the far side of the estate.

At the junction of FP11 and FP1 we turned left then right and followed FP1 north then north east past the junctions with FP2 and FP3 in the direction of Harding's Farm.

Crossing into the neighbouring parish of Norton the party continued north east along FP32, turning left onto FP31 then right on the same FP with Harding's Farm on the right.

The morning brightened into a balmy November day as the walk progressed and we turned left on to FP20 onwards

towards Norton Hall turning left at the Hall on to FP7

For information purposes FP7 coming up from the Ashfield Road in Norton to Elmswell has fairly recently been diverted to the rear of the farm buildings at Norton Hall from the original route through the yard to preclude ramblers having to negotiate the risk of any potential farm yard activities.

FP7 continued south east past the barn on the right in which you might observe an owl's nest if you stick your head over the gate for a look. There is, however, no public access to the building.

The footpath zigzags across open fields with a fine view of Elmswell from the footbridge.

FP7 finally returns to the sanctuary of the parish of Elmswell at FP13 which circumnavigates the Hall and then runs parallel to the railway and on to

civilisation at Hawk End Lane.

A left and left and we are back at our starting point at Crown Mill play area.

A big sky walk of approximately 4.2 miles in 1 hour 46 minutes (an average speed of 2.4 miles per hour).

Peter Hancock, EPC Footpath Officer





ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Hello from St John's Church

November was a busy month with various services of remembrance. We were also delighted to welcome Bishop Mike to lead a moving Confirmation Service (see picture) – many congratulations to those who were confirmed.

We are very pleased to announce that we have finally had a defibrillator installed in the church porch. This is available in case of an emergency at this end of the village. St Johns would like to thank the fire service, councillor Andy Mellen and councillor Sarah Mansell for helping to fund this piece of life-saving equipment.



We are now heading towards Christmas, which is always an exciting and joyful, if hectic, time of year. We kick off December with an all age Christingle service on Sunday 4 December at 10:30am. All are welcome to this service to learn about the light of the world, that is Jesus, and to make Christingles from oranges, cocktail sticks, ribbon, sweets and, of course, a candle. Our atmospheric Carols By Candlelight service is on the following Sunday, 11 December at 6:30pm. We will be singing carols at The Elmswell Tavern at 7:00pm on Wednesday 21 December and that brings us to Christmas weekend. Our popular family nativity takes place at 3:30pm on 24 December and, later that evening, we celebrate "Midnight in Bethlehem" at 8:30pm, which is another

beautiful candlelit service. Our Christmas Day celebration is at the earlier time of 10:00am.

Christmas is a wonderful time for families, but can also be lonely and sad for many people. We hold you all in our prayers. Whatever emotions Christmas brings, you are very welcome to join us at St John's to encounter the awesome God of the universe who, in his Son Jesus, became one of us as he was born in Bethlehem all those years ago. Come and find hope and meaning in him this Christmas.

St John's is a welcoming community of all ages. Do come along to join us on a Sunday at 10:30am. We would love to get to know you over a cup of tea or coffee after the service.

Upcoming Dates:

Sun 4 Dec 9:00am

Holy Communion (spoken service)

Sun 4 Dec 10:30pm

Christingle Service for all ages

Sun 11 Dec 10:30am

Sunday Worship with Holy Communion

Sun 11 Dec 6:30pm

Carols By Candlelight

Sun 18 Dec 10:30am

Sunday Worship with carols

Wed 21 Dec 7:00pm

Carol Singing at Elmswell Tavern

Sat 24 Dec 3:30pm

Family Nativity

Sat 24 Dec 8:30pm

"Midnight in Bethlehem" service

Sun 25 Dec 10:00am

Christmas Day Celebration

Sun 1 Jan 10:30am

Short service with Holy Communion

Every Saturday:

9:00am Weekly prayer meeting online (see website for details)

We live stream most of the 10:30am

services on our Facebook page (also available on our main web site later that day).

Rector: Peter Goodridge

Email: elmswellrector@gmail.com

Tel: 01359 240512

Web site: www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjohnselmswell

YouTube: accessed via our website home page



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH TOWER FLOODLIGHTING

Everyone is welcome to sponsor the floodlighting of St. John's, a lovely way to commemorate a personal event, an anniversary, or any other special occasion. Alternatively, you can simply make a donation.

And it all helps to pay the day-to-day running expenses of our parish church.

For the winter months the lights will be on between 5.30 p.m. and midnight.

A night's floodlighting costs £5. Cheques payable please to "ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, ELMSWELL".

All bookings and payments to :- Trevor Sadler, Abbots Warren, Church Road, Elmswell (Tel: 240908)

Your support is much appreciated.

THANKYOU to everyone who has supported the floodlighting this year, and Happy Christmas to all.

NOVEMBER 2022 SPONSORSHIPS NOT PREVIOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED

14 anon.

20 in memory of Hector Francis, from Ruth & Family.

28 anon.

DECEMBER 2022

10 in memory of Ray Borrett.

16 Ken Catchpole. "In the Lord's keeping for twenty eight years, in our thoughts and hearts for ever". Love Joan, Stephanie, Ivan, William and Glyn. xxxxx.



- 23 Revd. Noel Clarke - remembered with love on his Birthday.
- 24 in memory of Evelyn and Roy Clark.
- 25 precious memories of David Handyside - dearly loved and missed so much. "Forever in our hearts. God Bless".
- 25 precious memories of my dear husband, David Brand. "The first Christmas without you and missing you so much". Love, Jan.
- 25 in memory of Mark & Andrew Jones, and their Dad, Derek. "Always in my thoughts". Mum.
- 25 Christmas. Ken Catchpole. Dear Husband, Dadda, and Grandad. Also, dear In-Laws and Grandparents, Charles and Ivy Catchpole. "The special Christmases will not return, when we were all together, but with all the love in our hearts will always stay for ever". Love Joan, Stephanie, Ivan, William and Glyn. xxxxx.
- 25 treasured memories of Evelyn Simpson - much loved and missed by all the family. "God Bless".
- 25 cherished memories of Hugh & Dora Handyside. "Remembered with love. God Bless". xx.
- 25 in loving memory of Tony & Mary. "Remembered with love". Margaret. xx.
- 26 cherished memories of Hugh & Dora Handyside. "Remembered with love. God Bless". xx.
- 26 in loving memory of Tony & Mary. "Remembered with love". Margaret. xx.
- 28 to remember and thank all those past Elmswell Fire-Fighters who served their village and community so well.
- 31 in loving memory of Duncan Wardrop on his 60th Birthday. "Sadly missed along life's way, quietly remembered every day" Love always. Alex, Doug & Teddy. xxx.

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY, STOWMARKET

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ourladystowmarket.org.uk

MASS TIMES:

Saturday (First Mass of Sunday) – 6PM
St Mary's C of E Church, Woolpit IP30 9QG
Sundays – 8.30am & 10.15am
Our Lady's, Stricklands Road, Stowmarket
IP14 1AW

Holy Days – 10am & 7.30pm
Our Lady's Strickland Road Stowmarket
Weekday services in the Parish are
advertised at the
front of Our Lady's Church, in the weekly
Newsletter and on the Parish Website –
www.ourladystowmarket.org.uk



ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

As Christmas approaches we are in the period of Advent, a time of looking forward to the coming of a Saviour. In this time of great uncertainty this is a message that everyone needs. When Jesus first came he was born in very humble circumstances and the first people to be told were shepherds, a despised group in 1st century Palestine. During Jesus' life, as now, many people did not recognise him for who he was. Our task as Christians is to ensure that no one remains in ignorance of the fact that Jesus was God come down in human form to rescue all mankind from their sins (not a politically correct term nowadays I know) so that when Jesus returns to earth as King we are all ready to welcome him having accepted him as our Lord and Saviour. We would be delighted if you were to come and join us for any of our services during December and learn more about this.

As for our other activities, the **Ladies Friendship Group** have their annual **Nosh 'n' Natter at 7pm on December 5th** (note this is in the evening as opposed to the afternoon like their other meetings). Men are invited as well, after a bring and share supper entertainment will be provided by The Wesley Ukes. All are welcome, telephone Margaret on 241541 for more details.

The **Food 'n' Friends Christmas Special** will take place on **Thursday December 8th at Midday**. Phone Jackie on 245918 to book your place for Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings. Open to all senior citizens.

There are at least 3 opportunities to sing some of your favourite carols, the first being at our **morning service on December 18th at 10.30am** when we have Carols in the Daylight, especially for those who don't like coming out in the dark.

Carols at The Tavern will take place on **Wednesday December 21st at 7pm**. This is organised by Christians Together in Elmswell and music will be provided by the Norton Salvation Army Band. This will be outside The Tavern unless it's raining. Then lastly we have our **Carols by Candlelight on Saturday December 24th at 5pm**, a chance to get your Christmas celebrations off to a great start in a unique atmosphere. All are welcome to all these events.



We are grateful to those who come and lead our worship each week. Our preachers for the next few weeks are:-

December

4th

Rev. Norman Tharby - inc Communion
11th

Mark Partridge – All-Age Christmas
Special Café Service

18th

The Congregation – Carols in the Daylight
24th

Rev. Norman Tharby – Carols by
Candlelight

25th

No service

2023

January 1st

Rev. Norman Tharby – inc Communion

Visit our website at www.elmswellbaptist.org.uk

It is our prayer that you come to know Jesus Christ as your Saviour and friend during the festive season and consequently have a REAL Happy Christmas!!

Christmas Blessings, Tony

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Branching out with Spoons

Autumn and winter are a busy time in the woodland! This year we decided to start using some of the forest materials we now have in abundance at Lukeswood, so we started off with a spoon carving course. This quickly grew from one morning session to three as so many people expressed an interest in taking part! We were fortunate enough to secure the help of Fay Jones, aka The Woodland Haberdasher, who is an expert in making all kinds of stuff using natural materials. Visitors to Apple Day will remember her fantastic stall, with spoons, spatulas, jewellery, buttons, naturally dyed yarns, and much more. Fay brought along some samples of the types of wood she uses for her carving – an amazing variety including some unexpected items such as ivy, rosewood and gorse. For our spoons we used some of the Lukeswood birch as it grows in abundance there and is also a good wood for novices to work with for their first spoon. Our photos show all the course participants with Fay – everyone ended up with a spoon! We're planning to run more courses with Fay next year – we're hoping to have a course making natural dyes, called 'Colours of Lukeswood' – so watch this space for news. A huge thank you to Fay for coming to Lukeswood three times when we'd only planned for one, and to all our game participants. We had a great time and learned a new skill as well.



Bring the woodland into your home this Christmas

It's very satisfying that Lukeswood has reached the stage where we can think about making and using a variety of natural home-grown products from our woodland. This year we're running ElmsWild Crafty Christmas, featuring gifts and decorations using some of these materials. We're also using some recycled and upcycled items, refashioned in various ingenious ways. Come and have a look – we'll be at Wesley Coffee Shop on Saturday December 3rd, from 10.00 to 12.30. There will be some ready-made crafted decorations and presents to buy, or you can join in our craft workshop and make your own for free! There's something for all ages and interests, and entry is free. Delicious refreshments will be on hand as ever from our wonderful Coffee Shop – just what you need to get into the Christmassy mood! Please bear in mind that we're not geared up for payments by card, so gather up some cash and come along. Everyone welcome!



Willow harvest

Early next year, once the Christmas decorations have been safely wrapped up and put away, it's time to think about harvesting the willow at Lukeswood. More useful material from our woodland! Last year we were very pleased that lots of people came along to help cut the willow and then took away bundles for various projects in their own gardens. You can create all sorts of amazing structures, from a living fence to a pergola, den or tunnel! Have a look at Janet's 'fedge', complete with porthole. We'll be collecting this year's harvest on Saturday 14th January, 9.30-12.30. Once again, we're offering free willow to everyone who comes along to help. Do come and join us – it's a great way to start the new year!

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas from all at ElmsWild!



Mary Feeney
info@elmswild.org.uk



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CITIZENS ADVICE

Last year I fell for a scam when I was doing my Christmas shopping. The scam was clever. I thought I was getting a good deal but didn't realise I was being scammed until it was too late. How can I avoid the same thing happening again this year?

Scammers' tactics become more sophisticated every year, making scams tricky to recognise, but there are things you can look out for.

If it seems too good to be true, it probably is. For example, tickets to an event that are much cheaper than they're being sold elsewhere, or a holiday that's a lot less than you'd expect to pay.

Be wary of people contacting you out of the blue on social media sites or via text and email offering an item for sale or deal on something.

Do your research. If you're buying from a website you haven't used before, spend a few minutes researching it. A good place to start is finding a website's terms and conditions. You should also look up the company's address, this can normally be

found in the website's 'contact us' section and should have a street name, not just a PO box. If it's a registered UK company you can check its details on the Companies House website at gov.uk/get-information-about-a-company

Check to see what people have said about the company. It's worth looking at different review websites to see other people's feedback – don't rely on reviews the company has put on its own website.

Scammers will often ask you to pay in an unusual way, or very quickly. For example, you're asked to send money through a transfer service like MoneyGram or Western Union or pay via vouchers.

Remember never give away your personal information like a password or PIN and never click on or download anything you

don't trust.

To hear about scams in Suffolk, you can sign up to the very useful Trading Standards email at suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/suffolk-trading-standards/become-a-consumer-champion

If you've transferred money, speak to your bank and the police. You should also contact the police if the scammer is in your area or you feel unsafe.

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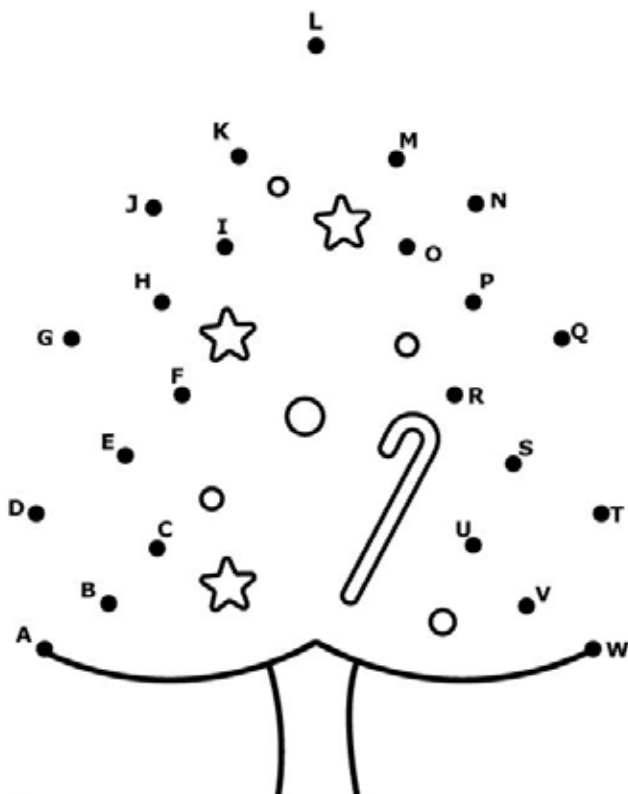
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FIRST TEAM REPORT

At the end of October we bounced back from defeat against Thurston with a rousing win against Copelstonians. Will Hayden and Romaine Scott both scoring twice and Adam Seymour getting MOTM. Then we travelled away to Kirton who are top of the league. The game started brightly and we had the better chances. Keeper Olly Chaplin as usual making outstanding saves to keep the game level. On his debut George Palmer made an excellent challenge in our box but the ref deemed it to be a penalty even with Kirton's management in agreement that it was a great challenge. Kirton caught us napping and we went into half time 2-0 down. The half time message was clear- go out there, play the way we had been, and take our chances. But only 5 minutes after the re-start we conceded a goal that could have been prevented and after that our heads dropped and they scored a 4th. Finishing 4-0 to Kirton we felt we could still take positives.

The following week we were at home to bottom of the table Bardwell which was instructed as a must win game. Bardwell only had 10 players and we was ruthless for 90 minutes, the game ended 13-0 to Elmswell with goals just flying in left right and centre. Goal scorers were: Hayden x4, Palfreyman x3, Gunter x2, McComb and then a goal each for the management team (Farmer, Potter & Trickey). We wanted to use this result as a spring-board for the remainder of the season. Our next game was an away trip to Stanton in the Cup with Stanton the league above us. We found ourselves 2-0 down after 20 mins; both goals being ones we should have dealt with and stopped. Hayden found himself one on one with the keeper and kept his cool to slot home, which led to 10 mins of us being on top but just before half time a cross-cum-shot found the top corner. With 4 injury's all requiring treatment and substitutions we still fought hard and although Stanton found 3 goals in the second half with Stanton having the better fitness we put up a fight and battled until the end where as previous seasons we would have rolled over and the score line would of been worse. We have a week off now before we return to league action at home to Kirton. Manager, Liam Trickey.

December HOME Games at The Blackbourne

26/11 [CUP] Elmswell Reserves v Benhall St Mary Res

03/12 [Div.2] Elmswell Firsts v Kirton Athletic Firsts

10/12 [Div.6] Elmswell Reserves v Kesgrave Kestrels A



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RESERVES REPORT

Back on the last weekend of October we travelled to Mendlesham, who we'd beaten 5-2 in pre-season. We had a bit of a scratch squad, starting with a bare 11 and several players who hadn't completed 90 minutes yet this season. Mendlesham started strongly with a completely different team to the one we'd comfortably beaten in the friendly. We defended well but, struggling to retain the ball going forward, invited pressure on ourselves. Sean Chilton raced over after work to give us a sub after about 20 mins, his energy and tenacity in the middle always raising our performance. Mendlesham scored at the end of the first half. Aidan Ashton missed a penalty to draw us level but still won MOTM with a stellar defensive performance. Despite great fight we conceded another towards the end of the game to lose 2-0.

The Primary Cup brought a tough fixture against Sporting 87 'A' who were flying high in Div.4. This week we had to start with 10 men. Sam Dew being the cavalry this week giving us 11 midway through the first half. It was still close at half time but Sporting's class, fitness and extra subs took their toll as they romped away with it second half, winning 2-8. Jake Fisher got both our goals.

Top of the table Samuels were up next and we even had two substitutes! Just as well too, as we lost Captain, Kurt Bevan, to injury in the first half and then Chris Edmonds in the second. The lads put in a great shift, playing some lovely football and even went ahead when Kez Ramsey headed back across goal for Luke Catchpole to finish. MOTM Ieuan Kidd was instrumental at the back and it was his probing run that won the corner from which we scored. Samuels scored two deflected goals to steal all three points and celebrated as though they'd won the cup, their linesman getting booked in the melee. Someone's mum came on the pitch to shake all our hands afterwards.

Last week we hosted third placed Eye Saints at The Blackbourne. We were missing several key players but made a brilliant start, dominating play early on. Cam Harrington was on fire up top, winning headers and flicks and coming short to link play. It was his shot that Dean Farmer coolly swept home for the opener in his first start of the season. This woke up Eye who started to get more physical and control the game. As the game wore on their pace and subs paid dividends and we struggled to keep up. They ran out 6-1 winners. Kes and Ryan Proctor shared MOTM.

If we don't see you before, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and yours, from all at Elmswell FC!



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Well, here we are at the last report of the year, and here I am wishing I had saved my annual report until now so that I had something to write about! Never mind, we are a couple of days away from our AGM when we can make our plans for next season. We intend to have Club shirts next year and Rob Dann and Jenny Murray have done a wonderful job in coming up with a design and a colour scheme that is acceptable to the various football fans among our number. No easy task, I assure you. The League has rules relating to Club Shirts because team members must wear them for league matches and the days of 'Oh, any old white top will do' are gone. One discussion for the AGM will be to what extent should the Club sponsor them? Jenny, who has offered to take on the role of Competitions Secretary, has also designed and sourced new bowls stickers and the cost to members is another discussion for the meeting.

The green has been prepared for the winter having been scarified, spiked and seeded and will probably get a cut in January, if we get a dry spell, which we usually do. Perhaps a couple more winter cuts, which are a few millimeters higher than in the summer, before it is prepared for the new season.

Traditionally at this time of year, and I think it is fair to claim it as a tradition, I seek out some summer photos just to help you through the dark, wet and cold of winter and focus on warmer times to come. Also, on behalf of Elmswell Foxes may I wish everyone a pleasant and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

A couple of shots from our friendly vs Coney Weston Swans, chosen to remind you what shadows look like. Remember shadows?

Peter Edmonds, E.F.B.C. 07860 395720 edmondspeterj@gmail.com



THE LAST PUBLIC OPEN SPACE IN ELMSWELL – HOW SHOULD WE USE IT?

So we finally have it ... plans for 50 houses on the last **Public Open Space** in Elmswell. As local residents on the west of the village, we've always known that this moment was coming such is the pressure on building more and more houses on this 'quiet little A14 corridor' and lack of village coordination against the developers. However what's surprising is the speed of the announcement from Mid Suffolk District Council. Stealth like, we read about the plans in the local paper and then find out that there's a public consultation event in just over a week's time.

However, thanks to the efforts of a number of residents and the help of the wider community, we have taken action in less than a week:

- A petition asking for a halt on the plans and consideration of a new school, signed by nearly 600 residents in 3 days
- An article and photo in the Bury Free Press
- A question being asked at the next MSDC committee meeting on the 24th November

From the planning paper available to the public by MSDC, we know there are 3 options for the land:

1. Keep it as Public Open Space.

This land has been used for decades, by many generations of families both old and new to Elmswell. After all, what's more sustainable than open green space? With

the shift in working behaviour and an already increasing population, valuable land like this is needed to serve the people of the village for health and mental wellbeing benefits.

2. Build a new primary school instead of transporting extra pupils across the A14 to Woolpit.

A village the size of Elmswell should expect to have a suitable school to service the needs of the residents. There is health and wellbeing benefits of having a school within walking and cycling distance. In addition the environmental benefits of not requiring pupils to travel to school by car or bus are insurmountable.

3. Allow 50 new homes to be built.

Whilst the sustainability credentials are being pushed on this particular housing development, the question has to be asked as to why with all the other existing

and further proposed developments in the village, strict sustainability criteria isn't applied at the planning application and approval stage?

As a group of local residents, we appreciate that there will be a number of different views about the land and its purpose, we also acknowledge that the eco-friendly houses are important for the environment and that some of them will provide necessary social housing. However, is the last Public Open Space in Elmswell - a space that continues to be enjoyed by numerous walkers, families and dog-walkers - the best place to put these houses? We believe not and will challenge the decision as far as we can.

If you'd like to halt the plans for 50 houses, please keep in touch with us at: pightleclose@gmail.com

Friends of the Last Public Open Space



Keeping an eye on development in Elmswell

WORKS ARE BEGINNING ON LAND TO THE NORTH AND WEST OF SCHOOL ROAD, ELMSWELL

Dear Residents,

As you may be aware, Bloor Homes were recently granted planning permission in August 2022 for our new development of 86 houses on School Road.

We are now commencing construction on site and as a result, we will begin works on School Road.

These works are detailed as follows:

- The main works will begin on **Monday 16th January 2023** and will last for approximately 12 weeks.
- During this period a section of School Road will be closed to traffic.
- Works include the widening of the road, construction of a 3-metre-wide cycleway, and utility diversions and connections.
- Access will remain for all residents on School Road to get in and out of their properties. However, there may be instances where residents must follow the diversion route and access School Road from the opposite end to the usual closest junction.
- There will be temporary traffic lights at the Church Road/School Road junction whilst the road widening is carried out. We expect this to begin in Mid-March, occurring between weeks 9 to 11 of the overall period.
- A pedestrian route through the closure will be maintained at all times.
- Working hours during the day will be between 8am-6pm Monday-Friday and 8am-1pm Saturday.

We will endeavour to complete the works in a timely manner. We would like to thank the local community in advance for their patience and understanding and apologise for any disruption caused.

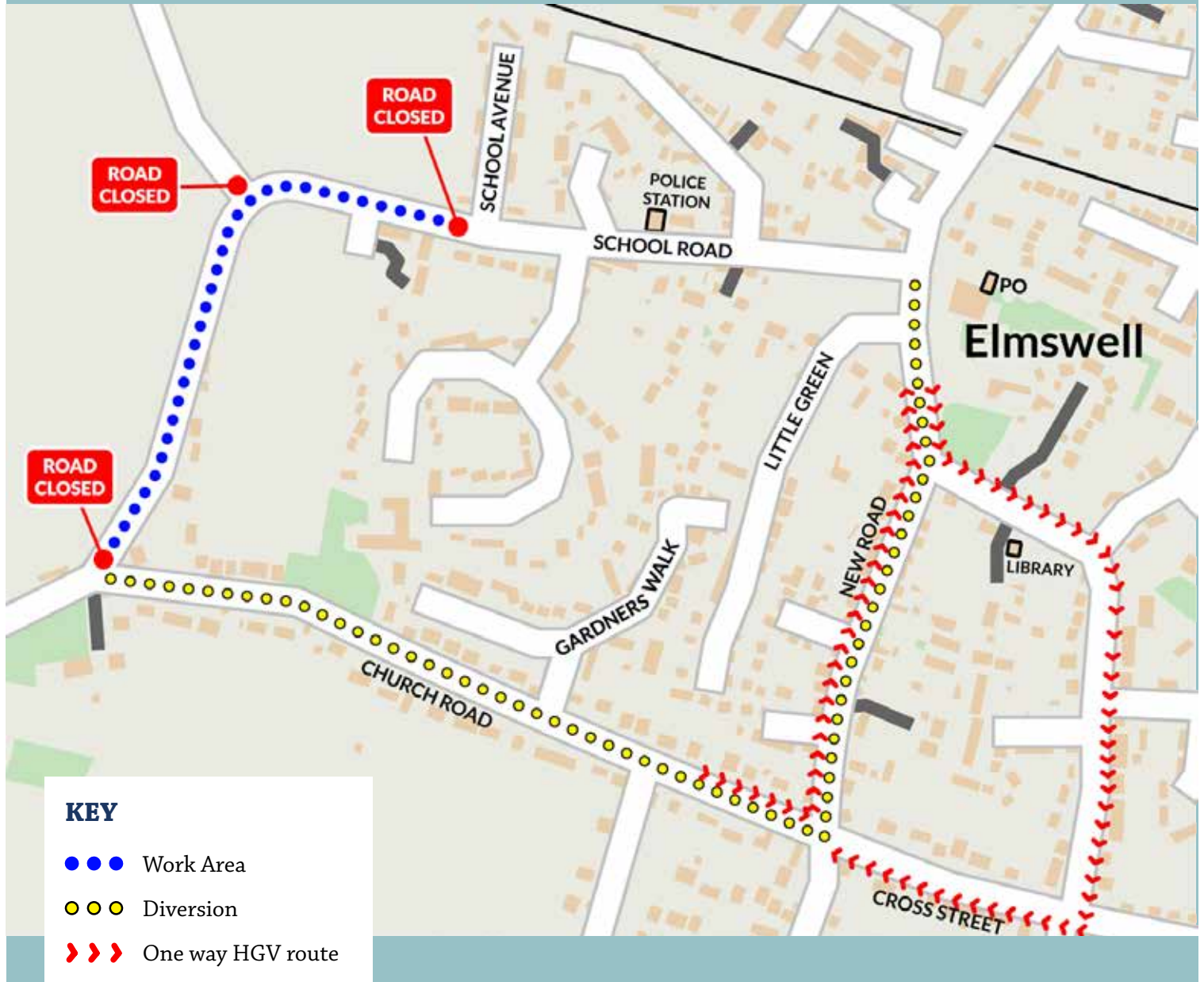


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The Parish Council meets at least once each month, excluding August, although extraordinary meetings can be called as required at any time. The November meeting with all 11 councillors present, together with BMSDC Ward Member Cllr Helen Geake, 5 members of the public and the Parish Clerk, Peter Dow, took place at Blackbourne on Monday 21st.

This report is compiled from that meeting by the Parish Clerk and edited by the Council's Editorial Board which comprises the Council Chairman, the Council Vice-chairman and Cllr Sue Roots, elected by her peers to join them. It seeks to cover some of the more interesting or significant items thought to deserve wider public attention. Included, where appropriate, are matters reported to the meeting by external bodies such as the County and District Council Ward Members or as raised at the meeting by members of the public. Further background and reference to subsequent events are included where relevant.

The Minutes of recent Parish Council meetings and Committee meetings, together with the agenda for the next meeting, when ratified, are available online at elmswell.suffolk.cloud and from the Parish Clerk by arrangement. Bound copies of older Minutes are lodged in the Village Archive at Blackbourne and with the Suffolk County Records Office in Bury St. Edmunds. The most recent Minutes from the October meeting, as approved at this meeting, are posted in the Council's notice board at Crown Mill.

Mid Suffolk District Council

Cllrs Sarah Mansel & Helen Geake tabled a written report on BMSDC activities which confirmed that, at last week's Cabinet meeting, members agreed the next round of CIL expenditure. CIL is the Community Infrastructure Levy which is money required from developers towards infrastructure provision to help service their developments. This included almost £1.8M of funding for expansion of Thurston Community College, part of a £2M project, with the remaining funds being sourced from West Suffolk S106 contributions. Almost £24k of the MSDC CIL funds have come from the Elmswell Ringfenced pot, with another 6 villages also contributing in this way. The remaining £567k has been sourced from the strategic pot. Meanwhile, The Councils' CIFCO investments continue to provide revenue for both councils – amounting to about £1.7M for MSDC in 2021/22. The financial report and 2023 business plan were discussed by MSDC on 27th October. It was cited that the diversity within the portfolio helped weather the impact of COVID. A Winter Warmth Support Grant fund was launched on 21st October for organisations to apply for grants of £250 - £5000 to help with the increased energy, rent and food costs to enable community activities and warm spaces to remain open and available during the winter without having increase fees for residents.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk are investing £2M for 22 new HVO-fuelled waste tankers. This is the biggest upgrade to the Waste fleet in about 10 years.

The Report included a reminder for any family living in the district who has welcomed a new baby (either by birth or adoption) this year to apply for a tree to be planted this winter. The scheme is also open to families who have lost a

child during the same period. Details of the scheme are available on the website <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/environment/planting-schemes/tree-for-life/>

There was a reminder that the Ward Members still have Locality Budget funds available and would welcome applications from any local club or organisation in need of funding towards the cost of a local project.

Suffolk County Council

Ward Member Cllr Andy Mellen tabled a written report confirming that Suffolk County Council has released a survey to local residents, asking for their thoughts on the upcoming 2023/24 budget. A summary of responses will be considered when deciding how to spend your money. The Survey link is at: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/7BQY0J/>

The report also made mention of over 85,000 leaflets highlighting information and guidance during the cost-of-living crisis distributed amongst Suffolk communities. The leaflet shows all the help Suffolk offers with finances and household expenses, as well as how to stay warm this winter. The link to the leaflet is <https://suffolk.pagetiger.com/cost-of-living-support/scc1>

SCC have launched their Winter Matters campaign, which aims to help ease the pressures of winter for Suffolk residents. This is a signposting campaign that centres around five key themes: Finances, Safety, Environment, Health and Wellbeing, and Highways. For more information and advice on how SCC can support you during winter, visit: www.suffolk.gov.uk/wintermatters The Cabinet recently met for the first time since the summer political recess and agreed to spend £2m on new care provision for Children and Young People in Felixstowe. In addition, SEND

services received £10m to provide more specialist units in Suffolk.

The Suffolk Local Access Forum submitted their annual report, which included their concerns about Sizewell C and its effect on green networks and Rights of Way. Concerns continue to be expressed over the effects of nuclear power on our coastal landscape and biodiversity.

In addition, the Cabinet endorsed Transport East's new 2050 strategy, which focusses more on green travel and linking rural communities to local economies. Our Group recognises the importance of connecting isolated residents for both profession and pleasure, and we will ensure SCC adopts all priorities into its own policy. This includes local bus provision which is a really difficult issue for residents affected by recent timetable reductions.

Road Safety initiative

The Clerk reported on a recent meeting with the SCC Highways Community Liaison Engineer held to confirm the basis on which the 2 bodies are collaborating towards achieving EPC's Road Safety Initiative objectives. It was agreed that:

- (i) The best locations for speed survey points to inform the proposal for a 20mph limit through the heart of the village, survey to be funded by EPC;
- (ii) The refreshing of white lining including the zebra crossing at The Street / New Road to be funded by SCC;
- (iii) The installation of warning signs re road narrows / oncoming vehicles at New Road / The Street / Cooks Road junction to be specified and ordered by SCC but funded by EPC, cost to be determined.

Tavern site affordable homes

The Clerk reported on a further meeting with Orwell Housing towards an assessment of the feasibility of the Elmswell Tavern site for the proposed

affordable homes towards a scheme which would retain local control but still attract the Government's Homes England funding. The process continues and the eventual outcome will inform Council's decision on the next step.

A14 improvement works

The National Highways consultation caravan, sited at Wesley on Friday 28th October, dealt with many queries regarding the scheme to replace the concrete road surface between Tothill and the A1088 junction and seemed to be busy throughout the day. The Clerk has undertaken to work with the contractor to liaise on any problems and to keep the public informed via the Newsletter of the contraflow proposals as they develop.

Warm & Welcome at Wesley

The Council made a successful bid for funding from the MSDC Winter Warmth Fund Support Grant and secured £1,000.00 towards subsidising use of the coffee shop at Wesley through the issuing of gift vouchers via various appropriate village organisations and to support events designed to offer a warm and comfortable option over the winter months. The BWMA, which advises Council on use of the facilities, will liaise with village groups towards managing this appropriately.

Food Bank

With Council's agreement, arrangements are now in place to allow the Elmswell Food Bank to operate from inside the Elmswell Tavern back bar over the winter months. The Meeting agreed to fund the cost of room hire for the Christmas Gift event to be held in support of the Food Bank on 10th December

Naming of development at Grove Lane Mid Suffolk consult with local communities when having to allocate names to new developments and streets such as the new cluster of housing at Grove Lane based on Hedgerows. When approached, Elmswell relies on volunteer research in the Village Archive to generate appropriate suggestions. The number of such developments in this location recently means that field names and similar references have been exhausted. However, vernacular and dialect references offer a wealth of possibilities, and the Meeting, having an eye to the hedgerow connection, accepted the suggestion of, 'Hulver' as the key name, as derived from the Old Norse 'hulfr' meaning holly

which is prevalent locally to the site. Reference was made to Claxton's, 'The Suffolk Dialect of the Twentieth Century', held in the Village Archive.

Parliamentary Constituency boundary changes

A review of parliamentary constituencies is under way with the intention of having revisions in place by 2023 which ensure evenly-sized electorates of between 69,724 and 77,062 constituents. Parish Councillors had objected to first-pass proposals and expressed the view that, contrary to these proposals, Elmswell should have at least one significant town within the new boundary. The latest suggestion from the Boundary Commission takes account of EPC's suggestions and Elmswell is now proposed to be located at the eastern edge of a revised Bury St Edmunds constituency along with Woolpit and Stowmarket.

Tree Warden

Council has been without a Tree Warden for some time and the vacancy advertised via the District Tree Warden group. Janet Spencer has offered to fill the post. Janet, new to the village, has previously held such a post for some 15 years in Huntingdonshire and has already been helpful in recent weeks regarding tree problems presented by residents, towards the hedge planting around the new Blackbourne boundary and regarding a large job at Clay Field which was authorised at the Meeting.

School Road closure

The Clerk and Chairman have recently met with Bloor Homes to discuss the proposals for the closure of the road to allow infrastructure works, road widening and the creation of the pedestrian / cycle path. Clearly there is going to be serious disruption. It was agreed that the proposed scheme should be amended to include one-way routing of HGV traffic using Cooks Road outbound offering a better right-turn sweep for exceptional trailers and reducing the chances of HGV two-way conflicts. The negotiations also confirmed that the closure is now likely to be no longer than 12 weeks rather than the 6 months originally promulgated.

Planning results

The Meeting noted the following results of Planning applications made to Mid Suffolk, the Planning Authority: DC/22/05375 Discharge of Conditions for ...Oakdene, Ashfield Road

APPROVED EPC did not comment DC/22/04621
Erection of two storey side extension... Gages, New Road GRANTED
EPC objected DC/22/03423
Outline planning permission...Land adj. 10 Crown Mill REFUSED EPC supported DC/22/04309
Discharge of Conditions...Land to the North & West of School Rd APPROVED EPC did not comment DC/22/03998
Submission of details...Land to the East of Oak Lane APPROVED EPC did not comment DC/22/03997
Discharge of Conditions...Land to the East of Oak Lane APPROVED EPC did not comment DC/22/01605
Discharge of Conditions... Land to the North & West of School Rd APPROVED EPC did not comment DC/22/05283
Non- material Amendment on Land at Kiln Lane notification only
Planning applications
The Meeting discussed the following 2 Planning applications forwarded for comment by MSDC, the Planning Authority:
DC/22/05091 Erection of stables and hay store, continued use of land for the keeping of horses and construction of new vehicular access on Land off Ashfield Road
Councillors objected to this application for the following reasons;
The intensification of the use from the informal grazing and riding of horses to the establishment of stables will inevitably give rise to potential odour nuisance given that the buildings are proposed to be sited adjacent to the dwellings on the northern boundary of the proposal site.. The recent proliferation of accesses on to this busy section of Ashfield Road presents increased hazard to through traffic. This site is well served by one such recently established new access. Given the nature of the traffic generated in terms of horse boxes and large hay transporters, this existing access would present an adequate and preferable option. Further, the proposed layout does not present adequate parking or turning provision with reference, again, to the size of many of the vehicles to be expected in servicing the stables.
DC/22/05326 Erection of Workshop

and garage at Silver Birches, Church Road

Councillors agreed to support this application on the understanding that Permission is conditioned by a restriction requiring that the approved buildings are to be used only for purposes incidental to and ancillary to the host dwelling, Silver Birches.

Proposed school site at School Road The Clerk agreed to work with Ward members towards securing a meeting with the MSDC Cabinet and relevant Officers towards a proper consideration of the village's aspiration for schooling in the village sufficient to accommodate all of the Elmswell pupils as the village grows. This requires an acknowledgement that Mid Suffolk's recent proposal for 50 houses on the

preferred site would require Elmswell pupils to be bussed to Woolpit each day.

Planning Appeal

The Meeting agreed to authorise the Clerk to instruct Messrs. Ben Elvin Planning to lodge an Appeal to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government against the refusal of outline planning permission by Mid Suffolk District Council relating to document DC/22/03423 for the erection of 1 No. 1½ storey dwelling and construction of a new vehicular access on land adjacent to 10, Crown Mill, Elmswell IP30 9GF.

Next meeting

It was noted that the next Ordinary Meeting was scheduled for Monday 19th December beginning at 7.30pm at Blackbourne. The public are, as ever,

welcome to attend all Council and Council Committee meetings and the agendas will always offer opportunities for questions and comment. Agendas are published online at elmswell.suffolk.cloud and on the Council's notice board at Crown Mill.



Our regular Monthly get-together 11th December 11am starting at the village sign on Crown Mill

PLUS ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK -same time and place - and AFTERWARDS WITH FESTIVE REFRESHMENTS courtesy of Alan Wells AT THE ELMSWELL TAVERN



Future Council Meetings

Notice of all meetings and agendas is posted on the Council's notice board at Crown Mill and in the community notice board at the Co-op.

| Dec 19th | Jan 16th | Feb 20th | Mar 20th | Apr 17th |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Meetings are held at Blackbourne, beginning at 7.30 unless otherwise notified | | | | |

Enquiries on any Parish Council matter are invited to the Clerk, Peter Dow, at The Council Office, Blackbourne, Blackbourne Road, IP30 9UH – right next to the car park and with wheelchair access.

Staffed Mondays & Wednesdays 9.00am – 4.00pm
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9.00am – 12.00 noon
and other times by arrangement.

clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk
Tel. 244134 www.elmswell.suffolk.cloud



VILLAGE INDEX

Useful contacts for community groups & others...feedback is essential.

Do be in touch to correct or add details or to suggest someone else deserving of listing.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---|---------------|
| Amenities Association | Jean Barker (Sec) | ea@elmswell.org.uk | 241135 |
| Art Club | John Welford | welford955@btinternet.com | 240166 |
| Baby & Toddler Group | | elmswellbtgroup@gmail.com | |
| Baptists | Dave Hollings | davehollings@btinternet.com | 241323 |
| BATS (Badminton & Table Tennis) | Mike Burgess Wilson | burgesswilsonmike@gmail.com | |
| Beavers | Ruth Salmon | ruthcourt4@hotmail.co.uk | |
| Bingo at Blackbourne | Brian Hawes | | 07761 125093 |
| BWMA | Peter Edmonds (Sec) | edmondspeterj@gmail.com | 241640 |
| Blackbourne – all enquiries | Parish Council office | clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk | 244134 |
| Brownies & Rainbows | Gemma Sutton | elmswellbrownies@hotmail.com | |
| CAB | | advice@midssuffolkcab.org.uk | 01449 676060 |
| Carpet Bowls Club | Frank Boxall | jf.boxall@btinternet.com | |
| Christians Together in Elmswell | Jean Folkard | derekrf2@gmail.com | |
| Community Speed Watch | Marie Spampinato | mariespampinato@hotmail.co.uk | 07769 715209 |
| Companions | Linda Waspe | linda@labbott.plus.com | |
| County Councillor | Cllr Andy Mellen | Andy.Mellen@suffolk.gov.uk | |
| Cricket Club | Ben Whatling (Captain) | benwhatling@mail.com | 07760 174811 |
| Cubs | Ben Savill | hovells23@hotmail.co.uk | |
| District Councillor | Sarah Mansell | Sarah.Mansel@midssuffolk.gov.uk | 07860 829517 |
| District Councillor | Helen Geake | Helen.geake@midssuffolk.gov.uk | |
| Elmswheelians | Trevor Sadler | trevor.sadler@dsl.pipex.com | 240908 |
| Elmswild | Mary Feeney | info@elmswild.org.uk | 241901 |
| Exchange afternoon WI | Maureen Davis | modavis6@gmail.com | |
| Exchange Club | Carol Blissett | carolblissett@hotmail.co.uk | |
| First Responders | Merv | merv.smith@tiscali.co.uk | 07909 006 496 |
| Football | Chris Edmonds | edddd101@gmail.com | |
| Fox Bowls Team bowls at Blackbourne | Barry Hayward | barryhayward1902@gmail.com | 240951 |
| Friends of St Johns | Jean Folkard | derekrf2@gmail.com | 242099 |
| Gardening Club | Nick Chamberlin | npch@btinternet.com | 242601 |
| Guides | Tammy | elmswellguides@outlook.com | |
| Health Centre - Woolpit | | | 240298 |
| History Group | Stella Chamberlin | stellachamberlin@yahoo.co.uk | |
| Ladies Voices (Choir) | Anna Wilton Mills | annawm63@gmail.com | |
| Library | Miles Row - Manager | Elmswell.Library@suffolklibraries.co.uk | 240974 |
| Little Elms | Melanie Garner | info@littleelms.co.uk | 240491 |
| Newsletter | Editorial office | ea@elmswell.org.uk | 244134 |
| Over 55's Club | Diann Armstrong | Mayfield, Wetherden Road | 241002 |
| Parish Council | Parish Clerk | clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk | 244134 |
| Police Emergencies | | | 999 |
| Police; non-emergencies | Mid Suffolk South SNT | headquarters@suffolk.pnn.police.uk | 101 |
| Poor's Land Charity | Peter Goodridge | elmswellrector@gmail.com | 240512 |
| Power cuts | | Powwercut105.com | 105 |
| Rainbows | Jen & Lizzie | elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com | |
| Royal British Legion | Norman Plumpton (Biff) | nplumpton@aol.com | 07707 524722 |
| School | Mrs Ash | admin@elmswell.suffolk.sch.uk | 240261 |
| Scouts | Paula Hollings | ddc.paula@stowmarketscouts.org.uk | 07828 562485 |
| St John's Church | Peter Goodridge | elmswellrector@gmail.com | 240512 |
| Sewing Bee | Isabel Burgess | isabel.burgess@live.com | |
| Village Tree Warden | c/o Parish Clerk | clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk | 244134 |
| Wesley – all enquiries | Parish Council office | clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk | 244134 |
| WI - evening | Margaret Stevens | stevensmarg@tiscali.co.uk | 408452 |
| Youth Football | Wayne | wsast@hotmail.co.uk | |

Enquiries on any Parish Council matter are invited to the Clerk, Peter Dow, at The Council Office, Blackbourne, Blackbourne Road, IP30 9UH – right next to the car park and with wheelchair access. Staffed Mondays & Wednesdays 9.00am – 4pm, Tuesday & Thursday 9.00am – 12 noon and at other times by arrangement. clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk Tel. 244134

**IF YOU ARE NOT HAPPY THAT YOUR DETAILS APPEAR HERE,
PLEASE DO BE IN TOUCH VIA ea@elmswell.org.uk**

What's On in Elmswell ?

To be included in our events diary make sure you send separate notification of your announcement.

For a full year's calendar of what's booked at Blackbourne, please go to the Parish Council website at www.elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk - it might help you in planning dates for your events.



December 2022

- 5 7pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - Nosh & Natter with entertainment by The Wesley Ukulele Band - men welcome as well
- 8 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Hexachordia: "In Fields of Frost & Snow" - live music presentation of mirth and merriment for the Festive Season in 16th & 17th Centuries.
- 8 Food & Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 8 Over 55's club Xmas Bingo
- 10 Charity Christmas Concert by the Edmund Octet & Friends at Wesley, 6.30 in aid of Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust Tickets £10.00 01284 719236
- 13 Elmswell WI, 7.30pm at the Wesley. Christmas Party
- 16 Bingo at Blackbourne with bar.
- 17 Over 55's Xmas Party Home Farm Catering and Music by Brian Mann

January 2023

- 12 Elmswell History Group, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Simon Millyard: Trinity House Lighthouses
- 12 Food & Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 27 Bingo at Blackbourne with bar.

February 2023

- 1 Exchange WI Jonathan Houseago Hedgehogs & Hedgehog Preservation 2.00pm at Wesley
- 9 Elmswell History Group, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Elspeth Rushbrook: Local Survivor of "The Titanic", Violet Jessop
- 9 Food & Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday

March 2023

- 1 Exchange WI Charlotte Morgan Dolls Houses & Miniatures 2.00pm at Wesley

- 9 Elmswell History Group, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Geoff Robinson: 18th Century Commerce in Worlingworth

April 2023

- 5 Exchange WI Claire's House - finger pottery craft afternoon 2.00pm at Wesley
- 13 Elmswell History Group 23rd Anniversary meeting, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Miriam Stead: Halesworth's 17th Century 'Walpole Old Chapel'

May 2023

- 11 Elmswell History Group, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Movie Screening of Holly Brega's film "Land Girls & Horses of Suffolk"

June 2023

- 8 Elmswell History Group AGM at 7pm, in Wesley Chapel - immediately followed at 7.30pm by Speaker Andrew Peachey: Pre-historic, Roman & Saxon Archaeology on

STOP PRESS

Regular sessions at Blackbourne & Wesley include:

KARATE with Lewis - Tuesday 4.30 - 5.45 / Friday 5.00 - 7.00 info@greathadma.com
JAPANESE JUJUTSU / SELF DEFENCE - Monday & Wednesday 6.30 - 8.30 ryoishintowaryuheiho@gmail.com tel. 07711 680262
BABY & TODDLER GROUP - Monday mornings elmswellbtgroup@gmail.com
BATS- badminton / table tennis / pool at Blackbourne Friday nights 7 - 9.30 simon@coakleyandtheaker.co.uk
BOWLS - barryhayward1902@gmail.com tel. 240951
GUIDES - Monday evenings 5.00 - 8.30 elmswellguides@outlook.com
FOOTBALL - shaun.pratt@btinternet.com 07494 864231
RAINBOWS - elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com
JUNIOR FOOTBALL - smyth98@hotmail.com 07717 841591
CUBS Tuesdays 6.15 - 7.30 - claremariekeefe@gmail.com
BEAVERS / SCOUTS - Wednesday 5.45 - 9.15 ddc.paula@stowmarketscouts.org.uk
OVER 55'S - every other Thursday 6.30 - 10.30 Diann Armstrong tel. 241002
CIRCLE DANCING - Thursdays 1.45 - 3.15 jenlerner@gmail.com
TREFOIL GUILD - 1st Tuesday monthly lesley.grout@btinternet.com
MARDLE QUILTERS - last Friday monthly carpajak@aol.com
MOO MUSIC - Fridays 12.45 - 3.15 bury@moo-music.co.uk
WI - evening at Wesley 2nd Tuesday monthly 7.30pm Terry Byford bbazby@aol.com
WI - afternoon at Wesley 1st Wednesday monthly Carol Blissett carolblissett@hotmail.co.uk
ART CLUB at Wesley every Tuesday 9.00 - 12.00 John Welford welford955@btinternet.com
HISTORY GROUP at Wesley 2nd Thursday monthly 7.30 stellachamberlin@yahoo.co.uk
GARDEN CLUB at Wesley 3rd Tuesday monthly 7.30 elmswellgardenclub@gmail.com
CARPET BOWLS - Wednesday 7pm at Wesley - jf.boxall@btinternet.com
COMPANIONS - every other Friday 10 - 12 at Wesley - linda@abbott.plus.com
PILATES - Monday & Friday mornings - suzanne@triformpilates.co.uk
BINGO - Blackbourne, last Friday monthly doors open 6.30...eyes - down 7.30
ARTS SOCIETY OF WEST SUFFOLK first Tuesday monthly, October-June theartsociety-westsuffolk.org.uk
 If we've missed you out, do let us know...all enquiries to Ann at the Council Office Tel. 244134 Email clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk

Your Newsletter Fact File

For the next 3 months we need copy by: December 20th, January ??, February

Contact us on **01359 244 134** for all Amenities Association business, Newsletter and adverts.

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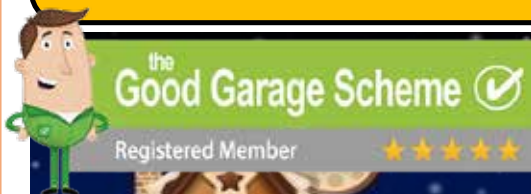
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AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



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