

'Like a friend dropping in'



The Elmswell Newsletter



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

MARCH 2023

On line at elmswell.suffolk.cloud

Green Party



... see page 11

ELMSWELL TAVERN



THE LATEST...

... see page 7

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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.

As a long-time resident of Elmswell, although not a native, whose family has lived in the village for over a hundred years across three generations I would like to respond to the invitation made in each month's Newsletter to comment on some of the issues covered on the Editorial page over the past year.

My personal memories go back to 1945 when I started my education at the old primary school in School Road, under the supervision of Miss Grace Goddard, Mrs Sybil Brown, and headmaster JWW Palmer. The school was a good example of Victorian school building, complete with garden, all tragically demolished in the 1970's and replaced by a very nondescript 'modern' new one in Oxer Close.

At that time there were village parties to celebrate the end of WW2. These were held in the old Church School next to the original Primary School (also demolished). Classes were held in the main building and in an old wooden hut which leaked like a sieve. The food for the parties was provided by the local ladies. I remember in particular colourful jellies made in large enamel washing up bowls.

With the War over concerns focussed on the lack of a proper village hall and playing field. The village already had a potential site for a village hall. A plot on the corner of Cooks Road had been gifted to the village by the Chamberlayne family in memory of a family member killed in the conflict. After discussion a committee was formed and given the name 'Elmswell Memorial and Playing Field Fund, with the aim of raising money to provide these facilities. Various events were held, gymkhanas, flower and vegetable shows, whist drives etc.

By the early 1950's enough funds had been raised to embark on building the hall by voluntary labour. A very keen but small group, some with building knowledge others without, set to work. However after some time enthusiasm waned, understandably as all of the volunteers had full time jobs, and progress slowed almost a standstill. Work did get finished and the hall was opened in 1955.

In the 1940/50's Elmswell had a very good football team, run by the late Vic Wade, made up of village boys and RAF personnel from the Ashfield RAF Station. Unfortunately they had no guaranteed playing field and resorted to playing on Pyes Meadow, Mann's Meadow, Grove Lane and other sites by courtesy of local farmers, sometimes having to move cows off the playing area. For a growing village it was not acceptable.

The search for a suitable site went on. Several were considered but were always too expensive, a short-sighted attitude,

that still exists. Eventually the West Suffolk Education Department thought they needed to have a Middle School in Elmswell, and purchased a large site from Major General MacDonald (Bennett Avenue/Oxer Close), and gave a written promise that if the school was not built the village would have the site in perpetuity as a recreation field. The field was used for several years for sport etc, the promise was reneged on in the 1980's, a victim of Thatcherite economics.

The cricket club moved to Haughley Park for several seasons. At about this time the Parish Council was offered by Denis Dyball seven acres in Grove Lane and it was purchased. Paradoxically the Blackbourne site became available very shortly after, so the village went from no playing field to having two.

Having the Blackbourne site then led to a very acrimonious debate on whether a new village hall should be built there and the original Memorial Hall demolished. A very vociferous faction were against the idea on the grounds it was disrespectful to the family of the donor of the site, and the volunteers who gave their time to building it. Whilst their emotional attachment was generally understood it was at odds with reality. The building was in a run-down state, damp and with electrics needing updating. The materials used in construction were generally of poor quality (due to the post war shortage of good materials) and the parking was inadequate.

Once again the building of the Blackbourne complex and its expansion attracted conflicts of opinion. The traditionalists thought it was too expensive, in the wrong place and put forward many other less obvious reasons. In retrospect the development must be seen as a great success.

The next major controversy was the PC's purchase of the old Wesley Chapel and Hall. After a lot of futile debate, dispute and acrimony Council appointed architects

who produced the plans of a new hall and a comprehensive renovation of the chapel and produced a stunning result which we now see. The success of the Wesley Coffee Shop and Hall is evident to the large number of clubs and individuals of all ages who use them regularly.

The current controversy is the purchase of the Tavern by the PC. The PC decided that there is a serious need of affordable housing for local people, and make the Tavern a local community pub. Inevitably these schemes cost a lot of money, but if the village is to stay a vibrant community we need to have the future in sight. If we do not provide good facilities for residents in our rapidly expanding village, it will ossify and decline – simply put, if the village had not agreed to support the purchase of the Tavern site for affordable homes and a community pub, it would now be a development of at least 8 more large pattern-book houses.

The attitude of groups that don't want change and improvement are so negative and self-defeating. History, as above, has repeatedly proved their arguments to be wrong.

As suggested in last month's Editorial piece, the geographical position of Elmswell cannot change, the planners will continue to allow more development. The best we can do is to make the village as attractive as possible.





ELMSWELL ART CLUB

Elmswell Library kindly invited Elmswell Art Club to display an exhibition of paintings until the middle of March. Accordingly, a number of our members, including Ann Smith, Greta Davies, Carol Taylor, Linda Stephenson, Kelvin Fellingham and John Welford submitted the pictures shown right.

Reflections from the morning Elmswell sun do not do all of the pictures justice, so why not pop along and have a look at the real things.....some of the paintings are for sale and will be on display until the middle of March; Library opening times are as follows;

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 10.00am – 1pm, 2.00pm – 7pm

Wednesday: 2.00pm – 5pm

Thursday: 10.00am – 1pm, 2.00pm – 7pm

Friday: 2.00pm – 5pm

Saturday: 10.00am – 1pm

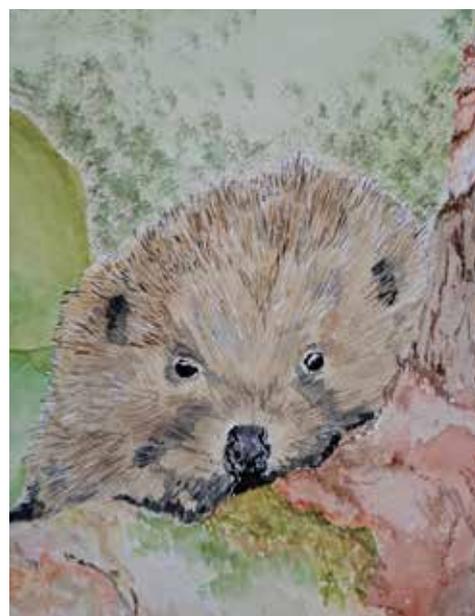
Sunday: 10.00am – 3pm

Following on from last month, this month's pictures are also both animal related. The first is Bobby Fiske's lovely pastel picture of three puppies.



The second picture (right) is a watercolour painting of a baby hedgehog by Maureen Lazarus.

As well as pastels and watercolours, our members use a variety of mediums and produce images of a wide range of subjects. In addition, some will bring along items to sketch as "still-life" subjects, whilst others use cross-stitch, decoupage or glass to create a number of art forms.



So, if you are interested in any of these activities you are welcome to come along to one of our regular Tuesday meetings and have a chat with our very friendly members.

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

Eddie Douglas



Young Rory happily receiving from Peter Edmonds and Ukulele Superstar Kevin an envelope containing £400 donated by the Wesley Ukes, collected at one of their recent concert performance towards helping the work of the Elmswell Food Bank.



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ELMSWELL WI



February was our first meeting since Christmas and it was good to be back together once more. Several absences due to ill health sadly. The winter viruses seem to be invading us at present. **Our guest speaker was Jonathan Houseago** who showed us film and gave a most interesting talk on Hedgehogs. Jonathan and his wife live in Thurston. They have created their own wildlife garden to support all types of nature. He is also a great supporter of The Hedgehog Preservation Society. Another string to his bow; he is an extremely good wildlife photographer. The ladies thoroughly enjoyed his visit. Jonathan has his own website and this is certainly worth a browse: www.seagomacwildlife.co.uk Our competition this month was "A Hedgehog in any Medium". Our members didn't let us down. **See photograph.** Our winners were: 1st Maureen Lazarus who painted a lovely picture of a hedgehog, 2nd Lesley Clarke who knitted her version and 3rd Carol who baked a chocolate version (delicious).

Today we had to select our **Resolution for the National Federation** to take forward and for us all to make our campaign focus for the coming year. We had five choices and with just a few exceptions most of our members voted for designated clean water bathing areas in rivers. The pollution in our rivers and seas is of great concern to us all. It will be interesting to see if this choice is carried forward.

Next month, on Wednesday 1st March at 2 pm, we welcome Charlotte Morgan who runs a family business in Long Melford called The Dolls Hospital. This will mean an afternoon of miniatures, dolls houses and everything small and charming. The competition will be "A Miniature Item" Anyone interested in dolls houses and miniatures who would like to join us is welcome as a guest for the afternoon. Just phone me on 241033 or Mary on 245022.

Maureen Davis



OVER 55's CLUB

Diann opened the first meeting after the winter break with a warm welcome saying it was nice to see most of our existing members present on February 16th plus several new faces who had come along to join us for the first time.

As usual we put on some entertainment to get things going when we welcomed Johnny Rondo for an evening of Country and 70's & 80's music which continued until about 9 30pm.

Our next meeting on Thursday March 2nd was a Fish & Chip Supper night when 46 sat down to the meal which was delivered to the hall from Rumbles at Badwell Ash afterwards it was time for tea and cakes with the evening continuing with cash bingo.

The meeting on March 16th will be our AGM when those present can have their say about the club and elect a "new committee" to take the club forward, we welcome the OLD CODGERS back to round off the evening.



Grant (240943)

ELMSWELL WI

Unfortunately Brenda was unwell, so Terry led the meeting. It was Valentines Day and this resulted in fewer members being present.

However, we had a fascinating talk from Norma Howell, technically-supported by her husband Rod.

They told us about the charity which raises money for Medical Detection Dogs. It was set up in Milton Keynes in 2008 and money raised supports and enhances the lives of about four and a half million people.

Medical Alert Assistance Dogs warn of life threatening episodes in their owners lives, eg. someone with diabetes whose blood sugar is becoming dangerously low, will be altered by their dog, before they become too drowsy to help themselves. Bio-detection dogs detect volatile organic compounds emitted in their owners breath or sweat. Different compounds signal different diseases such as cancer, Parkinson's or Malaria.

Dr Claire Guest, an animal behaviourist, founded the charity after she noticed a friend's dog being continually upset about a mole on her owner's leg, which turned out to be cancerous. Claire began to do some research with Dr John Church. Dogs had been noticed pawing or nosing, particularly when they smelt the breath of someone.. A dogs nose has up to three hundred million sense detectors compared to a human nose which has five million. About a third of a dogs brain is concerned with smell. Trained dogs beat the best laboratory tests and can detect diseases in the early stages, before the people are aware of them. In the future, trained dogs could be used to screen hospital wards for MRSA.

Covid 19 detection is one of the biggest projects being carried out by the charity, which is now receiving government funding for the first time. Dogs are 94.3% accurate at detecting this disease, which is far more than flow tests.

The dogs live with foster families and if they have the right temperament, are trained for nearly two years. It costs £29,000 to train a dog. We watched some very moving video's of the dogs in action with their owners. What wonderful work! So many people are living more fulfilled lives with greater freedom because of the twenty-four hour support of these dogs.

Next month our meeting is about chocolate!

Rosie Collins 01359 241652



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ELMSWELL GARDEN CLUB

It is exciting to welcome gardeners and those wanting to know about gardening to our monthly meetings. It is even more rewarding to share garden plans with new villagers and people who decided that 2023 will be the year to use their outdoor space effectively. With this in mind, it was wonderful to welcome over thirty people to The Wesley Hall on the 21st February at the beginning of our new season. The room was buzzing with chat, as people found a seat and waited in anticipation of what our speaker of the evening had to share with us.

Tim Fuller from Plantsman's Preference, a nursery on the Norfolk - Suffolk border gave a fascinating talk with illustrative slides to show how climate change is beginning to impact upon the growing seasons. His talk entitled, 'Unexpectedly Hardy' focused upon plant species once thought to be too tender to survive in East Anglian winters. His mantra was to give 'plants a chance' by accessing garden spaces to find the right place for a plant, perfect the soil structure and pile on at least 4 inches of mulch to protect roots and tubers from the winter weather. He stressed that this practice was a fail safe way to deal with cold winds and biting temperatures. At the end of his talk members were able to purchase samples



from the nursery - always a good way to end a Garden Meeting.

Tim's nursery established 25 years ago specialises in hardy perennials including ornamental grasses and plants for shade. All plants are propagated on site and people will always find something that little bit different. This year the nursery is open from the 2nd March to 31st October, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. <https://www.plantpref.co.uk>.

Our monthly meetings of handpicked

speakers aim to inspire and help us have a go at making decisions to improve our outdoor space. On Tuesday 21st March Ruth Goudy is talking about 'The Language of Flowers'. She will share her knowledge about the 'code' devised by the Victorians to send flowers of meaning to each other and reveal even more surprising information. 'Flowers have had a greater significance than we often give them and in a fast paced world it is surprising how relevant this topic continues to be'. Ruth Goudy

The committee look forward to meeting you in March at The Wesley Hall, School Road.

Should you need further information about Elmswell Garden Club do not hesitate to contact Catherine, on 01359 242172, Nick, on 01359 242601, or email elmswellgardenclub@gmail.com and a good way of asking a question that will be swiftly answered.

ELMSWELL POORS LAND CHARITY

So, how many Elmswell residents know how old the Elmswell Poors Land Charity is, or what it is incorporated to do? Probably fewer people than the answer to the age, which is 125 years come August this year. As to what it does, there is a clue in the title. Back in 1898, a few wealthy landowners set aside the income from some of their land to be paid out annually to residents experiencing particular hardship. Record of the altruism of a couple of them lives on in road names today - Messrs. Warren (Lane & Close), and Borley (Green). Over the intervening years as agriculture gave way to housing all plots of land bar one small one were sold off and the proceeds of the sales were invested in funds managed by the UK's largest charities fund management company. Thus it is now dividend income

that is distributed annually rather than that from the sale of crops. At one time this aid was paid out in coal, much needed for people to keep warm! Some things change and some things remain the same. Today, vouchers for use in local shops are distributed to individuals instead. As to the one remaining plot of land, it is rented by Elmswild! Somehow that seems to be rather fitting.

In the past there has been one distribution of gifts at Christmas, application forms for which can be found in the November edition of the Newsletter and at various locations around the village, such as the Wesley Hall & library. However, the cost of living crisis has hit everyone, but some considerably more than others. So in recognition of this the Trustees recently voted to

extend applications into early January, resulting in 20 residents in total receiving a gift. Additionally, a large donation was made to the Stowmarket Food Bank, and it is intended that other donations will be made when appropriate to the village food bank too. Furthermore, an emergency fund has been created to assist emergent dire cases. It will operate all year; please contact Revd. Peter Goodridge at The Rectory, Church Road (elmswellrector@gmail.com, 01359 240512) if you wish to apply. One payment from this fund has already been made.

The Elmswell Poors Land Charity is not large & funds are obviously limited, but in making such contributions as it can, the charity aims to alleviate difficulties to some degree at least. Every little helps as they say.

THE CHILDREN

WRITTEN BY LUCY KIRKWOOD
DIRECTED BY OWEN CALVERT-LYONS

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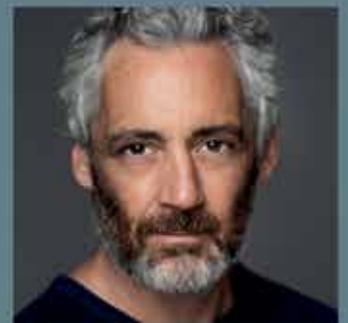
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ELMSWELL TAVERN



AN UPDATE

THE LATEST...

- ★ There is now over £171k in the bank from some 209 individuals, organisations and companies. They support the idea of developing community facilities in Elmswell. They have demonstrated their confidence in what has been done already and in what is proposed by putting their money into the scheme to refurbish the Tavern into a facility to match Wesley and Blackbourn.
- ★ The volunteers who have worked as the steering group thus far meet again soon to decide the next stage of the funding drive which will involve applications to external bodies relying on the confidence and support which the community has demonstrated through share purchases.
- ★ Further funding will have to be set against a sound target based on a realistic assessment of the cost of the basic refurbishment.
- ★ A skeleton plan has been agreed based on three key factors.
 - 👍 The Elmswell Tavern must offer food... all of the consultation feedback confirms that good, basic no-frills catering would have wide appeal.
 - 👍 There must be good separation of the food / bar areas, plenty of attractive outside space and a complete revamp of the toilet provision accessed separately from the different spaces.
 - 👍 The features that identify the original building must be kept as much as possible acknowledging its heritage contribution to the village over the past century. The final scheme must be capable of staged expansion related to demand.

...MOVING ON...

There are many appropriate skills available amongst the ever-growing support base and offers received for help in many of the stages required to deliver the project. The basic floor plan which is now agreed is an essential first stage. It defines the scope and scale of the job to be worked-up into CAD format, computer-aided design allowing limitless modifications towards a final plan which is then easily presented for Planning, Building Regulation and other stages. Amongst the skills already on offer are Quantity Surveying, Construction Engineering and Project Management. With this input it is possible to come up with realistic ball-park costings for delivery of the scheme. With a professionally costed target, approaches for external funding are much better founded.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Shares are still available - search 'Elmswell Tavern' online - and when the share offer closes the project will continue to welcome donations of any size and from all quarters.

Look out for a pop-up pub event at Easter... come along and learn more, perhaps offer your help or just meet more of your neighbours and have a good time.

IN OTHER WORDS... PUT MORE SIMPLY... THE FACT IS....

Despite hard times across the board, the Elmswell Tavern idea has caught on and taken some important first steps towards success. All around us are shiny new examples of thriving new pubs - Thurston Victoria, Badwell Ash White Horse to name but 2 - successfully launched, very busy and providing valuable community facilities.

Elmswell has a track record envied by many at Blackbourn and at Wesley of imaginative, well designed and managed community hubs serving our fast-expanding population.

We have the opportunity to add the Elmswell Tavern to the list of what is on offer.

We have saved the site from the developers' clutches. It can serve Elmswell for ever, complementing the parallel Elmswell Community Land Trust scheme for affordable housing.

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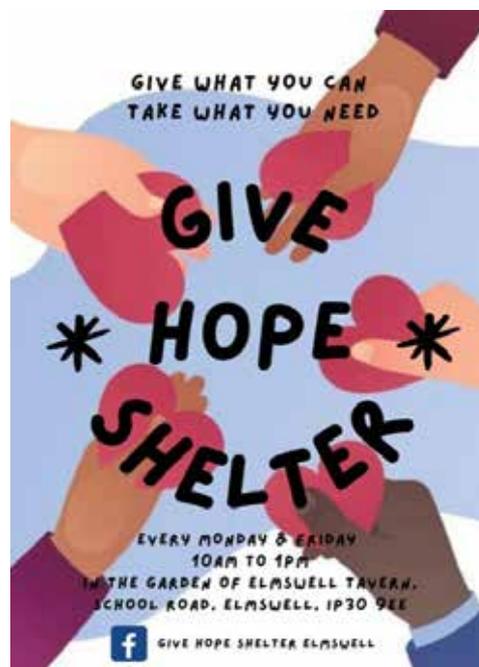
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ELMSWELL LIBRARY

Hello Elmswell,

Thanks to kind donations we now have jigsaw puzzles you can borrow. We have also got a community puzzle in the library. You can come in at anytime and do as much or as little of the puzzle on the main table as you would like.

You can see a selection of artwork from the Elmswell Art Club in their exhibition until mid March. We will then be exhibiting artwork by Fred King. Fred King's artwork is hyper realistic pencil drawings. His work has recently been exhibited in the Concert Hall building at Snape Maltings.

This month's book display theme is male and female author collaborations. These include collaborations in creating the original novel and also collaborations in translating the novel into English. We have Run Rose Run by Dolly Parton and James Patterson, House of Correction by

Nicci French, The Romanov Ransom by Clive Cussler and Robin Burcell, Roseanna by Maj Sjöwall and Per Wahlöö, Aurora Rising by Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff, The Honjin Murders by Seishi Yokomizo and translated by Louise Heal Kawai, The Chestnut Man by Søren Sveistrup and translated by Caroline Waight, The Red Scrolls of Magic by Cassandra Clare and Wesley Chu, Vita Nostra by Marina and Sergey Dyachenko, Punching the Air by Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam, Long Shadows by Ian Rankin and Rona Munro and A Crowning Mercy by Bernard Cornwell and Susannah Kells.

The Suffolk Libraries Day Online Book Festival is happening between the 6th and the 12th March. The authors at the events this year are Ruth War, Chris Carter, Jack Jordan, Jill Mansell, Janice Hallett, Sarah Pearse and Elly Griffiths. For more information please visit <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/whats-on/festival/suffolk-libraries-day-book-festival>

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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 15th March at the Wesley Café (every 3rd Wednesday)

Knit and Natter

2pm – 3pm Tuesday 14th March (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



FOOD BANK FUNDRAISER



Allison Susan Suzanne Pete and Mike on Snowdon summit 17/3/73

This day (17th March) in 1973, 49 years ago, as students, my late wife Allison and I (just friends at the time) walked up to the top of Snowdon with 4 friends. In the picture I still have hair!

I intend to revisit Snowdon on the same day this year (weather permitting!) and walk up to the summit via the Llanberis path again to mark the 50th anniversary of our previous walk to the top. It is nearly 4 years since Allison passed away and I am doing this both to remember her and to raise £1,000 in her name for the local food bank here in Elmswell which I help to run and organise.

This time I am going up with Allison's younger sister (Fiona) and some of her friends. It isn't the hardest walk in the world, around 10 miles, but it will still be a challenge for me as I recovered from my own battle in 2021 with Lymphoma, underwent 6 rounds of chemotherapy and had to learn to walk again after an operation to remove one of the lesions on my spine. Anyone who knows Snowdon is aware that a railway runs to the top, BUT, the service doesn't start until April, so there will be no cheating!

We didn't start going out together until the 23rd March, obviously not put off by the Snowdon trip, got engaged 2 years later and were married the next year in 1976!

If you would like to help me raise money for our food bank please visit my Just Giving page at the link below.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/michael-schofield-3>

Thank You, Mike Schofield

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GREENING ELSWELL

On 10th February the Green Party MP Caroline Lucas came to Elmswell to confirm our green credentials, taking in the ground source heat pumps and solar panels at Wesley and at Blackbourne as well as the exemplar eco housing at Clay Field where she helped plant a group of 9 trees selected by our Tree Warden Janet Spencer to replace 3 others which are due to be felled on the site as they are causing neighbour problems.

Our pictures show Caroline flanked by Parish Councillors Sue Roots and Philip Shaw together with ElmsWild Volunteers and Clay Field residents doing the planting, together with the very neat and tidy result.

More planting is planned for the site.



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ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

In a change from our published programme (due to last-minute unforeseen circumstances), **February's** fascinating talk, "*Smallpox in Suffolk*", was by Dr Jonathan Belsey who is an experienced medical professional, first-rate historian and natural speaker. Dr Belsey began his talk with an informative description of some of the effects smallpox has had on many human communities over thousands of years, and explained that smallpox was as contagious as Covid but far more deadly.

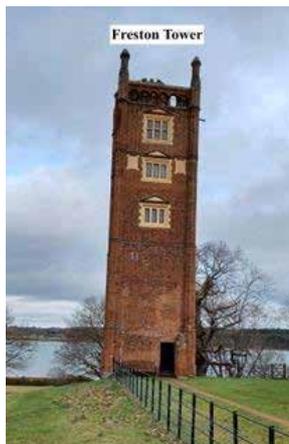
In 1796, the respected doctor and scientist, Edward Jenner began an innovative procedure of inoculating a young boy against smallpox by introducing a tiny quantity of cowpox pus into the boy's skin. Subsequently, Jenner was able to demonstrate that his patient had, indeed, become immune to, not only cowpox, but also to the much more deadly smallpox. This was a breakthrough but not quite such a significant one as is commonly supposed. Later, Jenner was able to refine his inoculation procedure and develop various artificial means of culturing cowpox microbes at scale. From then on, Jenner's fame spread and his techniques began to be called 'vaccination', a term he himself coined in one of his scientific papers. People listened to him, but many were rather slow to come forward and actually offer themselves up for vaccination – there were 'anti-vaxxers' even then!

However, Jenner was not the first person to experiment with inoculation as a preventative against smallpox. Between 1716-18 Lady Mary Wortly Montagu, the wife of the British ambassador to The Ottoman Empire, witnessed the use of smallpox inoculation in Turkey and, on her return home, advocated its use in this country too. She had some success persuading a few members of the aristocracy that inoculation was both safe and effective but, otherwise, her ideas attracted little attention. Meanwhile at about the same time, Robert Sutton, a Suffolk farmer, decided to dedicate his life to the improvement of

the techniques of smallpox inoculation. He greatly simplified the process of inoculation and, simultaneously, improved its effectiveness, but the credit for massively popularizing his work must go to his son, Daniel, who was a natural businessman. He organized the training of inoculators, set up franchised operations across Britain, France and the USA, and established a flexible system of charges. Starting from his main base in Ingatestone (Essex), Daniel quickly began to make a great deal of money and save literally thousands of lives. Between 1763-66 Daniel personally inoculated 22,000 people, so it would not be an exaggeration to say that this Suffolk man changed the world.

Therefore, although Jenner is usually associated with smallpox, an 18th-century Suffolk family of surgeons, the Suttons, were instrumental in pioneering the inoculation of the local population against this disease, leading to Jenner's publication of his paper in 1798.

The photograph is of Freston Tower, a six-storey Tudor folly close to the bank of the Orwell near Ipswich. For a period of time, in the second half of the 18th Century, it was used for 'Suttonian' inoculations but, of course, only richer clients were actually allowed inside this building, which must have been the strangest Health Centre in the country!



Play/Novella based on The Titanic

– for those of you disappointed at the postponement of Elspeth Rushbrook's talk on the Titanic, her book ('The Jury in My Mind') can be obtained from her website, www.elspethrushbrook.webs.com.

Reuniting a 1923 Steam Traction Engine to Elmswell

– We have been contacted by the restorer of a 100-year old Wallis & Stevens traction engine who hopes to bring it to the Woolpit Steam Fair, 3rd & 4th June. We understand that the engine was supplied new to Thedwastre District Council, ordered by their Surveyor of Highways, Arthur Daniel Ennals, who lived at Linden Croft. As we hope to put on a small exhibition at the Steam Fair to coincide with this "homecoming", we wonder if any readers have more information or old photos of this traction engine which we could include in our exhibition. Please do be in touch – many thanks.



Our next talk on **9th March, 7.30pm at the Wesley** - will be Geoffrey Robinson's "*Commerce in 18th Century Worlingworth*". Geoffrey is the Chairman of Worlingworth History Society, so is the ideal person to give us this history of the village's Shop Street. Do join us then to learn more of this fascinating slice of Suffolk's social history.

Elspeth Rushbrook and talk on Titanic survivor

I was very disappointed that the talk to Elmswell History Group did not take place on 9th February. I am giving two other talks nearby on 1st March and 15th May, where copies of my book will also be available. To find out more or buy it online, please email RushbrookBooks@outlook.com

Thank you

**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



ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Greetings from St John's Church

Have you ever wondered what the Christian faith is all about? We are currently running a short series called *Soul*, that looks at the basics of the Christian faith. It is held on Sunday evenings until Easter and includes a 15 minute video, a Bible reading and discussion. If you would like to come along, please let us know by emailing elmswellrector@gmail.com or calling 01359 240512. The evening also includes a dessert or cake!

We are currently in a season of the year that Christians call *Lent*. It reminds us of the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness, praying and fasting. Some people, likewise, use this period to pray more or to give something up for a while – a sort of spring cleaning of the soul. It is not a negative time, however. I came across this excellent quote from Tom Wright that sums it up: "Lent is a time for discipline, for confession, for honesty, not because God is mean or fault-finding or finger-pointing, but because he wants us to know the joy of being cleaned out, ready for all the good things he now has in store."

The Friends of St John's will be holding their annual meeting with tea and coffee at St John's on 25 March at 10:00am. The new Church Guide will be launched at this meeting and will be available to buy for £5.00, alongside other Friends merchandise.

You are very welcome to come along to one of our services at St John's on Sundays at 10:30am. We are a friendly group of people who want to get know God better. Our services include the

singing of some songs and hymns (old and new), a talk from the Bible and we have a group for children with craft in our Church Room. There is also tea, coffee and biscuits after the service. Why not pop along or contact us to find out more?

Upcoming Dates:

Sun 5 Mar 9:00am Holy Communion

Sun 5 Mar 10:30am Family Service

Sun 12 Mar 10:30am Sunday Worship with Holy Communion

Sun 19 Mar 10:30am Sunday Worship

Sun 26 Mar 10:30am Sunday Worship 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

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ST. JOHN'S CHURCH TOWER FLOODLIGHTING

You are invited to sponsor the floodlighting of St. John's to help with the day-to-day running expenses of our parish church. You can choose to commemorate a personal event, an anniversary, or any other special occasion. Alternatively you can simply make a donation.

During March the lights will be on between 7.00 p.m. and midnight.

A night's floodlighting costs £5.

Please make cheques payable to "ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, ELMSWELL".

Your support is very much appreciated.

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- 2 Margaret Clarke - remembered with love on her Birthday.
- 15 in loving memory of Joyce Ivy Jackson, also her son Barry Anthony Jackson, formerly of Bury St. Edmunds, with Elmswell roots.
- 19 cherished memories of Evelyn Simpson on this special day. "Always remembered with so much love. God Bless".
- 19 Dora Handyside - remembered with so much love on Mothering Sunday, and always. "God Bless".
- 19 Mary Skinner - remembering a dear Mum on this special day, and always, with so much love. "God Bless".
- 25 to remember and thank all those past Elmswell Fire-Fighters who served their village and community so well.

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Sundays – 8.30am & 10.15am
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Holy Days – 10am & 7.30pm
Our Lady's Strickland Road Stowmarket

Weekday Mass is usually 10am, see the weekly Newsletter or the Parish Website – www.ourladystowmarket.org.uk

All are welcome to "Coffee and Chat", 2 – 4pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. This is held in the Parish Hall above the Church – a lift is available.



ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

On Sunday 12th February we celebrated our 136th Church Anniversary of our church building the fellowship was founded by Miss Caroline Watts some time earlier in a tent in a field which is now Blacksmiths Way.

We're still here at the Tin Tabernacle on the Ashfield Road, Elmswell we hold a Sunday service at 10.30 AM each Sunday with an open table for communion on the first Sunday of the month unfortunately

we are too small a fellowship to be able to maintain a full time Pastor so we rely on the help of a part time moderator and visiting preachers, we have a mid-week meeting for prayer and bible study and have Ladies Friendship Group on the first Monday each month and a lunch for our older residents on the second Thursday of every month except August.

Our Ladies Friendship Group will be meeting at 2PM on Monday 6th March to hear a talk by Lesley Williams entitled "Parish Nursing" all ladies are welcome to these popular afternoons at the church come along and enjoy a cup of tea and a chat in our lovely warm chapel, contact Margaret on 01359241541 for any more information about the group.

Our Food and Friends Lunch at the church takes place at midday on 9th March these lunches are aimed at our older residents but if you are on your own and feeling in need of company why not give Jackie a ring on 01359245918 to book a place you will be most welcome.

We are grateful to all those who come to preach each week, our services in March will be led by:-

March 5th
Rev Norman Tharby (inc Communion)

March 12th
Mark Partridge

March 19th
Revs Richard & Brenda Webb

March 26th
Rev Norman Tharby

April 2nd
Rev Norman Tharby
(Palm Sunday & Communion)

Our church is a warm and cosy building and I can assure you of a warm and friendly greeting should you wish to join us at any of our services or meetings contact Tony on 01359 241541 for any more information you may need or go to our website www.elmswellbaptists.org.uk

Tony

DOES ELMSWELL NEED SPECIALIST CARE HOME AND/OR RETIREMENT ACCOMMODATION?

Knowing there is a shortage of care home facilities and retirement living across the country, and across Suffolk, is there a specific local need for this type of accommodation in the Elmswell area?

Members of the local community are invited to discuss their thoughts on 'local need' with the team at James Bailey Planning Ltd. (JBPL) who will be holding an informal drop-in session at the Wesley Café on **Wednesday 29th March** between 1 -5 pm, where they will be happy to listen and take onboard your views.



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The recent Wesley Tuesday Afternoon Treat saw the chapel filled with lovers of tea, coffee and cake fans, many celebrating 14th February as a day for lovely things. Which included appropriate musical backing from Kevin and friends.

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VILLAGE GREEN NEWS FROM ELMSWILD



AND 20 YEARS ON...



SOME NEW FACES...



SAFELY PLANTED

Our tree nursery comes back to the library!

Now, almost exactly 20 years later, we again need an area to plant and grow on saplings – so what better place to put it than next to the library? We now have a new Tree Warden in the village – Janet Spencer – who is keen to start lots of tree planting projects here (including the recent planting at Clayfields with Green M.P. Caroline Lucas, as featured recently on Look East), so a tree nursery will be very useful. Janet writes:

“The new tree nursery at the library is part of a project to plant another length of hedge up at the Blackbourne, planned for this coming autumn, in National Tree Week (end of November /early December). We already have nearly half of the young trees and they need to be planted out in a nursery bed to grow on. Once these trees have been successfully moved to their new home, the nursery can be used for many other tree planting projects around the village. 20 years ago there was a tree nursery here, and the soil looks good. It has been fenced to keep muntjac deer out; they have been seen in nearby gardens and would make short work of our tiny trees. Look out for news of the hedge planting – we will need all hands on deck to help!”

Our photos show Janet with other members of ElmsWild as we celebrate the completion of the nursery after a hard morning digging in 500 saplings. Many thanks to Peter Hancock for removing the turf (pictured here with the very efficient turf stripping machine) and to Peter Dow for installing the fence and gate.

We're looking forward to many new generations of Elmswell trees emanating from Library Tree Nursery 2.0, and there will be many opportunities to help plant them. If you would like to help or be involved, please get in touch – we'd love to hear from you!

Mary Feeney
info@elmswild.org.uk



PARISH COUNCILLOR PETER HANCOCK WITH THE TURF CUTTER ASSISTED BY ELMSWILDER KEITH HARVEY



A trip down Memory Lane

Longstanding Elmswell residents with good memories may remember a very warm Saturday afternoon way back in March 2003 when we invited everyone to bring trees and saplings to plant in our brand new tree nursery next to the (still quite new) Elmswell Memorial Library. Perhaps you were there? You may even have been one of the dozens of people who brought a tree and helped to dig it into the nursery? It was amazing how many people had little trees which they had been nurturing in their back gardens, some lovingly grown from seed, some cuttings from larger shrubs and some dug out of plots where they had self-sown in the wrong place. At that time ElmsWild had recently established as a group with the help of Suffolk charity, the Green Light Trust, and we were hoping to find some land where we could start developing a community woodland for Elmswell. It was a lovely day!

We recently dug out some photos of that event and it was fascinating to see some old faces there. Many residents will recall Rector of St John's at that time, Mike Macnamara, who came along to inaugurate the tree nursery and dig the first hole. The trees we grew there were eventually planted out in various locations in the village – many were transferred to Kiln Meadow and some were taken to complete the planting at Grove Lane playing fields.

We had to wait another seven years before we were able to buy the land at what is now Lukeswood. Then we had thousands of trees to plant, mainly supplied by the Woodland Trust and the Tree Council. We also built another tree nursery at Elmswell Primary School where the children planted seeds and looked after the little saplings before digging them up and transferring them to Lukeswood. By then the Library Tree Nursery had been removed and grassed over as we no longer needed it. Now the trees at Lukeswood are regenerating themselves, so the whole woodland is in effect a natural tree nursery.

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FROM THE ELMSWELL ARCHIVE



The Archive room at Blackbourne provides a safe home for the village's history to be stored for future generations and invites new material of all sorts from individuals and from village organisations.

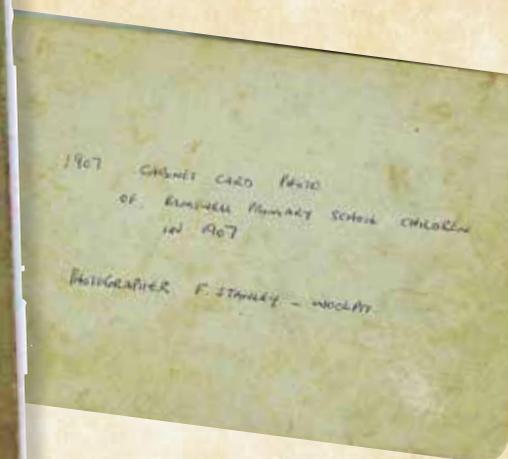
Two recent deposits are shown here – if you can add anything, related to these photographs or in general, please be in touch with the Parish Council office at Blackbourne – 01359 244134 email clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk



DEFEATED FINALISTS. The Elmswell football team who were beaten 3—0 by Finningham in the final of the Lillistone charity shield, at the Cricket Meadow, Stowmarket, on Friday.

Elmswell Football Club in April 1962 fielded a team for the Lillistone Charity Shield final of;
Back row L-R; Cecil Salmon, Derek Hunt, Alan Snell, Mervyn Roberts, Ray Brown, Andy Mulley
Front row L-R; Tony Sadler, Colin Moore, Mac Lambourne, Fred Brown (?), Keith Rooney.

If you can add any details, do be in touch.



There are several pictures on file relating to the old primary school in Elmswell – as mentioned in this month's Editorial piece.

This one dates from 1907 and is a recent acquisition by Paul Peachey for his collection of historic Elmswell postcards and village photographs. Paul is looking to produce another book of his collected images and would be pleased to hear from you if you have any photographs of interest. Tel. 0241517 email paul.peachey@live.com

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**MEET AT THE VILLAGE SIGN
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Way to go...

Elmswell's monthly footpath walks take in footpaths around and about the village...4 miles maximum – easy walking, everyone welcome, dogs on leads please .

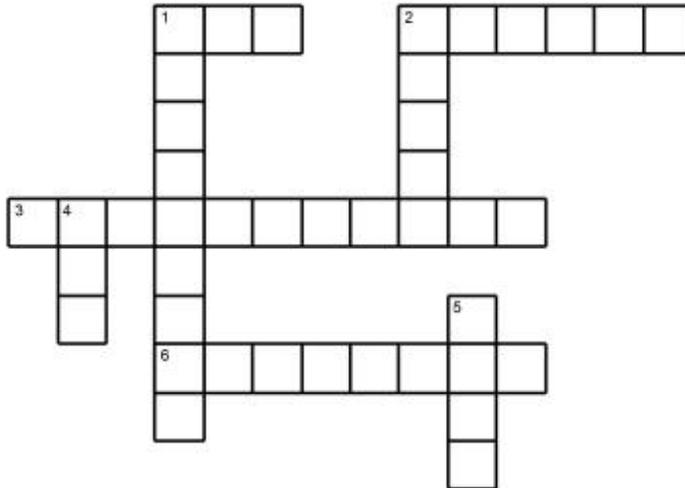
All walks start from the village sign on Crown Mill.



Minibeasts



Minibeast Crossword

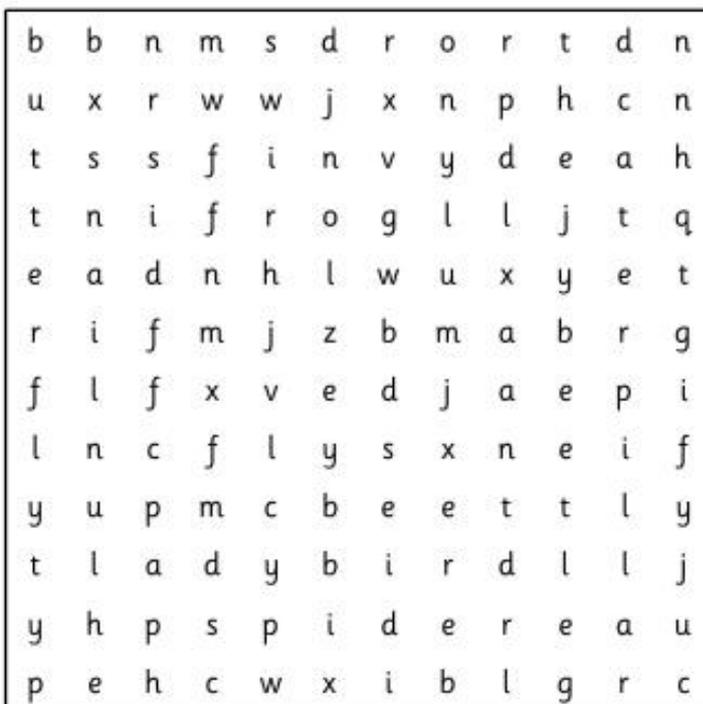


ACROSS

DOWN

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. I make honey | 1. I come of a chrysalis |
| 2. I spin webs | 2. I carry my home on my back |
| 3. I'm a baby butterfly | 4. I live in a hill |
| 6. I'm red and spotty | 5. A tadpole turns into me |

Minibeast Wordsearch



- ant bee beetle butterfly caterpillar
fly frog ladybird snail spider



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FIRST TEAM REPORT

Although we've only had two games February was a bit of a roller-coaster. We started off against Bramford Utd in an eleven goal thriller. Hatricks from top scorer Will Hayden and Andy Brookin set us on our way. They were added to by braces from Dylan Palfreyman and Paul Cable, and Zarzo Palian rounded things off with a free kick to make it 11-0 to The Elm. Despite all those goals Jake Day was MOTM for his all-round midfield performance.

We were then away to high-flying Kesgrave Kestrels, which was to be quite a different game. Olly Chaplin, our usual keeper, was unavailable and our replacement keeper's arthritis was not helped by all the times he had to pick the ball out of the net. Although Kestrels were the better side the final score of 9-2 did not reflect the balance of the game. Elmswell goals were scored by Romaine Scott and Eliot Gunter.

Our next game is away Bramford Utd, but you'll have to wait until next month's issue to find out if we were able to equal our 11-0 win at home (unless follow us on Facebook or Instagram).



FIRST TEAM MARCH GAMES

- 04/03 CLAYDON RES v ELMSWELL
DIV.2 - 14:30 ko
- 11/03 THURSTON v ELMSWELL
DIV.2 - 14:30 ko
- 25/03 SPORTING 87 RES v ELMSWELL
DIV.2 - 14:30 ko

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RESERVES REPORT

We finished off January in dramatic style with a whopping 7-0 demolition of Bramford Reserves at The Blackbourne. Top scorer Luke Catchpole notched four and MOTM, Paul Cable got another brace and captain, Aidan Ashton completed the scoring.

The next week we hosted Mendlesham as both Elmswell teams struggled for full squads. We made a promising start as Chris Edmonds rolled back the years to lob the keeper from just outside the box with a side-footed half-volley but we soon gave our lead away to a storming header from a corner. Mendlesham edged ahead before Thomas Morgan (EFC's second Tom Morgan) equalised on his debut. In the second half the visitors ran away with it as we tired. Final score 2-5. MOTM went to the new T. Morgan.

Our final game to report on is the Reserve Cup quarter final that we played against Div.3 side Trimley Red Devils. We'd beaten Div.3 opposition in the previous round so we were up for another cupset. Despite a good warm up we never really got our rhythm going and were 2-0 down before half an hour had passed; a defensive mix up and space left in behind were taken advantage of with ruthless efficiency. An early substitution helped stem the tide and we held our own until halftime. Another two substitutions were forced upon us during the break but we set out intent on getting the next goal to get back into the game. Instead we conceded another two goals in the opening phases of the second half. Although we improved as the half went on and missed several great chances of our own, Trimley could have won by more were it not for our MOTM in goal, Jason Brown. Next week we face Kesgrave Kestrels A at home.

ELMSWELL RESERVES GAMES -

- 04/03 ELMSWELL RES v Saxmundham Res
DIV.6 - 14:30 ko @ The Blackbourne
- 11/03 Hadleigh Utd Brettsiders v ELMSWELL RES
DIV.6 - 14:30 ko
- 18/03 Eye Saints Youth v ELMSWELL RES
DIV.6 - 14:30 ko
- 25/03 Bramford Utd Res v ELMSWELL RES
DIV.6 - 14:30 ko



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ELMSWELL FOOTPATH WALK

FOOTPATH WALK SUNDAY 12TH FEBRUARY

16 Parishioners and 1 dog congregated at Crown Mill on a balmy February Sunday morning for a pleasant stroll along some of Elmswell's local footpaths.

The group headed off along School Road, into Hawk End Lane and thence on to FP13 running alongside the railway.

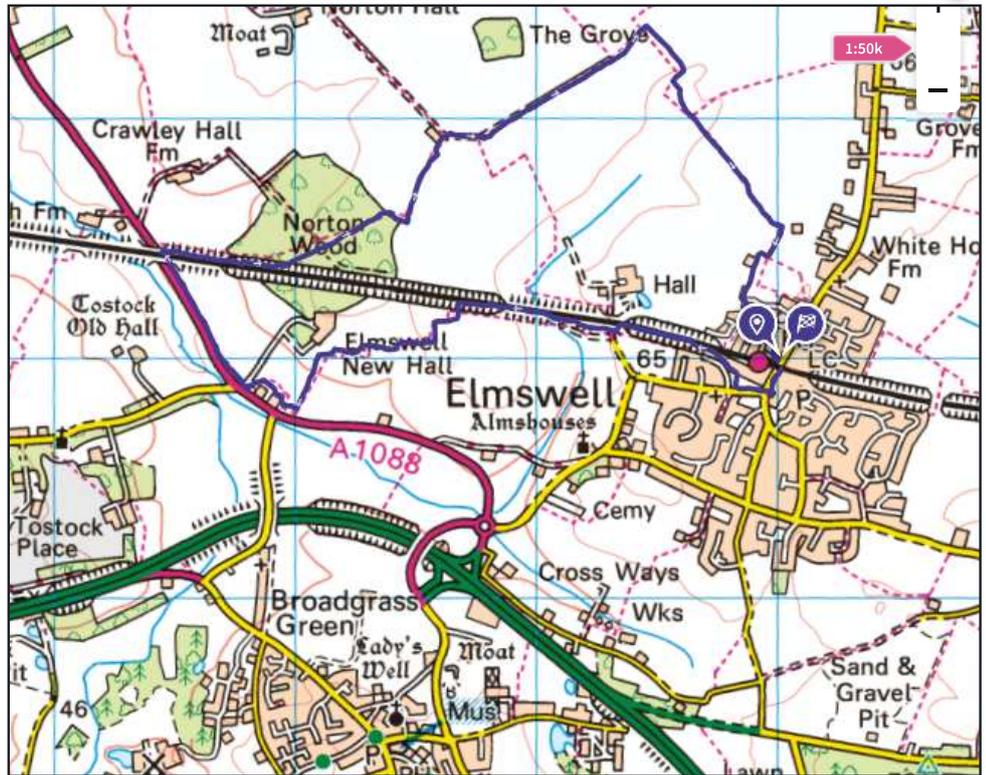
Walking alongside the new Bloors Homes School Road development it was observed that the site appears well managed and kept in good order. The Attenuation Basin is nearing completion and will hopefully provide a habitat for local flora and fauna.

A quick left and right took us on to FP14 and this then zigzagged west and south to the rear of Elmswell New Hall towards the A1088.

FP14 passes to the rear of Fox and Goose cottages which was, as we were informed by one of the group, a pub in a previous life. Subsequent research shows the last recorded landlord was a George Bird in 1911 having been open for business since 1841.

Following a safety briefing the party headed north on the A1088 utilising the verge at every opportunity.

Just under the railway bridge and into Norton parish the party turned right on to FP23, up the slope and into Norton Woods. The woodsmen appeared to have been busy and coppicing works are progressing well.



Norton Woods have a particular attraction and are to be recommended to anybody wishing to enjoy the local beauty spots.

FP23 leads out of the woods into open countryside and then on to FP7 at the isolated barn;

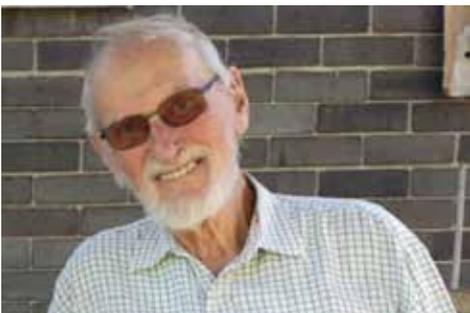
We continued east on FP7 and then on to FP35 (a Green Lane) and FP31 in the same direction until turning right on to FP32 on the homeward leg.

FP32 is transformed into FP1 crossing back into the Parish of Elmswell and on this we continued south and east wending our way back to the start point.

A very satisfying but slightly longer walk of just under 5 miles to take in Norton Woods in just over 2 hours (an average speed of 2.5 miles per hour).

Peter Hancock, EPC Footpath Officer

WESLEY UKULELE BAND



February was a quiet month, gigwise, but saddened enormously by the passing of our veteran drummer, David Gruenbaum. David was an original member of the group starting his career keeping time on a guitar case! He eventually bought a couple of electric drum kits the latter of which he bequeathed to the band. He was incredibly popular and much admired for his keenness of mind and attitude to life. We lost him just short of his 92nd birthday for which he booked a party which he insisted went ahead, 'even if it's a wake' to use his exact words. Everyone who knows him is invited to his party at the Blackbourne on

the evening April 1st from 7.00pm. There will be a bar and a buffet and, most likely, some Ukulele tunes as well! He requests the company of the Wesley Ukes and partners, the scrabble group, all who bowled with him and those he walked with. The great pity of it is that he won't be there himself to celebrate with us but that, in itself, tells us a lot about him. I have a couple of photos of him but in all the drumming shots, he is concentrating and looking very serious but the family kindly provided a picture of David in relaxed mode, to balance things out. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



Having had a quiet February, we are now facing a busy March. We are at Bilderston on the 2nd and, the following day we are at the Wesley for our own little get-together with friends and partners and playing at Chilton Care Home on the 10th. This will be our first Care Home and came about from a Tavern Gig where a staff member sang with us and gently coerced her daughters to join in too. The Folk Club reverts to the third Thursday i.e. 16th, so try not to miss that.

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



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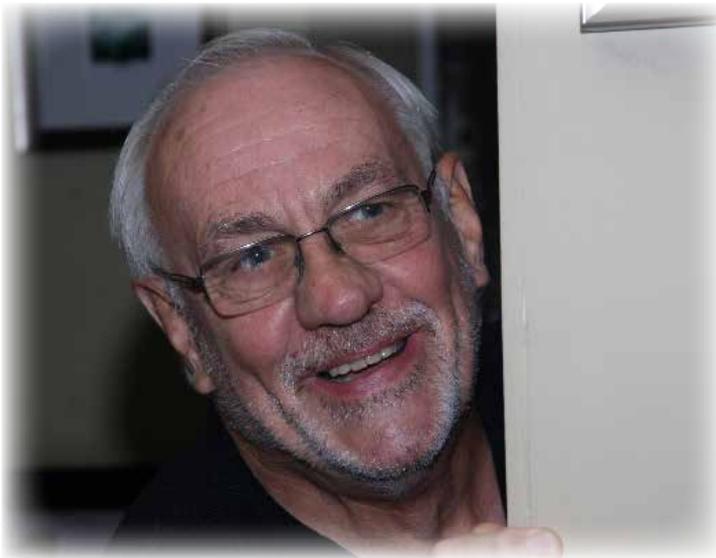


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Phil Stabler playing Peekaboo



Graham Baker



ELMSWELL FOX BOWLS CLUB

I had hoped to have the fixtures for the 2023 season by now but, sadly, they are still to come so we still don't know whether any more clubs have folded. A couple were hanging by a thread so it's a case of 'fingers crossed' and 'hope for the best'. G.F. Stanisfield, the last remaining Thetford Club were in particular danger and we got to know some of their players quite well having met the same ones both times we played. Elmswell, thank goodness, are in no danger of 'landlord problems' and our membership is healthy, too, so there is little for us to fear as long as everybody else keeps going.

Everybody has declared when they wish to play and, predictably, Mondays are the most popular. With many newcomers opting out of League matches, we have too many for one team but not enough for two, as the League insists that players cannot interchange between teams. So that everyone has enough playing opportunities, we will run a 'Drive' on match days for those not engaged in League matches, and any other paid-up member. Teams will be selected using the Ballot Discs and scores will be kept. Each player will be accredited with the score of his team and, at the end of the season, the highest scorer

will be declared the winner. By then, there will be a trophy to award. We would like to see all new and nearly-new players take part in this and in all Club Competitions because it is all valuable experience and, although nearly claim to be 'not good enough' we know that several actually are!

The green will be opened early in April and the exact date will be circulated when known.

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

CITIZENS ADVICE

My employer asked me to work some extra hours lately, but I don't appear to have received the extra pay. I asked my boss about it and they said they would look into it, but I don't seem to be getting anywhere. What should I do?

If you think your pay is wrong, or you haven't been paid for extra hours worked, the best thing you can do is talk to your employer and find out what's going on. If you and your employer can't agree on how much you should have been paid, you can challenge them. You should act quickly though – it'll be harder to get your money after 3 months from the date the problem arose.

You should start by checking your payslip if you've got one. This will help you see how your pay has been worked out. Check things like:

- Whether you've been paid for the number of hours you've actually worked
- If you've been paid at the correct rate
- If you've been paid overtime, a commission or a bonus
- Whether you've been paid any sick pay
- If your employer has deducted any money that you weren't expecting

Ask your employer to explain anything you don't understand on your payslip or why you haven't been paid what you believe you are owed. If you disagree with anything, explain why. If your employer has made a genuine mistake, ask them to pay you the money you're owed straight away – you should not have to wait until your next pay day.

If you need more help, you can contact Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk to get advice on the next steps.

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide advice on this and other issues, including debt, employment, benefits and family law. You can contact them on 01449 676060 or use the contact form at midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us. More information and our opening hours can also be found at midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us.





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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 February meeting with 9 councillors present, together with 5 members of the public, SCC Ward member Cllr Andy Mellen and the Parish Clerk, Peter Dow, took place at Blackbourne on Monday 20th.

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 January 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, as Ward Members, a written report on BMSDC activities which confirmed that:

- Current proposals for next year's budget include a council tax freeze for residents. There will also be a reduction of up to 100% for residents with the lowest income and a simplification of the existing Council Tax reduction scheme for residents on Universal Credit. The net costs for providing services is set to rise by 41% and the Cabinet have suggested that the current surplus will be reduced.
- MSDC are to increase housing rents by 7% to meet the rising costs of the Housing Revenue Account. The Council referred itself to the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) as there were found to be some issues relating to health and safety compliance. The RSH reported their findings and will continue to monitor the Council's housing until the issues are resolved. An action plan has been agreed to ensure that Mid Suffolk housing becomes compliant within a reasonable time frame.
- The application for a fuel station and drive through restaurants on the A1088 roundabout was refused by the Council's Planning committee. This application has gone to appeal on grounds of non-determination, but this decision of the Committee will determine how the officers defend the appeal.
- Construction of a state-of-the-art distribution unit for garden and leisure products retailer The Range is officially underway at Gateway 14 near Stowmarket. The company hopes to provide a new base for manufacturing, logistics and R&D

businesses with a particular focus on innovation and sustainability at as well as providing innovation space for smaller and start-up businesses that will boost the local economy and attract investment into the region.

- Babergh and Mid Suffolk aim to reduce the number of long-term empty properties. There are currently almost 600 empty homes across both districts. 'Houses for Homes' is a re-branding of the service in the hope that people will engage better with the Councils to bring these dwellings into use.
- MSDC Cabinet has approved the next phase of the business case for the Stowmarket wellbeing and leisure hub. Since the initial plans were drafted last year the project has been extended to include a new sports pavilion, a multi-use games area, four indoor sports courts and a multi-agency wellbeing hub.
- Local elections are taking place on 4th May. The pre-election restriction period will begin on 23rd March. This year for the first time voters will need to bring photographic ID when they attend a polling station to vote. Details of the types of ID which are acceptable can be found at <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/elections/voter-id/>. Residents who do not have any form of acceptable ID need to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate or they can apply for a postal vote.

Cllr Mansel confirmed that she was supporting a move to draw down £2m from the District Council's unallocated resources towards addressing immediate problems caused by the triple crises of energy, cost of living crisis and the climate.

Suffolk County Council

Ward Member Cllr Andy Mellen tabled

a written report confirming that, at the beginning of January, the Scrutiny Committee met to examine the Carbon Budget. This document attempts to calculate the amount of carbon SCC emits through its services. More importantly, it shows the Council's progress towards achieving Net Zero by 2030. This year's carbon budget shows that SCC is not on track to reach Net Zero by 2030. Current forecasts show that SCC will still be producing 10,000 tonnes of CO₂ in 2030 – that's still half of what we are emitting now. There is a Proposal to employ a Carbon Budget Officer to provide a sole focus on improving the reporting of carbon emissions. Meanwhile, SCC are planning to invest £110,000 in managing and inspecting trees and hedgerows. The money will be used to ensure that trees and hedgerows are given the best chance to thrive. Currently, the Council has planted around 50,000 trees and hedging plants this planting season. This comes as the latest science indicates trees can capture nearly twice the amount of carbon as previously thought.

Elsewhere, as part of ongoing work aiming to restore some of the lost bus services, it has been identified that Vertas (the Council's wholly-owned facilities subsidiary) has some vehicles available during the school day, and some work is being done to see if there is a service that could be provided to villages in the west of the county using this resource. In response to a question from the Chairman, Cllr Mellen confirmed that he continued to support the Parish Council's efforts to have a 20mph speed limit designated through the village centre.

Clerk's Report The Clerk's tabled the following Report.

- 1 On 30th January I met with Cllrs Pallett and Brown on site with a representative of Matthew Homes

on site to discuss the progress in backfilling the errant swale on the new land at Blackbourne and the installation of a proper drainage feature. The works are largely finished and we will be informed when the site fencing is removed so that we can proceed with ground preparation including the possibility of land drains yet to be discussed by BWMA members who will advise.

- 2 I attended the MSDC liaison meeting at Stowmarket on 7th February and noted presentations from officers on Planning, the 2023/24 budget, election arrangements and Localities arrangements. This was the first session since covid. Outside of the formal presentations, the opportunity for informal liaison with officers, Members and other T&PC representatives is productive.
- 3 I took the opportunity to bring Caroline Lucas MP, engaged in a tour of the constituency, to the village to help with the planting of the 9 trees at Clay Field which are replacing the 3 to be felled to avoid further nuisance to households in Thedwastre Close. The Press interest, including a TV crew, helps raise EPC's profile in terms of active and practical initiatives. I extended Council's thanks to the ElmsWild volunteers who advised on the planting in conjunction with Janet Spencer, our Tree Warden. This group has also been instrumental in the creation of a tree nursery, now established, in liaison with the Amenities Association, on land to the rear of the Memorial Library. This will serve to safely hold the plants being acquired for the extensive shelter-belt perimeter hedging around the new land at Blackbourne for planting in November.
- 4 I met with Cllr Hancock and the BMSDC Economy Project Officer on 16th February to establish an input to the Councils' community energy projects initiative and to the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership regarding the aspiration to have a community wind turbine erected at the perimeter of the new Blackbourne land. There are several preliminary stages before any specifications are determined for the basis of community consultation. These

will be triggered by the imminent Government decision to rescind the current ban on land based turbines.

- 5 I have been approached by a Planning Agent on behalf of a client seeking feedback on a proposal to site a development of sheltered accommodation on land to the north of St John's and south of Parnell Lane. I confirmed that all previous attempts to develop this land had been met with considerable community opposition and had subsequently foundered. I understand that a community consultation session is planned.

In addition, the Clerk confirmed:

- o He had met with Cllr Mike Schofield and the BMSDC Communities Officer, Bethany Taylor to discuss the continuing and successful collaboration between EPC and the Elmswell Food Bank volunteers towards supporting members of the community including through the provision of a Warm Space at Wesley.
- o He had met with Cllr Fred Pallett and Jo Churchill MP on line to confirm the situation regarding primary schooling in Elmswell with a view to keeping the issue alive as MSDC Cabinet review their controversial proposal for 50 houses on a site where a school is a possible alternative.
- o That he had asked to join a group of Councils discussing the possibility of the use of Vertas electric mini buses when not in use on school runs when they might be available for a trial taxi-bus service.

Planning Applications

The Meeting voted to support applications for a replacement dwelling at Half Acre in Grove Lane where the original dwelling was destroyed by fire and for a variation in Conditions allowing solar PV installations at Holly Lodge in Cross Street. Objections were lodged against two further applications as follows:
DC/23/0040 Erection of rear garden room 15, Jubilee Terrace
 Elmswell Parish Council objects to this application. The result of the ensuing development would impose a blank and featureless building with minimal fenestration providing, by virtue of

its construction, an unsustainable result. There would be a detrimental effect on the amenity of neighbouring households, including at Laurel Court. As such, the proposal runs counter to Local Plan Policies GP1 & H16.

DC/23/00258 Erection of garage and store (revised scheme to DC/22/05326) at Silver Birches, Church Road
 Elmswell Parish Council objects to this application as there is insufficient information to inform a decision. The original garage and store building was at the site limits of acceptability in terms of size and mass. The unspecified increase in ridge height can only worsen the imposition on the adjacent dwellings. Without dimensions to enable an assessment of the further effect on neighbourhood amenity, the default position must be objection.

Planning results

The Meeting noted the following results of Planning applications made to Mid Suffolk, the Planning Authority:

DC/23/00320 Non material amendment...Silver Birches, Church Road
 APPROVED
 PC no comment

DC/22/06217 Retention of existing annexe...Mulberry Farm, Ashfield Road
 GRANTED P C supported

DC/22/05915 Erection of single storey side extension...3 Cooks Road
 GRANTED P C supported

DC/21/02956 Erection of 44 dwellings...East Warren Lane /West Cresmedow Way
 REFUSED
 PC objected

DC/22/03971 Discharge of Condition 22 for DC/20/01677 (surface water drainage) Land West of Former Bacon Factory
 APPROVED PC no comment

DC/22/03967 Discharge of Condition 5 for DC/20/01677 (Noise mitigation) Land West of Former Bacon Factory
 APPROVED PC no comment

DC/22/03970 Discharge of Condition 21 for DC/20/01677 (Refuse storage) Land West of Former Bacon Factory
 APPROVED PC no comment

DC/22/05091 Erection of stables and hay store...land off Ashfield Road

GRANTED PC objected
 DC/22/00068 Discharge of
 Condition 20 (parking &
 turning) for DC/20/01677 Land
 West of Former Bacon Factory
 APPROVED PC no comment
 DC/22/06232 Garage &
 accommodation over...land adj. Old
 Granary, Kiln Lane APPROVED
 PC objected
 DC/22/05875 Discharge of Condition
 15 (Travel Plan) land west of School
 Road APPROVED P C
 no comment

Wayleave

The meeting approved the signing-off of a Wayleave Agreement with Eastern Power Networks plc regarding the erection of 3 poles and 4 stays supporting overhead electric line and ancillary apparatus on the Council's land adjacent to Blackbourne Meadow in consideration of an Annual Agreement currently assessed at £45.30 with payment backdated for 1 year at the rate which then prevailed.

Neighbourhood Plan

The meeting noted that the Elmswell Neighbourhood Development Plan is now formally submitted to Mid Suffolk and that it might have reached the Examination stage by July after which it is subject to Referendum towards being 'made' and established as relevant Planning policy.

Allotment improvements

A budget of £5,235.00 net of VAT was agreed for improvements at the Church Hill allotments to include a more accessible water supply, re-making of the access roadway and the creation of more car parking serving both the Lukeswood plots and the cemetery.

Elmswell Tavern

An allocation of £5,000.00 was agreed towards the working-up of plans for the refurbishment of the village's community facility at the Elmswell Tavern. All such funding is to be charged to the Elmswell Community enterprise group once the project is up and running with an income stream allowing repayment back to the Council.

Land adjacent to Wesley

Councillors agreed to make a formal offer for the vacant plot currently for sale on Rose Lane which is adjacent to the Wesley and which offers immediate possibilities for expansion of car parking. The Council's Wesley coffee shop and chapel facility has exceeded expectations in terms of popularity and use. The imminent loss of the Tavern site next door for overflow parking is seen as problematic.

Next meeting

It was noted that the next Ordinary Meeting was scheduled for Monday 20th March 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.



DISTRICT & PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

- THURSDAY MAY 4th

For the first time in the UK you will need to have photo ID with you when you go to vote – driving licence, bus pass etc. will do. The Electoral Commission website has full details, or contact the Parish Clerk's Office with any queries.

IF YOU WISH TO STAND AS A CANDIDATE...

- ✓ Nomination Forms are available from Mid Suffolk
- ✓ The Elmswell Newsletter will publish any and all submissions from candidates as a public service. This can include 300 words or fewer – this maximum will be strictly enforced – any text in excess of the limit will be referred back, time allowing, for editing or will not, if time does not allow, be published. Also invited is a your head-and shoulders thumbnail photograph.
- ✓ Email submissions by 4.00pm on Monday 27th March to ea@elmswell.org.uk



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.

Mar 20th	Apr 17th	May 15th	June 19th	July 17th
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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 Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 9.00am-4.00pm
 Thursday & Friday 9.00am – 12.00noon
 And other times by arrangement

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



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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)	eea@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	Gemma Sutton	elmswellbrownies@hotmail.com	
CAB		advice@midsuffolkcab.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@midsuffolk.gov.uk	07860 829517
District Councillor	Helen Geake	Helen.geake@midsuffolk.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	Viv	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@littleeelms.co.uk	240491
Newsletter	Editorial office	eea@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 eea @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.

March 2023

- 1 Exchange WI Charlotte Morgan Dolls Houses & Miniatures 2.00pm at Wesley
- 2 Over 55's Club Fish & Chip supper + Bingo
- 6 2pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church. Lesley Williams talking about Parish Nursing.
- 9 Elmswell History Group, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Geoff Robinson: 18th Century Commerce in Worlingworth
- 9 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 14 WI at Wesley 7.30 Cheryl Brighty Artistry in Cocoa
- 16 Over 55's Club AGM
- 21 ELMSWELL GARDEN CLUB, 7.30pm in Wesley Chapel. Speaker - Ruth Goudy 'The Language of Flowers'
- 30 Over 55's Club Entertainment by Susan Jayne (join us please)
- 31 Bingo at Blackbourne doors open 6.30 eyes down 7.30

April 2023

- 3 2pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church. Lisa Jones on "Savvy Shopping".
- 5 Exchange WI Claire's House - finger pottery craft afternoon 2.00pm at Wesley
- 11 WI at Wesley 7.30 Martyn Roper The History of Cartoons
- 13 Elmswell History Group 23rd Anniversary meeting, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Miriam Stead: Halesworth's 17th Century 'Walpole Old Chapel'
- 13 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 13 Over 55's Club Bingo
- 18 ELMSWELL GARDEN CLUB, 7.30pm in Wesley Chapel. Speaker - Saffron Summerfield 'When Birds Sing
- 27 Over 55's Club Wesley Ukulele Band (visitors welcome)
- 28 Bingo at Blackbourne doors open 6.30 eyes down 7.30

May 2023

- 4 Election day. Polling at Wesley and Blackbourne 7am - 10.00pm - photo ID required
- 9 WI at Wesley 7.30 Annual Meeting
- 11 Over 55's Club music by Bob Whiting (open evening)
- 11 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 11 Elmswell History Group, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Movie Screening of Holly Brega's film "Land Girls & Horses of Suffolk"
- 16 ELMSWELL GARDEN CLUB, 7.30pm in Wesley Chapel. Speaker - Nigel Start 'Climate Change - a survival guide for gardens in East Anglia'
- 25 Over 55's Club Outing Carvery + Boat Trip TBA
- 26 Bingo at Blackbourne doors open 6.30 eyes down 7.30

STOP PRESS

Regular sessions at Blackbourne & Wesley include:

- KARATE** with Lewis - Tuesday 4.30 - 5.45 / Friday 5.00 - 7.00 info@greatheadma.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** - 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 7.pm 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: March 28th, April 25th, May 23rd

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

Our new email address is EAA@elmswell.org.uk Your editors: Jean Barker, Maggie Bushell, Peter Dow

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