

'Like a friend dropping in'



The Elmswell Newsletter



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

NOVEMBER 2025

On line at elmswell.suffolk.cloud

GROWTH

... plenty here as Elmswell Resident Roy Barker wins 1st prize with his 4 stone marrow



NONE HERE!

... as the Planning Inspector heeds the People's Voice!

... see editorial

Painting by Christopher Penny

Published on the first Friday of every month by the Elmswell Amenities Association Reg. Charity No. 304879. 2700 copies delivered free to households and to businesses in the community. A volunteer enterprise entirely supported by advertising.

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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.

It was a very local earthquake that hit on 15th October.

Just Elmswell, really.

The earth twitched rather than moved. The ornaments on the sideboard merely shivered a bit and Charles Richter's scale stuck at zero. What happened was that the people - us - won a fight to protect our village from yet another imposition of inappropriate development on our besieged community. After years of protesting that enough was enough, a Planning Inspector finally agreed. A Planning Inspector who took issue with the developer's suggestion that we, the 'public', did not appreciate the finer points of the case. This, she said, *'does a disservice to those who attended the inquiry to speak'*. A polite and proper put-down, but a well-deserved slap.

It came about when Mid Suffolk turned down a bid to build a 'Care Village' on 'land at School Road'.

The buildings would have included a 66-bedroom care home, 37 bungalows, 3 almshouses and management office.

They would have brought with them, 'a community growing area, orchard, community bee hives and open space provision'.

The land is the rolling acres of farmland below St John's, described at the Inquiry as, 'the best view in the village.'

The Inquiry took up 6 days and, importantly, included a very thorough site visit.

This was not, by any means, our first battle with, 'the developers'. Our village lies half-way between 2 nationally significant centres of employment - Cambridge and Felixstowe. On paper, the A14 joins us with them swiftly and efficiently. Our railway station links us nationally and our school, local health centre and road network have all been part of shoe-horning exercises which render them, theoretically and, 'within policy', capable of taking the 48% increase in houses built since the bacon factory's demise. Great place to live. Great place to build.

We ran out of, 'brownfield', sites some years ago. The Bacon Factory set a pattern. Then Anderson's Engineering yielded Loch Rannoch Close, O C Jewers gave us Malting Field and Little Green, Hawes Printers became Whatley Close, Thurlow Nunn is now Blacksmith's Way...only the farmers' fields left. And in those fields proposals for housing were repeatedly tested against an ever-more encouraging Planning regime and subsequently granted against enormous public pressure. We were and are a great place to live and, as the Planning rules become ever-more elastic, a great place to build, build, build.

The pattern of the developers' approaches and the objections set a pattern common in our region, for we are a honeypot for builder's intent on satisfying an apparently endless demand for more houses. We squealed loudly, just as did our neighbours in Thurston, Woolpit and way beyond, that the school won't take it, the health centre is already overloaded, and the roads are a death trap. To no effect because, apparently:

✓ Schools don't need extensive outdoor play spaces or open-air learning environments. And children can be easily taken by bus to the next village if necessary.

✓ Health facilities can be centralised in larger and larger regions which is convenient for the provider but can impose serious stresses on patients forced to travel and wait and hope the computer doesn't say, 'No'.

✓ Road problems can be 'engineered out'. A few years back the suggestion of traffic lights on Church Hill outside St John's was thought to be a joke. The pressures on the Church Road School Road junction are now so close to safe capacity that the lights are almost certain when the next tranche of development hits. Which it will.

Hence the earthquake when the people's voice was, finally, heard.

But it was not heard because of the traffic problems, neither because of the education stresses nor the health centre chaos.

Rather, the common-sense decision came as a result of the dozens of letters of objection from residents and the heartfelt contributions from those who spoke at the Inquiry. The Inspector found that the proposal would lead to harm to the significant designated heritage assets at St John's Church, the almshouses and Elmswell Hall. Further, that the best view in the village would suffer - in Planning terms, by 'harm to the character and appearance of the surrounding area.' The people were once again to the fore in the support given to the argument against the development within our Neighbourhood Plan where we identified a heritage asset worthy of protection.

The Inspector's personal visit to St John's and the almshouses, looking across the valley to Elmswell Hall, was informed by the common factor of Sir Robert Gardiner. He acquired the Hall site in 1590 and, as a remarkably active benefactor, worked for the public good in Elmswell

and beyond, including the building of the almshouses. His striking tomb in the Church remains a dramatic reminder of his good works and links him directly with his manor house and with those dwellings which he provided for, 'six poore women widows' of the parishes of Elmswell and Woolpit.

The clear link across the arable acres provided 400 years of provenance. The land could not, we argued, be marred by a barracks-like building and dozens of bungalows dotted about it. The suggested sops by way of bio-diversity gains such as, 'community bee hives', went no way to soften the blight which the proposal represented. To suggest, as the Applicant did, that hedges would be planted across the land below the church simply served to offer another alien element to a century-old rolling arable landscape. Such 'greenwashing' was painfully obvious and ultimately ineffective.

Once again, Sir Robert Gardiner served Elmswell to advantage. It might well have been his view, as Lord Chief Justice, that it was about time the voice of the people was heard. Well might he have surmised that he law hath not been dead, though it hath slept.

This significant victory should not be lost. The terms of the Inspector's findings effectively debar any land use across this site other than farming. This should, surely, be pointed out as publicly as possible by the installation of a view-board at the site emphasising its status as an iconic landscape feature and detailing its provenance in the hope that centuries of valued social history can be remembered at the heart of Mid Suffolk's largest village?

It is, surely, what Gardiner would do?





ELMSWELL ART CLUB

This month we are going to look at three different types of artistic mediums; Acrylics, Oils and Charcoal

Firstly, **Acrylics** - Acrylic paint is used for a wide variety of artistic and decorative purposes due to its versatility, quick drying time, and ability to be used on many surfaces. It can be applied thinly like a watercolour or thickly for textured effects and is used by professional artists and beginners for fine art and crafts. Common uses include painting on canvas, wood, fabric, metal, and glass, as well as for techniques like airbrushing and stencilling.

Art Club member Norman Tharby often uses acrylic paints for his art, and his picture below is a fine acrylic painting on canvas of Morston Quay with moored boats;



Morston Quay is situated just within the shelter of Blakeney Point on the North Norfolk coast; the point forms a wonderful backdrop to the quay area.

Oils - Oil paints are made of coloured pigment suspended in a drying oil (such as linseed oil, walnut oil, or poppy seed oil); the oil paint dries slowly, which gives artists more time to blend colours and work on the canvas without the paint drying too quickly. The oil binder in the paint creates rich, dense, and luminous colours and artists can manipulate the paint consistency from thin and transparent to thick and buttery by adding more oil or using other mediums.

Our member, Hazel McGregor has produced the oil painting on canvas below; it is a portrait of David Bowie and it really captures this iconic rock star's image;



Finally, we will look at **Charcoal** as a drawing medium. Using strong contrast in drawings is a great way to create a dynamic image. One effective way of creating strong contrast is by using a white medium on dark or black surfaces. So, using a white charcoal pencil on black paper can produce stunning results when drawing subjects such as wildlife. As demonstrated perfectly in Kelvin Fellingham's pictures below;



Eddie Douglas

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

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ELMSWELL FOOTPATH WALK Sunday 12th October 2025

With autumn having well and truly arrived 8 denizens of the Parish of Elmswell congregated at the village sign for the monthly jaunt around the local rights of way.

Having been so impressed with the previous month's breaking of new ground we started off in the same direction - a right and left into Station Road Industrial Estate, turning left at Hall Lane and left again on to the newly diverted footpath running parallel to the railway track and hence to Parnell Lane.

Going straight ahead this time FP13 took us through almost 180 degrees round Elmswell Hall until it turned left up the slope and into the Parish of Norton with FP13 morphing into FP7.

Looking back from the footbridge at the top of the slope you are blessed with one of the finest views in the village which never fails to lift the spirits.

A left, a right and a further left brought us up to the familiar barn where FP7 veered right and down the slope towards Norton Hall Farm.

After about 700m we turned right on to FP20 now heading northeastish for 450m where FP20 continued following a very brief encounter with FP21.

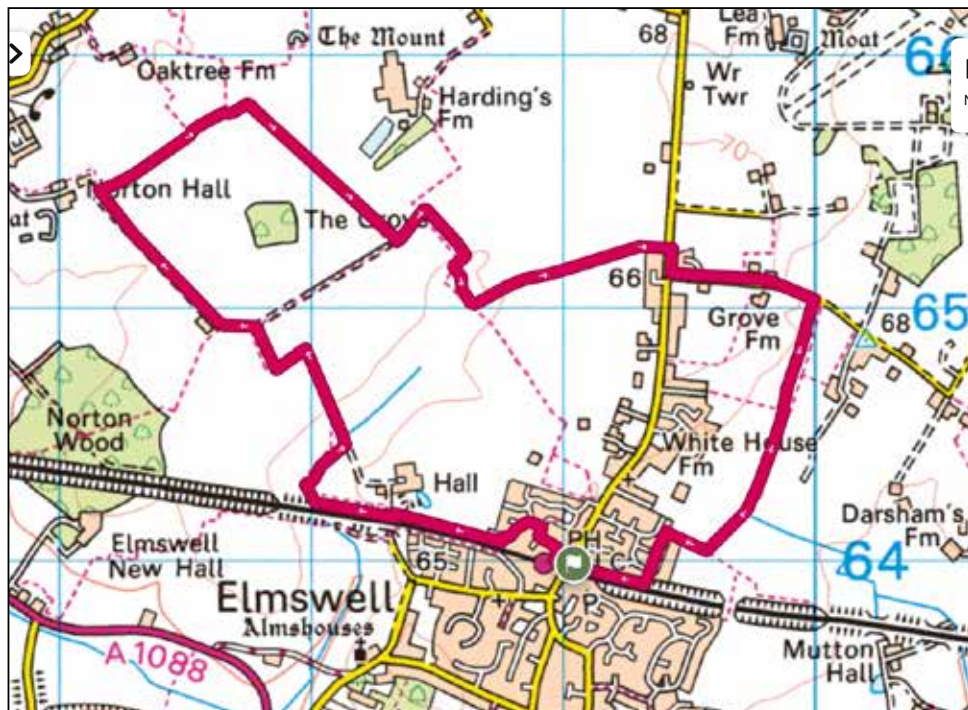
Past the junction with FP29 and at a right turn FP20 became FP31 now heading southeastish. With the Grove over to our right we progressed the 800m to the left turn at the junction with FP35.

Turning right at the junction with FP32 a right and left took us back in to Elmswell Parish.

Now on FP1 we turned left on to FP3 and on to Ashfield Road. It is worth noting that, after some 400m, FP3 carries straight on across the open field and does not follow the well trodden route following the line of the ditch.

A quick right and left and we were on Grove Lane where a right turn took us on to FP6 heading south.

A right and a left took us along FP25 and FP10 consecutively and safely back to Crown Mill.



A simple but rewarding big sky walk of approximately 5.4 miles in 2 hours (an average speed of 2.7 miles per hour)

Peter Hancock, EPC Footpath Officer



NOVEMBER'S FOOTPATH WALK WILL BE ON SUNDAY 12th NOVEMBER.



PLEASE NOTE THAT THE WALKS WILL NOW COMMENCE AT 10.30AM TO BETTER SUIT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE GROUP.

Scared of a mouse . . . don't know your App from your Apple?

The digital support sessions available at Wesley on the third Wednesday of each month are increasingly popular. No booking is necessary – our team of Mathew, Tracey and Tracy are keen to help ease the way into better use of our devices.

There is no charge. Simply turn up with any problems to do with mobile phones, laptops, computers - anything digital.

The next session will be on the 19th November between 10:00 am and 12:00 noon.



ELMSWELL TAVERN

WATERTIGHT

... the main entrance doors will not be fitted until the main contractor is substantially finished, but all other windows & doors are in, including the big double doors to the garden.



New doors inside.....lead out to the garden.

SUBSTANTIALLY FINISHED

... meaning that the main build is done. The builders can move off site but will re-visit for certain specific tasks. The asbestos is gone; the outbuildings are gone; the old core building is stripped back to the walls, reshaped, re-purposed and rebuilt to modern specifications. The extensive new build is complete with first-fix wiring and pipework installed along with the underfloor heating to be powered by the air source heat pump.. All under a brand new roof.



WHICH LEAVES

...the project team to work with their suppliers and installers to fit out the kitchen, work out which cable is which, install the lights / cctv & intruder alarm / fire alarm system /wi-fi, specify and install flooring, decorate throughout, furnish and equip ready for service... and have the external works undertaken to provide safe access, garden and car parking.



...work out which cable is which...

AND FINALLY

...UK Power Networks bring in new cabling to provide the electricity - but not until February. The possibility of scheduling this for January remains, but the demands for power in our area, as in many places countrywide, are overwhelming. School Road will have to be dug up.



W&T Working Together



TEAM EFFORT

...the team is now benefitting from the extremely experienced input of our General Manager, Nadia Tunmore who has family connections in the village and who has agreed to advise prior to officially taking on the role in the new year. Nadia has encyclopaedic knowledge of the hospitality trade and her speciality in recent years has been setting up hospitality venues from scratch.

AND WE END UP WITH

...a community facility, Wesley-Tavern, which will build on the success of Blackbourne and Wesley to take account of the growing social and recreational needs of Elmswell. Some 25 years of innovation and investment has meant that the virtual doubling of our population has not overwhelmed the community facilities on offer. Further expansion at Blackbourne is underway, part of a continuing programme of improvement which, for as long as there are people with energy and vision, should add to the village's success and wellbeing.



The Memorial Hall which served as our community facility - with no playing field - until 1998.



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ELMSWELL EXCHANGE WI



This month after Mary welcomed everyone to the meeting our speaker was Ray Balmer from the Doxa project. This is a local charity founded fourteen years ago by Ben Ryan. It supports the families of Kwa Murugi in Kenya by facilitating education, building community and giving practical assistance to provide hope and opportunity.

The project works with the poorest people in the area. They live in slums and often cannot find work. The Doxa project fully funds seventy children so as they can attend school as many families are unable to afford the uniforms and other essentials for school.

There is now a community development centre owned by the project which is able to provide a breakfast club three times a week, computer classes, a bike workshop and rooms for counselling.

One of the many problems is a lack of clean drinking water. The project has been able to provide a hundred water filters within the community. These are inspected every two weeks to make sure they keep running.

They have now got their own borehole which will enable them to grow crops all year and hopefully provide clean water for the community.

In 2023 6435 breakfasts were served in term time, 1500 lunches served during school holidays and 150 men, women and children attended the Christmas celebration. All were provided with food parcels and clothing.

The staff are all Kenyans and liaise with the Doxa project so they have a reliable picture of what is happening.

Ray's talk was very informative and interesting to hear about such a successful project.

The competition was an African souvenir. Joint first were Lesley and Stephanie, second was Yvonne and third was Barbara Carter.

At next month's meeting our speaker is Catherine Buchanan. The subject is a history of toys. The competition is a handmade cracker.

Visitors and members are always welcome.

Carol Blissett 242 884

ELMSWELL WI

After welcoming Mary and Sue, our visitors, Terry gave us the results of Tricia's quiz. The £50 prize was won by Patricia, and the remaining £216 is going towards the Moses Project, our annual charity. Well done to Tricia for organising and collating it.

Frances Saltmarsh was our speaker for the evening with a talk entitled "Fig Leaves and Feather Boas". She gave us a potted history of the evolution of costume. At first it was purely practical: protection from the cold or the sun. Coverings were made of natural materials like grasses, leaves, leather, or fur. Information was gained from cave paintings, which also showed body art, such as tattooing.

Around 1400 BC, Egyptian clothing was simply draped fabric, which gradually became more elaborate, in order to show status, e.g. only the most elite wore purple.

The Roman's had more elaborate clothing and were aware of whole-body wellness. Clothes suitable for exercising, e.g. bikinis, were depicted.

In Anglo Saxon times, far more shape and style was achieved by using belts. Longer clothes revealed a higher status. Eventually many forms of dress were employed to deceive the eye, e.g. in Tudor times, corsetry flattened the bust. During the eighteenth century, fashion became more fussy with unwieldy full skirts.

The extremes of fashion reflected the Grand Tour when many young aristocrats travelled throughout Europe. Only in the late seventeenth hundreds, did people start to wear any underwear! Children wore adult clothes and even little girls wore corsets. Embroidery decorated the clothes of the upper classes, whilst the lower classes had simpler styles and fabrics.

In the times of Jane Austen, the Regency Period, there was the empire line and lighter see-through materials were used.

Through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, costume became more practical and unfussy, especially with the advent of World Wars one and two.

More women began to earn money, and became more independent. In the 1920's there were short skirts, and corsets, as well as short hair. In the 1930's and 1949's there was more elegance and femininity.

I think we were all very glad that now, we can wear what we like! A very interesting talk. How this year has flown by!

Rosie Collins 01359 241652



OVER 55'S CLUB

During October we welcomed firstly Fever Pitch then two weeks later it was the turn of "Yesterday" who came along to provide our entertainment which was enjoyed on both evenings by all those present.

November will see us doing Hot Dogs on the 6th with the evening continuing with Bingo two weeks later it is time for

another evening of Bingo when hopefully we will be playing for Bigger money as this will round off our meetings except for our visit to the Thursford Xmas Show on Thursday Dec 4th there being no meeting at the Blackbourne .

On Sunday December 14th we will be holding our Xmas Party from midday when members will sit down to Lunch which is being prepared by Kay and Sharon this will be followed by

entertainment by "Bob Whiting" which is followed by our Grand Xmas Draw with further entertainment by Brotherhood.

Our final evening will be on December 18th at 7 30pm when we have a Concert by Norton Salvation Army with a collection being taken for Salvation Army Funds visitors are most welcome to join us at this event.

Diann (241002)

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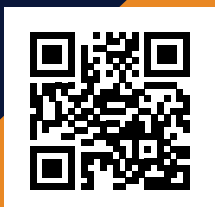


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ELMSWELL LIBRARY

Hello Elmswell,

Do you write? Are you looking for a way to meet fellow writers and share ideas and inspiration? We are launching a writer's group at the library on the first Thursday of every month, at 6-7pm. Come and say hello on Thursday November 6th! Coffee & tea will be provided. Please note there will be no group on 1st January; this has been replaced with Tuesday 30th December at 6pm. Hope to see you there!

We are also starting a new book group, Fantastical Book Club, for readers of fantasy and those who want to give fantasy books a go. Fantasy covers a variety of types of stories ranging from ones where it is a bit of a murder mystery, to ones where it is an enemies to lovers romance, to grand epic family sagas. Our first book will be *This Poison Heart* by Kalynn Bayron. The group will meet every 4 weeks with the first meeting being 11am on Saturday 22nd November.

The Heart of Suffolk: Witch Trials touring exhibition will be here between 18th November and 30th November. After the infamous 1645 Manningtree witch trials, self-appointed 'Witchfinder General' Matthew Hopkins and his assistant John Stearne expanded their witch finding efforts into Suffolk and the surrounding counties. Between 1645 and 1647 around 240 accusations of witchcraft came before the authorities in East Anglia resulting in 100 executions. This exhibition is produced by Suffolk Archives and Mid Suffolk District Council and Babergh District Council.

Elmswell Library Friends have their AGM in the library 2.15pm on Wednesday 5th November which will be followed by Catch up in the Library and Mahjong.

The book display is themed around bees this month. We have books such as *Mad honey* by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan, *The murmur of bees* by Sofia Segova, *Delio phase one* by R. R. Haywood and *The human body is a hive* by Erica Gillingham.

The current exhibition on the wall is prints by Ipswich based artist Alex Thompson. She creates nature themed prints and reprints them in a variety of colours to be enjoyed singularly or through their repetition.

See you in the library soon,

Miles

What's on?

Elmswell Library Friends AGM

2.15pm Wednesday 5th November

Mahjong

3.30pm Wednesday 5th November

Story Time

1.10pm – 1.30pm every Tuesday (except 1st Tuesday of the month)

9.10am – 9.30am every 1st Tuesday

2.30pm – 3pm every Thursday

Sunday Crafts

1pm – 2pm every Sunday

Lego Club

Every weekday from 3pm and every Sunday 11am – 12noon

Pokémon Club

10.30am Saturday 1st November (every 1st Saturday of the month)

Writing Group

6pm Thursday 6th November (every 1st Thursday of the month)

Chess Club

4.30pm Thursday 13th November (every 2nd Thursday of the month)

Fantastical Book Club

11am Saturday 22nd November (every 4 weeks)

The Keep in Touch Community Café

10.30am Wednesday 19th November at the Wesley Café (every 3rd Wednesday of the month)

Catch Up In The Library

2.30pm every Wednesdays

Gwel's visits

3.45pm – 4.45pm Tuesday 4th November (every 1st Tuesday of the month)

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



CITIZENS ADVICE

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide in depth advice on many issues including debt, finances, employment, benefits and family/relationships.

You can contact them by phone on 01449 676060,

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or use the contact form at midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us.

Opening hours are Monday-Thursday 9.30am – 3.30pm and Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm.

citizens
advice

Mid Suffolk

HALF PRICE VEGETABLE AND FLOWER SEEDS

The Elmswell Allotment Holders have secured a deal for a 50% reduction in vegetable and flower seed prices from Kings Seeds.

If you would like to take advantage of this please refer to their on line 2026 brochure at www.kingsseeds.com and submit your selection, product code and cash to the Parish Clerk's office by Friday 21st November with a contact number for any queries such as out of stock items.

Hard copies of the 2026 catalogue are available at the Parish Clerk's office at the Blackbourne.

Please note that this discount applies to seeds only and, as such, orders for other items such as potatoes should be placed direct as they attract delivery charges.

If you have any questions please contact Peter Hancock on 07483 850965





Making Magical Memories

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ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2025

Following on from the success of last year's Poppy Appeal in the village, raising the incredible amount of £7,926.36. I am hopeful that this year, the generosity of the villagers, will prove to be just as successful.

You may recall that our usual Poppy table in the Coop foyer was restricted last year, owing to the refurbishment works being carried out. However, following these vast improvements, Lucy has agreed that we can hold our table top Appeal at the Coop once again this year. Thank you Lucy.

We will also have available a contactless machine over the same period, allowing people to make cashless donations if preferred.

I am pleased to say that, thanks to our volunteers, there will be a limited number of door to door collections, but only in specific areas around the village, dependant on the location of the volunteers. Please look out for the QR codes displayed on the boxes, which will allow for any donations to be made where cash is not available.

"Every Poppy counts" and it is encouraging to know that ALL donations contribute towards the Poppy Appeal total, providing the necessary funds for the charity to continue its vital role in supporting our serving and ex serving military personnel and their dependants, whose needs are as vital today as they were when the Poppy Appeal was formed in 1921.

If you would like to volunteer to collect for the Poppy Appeal, or any Royal British Legion Membership enquiries you may have, please do not hesitate to contact me on 07707 524722 or e mail nplumpton@aol.com

I do understand that the current economic climate will have an effect on all of us this year, but I do hope that you will be able to donate whatever you can to help those in need.

THANK YOU.

*Norman Plumpton. (BIFF)
Elmswell Poppy Appeal Organiser*



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ST JOHN'S CHURCH

A warm welcome awaits you at St John's, your local parish church

I love the way the photograph above turned out. It is so atmospheric. However, it also reminds me of how our lives so often include gloomy and challenging times. The roadway is about to go into a dip, where there is fog and mist. This is an apt illustration of where we frequently find ourselves in life. But what I find so encouraging in this picture is how the light is already breaking in and dispelling the mist. The Bible tells us that the light of God is greater than the darkness of this world. And, of course, the road doesn't stay in the dip either – it soon turns uphill and comes out of the mist.

This life throws all sorts of challenges at us and there are many times of sadness. But if we travel down the road of this life with the Lord, he promises to bring us up and out of the gloom into the fullness of his presence. His light will dispel the fog. Psalm 23 goes one step further, promising that even though we will all one day travel through the valley of the shadow of death, if we follow the Lord, he will shepherd us through this to the other side into his glorious eternal kingdom.

November is a month of remembrance. On Saturday 1 November at 3pm, we are holding a service to remember and pay tribute to loved ones who are no longer with us. All are welcome to come and light a candle and hear the names of their loved ones read out. Remembrance Sunday is on 9 November – we mark this with a special service to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice in times of war. Then on 11 November we hold a short act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in St John's, where we read out the names of those brave men of Elmswell who fell in the 2 World Wars.

We also have our monthly all age service on 2 November and our other services will continue to look at the opening chapters of Genesis. Our Sunday school runs alongside our main services in the church room.

We celebrate Advent Sunday on 30 November, when we will be making available our "Travelling Nativity Set" for people to host in their homes as we countdown to Christmas. If you would like to know more about anything we do or have any questions about the Christian faith, please do get in contact (details are below).

Upcoming Dates:

Sat 1 Nov 3:00pm

Time to Remember service

Sun 2 Nov 9:00am

Lord's Supper (spoken service)

Sun 2 Nov 10:30am

All Age service

Sun 9 Nov 9:00am

Lord's Supper (spoken service)

Sun 9 Nov 10:30am

Remembrance Sunday service

Tue 11 Nov 10:50am

Short act of Remembrance

Sun 16 Nov 10:30am

Sunday Worship

Sun 23 Nov 10:30am

Worship with Lord's Supper

Sun 30 Nov 10:30am

Worship with Lord's Supper

Sun 7 Dec 9:00am

Morning Prayer (spoken service)

Sun 7 Dec 10:30am

All Age Service

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 website 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:

www.youtube.com/@stjohnselmswell

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

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FLOODLIGHTING

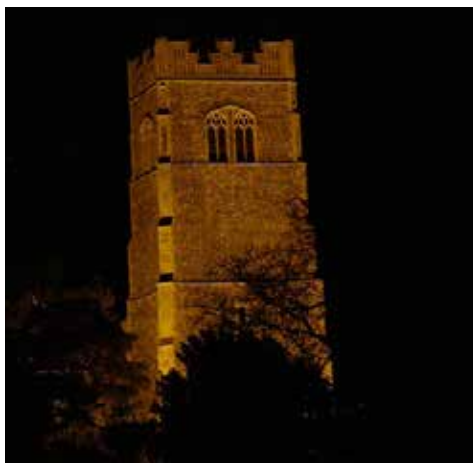
As always, everyone is welcome to sponsor the floodlighting of St. John's, a lovely way to commemorate a personal event, an anniversary, or any other special occasion. Alternatively, you can simply make a donation. And it all helps to pay the ever-increasing day-to-day running expenses of our parish church.

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

For the winter months the lights will be on between 6.00 p.m. and midnight.

Please note the deadline for inclusion in the December Newsletter is Monday 24th November.

Your support is much appreciated. Thank You.



OCTOBER 2025 SPONSORSHIP NOT PREVIOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED

31 in loving memory of Nick Smith on his Birthday.

NOVEMBER 2025 SPONSORSHIPS

1 in memory of Jim Baker (1933-2009), on the anniversary of his death.

1 Tina Pyke. "Miss you so much". Love, Mum. Dearest Tina (Pyke). "It's been a year since you left us, and I still miss you every day. Never out of my thoughts". Biff. xxx.

3 Peter Jones. "Thinking of you". Love, the family.

3 Remembering a dear Nana and Grandad, Rene and George Stiff. "Always in our thoughts". Love, Louise & Brian. xx.

5 treasured memories of Matthew J. Pollen. "God Bless our dear Son and Brother". Mum, Dad & Glenda. xxx.

6 in loving memory of Dorothy May Nunn.

9 Remembrance Sunday.

12 in loving memory of Thomas Henry Manning.

13 in loving memory of Natasha Smith on her Birthday.

15 David Handyside, remembered with love. "Someone so special. God Bless".

16 to remember and thank all those past Elmswell Fire-Fighters who served their village and community so well.

20 remembering our Dad, Hector Francis. "You were the best". Love always, Janet & Roy, Irene & Barry, Linda & Peter, and all the Family. xxx.

20 Hector Francis. "Love and miss you so much Grandad, never forgotten". Lots of love from all the grandchildren. xxx.

21 in loving memory of my beloved husband Michael Simmons. "Death leaves a headache no-one can heal.

Love leaves a memory no-one can steal. Love you, miss you". Love, all your family and your Hev. xx.

21 remembering our Dad, John Goddard, who passed away on 21st November 2024. And Mum, Audrey Goddard, who passed away on 31st May 2025. "Together again". xx.

28 in memory of Evelyn Clark.

All bookings / payments please to :-

Trevor Sadler, Abbots Warren, Church Road, Elmswell, IP30 9DU (Tel: 240908).



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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 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

Recently I was asked to take part in a Charity Fashion Show as an escort, nearly all the participants except for a few exceptions were currently or have been Cancer patients at West Suffolk Hospital. When I agreed to take part I had no idea what was expected of me just that I had an opportunity to give back a little for all the treatment I have received over the last four years, it started with

a visit to a gents outfitters in Ipswich to be measured for an evening outfit then on the night to escort ladies on the catwalk modelling a range of clothing from a Suffolk charity run boutique. The whole experience was great fun but at the same time a humbling one, as I said earlier most of the ladies and gents taking part are or have been cancer patients some still on the most gruelling of treatments. I thank God for the treatment that I have received it has made me aware that life is precious and must not be wasted. Every Sunday at our services we have prayers from the red book where members of the congregation request prayers for anyone they know is unwell or experiencing difficulties in their lives, our small way of praying for others.

Our activities in November begin on 3rd November at 2.00pm when our Ladies Friendship Group meet to watch a demonstration of Christmas Wreath making given by Simon White of Beales Roses, the friendship group is open to all ladies contact Margaret on 01359241541 for any more information.

Our Food and Friends lunch takes place at midday on the 13th November where we offer a home cooked lunch to the older folk of the village contact Jackie on 01359245918 to book a place if you have not been before this is to ensure we provide enough meals for all our guests.

Our services in November will be led by
2nd Nov John Cornell
9th November Rev Paul Hills (Remembrance Sunday)
16th November Stephen Spurgeon
23rd November Rev Robert Green
30th November Paul Kemp

We are grateful to all of our visiting preachers for the time spent preparing their services and travelling to spend Sunday mornings with us.

Contact Tony on 01359241541 for any more information about our fellowship you might require.

God Bless

Dave





THE ELMSWELL AMENITIES ASSOCIATION Registered Charity 304879

The Association (EAA) was formed in 1995 when the Community Council for Suffolk effectively ceased to be. Its main responsibility was to maintain and run the Elmswell Memorial Hall on the site in Cooks Road where the Memorial Library and Garden now stand. At the time the village had no playing field and no other community facilities beyond the 3 churches. It took on responsibility for the Grove Lane playing field in 2006 when the Elmswell Sports Advisory Committee was rescued, having no funding source.

For many years, the EAA was at the heart of village life, responsible for much of the socialising, including the May Day Fayre and its successors, and publishing the Elmswell Newsletter. It established the Elmswell Library in the 1970's where Parish Council meetings were held.

The very successful developments at Blackbourne, Wesley and now the Tavern have built upon this pioneering community effort and improved facilities beyond recognition.

The AGM was held at Wesley on 23rd October when Trustees noted the Approved Accounts for submission to the Charity Commission and noted confirmation of the following Representative Trustees:

Blackbourne & Wesley-Tavern Management Association	<i>Peter Dow</i>
Elmswell Cricket Club	<i>Terry Garner</i>
Elmswell Football Club	<i>Chris Edmonds</i>
Elmswell Fox Bowls Club	<i>Peter Edmonds</i>
Elmswell Parish Council	<i>Cllr Peter Hancock</i>
Elmswell Parochial Church Council	<i>Mike Schofield</i>
Elmswell W. I.	<i>Carol Blissett</i>
Elmswell Youth Club	<i>Marian Abbott</i>

The following were nominated, seconded and elected as Trustees:

David Barker, Jean Barker, Maggie Bushell, Sharon Fuller, Kay Sanders, Philip Shaw, Charlotte Smith, Linda Waspe.

The Chairman gave the following Report:

The Association has met three times since the last AGM.

The officers have continued to ensure that the organisation's obligations have been met with regard to the specific responsibilities pertaining to the Memorial Library and Garden, the Elmswell Newsletter and the Grove Lane recreation area.

The Library is now leased to Suffolk County Council which took over from Suffolk Libraries IPS on 1st June 2025. Rent and Insurance Rent are paid up to date with a rent review due on 1st November. Thus far the change of tenant has had no repercussions.

The Newsletter struggles, as is commonly observed in other community enterprises, to find volunteers for day-to-day tasks such as the administration of the monthly distribution runs. As we anticipate a continuing diminution in community commitment, I would hope to secure the future of our excellent magazine by handing across some of these tasks to the parish council as we currently do with the administration of the advertising.

The land at Grove Lane has a chequered history dating from when it was purchased by the parish council in light of the circumstances at the time when the village had no recreation open space at all. EAA took on responsibility for the 7-acre site in 2001 when it merged with the Elmswell Sports Advisory Committee for that purpose. The advent and success of Blackbourne has diminished the benefits of the facility and I would hope that the Association can steer it in another direction in the coming year.



Moving into the new Library in September 2001



BLACKBOURNE & WESLEY-TAVERN MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

The Blackbourne Management Association was set up in September 2000 to advise the Parish Council on the day to day running of the facilities at Blackbourne, which replaced the Memorial Hall, later taking on the same role for Wesley and soon to assume the role with regard to the Elmswell Tavern.

As the BWTMA it now comprises 27 members made up of village groups, clubs and organisations together with parish councillors and elected Elmswell residents.

The Committee met on 30th October and the following matters were among those discussed:

- Proofs are in hand of 2 signs to be installed outside of Wesley and the Elmswell Tavern designed to be of a similar style and nature reflecting the close relationship of the 2 venues.
- The link path between the new housing estate on Ashfield Road and Blackbourne is now re-laid presenting a much safer and more useable surface than the original large woodchips installed as specified by Mid Suffolk and Suffolk County Council. The work was co-ordinated by the parish council, funding having been secured from the 2 upper-tier bodies. Members noted the popularity of the link which allows safe pedestrian and cycle access into the centre of the village, including to Street Farm Nursery and the School.
- The decision by Mid Suffolk that Planning permission is needed for change of use at Turners' Field/ Hobbly Meadow adjacent to Blackbourne has meant that ecological surveys have to be conducted towards biodiversity net gain calculations and assessment. This legislation is meant to compensate for environmental losses resulting from development. It can mean that payment has to be made to Natural England towards mitigation measures elsewhere. The survey will cost £3,200.00 net and will form part of the Planning application which is key to triggering grant aid towards the levelling, draining and seeding of the recreational play element of the the facility which is costed at some £61,000.00 net.

- The vinyl manifestations to the recently-installed new doors at Blackbourne are in place. They provide guidance to hirers and visitors as to the location of the various venues.



- The venues remain busy within the usual pattern of half-term / holiday fluctuations. Corporate bookings are slowly recovering after the Covid interruption and private parties are a growth area which is more than making up the income stream. The possibility of a Repair Café at Wesley is being pursued and the Carol Service can be held, if wet, inside the Tavern with refreshments at Wesley as in previous years.

- The long-awaited refurbishment and extension of the existing junior play area at Crown Mill will be triggered when the Mid Suffolk Cabinet confirm expected CIL grant funding on 11th November. The new toddler / pre-school facility will soon follow once the parish council has confirmed its funding reserves position which is tied in with finalising the Tavern works. Local residents are involved in the scheme which will incorporate bio-diversity elements as part of its educational aspect.
- New bicycle repair stations are now installed at both Blackbourne and Wesley and have already attracted users. The robust units incorporate a range of tools as well as a maintenance stand allowing work at a convenient height and a calibrated tyre inflation pump.



- Progress on the Elmswell Tavern project is as expected barring the delay in having the new upgraded power supply delivered. Members look forward to the flexibility which the additional facilities offer and to innovating a co-operative approach to the Wesley-Tavern partnership.



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NEWS FROM ELMSWILD

ElmsWild Crafty Christmas, Saturday 6th December

November, and winter is just around the corner. Chilly mornings, the evenings drawing in and holly berries on the trees – time to start thinking about Christmas! Once again this year we are offering the chance to make your own Christmas gifts and decorations, using natural materials from our own woodland, including lovely wreaths using colourful berries, leaves and cones. These decorations are truly green as once the festivities are over all the vegetation can be put on the compost, leaving the willow hoop to make another beautiful wreath next year. There will be lots of other craft ideas, too – snowmen, Christmas trees, reindeer, stars. We will provide all the tools and materials and will be on hand to help with the making. All you need to bring is your imagination.

As well as having a go at crafting your own decorations, there will be an opportunity to buy some hand-made products from Lukeswood – decorations for your home, nature-inspired gifts, home-made preserves, and stocking fillers with a difference.

Free admission – everyone welcome. **As before all proceeds will go to St Nicholas Hospice**, so we welcome your donations.

Do come and join us at **Wesley Coffee Shop on Saturday 6th December, 10.00-12.30**. Fun and good cheer for all ages – drop in any time. Or if you are meeting up for a coffee at Wesley, do come and give us a look. If you only have a few minutes to spare, come and browse our sale table for ready-made wreaths, decorations and gifts. Last year we were able to donate over £300 to St Nicholas, so please come and support us again and help make it a wonderful Christmas for St Nicks



talented ladies of the Trefoil Guild were kept busy all afternoon plying everyone with tea and a delicious array of cakes and savouries – always something to look forward to at Apple Day. There were some interesting crafts on show, including willow weaving and pole-lathe wood turning, with lots of local products for sale. Our home-made Lukeswood jams, jellies and chutneys were snapped up – if all goes well there will be more jars, including medlar, available to buy at Crafty Christmas on 6th December. The Stowmarket Beekeepers had a great display of locally produced honey and there were local apples and apple juice on offer. John had an extensive display of apples and local fruit on show, including some quirky varieties that you won't find on the supermarket shelves. Throughout the afternoon we were kept entertained by the Wesley Ukulele Band and Jen's Circle Dancing troupe. It was great fun, and we're already looking forward to next year – the date for your diary is Saturday 26th September. If you missed this year's event, make a note now! And if any local makers, organisations and clubs would like to join us and have a stall – it's not too early to book your pitch!

Mary Feeney

info@elmswild.org.uk



Apple Day at Lukeswood

The sun shone again for this year's Apple Day, and with blue skies and gentle breezes it really felt like it was still summer. We had a great variety of stalls, with something to interest everyone, along with some old favourites like the Orchard Treasure Hunt, the wheelbarrow Lucky Dip and Guess the Weight of the Apple Pie. As usual, those



ElmsWild Crafty Christmas

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All ages welcome.



Saturday 6th December

10.00-12.30

Wesley Coffee Shop

Free admission

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ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP



Last month we were treated to a fascinating talk by Mildenhall Museum's Anne Hughes and Carol Cooper which covered the thrills and spills of the Mildenhall to Melbourne Great Air Race of 1934. We learnt not only about the race but the town itself which, despite its small size in the mid-1930s, was a thriving hub of commercial activity. However, due to the changing political climate at home and abroad, together with the rising threat of Fascism and Nazism, the town would be transformed, as it would be involved in the rapid expansion of the Royal Air Force, leading to RAF Mildenhall being built and formally opened in October 1934. Melbourne in Australia celebrated its centenary that same year so it was decided to have an international air race to celebrate this momentous event and send out a message that Britain was in the process of developing and expanding its commercial and military aviation activities. Thus, the Mildenhall Great Air Race of 1934 was conceived with the financial support of the millionaire chocolatier, Sir Macpherson Robertson, who provided funding, prize money and magnificent medals and trophies. The

race captured the imagination of royalty, the public and the aviation racing fraternity, with an estimated 60,000 people attending the start of the race on 20th October and a visit from King George V, Queen Mary and the Prince of Wales, who was a keen aviator himself.

Carol talked about the rules of the race, weight limits and how many of the entrants had to strip back their planes in order to make the proscribed weight limits. In effect, there were two races, the Speed Race and the Handicap Race, for the 20 competing planes (of every shape and size!) that had made it through all the required checks to participate. There were a number of famous and fearless aviators taking part including Amy Johnson, Charles "Jimmy" Melrose and Roscoe Turner, piloting aircraft such as the DH88 Comet, Granville Gee Bee and the Boeing 247D.

All the competitors had to follow the same route, Mildenhall-Baghdad-Allahabad-Singapore-Darwin-Charleville-Melbourne, with the speed merchants having to make mandatory stops at these locations, whilst the handicap crews had many more places to stop, refuel and repair! Twelve of the 20 competitors completed the race; Scott & Black's DH88 Comet winning the Speed Race in about 71 hours, and the Douglas DC2 (crewed by Parmentier

and colleagues) declared winners of the Handicap Race. The final plane to complete the race was the Fairy Fox I crewed by Parer & Hemsworth which didn't arrive until 13th February 1935, but a special prize was awarded to them. Unfortunately, there were some crashes and fatalities, but the race captured the imagination of the media and the public at home and abroad, thus putting Mildenhall firmly on the international map.



**Elmswell
HISTORY
GROUP**

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

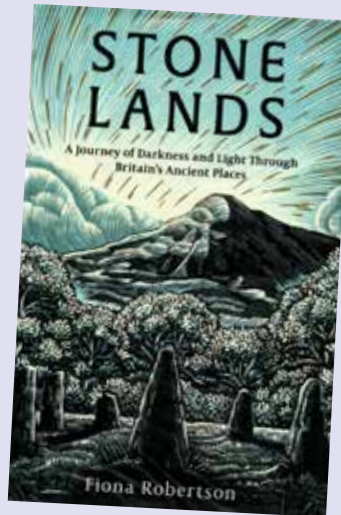
www.elmswell-history.org.uk

or contact our Secretary, on 01359-242601



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

“Stone Lands, a Journey Through Britain’s Ancient Places” by Fiona Robertson (available from the Library). Journeying across Britain, from West Penwith and Avebury to the Lake District and Orkney, this beautifully-illustrated book uncovers the magic and rich history of our incredible prehistoric standing stones. It conveys the delight that lies in tracking them down, as well as the solace these ancient places offer in times of darkness. The author is a writer, editor and committed megalith enthusiast who drags her family all over the country in search of standing stones as she is passionate about archaeology, history and folklore. University of Southampton’s Professor of Archaeology, Josh Pollard, writes that the author “offers a wonderfully evocative and poignant account of the ancient sites and landscapes of Britain. There is a resonance here to artists and writers such as Nash, Ravilious and Blake, and that tradition of deeply-embedded landscape romanticism and sense of place that runs through our engagement with traces of a prehistoric past.” Enjoy this book (or audio-book) from the comfort of your own armchair, knowing that you won’t have to traipse over hill and dale in all weathers!



Our next talk at 7.30pm on 13th November in the Wesley Hall is entitled Suffolk Smugglers when we welcome back popular local speaker, Barbara McElroy who, having retired from Education, started to give talks to local Suffolk groups around ten years ago on a growing number of topics. This latest talk is about the so-called ‘Golden Age’ of smuggling, looking at the reasons why and telling many Suffolk-based stories of the gangs and individuals, who were colourful to say the least! Do join us then to learn more of East Anglian history. Non-members are always welcome, and you may make some new like-minded friends.

ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB

At our October meeting, we were joined by Chris Wiley, a local plantsman who founded the Sustainable Plant Store in 2022 and also coordinates Bury in Bloom. Chris shared his passion for snowdrops and he has over 1000 cultivated varieties in his personal collection.

Galanthus is the Latin name for the snowdrop and there are currently over 3000 known cultivated varieties and surprisingly they have a huge flowering period with some flowering as early as November with the later ones starting in March. Snowdrops can be planted as bulbs now or ‘in the green’ (in flower/with growth) in February or March. Chris shared some of his varieties with the group and the most popular one was ‘Grumpy’, pictured. This cultivar was discovered in a garden in Cambridge about 20 years ago. Snowdrops have had a recent resurgence in popularity with some of the rarer ones selling for hundreds of pounds per bulb!

Chris sells snowdrops as well as perennials, trees other bulbs and gifts online through his store sustainableplantstore.com and if you do fancy one of those rare cultivars then

now is the time to treat yourself to an early Christmas present.



November is good time of year to tidy up any annuals that have survived to this late in the season and replace with biennials such as wallflowers and foxgloves and tulip bulbs. It is also the

start of the bare root season. Many shrubs and trees including roses, fruit trees and our native hedging can be bought this time of year and is a good time to plant before the winter cold sets in. Bare roots are typically cheaper, are dormant and when planted have the full season to grow as the temperatures rise in spring. If vegetable growing is your thing garlic, onion sets, winter salad leaves and broad beans can all be sown now. Planting at this time of year will see your garden have a spring in its steps come the start of next year’s growing season.

Dates for your diary:

AGM Tuesday 18th November at 7.30pm in the Wesley Hall. As well as the AGM there will be a quiz (general knowledge with a cutting of gardening related questions too).

Whether you are an experienced home gardener or just starting out there is always something new to learn or ideas to take home to your own garden. Non-members are always welcome and you may make some new friends.

Wendy



For Information contact elmswellgadmin@btinternet.com or myself on 07748 442951

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FIREWORKS

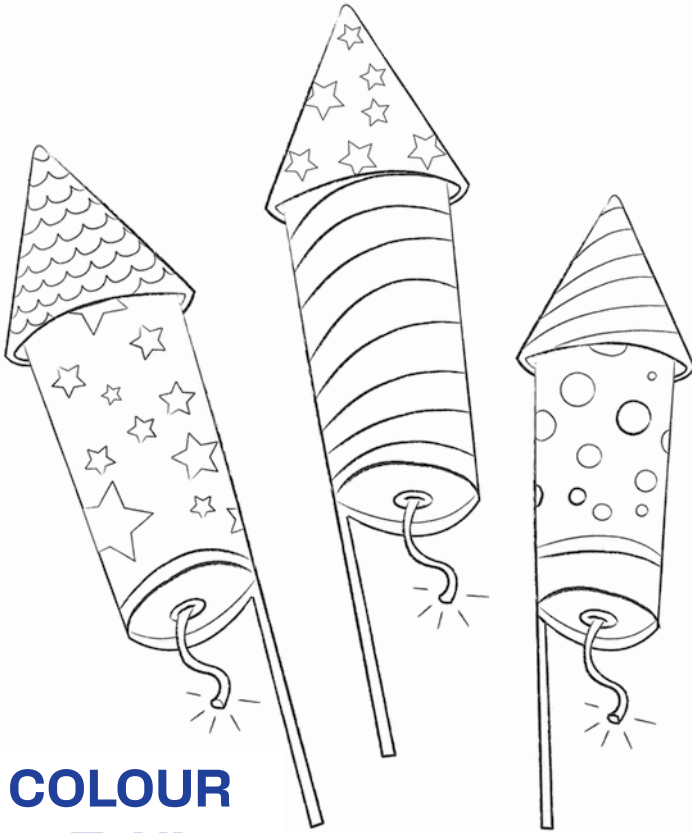
What colours can you see when the fireworks are in the sky?

Word Search!

C S B W K L E
 O T U A O E R
 L E B U N E I
 O K D E R G F
 U C G R E E N
 R O W Y A A O
 S R M D S K B

Words:

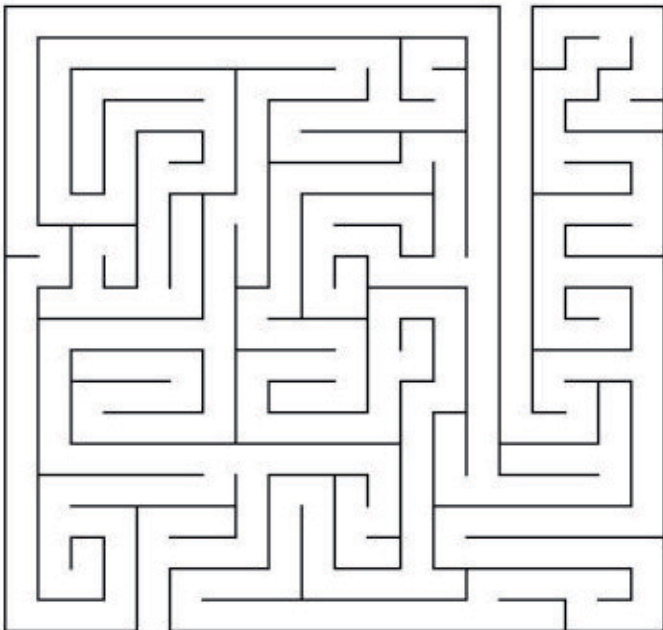
- Bang
- Bonfire
- Green
- Red
- Colours
- Loud
- Rockets



COLOUR IT IN!

Fireworks Maze

Help the girl find her way through the maze to the sparkler



Remember you should always wear gloves when touching sparklers. Sparklers must be lit by an adult

Stay away from the bonfire!

Wrap up warmly

Be careful when holding your sparklers!

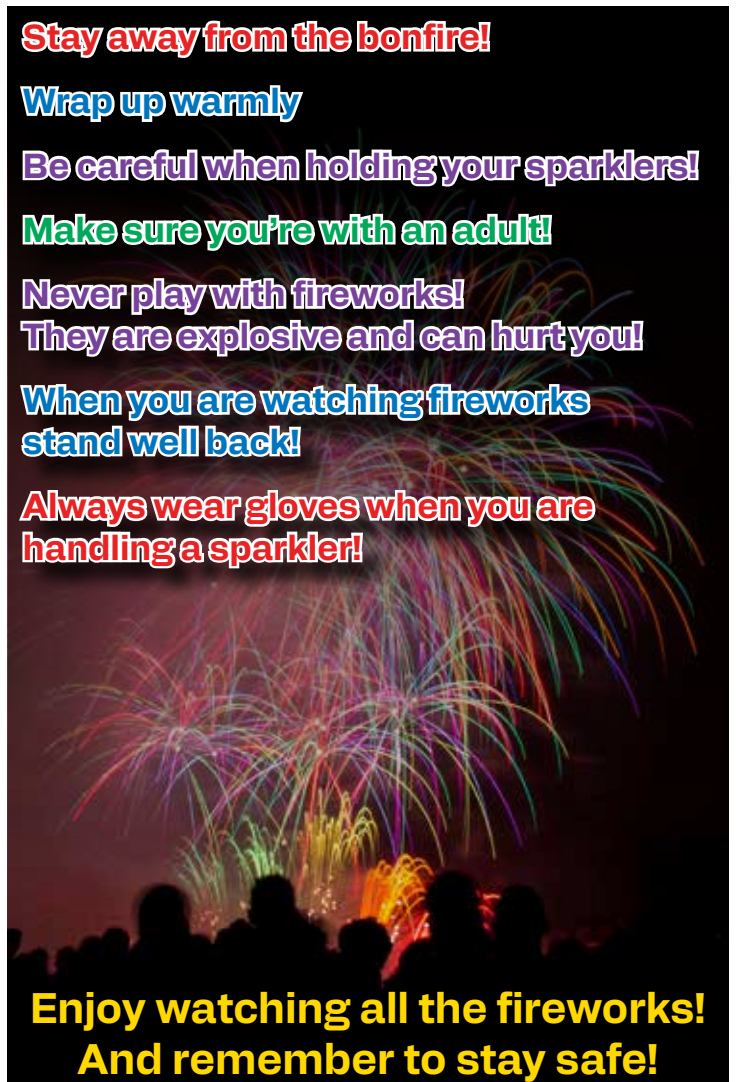
Make sure you're with an adult!

Never play with fireworks!

They are explosive and can hurt you!

When you are watching fireworks stand well back!

Always wear gloves when you are handling a sparkler!



**Enjoy watching all the fireworks!
 And remember to stay safe!**



WESLEY UKULELE BAND

Just four gigs this month, at Stowlangtoft Care Home, Nowton Court in Bury, a wine-tasting in aid of the Suffolk Punch Trust at Badwell Ash and our regular visit to the Time Out Club at Fornham.

On Thursday 23rd October, a few of us visited St Nicholas Hospice in Hardwick Lane, Bury. We took the opportunity to have a brief look around and were particularly impressed by the stained glass in the multi-faith chapel, as pictured below.

The Hospice was founded in 1983 and the present building was opened in March 1993. We learned that it costs £26000 per day to run the Hospice and that most of this is raised by donations and legacies. We were pleased to present the Hospice with another £300 raised by our generous audiences. Our second photograph shows some of our group and a cheque representing the £5500+ that we have raised so far this year.

We have a lot more gigs to finish the year and are now hoping that our total for 2025 will be around £7000.

As far as 2026 is concerned the charities chosen by our members will be My Wish at West Suffolk Hospital, SARS (Suffolk Accident Rescue Service) and the new Children's Hospital in Cambridge. We hope that our audiences will be at least as generous next year as they have been this year.

'Til next time. Take care.

For information, please call Kevin on 07710 149040 or Carol

Or email: Kevin.Knock99@gmail.com



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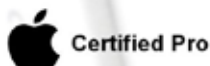
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ELMSWELL BOWLS CLUB

Traditionally, we hold our Presentation Evening at the Fox, but, with Jimmy and Nan moving on and the Fox no longer doing food, the idea was hatched to speak to Jimmy about moving to Nan's Noddle Bar, to which Jimmy agreed. So, on Thursday, September 18th, we turned up and took over about half of the premises. We were warmly welcomed by Nan and her staff and had a very successful evening. The food was excellent and the Singha beer flowed freely, allowing for the drive home, of course. Once everyone had finished their meals, we got down to the business of presenting the trophies.

Rob Dann had a very busy night collecting the 2 Wood Cup, the Handicap Cup and the Pairs runners-up trophy in which he partnered Linda Vince. Fortunately, he drives a very spacious car! Treasurer, Barry Hayward and newcomer, Paul Peachey pipped Rob and Linda to land the Pairs Trophy.

Rob Dann receiving one of his Trophies from a delighted Dick Burch followed by Barry Hayward and Paul Peachey collecting their Pairs Trophy. Other winners will appear next time.

Peter Edmonds, E.F.B.C 07860 395720
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AROUND & ABOUT

HAUGHLEY HOOFERS

NORTH WEST CLOG DANCERS

We are your locally based team of North West Clog Dancers.

We warmly invite you to come along to our FREE taster afternoon on Sunday 25th January. We will be welcoming you into Haughley Village Hall, IP14 3NS between 2.30 pm and 4.30 pm to join with us in learning a couple of North West Clog dances. You don't need to have any previous experience.

All you need is a pair of trainers on your feet and the wish to get a little regular exercise. There'll be a relaxing break halfway through where we can get to know each other better over teas, coffees and home made cakes.

Dancing is good for us offering mental, physical and emotional health benefits. It provides an enjoyable way of exercising in a social environment, helps our balance and improves our memory.

All through the cold Winter months we meet for an hour and a half every Sunday evening to practice. Meeting on such a regular basis gives us the opportunity to form close friendships.

If you eventually feel confident enough you may like to join us giving displays during the year at dance festivals, W I's and various village events.

You can find us on Facebook, or contact us by email at janetbauer3545@gmail.com.

We look forward to meeting you on 25th January, with a promise it will be plenty of fun. If you are a musician and would like to come along we will be thrilled to have your company.



ELMSWELL POOR'S LAND CHARITY

The Elmswell Poor's Land Charity was formed in 1898 by a group of altruistic landowners who decided to use the income from some of their lands to make a Christmas gift to the poor of the village. The form of the gift has evolved, including at one time a sack of coal, drawing a parallel with the current Winter Fuel allowance! Over the past 127 years, the original land has been sold and the money invested, so that it is the income from those investments that now form the basis of the Christmas gift. This is currently in the form of Co-op vouchers rather than cash, although we do occasionally make an emergency cash payout to individuals if circumstances of dire need reach our ears, and contribute to both Elmswell & Stowmarket foodbanks from time to time.



In 1898 Elmswell was a very small village, so the land apportionment was not huge and therefore the resources available to the charity in no way match the growth in the present number of residents. So please see the Christmas gift as a useful supplement akin to the Winter Fuel Allowance for those in real need and not something just to 'ease the pinch.'

An application form for this year's Christmas gift is on the next page. Copies can also be found at various locations, such as the Wesley Hall, Blackbourne centre & the Elmswell foodbank.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

FOR THE TRADITIONAL HAUGHLEY
'CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS SWITCH ON'

SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2025
CENTRED AROUND HAUGHLEY PARISH VILLAGE GREEN
IN THE HEART OF THE VILLAGE

2.30 pm: Event to open – St Mary's Bells will be rung by the Bellringers following by festive music

2.45 to 3.00 pm: Santa will arrive at his Grotto on the village green to meet with the Children (*children up to 12 years of age*)
Santa will be at his Grotto until 4.30 pm

3.00 pm: Dancing by Haughley Hoofers & East Suffolk Morris Men (*outside the Post Office*)

3.35 pm: Traditional Carols and songs sung by St Marys Choir & Ukulele Group

4.00 pm: ensemble Haughley Hooters Brass Band

4.45 pm: Our 'Guest of Honour' to switch on the Christmas Tree Lights

4.50 pm to Close: St Marys Bells will be rung by the Bellringers.

We look forward to seeing you there.



ELMSWELL POOR'S LAND CHARITY –

APPLICATION FOR CHRISTMAS GIFT 2025

The Elmswell Poor's Land Charity is pleased to issue a Christmas Monetary Gift to residents, irrespective of age, who have lived in the village continuously for the last 3 years or more and who are experiencing particular hardship. Last year's successful applicants received Co-op vouchers to the value of £150.00, usable in any East of England Co-operative Group food store. Please note though that as funds are not unlimited, early application is advised and that it may be necessary to make a judgement as to relative degrees of hardship. Any determination of relative hardship will be the sole discretion of the Trustees.

This year the gift will again be in the form of Co-op gift vouchers. Individual or multiple vouchers of fixed value may be used for in-store purchases in full or part payment for goods (excluding lottery, fuel or third party concession products or services) at any time whilst the vouchers are valid. No change can be given; neither can vouchers be exchanged for cash. At present, vouchers cannot be used to shop online.

If you are eligible and wish to apply, please complete the form below and send to

Elmswell Poor's Land Charity, c/o The Rectory, Church Road, Elmswell IP30 9DY by 1st December 2025

Please Note

- Only one application per household
- All information given is held in confidence

Name:

Address:

Age:

Have you lived in Elmswell continuously for the last 3 years? YES / NO

Please provide as much details as you can of the hardship you are experiencing. For example, elderly applicants may be eligible for if not already in receipt of pension credit. Younger applicants might have recently become unemployed and have mortgage or rent arrears. Please be prepared to explain how you will be able to prove this information if necessary.

.....
.....
.....
.....

Signed:

Date:



Festival of Remembrance

The Apex, Bury St Edmunds

7th November 2025 7:30pm

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C Group, Suffolk Royal British Legion

Registered charity number: 219279



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From the Office of Peter Prinsley MP

Member of Parliament for Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA



We had a fantastic turnout for our Meet Your MP event in Elmswell earlier this month, with over 50 residents joining for an evening of lively and thoughtful discussion. Building on that success, we were delighted to continue the conversation in Barningham, where residents once again shared valuable ideas and concerns about local life.

Across both events, we discussed a wide range of topics, including railways, devolution, housing, and farming. I was really encouraged by how committed residents are to their local communities. I share that same commitment—across all our wonderful towns and villages—to improving local services, supporting businesses, and ensuring that no one is left behind.

I listened carefully to all the concerns raised, particularly around railway-related traffic delays. I have subsequently written to Network Rail regarding the level crossing's impact on the Elmswell community and asked them to review what measures could be taken to reduce congestion and improve safety for both drivers and pedestrians.

I was also interested to hear alternative proposals to the Inheritance Tax on farms, including from the National Farmers' Union, who I recently met alongside local farmers for a valuable discussion about the challenges facing Suffolk's agricultural sector and the importance of securing the long-term future of British farming.

In positive railway news, this month marked a proud moment for our region as Greater Anglia became the latest network to be returned to public ownership. We are fortunate to have the most reliable operator in the country, with a performance satisfaction score of 97% and with 84% of trains arriving on time, according to data from the Office of Rail and Road. I am also pleased to report that the transition from a private company to a publicly owned operator has been smooth, with no disruption to services.

In time, Greater Anglia will become part of Great British

Railways, which the government is in the process of establishing. By bringing all current rail franchises into public ownership, the government estimates the taxpayer will be saved an estimated £150 million a year in operator fees.

Nationalisation reflects the principle of putting public interest before profit. I am proud to represent a Labour government that is delivering on that promise and putting people back at the heart of our public services.



Keith Avis Printers

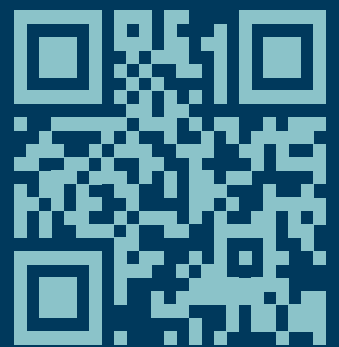
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Local Government Reorganisation

- Government is due to respond later this year to the Districts' & Borough's joint submission for three Unitaries, together with the County's submission for one single Unitary. Whatever option Government prefers, we expect a period of public consultation on its recommendations, followed by a final decision on how our county will be reorganised in Feb/March '26.

Government has so far not responded to Mid Suffolk's request for the election of the new mayor for Suffolk & Norfolk to be via a Supplementary Voting system. This would require either speeding up the planned legislation for this change or delaying the election until it the new law has been passed. For now, we need to assume that the mayoral election will be in May '26 and that the less democratic First Past the Post voting system will still be in place.

Changes to bin collections

Bin collections across Mid Suffolk, in response to Government legislation, are due to start changing in 2026. For detailed information, search for www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk and click the 'Find out more' button for Better Recycling at the bottom of the page. This includes a 'Frequently asked questions' section. Contact Jen or Sarah if you cannot find answers to a question via this route.

Solar Together, Suffolk project

Solar Together Suffolk is now open for free 2025 registrations. This group-buying programme enables Suffolk residents to buy solar panels and battery storage, helping to save money on energy bills and cut carbon emissions. So far, the scheme has helped over 2,600 homes in Suffolk to install over 32,000 solar panels, as well as over 1,700 battery storage installations. For more information and to register, search for <https://solartogether.co.uk/suffolk/home>.

Care Home Appeal Decision

The inspector who considered Mid Suffolk's decision to refuse the application for a Care Village development on School Road has now dismissed the developer's appeal. The decision focused mainly on heritage issues relating to the setting of St John's Church and Almshouses as viewed from Parnell Lane. Policies from Elmswell's Neighbourhood Plan were also instrumental.

Priority Services Register (PSR)

This is a free support service offered by energy and water suppliers. Residents are eligible who live with children under 5, use medical equipment reliant on electricity or water, or have a disability. The service offers priority support/extra help during planned and unplanned outages, such as providing alternative heating and cooking appliances. Register at www.thepsr.co.uk

Councillor drop-in sessions:

Jen and Sarah are regularly available for residents to come and meet for a chat. Our sessions for the rest of this year are:

- **Tuesday 4th November**
10 – 12 at the Wesley Café
- **Wednesday 10th December**
10 – 12 at the Green Wolf Café



Mid Suffolk District Council information is available via www.midsuffolk.gov.uk

or by phone **0300 123 4000**

Cllr Sarah Mansel 07860 829517
sarah.mansel@midsuffolk.gov.uk

Cllr Jen Overett 07928 512591
jen.overett@midsuffolk.gov.uk



Walsham Arts & Crafts Exhibition

29th, November - 1st December
2025

10.00am till 5.00pm

The Priory Room (next to the church)

Walsham le Willows IP31 3AB

Gillian Crossley-Holland,
Alison Dane, Helen Dougall, Joff Duck,
Chris & Hilary Evans, Mandy Jaggard,
Sharon Laslett, Jenny Portlock,
Phil Stearn, Mary Jane Toulson,
Rob Wheeler

for further information:

Mary Jane Toulson 01359 259 646
Or, Helen Dougall, helen@hdbatik.co.uk
Payments by cash or cheques only

MAKE A NOTE...

**ELMSWELL ART
CLUB
MEETS EVERY
TUESDAY
FROM 09:00 TO
12:00
AT THE WESLEY**

**NEW MEMBERS
ARE
ALWAYS
WELCOME.**



ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL OCTOBER MEETING REPORT

The Parish Council meets at least once each month, sometimes, as this year, excluding August if there is insufficient business, although extraordinary meetings can be called as required at any time.

The October meeting with 8 councillors present together with 3 members of the public 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 when ratified, together with the agenda for the next meeting, are available online at elmswell-pc.gov.uk 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 meeting held on 15th September, as approved at this meeting, are posted in the Council's notice board at Crown Mill.

COUNTY COUNCIL Cllr Andy Mellen, Ward Member on Suffolk County Council, tabled a Report which included the following:

One Suffolk Business Case Approved at Council Meeting On Tuesday 16 September, Suffolk County Council held an Extraordinary (additional) meeting to debate the business case produced by the council that one unitary council would be best for Suffolk after the two-tier system (county and district/borough councils) is abolished. Unitary councils run all services for a local area, and the government is planning for all remaining two-tier areas in the country to change to this model. Suffolk is part of the devolution priority programme, which means it will be one of the first counties to do so. The reorganization will also see the creation of a mayoral authority and mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk. The business case for One Suffolk was endorsed by the Conservative majority in the council meeting and was immediately afterwards tabled at a Cabinet meeting where the council's Cabinet voted to formally approve it. It will now be submitted to government by the end of September. An alternative proposal for three unitary councils for Suffolk has been developed by the district and borough councils and will also be submitted to government, who have said they will make a decision on the reorganization by March 2025 – this may be delayed though, as other parts have the process have been so far. Both Business Cases are available on line.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy Approved On 9 September, the council's Cabinet voted to approve the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, which was produced following a public consultation on the draft strategy between April and June this year. The strategy sets out priority species and habitats for nature conservation in the county, and gives advice on how different habitats can be improved by landowners to protect and encourage nature. Most of the area mapped out for Suffolk's nature priorities is private farmland, and the strategy does not make improvement mandatory, but the officers who have produced the strategy will now work with landowners to support them and work to find investment for measures in the strategy. Landowners can use areas mapped

in the strategy to produce 'units' of biodiversity for purchase by developers, as they will be required to meet the government's new Biodiversity Net Gain requirements which state that all development should be increasing biodiversity by a minimum of 10%. The units of biodiversity do not need to be onsite or near the development. The new strategy should also help Suffolk County Council to improve the land it owns in the county, and local planning authorities will have to take account of the strategy when development is considered. In the future, mayoral authorities like the one currently planned for Norfolk and Suffolk will be in charge of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for their area. The strategy will now be shared with neighbouring authorities, Natural England and local partners like district and borough councils and the Broads Authority for their feedback.

Financial Forecast at Quarter 1 of 2025-26 Financial Year Cabinet on 9th September also considered the most recent financial reporting from the council, which aimed to give a better forecast of how the council's spending might look for 2025-26. The council is predicting that it will overspend by £13.3m by the end of the year, which it will balance by taking £13.3m from its Risk Reserve. This is extremely worrying, as is the prediction that the council's Designated Schools Grant debt will rise over the year by £63.3m to a total of £161.2m deficit. Currently the government has agreed councils can hold this debt until March 2028, but a long term plan needs to be made as many councils are now carrying a level of debt related to SEND costs which would bankrupt them if it was called in by the government. Other cost pressures for the council include placements for children in care, care purchasing and mental health services in adult social care. The council has also received £1.2m less than expected from dividends from Suffolk Group Holdings (companies owned by the council like Concertus and Vertas) and had to pay nearly a million more than budgeted for its annual staff pay award.

Solar Together Scheme for 2025 The Solar Together Suffolk scheme, which has so far installed 32,000 solar panels at 2,651 Suffolk households,

is now open for registration for 2025. Registering is free and there is no obligation to go ahead with the installation. The scheme also includes battery storage and EV charge points, and customers who have already invested in solar panels can get quotes for these too. The scheme requires householders to register online, and pre-approved solar PV suppliers then take part in a 'reverse auction' to bid for the work. After this, registered households will be emailed a personal recommendation which they can choose to accept or not. Telephone and email helpdesks are available to support residents in making an informed decision. The scheme is run by Suffolk's councils in partnership with iChoosr, who have been working with UK councils on the Solar Together scheme since 2015. For more information and to register, visit <https://solartogether.co.uk/suffolk/home>

Apply Now for a School Place for September 2026 Parents and carers can now apply for a place in the normal year of entry at a primary, infant or junior school and a secondary school for September 2026. The deadline for applications to secure a place at a secondary school is Friday 31 October 2025 and for primary school places, including infant and junior schools, the deadline is Thursday 15 January 2026. All applications received by the relevant closing date are processed at the same time using the schools' oversubscription criteria to prioritise applications if necessary. Applications received late are processed after all of the applications received on time. Last year, 94% of applicants received offers for their first preference school, and 98.4% of applicants received an offer for one of their top three preferred schools. The council is keen that parents take into account how their child will travel to school when applying, as the nearest school for school transport purposes may not be the catchment area school. They can check this by entering their postcode here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-places/school-catchment-areas/nearest-school-checker> Parents and carers can apply online for a school place here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-places>

Clerk's Report

The Parish Clerk's written Report to the Meeting included the following:

PLAY AREAS An on-line meeting held on 17th September confirmed that the CIL contribution of £51,004.42 to the Junior play area refurbishment and extension scheme will be discussed at Mid Suffolk Cabinet on 11th November. Once authorised, the works will be instructed as soon as possible. Meanwhile, the toddler scheme is costed and designed awaiting the clarification of ring-fenced funding levels once the Tavern project nears completion. A second meeting with the 5 residents closest to the site on Crown Mill is mooted. They have had sight of the layout plan and specification of the 5 pre-school level pieces of equipment to be installed. Any comments as to tweaking the detail or layout can be considered at this stage, along with suggestions for the bio-diversity interest points on the site as part of the 'educate and entertain' function. The schemes enjoy continuing support;...'I think that maybe having the playground split by ages is at least a good start'; '...my son is just over 2 and there is never really much for him to do at the parks because I feel they are for older kids and it would be nice if they split it up for ages.'

TURNERS' FIELD Addressing the requirements of Planners regarding a change of use application, I have instructed Connected Ecology Ltd in the matter of an ecological appraisal, habitat classification together with biodiversity net gain calculations and assessment on the Turners' Field site adjacent to Blackbourne. This was the team which served Council well with regard to similar assessments at the Tavern site. A day's measurement assessment and analysis took place on 24th September. The subsequent report will include a recommendation as to the number of 'units' of biodiversity which will be lost by the proposed levelling, draining and seeding of some of the holding. There will then be a need to replace this perceived loss either elsewhere on the site or by a remediation payment to Natural England. I am working with the Planners to try to devise a red-line scheme which allows the former option.

ELMSWELL / WOOLPIT PEDESTRIAN & CYCLE PATH I attended with Cllr Brown a meeting at Wesley on 23rd September at Wesley to track progress on the Elmswell / Woolpit Community Path project. Ward Members, other councillors and Woolpit representatives agreed that this was a somewhat meandering re-visiting of previous progress made with the only significant step forward the granting of £3,099,930.16 CIL funding, although there are concerns that this time-limited agreement may founder if real progress is not made on the ground. Earlier

discussions and decisions as recently as September 2024 seem to have been discarded and the lack of continuity at SCC officer level is a concern. The next meeting is scheduled for November when it is hoped that cognisance will have been taken of what has gone before and proposals for the various design pinch-points will be firmed-up.

INTERNAL AUDIT Cllrs Roots & Schofield, having agreed to conduct the annual examination of the Council's accounts processes and procedures in line with the pro forma agreed at 25.09.15, will attend at the Council office on Wednesday the 19th of November to carry out their inspection. In advance of this, councillors can raise any specific concerns with their two colleagues or identify areas which they would like to propose for detailed study.

MP VISIT The visit by Peter Prinsley MP on 9th October drew 40 people to hear him speak on issues they raised. The Q&A at Blackbourne was preceded by a session with the Chairman and myself which included a tour of the village including Wesley and the emerging Tavern. Given his particular expertise, he was made aware of the perceived shortcomings of the NHS locally and the popular pressure for a health centre or outreach facility in Elmswell. The foremost topic was the potential for the problems at Elmswell railway crossing consequent upon the coming upgrade of freight routing through Haughley Junction. I undertook to look at costing and funding a professional 3 week survey, outside of school holidays, of traffic flows and type including video record, tailback length, crossing closing frequency & clearance times, and physical survey of HGV journey origins & destinations. Mr Prinsley would then use his influence to pull together relevant rail bodies, Highways and Planners for a round-table discussion towards identifying possible practical mitigation measures.

POOR'S LAND CHARITY I attended a Poor's Land Charity meeting on 12th October at which the annual distribution of grant aid was discussed. A sub committee was appointed to make the assessments and subsequent decisions in response to advertising the fund in the Newsletter and elsewhere. Last year, 24 grants of £150 and 2 of £100 were made by way of Co-op vouchers.

WESLEY HEAT PUMP I spent a morning with an Ofgem site inspector at Wesley on 20th August exhaustively detailing and demonstrating the processes and procedures related to the installation and running of the ground source heat pump there. This required presentation of metering and system schematics, installation and maintenance records, usage patterns etc as well as physical inspection and photographic evidence

of installation. The subsequent Audit Report identified a failing, in that the installation does not have affixed a manufacturer's nameplate showing the capacity or serial number. It noted that this information was available in documentation to confirm that the installation is as accredited for the Renewable Heat Incentive scheme. It was confirmed that this does not constitute non-compliance. Council is charged with obtaining and affixing the original or a replacement manufacturer's nameplate and this I will do, beginning the process, as required, no later than 3 months after the Notification date.

TAVERN The Tavern scheme is, in terms of the main build, on schedule. Parallel efforts are being made towards finalising the kitchen equipment specification and general fitting-out. Progress has been made towards addressing the problematic disposal of stormwater and the other groundworks. However, the new electricity supply cannot be connected before the end of February. Discussions are on-going with UKPN towards possibly bringing that date forward. Meanwhile, Nadia Tunmore has accepted the position of General Manager of the Wesley-Tavern facilities beginning in February but agreeing to advise in the interim and to play a key role in various aspects of the fit-out as well as staff appointment.

HEALTH CENTRE I attended with Cllr Mansell at the Woolpit Health Centre for a community liaison meeting on 14th October. Other parish councils were represented to hear of the recent initiatives to computerise prescription ordering and delivery using the Titan pharmacy platform together with the roll-out of the Anima on-line triage and communication system. There are teething problems but the Practice is confident that the end-result will provide better care. It is accepted that the Practice can be seen to fall short in various aspects, these being well versed. However, the new systems, along with plans for the physical expansion of the facility will, we were told, lead to fewer problems. It was suggested that more regular and fuller liaison with the community would help address concerns and that a few simple steps could help avoid the confusion regarding the car park arrangements. On the key issue of capacity in light of development pressures, it was confirmed that the number of patients has increased from 11,000 to 16,000 in 20 years. Given that the establishment is, currently 14 GP's, this gives a ratio of 1,143 patients per doctor. The national average is 2,258, so there is some way to go before the facility is seen as unable to cope. Given the current improvements, as detailed, and the proposals for expansion allowing a 30% increase in consulting areas, the Lead Partner's contention that they cannot foresee the day when

the Practice cannot cope with the population increase would seem to have validity. The regional nature of primary care provision means that the next new local health centre will be in Bury. Pleas from those within the 75 square mile catchment of Woolpit, including Elmswell as the largest population centre, that new provision is needed more locally, can have no weight. There is no reference in the Planning consultation system to the local providers. Such consideration is made strategically by the regional ICB body.

PLANNING RESULTS The Meeting noted the following results of Planning applications made to Mid Suffolk, the Planning Authority.

DC/25/03469 Discharge of Conditions...Land at Royston Farm, Kiln Lane APPROVED EPC no comment

DC/25/03473 Discharge of Conditions...Land at Royston Farm, Kiln Lane APPROVED EPC no comment

DC/25/03202 Erection of rear extension...The Chalet, Church Road GRANTED EPC no comment

DC/25/03097 Extension and conversion of existing garage to living space...64, Bennett Avenue GRANTED EPC objected

PLANNING APPLICATIONS The Meeting agreed not to comment on technical matters related to a Discharge of Conditions Application DC/24/05355 re Condition 19 (Written Liaison Scheme) at Plot 4, Lawn Farm Business Park, Woolpit or to an Application for a Lawful Development Certificate ref DC/25/03761 at The New Unit, Grove Lane Industrial Estate

PLANNING APPEAL – care village Councillors noted with approval the comments made by the Planning Inspector in dismissing the appeal against Mid Suffolk’s refusal to grant Planning permission for a 66 bedroom care home with 37 extra-care bungalows plus 3 almshouses and ancillary buildings on land at School Road. The main issues considered were

- the preservation of the setting of the listed buildings of St John’s church, the adjacent almshouses and Elmswell Hall
- the effect on the character and appearance of the surrounding area, and,
- whether the site is a suitable location for development having regard to local planning policy.

The application was deemed to fail on all of these counts and it was noted that local input to the process from residents who wrote to object or who spoke at the proceedings was a factor in the decision, as was the Elmswell Neighbourhood Plan. The decision protects what, the Inspector observed, was well described as, ‘the best view in the village.’

EXTERNAL AUDIT Each year the Council undertakes 3 levels of inspection of its finances, practices and procedures. At stage 2, an Internal Audit is carried out by a qualified practitioner whose report is then available to the Government Appointed External Audit practice. Council changes its Internal Auditor every 3 years to avoid any over-familiarity with the job and to encourage a fresh view on how its affairs are conducted. For the second consecutive

year, Heather Heelis of Heelis & Lodge is to be asked to undertake the inspection which usually happens in April. Grants Every October, Council considers applications for grant aid which have been made by external charitable bodies. The Meeting considered this year’s appeals and resolved that £175.00 be paid to each of Headway Suffolk, The Royal British legion Poppy Appeal, Suffolk Accident Rescue Service, St Edmundsbury Newstalk, the local independent children’s charity Brave Futures.

NEXT MEETING It was noted that the next Ordinary Meeting of Council was scheduled for 17th November beginning at the 7.30pm at Blackbourne. The public are, as ever, welcome to attend all Council meetings and the agenda will always offer opportunities for questions and comment. Agendas are published online at elmswell-pc.gov.uk and on the Council’s notice board at Crown Mill and are available from the Council Office at Blackbourne.



SUPPORT HOME-START SUFFOLK AND TAKE PART IN OUR

Christmas Jumper Day!




IT'S FREE & EASY TO TAKE PART

SIMPLY CHOOSE A DATE IN DECEMBER TO TAKE PART, GATHER YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY, WORK COLLEAGUES, SCHOOLFRIENDS OR YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUP TOGETHER AND HELP FAMILIES IN YOUR COMMUNITY THIS CHRISTMAS.



SIGN UP TODAY



WWW.HOMESTARTINSUFFOLK.ORG

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 – Friday 9.00am – 4.00pm and other times by arrangement

clerk@elmswellpc.co.uk
Tel. 244134 www.elmswell-pc.gov.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.				
Nov 17 th	Dec 15 th	Jan 19 th	Feb 16 th	Mar 16 th
Meetings are held at Blackbourne, beginning at 7.30 unless otherwise notified				

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	Eddie Douglas	edward.douglas2@gmail.com	
Arts Society of West Suffolk	Diana Hollins	theartssociety-westsuffolk.org.uk	01449 736930
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	07860 395720
Blackbourne – all enquiries	Parish Council office	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
Brownies	Megan & Frankie	elmswellbrownies@hotmail.com	
CAB		advice@midsuffolkcab.org.uk	01449 676060
Carpet Bowls Club	Mike North	mcnorth8@gmail.com	
Christians Together in Elmswell	Peter Goodridge	elmswellrector@gmail.com	240512
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	Mark Pernot	mark.pernot@gmail.com	
District Councillor	Sarah Mansell	Sarah.Mansel@midsuffolk.gov.uk	07860 829517
District Councillor	Jen Overett	Jen.Overett@midsuffolk.gov.uk	
Elmswild	Mary Feeney	info@elmswild.org.uk	241901
Exchange Afternoon WI	Carol Blissett	carolblissett@hotmail.co.uk	242884
First Responders	Merv	merv.smith@tiscali.co.uk	07909 006 496
Football	Chris Edmonds	edddd101@gmail.com	
Fox Bowls Team bowls at Blackbourne	Rob Dann	rcdsdann@btinternet.com	07917 013846
Gardening Club	Nick	elmswellgadmin@btinternet.com	01359 242601
Guides	Viv	elmswellguides@outlook.com	
Harry Huson Bridge Club	Amanda Roberts	robertsar@sky.com	07526 743734
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	Paula Reynolds / Samantha Willers	info@littleelms.co.uk	240491
Newsletter	Editorial office	ea@elmswell.org.uk	244134
Over 55's Club	Diann Armstrong	elmswellover55s@outlook.com	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		Powercut105.com	105
Rainbows	Gemma	elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com	
Royal British Legion	Norman Plumpton (Biff)	nplumpton@aol.com	07707 524722
School	Mrs Ash	admin@elmswell.suffolk.sch.uk	240261
Scouts	Mark Pernot	mark.pernot@gmail.com	
St John's Church	Peter Goodridge	elmswellrector@gmail.com	240512
St John's Floodlighting	Trevor Sadler	trevor.sadler@dsl.pipex.com	240908
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	Tricia McNeeney	triciamcneeney@gmail.com	241197
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 Monday - Friday 9.00am - 4.00pm and 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.

November 2025

- 3 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church at 2pm. Simon White from Peter Beales Roses will be demonstrating how to make Christmas Wreaths
- 4 West Suffolk Arts Society The Age of Jazz Speaker : Sandy Bennett Musician and Musicologist
- 5 Elmswell Afternoon WI - A History of toys - Speaker Catherine Buchanan
- 6 Over 55's Club Hot Dogs and Bingo
- 11 Elmswell WI Kiln Work and Glass Making
- 13 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 13 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Barbara McElroy: Suffolk Smugglers
- 18 Elmswell Gardening Club AGM and quiz 7.30pm at Wesley Chapel
- 19 DIGITAL SUPPORT SESSION free of charge, no need to book. Wesley 10.00am – 12.00 noon

- 20 Over 55's Club Gala Bingo Evening

December 2025

- 1 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church at 1pm. Nosh & Natter - bring and share lunch followed by seasonal entertainment by "Angel Delight"
- 2 West Suffolk Arts Society Mayan Civilisation of Central America (300 -900AD) Speaker: Duncan Pring
- 3 Elmswell Afternoon WI - Christmas Celebrations - Hosted by The Committee
- 4 Over 55's Club visit to Thursford Xmas Show.
- 9 Elmswell WI Christmas Party
- 11 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 11 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Bryan Thurlow: Borley Rectory, England's Most Haunted House
- 14 Over 55's Club Xmas Party with entertainment following from Midday

- 17 Carol Service with Norton Salvation Army Band Wesley-Tavern 6.30 with punch & mince pies
- 18 Over 55's Club 7.30pm Concert by Norton Salvation Army all are welcome
- 24 5pm Carols by Candlelight at Elmswell Baptist Church

January 2026

- 6 West Suffolk Arts Society (C16 & C17) Spanish Art of Velazquez Speaker: Isabel Kent
- 8 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Members' Evening: A selection of members' own researches
- 13 Elmswell WI Burlesque, Me and the WI

February 2026

- 3 West Suffolk Arts Society The Beatles Here There and Everywhere Speaker: Jamie Hayes
- 7 Annual Wine Tasting at the Wesley Hall 7:30pm Entertainment with Wesley Ukelele Band Tickets £22 each Contact events@greenpunch.co.uk

STOP PRESS

Regular sessions at Blackbourne & Wesley include:

- KARATE** with Lewis - Friday 5.00 – 7.00 info@greathedma.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** - Chris Edmonds edddd101@gmail.com
 - RAINBOWS** - elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com
 - JUNIOR FOOTBALL** - smyth98@hotmail.com 07717 841591
 - CUBS** Tuesdays 6.15 – 7.30 - mark.pernot@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.grouat@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 triciamcneeny@gmail.com
 - WI** – afternoon at Wesley 1st Wednesday monthly at 2.00pm Carol Blissett carolblissett@hotmail.co.uk
 - ART CLUB** at Wesley every Tuesday 9.00 – 12.00 Eddie Douglas edward.douglas2@gmail.com
 - HISTORY GROUP** at Wesley 2nd Thursday monthly 7.30 stellachamberlin@yahoo.co.uk
 - GARDEN CLUB** at Wesley 3rd Tuesday monthly 7.30 elmswellgadmin@btinternet.com
 - CARPET BOWLS** – Wednesday 7pm at Wesley – em.mcnorth8@gmail.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. Diana Hollins 01449 736930 theartsociety-westsuffolk.org.uk
 - DANCE & FITNESS / CIRCUITS** - Mondays 7.00pm & 7.50pm at Wesley
 - BRIDGE** – Blackbourne - Monday afternoons from 1.15pm – Phil Peters 07825 016884 peters33@btinternet.com
 - DIGITAL SUPPORT SESSIONS** – free at Wesley 3rd Wednesday monthly, no need to book
- 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: November 25th, December 23rd, January ??.

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

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

Published on the first Friday of every month by the Elmswell Amenities Association

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