

'Like a friend dropping in'



The Elmswell Newsletter



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

DECEMBER 2025

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DON'T MISS

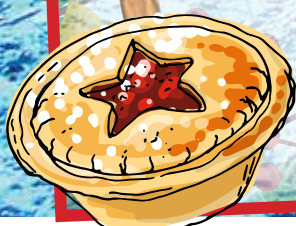
New Year's Day Walk

... see page 27

VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE

AT WESLEY & THE TAVERN

... see page 24



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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; ea@elmswell.org.uk

We reserve the right to edit any such contributions that we may use in a subsequent edition.

It is, according to the adverts, The Season To Be Jolly

In tune with our times we are, surely, entitled to take this as being fake news. We must be ever-vigilant against such seductive enticements. Possibly contrived in some foreign back street den of iniquitous interweb manipulation to be beamed into our homes and phones and ear buds to worm unnoticed into the bit of the brain that scientists call the sad/happy cortex.

To help our reader decide whether, indeed, the tail end of December tags on to the first couple of days of January as a 'jolly' time we offer the following as worthy of consideration both for and against the proposition.



AGAINST:

- Clearly, therefore, we must mention the budget. The annual charade of speculation, obfuscation, accusation and name-calling that leaves some of us a bit better off, some a little worse off and all of us confused. Our political system will not allow for real change. Change will always offend, and offended voters will remove the offender. So, the mire of social expenditure grows deeper and wider and the money needed to feed the leviathan State becomes harder to find as 'the markets' see the inevitable and charge more for the capital to keep the system lumbering on. It could turn nasty.
- The weather, which always has our attention, is getting very weird. The only questions are why is this happening, can it be stopped and what if it can't? If some of our American cousins and their acolytes are to be believed, we are simply living in a blip and the world will self-correct in time to bring the seasons back in line, stop the drought / flood cycle and shut the tsunamis down. If they are wrong, it will take some intricate social control to ration the food and water and to concentrate our communities on an ever-diminishing land mass that can sustain life as we know it. It could turn nasty.
- Politics are upside down. At a rate much faster than when the map of the world began to change colour and Britannia gradually ceased to rule the globe, enormous power blocs in Asia, China and on the Indian continent are seizing influence, power and resources to allow a complete re-shaping of the world's economic and social structure. For little old Great Britain, the word, 'Once', seems to be an inevitable pre-requisite, and, 'Great', is somewhat redundant. It could turn nasty.

FOR

- We live in one of the best villages in one of the best Districts in one of the best areas of the country. Our Newsletter carries no doom and gloom. Instead, it offers a snapshot of a community growing both in size and confidence as it seeks to slough off the harbingers of despondency and despair declaiming that all are past hope, past cure, past help. No. We rise above the irritations of the crossing gates, the pharmacy queue and everyone else's poor driving. Our magazine promises a first chance to enjoy the Wesley / Tavern partnership at the Carol Service and a first-footing opportunity on the New Year's Day Walk. It chronicles the activities of many and varied groups and associations across the community and lists many more too shy to publicise their doings.

The pitter-patter of hooves across rooftops on 25th (mind the solar panels) could well be four horsemen of apocalyptic bent. Or it could be Santa.

Our money's on the stout chap.



MERRY CHRISTMAS





ELMSWELL ART CLUB

Our first picture this month is a fine image of Norwich Cathedral, painted in acrylics by Linda Stephenson.

The building's history began in 1096 when it was founded as a Benedictine monastery and building was completed by 1145; accordingly it has provided a site of worship and a centre of life for over 900 years. It even survived the dissolution of the monasteries in the 16th century, which transformed it into a cathedral with a dean and canons. Key features include its large monastic cloisters, the second-highest spire in the country, and over 1,000 medieval roof carvings.



In terms of architectural significance, the cathedral has the highest Norman tower and the largest monastic cloisters in England as well as its stone spire, completed in 1480, which is the second tallest in England, after Salisbury Cathedral.

I think you will agree that Linda has captured the very essence of these features in her excellent painting.

For our second picture, Pat Quick has created this mixed media artwork entitled "Wonder". Starting with a "wash" painted background, Pat has then used various materials, including beads and braiding to produce this stunning image.



Our third and final picture this month is by Jo Hale. Entitled "Venetian Doorway", Jo has produced this superb acrylic painting, on a canvas board, from a photograph taken by her friend's son for his photography course. The original photograph did not include the bicycle, so Jo added this for further interest! Nice one Jo!



Eddie Douglas

**ELMSWELL ART CLUB
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“ We can only praise Simon for the solid, professional and enthusiastic work that went into the sale. ”

“ Your patience and liaising went a long way to bringing everything to the right conclusion. You gave it the personal touch which goes a long way. ”

“ The professionalism and 'go the extra mile' attitude, which you do not seem to get from the big corporate agents, will be the reason we shall be returning in future. ”

“ Your experience and calm and collected manner really showed through. ”

“ We were grateful for your sound advice, help, willingness to be flexible and of course for quickly finding us a buyer. ”

“ Your diligence, patience and constant shepherding of the multiple parties involved has seen the matter through to its positive conclusion. ”

“ From start to finish you kept us informed on everything, making the whole experience stress-free. ”

“ I recommend their services as you are treated more as an individual human being and not a number. ”

“ Dealing with Simon was a comfort during what was a daunting process. ”

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ELMSWELL FOOTPATH WALK

Sunday 16th November 2025

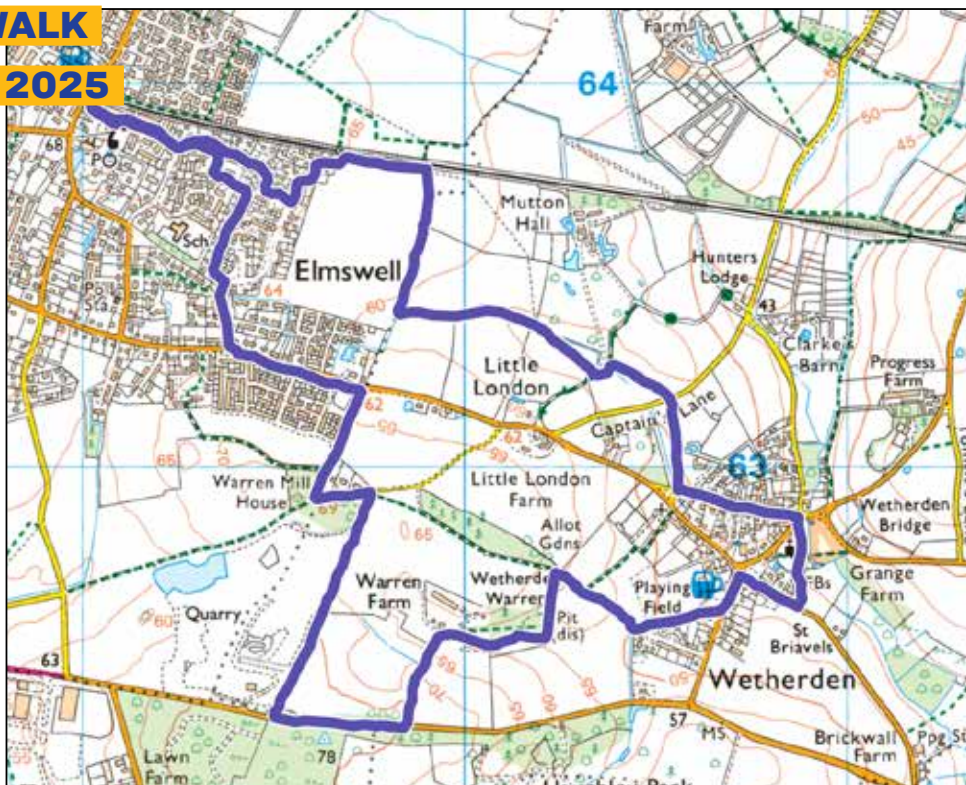
Following the constant rain of the previous couple of days the Footpath Officer was fearing a desultory turnout for the promoted monthly walk around Elmswell's rights of way.....

Oh ye of little faith. A band of 10 brothers (and sisters) met up at the allotted time undaunted by conditions and appropriately bedecked in waterproofs, stout walking boots and wellies.

Now the task was to procure the least wet route to minimise discomfort.

Heading east through Crown Mill we traversed the houses of Bennett Avenue, Rowan Green and Eastern Way until, at Lord's Bridge, we turned on to the new length of footpath on the south side of the railway track.

Passing through gate 3 on to Mutton Hall an immediate right took us along the hedgeline and over the footbridge where



a left took us alongside the ditch and hence on to the exit at gate 8. Now on RB46 we turned left then right on to FP33, across the meadow and met up with Captains Lane.

Straight across here put us on FP32 heading south alongside the horse meadow until we met Kate's Lane where we turned left towards the centre of Wetherden and on to the junction with Church Street.

A right and a left here put us on FP50 taking us past the impressive St Mary's Church on the right and the allotments on the left.

Meeting up with Stowmarket Road we turned right along to The Maypole where a left on to Park Road and a right on to FP23 took us past the Village Hall and playing fields.

Now heading up the slope towards Wetherden Warren we passed the junction with FP51 on the right and turned left at the junction with FP25A and down the slope towards Warren Farm still on FP23.

A right over a stile took us past the farmhouse and a left up the slope led us through the gate and on to the old A45.

As this is quite a fast stretch of carriageway a safety briefing was duly given and the group progressed in single file for 400m where a right took us on to FP25 just before the quarry entrance.

The leafy path led up the slope adjacent to the quarry for 650m meeting up with FP25A where we turned left past Warren Mill House and then right on to the well trodden FP21 and down to the Wetherden Road with Elmswell on the left of us and Wetherden on the right of us.

A left here and a right on to Jubilee Terrace then allowed us to meander through the backstreets of Elmswell back to Crown Mill.

A thoroughly enjoyable walk of approximately 4.71 miles in 1 hour and 47minutes (an average speed of 2.7 miles per hour) being the just reward for the resilience displayed by all.

Peter Hancock, EPC Footpath Officer



**DECEMBER'S FESTIVE FOOTPATH WALK
WILL BE ON SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER**



JOB DONE

...a major milestone was reached on 26th November when our principal contractor, Stroods, handed the site back to the village. In a programme which stuck remarkable close to the timetable set in February the old additions to the original core building were demolished and replaced with the impressive new extension. Fortnightly progress meetings have allowed invaluable input from the team on site towards achieving an impressive result. There remain some outstanding matters which cannot be tackled until other factors are in place – the heating cannot be commissioned until UKPN put us on full power in February. Stroods remain actively in contact to make sure that all such finishing touches are slotted into the final stages of the project.

JOB STILL TO DO

...the project was entered into on the basis that the parish council would take responsibility for its overall management. This it has very effectively done and it has allowed them to reserve certain discrete elements of the works which could then be carried out very cost-effectively by local companies and tradesmen with the added benefit of not having to plan in advance works which could then be tailored to the situation as and when they needed to be carried.

AND OUTSIDE?

...local contractor Jake Finch begins installing the rainwater drainage system as deigned in conjunction with the Council's drainage consultant and agreed with Building Control. This work is a priority given the need to inhibit dampness over the winter months and will begin before Christmas. It will lead to further groundworks to create the car parking, upgrading water supply, new electrical supply and access ways once the excavations are complete.



SO, WHAT'S LEFT?

...the project team is at work with their suppliers and installers to fit out the kitchen, install the CCTV & intruder alarm / fire alarm system plus wi-fi. They will specify and have installed flooring, decorate throughout before furnishing and equipping ready for opening.

FIRST FOOTING

...the first chance to take a look will be on 17th December when Norton Salvation Army Brass Band lead the singing at our annual carol service. A temporary bar will be open and, as in previous years, mince pies and mulled wine - including non-alcoholic - will be served at Wesley. Our newly appointed Manager, Nadia, will be overseeing bar activities and is keen to start making friends.



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Please note as of February
2023 D A Bevan has been
taken over by MK Autos



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ELMSWELL

EXCHANGE WI

After Mary had welcomed everyone to the meeting, she introduced Catherine Buchanan our speaker. Catherine's subject was 'A history of toys'. Catherine's opening line was that bath toys had been banned due to the germs and other nasties growing inside the plastic ducks etc. No more toys to be left lurking round the bath!

Catherine told us that present giving went back to Odin's feast and Saturnalia's feast on the seventeenth December. In 336 AD Emperor Constantine made a decision that 25th December would be the time to give presents and Pope Julius 1st declared this date was to be Jesus' birthday. There were changes through the years but in 'The Christmas Carol' present giving took place on Christmas Day.

Catherine then took us through the years starting with a ceramic rattle dating back to 4000 BC. In 1760 the first jigsaw was a dissected map and in 1840 a Noah's Ark was seen as a suitable Sunday toy. In 1880 was the first advertisement for a toy which was a dolls house.

Pre World War I toys were mainly made in Germany but in 1914 the first British toy catalogue was printed. We then heard about the most popular toys of each decade with the 1950's introducing Barbie dolls, Lego, Etch a Sketch and Play Doh. Things started changing in the 1970s with video games, the 1990s with Game boys and now many different ways of playing computer games.

Toys such as Lego have evolved over the years including sets designed for adults to keep them entertained. Barbie dolls can be found in many forms and some can be sold for large amounts of money to collectors along with other toys.

Catherine gave an entertaining talk and certainly made us think about the amount of plastic many of these toys generate!

The competition was a handmade cracker. First was Kathy, in second place it was Maureen and third was Jayne Knights.

December's meeting will be our Christmas celebration. Our competition winners for the year will be announced.

We wish everyone a happy Christmas and a healthy new year.

Carol Blissett 242 884



ELMSWELL WI

Terry welcomed our visitors, Rachel, Liz, and Julie. She told us about the sad death of Betty Rice, at the age of ninety-seven. Anna remembered her long-standing membership of the W.I. (From the age of three in Canada!). She was a quiet, gentle lady - "the salt of the earth."

We were all very excited to have Michele and John Russell with us, because Michele was going to help us create glass Christmas decorations. After explaining her techniques, which involve three different methods of glasswork, we were all given a glass disc and various pieces of coloured glass.

It was great fun, designing our own decorations and everybody was able to achieve a good result due to Michele's meticulous preparation. Everyone was given a clear glass disc with a hole, all made and smoothed by Michele. There were many containers of coloured glass to choose from, and our efforts were photographed, before being taken to be fired in her kiln. There were about forty of us, so several firings will be needed.

We all really appreciated all the work involved in preparing the glass, setting out the workstations, cleaning up, and firing our creations. Many thanks must go to Michele for all her efforts to give us a really enjoyable evening. We cannot wait to see the results when she brings our decorations to the Christmas party!

Rosie Collins 01359 241652



OVER 55'S CLUB

We are almost at the end of another year at the Over 55's Club.

November concluded with a Grand Bingo Evening where there were many good cash prizes up for grabs, with one lucky person winning £90 on the final game of the evening.

The visit to Thursford saw a full coach head off to North Norfolk for the Xmas Spectacular.

On Sunday December 14th about 60 are due to sit down to Xmas Lunch followed by entertainment by «Bob Whiting» when in the course of afternoon the Grand Xmas Draw will take place all winners will be advised if they have won as tickets have been sold not only to members but throughout the area many of the prizes have been donated by numerous businesses in the locality.

The final event is on Thursday, December 18th, with a Carol Concert by Norton Salvation Army.

In conclusion, I would like to wish all my members and friends a Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2026, your Chairman, Diann.



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Christmas

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ELMSWELL LIBRARY

Hello Elmswell,

We have a Tweens and Teens Social starting this month. The first one will be at 5.30pm on Thursday 11th December and then on 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. This is a relaxed hang out for people in years 7, 8 or 9 to complement our Catch up in the Library on Wednesday afternoons which is more suited to adults and primary school aged kids. There will be refreshments and donations are welcome.

Picture Bingo will be back this month as there are school holidays. Kids can come along 10.30am on Tuesday 30th December for the bingo with animals instead of numbers. There are prizes which are kindly got by the Elmswell Friends Group.

The trial of Mahjong was popular so it is carrying on but on a different day. Our last Wednesday session will be 3.30pm Wednesday 17th December and then it will fortnightly on Fridays from 19th December. The Friday sessions will also start at 3.30pm.

We have also tweaked the start time for Gwel (the Pets As Therapy dog) visits so now they start at 3.30pm from Tuesday 2nd December.

Our next Fantastical Book Club read will be *Breath of the dragon* by Shannon Lee. The group will meet 11am on Saturday 20th December. This poison heart by Kalynn Bayron was enjoyed and overall thoughts were it took a while to get going but by the end we all wanted to read the second book.

Our writer's group is meeting 6pm on Thursday 4th December and also the January date has been moved forward to Tuesday 30th December. As with all our groups this is free, with refreshments and donations are appreciated.

Our Christmas books are now out on the shelves. You can find a shelf of Christmas Suffolk Loves on one of

the regular Suffolk Loves shelves and the rest of the Christmas books on the shelves below the Suffolk Loves. Audiobooks have been moved to underneath the reservation shelves.

We will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day and closing early at 4pm on Wednesday 31st December.

See you in the library soon and we hope you enjoy the festive season,

Miles

What's on

Picture Bingo

10.30am Tuesday 30th December (once every school holiday)

Mahjong

3.30pm Wednesday 17th December and Friday 19th December

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 6th December (every 1st Saturday of the month)

Writing Group

6pm Thursday 4th December (every 1st Thursday of the month)

6pm Tuesday 30th December in place of January session

Chess Club

4.30pm Thursday 11th December (every 2nd Thursday of the month)

Fantastical Book Club

11am Saturday 20th December (every 4 weeks) – reading *Breath of the dragon* by Shannon Lee

The Keep in Touch Community Café

No Community Café in December (every 3rd Wednesday of the month except August and December)

Catch Up In The Library

2.30pm every Wednesdays

Gwel's visits

3.30pm – 4.30pm Tuesday 2nd December (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



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 17th December between 10:00 am and 12:00 noon.




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AROUND & ABOUT

THANK YOU

I am delighted to report that the Elmswell village total raised for the Annual Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2025 amounted to an amazing £10,638-44

This terrific amount has been passed to the Poppy Appeal and, will certainly help the charity to carry on providing vital assistance and welfare to our serving and ex serving military personnel and their dependants, whose needs and requirements are as vital today as they were back in 1921 when the British Legion was formed.

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

To the volunteers, some old troupers and some new recruits, who helped enormously.

To Lucy at the Co-op store who generously allowed us to have a table top in the foyer and, to all of her staff, who were very helpful and looked after the volunteers so well.

To Elmswell Primary school, who happily promoted our cause.

To the numerous businesses and organisations who helped with static boxes.

To Elmswell Amenities Association and Parish Council..

Not forgetting the generous donation from Elmswell Bingo.

However, the success of the Poppy Appeal ultimately relies on the generosity and support of everyone who donated.



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

My further thanks go to the staff of Elmswell Coop, who nominated the Poppy Appeal 2025 to be the chosen charity of the East of England Coop and, as such, we look forward to a further contribution in the early part of 2026.

THANK YOU

Norman Plumpton
(BIFF)

Elmswell Poppy
Appeal Organiser
(EJD 024)



CITIZENS ADVICE MID SUFFOLK

With it coming up to Christmas, I want to do more shopping online, but there's been things in the news about delivery problems. I'm worried about not receiving things on time or packages being lost. What should I do if my parcel goes missing?

When you're online shopping, it's not always clear whom to contact if things go wrong.

As a customer your contract is with the seller that you bought the item from. It's the seller's responsibility to make sure the item is delivered to you. They should chase the courier to find out what happened to your order if there's a problem.

If your parcel hasn't arrived:

- Check the delivery address you gave the seller, to make sure it's correct.
- Then contact the seller and ask where your order is.

- If the seller claims they've delivered it or doesn't know where it is, you can ask for a redelivery. You might be able to get a refund in some circumstances where the delivery time was essential, and you let the seller know ahead of time.

Under the Consumer Rights Act 2015, you can ask the seller to deliver the item to you again if the item wasn't delivered either by an agreed date, or within a reasonable time - usually within 30 days. If the new delivery fails to come within a reasonable time, you can ask the seller for a refund.

Another problem people face is when parcels get left in different places, for example outside or with a neighbour.

If your item was delivered by Royal Mail:

- And they left your package with a neighbour or in a certain place because you told them to, it's not the seller or Royal Mail's responsibility if it gets lost.

- If they leave it somewhere you hadn't instructed, it's the seller's responsibility if it gets lost. You should contact the seller to ask for a redelivery or a refund.

If the item was delivered by a courier:

- Check your terms and conditions or account details - they might include other places for delivery, like your porch or a neighbour's house. If you agreed to them, it's not the seller's or courier's responsibility if your order has gone missing. However, if you did not agree to this, then it's the seller's responsibility if your order goes missing.

If you ordered something from a private seller or you're still having trouble after trying the tips above, you can find out more via the Citizens Advice website at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/>

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide in depth advice on this issue and much more, including debt, finances, employment, benefits and family/relationships. You can contact them by phone on 01449 676060, visit in person at Milton House, 5 Milton Road South, Stowmarket IP14 1EZ 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.

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ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Advent greetings from St John's Church

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little lord Jesus laid
down his sweet head.*

Apparently, the crib in the picture above retails for about £1250! It is really quite elaborate and looks as if it has been made for royalty. At this time of year, we remember how Jesus is the definitive royal figure. He is the King of Kings and, yet, when he was born he had no crib for a bed. Not even a cheap one! Jesus ought to have been born in a palace and placed in a luxurious bed like the one above. Instead, he ended up being born in poverty amongst the animals and laid in a manger. Indeed, this is how it was meant to be. In Jesus, the King of the universe - God himself, was stepping down to identify with the poor and needy and to bring salvation to us all. This is the great message of hope at Christmas. God has come to reveal himself to us in Jesus and, through him, to bring us out of the poverty of this world into eternal riches.

We have an exciting December ahead at St John's as we look forward to celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus at Christmas. Years 5 and 6 from the school will be engaging in the Christmas story in an interactive way through *Discover Advent* in early December. The whole of Key Stage 2 will be joining us later in the month on Monday 15 December for their Carol service. On Wednesday 17th December, join us outside the Wesley at 6:30pm for carol singing with the Norton Salvation Army band, plus mince pies and mulled wine. Our atmospheric *Carols by Candlelight* takes place on Sunday 21st December at 6:30pm and we are delighted to have singers from Song Circle joining us again. There will be another opportunity to enjoy more mulled wine and mince pieces after the service.

Our family nativity service takes place on Christmas Eve at 3:30pm and our early midnight service, *Midnight in Bethlehem*,

is at 8:30pm that evening. We also have a special Christmas Day service at 10:00am for all the family (children are invited to bring along a present they have opened and wish to show).

During our main Sunday services in December, we will be focussing on the other aspect of Advent, which is the return of Jesus at the end of the age. Our Sunday School meets during the main service on Sunday 14th and 21st December, but will be taking a break on the 28th.

All are welcome at St John's - do pop along on Sundays at 10:30am or get in touch (details below). You can also watch most of our services online via our web site, YouTube or Facebook (links are below).

Upcoming Dates:

Sun 7 Dec 9:00am
Holy Communion

Sun 7 Dec 10:30am
Family Service

Sun 14 Dec 10:30am
Sunday Worship with Communion

Wed 17 Dec 6:30pm
Carol Singing outside the Wesley

Sun 21 Dec 10:30am
Sunday Worship

Sun 21 Dec 6:30pm
Carols by Candlelight

Wed 24 Dec 3:30pm
Family Nativity

Wed 24 Dec 8:30pm
Midnight in Bethlehem (Communion)

Thu 25 Dec 10:00am
Family Christmas Celebration

Sun 28 Dec 10:30am
Morning Prayer

Sun 4 Jan 9:00am
Holy Communion

Sun 4 Jan 10:30am
Family All Age Service

Every Saturday:

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

Rector: Peter Goodridge,
elmswellrector@gmail.com
(01359 240512)

Website: Facebook:
www.facebook.com/stjohnselmswell

YouTube: www.youtube.com/@stjohnselmswell

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

TOWER

FLOODLIGHTING

The floodlighting at St John's has been going for over 30 years, and St John's Church wishes to extend a huge Thank You to all who have sponsored

floodlighting over all these years.

It all started way back in 1994 with an enthusiastic group of volunteers, known at the time as The Elmswell Fundraisers, who wanted to raise money to floodlight our beautiful landmark, and subsequently raise money to support St Johns Church. All the money needed to install the lights was raised at a memorable Black Tie Ball in the Athenaeum in Bury St Edmunds, an evening still fondly remembered by those who were there.

Upon installation it was agreed that £5 was an appropriate sum to sponsor an evening of floodlighting, and the inaugural lighting was on 30th April 1994. Since that date we have raised over £25,000.

Sadly, electricity costs have soared over the last 30+ years, and we feel we have to, reluctantly, raise the sponsorship amount to £10 from January 2026.

This will not apply, of course, to any sponsorships that have already been pre-paid.

The Rector and Church Council (PCC) at St John's hope you will understand why this move has been taken and we hope that many people will continue to use the floodlighting sponsorship as a means of commemorating a personal event, an anniversary, or any other special occasion. Alternatively, you can simply make a donation.

The church, lit up at night, in all its splendour, is a lovely way to welcome drivers and their passengers into our special village of Elmswell.

Again, a big Thank You for your support. It is very much appreciated.

A night's floodlighting costs £5 for December and then goes up to £10 from January 2026.

Cheques payable please to "St John's Church, Elmswell."

For the winter months, the lights will be on between 5:30pm and midnight.

Please note the deadline for inclusion in the January Newsletter is Monday 22nd December.

Happy Christmas to you all.

CORRECTION OF NOVEMBER 2025 SPONSORSHIP

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

DECEMBER 2025

10 in memory of Ray Borrett.

11 in loving memory of Nick Smith.

17 in loving memory of my dear wife, Gillian Curtis, on her Birthday. From Gerald and all the family. xx.

23 Revd. Noel Clarke - remembered



- with love on his Birthday.
- 24 in memory of Evelyn and Roy Clark.
 - 25 David Handyside. Treasured memories of a special someone who is dearly loved and missed by so many. "God Bless".
 - 25 Evelyn Simpson. Treasured memories of a dear Mum, Nan and Great Nan. "Forever in our hearts. God Bless".
 - 25 in loving memory of Hugh & Dora Handyside. "Remembered with love". xx.
 - 25 in loving memory of Tony & Mary. "Remembered with love". xx.
 - 25 remembering a dear Nana and Grandad, Rene and George Stiff, at this special time of year. Louise and Brian. xx.
 - 25 Craig Paul Stammers. "Happy Heavenly Christmas. Love and miss you". Love from Mum and Peter. xxx.
 - 25 remembering our Dad and Mum, John and Audrey Goddard, at this special time of year. "Loved and missed every day". Love, all the family. xx.
 - 26 remembering a dear Nana and Grandad. Love, Louise and Brian. xx.
 - 26 in loving memory of Hugh & Dora Handyside. "Remembered with love". xx.
 - 26 in loving memory of Tony & Mary. "Remembered with love". xx.
 - 30 to remember and thank all those past Elmswell Fire-Fighters who served their village and community so well.
 - 31 in loving memory of Duncan Wardrop, on his Birthday. "Love and miss you". Love, Alex, Doug & Teddy. xxx.

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

All bookings / payments please to :- Trevor Sadler, Abbots Warren, Church Road, Elmswell, IP30 9DU (Tel: 240908).

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY, STOWMARKET

Parish Priest:
Rev. Simon Leworthy,
The Presbytery, 29 Lockington Road,
Stowmarket, IP14 1BQ
Tel:01449-612946
E-mail: pp@ourladystowmarket.org.uk
MASS TIMES:

Saturday (First Mass of Sunday) – 6pm
St Mary's C of E Church, Woolpit IP30 9QG

Sundays – 8.30am & 10.15am
Our Lady's, Stricklands Road,
Stowmarket IP14 1AW

Holy Days – 10am & 7.30pm
Our Lady's Strickland Road Stowmarket
Weekday 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

It is likely that you will either hear (even if it's only over the Tannoy in a supermarket!) or join in singing the following words from an ever popular carol:-

*O holy child of Bethlehem
Descend to us, we pray,
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels,
The great glad tidings tell,
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord, Emmanuel.*

Emmanuel means "God with us". This hits to the heart of the Christmas story, it's not a cosy, sentimental story which we can enjoy and then forget until next year. The Christmas story demands a response from all of us, do we accept the unwarranted free gift which God offered us when he sent his son to this world to pay the price for our misdeeds (sins) or do we reject it with all the devastating consequences that will have for us for eternity? There is no middle road, we're either on the right road (following Jesus Christ) or we're on the wrong road. Jesus laid it out very starkly as recorded in Matthew's gospel:-

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. Matthew 7 vs 13-14.

Elsewhere Jesus said:-

I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father (God) except through me. John 14 v 6

Which road will you be on this Christmas?

The Ladies Friendship Group have their annual Nosh 'n' Natter at 7pm on December 1st at 1pm. Men are invited as well. The afternoon starts with a bring and share lunch and then we have Angel Delight (a harp and flute duo) coming to give a programme of Christmas music,

they are very good!! All are welcome, telephone Margaret on 241541 for more details.

The Food 'n' Friends Christmas Special will take place on Thursday December 11th at Midday. Phone Jackie on 245918 to book your place for Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings. Open to all senior citizens. There will be a chance to sing a few carols. Phone Jackie on 245918 to book your place. This could have been the last ever Food 'n' Friends but I am delighted to say that Dorothy Fairweather has come forward to lead the team so it will continue in 2026 with a slightly different format, watch out for details.

There are at least another three opportunities to sing some of your favourite carols.

Carols at The Wesley will take place on **Wednesday December 17th at 6.30pm** with mulled wine provided by the Wesley Volunteers and mince pies provided by the churches. This is organised by Christians Together in Elmswell and music will be provided by the Norton Salvation Army Band, in the Wesley Chapel if it's raining.

On **Sunday December 21st we have Carols in the Daylight at 10.30am** for those who don't like coming out in the dark and on **Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th we have our very popular Carols by Candlelight at 5pm**, a chance to get your Christmas celebrations off to a great start in a unique atmosphere. Mince pies, shortbreads and tea and coffee will follow.

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

December 7 th	Rev. Reg Craig - inc Communion
14 th	Mark Partridge – All Age Christmas Café Special
21 st	Carols in the Daylight – Rev. Norman Tharby
24 th	Carols by Candlelight 5.00pm
28 th	Rev. Norman Tharby

2026

January 4 th	Rev. Reg Craig - inc Communion
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Visit our website at www.elmswellbaptist.org.uk

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

Tony



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NEWS FROM ELMSWILD

Wesley willow

Our November willow weaving course at the Wesley proved so popular we had to run it twice! This was weaving with a difference – instead of the usual baskets, or flat items like trivets, this time we were making a willow sculpture. As Christmas is just around the corner, the subject chosen was a reindeer. The techniques applied involved free weaving to make a 3D object – very different from the ‘over-under-over’ method used in basket weaving. As you can see from our photos they all came out very well, and everyone enjoyed the courses immensely. The reindeers will look very festive when decorated with sparkly lights and taking pride of place under the Christmas tree!

This was the first time we have held a willow weaving session at the Wesley. In the summer months we’re usually at Lukeswood, but by November the weather is too dodgy to be outside. The Wesley is a lovely, cosy venue, with delicious refreshments on hand – just the job! Thank you very much to all the staff for accommodating us – we’ll definitely be back!

We always advertise our courses and events in the Newsletter and on our Facebook page, so do look out for information about our forthcoming sessions. They are very popular and places fill up quickly, so if you are keen to join in please get in touch to add your name to our email list. That way we can let you know of upcoming courses as soon as we have the dates. We’re hoping to run a course in February, which is likely to be another free weaving sculpture of a different animal. Perhaps as we head towards March, a hare? We’re currently in discussion with Jo, our course tutor, so watch this space!



More Wesley willow – at Crafty Christmas

If you’ve been bitten by the willow weaving bug, or if you’ve never tried it but would like to give it a go, do come along to Crafty Christmas at the Wesley Coffee Shop on Saturday 6th December, 10.00-12.30. We’ll be making beautiful Christmas wreaths, using natural materials and, of course, willow from Lukeswood. There will be plenty of willow frames, ready for you to choose and add your own decorations. All materials and tools are provided, just drop in during the morning and get creative! There’s no charge, but we are collecting for St Nicolas Hospice again this year, so we’re asking for donations to this worthy cause. There will be lots of activities for all the family, decorations and gifts to make and take away. Our sale table will also have an array of Christmassy goodies to tempt you. A great way to get in the festive mood – do come and join us!



January willow cutting

The willow theme continues! We grow our own willow at Lukeswood – perhaps you’ve seen it on your walks around the wood? We cut the willow every year in January. This provides a harvest of sturdy willow poles as well as encouraging the tree to regrow from the stump. Some of our willow ‘stools’ are now more than 12 years old and are still going strong. Green willow (newly cut and still living) can be planted to grow new trees or make living structures such as shelters, bowers, seats, or a ‘fedge’ – a cross between a fence and a hedge. You just have to stick it in the ground and it will strike roots and grow. Brown willow (when it has been stored, dried and later soaked) can be made into hurdles, fences, tepees or as supports for climbing plants. The smaller ends of the wands can also be used in basket work or to make other decorative pieces, such as willow sculptures.

Every year we invite people to come along to help with the cutting and in return take away a bundle for various garden projects. We’ll be collecting this year’s harvest on Saturday 10 January, 9.30-12.30. Once again, we’re offering free willow to everyone who comes along to help. Please bring secateurs, or preferably loppers if you have them, and stout gardening gloves. There is parking on site so you can take your bundles away with you. Dress warmly, as it’s bound to be cold then. There will be hot drinks on hand to keep everyone warm and happy. Do come and join us – it’s a great way to start the New Year!

Wishing everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas from all at ElmsWild!

Mary Feeney
info@elmswild.org.uk



ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

Last month we were treated to an illuminating talk by local historian, Barbara McElroy, on the so-called “Golden Age” of smuggling in Suffolk, about 1720-1830, notably due to the introduction of tariffs on Dutch and French products such as brandy, gin, lace and tea. Thus, taxes and contraband become lucrative for government and organised crime alike!



This led to a century of a cat-and-mouse games between the smugglers evading capture and government excise officers, aided by the military, trying to thwart them. Smuggling was big business and it was not unknown for the gangs to try and smuggle up to 3,000 gallons of spirits at any one time. It has been claimed that during this period almost 80% of all tea consumed in England had no duty paid on it.



The ships bringing in the contraband were cutters, and the crew and associated smugglers would have specific roles such as a Spotsman, Lander, Tubsman and Butsman. One of the favoured landing areas was the beach at Sizewell Gap, with the smugglers having a “working relationship” with the local pub, The Vulcan Arms, which had a tunnel running from the cellar through the nearby cliffs onto the beach; so, much thought and work went into landing, storing and then moving on the goods.

The Hadleigh Gang was one of the largest and most notorious smuggling gangs who could number 200 strong. Barbara highlighted an interesting factor that, in order for the smugglers to evade capture and ultimately prison, they had to be aided and abetted by members of the local community. These included fishermen, farmers, local labourers, parsons, landed gentry and publicans, all of whom received some form of payment for their assistance, be it a bribe or otherwise. For example, a labourer whose normal daily wages were very low at the time could earn up to nine times their daily wage for one night’s smuggling work, whilst it was not unknown for a parson to find a keg of brandy as payment in kind for their assistance in this nefarious activity!

Pubs such as the White Hart in Blythburgh, played a key role in these smuggling operations, ranging from storing the contraband, passing on information to the smugglers and getting soldiers drunk, so they were unfit to chase down the smugglers!

Interestingly, whilst smuggling may not have been viewed as a serious criminal activity, the authorities thought otherwise and punishments could range from a hefty fine, imprisonment, deportation to Australia, and the ultimate sanction of hanging.

The smuggling operations had to be complex at times to outwit the excise officers who often got wind of when an illegal shipment would be coming in. This could lead to violent confrontations with injury and even death occurring. Barbara gave the example of Jeremiah Gardener, an excise officer, who came upon smugglers in Snape and ended up having his nose cut off for his troubles, whilst Welsh Fusiliers and smugglers had a shootout at Eastbridge.

One of the most fascinating stories recounted in this talk, was that of



Margaret Catchpole, who has a place in Suffolk smuggling folklore, with Barbara highlighting that there are both myths and truths associated with Margaret’s activities which ranged from horse theft, smuggling and a prison escape, depending on which story about her you care to believe!

This “Golden Age” came to an end when many tariffs were removed, and official coastal patrols based on navy protocols were introduced during the 19th Century.



Our next meeting, 7.30pm on **11th December** in the Wesley Hall, will feature renowned local actor, Bryan Thurlow, to inform and entertain us with his talk/performance entitled “**Borley Rectory**”, which was a gothic Victorian building, built in 1862-3 on the site of an old monastery. In 1929, national newspaper headlines declared this to be “**England’s most haunted house**”, and this account of the ghostly goings-on at the Essex rectory is brought vividly to life, covering the period between 1841 to 1944. It features Reverend and Mrs Smith, as well as ghost investigator, Harry Price, who was sent to the rectory to find answers to their paranormal problems - but was this so-called expert all he professed to be? Non-members/visitors are always welcome to attend, so do join us for this spine-tingling evening and, afterwards, enjoy some seasonal refreshments to steady your nerves!

May we take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas with your family and friends.



**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

CLUBS & SOCIETIES



ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB

November's meeting was our last of the year and was also the Club's Annual General Meeting. After hearing the Treasurer's report and the current Chair's review of the year, we elected a new Chair, Treasurer, and Committee members. Derek Rust is our new Chair, and the outgoing Chair, Mike Burgess-Wilson, was voted in as Treasurer. The other Committee members for next year are Janet Spencer, Kathy Rust, Mary Chown, Wendy Walker, Colin Avis, and Hilary Foster. The Committee all work on a voluntary basis, organising speakers, outings, refreshments, station flowers and the raffle. Special recognition was extended to Nick Chamberlain, outgoing Treasurer, for his long service and dedication to the Club. Although Nick is stepping down from the Committee, he will continue to organise the station flowers on behalf of the Club.

After the formal business was concluded, members enjoyed a light-hearted general-knowledge quiz, with all answers of course relating to gardening, plants, or flowers. A few tricky leaf-identification photos were thrown in to really test members' gardening

knowledge. During the quiz, members enjoyed drinks, snacks, and homemade mince pies.

There is relatively little to do in the garden during December, but open-grown apples and pears can be pruned, as can acers, birches, and vines — the latter at this time of year to avoid sap bleeding. Many of us will also be cutting stems of berried and winter-flowering shrubs and evergreens to create festive decorations and wreaths. Door wreaths were adopted in the UK at the beginning of the 19th century, along with the Christmas tree, through the marriage of Prince Albert to Queen Victoria, and symbolise eternal life, resilience, hope, and faith.

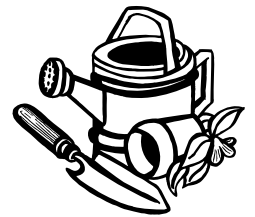
By the time you read this, the festive season will be in full swing, and however you spend the holidays, we wish you peace, joy, and happiness.

Our meetings will resume in February, and we have a varied and interesting line-up of speakers and outings planned for 2026 but safe to say we are rooting for another great year. More details will follow.



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 07748442951

ELMSWELL COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

JUNIOR ROAD SAFETY OFFICER NEWS

Emily, Ollie and Florence have been joined by Jake, Sophie, Jake and Freya as JRSO's for this academic year.

We have started our busy year ahead with a focus on Halloween and keeping safe when out trick or treating. We thought of lots of ways to keep safe and we have promoted our ideas by creating a 'spooky' wall display, 3 Halloween themed word searches, an information leaflet for all our families and led 2 assemblies, which all the children in the school attended. This was fun as they dressed up in costume and used lots of props to get their safety message across.

This term we are focusing on being seen by drivers as the nights are becoming darker earlier. We are planning a competition to design a reflective jacket and we are hoping to purchase reflectors for all the pupils in our school. This will come at a cost of around £500, so if you know of a company in our community that can donate some money to the school please get in touch. Any donation will be gratefully received, big or small!!



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, visit in person at Milton House, 5 Milton Road South, Stowmarket IP14 1EZ 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.

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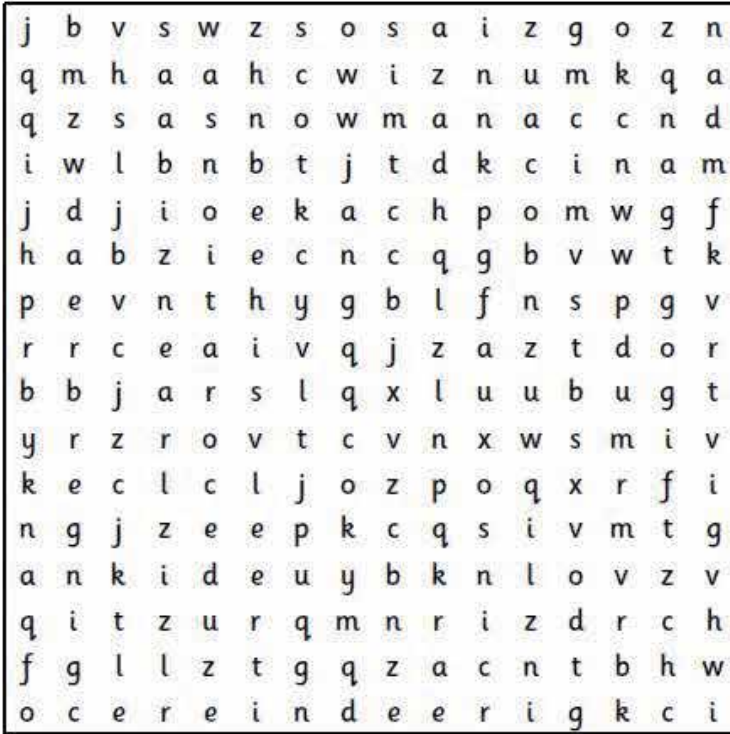
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CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH



Snow Drop Cookies

The powdered sugar coating on these delicious Snow Drop Cookies makes them perfect at Christmas time.

Snow Drop Cookies - so pretty at Christmas!

Ingredients:

- ½ cup sugar (powdered and sifted) (icing sugar)
- 2 ½ cups flour (sifted)
- ¼ teaspoon Salt
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla
- 1 Cup of butter

Directions:

Cream the butter and sugar in a large bowl and stir in the vanilla.
Sift the flour and salt together and add to the sugar mixture.
Shape the mixture into golf ball sized balls. Place on an ungreased cookie sheet and bake for approximately 15 minutes until baked through and slightly golden.
While the cookies are baking place a little extra powdered sugar in a bowl. Once the cookies are done, roll through the sugar and set aside to cool.

What do you call a snowman on rollerblades?
A snowmobile

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Doughnut
Doughnut who?
Doughnut open until Christmas Day!

Who is Santa's most famous Elf?
Elfvis!

Pine Cone Christmas Decorations



Paint your pine cones in the colours of your choice and leave aside to dry.
Cut a length of ribbon for each pine cone, in varying lengths.
Use glue to attach the ribbon to the pine cones.
Arrange the ribbons and pine cones until you're happy with the design and then secure into a bow at the top. Hang your new pine cone Christmas decoration in pride of place.

You will need

- Pine cones (as many as you like, but between 5-10 would be best)
- Acrylic paints (try metallic paint for a festive feel)
- Medium paintbrushes
- An assortment of different coloured ribbon
- Scissors
- Glue





WESLEY UKULELE BAND

A very quiet November with only two gigs during the month. One was our regular visit to Time Out Club in Fornham. Our first picture shows the small group who played at Fornham.

The other was 'Sing for Your Supper' at the Wesley on the 14th. This was not strictly a Ukes do, but involved various combinations of the Ukes, the Shades, Scrambled Eggs (an acapella male voice choir), and solo spots from Kevin, Bob, Alan and others. Kevin had decided that

we would take a collection for the new Children's Hospital in Cambridge (which will be one of our charities for 2026) and we were both pleased and surprised to be able to send them £409 raised on the night. Our picture below shows most of the performers taking part.

At our practice on the previous day, it was decided to have a collection for Children in Need, which was taking place on the BBC on the Friday. Together with the generous donations from the Wesley

coffee shop attendees, we were able to send £125 to help the fund.

With so few outside gigs this month, we have been able to practice a range of Christmas songs in preparation for the upcoming events in December. We will be very busy at this time with 11 gigs booked before the big day. This includes four in one week!!!! Our fingers are going to be shredded, but all in a good cause.

'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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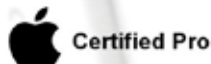
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Mark Jolly collecting his 2 wood Winners Trophy



Mark Edwards receiving his Runners-up Trophy

ELMSWELL BOWLS CLUB

Welcome to the last report of 2025. We will soon have to get used to writing 2026 on cheques and letters, but with fewer people actually writing these days, it is not the issue it used to be. Also, this is the last report before Christmas so may I wish you all the Yuletide you would wish yourself. Last month I brought you the competition winners from our Finals Day and this month we delve into the runners-up, some missing out by a very fine margin. Making it through to a Final is feat in itself given the quality of the opposition.

We held our AGM recently and it was mentioned that several residents were unaware that the village has a Bowls Club, which, given that I cobble this article together every month, I could be forgiven for taking as a sleight on my prose. After all, it is why we bother to do this every month. With Bowls Clubs closing rather than opening, it is a hard sell, to use a modern phrase. Elmswell has had a lot of development recently and some of the influx may have bowled before and wish to take it up again, or are looking for a bit of gentle exercise in a social setting, in which case, bowls is

for you! My mobile number is at the foot of this column and our Secretary is listed in the Village Contacts list at the rear of the Newsletter, or you may know one of our members that you can speak to. I am sure that the Newsletter list will include something to interest you, be it Bowls or whatever.

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



Elmswell
Fox
Bowls Club

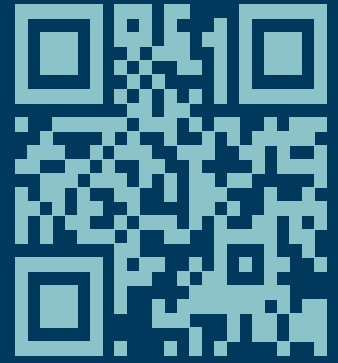


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From the Office of Peter Prinsley MP

Member of Parliament for Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA



Being the MP for a constituency that includes so many beautiful and quintessentially English villages is such a privilege. Having listened closely to the concerns raised at our successful Meet Your MP event in charming Elmswell early last month, I took these directly to Parliament to ensure the voices of the residents of Elmswell are heard loud and clear. During transport questions, I asked the minister what action the government is taking to improve safety and reduce disruption at rural railway crossings.

To monitor this locally, we are staying in touch with Network Rail, and I have written to them specifically about the level crossing in Elmswell. While we await their response, I remain encouraged by the positive changes this government is

delivering for rail passengers - including the renationalisation of Greater Anglia and the freezing of rail fares for the first time in thirty years. For Suffolk residents, these steps will mean more accountability to the communities they serve. They also mean real savings: for example, an annual season ticket holder travelling from Elmswell to Cambridge will save over £200 under the fare freeze announced in the Budget.

These reforms mark a shift from railways run for profit to railways run for people. It is my hope that the people of Elmswell will feel the full benefit of these significant improvements.

Earlier this month, I joined residents across Suffolk in marking Remembrance Day. Standing together in silence, we honoured the bravery of those who

stood in harm's way for our freedom. Their sacrifice reminds us not only of the cost of war, but of our shared duty to work for peace. Remembrance is always a poignant time that brings our communities together. Elmswell, like so many Suffolk villages, carries its history with pride. The memorial at St John the Divine Church reflects a deep contribution to national service, showing how even small villages bore heavy losses. We will remember those who gave their lives in service to our country, honour those who returned carrying its burdens, and thank the men and women currently serving at home and abroad. Their dedication and courage will never be forgotten.



If you need support with an issue or have a casework query, please don't hesitate to get in touch. My team and I are here to help. You can reach me by email at: peter.prinsley.mp@parliament.uk and we'll do our best to assist you!

FROM THE ARCHIVE

Education chiefs do not believe village will grow



■ Temporary classrooms not good enough for growing school, says parish councillor

SCHOOLCHILDREN will be taught in sub-standard classrooms because education chiefs do not believe a thriving village will continue to grow, according to a protester.

Peter Dow, of Elmswell Parish Council, said teachers and parents had been upset by Suffolk County Council's proposal to put up a temporary classroom at the new primary school.

The school was built five years ago because the old one was too small and there were already two temporary classrooms.

There were about 200 pupils at the school and Mr Dow said he knew the number would keep growing because there were plenty of planning applications for more housing in the area.

The parish council had objected to the

first two temporary classrooms but the county council said they could not guarantee there would be enough children to fill a permanent extension, he said.

"There is a blank wall ready to build an extra classroom on. The children of Elmswell need a bigger school."

Chairman of the Parent-Teacher Association Tony Lord said: "The children will have to go outside and cross the playground in all weathers when they go to the toilet."

"We are upset the building is not being improved. There are plans to build, but we have no idea when the funds will be made available."

Senior education officer Kevin Manley said the county council now accepted Elmswell was a growing village and there were enough children in the village to justify a new permanent classroom.

However a lot of schools in west Suffolk were waiting for new buildings.

The difficulties in accommodating our ever-increasing population in terms of educational provision are far from new. Here, from the East Anglian Daily Times on 9th April 1993 we see the beginning of the problem. It is very difficult to predict population growth and even more difficult to anticipate the numbers of children at various ages within that growth. Hence the warnings of the parish council, on behalf of residents,

went unheeded and a new school was built which needed temporary expansion almost immediately, and this has set the tone for the past 30 years.

An informed view is that our school is currently at its absolute maximum site capacity with the educational and health drawbacks that this brings in terms of lack of outside space. The most recent thinking has our children put on buses to travel to a new school in Woolpit.

Perhaps take a look at our April 2057 edition and see how that worked out.

The picture is our iconic Victorian school standing in its own spacious site with plenty of room for expansion, for proper playgrounds and sports pitches.

The site is now, substantially, Old Schools Court.



Local Government

Reorganisation Consultation:

Government's Consultation on the two proposals for Local Government Reform for Suffolk is now open and runs until January 11th. The website for the District and Borough's three-unitary proposal - www.threecouncilsfor.suffolk.org (which has been refreshed and is now easier to navigate) includes a link to the consultation. Whilst the website promotes the benefits of the three council option, it also encourages each of us to consider the county's very different 'One Suffolk' proposal and to take this opportunity to share our views with Government. The consultation can alternatively be accessed and completed online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/suffolk-local-government-reorganisation>. Comments can also be sent via email or post – contact Mid Suffolk District Council if you need a paper copy.

This consultation is an opportunity to comment on a reorganisation process which was unexpected when Government announced it less than a year ago, and which will affect how vital services are provided and where they will be administered from. Do please take the time, if you can, to give your views on both proposals for Suffolk.

Changes to bin collections:

Since the pink electrical recycling bin was installed at Elmswell Station this August, 1.38 tonnes of unusable or broken small electricals have been recycled there. This is the highest

amount across Mid Suffolk!

Reminder that a website has been set up by Suffolk Recycles to answer questions about the changes to bin collections across the District which are due to start next year – search for www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk and click the 'Find out more' button for 'Better Recycling' at the bottom of the page.

Call for Development Sites:

The Call for Sites runs until 5pm on 9 January 2026, with the exception of Ipswich, which ends on Monday 15 December. This invites submissions of land to be put forward for consideration to be included in Local Plans - for uses such as housing, employment, sports and leisure and community purposes. These are not planning applications, and no site put forward will automatically see development take place. The process involves a form to be completed by anyone wishing to submit sites. The form can be completed online, by email or by post: <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/w/call-for-sites>

Full Council Meeting 27/11/25:

Agenda items included:

- noting a report on Treasury Management,
- approving the budget for Biodiversity and Nature Recovery
- a Motion to approve the establishment of a Mid Suffolk Youth Council, presented by Cllr Lucy Elkin.

All of Mid Suffolk's Full Council meetings are available to view on YouTube.

Mid Suffolk Grants:

- **Locality Budget 2025/26:** The deadline for receiving applications this year is mid to late January. The next grant window opens in April. Get in touch with Jen and/or Sarah if you would like to apply for a grant to support a local community group or event. More information at <https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/locality-awards>.
- **The Sustainable Communities Food Fund** provides grants to small scale food initiatives such as community pantries, fridges and food pop-ups. Between £250 and £5,000 is available and can be used for anything from the purchase of equipment and revenue costs to delivering training and workshops. Funding is awarded on a first come, first served basis.
- **Information on other local grants** is available at <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/community-funding>, or email BMSDCgrants@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk for specific funding advice.

Councillor drop-in sessions:

Jen and Sarah are pleased to meet with residents to discuss local issues. The next few sessions are:

Wednesday 10th December 10 – 12 at the Green Wolf Café, Woolpit

Tuesday 6th January 10 – 12 at the Wesley Café, Elmswell

Thursday 12th February 10 – 12 at the Green Wolf Café, Woolpit

Mid Suffolk District Council - www.midsuffolk.gov.uk / Tel: 0300 1234000

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

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



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WEDNESDAY 17TH DECEMBER

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PLUS
NORTON SALVATION ARMY BRASS BAND



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 November meeting with all 11 councillors present together with 2 members of the public, SCC Ward Member Andy Mellen, BMSDC Ward Member Jen Overett and the Parish Clerk Peter Dow took place at Blackbourne on Monday 17th. 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 20th October, 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: *Devolution and the new Mayoral Authority for Norfolk and Suffolk* At Council on 2 October, Suffolk County Council voted to give the government their consent to create the Norfolk and Suffolk Combined Authority, which will be led by a mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk. Both Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council are involved in creating the new authority, which will have powers for the two counties including economic development, transport, skills and employment, public safety and housing and strategic planning. The authority will be led by the mayor, with four other members, two appointed by Suffolk County Council and two appointed by Norfolk County Council, and decisions will be made by majority, but the majority must include the vote of the mayor or the deputy mayor if the mayor is not present. The authority can also have associate members (for example, somebody from a local college or university) or a non-constituent member, for example from a district or borough council. As previously reported, the election of mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk will be held on Thursday 7 May 2026. So far, the candidates that have been announced are Caroline Topping (Green), who is currently the Leader of East Suffolk Council, and Tim Passmore (Conservative), who is currently the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk. The role of the Police and Crime Commissioner will be undertaken by the mayor after they are elected. It is likely that Labour, Liberal Democrat and Reform UK candidates will be announced in the next few months, plus any independent candidates who decide to stand.

Get Suffolk Working Plan

On 2 October, Cabinet voted to approve the draft Get Suffolk Working plan which was prepared by the council's Skills team. This is the local version of the government's Get Britain Working initiative and aims to support people of working age who are not currently working to get into employment and address barriers they may face to employment, for example poor health, lack of transport, low qualifications and digital exclusion. Once the plan is approved by NHS partners in Suffolk and the Department of Work Pensions (DWP), a Get Suffolk Working Partnership Board will be created to oversee the work. The plan includes the launch of the Connect to Work programme, which will be funded by up to £9.5m from the DWP over five years (the amount of funding received depends on level of participation in the scheme). This programme is to provide tailored training, support and job placements and match people with suitable employers based on their preferences, strengths and previous work experience. Get Britain Working plans will become the responsibility of the mayor of Norfolk and Suffolk and the mayoral authority once in place, so Suffolk County Council is working with Norfolk County Council to make sure their plans are aligned.

Dental Services in Suffolk

At Health Scrutiny Committee on 8 October, colleagues from the NHS joined the meeting to update the committee on improving dental services in Suffolk. This is not a council service, and health partners from the two ICBs that cover the county (Suffolk and North East Essex, Norfolk and Waveney) ran through their progress to increase access to NHS dentists, increase the number of urgent appointments available and

ensure that there are enough dental practices across the county. They are also undertaking outreach work on oral health and preventing issues with children and older adults. Both ICBs are reporting that they have managed to increase the number of adults and children seen by dentists, and they are working on changes to their contracts with dental providers to support a focus on highest priority patients. People who need a dentist appointment can contact NHS 111 to get one, as well as contacting dental practises directly. There are a lot of changes coming up in the health service soon, including the NHS 10 Year Plan which was published earlier this year, and from 1 April 2026, Norfolk and Suffolk will have one ICB. This means that plans for dentistry in the region, like other services, may be subject to review.

Recycling Centres Raise £500,000 for Charity

Re-use shops at Suffolk's recycling centres at Bury St Edmunds and Foxhall have raised over half a million for local charity The Benjamin Foundation, which operates the shops and provides families with childcare, mental health, youth and housing support. White goods play a key role, as The Benjamin Foundation repairs broken appliances and sells them on, which not only prolongs the life of the appliance, but also helps families access affordable household goods. The shop at Foxhall opened in 2016 and the one in Bury St Edmunds opened in 2020, and they have together repurposed over 4,200 tonnes of waste so far. Suffolk residents do not need to book a slot at the recycling centre to visit or donate to the shops.

Budget Survey

The council has launched its annual budget survey where it asks Suffolk residents their opinions and priorities for how it should spend money in

the 2026-2027 financial year. The consultation tries to provide some context on its financial position as well as asking for feedback which will be included in the budget-setting process. The first look at the new budget will be early January 2026, with councillors voting on the proposed budget in its February full council meeting. The consultation has been open since 14 October and will close on Tuesday 25 November, and can be accessed via: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/budget-council-tax-and-finance/the-budget-for-suffolk>

Clerk's Report

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

- I am pleased to report that an unannounced Environmental Health Inspection at Wesley on 21st October found no problems and awarded a maximum 5-star certificate. This is testament to the work of our staff, both on and off site, which is reflected in so many ways as the venue becomes, day by day, busier and more significant in the life of the village. This prevailing ethic and approach will be mirrored at the Tavern when the 'Wesley Tavern – working together' initiative takes off in Spring next year.
- The well-deserved outcome of the recent Planning Appeal at School Road which found in favour of the community would seem to effectively stifle any approach in the near future for development on this land. The suggestion that a 'view board', be installed to reinforce the value of the sweeping visual nature of the land against any future approach for Planning permission would seem to be a worthwhile step to take. Feedback from Members welcome.
- A reminder that Cllrs Roots and Schofield will carry out their inspection of Council's paperwork, practices and procedures on 19th November for report back to our December meeting. Any specific concerns from Members which might direct their efforts are invited to them prior to their examination.
- As per the Report from EAA as tabled to this meeting, the pressures which are common to many of our volunteer-led community organisations include the difficulty of finding responsible volunteers for regular tasks. One of the regular tasks which form part of the monthly Newsletter

production is the organisation and facilitation of distribution of some 2,500 magazines through 47 volunteer distributors. Council already manages the advertising administration for the magazine, remunerated on a percentage of turnover. The proposal at agenda item 12 extends this service to the distribution tasks at a cost which reflects a 4 hour-per-month workload which practical experience suggests is a fair estimate.

- The newly installed bike repair stations at Wesley and at Blackbourne have attracted users, including youngsters, and will probably feature in what is offered by the monthly Repair Café sessions due to start at Wesley in January.
- The requirement for Change of Use Planning Permission on the newly acquired land at Turners' Field includes the need for a Bio-Diversity Net Gain (BNG) Report informed by an Ecology Report. Accordingly, I instructed Connected Ecology who recently worked with us very effectively on a similar exercise as part of the Planning process for the Tavern. Their Report is to hand, copies on request, with the BNG conclusions to follow. I am working towards any BNG requirement to be met using the land holding available rather than having to make a payment to Natural England for mitigation elsewhere.
- The main contractor effectively quits the Tavern site on or soon after 14th November. There are specified outstanding works which are agreed and will be accommodated around a formal

Completion date.

These are in abeyance pending certain work which Council will undertake through its own sub-contractors. The relationship with the main contractor, Stroods, has been and remains excellent. Their contribution has, effectively, been as members of the Project Management team and their considerable experience in working on similar projects throughout the leisure industry has helped produce excellent outcomes within a very reasonable budget. Most of the pending works are at some stage of progress with the determining factor remaining as the UKPN power switch-on fixed for 27th February. This will allow for an Easter opening.

Planning Results

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

DC/25/04248 Discharge of Conditions...Half Acre, Grove Lane
APPROVED EPC had made no comment

DC/25/03950 Erection of two storey extension... 15 Pightle Close
REFUSED EPC had supported

Planning Application

Councillors supported Application ref. DC/25/04594 at Juniper Crossing in Cooks Road to plant an instant English Yew (*Taxus baccata*) 500mm inside boundary to create an enclosed garden for security, safety, privacy and wildlife. This would be maintain at maximum 1.8m high. The Application included a request to remove the current 1 year old hedge that has mostly died and erect a 600mm smooth round top wooden Palisade picket fence on the boundary around the property along Cross Street and Cooks Road apart from Vehicle access.

Newsletter distribution

In light of the briefing contained in the Clerk's Report regarding pressures on the volunteers who produce the Newsletter each month as it increases circulation beyond 2,500, Councillors agreed that, for a fee of £60.00 per month, staff would administer the distribution process which involves 47 volunteers covering every household and businesses in the village.

Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Ordinary Meeting of Council was scheduled for 15th December beginning at 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.



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Your Parish Councillors are

David Barker Linden Croft Hawk End Lane ELMSWELL IP30 9ED	01359 241135	david@linden-croft.co.uk	Vice chairman of Council Planning Committee Complaints Committee
David Brown 16 Whatley Close ELMSWELL IP30 9GJ	07803 263454	whatley.david@outlook.com	Planning Committee Complaints Committee
Dick Burch 14 Wetherden Road ELMSWELL IP30 9DF	01359 240105	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	Poor's Land Charity Blackbourne & Wesley Management Association Planning Committee Complaints Committee
Peter Edmonds Little Acre Ashfield Road ELMSWELL IP30 9HJ	01359 241640 07860 395720	edmondspeterj@gmail.com	Planning Committee Complaints Committee
Peter Hancock Jubilee End 17A Jubilee Terrace ELMSWELL IP30 9 DH	07483 850965	prjhancock24@btinternet.com	Footpath Officer Blackbourne & Wesley Management Association Elmswell Amenities Association Planning Committee Complaints Committee
David Hawes Dunelm, Cooks Road ELMSWELL IP30 9BX	01359 240249	annahawes39@gmail.com	Planning Committee Complaints Committee
Sarah Mansel Ashcroft House Ashfield Road ELMSWELL IP30 9HJ	07860 829517	sarah.mansel@midsuffolk.gov.uk	Planning Committee Complaints Committee <i>Also serves as Ward Member on Mid Suffolk District Council</i>
Fred Pallett Maple Cottage Warren Lane ELMSWELL IP30 9DT	01359 408232 07771 962441	upstreambd@gmail.com	Chairman of Council Poor's Land Charity Planning Committee Complaints Committee
Sue Roots 7 Warren Close ELMSWELL IP30 9DS	01359 240164	sue2955@hotmail.co.uk	Planning Committee Newsletter Report Editorial Board
Mike Schofield Minerva, Fairmead ELMSWELL IP30 9HT	01359 241430	mhaksch@gmail.com	
Philip Shaw East View, Ashfield Road ELMSWELL IP30 9HG	01359 241192 07710 578212	philipshaw@btinternet.com	Safeguarding Lead Blackbourne & Wesley Management Association Planning Committee Complaints Committee



We can't guarantee snow – this was in 2010 -

but all are assured of a warm welcome and a bracing start to 2026 as they begin an easy 3 mile wander about the village's footpaths led by our Footpath Officer, Peter Hancock.

Dogs on leads welcome, as are kids of all ages.

Meet at the Village Sign at 11.00am.

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.

Dec 15 th	Jan 19 th	Feb 16 th	Mar 16 th	Apr 20 th
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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.

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
- 21 6:30pm St John's Church presents Carols By Candlelight followed by mulled wine and mince pies.
- 24 3:30pm St John's Church: Family Carols & Nativity Service
- 24 8:30pm St John's Church: "Midnight in Bethlehem" Carols & Communion
- 24 5pm Carols by Candlelight at Elmswell Baptist Church
- 25 10:00am St John's Church: Christmas Day Service for all ages

January 2026

- 6 West Suffolk Arts Society (C16 & C17) Spanish Art of Velazquez Speaker: Isabel Kent
- 8 Midday Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church

- 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
- 10 Elmswell WI Back Care, Pilates and Looking after your Joints
- 12 Midday Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church
- 12 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Bill Blackaby: Where's Wyverstone?
- 17 Elmswell Gardening Club Tim Fuller Gardening with Grasses Wesley All welcome

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 triciamcneeney@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 Thursday 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: December 23rd, January 27th, February 24th, March 24th

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

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