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The Elmswell Newsletter

SUFFOLK NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR 7 TIMES WINNER

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NOVEMBER 2026

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. . . see page 19

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ELMSWELL ART CLUB

Last month, we had a "family feel" to our display of paintings so we would like to continue this theme with Jean Grayling's lovely picture of her great grandchildren. Jean produced her picture using watercolour paints and has entitled it "Family Tree";



Caroline North produced the following painting, entitled simply "*Boy*" in acrylic paints.



Bobbie Fiske's delightful picture of her friend's dog "Shyla" was created using charcoal pencils and really captures the friendly nature of Shyla.



Suffolk artist Thomas Gainsborough, born in Sudbury, has produced many fine paintings, not least of which is the one of his two daughters - below in his painting "*The Painter's Daughters Chasing a Butterfly*".

As the earliest of roughly six double portraits Gainsborough painted of his daughters, this painting captures a mixture of deep affection and a father's quiet worry as they grow up. Gainsborough used oil paints for this image and the painting is displayed in the National Gallery, London.



If you enjoy reading our articles and like the pictures our members produce, it would be lovely to see you at one of our Tuesday morning meetings where you can have a look at our artists in action and have a chat with them.

Eddie Douglas

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

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ELMSWELL FOOTPATH WALK

Sunday 10th October 2026

A dry, clement day and the promise of a stimulating jaunt around the local byways proved irresistible to 10 of the populace of Elmswell.



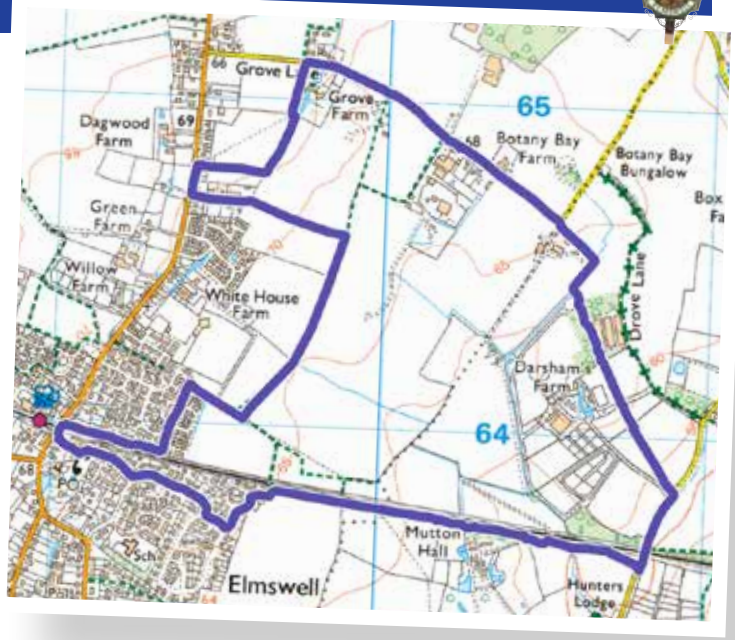
A smart right and right again took us on to FP10 past the pharmacy followed by a left on to Long Gilberts Road.

A right on to FP9 followed by a left on to FP6 soon has us heading past the Blackbourne on the left, over the footbridge and into big sky country.

Turning left on to FP7 the group were abuzz with the prospect of breaking new ground just around the corner.

Pressing on along Oak Lane, a right on to Ashfield Road followed which brought FP8 into view on the right.

Historically FP8 has been virtually impassable due to very poor drainage leading to flooding and a quagmire underfoot.



In a planned scheme, Elmswell Parish Council and Suffolk County Council combined to undertake access improvements to local rights of way with FP8 being the final element. And what a difference it has made.

Heading east then north, the rejuvenated FP8 took us over a footbridge and on to the Grove Lane playing field, this stretch having been rerouted from the long overgrown path on Grove Farm.

With a right at Grove Lane we progressed eastwards, past Botany Bay Farm and stumbled into the parish of Wetherden.

FP1 continued straight ahead at the left hand bend into a tunnel of trees with a lovely dappled light in the sunshine, then meandering past the chicken sheds and hence on to Wetheren's Ashfield Road.

A right here took us 300m under the railway bridge to gate 8 of Mutton Hall on the right which we accessed with the use of the FPO's key.

With the railway track now immediately on our right we trekked westward through the environs of Mutton Hall finally exiting through gate 3 and back into Elmswell.

Along the new southerly stretch of FP9, past Lord's Bridge on the right and through the houses we wound our way back to Crown Mill.

A walk of approximately 4.29 miles in 1 hour and 49 minutes (an average speed of 2.4 miles per hour).

Peter Hancock, EPC Footpath Officer

NOVEMBER'S FOOTPATH WALK WILL BE ON SUNDAY 15TH NOVEMBER STARTING AT 10.30 AT THE VILLAGE SIGN AT CROWN MILL

ELMSWELL OVER 55's

On Thursday 8th October 2026 we enjoyed an interactive Murder Mystery evening performed by Six Acre Productions, some members did manage to work out who the murderer was!!

Thursday 22nd October 2026 Ray Smith entertained us all with a brilliant night of music with members dancing the night away.

Thursday 5th November 2026 is Sausage and Mash night, then on Thursday 19th November we look forward to welcoming Thurston Ladies Choir.

New members are always welcome, why not come along for a taster session, please contact us for further information:

Kay – 07730 265316
or Sharon – 07885 730911 or
email elmswellover55s@outlook.com
you can also find us on Facebook.



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ELMSWELL EXCHANGE W.I.

Our speaker at our October meeting was David Bonnett who is a founder member of the Bury Drop In Centre. It was first held at Garland Street Baptist Church but now meets at Trinity Methodist. The church has a very good kitchen and the centre is able to offer soup, main course, dessert and cake to the people who visit the centre on Tuesday to Friday each week. The centre is also a signposting agency to point people to the right agencies that could help them. If anyone attends the centre with a child social services are called and someone will attend who can help.

David explained that many of the people have addiction problems and drug dealers prey on them so they may shop lift to raise money to pay off the dealers. The problem was worse during the COVID lockdowns as methadone doses were doubled up which in some cases led to tragedy. A service is now held at the cathedral every year to commemorate the homeless people that have died. David's compassion and care for all that use the drop in was evident as was his commitment.

He explained that George Vestey had donated milk, cheese, eggs and orange juice before Covid and since had donated produce from containers in Felixstowe. This included large amounts of oranges, very large tins of corned beef which proved difficult to open, pigs in blankets and gammons. The drop in receives a grant from the council and they also apply for grants.

There are about forty people at each session and there are one hundred and twenty people on their books. About a third of these are women who try to be invisible as they feel so vulnerable when they are rough sleeping. The drop in does provide tents and sleeping bags to people. A homeless woman on average will die at forty three which is a very sad statistic.

Instead of a competition members donated items for the drop in as well as items for the Bags of Kindness which the Federation are collecting for the drop in.

Our speaker in November is Stephen Moody who will be telling us about the origin and history of Christmas traditions. The competition is a homemade Christmas decoration.

New members and visitors are always welcome.

Carol Blissett
242 8844

ELMSWELL W.I.



Our speaker on Tuesday 13 October was Lisa Jane Goodchild from AllBodies who is an Osteomyologist and Podologist. She went to university to obtain a physiotherapy degree and then returned to obtain a degree so she could treat animals too. One of our members takes LJs Pilates class so LJ came along to tell us about Pilates and the importance of keeping mobile.

Joseph Pilates developed a system of exercises which were intended to strengthen the human mind and body and can help with balance. LJ recommended that working on balance and getting up from a chair, or from the floor, all on our own, would be a good place to start. She also talked about the benefits of weight training and explained that this can be something as simple as using bottles of water for 10 minutes three times a week. For those who are having trouble shifting weight because of the menopause, weight training can help with this. LJ demonstrated that when we sleep the bones in our back, neck and hips are affected and how the use of pillows can stop this from happening. It was a very informative talk, and I think everyone went away thinking of something they could try.

Two of our members went along to Apple Day at Lukes Wood on 26 September. Thank you to everyone who took part in the sweet tombola, we raised £71 for the Air Ambulance.

We have also been selling a quiz to raise money for the Air Ambulance and are pleased to report that this has generated £222 for the charity. If you bought a quiz, thank you for helping us to support this worthwhile cause.

As new members join us, the ideas of what we can do outside of our regular Tuesday meetings grow, so we now have an active group who are getting together for regular walks. This is in addition to the established lunch club, book clubs, wine tasting, photo group and coffee and chat.

In November we will be putting up the poppy display outside the Wesley Hall, so please look out for it.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 10 November and is about the development of women's cricket. Hopefully we will all be bowled over with the information and will retire for tea. New members always welcome, so hope to see you there.

Rachel Barber

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RYOI SHINTOWA RYU UNDER 12s!

A huge congratulations to all of our junior students who have recently successfully passed their Yellow Belt grading!

The students were required to demonstrate a wide range of skills, including pad drills, striking techniques, breakfalls, throws and practical self-defence techniques from standing and on the ground.

Ju Jutsu gives our juniors the opportunity to develop a broad range of martial arts skills, along with valuable self-defence awareness, confidence, coordination and discipline, all within a safe, friendly and fun environment.

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Junior Ju Jutsu Classes are held at The Blackbourne, Elmswell on Wednesday evenings 18:00–19:30 and open to girls and boys from aged 9

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Whether your child is completely new to martial arts or looking to develop their existing skills, our junior classes provide a great way to learn, keep fit and have fun.

Well done to all our new Yellow Belts — a fantastic achievement!

Contact Gary
07711 680262

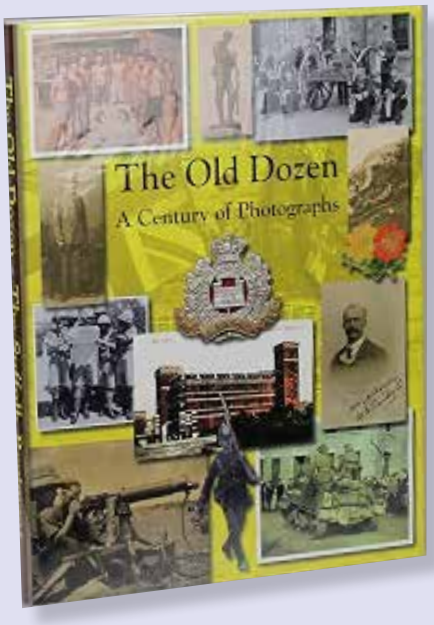
ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP



Last month, we welcomed Grant Bage (author, educator and Honorary Fellow of the Historical Association) for his talk on the life and achievements of **Sir Alf Ramsey** (22.1.1920-28.4.1999), the **1966 World Cup winning England manager and Ipswich Town legend**. Grant's extensive research culminated in the publication of a new biography entitled - *The Unseen Alf: A Different Kind of Hero*. Unfortunately, throughout his playing and managerial career, Alf was much maligned and not fully accepted by either the football establishment or supporters because he would not play the media game, shunned publicity and was very protective of his family and privacy. What did come to the fore was his patriotism, will to win and his ability not only to get the best out of his players but develop a loyal bond with them. Furthermore, Alf had to face and overcome many obstacles in order to have a successful career in football, particularly in his early life. He was born into rural poverty which was hard on him and his family, and significantly that he had to overcome racism throughout his life, because of his perceived gypsy heritage. From a football perspective, it took Alf a long while to establish himself as a professional footballer. Once he left school and gained an apprenticeship at the local Co-Op, there were limited opportunities to continue to play competitive football due to the hours and days he worked. This led him to become a football renegade by playing Sunday football (banned by the F.A. at the time), for a team called Five Elms Traders. However, Alf was called up to serve in the Army during WW2, when he served on the Home Front, followed by a short sojourn at the end of the war in Palestine, and it was the Army that made him the man, footballer and manager he became as this led to him being signed as an amateur, then a professional by Southampton. Later he was transferred to Tottenham Hotspur, winning both the old Second and First Division titles, as well as becoming an England international winning 32 caps. In 1955, he was appointed Ipswich Town manager, and he led the club to the Third Division South, Division Two and Division One titles by 1962. Today, this is equivalent to winning the League One, Championship and Premier League titles. In part, this success was down to the prolific scoring of the legendary Town striker, Ted Phillips. However, if it was not for Sir Alf, both he and his star striker may not have experienced such success. It was Sir Alf who stood by Ted Phillips, having got himself into trouble due to a serious misdemeanour by the standards of the time, which could have destroyed Phillips' career (and possibly his life). However, Ramsey saw enough in Phillips as a player and human being to stick by him, and give him a chance, which Phillips grabbed with both hands. In 2007, a statue of Sir Alf was erected at Ipswich's Portman Road ground, where the southern stand is named in his honour.



Our next talk, "***Suffolk Regiment's WW2 Prisoners of War***" by renowned local military historian, **Taff Gillingham**, will be on Thursday **12th November**, 7.30pm at the Wesley Hall. Born in Ipswich with a huge interest in British Military history since his teens, Taff's interest in the Suffolk Regiment comes from his uncle, who completed his National Service with the 1st Battalion in Cyprus. His involvement with the Suffolk Regiment began in the late 1980s when he became involved with the Ipswich Branch of the Old Comrades Association, of which he later became Chairman. Amongst other things, Taff is a Trustee of the Suffolk Regiment Museum, helped to curate the Regimental Gallery at Moyses Hall in 1999, and the re-organisation of the Regimental Museum in 2004. Co-author of the book "*The Old Dozen - A Century of Photographs*", he has been most active in ensuring that Ipswich War Memorial had the names of the fallen of WW2 added to it in 2005, and that in 2017, a memorial to Sidney Day VC was finally erected in his hometown of Norwich. It is now over 80 years since VJ Day, and WW2 will soon have slipped from living memory. Many of the campaigns and battles of 1939-45 are firmly etched into the national conscious, but the story of the war in the Far East and, in particular, the disastrous campaign in Malaya, are not so well known. The suffering of those captured at Singapore in Feb 1942, and the cruelty endured by them in captivity, should be much more widely known. Many service personnel and civilians were captured after the Fall of Singapore, but East Anglia suffered disproportionately, so it is appropriate that the story is told through a Suffolk perspective. With anecdotes and artefacts from many of the Far East's Prisoners of War that he knew, Taff will tell their stories and remind us why we must not forget. Many local people will have relatives who served with the 4th or 5th Suffolks, 1st or 2nd Cambridgeshires or the other units of the 18th Division, so do join us then to find out much more. Everyone welcome, doors open at 6.45pm. Admission: £4 Members, £6 Visitors, £2 Under-18s – cash or cheque only please (sorry, no cards).



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





ELMSWELL LITTER PICKERS / ELMSWELL IN BLOOM

As the autumnal weather is upon us, it certainly hasn't dampened our spirits on keeping the village as clean and green as can be. To begin, on behalf of the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), I was pleased to be able to present three certificates to some very worthy winners of community awards; ElmsWild for Lukeswood, Elmswell Gardening Club for the Station Planters, and Elmswell Litter Pickers for keeping the village clear of litter. Each winner received a £10 garden centre gift card, and Elmswell Litter Pickers unanimously agreed to donate theirs to the Gardening Club for their continued management of the station planters.



This is only just the beginning of what can be achieved for Elmswell - who knows where we could end up, with national recognition a real possibility in future years. For that reason, even if you are unable to commit to regular volunteering sessions, please mark the below two dates in your diary. Together, let's get Elmswell the recognition it really deserves!

The next Litter Pick will take place on Sunday 15 November, meeting at 0930 in the Co-op car park (we will supply all equipment). Then, on Saturday 21 November at 1400 in the Wesley Cafe, please join us for the first meeting to establish an Elmswell in Bloom committee and discuss our first steps.

Please email me at chris.wiley@hotmail.co.uk to confirm your attendance at either of the above.

WESLEY UKULELE BAND

Hello again!! Welcome to our November missive.

We started off at Lukewood for Apple Day. The sun shone, lots of people came and enjoyed the various stalls and we played a couple of sets to keep them amused. It was particularly delightful to see the young children bopping and clapping along.

5th October saw us take over the Regal in Stowmarket and present a show to include 3 J's, Wesley Ukulele Band , Just Us, The Shades and Father & Son Reunion. Oops, I nearly forgot Dr. John and his excellent reciting of 'Albert & The Lion', made famous by Stanley Holloway and played on 'Uncle Mac's Childrens Hour' on the BBC Light Programme. (Anyone remember that?). Anyway, we were very proud to have sold out the venue, with 182 valiant souls joining along with the signing, whooping and clapping. However, we are most proud of the fact that we were able to send £2,764 for the new Children's Hospital being built next to Addenbrookes in Cambridge. A huge 'thank you' to all the people who came along to support us and, especially, to Kevin and Alan, who worked so hard to make it a success.



Our first picture shows the Ukes on stage.

Our other gigs during the month have included one at the Brandon Day Care Centre and our regular visit to the Time Out Club at Fornham. Both of these were very enjoyable and well received.

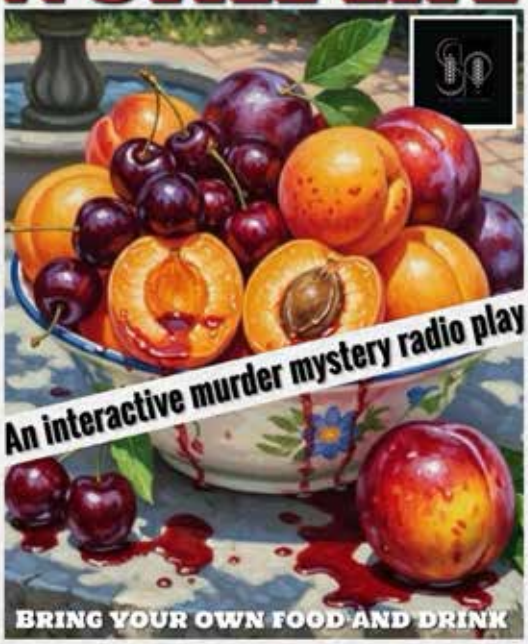
Now the bad news. It's time to start rehearsing carols and 'C' songs ready for the runup to 'C'. I refuse to use the 'C' word in October!!!

'Til next time. Take care.
Email: Kevin.Knock99@gmail.com



Our second picture is of the Shades 'doing their thing'.

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ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB

Our last meeting started off with the announcement that the station planters had been awarded a RHS and Anglia in Bloom Neighbourhood Award of Level 4 – Thriving. This is the first time the planters have been entered and to be awarded Level 4 is a blooming great achievement. Our thanks were extended to those club members who water and keep the display fresh over the drier months, to the Parish council for funding the plants and particularly to Nick Chamberlain who plans and organises the display each spring and autumn.

The speaker this month was Chris Wliey, local gardener and owner of the Sustainable Plant Store sharing his ideas for climate resilient gardening. His advice was that as the seasons are shifting so should our gardening practice, with winters becoming warmer, the first frosts in December and warmer and drier springs. Chris's ideas included how we design gardens, rain water capturing, plant choice and gardening methods. Highlights included installing seep hoses, mulching beds and borders with organic matter, sowing wildflower meadows instead of grass, creating shade in the garden either through trees or a man-made shade, using native hedging and plants and practicing no dig gardening.

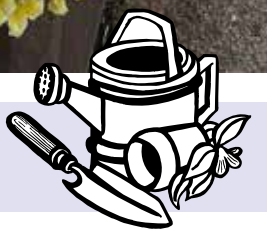
Chris also recommends autumn planting of new perennials and shrubs which is a shift away from the traditional advice of spring planting. Autumn planting allows more time for the plants to settle and become more established ahead of spring and the now drier weather at this time of year - I have noticed better results from autumn planting especially on my heavy clay.

Finally, Chris's top five drought-tolerant plants were *Erigeron karvinskianus* (mexican daisy), *Perovskia* (russian sage), *Eryngium maritimum* (sea holly), *Hylotelephium* (sedum) and a grass *Calamagrostis karl foerster*. But remember just because plants are drought-tolerant, they still need watering for the first year they are planted out in the garden as once their roots are established they then become drought tolerant.

Our final meeting of the year will be held on 17th November and includes the Annual General Meeting followed by a gardening related quiz. The meeting starts at 7.30pm in Wesley Chapel, School Road.

Wendy





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ELMSWELL LIBRARY

Hello Elmswell,

We have Simon Hooton coming in 3.15pm on Tuesday 17th November (tbc) to tell stories for families. Come in after school and listen to Simon tell a collection of nature inspired stories.

Our Fantastical Book Group has been meeting for a year and so the display will be of the books that we have read in the last 12 months. The display includes The Fox Wife by Yangsze Choo, The Poison Heart by Kalynn Bayron, Mythos by Stephen Fry, A Beautiful World by Jame Norbury and more.

We are also excited to welcome Josh Winning, the author of The Shadow Glass to our next book group meeting on Saturday 7th November.

The Shadow Glass is about Jack Corman who is failing at life. Jobless, jaded and on the 'wrong' side of thirty, he's facing the threat of eviction from his London flat while reeling from the sudden death of his father, one-time film director Bob Corman. Back in the eighties, Bob poured his heart and soul into the creation of his 1986 puppet fantasy 'The Shadow Glass', a film Jack loved as a child, idolising its fox-like hero Dune. But 'The Shadow Glass' flopped on release, deemed too scary for kids and too weird for adults, and Bob became a laughing stock, losing himself to booze and self-pity. Now, the film represents everything Jack hated about his father, and he lives with the fear that he'll end up a failure just like him. In the wake of Bob's death, Jack returns to his decaying home, a place creaking with movie memorabilia and painful memories.

As it is November our Christmas books will be out on the shelves at the beginning of the month so come in and look at where audiobooks and Suffolks Loves normally are for our Christmas books.

See you in the library soon,

Miles



What's on

Simon Hooton Storytelling
3.15pm Tuesday 17th November (tbc)

Catch Up In The Library
2.30pm every Wednesday

Crochet and Chat
10am every Thursday

Mahjong
3.15pm every Friday

Sunday Crafts
1pm – 2pm every Sunday

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

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

Gwel's visits
4pm – 5pm Tuesday 3rd November (every 1st Tuesday of the month)

Writing Group
6pm Thursday 5th November (every 1st Thursday of the month)

Afternoon Chess Club
4.30pm Thursday 12th November (every 2nd Thursday of the month)

Fantastical Book Club
11am Saturday 7th November (every 4 weeks)

The Keep in Touch Community Café
10.30am Wednesday 18th November at the Wesley Café (every 3rd Wednesday of the month except August and December)

12+ Lego Club
5pm Tuesday 24th November (last 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



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ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Greetings from St John's, your local parish church

But why are the poppies so red, Mummy?

Why are the poppies so red?

Red is the colour of blood, my child.

The blood that our soldiers shed.

These words come from a longer poem that I find very moving. The main reason poppies became a symbol of remembrance was because they were the first flowers to grow and flourish in the fields of Flanders following the battles of the First World War. Yet their vivid red colour also reminds us of the blood shed by those who bravely gave so much for others.

As Christians, we cannot help but see a parallel with the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ. Innocent and without sin, he shed his blood on the cross so that we might be reconciled to God and know the hope of eternal life. The cross, like the poppy, reminds us of great sacrifice and of the love shown by Jesus in laying down his life for others.

We will remember the sacrifices made by our servicemen and women and reflect on the sacrifice made by Jesus at our annual Remembrance Sunday service on 8 November at 10:30am. All are welcome to join us for this important occasion of remembrance.

On the day before, Saturday 7 November at 3.00pm, you are welcome to join us for a different kind of remembrance service. *Time to Remember* offers an opportunity to remember our loved ones who have died. The service will include three hymns, prayers and a short talk. There will also be an opportunity to write the name of your loved one on a card, have their name read aloud and light a candle in their memory. Everyone is welcome, whatever your church background or beliefs.

Looking ahead, a missionary friend will be joining us on Sunday 15 November for our Mission Sunday service at 10.30am, followed by a bring-and-share lunch. Our Sunday School will continue exploring the story of the Israelites as they journey through the wilderness and meet God at Mount Sinai.

Remember, everyone is welcome at St John's. We meet each Sunday at 10.30am – simply come as you are. We would love to see you! If you would like to find out more about the Christian faith, have your child christened or get married at St John's, please do get in touch using the details below.

Upcoming Dates:

Sat 7 November 3:00pm
Time to remember

Sun 8 November 9:00am
Lord's Supper (spoken service)

Sun 8 November 10:30am
Remembrance Sunday Service

Sun 15 November 10:30am
Mission Sunday

Sun 22 November 10:30am
Worship with Lord's Supper

Sun 22 November 10:30am
Sunday Worship

Sun 27 November 10:30am
Advent Sunday with baptism

Sun 6 December 9:00am
Lord's Supper (spoken service)

Sun 6 December 10:30am
Family Service

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

We live stream most of the Sunday 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*
Website: *www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk*
Facebook: *www.facebook.com/stjohnselmswell*
YouTube: *youtube.com/@stjohnselmswell*





ST. JOHN'S CHURCH TOWER 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 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.

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

A night's floodlighting now costs £10, but this will not apply to sponsorships that have been pre-paid.

Cheques payable please to "ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, ELMSWELL".

Deadline for inclusion in the December Newsletter is Monday 23rd November.

Your support is very much appreciated. Thank you.

OCTOBER 2026 SPONSORSHIPS NOT PREVIOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED

18 in memory of Colin Buckle.

31 in loving memory of Nick Smith on his Birthday.

NOVEMBER 2026 SPONSORSHIPS

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

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

3 remembering a dear Nana and Grandad, Eileen and George Stiff. "God Bless". 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.

8 Remembrance Sunday.

12 in loving memory of David Begg. "It's been 5 years since you left us, but you haven't been forgotten". Love from Brenda and the family.

12 in loving memory of Thomas Henry Manning.

13 in loving memory of Natasha Smith on her Birthday.

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

15 David Handyside (29.9.1948 - 15.11.2021). Remembered with so much love, today, and always. "God Bless".

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 remembering our wonderful Dad, John Goddard, on the 2nd anniversary of his passing. "We love you, and miss you more each day". Love from all the family. xx.

21 for my beloved husband Mike. "Remembering you is easy, I do it every day. Missing you is the heartache, that never goes away". Love always, your Hev & family. xx.

28 in memory of Evelyn Clark.

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. Michael Brookes,

Tel: 07572545743

E-mail: michael.brookes@rcdea.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, no Mass on a Wednesday, 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 Centre next to the Church, Stricklands Road.



ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

It's November and the weather has returned to be more seasonal our water butts are filling up the grass is growing again as we look forward to the long months of winter, on the 22nd of November Pippa and Toby Vokuhl will be visiting us and bringing us up to date with their time in Nepal working for the Christian Mission organisation Interserve we have had the privilege of supporting them over the last couple of years feel free to join us on that Sunday as they lead our service. November also sees the annual Remembrance Service this year our service will be led by our old friend Stephen Spurgeon once again feel free to join us in our annual act of remembrance.

Our activities for November start on Monday the 2nd when our Ladies Friendship Group meet to hear talk by John Sutton about Travels in the USA, all ladies are welcome please contact Margaret on 07926753882 if you need any more information.

On November 12th our Food and Friends Lunch takes place at Midday at the church we started these lunches several years ago in conjunction with Age UK to offer a meal in a friendly venue for the older folk of the village in recent months we have seen a reduction in numbers of people attending if you know of an older relative ,friend or neighbour please tell them about this facility and contact Dorothy on 01359245811 for any more information you need there is no charge we just ask for a donation to help cover our costs.

On most Monday and Friday mornings the Elmswell Food Bank operates at our Church on the Ashfield Road e mail Tanya at tanya_19_84@hotmail.com for any more information you might need.

Our services during November will be led by:-

1st November
Rev Reg Craig (inc.Communion)

8th November
Stephen Spugeon (Rememberance Sunday service)

15th November
Rev Norman Tharby

22nd November
Toby & Pippa Vokuhl

29th November
Rev Norman Tharby

6th December
Rev Reg Craig (inc Communion)

As always, we look forward to welcoming new people to our services, if you have recently moved to the village and have not found a regular place of worship why not give us a try we can assure you of a warm welcome contact Tony on 07784095225 or go to our website www.elmswellbaptist.org.uk for further info.

Thank you for reading this report God Bless.

Dave

ST. EDMUND'S LINE COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP

This is a fairly new Partnership so for some of you this will be the first time you've heard about the Partnership, and possibly also community rail, whereas others will already be in the know. If that's the case, please bear with me.

The Partnership covers the stations on the Ipswich to Cambridge/Soham lines (Ipswich, Needham Market, Stowmarket, Elmswell, Thurston, Bury St. Edmunds, Kennett, Newmarket, Dullingham, Cambridge and Soham). It is supported by Greater Anglia and all of the local and regional authorities along the line. A new brochure promoting the line will start to appear at outlets in our communities soon, so please look out for them.

As you may know, Community Rail is based on the 4 pillars of:

A. Providing a voice for the community;

B. Promoting sustainable and healthy travel;

C. Bringing communities together, supporting diversity and inclusion;

D. Supporting social and economic development

Within this framework, the St. Edmund's Line Community Rail Partnership is working with local communities along the line to develop projects in the following themes:

That's where you come in.

- Are you involved in a community group and would like to find out more about the Partnership and how it can support the work you do?
- Do you have a project idea that involves the "community" and "rail"?

If the answer is "Yes", I'd love to hear from you.
Please get in touch through crp@stedmundsline.org.uk.

Lesley Rayner, Community Rail Partnership Officer 07710 286115

Elmswell Tavern

Festive Menu 2026

30th Nov - 30 Dec

Monday - Saturday

Kids Menu

Turkey dinner

Ice-cream sundae

£13

Starters

Parsnip and apple soup, sage butter, croutons (v)

Pork and cider terrine, onion chutney, Melba toast

Baked Suffolk Gold cheese fondue, potato popcorn (gf)

Crispy fried tiger prawns, sweet chilli jam

Mains

Roast turkey, sage and onion stuffing, port gravy, pigs in blankets, festive vegetables (gf on request)

Mushroom, brie and cranberry wellington, parsnip crisps, festive vegetables, Cumberland sauce (v)

Salt cod and potato brandade, parsley olive oil, tempura samphire

Slow cooked beef in red wine, potato gratin, onion rings

Desserts

Christmas pudding, custard (gf)

Baked Basque cheesecake, bramble jelly

Tiramisu

Suffolk cheeses, biscuits

2 courses £29 | 3 courses £37 | includes Christmas cracker

Booking & pre-order required | £10 deposit per guest

Visit www.elmswelltavern.com to enquire

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Reborn 2026

New Year's Eve

At Elmswell Tavern

Monkfish scampi. tequila & jalepeno salsa

Chicken liver pate, toast, whiskey marmalade

Tiger prawn cocktail, bloody mary mayonnaise

Gin & tonic tempura vegetables, juniper aioli

Seared steak medallions, straw fries, port jus

Wild mushroom risotto, Parmesan, Vermouth

Confit duck leg. smoked bacon, fondant potato, apple and cider

Salmon en croute, mash, mojito cream sauce

Pineapple cake, roasted coconut, Pina Colada custard

Chocolate tourte, Baileys cream

Fresh fruit Kebab, Creme de Cassis syrup

Cheese and Biscuits, red wine jelly

£10 deposit per guest

Pre-booking and pre-order essential

8pm dinner service, please arrive in time to be seated

£55 for 3 courses & a glass of fizz





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QUIZ NIGHT

19TH NOVEMBER 2026

STARTS AT 8 O'CLOCK
TEAMS OF UP TO SIX

£2 ENTRY FEE PER PERSON
NO PHONES ON TABLES

Elmswell Tavern

Festive Opening Times

24 th December 12pm-11pm

Christmas Day 12pm-2pm

26 th December **Closed**

27 th December 12pm-10pm

28th December 12pm-10pm

29th December 12pm-11pm

30th December 12pm-11pm

31 st December12pm-1am

1 st January 4pm-11pm

Festive Kitchen Opening Times

Elmswell Tavern

24 th December 12pm-6pm

Christmas Day **No Service**

26 th December **No Service**

27 th December 12pm-4pm, Bar Snacks 4pm-8pm

28th December 12pm-3pm, 5pm-8pm

29th December 12pm-3pm, 5pm-8pm

30th December 12pm-3pm, 5pm-9pm

31 st December 12pm-3pm

1 st January 4pm-8pm







NEWS FROM ELMSWILD

Apple Day

Autumn has arrived, bringing rain and wind, so it's hard to think back to the end of September when it still seemed like summer, the ground was parched and the grass brown and dry. We had a wonderful day for Apple Day – warm and sunny with gentle breezes. It was great to see so many people there, everyone having a good time. All our usual stall holders came along, with a few new faces as well and there was plenty to keep everyone busy. Throughout the afternoon we were kept entertained by members of the Wesley Ukulele Band, while the ladies of the Trefoil Guild were kept on their toes supplying us with cake and tea.

We've had mixed fortunes in the orchard this year, but John still managed to get together a good display, all from our own fruit trees, with some unusual shapes and names on show.

A big thank you to all our stall holders and everyone who came to support this village event. We're already looking forward to next year – the date for your diary is Saturday 2nd October. This is a little later than usual as we don't want to clash with the Nearly New Sale. 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!



ElmsWild Crafty Christmas, Saturday 5th December

No sooner is Apple Day over than we're starting to think about Christmas! Do come and join us at **Wesley Coffee Shop on Saturday 5th 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, come and give us a look.

Once again this year we're offering the chance to make your own Christmas gifts and decorations, using natural materials from our own woodland. Try making a lovely wreath using colourful berries, leaves and cones – we'll supply the handmade willow hoop. There will be lots of other craft ideas, too – snowmen, Christmas trees, reindeer, stars. We'll provide all the tools and materials and will be on hand to help with the making. There's something for everyone – bring the kids along too!

There will also be an opportunity to buy some handmade 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.



Willow weaving, Sunday 29th November

With Christmas in mind, our next willow weaving course will be making a reindeer sculpture. As before, our tutor will be Jo Hammond. This is a whole day course at the Wesley, on Sunday 29th November, cost £60 per person. If you would like more information or would like to book a place, please contact us at the email address below. Places book up fast, so get in touch soon!

Generous support from our community

In the last few weeks we've been surprised and touched by all the support we've received from various sources in the village. It really means a lot to us to know that local people value what we do.

First up, we were delighted to receive an Anglia in Bloom It's Your Neighbourhood Award, presented to us at Apple Day by Chris Wyley. Level 5 (outstanding), no less! What a happy surprise!

We're also pleased to announce that we've been awarded a grant by the East of England Co-op's Community Cares Fund. Each year the East of England Co-op invests part of its profits to support communities across their trading area and over the summer our Elmswell Co-op has been collecting donations for ElmsWild. They – and you – have raised a fantastic amount of money for us! It will really make a difference to the work we do at Lukeswood and we're very grateful for this wonderful boost.

Equally we want to say a huge thank you to Elmsfest and to Elmswell Bingo who have both given us very generous donations. Thank you so much for thinking of ElmsWild – it means such a lot.

It all goes to show that Elmswell really is a lovely place to live. What will we spend the money on? We're sure you can guess – watch this space...

Mary Feeney

info@elmswild.org.uk

ELMSWELL FOX BOWLS CLUB

In the change-over and between Editors my report on the afternoon of the Finals Day was not published. I had intended to tell you that Rob Dann and Alan Hall triumphed over Jenny Murray and Julian Tuzinkiewizc in the Doubles and John Harris defeated Mark Edwards in the 4-wood Final.

The Elmswell Tavern hosted our end of Season Presentation Dinner. Upward of 30 members gathered to celebrate another. On my table were about 16 members gathered to celebrate the end of another reasonably successful year's bowling, in achievement terms,that is, enjoyment levels being off -the-scale. There were a number of trophies awarded to those who won individual competition to be handed out including the Horseshoe trophy made from aa Horseshoe found when the Green was constructed in 1991. This has been re-branded as Clubman of the Year and was awarded to John Harris, who won several others on the green, for single-handedly saving the green from the drought by watering it by hand at all times of the day and night. His dedication deserved acknowledgement. The food provided by the Tavern was exquisite and everybody left in high spirits. Presentation photos next will be held over to next month

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



Pairs finalists
Jenny and Julian, Alan and Rob



4-wood Finalists
John Harris and Mark Edwards

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REPAIR CAFÉ SPOTLIGHT

It was the fifth repair café in Elmswell on Saturday 19th September 2026 and Wesley Hall was buzzing with activity as multi skilled repairers gathered, willing and able to tackle anything that came through the doors!

Having seen the repair café advert in the Elmswell newsletter Mike Smith arrived with his prize possession, a replica 1/24th size London Transport bus. The certificate he brought with the bus confirmed it was number 2702 of only 4000 made. Unfortunately the passenger handrails were in need of repair and repairer Dave Potter stepped forward, excited about the repair rather than being nervous dealing with a treasured item. Dave managed to fix the bus in between mending a sewing machine and sorting out a euphonium with a stuck valve! Dave really is a multi talented repairer: having built his own house he then decided to find a smaller hobby which brought him along to the repair café.



The bus was just one from Mike's vast collection which he started in 1985, but it is the only one of this size, the others are all smaller. Mike's fascination with London buses started when he was a boy living in Penge, south east London. Mike and his brother travelled by bus to and from school every day and in their free time they would go "bus spotting", marking registration numbers down in a book. Mike continued his interest with London Transport when he left school at 16 and undertook two years as an apprentice before becoming a conductor at 18 years of age and a driver at 21. Mike's final career was as a black cab driver in London and his claim to fame was giving actress and model Jerry Hall a lift !

Mike's wife Jacky, who he met at primary school, also brought a repair to the café, a brooch from the suffragette period which Janet Spencer, skilfully restored.







Mike and Jacky will be returning to the repair café on 16th January 2027 with their Peter Rabbit which is currently in need of an ear fix!

Why not come along yourself and find out what all the buzz is about - 2-4pm at the Wesley Hall!

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2026

Following on from the success of last year's Poppy Appeal in the village, raising the incredible amount of £10,638-44. I am hopeful that this year, the generosity of the villagers, will prove to be just as successful.

Once again, we are delighted to have the valued support of the East of England Co-op and, our usual table top is to be active between Friday 23rd October until Saturday 7th November inclusive.

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 rôle 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 email 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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Fireworks

Wordsearch

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P	S	P	A	R	K	L	E	R	S	A	F	E	T	Y	T

Fireworks Bonfire Rocket Guy Bang Sparkler
Safety Display Hotdog Lights November



Homemade Sparklers

You will need;

Tin foil, A4 coloured cellophane, thick straw, glue/ sticky tape, scissors

Instructions;

- Cut a sheet of tin foil the same size as the A4 cellophane. Choose 2 colours of cellophane and place the tin foil between them
- Lengthways fold the three layers in half.
- From the open end, cut strips towards the fold but remember don't cut through the fold itself. Cut strips all along the length of the sheets of the cellophane and tin foil.
- Wrap the cut cellophane tightly around a straw using sticky tape or glue to secure it.
- Open out all the individual layered strips to reveal your amazing sparkler.

Recipe for delicious Toffee Apples

You will need;

- Toffee
- Apples
- Sprinkles
- Kebab stick

Instructions;

- Place the stick in to the apple
- Melt the Toffee
- Dip the Apple in the toffee
- Dip the toffee apple in the Sprinkles
- Leave to set

ELMSWELL POOR'S LAND CHARITY – APPLICATION FOR CHRISTMAS GIFT 2026

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 2026

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: .....

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 128 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.





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 Wednesday 18th November between 10:00 am and 12:00 noon.

Circle Dancing

Love to dance but can't stand or have mobility/balance problems?

Fear not, your dancing days are not over!

This new group will dance seated – be it from your wheelchair or chair.

Fabulous music from all over the world,
gentle fun movement that doesn't feel like exercise!

First Thursday of the month 1.15-1.45

at the Wesley, School Road, Elmswell IP30 9EE

Cost £3/session

For more details contact
Jen Larner 07896 495574

jenlarner@gmail.com

www.jenlarner.com

fb west suffolk circle dance



MAKE A NOTE...

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

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

NEWS FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

October Report:

Planning reforms

The new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) came into force in September. There remains a presumption in favour of sustainable development, as the Government are hoping to promote housing growth. There seems to be a greater emphasis on climate change and sustainability but 'settlement boundaries' have disappeared and the new policies just refers to settlements.

There is also a new National Scheme of delegation which restricts Local Planning Authorities as to which applications can be determined by committee. MSDC has created their own scheme of delegation to comply with this new National Scheme. This will be brought next week's Council for formal adoption.

At the September meeting of MSDC it was agreed that the Leader write to the Government outlining its concerns over some of the changes.

MUGA at Stowmarket High School

Plans for a new multi-use games area at Stowmarket High School have been given the go-ahead after Mid Suffolk District Council agreed to fund the stalled project. This is part of the SHELF project to improve sporting facilities in Stowmarket.

Woolpit – Elmswell community path

At the September Cabinet meeting it was agreed to extend the time limit for the CIL funding for the Woolpit – Elmswell Community path The £3M funds had been agreed previously but SCC have not made sufficient progress to date, but now the team do seem to be moving this project forwards.

Further CIL funds were also agreed for other projects across the district. More information can be found on the website.

Community projects receive cash boost - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk

Eezybike scheme receives national recognition

A partnership between Mid Suffolk District Council and e-bike provider Eezybike has been shortlisted for two national awards, recognising the innovative work done in the districts to create active and sustainable travel options. Councils' e-bike partnership receives national recognition - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk

Locality budget

The 2026-27 Locality budgets are now available so we would love to receive applications for funding from any community group in Woolpit and Elmswell.

Details can be found on the website https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/locality-awards .

It is usually a good idea to contact one of us to discuss your application before submitting in.

Councillor drop-in sessions

Jen and Sarah are regularly available for residents to come to meet for a chat.

Next sessions are as follows.

- **Tuesday 24th November**
  10 – 12 Wesley Café, Elmswell
- **Thursday 10th December**
  10 – 12 Green Wolf Cafe, Woolpit

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

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

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





WESLEY
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where you are warm and welcome

Weekdays 9.00 – 4.00,
Saturdays 9.30 – 4.00

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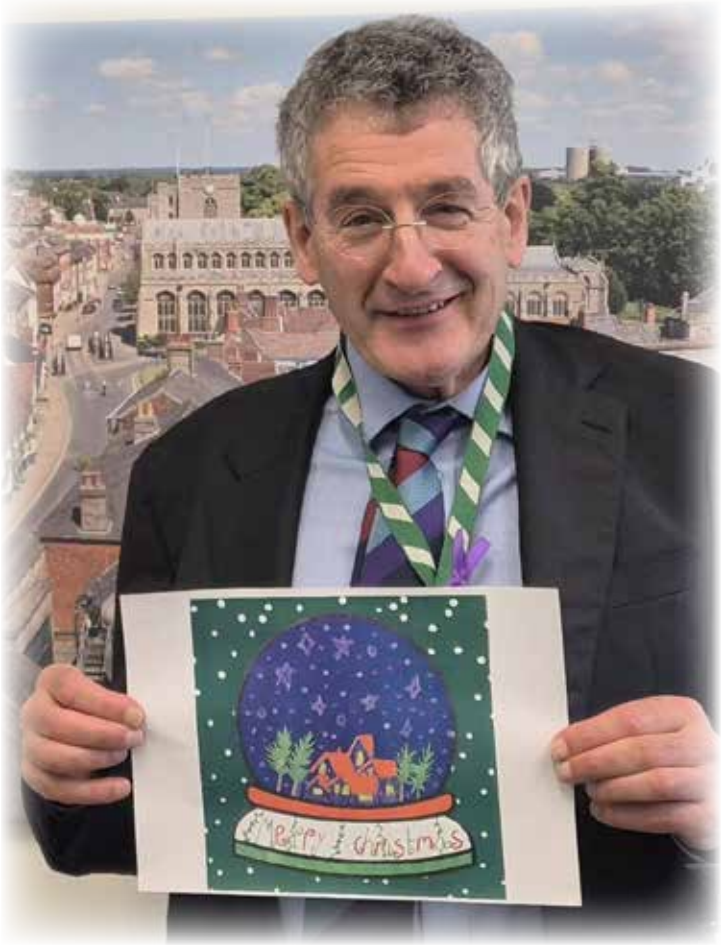
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BARRY WARD: 01449 615339/07734 872549

From the Office of Peter Prinsley MP

Member of Parliament for Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA



My Christmas Card Competition is back!

I'm delighted to have launched my 2026 Christmas Card Competition, and I'm inviting children and young people from Elmswell and indeed from across Bury St Edmunds & Stowmarket to get creative and design my official Christmas card.

The winning design will feature on the front of my Christmas card, with two runners-up featured inside. I'll also be sending a copy of the winning card to the Prime Minister.

Schools are welcome to submit multiple entries, and to make it easy for them to do so my team can also arrange collection or receive entries by post, just email peter.prinsley.mp@parliament.uk. The competition is open to all age groups from 4-16, so I hope to hear from a younger cohort of students from Elmswell Community Primary as well as from older artists from Thurston Community College.

The closing date is Friday 20 November 2026. You can find all the details and submit an entry here: **https://www.peterprinsley.org/christmas-card-competition**. I'm really looking forward to seeing this year's festive designs!

If you would like to contact me, you can reach me by email at peter.prinsley.mp@parliament.uk and I'll do my best to assist.

www.peterprinsley.org

Taking your concerns straight to the top

One of the most rewarding parts of the job of MP is being able to advocate on behalf of constituents facing seemingly intractable problems, including a recent case involving Austin from Elmswell, who was told he might have to wait for up to a year for adenoid surgery.

Adenoid surgery is pretty routine, and it is not usually viewed as an emergency. However, Austin is just four years old. He snores heavily and mouth-breathes and there were times at night, his mother Sophie explained, when his breathing would become so quiet that it appeared to stop all together and he would wake up gasping. For a parent little can be more terrifying than fearing that your child may stop breathing. During the day, meanwhile, Austin was struggling with eating, and his mother was becoming concerned about his speech development.



Once it had been explained to the West Suffolk Hospital why Austin's situation deserved urgent attention, and within a couple of days of contacting them on Austin's behalf, the hospital booked in his adenoid surgery for early November. We all wish Austin a speedy recovery from the surgery and hope that he and his Mum will now be able to breathe easy.

R McKenzie
Alterations

Farthings
Dry Cleaners

Station Road Industrial Estate,
Elmswell, IP30 9HR - 07904074476
rmckenziealterations@gmail.com

Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm
Saturdays by appointment

ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL OCTOBER REPORT

This report is written to summarise the content of Elmswell Parish Council's meetings which were held on the 1st and 19th October. They were both held as Extraordinary Meetings of Council as there was no Proper Officer (Clerk) in place following the retirement of Peter Dow with immediate effect on 16th September. The report is compiled from those meetings by the Parish Clerk and edited by the Council's Editorial Board comprising the Council Chairman, Vice Chairman and Cllr Sue Roots.

Following the appointment of a temporary (unpaid) Interim Clerk and Proper Officer, the advertised schedule of Ordinary Meetings is now able to proceed as listed on the Council's website.

Extraordinary Meeting, October 1st.

The meeting considered several items from the postponed September meeting together with a number of urgent issues.

Co-option of Councillor

Kevin Sutterby was elected by secret ballot, overseen by District Councillor Overett, to replace Cllr Brown, who had resigned.

Planning Issues

Council agreed to overturn its decision, taken in July, to proceed with purchasing and installing pre-school play equipment at a new site on Crown Mill. Councillors had repeatedly been assured that planning permission was not required for this development but had subsequently been informed that this was not the case and a planning application was required. Consequently, it was decided that the scheme should not proceed and that the order should be cancelled, as it was felt highly unlikely that permission would be secured.

Council also decided to withdraw its application, **DC25/03123** for planning permission for development of sports facilities on additional land at Blackbourne Meadow, again consequent upon the receipt of further information. If the application went ahead, a survey to detect the presence of Great Crested Newts in the area would now be required, which could not be undertaken until March/April. An alternative, if the Council wished to proceed now, was to apply to Natural England for what is known as a District Level Licence, at a total cost of up to £20,000. In addition, there would be a requirement to provide a Net Biodiversity Gain on the site, at a cost, in monitoring fees, of up to £40,000, not including any work to achieve the required gain or any costs to develop the site as a playing field. A material consideration was that the UK Government is expected to announce that the creation of playing fields will be exempt from the Biodiversity Gain rules, with an implementation date sometime in the New Year. It was therefore agreed that the present planning application should be withdrawn and the scheme re-evaluated in the New Year when the situation regarding the change in rules would become clearer, thus potentially saving £60,000 of unnecessary costs.

Council also considered an application, **DC/26/03492,** for Permission in Principle for a residential development comprising between 1 and 9 self-build/custom-build dwellings on land at the corner of Ashfield Road and Grove Lane. It was agreed to **object** to the application primarily on the grounds of highways objections, especially the lack of a footpath along Ashfield Road to connect the development to the centre of the village, a major requirement of sustainable planning policies.

Appointment of Clerk

Council agreed to join the Suffolk Association of Local Clerks (SALC) and enlist its help in employing both an interim clerk and the process of advertising for and appointing a permanent Clerk.

Confidential Issues

The meeting also considered, in closed session, confidential staff matters whose details cannot be reported publicly.

Extraordinary Meeting, October 19th.

The meeting considered the remaining items from the postponed September meeting in addition to further items identified for discussion.

Cllr Kevin Sutterby was welcomed to his first meeting of Council.

Interim Clerk

Following the withdrawal of the only suitable applicant, it was resolved to appoint Cllr Mike Schofield as Interim Clerk and Proper Officer, on an unpaid and temporary basis, pending a permanent appointment. It was confirmed that under the Local Government Act, 1972, such an appointment was possible and he could remain as a councillor.

Matters Arising

Council noted that the play equipment order for Crown Mill had been cancelled with no cost to the Council.

Planning

The following planning applications were **supported** by councillors:

DC/26/04134 Application: **The Siding, Hawk End Lane, Elmswell**

Erection of a single-story side extension to west elevation

DC/26/04202 Application: **St John's Church, Elmswell**

Construction of formal car parking on site of current grass parking area

DC/26/04405 Application: **Fairfield House, Warren Lane, Elmswell**

Erection of porch to front and associated alterations to fenestration

DC/26/04466 Application: **Eastbury House, Rose Lane, Elmswell**

Erection of 2 houses following demolition of existing outbuilding and swimming pool. Reservations were expressed concerning highways access from this development.

The following application was referred to MSDC Tree Officer with **no comment**:

DC/26/04257 Application: **19 Oxer Close, Elmswell**

Work to tree subject to Tree preservation Order MS100/A1 – Fell 1no. Scots Pine (T1)

Miscellaneous

Council agreed to purchase a safe for the office and install an email system for use by councillors and office staff, with secure password protection, to ensure compliance with data security protection requirements, subject to receiving an acceptable quotation.

The external auditors Certificate and Report for the year 2025/26 was formally approved and accepted, authorised payments and income to 30th September were noted and proposed payments authorised.

Confidential Issues

The meeting also considered, in closed session, confidential staff matters whose details cannot be reported publicly, together with commercially confidential trading information for the Elmswell Tavern.

Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Meeting of Council was scheduled for Monday 16th November, beginning at 7.30pm at the 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. They are also available from the Council Office at Blackbourne.



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
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 9DH	07483 850965	prjhancock24@btinternet.com	Footpath Officer Blackbourne & Wesley Management Association Elmswell Amenities Association Planning Committee Complaints Committee
Sarah Mansel Ashcroft House Ashfield Road ELMSWELL IP30 9HJ	07860 829517	sarah.mansel@midsuffolk.gov.uk	Planning Committee Complaints Committee *Also serves as Ward Member on Mid Suffolk District Council*
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	philipjshaw@btinternet.com	Safeguarding Lead Blackbourne & Wesley Management Association Planning Committee Complaints Committee
Janice Sparks Fox View Station Road ELMSWELL IP30 9HA	07976 369179	janice.sparks1@hotmail.com	
Kevin Sutterby 9 Heriot Road ELMSWELL IP30 9ZE	07770 738780	kevin.sutterby@outlook.com	

Enquiries on any Parish Council matter should be addressed to The Council Office, Blackbourne, Blackbourne Road, IP30 9UH – right next to the car park and with wheelchair access. 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	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
16th	21st	18th	15th	15th

Meetings are held at Blackbourne, beginning at 7.30 unless otherwise notified



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where you are warm and welcome

Weekdays 9.00 – 4.00,
Saturdays 9.30 – 4.00

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)	eaa@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	07513 336412
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	
Elmswell Tavern		manager@elmswelltavern.com	01359 301111
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	rccsdann@btinternet.com	07917 013846
Gardening Club	Wendy Walker	elmswellgcadmin@btinternet.com	07748 442951
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	eaa@elmswell.org.uk	244134
Over 55's Club	Sharon & Kay	elmswellover55s@outlook.com	
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	Mr Richard Ratcliffe	admin@elmswell.suffolk.sch.uk	240261
Scouts	Mark Pernot	mark.pernot@gmail.com	
Sewing Bee	Isabel Burgess	isabel.burgess@live.com	
Sozo Church	Rob Jack	info@sozochurch.co.uk	
St John's Church	Peter Goodridge	elmswellrector@gmail.com	240512
St John's Floodlightimng	Trevor Sadler	trevor.sadler@dsl.pipex.com	240908
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 should be addressed to 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 eaa @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 2026

5 Elmswell Over 55's Club Bangers and Mash and Bingo

7 3:30pm Time to Remember service at St John's Church

8 10:30am Remembrance Sunday Service at St John's Church

10 ELMSWELL WI at Wesley @ 7.30pm Development of women's cricket

10 Elmswell Tavern @ 7pm Fancy a Game of Crib? Beginners very welcome!

12 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Taff Gillingham: Suffolk Regiment's POWs in WW2.

12 Midday Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church

15 Sozo Church Wesley Chapel 10.15am to 12.30pm.

17 Elmswell Gardening Club, 7.30pm Annual General Meeting and Quiz, Wesley Chapel

19 Elmswell Over 55's Club Thurston Ladies Choir

19 Elmswell Tavern @ 8pm Quiz Night Teams of up to Six

December 2026

2 Elmswell WI Afternoon 2.00pm Christmas Celebrations Hosted by The Committee

3 Elmswell Over 55's Club Cinderella Rock and Roll Concert

6 Sozo Church Wesley Chapel 10.15am to 12.30pm.

7 1pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - Nosh & Natter with entertainment

8 ELMSWELL WI Christmas party

10 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Musician/Performer Katie Howson: Traditional Music of Suffolk Pubs

10 Midday Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church

19 Elmswell Over 55's Club Xmas Party

20 Sozo Church Wesley Chapel 10.15am to 12.30pm.

20 6:30pm Carols By Candlelight at St John's Church

24 3:30pm Family Nativity at St John's Church

24 8:30pm "Midnight in Bethlehem" Communion at St John's Church

January 2027

12 ELMSWELL WI at Wesley @ 7.30pm 60 years in Constable County

14 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Kathleen Hallaways: Mendlesham's Tudor Armoury

February 2027

9 ELMSWELL WI at Wesley @ 7.30pm A funny thing happened on the way to the Town Hall

11 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speakers Paul Thompson & Debbie Allum: Buxhall's WW2 Air Crash

STOP PRESS

Regular sessions at Blackbourne & Wesley include:

ART CLUB at Wesley every Tuesday 9.00 – 12,00 Eddie Douglas edward.douglas2@gmail.com

ARTS SOCIETY OF WEST SUFFOLK first Tuesday monthly, October-June. Diana Hollins 01449 736930 theartssociety-westsuffolk.org.uk

BABY & TODDLER GROUP - Monday mornings elmswellbtgroup@gmail.com

BATS- badminton / table tennis at Blackbourne TUESDAY night 7.15 – 9.15 pm burgesswilsonmike@gmail.com or tel. 07513 336412

BEAVERS /SCOUTS - Wednesday 5.45 – 9.15 glv@elmswellscouts.org.uk

BINGO – Blackbourne, last Friday monthly doors open 6.30...eyes – down 7.30

BOWLS - barryhayward1902@gmail.com tel. 240951

BRIDGE – Blackbourne - Monday afternoons from 1.15pm – Phil Peters 07825 016884 peters33@btinternet.com

CARPET BOWLS – Wednesday 7.pm at Wesley – em.mcnorth8@gmail.com

CIRCLE DANCING - Thursdays 1.45 – 3.15 jenlarner@gmail.com

COMPANIONS – every other Friday 10 – 12 at Wesley - linda@abbott.plus.com

CUBS Tuesdays 6.15 – 7.30 - mark.pernot@gmail.com

DANCE FITNESS / ZUMBA Mondays 6.45 at Wesley

DIGITAL SUPPORT SESSIONS – free at Wesley 3rd Wednesday monthly, no need to book

FOOTBALL - Chris Edmonds edddd101@gmail.com

GARDENING CLUB at Wesley 3rd Tuesday monthly 7.30 elmswellgcadmin@btinternet.com

GUIDES - elmswellguides@outlook.com

HISTORY GROUP at Wesley 2nd Thursday monthly 7.30 stellachamberlin@yahoo.co.uk

JAPANESE JUJUTSU / SELF DEFENCE – Monday & Wednesday 6.30 – 8.30 ryoishintowaryuheiho@gmail.com tel. 07711 680262

JUNIOR FOOTBALL - smyth98@hotmail.com 07717 841591

KARATE with Lewis - Friday 5.00 – 7.00 info@greatheadma.com

LEGS BUMS & TUMS Mondays 7.30 at Wesley

MARDLE QUILTERS - last Friday monthly caraboe@btinternet.com

MOO MUSIC - Fridays 12.45 – 3.15 bury@moo-music.co.uk

OVER 55'S - every other Thursday 19:00 to 21:15 Diann Armstrong tel. 241002

PILATES – Monday & Friday mornings – suzanne@triformpilates.co.uk

RAINBOWS - elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com

TREFOIL GUILD - 1st Tuesday monthly lesley.grout@btinternet.com

WI – afternoon at Wesley 1st Wednesday monthly at 2.00pm Carol Blissett carolblissett@hotmail.co.uk

WI – evening at Wesley 2nd Tuesday monthly 7.30pm triciamcneeney@gmail.com

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 future editions we need copy by: November 24th, December 22nd January 19th, February 23rd, March 23rd, April 27th

Contact us on 01359 244 134 for Newsletter and adverts.

Our email address is EAA@elmswell.org.uk

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01359 242420

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