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dropping in'



The Elmswell Newsletter



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

AUGUST 2026

On line at elmswell.suffolk.cloud



Play Garden

... see centre pages



**Wot
Drought?**

Published on the first Friday of every month by the Elmswell Amenities Association Reg. Charity No. 304879.
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Our store has raised over **£1,500 for local charities** through our Local Giving campaign. This summer **we're proud to support Elmswild**. If you can, please consider making a donation next time you're in store.





ELMSWELL ART CLUB

This month, we have two fine examples of portrait painting, beginning with John Simpson's interpretation of Vermeer's "Girl with a Pearl Earring"



The Dutch artist Johannes Vermeer produced his painting in 1665 using oil paint and features a young woman (of mysterious identity) in a blue and gold turban with an oversized drop earring highlighted by soft light and clever brushstrokes. It is on permanent display at the Mauritshuis museum in The Hague, Netherlands.

John has created his picture using a wide range of mixed media, including acrylic and watercolour paints,

watercolour pencils, as well as HB and 6B graded lead pencils.

Our second portrait is by Caroline North and is simply entitled "Ruby";



Caroline used acrylic paints to create her image and, once again, the identity of the subject remains a mystery... nevertheless, I'm sure you will agree that this is a fine example of portraiture.

Finally, we have Jo Hale's fine painting – an Italian door with a Vespa motor scooter in front. Jo produced this using water colour paints on paper and it is a scene from her visit to Polignano a Mare.

Polignano a Mare, in Puglia, is a stunning Italian coastal town famous for its cliffside old town, crystal-clear blue sea, and iconic pebble beach – in fact, it is perched dramatically atop a 20-meter-high limestone cliff.



Many thanks to our members for producing some excellent pictures for this article, we sincerely hope you enjoy 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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AROUND & ABOUT

ELMSWELL FOOTPATH WALK

Sunday 12th July 2026

On a quintessential British summer's day the stalwarts were bolstered by the addition of two keen young men swelling the numbers to a heady 8 and reducing the average age considerably.

A right on to Station Road for some 300m brought us to the entrance to Kingsbrook Place where a left and immediate right put us on to FP2 which we followed round to the junction of FP1, where a further right was taken.

Heading north westish we passed the pond on the right and then the junction with FP3, also on the right, and hence into the Parish of Norton.

FP1 now morphed into FP32 where a right and left took us to the junction with FP31 on the left which we duly took.

FP31 then turned right at the junction with FP35 and we commenced the circumnavigation of the woodland to our left known as the Grove.



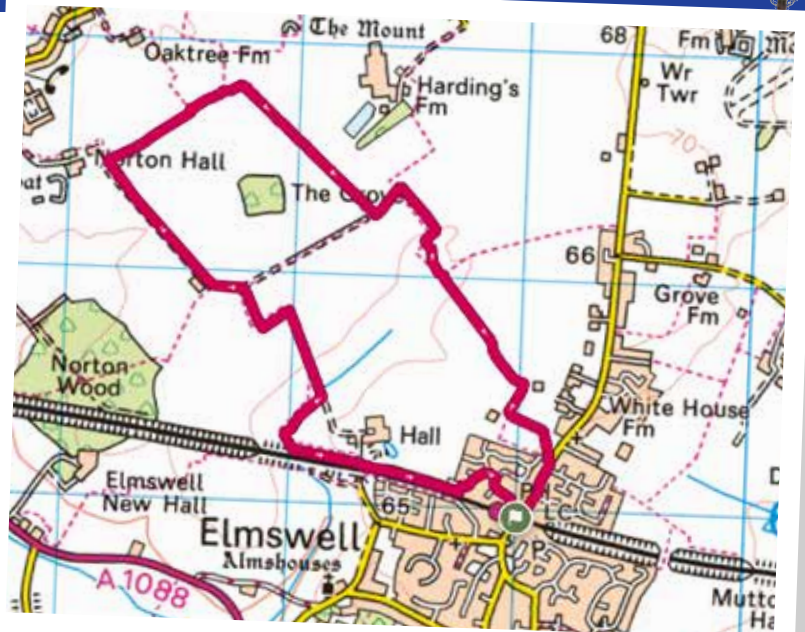
After 800m FP31 turned left and became FP20, heading south westish. Passing the junctions with FP21 and FP29 on the right we travelled towards Norton Hall on the horizon.

The harvest was seen to be in full swing with both cereal and rape seed alike seemingly ready for reaping.

At the Hall we turned left before the farmyard on to FP7 and, after some 650m, turned a further left, passing the barn on the right, still on FP7.

FP7 turned left then right over the footbridge and had us heading homeward down the slope towards Elmswell Hall.

On crossing the parish boundary back into Elmswell FP7 morphed into FP13 which took us on the circuitous route



around Elmswell Hall, across Parnell Lane, up and over the new steps and on to the redirected FP12 with the railway on the right.

Passing through both the Kingsbrook Place and Industrial Estate we were brought back to the railway crossing and our point of origin.

A walk of approximately 4.16 miles in 1 hour and 43 minutes (an average speed of 2.4 miles per hour).

Peter Hancock, EPC Footpath Officer

**AUGUST'S FOOTPATH WALK WILL BE ON SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST
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ELMSWELL

EXCHANGE W.I.



Mary welcomed everyone to the meeting.

This month is Barbara Yeates 90th birthday and she received a plant and we all sang happy birthday to her.

Our speaker this month was Helen Hillier and her subject was floral decorations. Helen used flowers from her garden for all her arrangements. Her advice was to pick flowers first thing in the morning.

Helen has had a varied career and at one time decorated the Royal box at the Epsom Derby as well as the late Queen's personal toilet at the event. This all had to happen early in the morning before the protection officers appeared.

Helen demonstrated how to do four arrangements and also a hand tied bouquet. She still uses oasis as she finds it works the best and as it is made from waste products from the plastic industry doesn't feel it is harming the environment.

All of her arrangements were natural looking and she used items such as limpet shells which look like toadstools, eucalyptus bark, ivy and moss. My favourite arrangement was one using two logs, oasis and pink peonies.

Helen demonstrated how to make a hand tied bouquet. She made it look easy but dexterity was needed to hold the bouquet whilst other flowers were added. Various amounts of tissue paper and cellophane were added and a litre of water was added before a bag and more tissue paper were added. It looked stunning but possibly not to be attempted by the faint hearted!

All the arrangements were kindly donated by Helen to be used in our raffle.

Helen was an entertaining speaker and had a refreshing style of flower arranging.

The competition was a single rose. First was Jan Clark, second was Pina Curry and third was Mary Chown.

Next month's speaker is John Sutton and his subject is "Route 66 in the USA". The competition is an American souvenir.

New members and visitors are always welcome.

Carol Blissett 242 8844

ELMSWELL WI

July is our birthday month so our meeting on 14th July was an enjoyable fish and chips supper with a glass of Pimms or Elderflower cordial. Thank you to the team at Elmswell Fish and Chip shop for putting over 30 portions together so that we all ate at the same time. While we waited for the food to arrive our memories were tested with a table quiz of adverts from the 80s. It's amazing how a picture can bring back memories of a product long forgotten. And then after we had eaten there was more quizzing, this time questions based on things that happened in the 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s. For example, do you know who hosted the Olympics in 1948? What was the name of the first satellite launched into space by the Soviet Union in 1957? The name of the first Beatles single in 1962? Which tech company founded in 1975 is now one of the Worlds most valuable brands? When did the Berlin Wall come down? And how many Oscars did Titanic win in 1998? The night was rounded off by a music round of guess the film from the theme song. Having seen Superman multiple times, I still can't believe I didn't get that one right!

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 11 August at the Wesley Hall when we will be hearing about the work of the Air Ambulance. If you would like to come along and find out if you would like to join the WI, meetings start at 7.30pm, with coffee and chat from 7.00pm. Hope to see you then.

Rachel Barber

ELMSWELL

OVER 55's

On 2nd July members indulged in a Strawberry Supper at the Blackbourne Community Centre, massive thanks to Sharon and all the Committee for their hard work to bring it all together on the night.

Thursday 16th July - WOW what a brilliant night, Steve Kay entertained us all, the whole room was buzzing, clapping, singing or on the dance floor.

We are looking forward to our annual trip to the Hut in Felixstowe on 30th July, let's hope the sun is out so we can enjoy a paddle along with our fish and chips!

We are taking part in ELMSFEST 2026 on 5th September, to raise funds for the club:

We would be incredibly grateful for any donations for our Tombola and/or homemade cakes and bakes. Thank you in advance.

New members are always welcome, please contact us for further information:

Kay – 07730265316 or Sharon – 07885730911 or email elmswellover55s@outlook.com you can also find us on Facebook.



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ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP



Whilst the village and the country were gripped by the England team's progress in the Men's World Cup, we at the History Group celebrated women's football in partnership with the Football & War Network. On 11th July, we hosted an exhibition in the Wesley Chapel which charted the **History of Women's Football since WW1**. The experienced historian on women's football, Steve Bolton, curated this exhibition, which told many stories through artefacts, images, posters and fascinating narratives. These included - an explanation of the 1902 and 1921 Football Association Women's Football Bans, which were not officially lifted until the early 1970s; the Essex Women's Football Scene during WW1; famous female footballers such as sisters Ada and Gladys Fairman and Lizzy Ashcroft; famous teams such as the Sterling Ladies (a.k.a. the "Invincibles") who were unbeaten during their two years of existence, and the most well-known, the Dick Kerr Ladies.

Also included were potted histories of teams such as Chelmsford Ladies, Marconi Ladies, St Helens Ladies and Manchester Corinthians, and on display were a collection of old-style footballs, boots, studs and rattles as well as modern day women's footballs, artefacts and publications.

In addition, the short film entitled "Granny" was shown depicting the life of Lizzy Ashcroft, who also happens to be Curator Steve's grandmother and was one of the most famous female footballers of the post-WW1 era. Steve was in attendance throughout the afternoon to talk through his displays and answer questions. There was plenty of interest in the exhibition, which was great to see, considering there was a Fun Fair on in the village, as well as having to compete with Wimbledon and the World Cup! It was wonderful to see a family that included three generations and as one attendee stated, "...there

was a wide age range of visitors who all showed a real interest in the exhibits, the older visitors reminiscing about the old leather boots and the heavy footballs whilst the youngsters were fascinated by the separate boot studs of different types, all of which had to be replaced at regular intervals - very different to today's equipment!"

Whilst Steve Bolton said - "I must admit that I didn't know what to expect on a warm Saturday afternoon but I had an amazing time. There were a large number of visitors from different backgrounds and multiple generations. What really impressed me was how all visitors took a great deal of time to look carefully at all the displays and exhibits and then watch the short film about my Granny, which we had on a loop. I had some fascinating conversations and fielded some really interesting and probing questions. The highlight was one of the historians from Wetherden who was clutching an old photograph of a women's football team. Apparently, it had been donated to their history group several years ago in amongst a bunch of random photos, and they had never been able to identify the team. I was not surprised, as I am often asked about these types of photo and it is rarely possible to identify the team. I casually suggested that Stowmarket had a women's team in WW1, something which I had recently seen in a newspaper report from the 1960s. The lady went off and returned twenty minutes later having found the exact same photo on the Stowupland History site - the footballers were from the local Gun Cotton Munitions Factory!"

However, that was not the end of the story, after the exhibition, Steve carried out further research that weekend by going through the Bury St Edmunds WW1 newspaper from which he "... found the same team in a very high-profile match with a team list to identify the players. This doesn't happen very often and was a real highlight!"

Final thoughts from Steve about the event - "...feedback from all of visitors was uniformly positive - a fabulous and very worthwhile visit."





Meanwhile, to celebrate our 25th anniversary last April, some of you will remember that we had a representative from **Save Britain's Heritage** speak to us on their own 50th anniversary, so here's their latest bulletin on 'Buildings At Risk' which, unfortunately, include several in our E.Anglian area - <https://www.savebritainsheritage.org/news/save-adds-record-number-of-buildings-to-national-risk-list>



Heritage Open Days

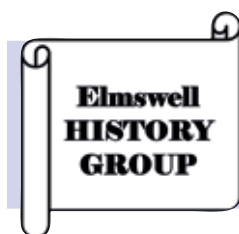
This year's annual event runs from 11-20th September, so now's the time to select your event or tour in East Anglia, some of which need to be pre-booked (hence this advance notice). For more details, click onto this link - <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/whats-on/printable-area-lists/region-eastern.html>. Every September thousands of volunteers across England organise events to celebrate our fantastic history and culture, so this is your chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences – all of which are FREE to explore, and many of which are not normally open to the general public.



East Anglian Traditional Music Day, Saturday 19th September

A celebration of music, dance, and song, taking place all over Stowmarket, with a free pre-festival session to get you started on Fri 18th September, hosted by Rosewood with early guest arrivals. Get in touch on tmd@eatmt.org.uk if you have any questions before booking. Events as part of Traditional Music Day happen in multiple venues around Stowmarket – please check the programme (coming soon) to find out where individual events are taking place!

Before all that, have a great summer.



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

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



ELMSFEST IS BACK FOR 2026!

Join us on Saturday 5th September, 12–5pm, at the Blackbourne Community Centre for a brilliant afternoon of community fun, with live music, delicious food, local stalls, and plenty of activities for all ages.

But ElmsFest only happens thanks to our amazing volunteers.

Behind every successful ElmsFest is a team of local people who give their time to help create a safe, welcoming, and memorable day for everyone in the village.

We're looking for volunteers to help make ElmsFest 2026 another fantastic success.

Could you help with: Car parking? Selling raffle tickets? Running children's activities? Litter picking?

Helping with set-up or clear-down? If so, we'd love to hear from you.

Whether you can spare an hour, a few hours, or the whole day, your help makes a real difference.

Can't make it on the day but still want to get involved?

We'd also love to hear from anyone interested in joining the ElmsFest Committee to help plan and shape future events.

To find out more about volunteering, or enquire about running a stall or activity, email Elmsfest@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you there!



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ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB

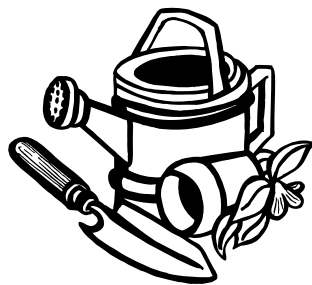
Our speaker this month was Paula Joyer, a local flower farmer at Fox House Flowers in Stanningfield. Paula had been considering growing flowers commercially for some time but made the leap three years ago and has not looked back. She is still learning what grows well on her exposed plot, adapting plants to suit the increasingly warmer and drier weather. Whilst annuals really work well as cut flowers these are proving trickier to grow, with shorter stems and shorter flowering periods. Growing more perennials could be the answer. Paula's growing favourites are Roses, Peonies, Sweet Peas, Dahlias and Lupins.

Passionate about locally grown flowers (just 14% of flowers sold in the UK are grown in this country) Paula sells direct at local markets and provides flowers for weddings. As the growing season is relatively short, she dries her flowers and sells these too and runs Christmas wreath-making courses. She has also cultivated her business by making fruit-infused apple cider vinegars and marshmallows. She is one busy lady!

Our speaker for the September 15th meeting is Ruth Goudy 'How to Plan a Beautiful Border'. The meeting starts at 7.30pm in Wesley Chapel, School Road.

We look forward to welcoming you and sharing our passion for gardening.

Wendy



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REPAIR CAFE

Join the Repair Café!

Elmswell Repair Café is a community initiative that promotes repair as an alternative to throwing things out. Residents can bring their broken items to get them fixed on the spot, free of charge, with the help of proficient voluntary repairers. In order to keep going, Elmswell Repair Café could use more handy volunteers from the village. Why not join us!

The Repair Café is looking for local residents with different skills who can be present as repair volunteers during the Repair Café sessions; we also need someone to manage and run the Repair Café – it only takes 3-4 hours a month and training is available! We are especially looking for people who are passionate about Repair, Reuse and Recycle and are handy with:

- * clothing / textiles
- * electrical appliances
- * gluing things
- * organisation/admin
- * bicycles
- * furniture / wooden objects
- * general repairs
- * managing volunteers

... and who enjoy sharing their knowledge with their neighbours.

In addition, we are also looking for people who wish to fulfil the role of **host / hostess** at the meetings. You welcome visitors and serve as a contact point for both visitors and repairers in the Repair Café.

Want to know more about the Repair Café? You can visit the Repair Café International webpage <https://www.repaircafe.org/en/> for more general information, or email our friends at Stowmarket Repair Café on stowrepaircafe@gmail.com

Want to sign up as a volunteer?

Send an email to stowrepaircafe@gmail.com.



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ELMSWELL LIBRARY

Hello Elmswell,

The Curious Creatures Reading Quest is in full swing but don't worry if you have not signed up yet there is still time to. Come in at least 4 times between now and Sunday 6th September to complete the quest.

We have volunteers that children can come and tell about what they have been reading and get an activity to do

11.30am - 12.30pm

and 3pm - 4pm Tuesday

3pm - 4pm Wednesday

12noon - 1pm and 3pm - 4pm Thursday

3pm - 4pm Friday

11.30am - 12.30pm Saturday

11.30am - 12.30pm Sunday

This year the celebration event will be 2pm Saturday 12th September with Emma Graham. Emma Graham is an author and illustrator who will be reading her Tyranno-roar-us Rex book and have dinosaur related crafts to do.

Our next Picture Bingo for kids is happening 10.30 Thursday 20th August. Come along and get a chance to win a prize kindly funded by Elmswell Library Friends.

The Fantastical Book Group book this month is Mythos by Stephen Fry. The group decided it wanted to read about

the myths of the Greek gods. The book group will meet 11am on Saturday 15th August.

August's display is of books connected to oceans and seas. There is a mix of light reads, fantasy, historical and more.

Also the book bingo which is open to adults too is still happening. Adults and kids have until November to complete it.

All of the regular events in the library carry on over the summer so come along if you enjoy chess, mahjong, crochet or creative writing.

See you in the library soon,

Miles

What's on

Picture Bingo

10.30am Thursday 20th August

Mahjong

3.15pm every Friday

Crochet and Chat

10am every Thursday

Story Time

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

9.10am - 9.30am every 1st Tuesday

2.30pm - 3pm every Thursday

Sunday Crafts

1pm - 2pm every Sunday

Lego Club

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

Pokémon Club

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

Writing Group

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

Afternoon Chess Club

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

Evening Chess Club

7pm Thursday 6th August (every 1st Thursday of the month)

Fantastical Book Club

11am Saturday 15th August (every 4 weeks) - ask in the library for this month's book.

The Keep in Touch Community Café

Not on this month (every 3rd Wednesday of the month except August and December)

Catch Up In The Library

2.30pm every Wednesday

Gwel's visits

4pm - 5pm Tuesday 4th August (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:
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ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Happy holidays from St John's, your local parish church

Over the years, I have been asked all sorts of questions about faith, the church, Jesus and God. Many of them are genuine enquiries as to the nature of life and how God fits in. Some are age-old. Some are more topical. Some are deep searches for meaning. Others are merely asked out of curiosity. There are many great questions to ask - although I was once asked by a child if I lived in the church!

During the month of August, we will be tackling some common questions people ask (see below). If you have ever wondered about any of them, please pop along. Our services are on Sundays at 10:30am.

- Baptism: What is it all about? (2 August)
- How can I be sure Christianity is true? (9 August)
- How can I be sure God cares for me? (16 August)
- What does God think about Christian nationalism? (23 August)
- If God is good, why do bad things happen? (30 August)

July started with a moving All Age service, when a family of 4 were baptised. We also heard about an extraordinary King called Josiah. He became King of Judah at the young age of 8, but became one of the greatest Kings in the Bible. One is never too young (or old) to start following the Lord! We have another baptism at our August family service. July also saw the start of **Messy Church on Tuesday mornings** at 10:30am, which will continue throughout August. Messy Church is for all the family and includes Bible stories, crafts, games and lunch. There is no need to book, just turn up.

All are welcome at St John's. If you have never been before and feel a bit nervous, remember everyone had a first day! Please don't feel apprehensive - simply come as you are. We are a diverse group of people and we would love to see you.

If you wish to find out more about the Christian faith, or want more information on having your child Christened, or maybe you wish to get married at St John's, please do get in touch (details below).

Upcoming Dates:

Sun 2 August
9:00am Lord's Supper (spoken service)

Sun 2 August
10:30am All Age Service with baptism

Tue 4 August
10:30am Messy Church with lunch

Sun 9 August
10:30am Worship with Lord's Supper

Tue 11 August
10:30am Messy Church with lunch

Sun 16 August
10:30am Sunday Worship

Tue 18 August
10:30am Messy Church with lunch

Sun 23 August
10:30am Worship with Lord's Supper

Tue 25 August
10:30am Messy Church with lunch

Sun 30 August
10:30am Worship with Lord's Supper

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

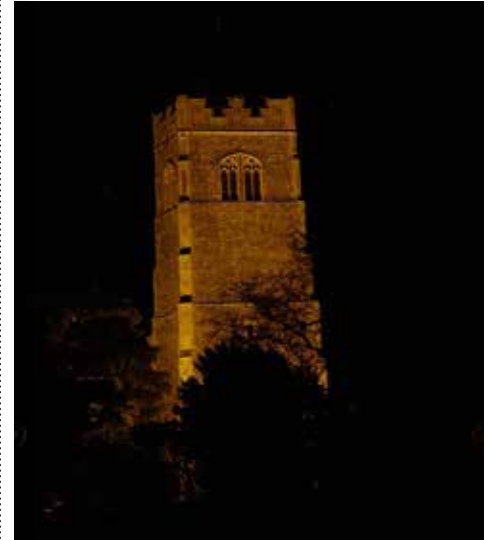
Sun 6 September
10:30am All Age Service

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
Web site: www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjohnselmswell
YouTube: accessed via our website home page



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.

Please note a night's floodlighting now costs £10, but this will not apply, of course, to sponsorships that have already been pre-paid.

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

During the summer months the lights will be on between 8.00 p.m. and midnight.

Deadline for inclusion in the September Newsletter is Monday 24th August.

Your support is very much appreciated. Thank you.

JULY 2026 SPONSORSHIP NOT PREVIOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED

28 treasured and loving memories of Pat Burch, passed away on 28 July 2019. "Living on with us. Miss you. Love you always". Dick, Marina, Steven, Geoffrey, Ricky, Nigel, Dawn, and all the family. xxxxxxxx.



AUGUST 2026 SPONSORSHIPS

- 2 cherished memories of Dora Lily Handyside on her Birthday. "Remembered with love". xx.
- 6 15th Wedding Anniversary - Annette & Stuart Martin.
- 8 in loving memory of Pat Burch's Birthday on 8th August. "God called you home on 28.07.2019. Your memory is our greatest treasure, to love, to cherish, and to keep forever, until we meet again. Loved and remembered always." Dick, Marina, Steven, Geoffrey, Ricky, Nigel, Dawn and all the family.
- 16 to remember and thank all those past Elmswell Fire-Fighters who served their village and community so well.
- 23 in loving memory of Duncan Wardrop. "Gone, but not forgotten. Miss you." Love, Alex, Doug, Teddy, Baby Isla and Laura. xxxx.

All bookings and payments please to :-
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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

As I write this we don't know how far the England football team are going to progress in the World Cup. Let's hope it has proved to be all the way! Many are in our land will have been pre-occupied with this. However, there are much more important things than this to worry about aren't there? Wild fires in many places including here at home, earthquakes in various parts of the world and ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the Middle East. Civil tension in our own land, not helped by considerable political uncertainty with government leadership not seeming very stable and violence against political figures seeming to become more prevalent. A crisis of unemployment amongst our young people.

We all need certainty and hope don't we? As Christians we believe that ultimately God is in control and totally reliable, even if in times like this, it's pretty hard to see. God never breaks his promises and the bible contains numerous promises from God that we can rely on and believe that in the end, all will be well. We have to remember that God works within the

context of eternity, and what seems like forever to us is just a fleeting moment to him.

Why not come and find out more about this at one of our Sunday services at 10.30am every week? You will be most welcome.

The Ladies Friendship Group resume their meetings at 2pm on Monday September 7th when Alison Roberts will be coming to talk about "My life's pathway". Telephone Margaret on 07926 753882 for more details. All ladies are welcome.

Food 'n' Friends will resume on September 9th at Midday. A home (more accurately, a church) cooked meal and plenty of time to chat. Telephone Dorothy on 01359 245811 to book your place. All Senior Citizens are welcome.

We are grateful to all those who come to preach each week. The preachers booked for our 10.30am Sunday services in the coming weeks are as follows:-

August 2nd

Rev. Norman Tharby inc. Communion

August 9th

Ann Rudland

August 16th TBC

August 23rd

Rev. Reg Craig

August 30th

Paul Kemp

September 6th

Rev. Reg Craig (inc Communion)

Visit our website at

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email

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or telephone any of the numbers in the text above for further info.



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CROWN MILL PRE-SCHOOL PLAY GARDEN

The provision of play & recreation facilities for our children and youngsters is very much to the fore as the village begins the process of revising its Neighbourhood Plan. The lack of provision for our very youngest, pre-school and toddler children, has been highlighted during the refurbishment of the Crown Mill Junior Play Area.

As is to be expected, not everyone agrees with the solution which has been arrived at and neighbours to the chosen site have presented comprehensive reasons as to why they think the scheme to be ill-considered at meetings with the Council's Working Party and when invited to do so at several recent Council meetings.

1

Introduction 1

- Details are to enable councillors to decide for themselves whether they wish to support this scheme
- You are aware that MSDC didn't endorse it
- You have heard many arguments from neighbours as to why it shouldn't happen
- You will now hear the arguments as to why you should support the proposal
- It is now for councillors to make up their own minds

2

Introduction 2

To that end I will:

- Demonstrate the erroneous basis for MSDC's objections
- Answer the concerns advanced by the neighbours
- Demonstrate how we aim to mitigate those concerns which are valid
- Outline our concept for the scheme
- Detail the equipment we wish to purchase
- Outline a potential scheme for further environmental works following the creation of a wildlife haven area
- Outline the next steps to be taken

3

Issues

I will therefore look in turn at each of the main issues that have been identified:

- Guidance
- Demand
- Funding
- Space
- Site
- Concept
- Equipment

4

Guidance

This Proposal Meets All Current National Guidance for the Provision of Play Areas

- Fields in Trust (FIT) – successor organization to NPFA (2007) published guidance dealing with themes/concepts & standards/benchmarks
- The Six Acre Standard (NPFA) – 1992
- Guidance for Outdoor Sport & Play – 2015
- Fields in Trust Standards – Creating Great Spaces for All – 2024
- Each New Guidance Supersedes the Previous Versions
- Many local authorities (inc. MSDC), equipment manufacturers and Google AI are still using the 2015 version for advice
- The 2024 guidance has some significant and highly relevant differences

5



Fields in Trust - FIT

p17

Play spaces should be located in the heart of a development. We have removed reference to requirements for separation buffer zones to avoid any unintended consequences of pushing play spaces to the edge of new developments.

p12

Only providing standalone equipped play spaces in developments is limiting the Benchmarks therefore incorporate equipped and informal play quantities.

8

Funding 1

Total Cost:

- Kompan £25,150
- Connected Ecology £2,100
- Wayne Jarvis £2,410 + £2,500*
- Environmental Plan £2,500
- Total: £34,600
- * = estimated cost

Funded By:

- £25,000 Amenities Association grant
- £2,500 in grant aid to be requested
- £7,100 from PC reserves
- Total: £34,600

6

Guidance

All Equipment Will be Provided and Installed in Compliance with Relevant UK Standards

- Rospa
- Safety standards for equipment, surfaces and installation
- Grass surface is recommended for equipment with a low fall height
- Inspection requirements

It is our opinion grass is a suitable material for use under and around equipment from which falls of less than 1000mm are possible, although where continued shuffling takes place firm surfaces should be considered.

9

Funding 2

Councillors should note that:

- The Amenities Association grant can only be spent on play equipment for pre-school (toddler) play equipment. It is not available for any other use. The Council would either have to return it or request permission for an alternative use should we decide not to provide such equipment
- Council originally identified £8,000 from its reserves towards funding the scheme
- I am confident that a grant for wildlife enhancements would be obtainable

7

Demand

- FIT recommends provision of 2.5 sqm of equipped play space and 3 sqm of informal play space per person (child) (p 18)
- These recommendations are accepted and built into plans for all new housing developments
- Elmswell population estimates for mid 2024 totalled 5364 residents
- Elmswell & Woolpit had a 0 – 4 years population of 538, with approx. 400 from Elmswell thus requiring 1000 sqm of equipped play space, less 25% to allow for 0 – 1 age group, so 750 sqm
- Elmswell currently has NO space dedicated solely to pre-school children
- It is totally fallacious to argue that there is no demand. There is and we don't meet it

10

Space

- Fields in Trust now recommend a minimum area of 100 sqm for a Local Area for Play
- The site measures 374 sqm less up to 25% for the wildlife haven leaving 280 sqm for the play garden
- The equipment being specified requires 90 sqm of safe space thus leaving 190 sqm for circulation, planting and informal play
- For comparison, the redeveloped area on Crown Mill is 222 sqm

p23
A small area of open space specifically designed and primarily laid out for very young children to play close to where they live interwoven within the development. Every home should have access to play space within 100 metres.

p23
It should provide a minimum area of 100 square metres but this can be distributed within a development as part of playable routes.

11

Siting Considerations

- Is it central/away from main road/owned by Council?
- Is it large enough?
- Can we mitigate any possible nuisance?
- Does it meet current national guidance (FIT)?
- Does it require planning permission/attract a net biodiversity premium(nbp)?
- Can we afford it?

12

Potential Sites

- The only sites which could be considered to be both central in the village and which are owned by the Council are:
 - the existing Crown Mill play area and adjacent green space
 - The green space on Crown Mill opposite Crabtree Meadow
- The other two Council-owned areas of land, i.e. The Blackbourne and Clayfield are not central and can therefore be ruled out
- No other areas are owned by Elmswell Council
- If we wish to do something NOW these are the only alternatives

13**Existing Crown Mill Pros & Cons****Pros**

- Already own space
- Planning permission not required
- Central site

Cons

- Would take up existing grass space used by older children
- Would require removal of several large trees and incur a nbp
- Would be close to main road and/or railway
- Could lead to supervision issues if parents have children in both new and existing play areas
- Could be expensive to develop

14**New Crown Mill Site Pros & Cons****Pros**

- Owned by Council
- Centrally located on well-used route & away from main road
- Planning consent not needed
- Chance to involve Elmwild in developing wildlife areas to enhance new wildlife haven
- Complies with all latest guidance and standards
- Right size
- Able to mitigate possible nuisances

Cons

- Opposed by neighbours
- MSDC not yet supportive
- Separates different age play areas for parents with children of different age ranges

15**Site Decision**

- New Crown Mill site opposite Crabtree Meadow meets more of our criteria
- Would be cheaper to develop
- Provides a pre-school play facility and an enhanced area for wildlife, both flora and fauna
- Therefore this should be our preferred site

16**Site Mitigations**

- Approx 1/4 of site given over to wildlife haven
- Extensive planting within play area to enhance wildlife (flora and fauna)
- Suggested equipment uses all natural materials
- Low level equipment to remove visual intrusion
- Equipment and scheme chosen to be unattractive to teenagers
- Conforms to latest FIT guidance of which MSDC should take note

17**Suggested Concept – Local Area for Play (LAP)**

- Development of a wildlife garden with play equipment
- Only 32% of available space will be occupied by play equipment
- Equipment aimed solely at 6 months to 4 year olds
- Equipment is low rise and low key, designed to be unattractive to and unusable by older children and to blend into surroundings
- Planting scheme to be commissioned
- Wildlife features to be incorporated
- Fencing to be wooden with single public access gate
- Surface to be grass

18**Equipment Criteria**

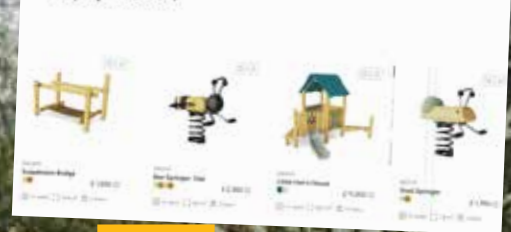
- Must fit with theme and be constructed from natural materials
- Must only be suitable for the target age range
- Must be unattractive to older children
- Should be as visually unobtrusive as possible
- Needs to fit around wildlife and landscaping
- Must allow sufficient space for circulation and ambulatory play

19**Equipment**

- 3 Suppliers approached
 - Wickstead
 - Proludic
 - Kompan
- Only Kompan met our criteria

20**Wooden Equipment Checklist**

- Double baby swing
- Bee springer
- Snail springer
- Little hen house
- Suspension bridge
- Play board
- Benches & bins
- Picket fencing inc. chicane to entrance and lockable double gate

21**Equipment 1****22****Equipment 2****23****Environmental Enhancement**

Within an overall budget of £2,500 to build on the establishment of the wildlife haven

- Develop plan with Elmwild
- Follow recommendations from Connected Ecology re equipment
- Apply for grant aid from MSDC and other local organisations
- Installation/planting/sowing to commence immediately following installation of play equipment during the optimal autumn planting period

24**Possible Ideas for Environmental Enhancement – Illustrative Only**

- Bird boxes, bat boxes and bug hotels in wildlife haven area
- Wildflower verge between existing shrubbery and newly-installed picket fence
- New shrubs such as lavender planted to extend existing shrub line up to new picket fence parallel with road and behind new fence
- Wildflower beds within grassed play area
- Dwarf fruit trees planted strategically, e.g. apple, pear & cherry

25**Next Steps**

- If scheme agreed by Council
- Place orders
- Plan installation and coordinate with fencing
- Develop planting plan with Elmwild
- Submit grant applications
- Install environmental features
- Commence planting after equipment installation

After many months of discussion the decisive vote came to Council at its July meeting where Councillors and the public were shown a presentation comprehensively addressing the issues raised. These included a programme directed by environmental consultants in accordance with suggestions made in discussion with residents regarding the possibility of protected slow worms in the border hedging.

It is far from unusual for residents to feel that their views are ignored by councils and other decision makers. This has become a more significant feature as social media offers scope for sharing at the push of a button, but Elmwild's experience over many years – the replacement of the Memorial Hall with the facilities at Blackbourne, similarly the loss of the Wesley Hall to make way for the current Wesley – brought much dissent, but Council held firm and the right decisions were made.

The decision to proceed with the scheme to provide play facilities for toddlers and pre-school children on the Council's land at Crown Mill opposite Crabtree Meadow was made by a vote of 8:1.

The slides from the Presentation are shown here in numbered order. They have also been available on the Council's website since 21st July.

Notices announcing the first steps in re-drafting our Neighbourhood Plan and inviting wide involvement of residents will be made in Autumn.





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NEWS FROM ELMSWILD

New homes are going up in Elmswell and Thurston Homes for all sorts of bugs and minibeasts!

When we were invited to attend the School Fayre in June we thought long and hard about what sort of stall or attraction we could do. Then we found out that staff are working hard to make the lovely wooded area around the school more suitable for the children to access and enjoy – the proceeds from the Fayre are going towards making this a reality – so we had the perfect answer! We decided to make a bug hotel at the entrance to the wood, which would demonstrate how to make this intriguing structure and would remain in the wood to attract all the fascinating creatures which live there. Well, perhaps not the Gruffalo and his friends – they have their own homes – but all sorts of bugs, beetles, spiders, ladybirds, etc., that need a place to hide out, especially in the winter.

We had a great time building it – a huge thank you to all the staff and parents who made us so welcome and to all the children who helped us put it together. Remember to keep an eye on it in the coming months and have a look out for all the new inhabitants! We hope it will be an asset to the new woodland amenity as it develops.

Then in July we were asked to join in the Thurston Parish Council Biodiversity Day, so we decided to build another bug hotel. We were on a roll! We constructed this one within the wildlife area at the New Green community centre. If you're visiting Thurston, do go and have a look at it. It's tucked away beside a hedge next to a bench and by now lots of new buggy residents should be moving in.

You can buy a ready-made bug hotel in garden centres, but they can be very expensive and it's really easy to make your own from bits and pieces you probably already have lying around in the garden. You will need: wooden pallets (or some logs will do); old bricks, especially those that have holes in them; plastic tubes or bottles with the ends cut off; canes, twigs, straw, leaves, pine cones, stones, pebbles and bits of bark. Layer the pallets with bricks in between, and then fill all the spaces with the materials you have collected. It's useful to top off your hotel with a roof to keep the rain out. We used some old pond liner, but you could also use old tiles, roofing felt or carpet. Why not have a go? A great project for the summer holidays!

Hotels for bees



When we think of bees we mostly think of honey bees in a hive or the large, furry bumblebees that buzz around in summer. However, most of the bees native to the UK (and there are over 270

species of them) are not social and don't live in colonies. These are the solitary bees. Some nest in underground burrows (the mining bees) and others are cavity nesters. They don't produce honey or have a queen but they are very efficient pollinators. Solitary bees are fascinating to watch, using all sorts of materials to make their nests. The leaf-cutter bee, for example, uses tiny circles of leaves which they cut out and carry back to a hollow plant stem. You can sometimes detect their presence from finding neat circles cut out from the leaves of shrubs in the garden. Each female bee will lay 20 to 30 eggs during her lifetime. She makes a ball of pollen and nectar which she places inside the cavity then lays an egg on top. A partition wall goes in next, then another pollen ball and egg, and another partition until the cavity is filled up. Finally, a plug of soil, mud or leaves closes up the tube, keeping the developing bees safe until they're ready to emerge as adults.

We can help the solitary bees by making and hanging up a bee hotel. This can be as simple as a handful of hollow canes tucked into an old plastic bottle or piece of drainpipe. Or if you have a drill, you can make different sized holes in a piece of wood and secure it on a wall or fence. At Lukeswood we put up two bee boxes in the orchard and the bees moved in almost immediately! As well as providing a superb habitat for our vital pollinators, bee hotels allow us to watch them at work close up. You can observe them quite safely, as solitary bees are non-aggressive and don't swarm; they just go about their buzzy business undisturbed by our presence. Another great project for the holidays!

Mary Feeney
info@elmswild.org.uk

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ELMSWELL BABY & TODDLER GROUP ANNOUNCES

SUMMER OF FAMILY FUN AND 2026 NEARLY NEW SALE

Elmswell Baby & Toddler Group is looking forward to an exciting summer packed with activities for its members, while also preparing for its popular Nearly New Sale later this year.

The volunteer-run group has organised a fantastic programme of events to bring local families together and give children the opportunity to enjoy new experiences, make friends and create lasting memories. Throughout the summer holidays, members will be able to enjoy a trip to Bressingham, an adventure at BeWILDerwood, a magical performance from a professional magician at The Blackbourne, and a Teddy Bears' Picnic.

These events are part of the group's ongoing commitment to supporting families and creating opportunities for children and parents to connect outside of regular weekly sessions.

The group has also recently donated a selection of games and activities to The Tavern for local families to enjoy. Elmswell Baby & Toddler Group would like to thank The Tavern for kindly looking after the games and making them available for the community.

A spokesperson for the group said: "We're passionate about creating opportunities for families to spend quality time together and build friendships within the community. We're excited about our summer programme and are incredibly grateful to The Tavern for helping us ensure our donated games continue to be enjoyed by local families."

Alongside its summer activities, the group is now preparing for its much-loved Nearly New Sale, which will take place on Saturday 19th September 2026. The sale offers families the chance to buy and sell quality pre-loved baby

and children's clothing, toys, books, equipment and other essential items at affordable prices.

The Nearly New Sale has become a popular event for families across the area, helping parents save money while supporting sustainable shopping by giving pre-loved items a second life.

Anyone interested in attending, selling items, or keeping up to date with event news can follow the Elmswell Baby & Toddler Group Nearly New Sale Facebook page for the latest information and announcements.

Run entirely by volunteers, Elmswell Baby & Toddler Group continues to provide a welcoming environment for local families, offering regular sessions, special events and valuable opportunities for parents, carers and children to come together throughout the year



WESLEY UKULELE BAND

Well, 'June in Tune' is over and done for another year. What a great afternoon. Some super singing and playing, but the highlight was that through the generosity of those attending, we were able to send £1260 plus about £50 in cash to the new Children's Hospital in Cambridge. A huge 'THANK YOU' to all those, who contributed and entertained. Our pictures, this month, for a change, are not of the Wesley Ukes, but two of the acts who helped us raise that superb amount. Firstly, 'Just Us', a lovely duo, who played and sang with real harmony.

The second is 'Father and Son Reunion' whose voices soared through some beautiful and well-known songs.

Both of these couples will be joining the Ukes and Shades at a concert to be held on Monday 5th October, at the Regal Cinema in Stowmarket. Tickets are priced at just £10 each and are available from the Regal's website. All profits will, again, be given to the Children's Hospital in Cambridge. Please come along and support this great cause.

Regarding other gigs, this month, there were six, with varying degrees of success! Stanton Primary School suffered from being in a field with the local police car's siren being deployed all of the time we were playing, (and it was not even in tune!). Cornwallis Court, also an outdoor event, was spoiled by a strong wind, which meant that we

couldn't hear each other singing. Two visits to the Time out Club were an absolute joy, as ever and Oxlip House benefitted from the addition of 90 year old Ted on drums.

The most relaxed, however, was to celebrate Peter Edmonds 79th Birthday, where we sat around, chatted, drank wine and played for him. Thanks Peter.

'Til next time. Take care.

Email: Kevin.Knock99@gmail.com



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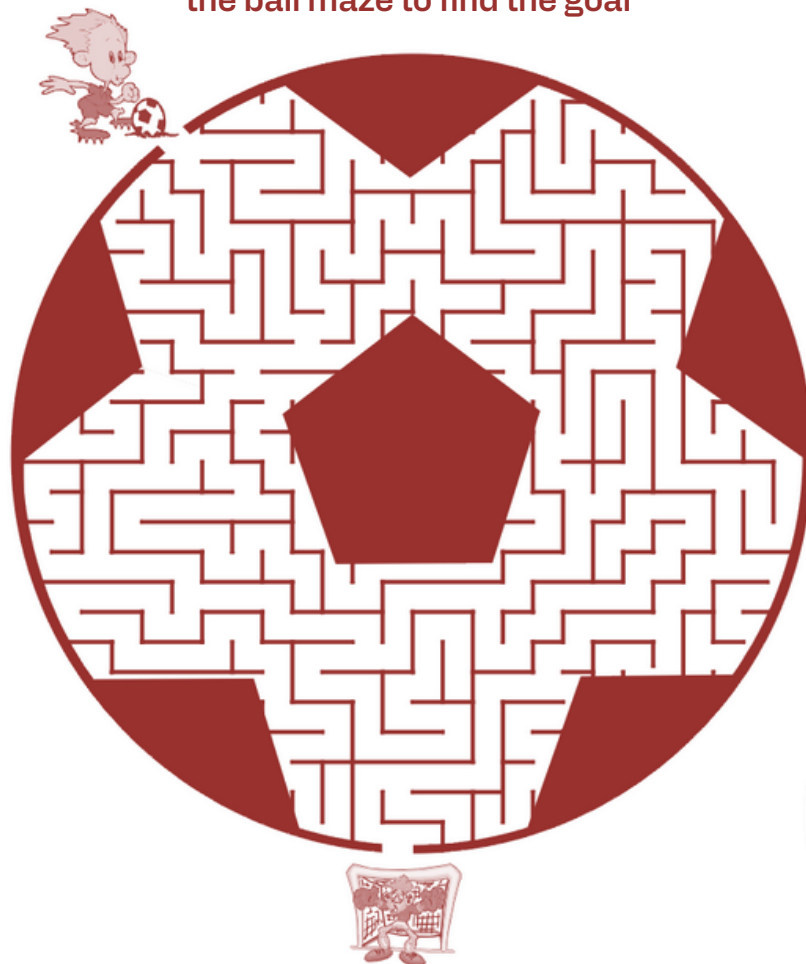
You will need:

- Ribbon
- Card
- Paint
- Glitter
- Glue
- Beads (if wanted for decoration)

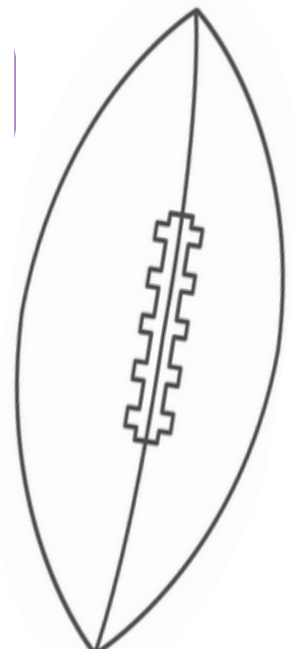
Method:

1. Cut out round circles of card
2. Hole punch a hole at the top
3. Paint the card whatever colour you like!
4. Decorate it with your glitter using your glue
5. Thread your ribbon through the hole
6. Push the bead down the bottom until it reaches the card
7. Tie your ribbon in a knot or bow
8. Your medals now ready to use!

Show the football player through the ball maze to find the goal



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Things that have developed:

Our permanent Head Chef and his team are now settled in the kitchen

The menu is now moving with the times, with fresh new dishes most weeks

The team up front are learning the skills to give you the proper Tavern welcome

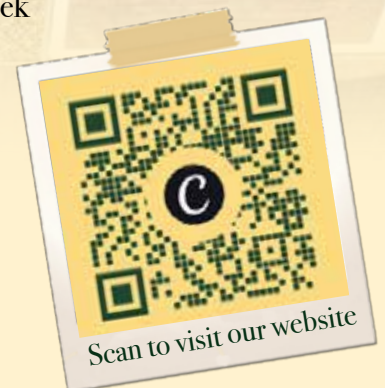
You can now send us enquiries via Whatsapp on 01359 301111

Things we are working on:

Decor, we are seeking more Elmswell-centric images for our bare walls

Regular events, quiz, live music, foodie nights... watch this space

The plans for upstairs, we are hoping to give local youth some much needed dedicated space



info@elmswelltavern.com | 01359 301111 | Elmswell Tavern, School Road, Elmswell, IP30 9EE

'Better Recycling'

There have inevitably been a lot of issues with Government's new recycling regime. Most problems are getting resolved, but we recognise that there has been disappointment and frustration when bins have been missed. New staff are becoming increasingly familiar with their routes, with the individual needs of some residents, and are learning strategies to work long hours in extreme heat. As always, please email recycling@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk with any issues, and copy in Sarah and Jen. Or ring 0300 1234 000 (option 4) – this phone line is less busy than when the changes were first introduced, but wait times can still be variable.

Council decision: Street Trading Licensing Scheme

In line with most Suffolk Councils, Mid Suffolk will be designating all its public streets and roads as 'Consent Streets' – each application for a licence to be considered on its merits, with elements of control and regulation (such as Food Hygiene and Insurance requirements) and a cost-recovery-only fee. Finer details of a 'Street Trading Policy' are being drawn up and there will be public consultation prior to adoption.

Council Motion on Potholes

At the latest full council it was agreed the Mid Suffolk Leader would write to the new Leader of SCC to request changes to the intervention thresholds for potholes and pavement repairs to maximise pedestrian, cyclist and vehicular safety on our roads; also to address the many loose and rocking paving slabs that plague our vital high streets.

Gateway 14 news

Assan Panels has invested £45m on a new manufacturing facility at Gateway 14, their first in the UK. It has the capacity to produce up to 4.5 million square metres of insulated wall and roof panels each year – enough to supply around 450 large warehouses, factories and distribution centres annually. This is a further company building high tech sustainable building materials to locate in our district.

Local Government Reform

There is still a lot of uncertainty around this process, and until the Statutory Instrument is laid before parliament this will likely continue.

Mid Suffolk District Council remains focused on the delivery of services and supporting businesses and communities who are based in Mid Suffolk. However, where activities are required to prepare for possible new authorities we are proactively supporting this as we are mindful that we need to be as prepared as possible.

For the latest updates on Government's plans for reorganising our county, check out the website 'Future Suffolk' at www.suffolklgrhub.gov.uk. Questions and comments can be submitted via the 'Contact Us' form www.suffolklgrhub.gov.uk/contact

Maintenance work at Leisure Centres

A £1.2m maintenance programme at Mid Suffolk Leisure Centres will take place this summer at Stowmarket and Stradbroke.

There will be work to the roofs, external lighting upgrades, and some changing

room repairs. At Stowmarket the Leisure Centre will remain open throughout. At Stradbroke the pool will need to close for a couple of weeks over the summer.

Help available for residents who heat their home with oil

Mid Suffolk District Council has joined forces with local Citizens Advice services to reach residents who may be missing out on financial help with heating oil. MSDC is writing to residents who heat their homes with oil and may be eligible for help but have not yet accessed it.

Heating oil support can be accessed locally through Suffolk County Council's Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF), which replaced the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme on 1 April 2026. Residents struggling with essential costs or heating oil may be eligible for a crisis payment or a specific heating oil payment.

Locality Budget:

Reminder that our Locality Budget for 26/27 is up and running and we'd love to receive applications for funding from any community group across the ward. We're always happy to advise on eligibility and the application process and to forward you an application form. More details on the website at: <https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/locality-awards>.

Councillor drop-in sessions: We are always pleased for residents to meet with us at our monthly sessions, to share concerns or issues, or just to say hello.

Upcoming dates are:

Thursday 13th August 10 – 12 at Green Wolf Café, Woolpit

Tuesday 29th September 10 – 12 at the Wesley Café, Elmswell

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



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.

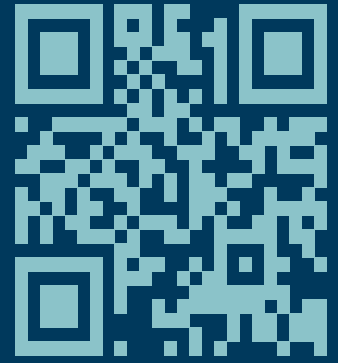
The next session will be on the Wednesday 19th August between 10:00 am and 12:00 noon.



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ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL JULY MEETING REPORT

The Parish Council meets at least once each month, sometimes excluding August if there is insufficient business, although extraordinary meetings can be called as required at any time. The July meeting with 9 Councillors present together with County Council Ward Member James Patchett, District Council Ward Member Jen Overett, the Parish Clerk Peter Dow and 26 members of the public took place at Blackbourne on Monday 20th. This report is compiled from that meeting by the Parish Clerk and edited by the Council's Editorial Board which comprises the Council Chairman, the Council Vice-chairman and Cllr Sue Roots, elected by her peers to join them. It seeks to cover some of the more interesting or significant items thought to deserve wider public attention. Included, where appropriate, are matters reported to the meeting by external bodies such as the County and District Council Ward Members or as raised at the meeting by members of the public. Further background and reference to subsequent events are included where relevant.

The Minutes of recent Parish Council meetings and Committee meetings when ratified, together with the agenda for the next meeting, are available online at elmswell-pc.gov.uk and from the Parish Clerk by arrangement. Bound copies of older Minutes are lodged in the Village Archive at Blackbourne and with the Suffolk County Records Office at The Hold in Ipswich. The most recent Minutes from meeting held on 15th June, as approved at this meeting, are posted in the Council's notice board at Crown Mill.

District Council

Cllrs Sarah Mansel & Jen Overett, Ward Members on Mid Suffolk District Council, tabled a Report which is printed elsewhere in this Newsletter.

County Council

Cllr James Patchett, Ward Member on Suffolk County Council, tabled a Report which is printed elsewhere in this Newsletter. Cllr Patchett confirmed that works at the A1088 roundabout and its environs should not be undertaken by volunteers given the serious hazard presented by the traffic there. Clearing of the vegetation is scheduled to take place twice yearly and this includes weed spraying using a properly specified herbicide.

Clerk's Report

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

- I circulated to Councillors the latest update on the Elmswell-Woolpit Community path which seems to have gained a genuine new impetus under the most recent change of management personnel. I suggest that a watching brief is appropriate in relation to this, as to any initiative which may impinge on the re-drafting of Elmswell's Neighbourhood Development Plan, given that the scheme might benefit from tangible community support and / or there might well be ancillary issues which the Plan might address.
- As Resolved at 26.05.15, along with Cllrs Schofield & Pallett and our RFO Ann Brett, I met with Jane Williams of JW Employment Law to review the Council's contracts of employment already in place and advise on those needed in light of the increase in the number of employees consequent upon the operation of the Elmswell Tavern. In wide-ranging open discussion the different challenges of employment in licensed hospitality premises were noted, including such as the allocation of tips,

working from home, split shifts and the possibility of clashes with any other employment undertaken concurrently. Jane's Report and Contract templates are expected soon.

- I copied to Councillors the presentation made at a Teams meeting I joined on Friday 10th July regarding the preparation of the BMSDC Joint Local Plan. The very early indications as to the immediate effect on Elmswell suggested some 700+ houses in the village within the 25 year Plan period. Whatever final site allocations are in the final document, it is clearly something which will impinge dramatically on the village and which will require mitigation / accommodation policies which accord with the all-important revised Elmswell Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). Any discrepancies can weaken the NDP influence on future planning decisions. This highlights the importance of our beginning the NDP Review process and I welcome feedback regarding the possibility of re-engaging with Ian Poole of Places 4 People who advised on the original or any other way forward.
Clear front-runners in the list of key issues to be addressed would seem to be the formulation of a 25 year strategy towards ensuring across-the board play and recreation provision for our youngsters including the location of and acquisition of land which this may well involve, together with mitigation of the ever-increasing traffic issues at Shop Corner and at the railway crossing. In the meantime, I have had no suggestions towards a response to the Survey regarding the Scoping Consultation as circulated on 5th June. Such surveys are very difficult to answer by consensus - ie proffering an opinion based on the views of 11 individuals - and might better be tackled on an individual basis?

The Meeting agreed that the individual response route was the best way forward.

Planning Results

The Meeting noted the following as notified by Mid Suffolk District Council as Planning Authority:

DC/26/01893 Discharge of Conditions Application DC/23/01172 Robins Nest, New Road
APPROVED
EPC did not comment

DC/26/02434 Tree Preservation works...St Johns House, Church Road
GRANTED
EPC - Delegated to Officer and made no comment

DC/26/01853 Removal or variation of Conditions DC/24/02890...Willow Farm, Ashfield Road
GRANTED
EPC - Delegated to Officer and made no comment

DC/26/02381 Application for works to trees...37 Oxer Close
GRANTED
EPC - Delegated to Officer and made no comment

DC/25/01578 Change of use pf land to gypsy and traveller site...Land at 5 The Caravans, Kiln Lane
GRANTED
EPC objected

DC/26/03052 Discharge of Conditions re alterations to fenestration...Former Grampian Harris Site, St Edmunds Drive ref. 0846/13
EPC did not comment

Planning Applications

Councillors opted to defer to Planning officers and make no comment on Application ref. DC/26/02981 for works to a tree protected by a Tree Preservation Order at Oak Tree House, Spong Lane.

They voted to support the Application ref. DC/26/02706 for the *change of use of agricultural land to secure*

recreational dog exercise paddock... erection of perimeter fencing 1.8 metres height on land at Grove Lane but urged that any Permission be conditioned with regard to the perimeter fencing. The specified option is industrial security steel mesh at 1.9metres height. It was agreed that, at this prominent site in the rural setting of Grove Lane, the Proposal would, if successful, result in an unacceptable imposition on the street scene by way of a stark urban fenceline of a height which would dominate. This fence could be lower, as per other such dog exercise paddocks locally, and of a more sympathetic design.

Crown Mill

The Meeting agreed that Council engages Kompan UK to supply and install pre-school / toddler play equipment on land at Crown Mill facing Crabtree Meadow as specified in their Quotation ref. SQ322979-1 for a sum not to exceed £25,161.07 net of VAT and that a further sum of £2,500.00 net of VAT be allocated towards environmental enhancement of the site.

Public forum

There are two points in the meeting when public question or comment is invited. The following were among the points raised:

- The proposed Play Garden on the village's land at Crown Mill opposite Crabtree Meadow for pre-school / toddler children drew objections which included that it should be sited on the main Crown Mill greenspace fronting Station Road, that there had been insufficient consultation given the number of representations on Facebook and at Council meetings, the site is too small, £25k could be better spent elsewhere, there is no need for such a facility, the matter of play facilities in the village should be the subject of a strategic review, the village cannot afford this unless and until the Tavern project begins to repay the investment made in it, the project is motivated by revenge for the failed attempt to have a house built on the plot, the Amenities Association grant aid is improper, quotations were not sought for the work.

- The clean-up of the roundabout at A1088 had been driven by volunteers from the village.
- Certain footpaths, notably FP 9 from Station Road up to Blackbourne, are very overgrown.
- The Tavern project could seriously drain Council's reserves given the increase in employment costs.
- There is an immediate need for a recreational bicycle facility for youngsters as seen in other places locally and this could be realised at Grove Lane, Clay Field or Turners' Field.

Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Meeting of Council was scheduled for 17th August, as necessary, 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.

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

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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.

Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
17 th	21 st	19 th	16 th	21 st

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

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Wesley

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Kids' summer snack pack

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We Are Wesley

We Are Wesley

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)	aaa@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.Mansell@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	rcsdann@btinternet.com	07917 013846
Gardening Club	Wendy Walker	elmswellgadmin@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	aaa@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	
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	

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**IF YOU ARE NOT HAPPY THAT YOUR DETAILS APPEAR HERE,
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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.

August 2026

- Elmswell Gardening Club No Meeting**
- 5 Elmswell WI Afternoon 2.00 pm John Sutton Route 66 in the USA
 - 9 Elmswell cc versus Nowton at Blackbourne
 - 13 Elmswell Over 55's Club Haughley Hoofers
 - 23 Elmswell cc versus Hadleigh at Blackbourne
 - 27 Elmswell Over 55's Club Basket Meal and Elmswell Ukulele Band

September 2026

- 2 Elmswell WI Afternoon 2.00pm Service by Emergency Response Volunteers Work of SERV as Emergency Responders
- 7 2pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - Alison Roberts "My life's pathway"
- 10 Midday Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church

- 10 Elmswell Over 55's Club Mystery Tour
- 10 *Annual Subs Due* ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Darren Dordoy: Stowmarket's 1871 Gun Cotton Explosion
- 15 Elmswell Gardening Club, 7.30pm Speaker Ruth Goudy 'Plan a Beautiful Border', Wesley Chapel
- 21 Elmswell Gardening Club, 7.30pm Speaker Ruth Goudy 'Plan a Beautiful Border', Wesley Chapel
- 24 Elmswell Over 55's Club Harvest Supper and Bingo

October 2026

- 5 2pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - Tony Diamond "The 6 wives of Henry V111"
- 7 Elmswell WI Afternoon 2.00pm Sabine Dornbusch Bury Drop-in
- 8 Midday Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church
- 8 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Grant Bage: Ipswich Football Legend, Sir Alf Ramsey

- 8 Elmswell Over 55's Club Medley of Fun
- 20 Elmswell Gardening Club, 7.30pm Speaker Geoff Hodge 'Happy Houseplants', Wesley Chapel
- 22 Elmswell Over 55's Club Ray Smith (may be a bit of LineDancing)

November 2026

- 2 2pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - John Sutton "Travels in the USA Part 1"
- 4 Elmswell WI Afternoon 2.00pm Stephen Moody Origin & History of Christmas Traditions
- 5 Elmswell Over 55's Club Bangers and Mash and Bingo
- 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
- 17 Elmswell Gardening Club, 7.30pm Annual General Meeting and Quiz, Wesley Chapel

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 7pm at Wesley – em.mcnorth8@gmail.com

CIRCLE DANCING - Thursdays 1.45 – 3.15 jenlerner@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 / CIRCUITS - Mondays 7.00pm & 7.50pm 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

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: August 25th, September 22nd, October 27th, November 24th, December 22nd, January 19th

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

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

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