

'Like a friend dropping in'



The Elmswell Newsletter



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

APRIL 2026

On line at elmswell.suffolk.cloud

Elmswell Tavern

EST. 1856
REBORN 2026

OPENING WEEK:

WEDNESDAY 22ND APRIL

Bar only, come down and have a look!

THURSDAY 23RD APRIL

Training dinner, invitation only. Bar open to drinks walk-ins

FRIDAY 24TH APRIL

50% off food lunch & dinner, booking required

SATURDAY 25TH APRIL

50% off food lunch & dinner, booking required

SUNDAY 26TH APRIL

25% off food lunch and dinner, booking required

MONDAY 27TH-THURSDAY 30TH APRIL

Open for lunch and dinner, business as usual!

FRIDAY 1ST MAY

LAUNCH PARTY!

Live entertainment

Food & drinks tastings

Kids entertainer

From 5pm | No booking required

For dinner reservations please email info@elmswelltavern.com or scan the QR code



Welcome from our
General Manager -
Nadia Tunmore

SEE
CENTRE
PAGES



Our editorial is designed to inform and to encourage debate.

If you wish to comment, please do so via the office or by email at; eaa@elmswell.org.uk

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

For the first time in over 300 years, Elmswell does not have an open, functioning pub. By a strange accident of fate, the Fox closed for refurbishment just 3 weeks before the Elmswell Tavern is, 'reborn', when it opens to add to and to widen the proven Wesley offering of community welcome. Meanwhile, pub-less, it's not the drink we'll miss. It's the people.

The name, 'pub', carries a lot of baggage. From the urban gin palaces that emerged after the Beerhouse Act of 1830 to the Friday night booze-up frittering away a week's wage and leaving the kids starving, there remains a frisson of the slightly improper. But the origins speak of a deeper and less insidious back-story. The *tabernae* of Roman times and the later Anglo-Saxon alehouses were naturally formed social centres, often crucial for travellers in terms of sustenance and a bed, but equally so for local populations as places where the irrepressible needs for social intercourse and community interaction could be met. By the late 1400s, alehouses, taverns, and inns collectively became recognized as public houses. Today, they have shifted from traditional smoke-filled, drinking-focused locals to family-friendly, food-oriented establishments. The lubricant of alcohol still figures in their success, but as zero-alcohol options become increasingly common, and as the male-dominated public bar archetype remains largely in Andy Capp cartoons, the essential nature of 'pub' shines through...the natural gathering place where, without commitment, membership or credentials, all are welcomed. Put simply, if the pub weren't around today, it would be immediately invented.



Of course, it's not all been as gently and universally beneficial as here suggested – not all a pot of ale and safety. Alcohol, the drug on which the pub world pivots, can be, and is, socially destructive and a killer. The brewing and selling of the stuff has given rise to international conglomerates with an insatiable appetite for gobbling up smaller fry and reducing choice both of what we drink and where we drink it. Whole towns, Bury St Edmunds included, have relied on a single brewing behemoth for their core prosperity. Many, 'brands', have become just that - a badge guaranteeing a standardised, measured experience at a price tested across a market of millions. From Wetherspoons' national grip on the bargain boozier to the 'Little Chef' blandness of some of the pubco chains, often the community element, although much vaunted along with the ubiquitous, 'locally sourced ingredients', yields magnolia meals and insipid ales

efficiently delivered with little chance for social interaction other than the discussion over the Service Charge.

The old brew houses - accepting that this may be a myth invented by the users of such establishments – opened early and closed late to bookend the long working day of the labouring class who could not trust that the local water supply was safe to drink in quantity. The brewing process kills off harmful bacteria, and the resultant 'small beer' was safer, and tasted better. The alcohol content was less than half of what today's industry commonly produces, but the chance to meet and greet and exchange gossip, reminiscences, stories and myth remains at about the same strength. Pubs were, and are, for people.

The key deleterious element to the current corporate approach is the lack of social commitment. Elmswell is aware and is wary. See page 28 where we mark a step in the upgrading of play facilities for the younger end of our community. This chimes with the gradually emerging realisation that they are being robbed in their crucial formative years, of interaction with other sentient human beings of their own age by the tech giants who, having wormed their insidious deranged and corrosive ways into the hard-wiring of the doom-scrolling parents, take poisonous algorithmic aim at our children. Undermining adolescence, killing 'play'.

Our parish council is well-served by ex-education professionals and their awareness of the paucity of play is informing more initiatives to address the shortcomings for our youngest cohort as well. If the next Council shares this moral-mission priority, the more space-hungry provision for the difficult to cater for pre-teen and teenage residents should remain an aspiration.

For the grown-ups, there is organised play, largely involving the moving of a ball from a to b within an arcane set of rules, and there is organised community in the clubs and societies. But for somewhere to just wander in without the need for invitation or belonging, a play area for adults, we have just our churches - and there is Wesley. Stalwarts all, and of enormous benefit, but hidebound and constrained by history and perception so that many of our number do not feel inclined to wander in.

In the days of Dobbin Burch, seen here in the 1960's with his ferret in The Elmswell Fox, the village was made manifest in the pub. Far more restricted than would be considered



Dobbin & ferret – normally kept in the sack he is holding

seemly or sensible today, the public bar offered a safe place to play. Blame Covid, blame the internet or blame recessionary pressures, but we do not have anywhere to commonly serve as a campfire in the dark, a focus for gathering with no excuse needed to come or to go.

We are now a disparate population, unlike Dobbin whose family was then, and is now, part of a close-weave fellowship needing no back-story or credentials. They belonged, and if we are to continue to benefit from such cohesion, we need to engineer opportunities into our day-to-day.

The Fox will remain, after its current smartening-up, an adjunct to village life at the whim of its owners.

The Tavern is also answerable to its owners. There are, currently, 4140 of them. If you are on Elmswell's electoral roll, you are one such. They choose our parish council who chose to secure our approval for buying the Tavern and who have chosen, wisely thus far it would seem, to develop the natural affinity with the overwhelmingly successful Wesley project and to include a 'community premium' into the bottom line.

As with the brewing giants, It's all about the shareholders. It's all about profit. But it is key to the Wesley-Tavern project that the 'profit' need not be monetised. Their value in helping knit community ties and bonds and friendships is priceless.



...community ties and bonds...



ELMSWELL ART CLUB

This month, we would like to showcase some of our members' works involving images of local interest. Our first painting is an excellent watercolour by Ann Smith, entitled "Tidal Mill Woodbridge".



The Tide Mill, Woodbridge is one of only a handful in the world still producing flour on a regular basis and among the first tide mills in the country, working on the same site for over 850 years. The earliest record of a tide mill on this site by the River Deben is in 1170. By the 1950s it had become the last working tide mill in the country, but in 1957 it finally closed. It was saved in 1968, restored and opened to the public in 1973. Recently, further protection and restoration work has brought it back into use as a fully working tide mill as well being a fascinating and remarkable living example of our industrial and cultural heritage.

Next, we can see Jo Hales' fine watercolour painting of the Manor House in Little Norton; Jo says that she passes the Manor House every time she goes for a bike ride!



Manor Farm is a very attractive historic property in the hamlet of Norton Little Green in Suffolk. The house has architectural fragments which date back to the Medieval period.

Our third image is this wonderful picture of Snape Maltings, produced in acrylic paints by Norman Tharby;



Snape Maltings sits on the bank of the River Alde, surrounded by an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, just six miles from Aldeburgh. Snape Maltings is famous for the Snape Maltings Concert Hall, established by Benjamin Britten, and opened by HM Queen Elizabeth in 1967

Finally, John Simpson has created this imaginative montage of images, entitled "Ipswich Past & Present"



John originally planned to enter this into a competition but, unfortunately, he missed the submission entry date! Nevertheless, it is very thought evoking as it includes many Ipswich landmarks, historical events and famous faces from the town.

If you would like to see more of our pictures, why not visit our Art Show & Sale which will take place on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th April 2026 at the Wesley.

Entry to the show is free and there will be a prize draw.



Eddie Douglas

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ELMSWELL ART CLUB

2026 ART SHOW & SALE

ORIGINAL WORKS BY LOCAL ARTISTS

**SATURDAY 25th APRIL
& SUNDAY 26th APRIL**

10AM TO 4PM

THE WESLEY HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, ELMSWELL

DISPLAYS OF OTHER CRAFTS CREATED BY OUR MEMBERS WILL BE ON SHOW AND AVAILABLE FOR SALE

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

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AROUND & ABOUT



ELMSWELL FOOTPATH WALK

Sunday 15th March 2026

On a day vastly improved from that of the February walk 12 parishioners and 1 pair of shorts met at the village sign with the prospect of a much more agreeable social bumble around the byways of Elmswell.



A right and left took us through the Elmtree Business Park with a further right and left on to Hall Lane meeting up with FP12.

After some 200m FP12 turned left and then right on to the diverted route on the north side of the railway track.

Now heading westish, we safely negotiated the newly constructed steps,

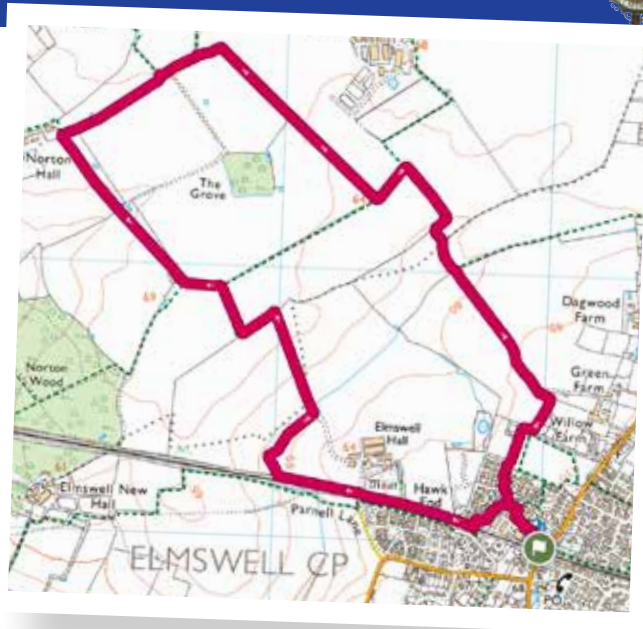
crossed Parnell Lane and continued on to FP13 continuing alongside the railway and turning right after the footbridge.

A further right successfully completed the circumnavigation of Elmswell Hall and a left put us on a northerly heading up the slope.

Crossing into the parish of Norton FP13 became FP7 and this had not been walked by the group for some time due to the parlous state of the underfoot conditions.

Over the footbridge and a left, a right and a further left at the junction with FP35 had the group heading towards the familiar sight of the old barn at the junction with FP23.

Continuing on FP7 we pressed on towards Norton Hall turning right on to FP20 just before the farmyard. 700m took us past the junctions with FP21 and FP29 after which we turned right at FP31.



Now heading south east and after a further 800m we turned left on to FP31 and right on to FP32 and hence into the haven of Elmswell and on to FP1.

Passing various farms and horse meadows on the left we crossed the footbridge and wound our way back through the houses to Crown Mill.

A welcome dry walk of approximately 4.15 miles in 1 hour and 31 minutes (an average speed of 2.7 miles per hour).

Peter Hancock, EPC Footpath Officer



APRIL'S FOOTPATH WALK WILL BE ON SUNDAY 12th APRIL STARTING AT 10.30 AT THE VILLAGE SIGN AT CROWN MILL



WESLEY UKULELE BAND

Gosh! It's the end of March and a quarter way through the year. Doesn't time fly when you're having fun.

March has been a busier month with six gigs. The usual monthly turns at Nowton Court and Time Out Club, with a return to the Over 60's at Barrow and the Salvation Army in Stowmarket. New venues for us were at Wyverstone Village Hall and Rattlesden Pavillion. Kevin got a very nice phone call from a lady from Rattlesden, who said that it was the best entertainment they had had and that we would be invited back in the future. Can we have bigger hats, please?

Our picture, this month, show the group posing at Barrow.

By the time you read this epistle, we will have played at the Wesley for our 'Spring Ding A Ling' in aid of the new Children's Hospital being built next to Addenbrookes in Cambridge. Whilst not strictly a 'Ukes' do, most of the performers come from the band and will be showing off their talents as individuals and various groups. It should be an entertaining evening.

'Til next time. Take care.

Or email: Kevin.Knock99@gmail.com



KH

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



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EXCHANGE WI

Mary welcomed everyone to the meeting. Our speaker this month was Reverend Alison Roberts and her talk was about her journey to becoming a vicar.

As a child Alison attended Sunday School and church parade as a Brownie and Guide but she first felt she needed to go to church at the age of nineteen. She had a crash on her moped which was ruined but fortunately she only suffered bruising. She then started attending church regularly and joined the choir and was confirmed.

In 1986 after she was married, they moved to Stowupland in Suffolk. At first she didn't attend church as she was busy settling into a new job and home. Alison first attended a Remembrance service and on her second visit joined the choir and eventually was a member of the PCC and became the secretary and was involved with fundraising. She then joined a Home group one Lent and found she was more knowledgeable than she thought. Alison found things were falling into place and went on an Exploring Vocations course and became a Lay Elder. She was able to take simple services and lead prayer and Bible study groups.

In 2010 she was asked if she would like to become a priest. She attended a Bishop's advisory panel with other people for three days. At the end the recommendation was no, not yet. After that her work life was busy and her marriage was falling apart.

Alison decided to look at ordination again when full time work had finished and she was now divorced. This time the answer was yes so she could begin her training as an auxiliary ordinand. The training took place at the Bishops house during evenings and Saturdays. The first step was to become a Licensed Deacon which restricts which services Alison could take and then in June 2025 Alison was ordained. The curacy training takes three years but Alison is now able to take all forms of services. Alison does not want to be appointed to a church so will stay with Haughley, Wetherden and Stowupland.

Alison had brought some of her stoles along and explained the significance they had to various times in the Christian calendar.

Alison's talk about her journey to ordination was interesting and thought provoking. The competition was a religious item/artefact. First was Marguerite, second was Barbara Carter and third was Jan.

Our speaker next month is Heather Frick and her subject is "All about Fostering". The competition is an item made from wood.

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Carol Blissett 242884

ELMSWELL OVER 55's

We had a lovely evening on Thursday 12th March – delicious pie and mash prepared by Sharon and Barry who were assisted by Hazel and Charlotte, so a big thank you to you all. Also massive thanks to all committee members and club members who helped us clear up, we could not do it without you guys. Members also enjoyed a medley of fun quizzes.

Thursday 26th March Bob Whiting entertained us all and we held our Easter draw, thank you to all who contributed.

We are looking forward to April with Natter and Nibbles on 9th April (although not April Fool's Day there may just be a surprise along the way!) then Stew and Dumplings followed by Bingo on 23rd April.

Look forward to seeing you all again.

New members are always welcome, 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.

Regards Kay and Sharon



ELMSWELL WI

Terry welcomed our speaker for the evening, Charlie De-Moore, who has been the Events Fundraiser at St. Nicholas Hospice for the last eleven years. The Hospice was founded by a wonderful man called Canon Richard Norburn in 1983. He believed that there should be care and support in the local community, for people at the end of their lives. At first, there was only one nurse, who visited patients in their homes but eventually, money was raised for the first residential home. Princess Diana opened the present building in 1993 and the catchment area includes West Suffolk and Thetford. Patients are referred when they are terminally-ill. There is specialist palliative care and a patient's needs and choice of treatment are assessed by consultation with specialist medical staff and the family. There are no visiting hours, so families may be with their loved ones at any time. A lot of fund-raising takes place, in order to keep the Hospice functioning and hundreds of volunteers provide valuable support in many ways, including looking after the beautiful garden. There is also education for medical students and nurses. Some patients prefer to be in their homes and there is an outreach team to support them. There is a family room and guest suite and bereavement counselling available for family members. It costs £9.5 million per year to keep the Hospice functioning - £26,000 per day and there is a short-fall of £18,000, so successful fund-raising is vital. There are seven charity shops, sponsored events: walks, sky-diving, The Hidden Gardens of Bury, local businesses, as well as legacies and grants. The wonderful, caring staff are exceptional and are the key to providing a pain-free, dignified end of life in a warm, relaxed comfortable place. Next month, we shall learn more about food sensitivity. *Rosie Collins 01359 241652*



HOME START

Suffolk

Meet your Community

Wesley Hall, 11 School Road,
Elmswell IP30 9EE

Thursday 23rd April 2026,
9.30am - 11:30am

Open to everyone in Elmswell, this free event aims to help people build connections, discover local services and support and feel more involved in village life.

For more information about this event, please contact Wendy on 07564 090906 or email wendy@homestartinsuffolk.org

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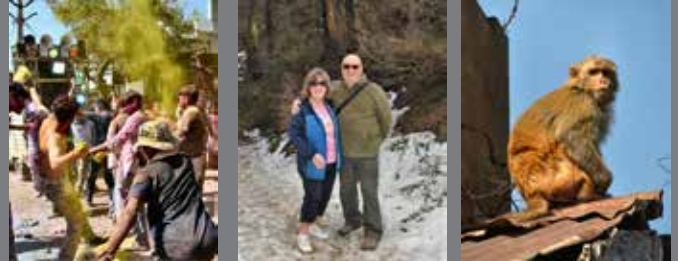
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TRAVEL STOP

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After five unforgettable weeks travelling across India, Bridget and Paul are now at the end of their adventure.

It's been an incredible journey filled with culture, colour and new experiences. Here's a glimpse of some of the moments they captured.



Get in touch to start planning your next Indian adventure!

Please note that from February, the office will be open for walk-ins and appointments on Thursdays from 9am to 4pm. We will be contactable by phone and email Monday to Saturday.

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ELMSWELL LIBRARY

Hello Elmswell,

I hope you all have a good Easter.

Our **Mahjong group** is going to become a weekly club from **Friday 10th April**. Come along at 3.15pm every Friday to the group to play with others. If you are interested but do not know how to play, it is open to beginners as well as experienced player.

Elmswell Library Friends are putting on the next **quiz** 6pm on **Friday 17th April**. Tickets are £6 each with maximum team size of 6 people. There is limited space so booking in advance at the library is required.

Our next **picture bingo** is 10.30am on **Thursday 9th April**. We have got Easter themed bingo cards this time. All prizes are kindly paid for by Elmswell Library Friends from events such as the quiz and donations.

Our **Crochet and Chat** is going well. It is on weekly from **10am on Thursday mornings**. Come along to carry on your projects with others or to learn how to crochet. They welcome other textile crafts so if you fancy chatting while knitting or doing cross-stitch then you are more than welcome to join.

Our next display is of graphic novels and graphic non-fiction. This display will be a mix of genres from superhero and fantasy to graphic memoirs to adaptations of classics. There will be stuff for if you enjoy graphic novels or for if you fancy giving one a go for the first time. They are great for all sorts of people, some with a lot of text in and some which are also good for people who find text a struggle and would enjoy reading books made for adults but with pictures.

See you in the library soon,

Miles

What's on

ELF Quiz

6pm Friday 17th April

Picture Bingo

10.30am Thursday 9th April

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 4th April (every
1st Saturday of the month)

Writing Group

6pm Thursday 2nd April (every
1st Thursday of the month)

Chess Club

4.30pm Thursday 9th April (every
2nd Thursday of the month)

Fantastical Book Club

11am Saturday 25th April (every 4
weeks) - ask in the library for this
month's book.

The Keep in Touch Community

Café

10.30am Wednesday 16th April at the
Wesley Café (every 3rd Wednesday of the
month except August and December)

Catch Up In The Library

2.30pm every Wednesday

Gwel's visits

3.30pm – 4.30pm Tuesday 7th
April (every 1st Tuesday of the month)

Opening times

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 10am – 1pm
and 2pm – 7pm

Wednesday: 2pm – 5pm

Thursday: 10am – 1pm
and 2pm – 7pm

Friday: 2pm – 5pm

Saturday: 10am – 1pm

Sunday: 10am – 3pm



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

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

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

**The next session will be on the 22nd April
between 10:00 am and 12:00 noon.**



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FINISHING TOUCH

A parting gift for Dapper Dogs: a small selection of quality, handmade treats from local East Anglian businesses.



CITIZENS ADVICE MID SUFFOLK

I bought a doll for my child recently. I thought it was manufactured by a well-known brand, but I suspect it might be counterfeit. How can I be sure and what are my rights?

You're right to seek advice about this issue, because counterfeit goods aren't only illegal, they can be dangerous.

Fake children's toys in particular, including dolls, often don't meet safety standards and can pose choking hazards - poor manufacturing can mean small parts are easily detachable.

Counterfeit goods are fake products designed to mimic the authentic ones sold by genuine brands. Sometimes it's easy to spot a knock-off, other times it can be harder to tell.

It's not just toys and games - things like clothing, footwear, e-cigarettes, perfumes and media devices can also be counterfeit.

Things to watch out for include strangely low prices from well-known brands and signs of poor quality - like missing security seals, bad or non-existent packaging,

blurry logos and poor stitching. You may also spot some spelling mistakes in the advert or on the packaging.

Looking at photos from official sellers can help when making comparisons, and it's important to only buy products from reputable sellers.

If you have purchased a counterfeit item, there are some steps you can take to try and get your money back. You're legally entitled to a full refund on fake goods within 30 days of your purchase. If it's been over 30 days since you paid, but less than six months, the seller can provide you with a real version of the item first. If they can't, then they're legally required to give you a full refund.

If you paid more than six months ago, you're only entitled to a part-refund based on how much you've used the item and how long you've had it.

Sometimes sellers might refuse to refund you, and argue the items were obviously fake because they were very cheap, but they're breaking the law by selling them and your legal rights still apply.

If this happens and you paid by debit card, contact your bank and ask to use the 'chargeback scheme'. If you paid by credit card and the item cost less than £100, you can ask to use the same scheme.

If you paid by credit card and the item cost between £100 and £30,000, tell your credit card company you want to make a 'section 75' claim to get your money back. To report counterfeit goods or get help getting your money back, contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Service. You can also report a seller to Trading Standards, which investigates criminal activity.

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide in depth advice on this issue and much more, including debt, finances, employment, benefits and family/relationships. You can contact them by phone on 01449 676060, visit in person at Milton House, 5 Milton Road South, Stowmarket IP14 1EZ or use the contact form at midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us. Opening hours are Monday-Thursday 9.30am – 3.30pm and Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm.

**citizens
advice**

Mid Suffolk

ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB

This month's speaker was Paul Hansord, a passionate gardener and compost enthusiast who retired from Thompson and Morgan in 2018. Paul took us through the history of compost production from the development of John Innes products in the 1930's, which we still see today in many bags of compost at the garden centre, to the peat free products being developed ahead of the peat ban in 2030.

Peat free composts can contain a range of materials from composted bark, wood fibre, green waste, seaweed and coir with the all-important added fertilisers that will feed plants grown in them. The added fertilisers are typically a blend of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium and can feed the plants grown in them from 3 weeks to several months. The blend of fertiliser included in the mix, will suit different uses so it's always worth checking the bags for details of the feed length and blend. These controlled release or slow-release fertilisers are plastic coated so alternatives are being trialled that give the same release of

nutrients over the desired time period.

Paul is a fan of coco-based peat free composts, so much so that he has developed his own product, Eazy Grow Compost and came out of retirement to run his business

in conjunction with his daughter. The results of trials with Eazy Grow were impressive and has won the product five Which? Best Buy awards. The photo shows the difference compost quality can make to one petunia plant. Needless to say, the bags of compost he brought with him to the meeting sold like hot potatoes! I am also going to give it a try for potting on my veg and flower seedlings currently growing in the greenhouse.

Our speakers for the next few meetings are:

April 21st – Chris Wiley 'Hellebores'

May 19th – Ian Bedford 'Insects, Six of the Best'



June 16th – Jim Paine 'Trees for all Seasons'

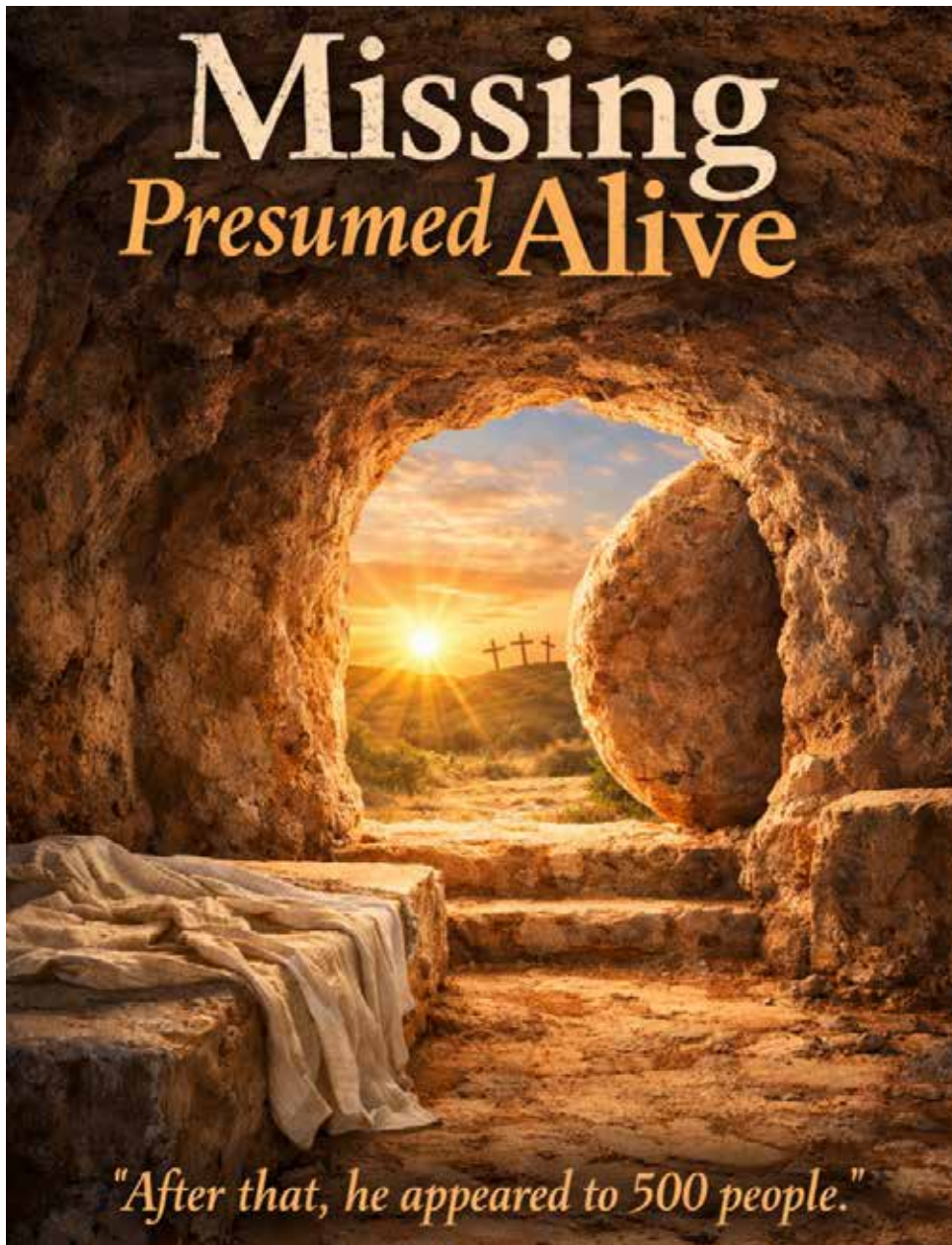
All meetings start at 7.30pm in Wesley Chapel, School Road. Whether you are an experienced home gardener or just starting out there is always something new to learn or ideas to take home to your own garden. We also hold a raffle, have a donation table and provide refreshments at each meeting. Non-members are always welcome and you may make some new friends. There is a small fee for non-members of £5 for each meeting.

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

Wendy

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





ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Happy Easter from St John's Church

"It is a thing most wonderful, almost too wonderful to be, that God's own Son should come from heaven, and die to save a child like me."

William Walsham How

It is easy to assume Christmas lies at the heart of the Christian faith. However, as important as Christmas may be, the centre point of the Christian faith is actually Easter weekend. For, it is at Easter time that we remember how Jesus died on a cross to save us from our sin and then rose again victorious on Easter Sunday.

Our focus on Easter Sunday this year is the sheer number of people that Jesus appeared to alive again. There was no doubt Jesus had died on Good Friday. His side had been pierced with a spear and his body wrapped in linen and laid in a tomb. On Easter Sunday morning that tomb was found empty. The religious

leaders attempted to cover up the fact Jesus had risen again, by claiming his dead body had been stolen by his followers. But this cover up totally failed, because the risen Jesus appeared to over 500 people during the following days. This is the great news of the Christian faith – death has been defeated by Jesus and we are all invited to eternal life by coming to him in faith.

If you would like to find out more about this extraordinary message, pop along to St John's on Sunday. We would love to meet you. You are guaranteed a warm welcome. Details of our services are below.

It has been a busy few weeks at St John's. At the beginning of March, a number of us learned essential life-saving skills. There was also a Ladies Brunch, a Messy Church Easter special and various other "Holy Week" services, all alongside our usual services and small groups that seek to learn more about our amazing God. During April,

we will be holding our annual meetings and, towards the end of the month, are looking forward to welcoming the local uniformed organisations to a special St George's Parade Service. We also plan to have a Men's Breakfast on Saturday 25 April in the Church Room.

Upcoming Dates:

- Sun 5 Apr** 10:30am
Easter Sunday Family Communion
- Sun 12 Apr** 10:30am
Sunday Worship with Holy Communion
- Sun 19 Apr** 10:30am
Service with annual meetings
- Sat 25 Apr** 8:30am
Men's Breakfast
- Sun 26 Apr** 9:00am
Holy Communion
- Sun 26 Apr** 10:30am
All Age Parade Service
- Sun 3 May** 9:00am
Holy Communion
- Sun 3 May** 10:30am
Family Service

Every Saturday:

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

We live stream most of the 10:30am services on our Facebook page (also available on our main web site later that day).

- Rector:** Peter Goodridge
- Email:** elmswellrector@gmail.com
- Tel:** 01359 240512
- Web site:** www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk
- Facebook:** www.facebook.com/stjohnselmswell
- YouTube:** www.youtube.com/@stjohnselmswell



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

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 that after 31 years of asking for £5 for a night's floodlighting, we reluctantly decided to increase this amount, from the beginning of January, to £10.

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

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

During April the lights will be on between 7.30 p.m. and midnight.

The deadline for inclusion in the May Newsletter is Monday 20th April.

Your support is very much appreciated.

Thank you.

APRIL 2026 SPONSORSHIPS

- 5 to remember and thank all those past Elmswell Fire-Fighters who have served their village and community so well.
- 9 remembering Grace Rush, a dear Mum, Grandma and Great Grandma, on her Birthday.
- 10 loving memories of David Begg on his Birthday. From all his family.
- 12 remembering Cecil Salmon, a wonderful family man, who is greatly missed and never forgotten.
- 14 remembering Carl Finch on the anniversary of his death in 1999.
- 14 in memory of Ray Borrett's Birthday.
- 17 in loving memory of Jane Goodchild. Love, Colin. xx.
- 22 for Teasel. "25 years and never forgotten". With all my love.
- 23 remembering Carl Finch on St. George's Day.
- 28 Ruth Francis.
Those we love don't go away
They walk beside us every day
Unseen, unheard, but always near
Still loved, still missed, and very dear. "We all miss you so much Nana Ruth".
Love always from all the Grandchildren. xxxx.
- 28 Ruth Francis. Three years have gone since you left us, and not a day goes by when we are not thinking of you, and you are still dearly missed. "Love you always" Janet & Roy, Irene & Barry, Peter & Linda.
- 28 in loving memory of our Mum, Nan and Great Nan, Ruth Francis. "We miss you so much". Love, Janet, Irene, Linda, and families. xxx.

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

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY, STOWMARKET

Parish Priest:

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

MASS TIMES:

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

Sundays – 8.30am & 10.15am

Our Lady's, Stricklands Road,
Stowmarket IP14 1AW

Holy Days – 10am & 7.30pm

Our Lady's Strickland Road Stowmarket

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

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



ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

The resurrection is central to the Christian faith and is one of the most well documented and reliably recorded events of human history. The biggest evidence of the resurrection is the complete change in the disciples after they had met with the risen Jesus. They changed from being a terrified group hiding behind locked doors to being prepared to stand up in front of thousands proclaiming that Jesus was the long awaited Messiah, that he had risen from the dead and lives for evermore. If you'd like to experience a complete change in your life, come and join us at Easter, either at Crown Mill on Good Friday (April 3rd at 10am) and/or on Easter Sunday (April 5th at 10.30am) in the chapel. Or if you don't get to read this before Easter, come along on any Sunday morning at 10.30am. You can be assured of a warm welcome.

The usual Good Friday (April 3rd) gathering organised by Christians Together in Elmswell will be on Crown Mill (by the village sign and play area) at 10am. A short time "around the cross" to think about the sacrifice Jesus made for you and for me. Hot-cross buns afterwards.

On Easter Sunday (April 5th) we are holding a Songs of Praise at 10.30am, come along for a rousing sing-a-long!

Food 'n' Friends meet at Midday on Thursday April 9th when senior citizens gather for a soup and a roll, pudding, cheese and biscuits and tea or coffee, for a donation of whatever you can afford, and plenty of time to chat. ALL older folk are welcome.

Contact Dorothy on 01359 245811 for more info.

The Ladies Friendship Group meet on Monday April 13th at 2pm when Pip Wright will be talking about "Suffolk Smugglers". ALL ladies are welcome.

Phone Margaret on 07926 753882 for more details.

We are grateful to all those who come to preach and lead worship each week. Our preachers at our 10.30am services in the coming weeks are as follows:-

April 5th Communion and **Easter** Songs of Praise

April 12th Stephen Spurgeon – intro to the seven churches in Revelation

April 19th Rev. Reg Craig – the church in Ephesus

April 26th Rev. Reg Craig – the church in Smyrna

May 3rd Rev. Richard Edwards – inc Communion – the church in Pergamum

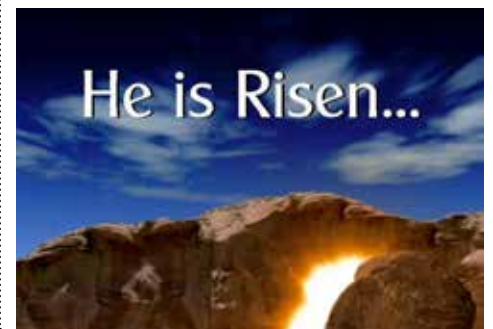
As you can see starting on April 12th and continuing through the rest of April and all of May we will be looking at the Letters to the Seven Churches in Revelation chapters 1-3, a chance to be reminded of what being a church (ie a body of people following Jesus) means. Do come and join us!

A warm welcome is extended to all who wish to participate in any of the above events.

Please visit our website for further info, email cockant2@btinternet.com or telephone 07784 095225.

Resurrection blessings.

Tony



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NEWS FROM ELMSWILD

Summer willow weaving

We're planning our programme of summer willow weaving courses, so it's time to make a note in the diary and make sure of your place. These courses will all be held in the lovely woodland setting of Lukeswood. We will be using our gazebo, so if the weather is fickle, don't worry – we'll be under cover! Tea, coffee and cold drinks will be available during all the courses. If you are joining the full-day course or doing both morning and afternoon courses please bring a packed lunch. All the courses will be led by our expert tutor, Jo Hammond.

There will be two half day courses on **Saturday 13 June**, both making garden decorations. In the morning we'll be making dragonflies which look stunning displayed as a group in a flower bed. In the afternoon the project is to make bulrushes – wonderful for making an architectural statement at the back of the border. The times are 9.30-12.30 for the morning course and 1.30-4.30 for the afternoon. You can, of course, book both courses and go home with a whole armful of amazing garden ornaments! The cost is £25 per person for each course. These pieces introduce different basketry skills, including twisting, wrapping and corn dolly weave. All the techniques will be demonstrated in easy stages, with plenty of help on hand. Our full day course will take place on **Saturday 11 July** and the project is to make a spiral border basket. These unusual baskets have an asymmetrical top, completed with a natural log handle. This is a good introduction to willow basket making; you will learn how to select the right materials, add stakes, weave and shape the sides, build a slanted border and secure the handle. The cost is £45 per person and the time for the course is 9.30-4.00.

Please email us to book your place – as soon as possible please, as the willow needs to be ordered and then prepared at least a week before the course takes place. Once you've reserved your place we'll let you know all the details, including how to pay. A wonderful opportunity to learn new skills in beautiful surroundings and in good company – don't miss it!



Lukeswood reaches a milestone

Lukeswood is a young woodland – it's just 16 years since we first started planting – but it's amazing how quickly the trees grow. Our work initially revolved around protecting the saplings and encouraging them to grow. Now we're beginning to cut them down! That may sound alarming, but rest assured it's a well-established technique for managing woodland to encourage new, healthy growth whilst creating a variety of different habitats to boost biodiversity. Coppicing is an ancient way of managing woodland that might date back even as far as Neolithic times. It involves cutting some trees – usually hazel, sweet chestnut, ash, willow, oak, lime, alder and hornbeam – to ground level or just above. This stimulates new growth from the remaining 'stool'. The resulting timber, mostly long straight poles, can be used for hurdles, fencing, garden supports, or even washing line props. The cutting, practiced on a long rotation of 7-20 years, allows more light to reach the forest floor which helps support a greater variety of flora, and it introduces different stages of growth amongst the trees, benefiting the structure of the woodland. This winter we started some selective coppicing in a small area of the established woodland. On your walks around Lukeswood you will notice some clearings where we have cut down the birch trees and coppiced the hazel down to ground level. You will see lots of log piles, which make useful habitats for all sorts of wildlife. Once cut down the stools need to be protected, otherwise the new growth will be eaten by rabbits or deer. To do this we pile the 'brash' (the cuttings) on top. If you see these, please don't move or disturb them – they are there for a purpose!

It's been an amazing journey – from planting to coppicing in just sixteen years – and we really feel that we've reached an important milestone in the history of Lukeswood. Our woodland has come of age.

Mary Feeny
info@elmswild.org.uk

Morning Sessions Available from
September 2026



ELMSWELL PRIMARY NURSERY SCHOOL

Registration is now open!

15 hours of free childcare for children born between
1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023 at our
school nursery.

- Led by a Qualified Teacher
- 'Woodland Explorers' Sessions
- Foundational Curriculum to ensure a strong start to school



Please call or email to find
out more!

Email: admin@elmswell.suffolk.sch.uk

Telephone: 01359 240261



Elmswell CP School
Oxer Road, Elmswell, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk
IP30 9UE



ELMSWELL ART CLUB

2026 ART SHOW & SALE

ORIGINAL WORKS BY LOCAL ARTISTS

**SATURDAY 25th APRIL
& SUNDAY 26th APRIL**



10AM TO 4PM

THE WESLEY HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, ELMSWELL

DISPLAYS OF OTHER CRAFTS CREATED BY OUR MEMBERS WILL BE ON SHOW
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NHS COVID Spring Booster Vaccination Programme

As we move into spring, we want to help our patients stay healthy and protected. COVID-19 is still with us, and for those at higher risk, a “booster” dose helps top up your protection.

Who can get the spring booster?

The booster is offered to the following people, who are most likely to get seriously ill from the virus:

- Aged 75 or over (or if you turn 75 by 30 June 2026).
- Living in a care home for older adults.
- Aged 6 months or over with a weakened immune system (for example, due to a health condition or treatment like chemotherapy).

Why should I get the booster?

Protection from previous doses or infections fades over time. Viruses can also change. An extra dose:

- Reduces your risk of getting very poorly.
- Helps you recover faster if you do catch it.
- Reduces the chance of needing to go to hospital.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Programme

From 1 April 2026, the eligibility criteria for this programme will change to allow people aged 80 years and over, and all residents in care homes for older adults, to receive the RSV vaccine on the NHS.

What is RSV?

RSV is a common cause of coughs and colds. Most people get it several times during their life.

It usually gets better by itself, but in some more vulnerable people it can lead to illnesses with serious breathing problems. These may need to be treated in hospital and can be life-threatening.

How to get your vaccinations

The national COVID spring booster programme starts on 13th April and runs through to 30th June.

Woolpit Health Centre has several large clinics planned in April and May.

Eligible patients will either receive an invitation by letter, or a text message with a link to book an appointment.

Housebound patients will be notified of their vaccination date by telephone.

Whilst the RSV vaccine can be given all year round, eligible patients will be offered co-administration of the RSV vaccine at their COVID spring booster appointment.

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of David Hawes, who lived in Elmswell for 82 years and participated fully in village life as a major contributor in so many ways.

Our condolences to Anna, pictured here, and to the extensive close family both here and abroad.

As David deserves, we will run a fuller account of him as one of Elmswell's community stalwarts when we mark his passing in our May edition.



ELMSWELL TAVERN

THERE'S NO GOING BACK!

The unique experiment begins this month. The village's own (literally, because we own it) community venture at the Elmswell Tavern kicks off in earnest.



HOW DID THIS HAPPEN - AND WHY?

Our Parish Council has, for many years, seen it as part of its job to try to match the considerable development pressures on the village by providing facilities to try to keep Elmswell, however big it gets, a great place to live. Hence its purchase of the Victorian Methodist chapel site which was destined to be developed as 4 homes and the Council's refurbishment / new build which gave us Wesley. That seems to have worked. In the middle of this project, with Covid blanketing our world with inaction, Greene King suddenly decided to sell their pub next door to Wesley. Councillors saw the enormous community benefit from having both sites under village ownership and, with the village's permission, bought the Tavern, lock stock and, literally, barrel, as a going concern.



THAT WAS IN 2020. WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?...LOTS!

The traditional route of establishing community pub ownership via a Community Interest Company founded as various funding opportunities proved inaccessible...meanwhile the Tavern continued to trade until closing at the back-end of 2022 having run as a successful community pub for 9 months providing many pointers in terms of the way forward. It became clear that the Parish Council was by far the best body to secure funding which, having taken on full responsibility, it did with a £500,000 grant from Mid Suffolk to add to the money already pledged from the community and its own reserves. We remain the only community in the country which owns and manages its own pub and the advantages of being able to meld with Wesley next door as one central village facility are already evident.

AND THEN, BY LUCK...

- From the Parish Council membership emerged a small team of skilled and dedicated individuals, key among them Cllr Fred Pallett who has, effectively, project-managed the refurbishment and new-build project which will have cost close to £1m. Fred's lifetime of experience in major multi-million pound construction schemes in the oil & gas industry has, applied in hundreds of hours of dedication to the Tavern cause, saved at least £100k in professional fees and hands-on-management costs.
- From the 11 interested builders who considered working with us to do the job emerged Stroods Specialist Contractors with considerable experience of working with Greene King and others on just such projects as ours and who rapidly became team-members contributing invaluable design and build experience...and they were the cheapest quote!
- From the village and immediate neighbourhood we have found excellent local contractors and, in particular Jake Finch whose skills and advice on the extensive ground works has been invaluable
- From a welter of interested parties when the post of General Manager was advertised emerged Nadia Tunmore who brings enthusiasm, personality and experience in equal measure and who has picked up several batons and run with them - see the poster for the Opening Week



Getting there

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

We disregard the Jeremiah's view that there has never been a worse time to open a pub. We are not opening a pub. We are adding to Wesley a whole new wealth of opportunities to meet and to come together in myriad ways as a community. We accept our mistakes, deal with the teething problems and welcome a new era for Elmswell.

Elmswell Tavern

EST. 1856
REBORN 2026

OPENING WEEK:

WEDNESDAY 22ND APRIL

Bar only, come down and have a look!

THURSDAY 23RD APRIL

Training dinner, invitation only. Bar open to drinks walk-ins

FRIDAY 24TH APRIL

50% off food lunch & dinner, booking required

SATURDAY 25TH APRIL

50% off food lunch & dinner, booking required

SUNDAY 26TH APRIL

25% off food lunch and dinner, booking required

MONDAY 27TH-THURSDAY 30TH APRIL

Open for lunch and dinner, business as usual!

FRIDAY 1ST MAY

LAUNCH PARTY!

Live entertainment • Food & drinks tastings • Kids entertainer

From 5pm | No booking required

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Wesley
 ELM SWELL

EST. 2020



The staff at Wesley are not only hard working, but talented.

Sharon's speciality is the table decorations which she crafts at her own expense to liven-up the tables she serves.

Recently we have had

SPRING



VALENTINE'S DAY



EASTER



Thank you, Sharon.



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THE ELSWELL BABY AND TODDLER NEARLY NEW SALE

The Elmswell Baby and Toddler Nearly New Sale has once again proven to be a huge success, with the latest event being the most successful to date. The March sale saw over 5,000 items sold, attracting more than 400 buyers and supported by 100 sellers from the local area. We did have buyers travel to visit family on the sale weekend from Cumbria & Surrey! Most buyers and sellers were more local but did extend to Lowestoft, Ely & Colchester. Amazing. Shoppers were able to browse a fantastic range of high-quality preloved items, while also enjoying a magnificent café offering hot drinks and a wonderful selection of donated cakes. The refreshments were a welcome treat for shoppers and their families, creating a warm and social atmosphere throughout the day.

The event was made possible thanks to an incredible team effort. Over 60 volunteers—the highest number ever—gave their time to ensure the sale ran smoothly. Support also came from local groups including the Elmswell Rainbows and Brownies, the Elmswell Under 6s football team, and many families from Elmswell Primary School.

We know parking was a challenge on the day, and we're really grateful to local residents for their patience and understanding. It means a lot to us. We're already looking at ways to minimise disruption and make parking easier for future sales, and we appreciate your continued support.



This sale also marks an important milestone, as coordinator Claire Fordham steps down after an extraordinary 16 years of dedication. Since volunteering at her first sale in September 2010, Claire has been involved with a remarkable 29 events,

playing a role in growing the sale into the thriving community event it is today. Alongside her work with the Nearly New Sale, she also served as Secretary of the Elmswell Baby and Toddler Group for 12 years.

Throughout her time, Claire has witnessed many changes—from manually organising labels late into the night to embracing new barcode systems that have transformed how the sale operates. Her commitment has been unwavering, even missing personal events to ensure the sale's success, and she has built a strong, supportive team along the way.

While stepping down as coordinator to spend more time with her family, Claire will remain involved and plans to return as a volunteer at the next sale in September, marking her 30th event. The team extends their heartfelt thanks for her years of dedication, hard work, and passion.

Plans are already underway for the next Nearly New Sale on 19th September 2026, with further updates—including news of a new coordinator—coming soon.





ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

A large appreciative audience enjoyed our March talk, “*Suffolk Connections with Darwin’s Voyage on the Beagle*”, extensively-illustrated and given by Roy Clare, a retired Royal Navy Rear Admiral. In fact, there were many Suffolk connections to Roy’s talk. Although now living in Essex, he himself started his naval career at Shotley’s HMS Ganges, and explained that the main Suffolk connection to the *Beagle*’s voyage was Robert FitzRoy of Euston Hall’s Grafton family, who’d been born in 1805 at Ampton Hall near Great Livermere. FitzRoy joined the navy at the age of 12 at Portsmouth Naval Academy, where he excelled in all his studies and, soon after completing these, he joined HMS *Beagle* on its first voyage, being a hydrographic surveying expedition to the southern tip of South America. This was to survey and chart that coast, specifically the treacherous waters of the Magellan Strait, to facilitate British trade. While that voyage did not include Charles Darwin, it established the *Beagle*’s reputation as a survey vessel and identified the Beagle Channel in Tierra del Fuego. Following the tragic

death of the ship’s captain, FitzRoy took command in December 1828 (at the age of 23) to sail back to England. Then, on the recommendation of his influential patron, Francis Beaufort, FitzRoy commanded the *Beagle*’s second expedition which was a round-the-world voyage, and included Charles Darwin. The Beaufort (wind)scale had recently been officially adopted by the Royal Navy and was used extensively on this five-year voyage under Captain FitzRoy, who later was to set up the Meteorological Office in Britain, giving regular weather forecasts. In the early 19th century, naval officers made regular weather observations, but there was no standard scale, so they could be very subjective; Beaufort succeeded in standardising the scale. Thereafter, FitzRoy served as Governor of New Zealand, but died in 1865 (aged just 59), having become disheartened at the government’s attitude to the indigenous people and the fact that a decision was made to suspend his public weather service forecasts, although Queen Victoria loved these new forecasts which she consulted every time before setting



sail for her home on the Isle of Wight, Osborne House. There is now a shipping area west of Biscay named FitzRoy (which used to be called Finnistere), as well as Mounts Darwin and FitzRoy in southern Argentina/Chile. FitzRoy’s own telescope is still kept at Euston Hall.

In keen anticipation of the refurbished Elmswell Tavern being re-opened very soon, we thought this article

FROM THE ARCHIVE would be of interest.

12th April 1957: *Daily Mail* readers were intrigued to see the headline “Brewers Sack the Nude and the Cardinal” over what could otherwise have been quite a dry story about a corporate merger in Ipswich. Two old family brewing firms, Cobbold and Tollemache, had amicably merged to form Tolly Cobbold, and the point of the headline was that the new company had given itself a corporate makeover. Tolly’s iconic statue of a naked Bacchante [a female follower or priestess of Dionysus (Bacchus), the Greek/Roman god of wine and fertility] and Cobbold’s logo of Cardinal Wolsey were



replaced by the words ‘Tolly Cobbold’ in a modern typeface – red for dark beer and blue for light beer. All brewing was transferred to the Cobbold brewery at Ipswich’s Cliff Quay. Over the years, beers in the range included Cobnut, Tolly Bitter, Tollyshooter (named to mark the visit of TV troubleshooter, Sir John Harvey-Jones – remember him?), 1997’s Election Ale and 2002’s Last Orders, the final brew. One of their least successful brews was the appalling Husky Lager which was reportedly described by John Cobbold as “tasting like dog’s piss”. By the time it closed in September 2002, the Tolly Cobbold beers had a poor reputation, and Ridley’s Brewery bought out the company. (Ref: Suffolk Camra, thanks to Anthony Cobbold)



Further information from Save Britain’s Heritage - The Tolly Cobbold name and the building itself were distinctive and much-valued parts of Ipswich’s history. Being a re-modelling of an earlier 18th century brewery, it was built in 1896 to designs of architect William Bradford. The dramatic hip-roofed building is listed Grade II and used a tower design, typical of the time, to accommodate the various processes involved in brewing. The Tolly Cobbold was located on the dock, surrounded by the working port, and the site also included two other listed buildings, a pub and cottage. The main brewery building itself has been vacant for over 20 years, since the brewery closed. It is in poor condition and has suffered sustained vandalism and theft that has seen the systematic removal of all brewing equipment. In February 2020, a large fire affected the upper floors of the brewery building. Outline planning permission was granted in 2015 for the development of the site for retail use including the complete repair and refurbishment of the brewery as well as a large food store, small-scale retail units, conference space and residential units. Fuller permission was sought the following year for 222 apartments, an auditorium/exhibition space and accommodation for Ipswich’s Transport Museum.

CLUBS & SOCIETIES



Our next meeting on **9th April, 7.30pm** at the **Wesley Hall**, will welcome Mark Lawrence for his talk on **Hadleigh Guildhall** which comprises a fine Grade-I listed building of Medieval origin containing many interesting historical and original architectural features and a Victorian Grade-2 addition. Mark has carried out extensive research into many aspects of Hadleigh, and his talk will delve into the history of the 15th-Century Guildhall from when it was just a patch of land to the buildings that were put up, and sometimes fell down, over 600 years. We will learn about the wide variety of roles played by the Guildhall over the years and meet some interesting characters along the way. As a group, we visited this amazing complex a few years ago, and Mark's talk will be based on a recently-published book which he co-authored, copies of which will be on sale that evening.



Non-members/visitors are always welcome (£6pp, cash only please), so do join us then. Should there be any doubts about the weather, please check our website, Elmswell Next Door on-line, or ring the number below before setting out, to save you a possible wasted journey.



**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

LOTS AND LOTS OF LITTER

For many years Elmswell has been 'Litter-aware'. As in so many areas of community life, individuals and groups have worked to keep our highways & byways clear of the stuff that other folk feel they can just toss aside. There are heroic individuals who seldom go out without their litter-pick stick and a black bag. There are groups who get together and blitz an area. Our very own Village Warden, Kevin, trudges many miles each week to ensure that, for the largest village in Mid Suffolk, the problems of litter and fly tipping are kept under control.

A recent foray by residents yielded a fine collection of the carelessly cast-aside & discarded detritus, pictured here awaiting Mid Suffolk's collection.

All concerned would be happy to give the job up but, experience over the years suggests that, until the selfish few consider taking their litter home with them, they have a job to do.



**Together we
can get our
recycling
right**

As from June of this year, Mid Suffolk are making changes to encourage more recycling of waste.

Household bins will be able to take glass bottles, drink cartons. And plastic bags. There will also be a separate collection of waste food.

New bins and more details will be delivered in May

The WEE bin for electrical & electronic waste, together with the textile bank will remain at Station Road.

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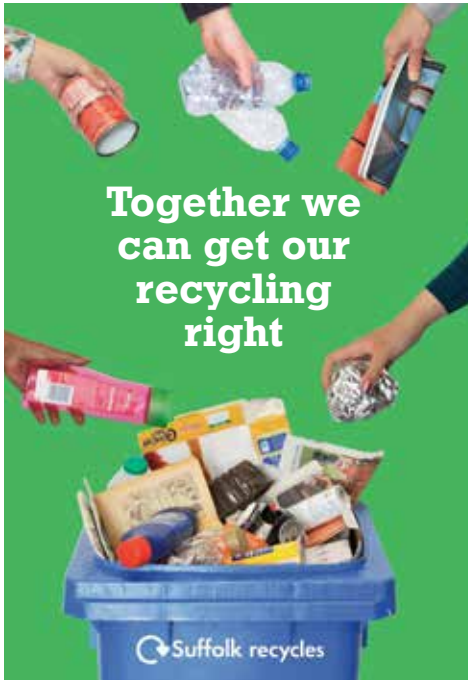
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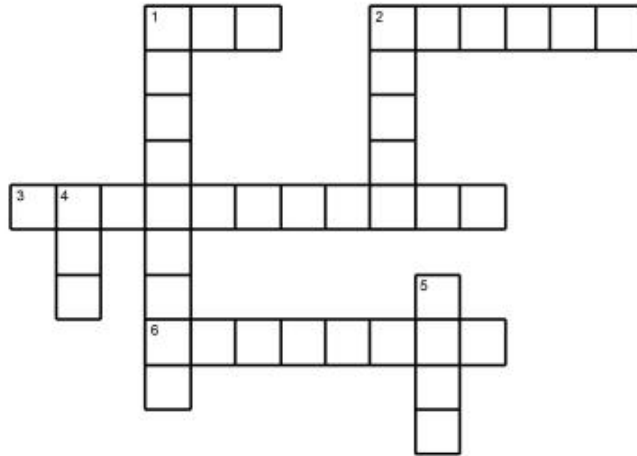
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Minibeasts



MINIBEAST CROSSWORD



Across

1. I make honey.
2. I spin webs.
3. I'm a baby butterfly.
6. I'm red and spotty.

Down

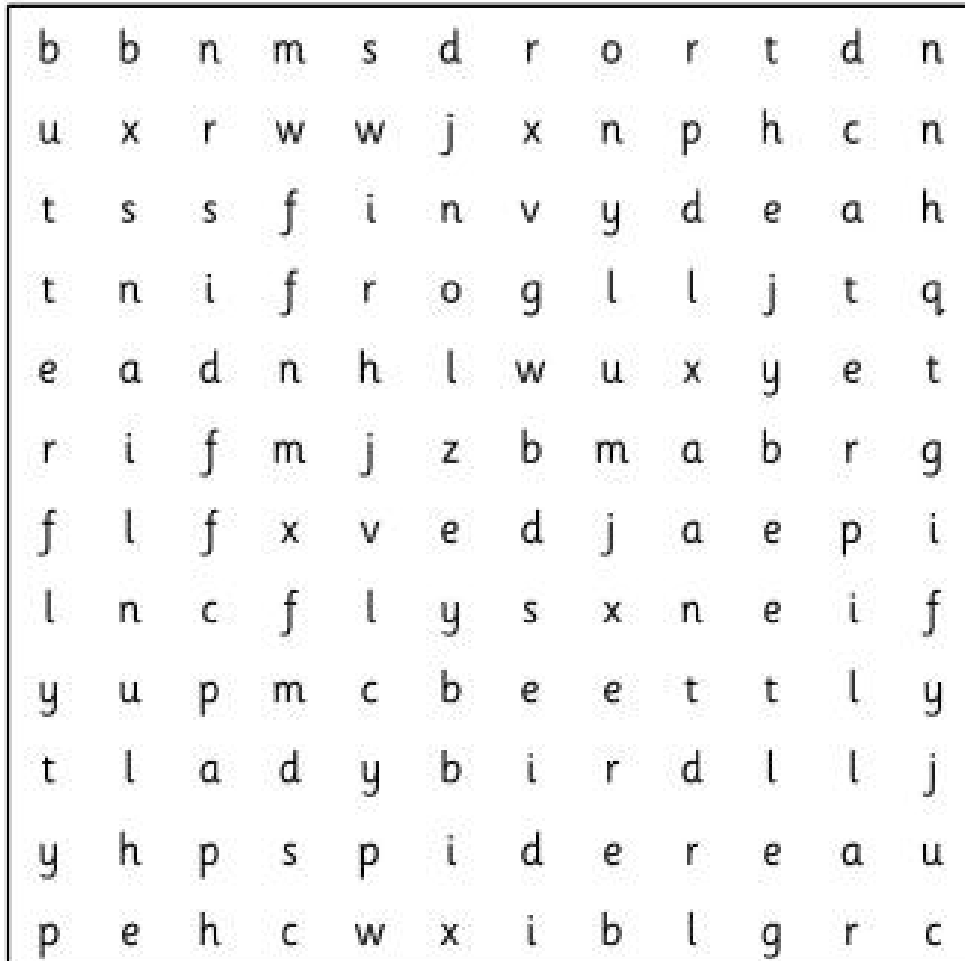
1. I come out of a chrysalis.
2. I carry my home on my back.
4. I live in a hill.
5. A tadpole turns into me.

A 'minibeast' is simply a small animal. Spiders, snails, slugs, beetles, centipedes, worms, earwigs, caterpillars...

Those are just a few well known examples of the thousands and thousands of types of 'creepy-crawlies' that exist all over the world. Officially, minibeasts are called invertebrates which are animals without a backbone, and these are the most numerous type of animal in the world.



MINIBEAST WORDSEARCH



MAKE YOUR OWN MINIBEAST HOTEL

The best minibeast hotels have lots of small spaces in different shapes and sizes and made from different materials. Ideally some should be nice and dry inside, and others a bit damp. Minibeast hotels are generally made from reclaimed materials, or natural objects, which helps them blend in with their surroundings. Why not make your very own minibeast hotel using some of the ideas pictured.



- | | | | | |
|---------|----------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| ANT FLY | BEE FROG | BEETLE LADYBIRD | BUTTERFLY SNAIL | CATERPILLAR SPIDER |
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Saturday 2nd May 2026



ELMSWELL SPORT



Trevor Sadler, Barry Hayward and Glynn, once more, at President's Day



Glynn Baker and Linda Vince at President's Day
Next month, I hope to have some new photos for you!

ELMSWELL BOWLS CLUB

At a recent committee meeting, the coming season was discussed. The first issue was the recent pump failure, which happened during a drought, when we came close to losing the green. Fortunately, Glyn Baker, founder of Quality Equipment, and his son, Graham, being engineers, are very clued up on such matters, think they can adapt the system to be able to fit a 'hire pump' in should we suffer a recurrence. The pump was the original, so it arguably 'did its bit'. The replacement pump needed a change to the fittings and took several days to arrive and, had John Harris not spent days watering by hand, we might have lost the green.

Some clubs allow Trophy Winners to keep the trophies until they are played for again, but we prefer to take them back and display them in our trophy cabinet. It was suggested that we should insure them a our Treasurer, Barry Hayward, looked into this. He discovered that we need to find new insurers in the process, so, whether the League will find us one remains to be seen.'

The issue of post-match refreshments was discussed at length. We have been spoiled in recent years as Jimmy, the Fox landlord, did us proud for a very good price and, not having a bar, we are in dire need of a new home to take our visiting teams back to. A lot of visiting teams have fond memories of coming

to us many years ago. There is some resistance to the Tavern, where we would be welcome, and it was finally decided to see what their offer would be and go from there.

The most important decision, however, was when to open the green for the season, and, with our first League match being on 21st April, we decided on Sunday 12th April, at 2pm. Qwe will hold an Open Day again on a Sunday, May 10th, again starting at 2pm

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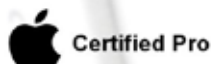
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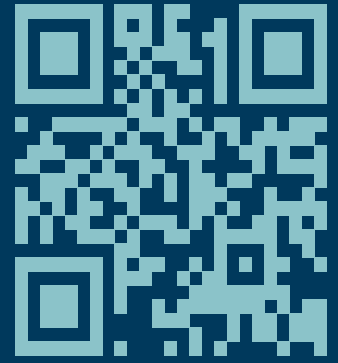


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83% of Elmswell residents dissatisfied with the condition of local roads

The results are in from my recent pothole survey, and they make for sobering reading. My thanks go to the more than 400 residents who replied and commented on the condition of their roads.

The results highlighted some serious concerns: the roads in our local area are not in a good state, and for the people of Elmswell, the picture is no different. 83% of Elmswell residents who replied to the survey told me that their roads are “very poor” or “poor”. Worryingly, of those who replied to say that they had reported a pothole to Suffolk Highways, 95% of them said that no action had been taken.

I have shared the survey’s findings with Suffolk County Council in the expectation that this additional evidence will persuade the council of the urgent need to take residents’ concerns seriously and of their obligations to maintain our roads.

Helping those reliant on heating oil

Many residents who rely on heating oil have contacted me recently concerned by the increase in prices following events in the Middle East.

We live in an area of the UK with one of the highest number of households that rely on alternative sources of fuel, with approximately 40% of properties across Elmswell off the gas grid.

There are several things the Government is doing to help, including the provision of a £53m emergency support fund which will provide financial support targeted at low-income households and rural areas. The money will be distributed via local councils. We’ve also instructed the Competition and Markets Authority to monitor prices to protect customers from price gouging.

I have spoken to Goff, one of the principal suppliers of heating oil locally, and have been assured that they will honour the original prices quoted to customers who placed an order on 28 February, 1 or 2 March.

I am especially concerned that the residents who will be disproportionately hit by price hikes are those in council homes in poorer areas, which is why the Government’s initiative to fit these homes with heat pumps, to end the reliance on heating oil, is so important.

Cleaning up our rivers

I was shocked to discover that the watercourse closest to Elmswell experienced 35 days of discharges from sewage outlets over the past 3 months. This data makes me more determined than ever to hold the Environment Agency and water companies to account.

If you would like to write to me about any issues, or find out more about what I’ve been up to, you can visit my website:



County Council elections: The twice-postponed County Council elections will be taking place on Thursday 7th May this year. The pre-election moratorium period begins on 27th March, from which point scheduled district council meetings will still be going ahead as MSDC takes a 'business as usual' approach, but controversial issues are likely to be withdrawn from any meeting agenda.

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation: At the time of writing we still await Government's decision on one or three Unitaries for Suffolk. Elections for Unitary councillors will take place in May next year, and elected unitary councillors will fully take over running the council from May '28 when the county and district councils will be dissolved.

Better Recycling update: The new bins are now arriving across the district. Every home will be receiving a new blue lidded bin and a smaller food waste bin during the next two months. The blue-lidded bin will be for glass bottles, jars, tetra pak, plastic bags, cans and plastic bottles. Paper and card will go in the existing green-lidded bin. The new bins will not be collected until June.

A14 litter: Concerns about Health and safety (including a fatal accident in Norfolk) have meant litter picking along fast routes such as the A14 have had to be re-assessed. Contractors have been employed to address the litter and work is in progress but likely to take

several weeks to complete. Ultimately, this problem is caused by an irresponsible minority of people who think it is acceptable to throw rubbish out of their vehicle windows.

Mid Suffolk Budget and Council Tax: In addition to the ongoing provision of current day-to-day services and activities, the 2026/27 budget covers funding for a range of initiatives including: Cost of Living support and Council Tax Support scheme / Support for our towns and rural communities across the District, including sports and leisure facilities / Cosy Homes scheme (now expanded to offer solar panels) / Grant funding for nature recovery and community biodiversity groups / New footpaths and cycle ways / Funding for disabled adaptations and the Mid Suffolk Disability Action Plan / Expansion of temporary accommodation / Measures in readiness for 'Better Recycling' / Support for local food and energy production / Support for community Neighbourhood Plans... About 8% of the total Council Tax bill is attributable to MSDC, and this % has been reducing. Mid Suffolk District Council is increasing council tax by 2.99% - for a Band D property this increase amounts to around 10p per week (£5.23 per year).

Call for sites: The 'call for sites' is now closed, and land suggested by landowners, developers and the public will assist with planning for things

like housing growth where councils have rigorous targets to meet as set by national Government. Sites **do not** benefit from any presumption of development, and planning policy officers are now beginning work to assess each site for its suitability for development and inclusion in the joint local plan. A map to ensure transparency and public access to suggestions submitted can be located at: <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/babergh/w/call-for-sites>.

Armed Forces Day, Stowmarket: Plans are beginning to take shape for Armed Forces Day, which will be held in Stowmarket on 27th June, supported by both Mid Suffolk District Council and Stowmarket Town Council. Armed Forces Day is a chance to show your support for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community. There will be a number of attractions such as climbing wall, assault course, and hopefully a helicopter from Wattisham. It is shaping up to be a great family day out. Please support if you can.

Elmswell to Woolpit pedestrian path and cycleway: We have been frustrated by some delays in the detailed design stage of this fully-funded project. However, County Council officers assure us of their confidence that the work will be delivered to timescale (broadly, design stage 9 months, mobilisation 3 months, build 6 months) and within budget.

Councillor drop-in sessions: Dates coming up for our regular sessions to meet with residents are :

- **Wednesday 1st April 10:00 – 12:00 at Wesley Café, Elmswell**
- **Tuesday 28th April 10:00 – 12:00 at 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



SCREEN & SCROLL FREE...

The new Junior play area at Crown Mill opened this month and is immediately very well used. It offers slightly more adventurous play than its 18 year-old predecessor by extending as far as was possible away from the road where the fumes from queuing traffic are seen as problematic.

The Parish Council Working Party continues its deliberations towards providing a facility for the pre-school / toddler 0-4 age group.

The Parish Council remains aware that the older kids - pre-teens and upward - remain poorly served and this will inform the imminent revisiting of the Neighbourhood Plan where an allocation of appropriate land can be sought in years to come.

Thanks are due to Graham ('Peanuts') Powell, one of the neighbours to the site who were consulted on the project, for providing and welding in at his own expense missing struts in the fencing.



ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL MARCH 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 March meeting with 10 councillors present together with the Parish Clerk Peter Dow and 6 members of the public took place at Blackbourne on Monday 16th. This report is compiled from that meeting by the Parish Clerk and edited by the Council's Editorial Board which comprises the Council Chairman, the Council Vice-chairman and Cllr Sue Roots, elected by her peers to join them. It seeks to cover some of the more interesting or significant items thought to deserve wider public attention. Included, where appropriate, are matters reported to the meeting by external bodies such as the County and District Council Ward Members or as raised at the meeting by members of the public. Further background and reference to subsequent events are included where relevant.

The Minutes of recent Parish Council meetings and Committee meetings when ratified, together with the agenda for the next meeting, are available online at elmswell-pc.gov.uk and from the Parish Clerk by arrangement. Bound copies of older Minutes are lodged in the Village Archive at Blackbourne and with the Suffolk County Records Office in Bury St. Edmunds. The most recent Minutes from meetings held on 16th February, as approved at this meeting, are posted in the Council's notice board at Crown Mill.

County Council

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

Local elections in May 2026 reinstated

At the end of January, the government announced that a number of local elections around the country would be postponed, where councils had written to them saying it would be helpful for delivery of Local Government Reorganization (LGR). This included Suffolk County Council's elections, which were due to be held on Thursday 7 May 2026. However, following legal challenge, the government has reversed its plans and has now announced that county council elections – as well as those due to be held by Ipswich Borough Council – will take place as originally planned. New councillors elected in May will hold office until the new unitary authority/ies are vested in 2028, with councillors for the new unitary authority/ies elected in 2027 and 'shadowing' the existing councillors for a year.

The government is due to make an announcement by the end of March on how many unitary councils will be set up in Suffolk.

Energy, Water, Transport, Commercial and Adaptive Infrastructure Policy

At Cabinet on Tuesday 24 February, revisions to the council's Energy and Climate Adaptive Infrastructure Policy were approved, including a change in the name of the policy to the Energy, Water, Transport, Commercial and Adaptive Infrastructure Policy. This policy details how the council will respond to large developments such as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs), solar farms and data centres that may be attached to them, and changes to road systems in the county that may be needed following the projects. Suffolk County Council is a consultee on NSIP proposals, but it is not the decision-maker, and the policy sets out how the council will

respond to such consultations, such as protecting best and most versatile agricultural land for food production, wellbeing of local communities where projects are disruptive and especially where there is cumulative impact of multiple projects, such as the coastal area around Sizewell C. The policy notes that solar farms may soon have data centres attached, so the council needs to have an agreed approach for developments that are large scale and energy-intensive. The policy also sets out that Suffolk County Council expects developers proposing projects to fund Planning Performance Agreements – this means that responding to all the proposals for these developments does not come out of the council's budget.

Vehicle Removal Trial for Resurfacing Works

Suffolk Highways have announced that they will trial removing vehicles that have not been removed for planned resurfacing works. The council plans to make sure that residents are made aware at least two weeks in advance of any works, with cards placed under windscreens and put through residents' doors. Two days before the works are due to begin, cones will be put out along with signage to say when the works are due to be begin. If there are still cars parked on the road on the day works are due to start, officers will knock on doors to try and find the owner to move it, but as a last resort, vehicles will be moved, ideally nearby where they are still in sight, but if this is not possible, they may be moved to a facility in Bury St Edmunds with a £70 fine issued. As with other Penalty Charge Notices, the amount payable is halved if the fine is paid promptly. Although it has long had the power to remove vehicles for planned works, until now Suffolk County Council has not exercised it – compared to Essex County Council, for example, who have been doing this for about a decade. This approach will

be adopted by the council for a period between March to June 2026 initially, with a report prepared on the trial and making recommendations for the future.

Changes at the Top On 13 February, it was announced that Nicola Beach, the Chief Executive of Suffolk County Council, would be leaving her role. Nicola has been Chief Executive since 2018 when she replaced Deborah Cadman, and will be stepping down at the end of March 2026. The council proposes to appoint two existing directors – Andrew Cook and Mark Ash – into new joint chief executive roles for the remaining two years of the council's existence. As these directors' existing posts would not be recruited into, the number of senior staff at the council will reduce by one, saving up to £92k a year. This decision must be ratified by councillors at the next meeting of full council on 19 March 2026.

Suffolk Sustainability Initiatives

Nominated for Awards Suffolk County Council has been nominated for a national award for its work on energy and sustainability. Only 24 local authorities in the UK have been shortlisted for the first APSE Energy Awards, which are held in partnership with the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. The awards celebrate innovation and the role local authorities play in responding to the challenges of energy transition, climate change and long-term sustainability. The 'Accessing & Managing Finance' category recognises Suffolk County Council's Warm Homes Suffolk Loan Scheme (administered by Lendology CIC), and the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders group's Home Energy Efficiency Assessment Scheme (administered by Reed In Partnership). The loan scheme offers an interest-free loan to make energy efficient improvements, such as insulation, solar panels or heat pumps. Through

countywide Sustainable Suffolk initiatives, the county is also up for a second award, in the 'Working in Collaboration' category which involves a range of projects such as a study into supporting taxi drivers to move to electric vehicles, and launching the Suffolk Sustainable Schools Network

District Council

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

Clerk's Report

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

- I am pleased to report that further grant aid of £100,000 has been secured from MSDC to allow the Tavern project to encompass the renovation of the 1st floor flat. This allows for various logistical advantages as well as extending the scope of what the premises can offer in relation to employment opportunities by way of staff accommodation. Meanwhile the saga of the electrical power supply is now over and issues of stormwater drainage access into the network are resolved. Many various sub-contract jobs are, managed and co-ordinated by Cllr Pallett, under way or instructed including flooring, kitchen extraction system, cook line, the carpark /access roadway surfacing, and turfing of the garden area. Nadia Tunmore is specifying the provision of the foodservice and bar equipment and has had a substantial response to invitations to a Recruitment Day which seeks to receive expressions of interest from individuals interested in employment across the range of jobs on offer
- The Junior Play area at Crown Mill is up and running and being well used. There is a suggestion from users that we should beef-up the signage on the railings at Station Road so that it is clear that the request to switch off engines whilst waiting at the gates is because children are playing in the immediate vicinity and at risk from the exhaust pollution. We installed the original signs some 20 years ago. Unless there is a view the contrary, I will look into the design & costing of an update.
- I have made the enquiry of Mid Suffolk regarding the possible use of their 7 acres of land at School Road / Pightle Close / Church Road for community purposes

rather than housing, as earlier proposed in their suggestion of a 50-house 'exemplar' development. This confirms that such use of the land, once touted by EPC as a potential primary school site, would begin with a discussion that would involve the property team and that Mid Suffolk, or their LGR successors, would not be in a position to review the site until the conclusion of the local plan process. I suggest that this remains as a marker for Elmswell's LDP review and that this review remains a key element of the 'succession planning' considerations as Council moves on.

- I have had further enquiry from the new team at SCC handling the Elmswell / Woolpit community path project. They wish to know who owns the land in front of St John's and who owns the land at the Church Hill cemetery. I have explained that neither of these parcels of land has relevance as they are not on the proposed route. I trust that this moves their thinking forward.
- In my Report to the February Ordinary Meeting on the new play areas, I confirmed that residents adjacent to the pre-school / toddler site no longer feel that their input is appropriate to the Council's Crown Mill Play Areas Working Party. I realise that I should have made it clear that this results from those residents' concerns based on their opinion that there is not a clearly-evidenced demand and that the site is unsuitable and, further, that a petition had been presented to the January meeting reinforcing these and other objections which are strongly held and include that the proposals are against published guidelines, have no proven public need and use public funds which might well be called on again if complaints to the District Council require the removal of the facility. I apologise for not presenting a fuller picture and have, as requested by the Meeting, formally Minuted the further details.
- Mid Suffolk have confirmed that the flat-back truck which is permanently parked at Wetherden Road and the subject of many complaints from residents is close to the registered keeper's address and that any obstruction would be a matter for the Police. They have reported the lack of Road Tax to DVLA. The Police confirm

their view that the vehicle is legally parked and that there are several vehicles parked 'in an exact manner throughout Elmswell'. They suggest a community petition towards having yellow lines installed.

Meanwhile, the 2 kebab van related 'keeper' vehicle permanently parked in the Station parking space have been uplifted and removed by MSDC under the 1978 Amenity Act and the parking position at the station has immediately improved. Cllrs Mellen and Overett were very supportive in effecting this and it is to be hoped that the process triggered towards the introduction of a street trader licencing scheme for Mid Suffolk continues to a successful conclusion and helps prevent future instances of such unregulated activity leading to nuisance.

Planning Results

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

DC/26/00086

Consent to display advertisement... The Fox, Station Road GRANTED EPC supported

DC/26/00467

No Objection raised to works to tree within Conservation Area at 11, Farm Meadow Close EPC made no comment

DC/26/00161

Variation of Condition 3 (Occupation Restriction) DC/22/06217 at Mulberry Farm, Ashfield Road ...

GRANTED EPC made no comment

Planning Applications

The Meeting discussed the following Planning application as notified by Mid Suffolk District Council and made objection as follows

DC/26/00643 Removal of bushes and erection of a 1.8m fence, concrete posts and 300mm gravel board (max height 2.1m) with gated side entrance at **Yew Tree House, Ashfield Road**

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 in the replacement of a mature hedge with a stark fenceline. The height and nature of the proposed fence would urbanise the immediate environment at what is, effectively, a gateway into the village. There is no remediation offered for the loss of biodiversity which could be

avoided if the fence were sited inside the existing hedge line.

Appeal

The Meeting noted the Appeal Decision ref 6002275 ref DC/25/03950 allowing Planning Permission to be granted at 15, Pightle Close for a two storey side extension and alterations to the rear conservatory, which original Application EPC had supported.

Willow Farm

The Clerk drew Councillors' attention to the very recent Application ref DC/26/00174 for Listed Building Consent at Willow Farm and it was agreed that, should an extension to the Consultation Deadline of 6th April not be granted, he would make comment under Delegated Powers having consulted Members generally.

Public comment

A member of the public spoke to point out that a promised response to her concerns regarding the siting of the proposed pre-school / toddler play equipment at Crown Mill had not been forthcoming. The Chairman advised that the matter had been complicated by reason of a Complaint having been made. This had led him to decide that

he should take personal responsibility for providing a response and that he needed to acquaint himself with the details before being in a position to do so.

However, Councillors on the Working Party were still developing the scheme for presentation to Council which had required site visits to assess vegetation treatments. A response would follow confirming this once the Complaint had been dealt with. The resident clarified the fact that she would be willing to meet with the Working Party.

A member of the public sought clarification on Council practice in responding to emails sent to all councillors en bloc. The Chairman confirmed that these would be answered by the Clerk and it was agreed that a response confirming receipt would be good future practice. The individual asserted that he was the source of the Complaint against a Council employee and, further, that his wish for the matter to be treated In Confidence was dropped. The Chairman asked for this to be confirmed in writing.

A member of the public spoke to suggest that, in the 2 meetings of the Crown Mill play provision Working

Party to which non-Councillors were invited, only 1 Working Party member had been present at both. This suggested a flexibility bordering 'ad hoc' and an inevitable lack of continuity.

Grounds maintenance Contract

Following discussion held without Press or public present, Councillors considered the options presented by 3 sealed bids for the Contract to maintain the grassed areas at Crown Mill and the cemetery, including ancillary works, and agreed that it should be awarded to the incumbent, Top Gardens, at a fixed cost of £6,336.00pa net to maintain for 2 years with an option for Council to extend for a 3rd year at that price.

Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Ordinary Meeting of Council was scheduled for 20th April 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

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.

Apr 20 th	May 18 th	June 15 th	July 20 th	Aug 17 th
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Meetings are held at Blackbourne, beginning at 7.30 unless otherwise notified

DAVID HAWES

It is with much regret that we mark the passing of Cllr David Hawes who, often in poor health, continued to fulfil his Council duties and the responsibilities which he has assumed over decades past.

David's first Acceptance of Office as a Parish Councillor was on 25th June 1973 and he served almost continuously, including as Chairman, in the intervening years.

We shall miss his gentle wisdom, his vast experience of all things Elmswell and his often impish sense of humour.

He will be missed well beyond the dry confines of the Parish Council. He was respected and loved by many.

Our thoughts and condolences are with Anna, and their much-loved family.



David is second from left seen here with Council colleagues in 2023

VILLAGE INDEX



Useful contacts for community groups & others...feedback is essential.

Do be in touch to correct or add details or to suggest someone else deserving of listing.

Amenities Association	Jean Barker (Sec)	eea@elmswell.org.uk	241135
Art Club	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	Clr Andy Mellen	Andy.Mellen@suffolk.gov.uk	
Cricket Club	Ben Whatling (Captain)	benwhatling@mail.com	07760 174811
Cubs	Mark Pernot	mark.pernot@gmail.com	
District Councillor	Sarah Mansell	Sarah.Mansel@midsuffolk.gov.uk	07860 829517
District Councillor	Jen Overett	Jen.Overett@midsuffolk.gov.uk	
Elmswild	Mary Feeney	info@elmswild.org.uk	241901
Exchange Afternoon WI	Carol Blissett	carolblissett@hotmail.co.uk	242884
First Responders	Merv	merv.smith@tiscali.co.uk	07909 006 496
Football	Chris Edmonds	edddd101@gmail.com	
Fox Bowls Team bowls at Blackbourne	Rob Dann	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@littleeelms.co.uk	240491
Newsletter	Editorial office	eea@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 Floodlightimng	Trevor Sadler	trevor.sadler@dsl.pipex.com	240908
Sewing Bee	Isabel Burgess	isabel.burgess@live.com	
Village Tree Warden	c/o Parish Clerk	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
Wesley – all enquiries	Parish Council office	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
WI - evening	Tricia McNeeney	triciamcneeney@gmail.com	241197
Youth Football	Wayne	wsast@hotmail.co.uk	

Enquiries on any Parish Council matter are invited to the Clerk, Peter Dow, at The Council Office, Blackbourne, Blackbourne Road, IP30 9UH - right next to the car park and with wheelchair access.

Staffed Monday - Friday 9.00am - 4.00pm and other times by arrangement.

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

**IF YOU ARE NOT HAPPY THAT YOUR DETAILS APPEAR HERE,
PLEASE DO BE IN TOUCH VIA 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.

April 2026

- 7 West Suffolk Arts Society Haute Couture's Holy Trinity After World War II Speaker: Scott Schavione
- 9 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP 26th Anniversary meeting, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Mark Lawrence: Hadleigh Guildhall
- 9 Elmswell Over 55's Natter & Nibbles
- 9 Midday Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church April 9 Midday Food'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church
- 13 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church, Suffolk Smugglers with Pip Wright
- 14 Elmswell WI Food Sensitivity
- 14 Elmswell WI Annual Meeting
- 21 Elmswell Gardening Club, 7.30pm Speaker Chis Wiley – Hellebores, Wesley Chapel
- 23 Elmswell Over 55's Stew & Dumplings and Bingo

25/26 Elmswell Art Club Arts Show & Sale – Wesley Chapel Free entry

May 2026

- 5 West Suffolk Arts Society The Fall & Rise of Denmark Greatest Designer. Finn Juhl Speaker: James Vaux
- 6 Elmswell WI Afternoon 2.00 pm AGM Bring & Buy and Members talks
- 7 Elmswell Over 55's Club Rails and Sails
- 11 2pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church when John Cornell will be talking about Visiting Lourdes
- 14 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Helen Everett, Sutton Hoo Ship's Company: Project to Reconstruct a Replica Anglo-Saxon Longboat
- 14 Food 'n' Friends midday at Elmswell Baptist Church
- 19 Elmswell Gardening Club, 7.30pm Speaker Ian Bedford - Six of the Best – 3

beneficial and 3 problematic bugs in our houses and gardens, Wesley Chapel

- 21 Elmswell Over 55's Club Elvis is in the building

June 2026

- 1 Ladies Friendship Group - a visit to Thetford Nursery
- 2 West Suffolk Arts Society Calouste Gulbenkian As Collector & Oil Titan 1869 - 1955 Speaker: Jonathon Conlin
- 3 Elmswell WI Afternoon 2.00 pm Margaret Brackenbury A craft workshop
- 4 Elmswell Over 55's Club Rails and Sails Afternoon Tea
- 9 Elmswell WI When Dogs bark
- 11 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP AGM at 7pm, in Wesley Chapel - immediately followed at 7.30pm by Speaker Terry O'Donoghue: History of West Suffolk Hospital
- 11 Food 'n' Friends midday at Elmswell Baptist Church

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 theartsociety-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 elmswellgadmin@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 carpajak@aol.com
 - MOO MUSIC** - Fridays 12.45 – 3.15 bury@moo-music.co.uk
 - OVER 55'S** - every other Thursday 6.30 – 10.30 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 the next 3 months we need copy by: April 21st, May 26th, June 23rd.

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