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The Elmswell Newsletter



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JUNE 2026

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OUR COMMUNITY CYCLE & WALKING PATH TO WOOLPIT

19 years in the making and getting closer!

See the Clerk's Report page 25

Published on the first Friday of every month by the Elmswell Amenities Association Reg. Charity No. 304879. 2750 copies delivered free to households and to businesses in the community. A volunteer enterprise entirely supported by advertising.

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EAA@elmswell.org.uk



Our editorial is designed to inform and to encourage debate.

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

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

Since 1894, every parish in England has been legally obliged to organise a get-together of its residents, The Annual Parish Meeting, when we are allowed to discuss any matter of local concern. 1894 was quite the year for local Government as the same Act established Parish Councils. The Act was a response to the chaotic community administration overseen by the Vestry Meetings which, governed only by the church, had become often secret enclaves of the self-serving privileged who used the local rates they raised for lavish personal excess. One of their most outward and visible failings was highways maintenance. Plus ça change.

Elmswell, ever the quietly conformist community, takes seriously the requirement to offer a chance for public utterance and, despite the lack of practical enforcement should a meeting not be convened, we have always (except when Covid came calling) come together between 1st March and 1st June in various formats to share views and opinions. We accept that this is a law in our well-ordered nation to curb those raging appetites that are most disobedient and refractory. As someone might, in 1894-speak, have said at such a gathering.



And so gathered some 25 residents at Wesley on 20th May to voice their observations and grievances and to question any of the

Great & Good who might be listening. Inspired by a presentation on the emerging Community Rail Partnership. This initiative seeks to engage with communities towards promoting and diversifying community use of the St Edmund's Line. This is 'our' line, linking Ipswich to Cambridge / Soham. Several questions were railway related, mainly regarding the dreaded railway crossing gates. Pulling together some of the points made on the night and the responses evoked, we offer:

CROSSING GATES

The promised high-level meeting to be organised by Peter Prinsley MP bringing together community



organisations such as the Parish Council and MARPA – the Mid Anglia Rail Passenger Association – and Network Rail has not yet materialised. Concerns from the floor included the apparent lack of awareness of the current level of freight traffic and the apparently arbitrary closure of the gates regardless of the speed of the approaching train and including the very annoying wait for a stationary train to pull away past 2 frustrated queues of traffic who have sat for 7 minutes whilst nothing happened. Editors' note; Your Newsletter has often highlighted these issues. We have suggested that the real crunch will come when the Haughley Junction upgrade happens. This is a Network Rail infrastructure project to restore a full double-track junction at Haughley which, paired with the Ely Area capacity enhancements, would remove a major bottleneck on the route to the Port of Felixstowe. This will allow an estimated 8 extra freight trains per day through Elmswell and there is a hope of extra passenger services too. A million of tons of CO2 will be taken off the nation's roads. There is no figure for how many more tons of CO2 will be generated by the longer, more frequent queues next to our main village play area / recreation space at Crown Mill.

BIG LORRIES

Why do we have to put up with an ever-increasing number of HGV's through the



village down Ashfield Road and over the crossing? Why is the A" 'A' road through Norton restricted so that all the big stuff has to come via Elmswell? How did the big HGV users at Grove Lane get Planning Permission? Editors' note; Again, an issue which has been featured in our pages many times over the years. We have reported on the Parish Council's repeated objections to housing development at Ashfield Road on grounds of highway congestion. We have supported the community's attempts to have the weight limit on A1088 removed. This counter-intuitive lorry ban was brought in many years ago as a result of Norton Parish Council pressure for the reduction of HGV traffic through their village. It was revived as an issue when the bridge at Stowlangtoft was rebuilt recently, but SCC Highways remain resolute that the lorries are better through Elmswell and over the crossing than through Norton and under the restricted width of the railway bridge. Our Parish Council has commissioned professional traffic surveys and undertaken several fruitless partnerships with SCC but the problems, including non-compliance with the 7.5t limit at Warren Lane continue. The industrial activities at Grove Lane were established on the old airfield long before Planning Permission became a factor.

FACILITIES FOR OUR YOUNGSTERS

With the ever-increasing size of the village there is clearly a lack of



play space for our older children. The recent much needed refurbishment of the Crown Mill junior play area and moves towards provision for our preschool and toddler children leaves out teenagers who are still without their own space. There is current pressure for a bike park facility and the football clubs both junior and senior during

the winter are having to train elsewhere when all-weather pitches are required. Why can't Elmswell have its own all weather pitch? Editor's note; The need for recreation and exercise facilities for older children has been a feature in these pages since the proposed BMX track next to Old Schools Court 10 years ago. Problems around providing such facilities are much greater than those which attend the provision of play facility for our younger children. Much more space is needed for bigger equipment and more boisterous users. There is an initiative coming forward from our parish council to persuade Mid Suffolk District Council to convey land at School Road for village use and this could present the opportunity for an extensive community facility including equipment and space for older children to use. It would have to be driven by inclusion in the new Neighbourhood Plan which will lay out the village's view on development over the next 25 years. The call for help and consultation response on this Plan is likely later this year. This is the only practical way forward and patience is required.

WAS THAT IT? Not by any means... in a lively free discussion other topics included: the continuation of 16 years of volunteer efforts to keep our station flowers display so dramatic and immaculate, the need for a ticket machine on both platforms at the station, despite a ticket collector's suggestion that they put him out of a job; the suggestion that the Elmswell Tavern should not serve fish & chips when there is a chippie directly opposite; suggestions that more should be done to investigate a return of our Post Office; the need for the Co-op to replace the litter bins recently removed as the unintended consequence of Government legislation; the need for clearance of vegetation from road signs and the suggestion that this is best effected by reporting the problem on the SCC Highways Reporting Tool; the need for a better PA system at next year's Annual Parish Meeting.

Hope to see, (and hear you) there.



CLUBS & SOCIETIES



ELMSWELL ART CLUB

Elmswell Art Club held its Art Show and Sale at the Wesley in May and, over the two days, we welcomed a steady flow of visitors who admired some superb art creations which hung from our new display stands; several visitors called in from the recently opened Elmswell Tavern too!

A number of paintings, greeting cards and knitwear items were purchased by our visitors and the feedback we received from them was very positive indeed.



The pictures below show just four of the remarkable creations by our members that were on display during the show;

This first image is in acrylic paints and was created by Debbie Tharby, it is entitled "Going with Wind"



Next is Bob Coleman's painting of an owl, again created using acrylics



Hazel McGregor used oils to produce the stunning image of a Norfolk sunset, below;



Finally, we have Pam Riches' image of Aboriginal Art, which she has left as "Untitled" but it was inspired by First Nations Australia. Pam produced this by using Acrylic Markers.



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



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Our thanks go to the Elmswell Parish Council for their support and help in organising our show. In addition, our members and friends all deserve a huge thank you for their support and help in making our show a success. If you came along on one of the show days, we sincerely hope you enjoyed your visit and we look forward to welcoming you back to our future shows.



Eddie Douglas

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AROUND & ABOUT

ELMSWELL FOOTPATH WALK

Sunday 10th May 2026

A cadre of 11 seasoned ramblers assembled at the given hour on a rather breezy late spring day for the bimble of the month.

Crossing Station Road, we wound our way through the Industrial Estate, meandered through the Bacon Factory estate and, progressing ever northwards, on to FP1 alongside the electrical substation.

A right and left over the footbridge brought us out into open countryside with horse meadows on the right

A left and half right had us heading north west and 700m later, after passing into Norton parish, a further right and left took us past the pond on the left.

FP1 had morphed into FP32 at the parish boundary and now meandered north easterly on to Harding's Lane, through Harding's Farm farmyard and hence along to the junction with Norton Road.

Turning left here for 550m we turned left on to FP 30, joining FP22 and turning left on to FP29.

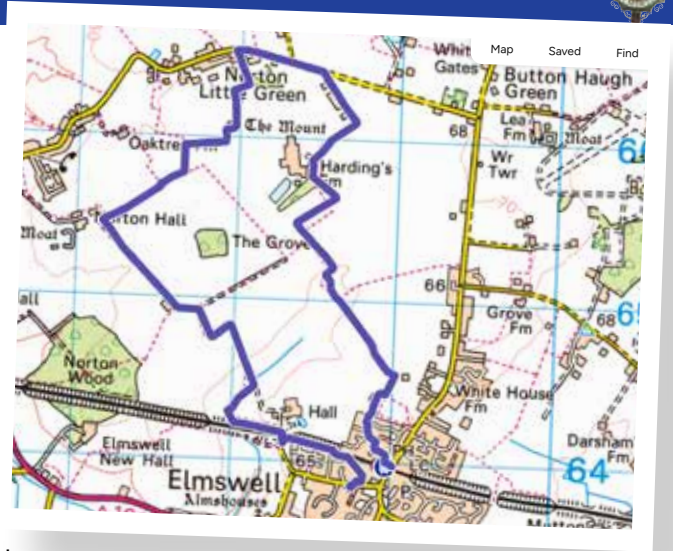
To the right on FP30 lies The Mount which is recorded as a medieval windmill mound complete with moat.

FP29 was now heading south and at the junction with FP20 we turned right and, after 600m, we turned left at Norton Hall on to FP7.

Staying on FP7 we headed south east, past the junction with FP23 on the right, right at the junction with FP35 and hence over the footbridge heading home.

The view from the footbridge across to St. John's Church never fails to lift the spirit.

Now in back Elmswell and on FP13, we circumnavigated Elmswell Hall, passed under the railway bridge and then on to Hawk End Lane.



At the junction with School Road there was a parting of the ways as the FPO stated the walk was to officially terminate at the newly reopened Elmswell Tavern. This it duly did over a welcome pint of Tavern Bitter.



A walk of approximately 5.41 miles in 2 hours and 1 minutes (an average speed of 2.7 miles per hour).

Peter Hancock, EPC Footpath Officer

JUNE'S FOOTPATH WALK WILL BE ON SUNDAY 14th MAY STARTING AT 10.30 AT THE VILLAGE SIGN AT CROWN MILL



Together we can get our recycling right

The Pink WEE bin for electrical items is withdrawn temporarily whilst a new contractor is sought.

From now on your bins from Mid Suffolk are changing and you need to know what goes in each. All collections will be on a Thursday the first few dates are listed for each bin:

BLUE LID – all plastics including film / bottle & jars / tetra packs (drinks cartons) / metal cans and aerosols / tin foil and foil food trays

4th June, 25th June, 16th July, 6th August, 27th August, 17th September

GREEN LID – all card and paper

18th June, 9th July, 30th July, 20th August, 10th September

GREY FOOD WASTE CONTAINER - leftovers, fruit & veg. peelings, meat & fish bones cooked or uncooked, coffee grounds & tea bags, egg shell cheese & salad, out-of-date & mouldy food – collected every week with the other bin of whatever colour

BLACK BIN –

general rubbish – broken crockery, food pouches, nappies, pet waste, vacuum dust & sweepings, broken toys, polystyrene, sheet glass, glassware & Pyrex -

11th June, 2nd July, 23rd July, 13th August,

4th September (may change due to Bank Hol.), 24th September



NEVER PUT BATTERIES IN ANY BIN – THEY ARE DANGEROUS AND CAUSE FIRES... TAKE THEM TO A SUPERMARKET DISPOSAL BIN (there's one at the Co-op.)

For further information and queries:

Ring: 0300 1234 000 (option 4)

Email: recycling@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

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CLUBS & SOCIETIES



EXCHANGE WI

This month was our AGM and we started with "Jerusalem". The present committee were all reelected except Michele who has decided to stand down. Mary thanked her for being on the committee. We welcome Pam who has volunteered to join the committee.

We held a Bring and Buy sale and thanks to all the members who supported this.

The competition this month was home-made sweets. They looked professional and delicious! Pam was 1st, Maureen was 2nd and Barbara Carter was 3rd.

Our speaker next month is Margaret Brackenbury who will be demonstrating how to make gift bags and members will then be able to try themselves.

The competition is a homemade item.

New members and visitors are always welcome.

Carol Blissett
242884



ELMSWELL OVER 55's

We have had a busy fun packed May!!

On 7th May we enjoyed our Rails and Sails trip via Aylsham, Wroxham and Horning, the weather was kind so that was a bonus!

On May 21st the legend that is Elvis (Harry Isaac Presley) was in the building, a brilliant evening of entertainment was had by all.

We are looking forward to Afternoon Tea on 4th June; we are hosting this at the Blackbourne please arrive around 18:30 for sit down at 19:00.

We would like to thank Alan Wells – Wells Stitched Embroidery, who kindly donated 2 polo shirts for the Chairpersons.

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

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

Regards Kay
and Sharon



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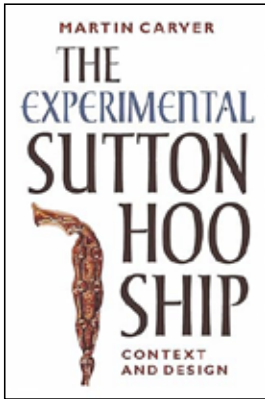
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ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

Last month, a bumper audience enjoyed the detailed talk by Richard Brice of the Sutton Hoo Ship's Company, founded in 2016, on their Project to Construct a Replica (full-size, 90ft) Anglo-Saxon Longboat on the banks of



the River Deben in Woodbridge. This lengthy and "riveting" project (about 4,000 iron rivets were found on the ship!) has involved many volunteer shipwrights and other skilled craftsmen who have used traditional tools and methods of construction, having sourced the oak timbers required from all over Great Britain (some from the Ickworth Estate). This was King Raedwald's royal ship of the late 4th century, the "shadow" of which was unearthed at Sutton Hoo in 1939 beside the River Deben on what the Romans called the Saxon Shore. Richard explained many of the basic shipbuilding techniques required for this major project of experimental archaeology which has involved extensive national and international research. About 400 saplings have been planted by the Woodland Trust at Grundisburgh to replace the felled trees, local woodturners have used the wood off-cuts to make bowls and other wooden items which are sold on site to raise much-needed funds, and even the waste wood-shavings are being used to flavour a local gin! This impressive building project on Woodbridge quayside can be visited free of charge at any time (and includes a series of wonderful huge tapestries detailing the whole story), is next door to the excellent local museum and several cafés, all of which are very easy to reach by train - Woodbridge Station is within very close easy walking distance. Meanwhile, the "Time Team" programme has been filming progress which can be viewed free of charge on YouTube, and a book by York University's renowned Professor of Archaeology, Martin Carver, will soon be published. The project's overall cost is estimated to be £1.5million, and the initial launch is hoped to be some time in 2027 although, because of the limited quayside space available, this will probably not be open to the general public, but it will be live-streamed. Because the Anglo-Saxons had no written records, it is not actually known whether this ship would have had sails, but it is assumed that it was powered by 40 rowers, so now a crew of rowers is being trained ready for next year's launch.

FROM THE ARCHIVE

The Thursday before 29th June is the date of the annual **Cakes & Ale Ceremony** in Bury St Edmunds. Jankyn Smyth was alderman of Bury in 1423 and was known for his philanthropic work. On his death in 1482 he left instruction in his will that a Mass should be held in the town each



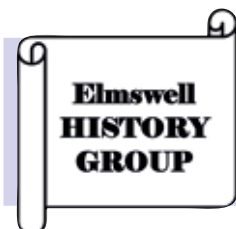
year, along with a bequest of money to provide cakes and ale. A charity was set up to administer his wishes and, over time, it has been used to found almshouses in the town, and is thought today to be oldest endowed charity still operating. The Cakes & Ale Ceremony begins with a service at St Mary's Church where children from the local schools sing. Everyone is welcome to attend and afterwards invited guests move to the Guildhall where the cakes and ale are served. The latter is a special ale brewed locally, which is used for a toast to Jankyn Smyth in remembrance of his generosity.

(Ref: *Britain's Folklore Year* by Mark Norman)

Our next meeting on **11th June**, at the **Wesley Hall** will start with our **AGM** at the slightly **earlier time of 7pm**, immediately followed at 7.30pm when we will welcome Terry O'Donoghue for his talk, **The History of West Suffolk Hospital**. As an experienced Bury Town Guide and current Vice-Chairman of the Bury Society, Terry is extremely well placed to give us this jaunt through the history of medical provision in the town and, in particular, the founding of the original West Suffolk Hospital and its development through the early years. This not-too-heavy reflection on the last 200 years will inform and amuse, taking in a few of the characters involved, some eccentric, some dedicated, but none of them boring.



Non-members/visitors are always welcome (£6pp, cash only please), so do join us then.



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

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



ELMSWELL WI

It was our AGM and Tricia led the meeting as Terry was on holiday. All our committee members want to continue and we also welcomed Rachel who is to join them. Terry is willing to be President for another year.

Tricia reminded us of this year's varied and stimulating meetings. What an enjoyable year! She read out Terry's report which was very positive and congratulated everyone on creating a vibrant WI group, which supports those who are less fortunate and in need. (Of course we feel very lucky to have Terry as our President!)

Our speaker for the evening was Liz O'Riordan, who told us about her life as a surgeon and how she dealt with contracting breast cancer. Liz's father, Keith, was a surgeon and from a very young age she was inspired by him and

decided to become a surgeon herself. What a journey! Not only did she have to achieve all the academic qualifications, she also had to deal with being the only woman surgeon at the time. There was sexual harassment and there were no female colleagues to talk to. She specialised in the treatment of breast cancer and eventually, the emotional pressure of telling ten women per day that they had breast cancer, resulted in Liz having a break-down, because she cared too much. She also realised that she had been training and learning for twenty years and had no friends or hobbies. She had about six months of counselling and was getting back on her feet. She met her husband and things were going well. However, nine months after her recovery, she was diagnosed with breast cancer herself at the age of forty. She has now had it three times.

Liz concluded her talk by stressing the importance of regular breast

examination and mammograms to diagnose cancer early. She has written several books about her experiences and how to deal with breast cancer. She also gives talks all round the world and has a very strong presence online. She must have helped thousands of women come to terms with having and tackling breast cancer. What an inspiration she is! She has been completely open about her experiences and has shared her knowledge with others.

It was a privilege to hear her speak.

Next month our talk is entitled "When Dogs Bark".

Rosie Collins 01359 241652

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB

Our speaker this month was Dr Ian Bedford, a lifelong entomologist who has been fascinated by insects and other invertebrates for most of his life, so we were anticipating an interesting talk.

Ian talked us through the six most common garden insects, three regarded as pests and three more 'friendly', but all having a role to play in either pollination or in the garden food chain. The orange tip butterfly heralds the start of spring and are important early pollinators and love to breed on garlic mustard. Six spot ladybirds are excellent at keeping the aphids under control and the buff-tailed bumblebee are terrific at pollinating our tomatoes and strawberries. Vine weevils, garden snails and rose aphids are all set to feed on our container plants, roses, hostas and any young plant growth. But having these in our gardens do attract other wildlife including blue tits, thrushes, frogs, toads, lacewings and beetles all of which increase the biodiversity of our greenspaces.

Ian advocates not using chemical control methods as these will also affect the species that naturally control (eat) the pests, opting for cultural or biological controls instead. Leaving rose aphids on plants that will tolerate them will encourage ladybirds and their larvae, growing nectar rich, single flowering plants all year rounds and leaving old stems and seed heads through the winter provide nectar and places for insects to over winter. He also reminded us that garden snails have a homing beacon and will return to our gardens unless removed more than 20 meters away – so throwing them in to next-doors garden doesn't work!!



Our next speaker is Jim Paine -Trees for All Seasons on June 16 at 7.30pm, Wesley Chapel.

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

Wendy

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ELMSWELL LIBRARY

Hello Elmswell,

We have an Evening Chess Club starting on Thursday 4th June. Every month on the first Thursday of the month we will have a chess club 7pm – 9pm. It is open to all levels and you are welcome to bring your own refreshments. It is free but donations to the Elmswell Friends Group are welcome. The Afternoon Chess Club will still be continuing 4.30 on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

We have Holly Green, a storyteller, coming in on Wednesday 3rd June at 3.30pm to tell traditional folk tales. Bring your kids in after school to listen to stories told in the oral tradition where they can enjoy a storyteller recounting stories from memory. This is generously funded through Elmswell Library Friends and east Anglian Storytelling Festival.

The current exhibition is artwork by Sarah Abercrombie. The exhibition is of original screenprints by a local artist made from layers of hand drawn stencils exposed to screen using emulsion and light. The screen prints are inspired by the texture, light and rhythm of rural landscapes. There is both artwork and cards for sale with 15% going to raise money for Elmswell Library Friends.

This month's display is of robot books ranging from robots who open a noodle bar to a robot version of Cinderella and robots in space.

See you in the library soon,

Miles

What's on

Holly Green Storyteller

3.30pm **Wednesday 3rd June**

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 6th June**
(every 1st Saturday of the month)

Writing Group

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

Afternoon Chess Club

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

Evening Chess Club

7pm **Thursday 4th June**
(every 1st Thursday of the month)

Fantastical Book Club

11am **Saturday 20th June**
(every 4 weeks) - ask in the library
for this month's book.

The Keep in Touch

Community Café

10.30am **Wednesday 17th June** 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

4pm – 5pm **Tuesday 2nd June**
(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 Wednesday
17th June between 10:00 am and 12:00 noon.**



AROUND & ABOUT

We carried a 'Thank You' in the May magazine from Sylvia Walton to those who attended her recent birthday party at Wesley and whose generous donations amounted to £501 towards the work of St Nicholas Hospice Care.

Our picture shows Sylvia handing over the cheque



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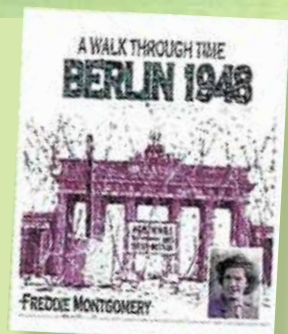
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CITIZENS ADVICE MID SUFFOLK

Buying clothing online can sometimes feel like a gamble, but what happened to you sounds especially misleading. Unfortunately, this type of situation is becoming increasingly common and is widely recognised as a form of retail scam. Many shoppers are drawn in by professional-looking websites, convincing branding and attractive prices, only to receive products that are poor quality and completely different from what was advertised.

In cases like yours, companies often present themselves as UK-based businesses by using British-sounding brand names, UK web addresses or even fake postal information. Some go further by using AI-generated product photos or fabricated stories about the company's background to appear more trustworthy. However, the products are frequently shipped directly from overseas manufacturers and can bear little resemblance to the images shown online.

A major warning sign is exactly what you experienced: being told that returns must be sent to China or another overseas location at your own expense. International return shipping can be extremely costly, sometimes costing almost as much as the item itself. Many customers decide it simply is not worth paying the fee, which is exactly what these companies rely on. By making refunds difficult and expensive, they can keep customers' money while avoiding accountability.

Another issue is that when sellers operate from outside the UK, enforcing UK consumer protection laws becomes far more complicated. Although companies may market directly to British consumers, recovering money or taking legal action can be difficult if the business is based overseas.

To avoid falling victim to similar scams in future, it is important to do some research before buying from unfamiliar retailers. Check independent review websites and search engines rather than relying solely on testimonials displayed on the company's own website. Be cautious of heavily discounted prices, "closing down sales" or deals that seem far cheaper than those offered by established retailers. If something looks too good to be true, it often is.

You should also be wary of social media adverts, as many scam retailers rely heavily on targeted advertising to attract customers quickly. Take a close look at product images as well. AI-generated images can sometimes appear overly polished or contain

unusual distortions, inconsistent textures or unrealistic details. Delivery information can also reveal a lot. A company claiming to be UK-based should not usually have unusually long delivery times that suggest products are being shipped internationally.

If you paid by debit or with a credit card, you may still be able to recover your money. Debit card users can ask their bank to initiate a chargeback claim. Credit card customers may also be able to use chargeback for purchases under £100. If the item cost between £100 and £30,000 and was purchased using a credit card, you can request a Section 75 claim, which offers stronger legal protection.

Finally, reporting these businesses is important. Complaints to organisations such as the Competition and Markets Authority, Citizens Advice Consumer Service and the Advertising Standards Authority can help authorities investigate misleading traders and potentially prevent others from being caught out in the same way.

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

From the Office of Peter Prinsley MP

Member of Parliament for Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Better, more frequent, publicly-owned trains Recently renationalised Greater Anglia has introduced a range of service improvements which should come as good news for the residents of Elmswell who travel by train.

More trains are now stopping at Elmswell station on the St Edmund's Line, and longer trains are being used at busier times, to reduce overcrowding. Greater Anglia was the third rail franchise to be renationalised. The Government's aim is for nearly all English passenger rail services to be under Great British Railways by the end of 2027. By bringing all current rail franchises into public ownership, the Government estimates the taxpayer will be saved an estimated £150 million a year in operator fees.

More improvements in Elmswell are still needed, most urgently a remedy for the level crossing which continues to bring the village to a standstill, and I will keep pushing for these.

Further help with the cost of living

More frequent trains mean more opportunities for families in Elmswell to enjoy the Government's new package of support over the summer which will help families afford some precious leisure time together.

From June 25 VAT will be cut to just 5% on a range of family experiences from children's meals out, cinema tickets and theatre shows, to museums, zoos and fairs and from August 1 every child aged 5-15 in England will be able to travel free

on buses. For a family with 2 children taking a regular weekly bus journey this could save £27 over the month.

If you're looking for some family fun closer to home and witches are your thing then Elmswell

is the place to be! The Suffolk Witchcraft Group will be holding several events at the Blackbourne Community Centre starting this summer, including stalls selling all things witch-related. Children under 12 enter for free.



www.peterprinsley.org



ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Warm greetings from St John's Church

Pelican in her Piety at St John's Church

I have been Rector at St John's for almost 13 years now, and yet I keep discovering new information about our fascinating historical building. For example, I did not understand the significance of the artwork behind the communion table at the front of the church until last month (see above).

However, on the 21st May, a U3A group from Bury St Edmunds visited St John's. I had been asked to give a talk on the history and architecture of the church and, as part of my preparation, I discovered the meaning of this image under our largest stained glass windows.

It is known as the *Pelican in her Piety*. It depicts a pelican giving life to her chicks by feeding them with her own blood. Her blood is willingly shed as she pierces her chest with her beak. In the past, people incorrectly thought this was how many pelicans behaved in nature. However, it soon came to be used as a powerful symbol of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ – one who willingly gave his blood in order to give true life to humankind. By shedding his blood for our sins, Jesus has made forgiveness freely available to all who turn to him – and with forgiveness comes reconciliation with God and eternal life.

This deep, sacrificial love of Jesus is what we celebrate at St John's. If you'd like to find out more, pop along one Sunday will get in touch with us.

So, what else happened at St John's in May? It was a lovely, busy month with a focus on praising God. Families enjoyed 2 messy church events - one which particularly focused on singing and celebrating our amazing God. A special **Pentecost Songs of Praise** service on 24 May, with an afternoon tea, was also an uplifting time of worshipping the Lord Jesus and thanking God for the gift of his Spirit.

As we head into June, we look forward to hearing more about the blessings God pours out upon us in Jesus, as we continue our sermon series on Ephesians. You will always find a warm welcome at St John's. We meet at 10:30am and have a lovely Sunday School, which runs during the main part of the service.

Upcoming Dates:

Sun 7 June 9:00am

Holy Communion

Sun 7 June 10:30am

Family Service

Sun 14 June 10:30am

Sunday Worship with Holy Communion

Sun 21 June 10:30am

Parish Praise

Sun 28 June 10:30am

Sunday Worship with Holy Communion

Sun 5 July 9:00am

Holy Communion

Sun 5 July 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 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 the summer months the lights will be on between 8.00 p.m. and midnight.

Please note the deadline for inclusion in the July Newsletter is Monday 22nd June.

Your support is very much appreciated. Thank you.

MAY 2026 SPONSORSHIP NOT PREVIOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED

24 William Housden. Much missed Husband, Dad and Grandad. xx.

JUNE 2026 SPONSORSHIPS

- 1 remembering Amy Pleasance, a dear Mum, Grandma and Great Grandma, on her Birthday.
- 7 to remember and thank all those past Elmswell Fire-Fighters who served their village and community so well.
- 11 remembering with love, a dear husband and father, Dennis Atkins, on his Birthday.

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



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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

Have you got your Summer Holiday planned? Margaret and I are looking forward to getting away

in our caravan. We will be visiting Hay-on-Wye in Herefordshire, Staunton in Gloucestershire to see our son and

family and Sidmouth in Devon. Whatever you do this summer even if it's just days out in our wonderful county, we hope you have a good time and come back refreshed from your "Holydays". In the days when people did not have the opportunity to go on holidays like most of us do now, anytime they did would have most likely been a religious break, perhaps a pilgrimage. A chance to be refreshed spiritually, mentally and physically, we trust this will be true for you whatever type of time away you have.

The Ladies Friendship Group finish their meetings for the summer with a Garden Party on June 1st at 2pm, bring some food to share. Meetings will resume on September 7th when Alison Roberts will be coming to talk about "My Life's Pathway"

All ladies are welcome. Phone Margaret on 07926 753882 for more information.

Food & Friends meets for the last time before it's summer break on Thursday June 11th at midday – for the older folk – a chance to meet other people and enjoy a light lunch and a pudding for a modest donation. All are welcome. Please phone Dorothy on 245811 for more details.

We are grateful to all those who are booked to come to lead our worship in the coming weeks.

Our speakers in the coming weeks are:-

June 7th

Christine Myers (inc Communion)

June 14th

Mark Partridge – All-Age Café Service

June 21st

Stephen Horrex – Fathers Day

June 28th

Mike Forrester

July 5th

Rev. Norman Tharby (inc Communion)

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

Visit our website at www.elmswellbaptist.org.uk, email cockant2@btinternet.com or telephone/text 07784 095225 or call any of the numbers in this text for further info.

May you know God's blessings this summer.

Tony





ELMSWELL BOWLS CLUB

We opened the green on Sunday, April 12th, and had a pleasing turn out and it was good to catch up with folks we hadn't seen since last September. Unfortunately but rather predictably we haven't made a very good start to the season so far. In comparison to last year when we finished runner-up on Monday and mid-table on Thursday, this year is looking to be more of a struggle. The ambition is, of course, to stay in Division One on both days, but whether we have the players to do that is somewhat dubious this year as we not made the best of starts and suffering from injury and illness. We are hoping that our Open Day, on Sunday 31st May, will bring us some new players and to tempt you we are offering a barbecue which will provide free burgers all day long. It all kicks off at 2.0pm and will wind up at about 4.030pm. So, if you have been threatening to give bowls try, this might be the perfect opportunity to try it out. There will be experienced bowlers there to 'show you the ropes', as it were, so a chance not to be missed, in my book.

Elmswell

Fox



Bowls Club

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

WESLEY UKULELE BAND



A slightly busier month has passed, starting with a very quiet do at the Wesley, supporting Home Start. There were a few stalls promoting village groups, but not many visitors. We treated it as another practice session!

We then had our regular gig at Nowton Court Care Home sandwiched between two visits to the Time Out Club in Fornham All Saints. All very well received and a lot of fun.



Our picture, this month, shows the small, but perfectly formed, band at the Time Out Club.

Our final gig this month was a visit to Brandon Day Care Centre, which, I am assured, went very well.

Further to the advance notice in last month's magazine, I invite you to join us for our annual 'June in Tune', which will be held on Saturday 27th June and take place between the Wesley Hall and the newly reopened Tavern. The afternoon will start at 1pm and will feature, amongst others, 'Scrambled Eggs' (a male voice choir), 'Song Circle' (a ladies choir), 'Just Us' (a musical duo) and, of course, The Wesley Ukulele Band and Seventy Shades of Grey. Entry is free and a raffle and donations will be raised towards the new Cambridge Children's Hospital. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible for this very worthwhile cause.

'Til next time. Take care.

Email: Kevin.Knock99@gmail.com

Medication Reviews

Many of our patients are on regular repeat prescriptions which require monitoring at least annually, sometimes more frequently. Medication reviews are carried out to ensure that medicines are **safe, effective, and appropriate** for your current needs.

They help to:

- Reduce harm by identifying unnecessary, duplicate, or interacting medicines
- Check that treatments are working as intended
- Optimise prescribing, including stopping medications where benefits no longer outweigh risks
- Support your understanding, adherence, and shared decisionmaking
- Manage your longterm conditions such as diabetes or asthma
- Reduce medicines waste and improve value for money

In essence: they ensure you are on the *right medicines, at the right dose, for the right reasons, at the right time.*

In the first 4 months of 2026 we have already carried out 2,851 medication reviews.

Over the past 12 months we have been trying to align medication reviews to birthday months.

As part of the medication review you may be contacted with a request for up-to-date height, weight, blood pressure measurements and blood tests.

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Sean Plaskitt, Showroom Manager



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NEWS FROM ELMSWILD



BT volunteers back at Lukeswood

Our link with BT goes back over many years – once or twice a year they gather together a team of volunteers who come and spend a day working with us. We always look forward to these visits as we get so many tasks completed and everyone has an enjoyable time. Some volunteers keep coming back year after year, so they find it very interesting to see how Lukeswood has developed since they first saw it. The weather isn't always kind to us, but this doesn't dampen their enthusiasm! This year it was raining when everyone arrived, but it dried up eventually and the sun even came out in the afternoon to brighten us all up. This year we concentrated on work in the orchard, mulching the trees and replacing the old tree guards with deer proof mesh and stakes. A huge thank you to all the BT team for their support – we hope to welcome you back to Lukeswood in the near future.



Will we see Turtle Doves at Lukeswood this year?

Last year we started our participation in Operation Turtle Dove, an RSPB project which aims to reverse the decline of this much-loved farmland bird.



The Turtle Dove is the UK's fastest declining bird species and is threatened with national, if not global, extinction – their numbers in this country have plummeted by an estimated 99% since their peak in the late 1960s. They are migratory, coming to the UK from their winter grounds in sub-Saharan West Africa, so one of their biggest challenges is unsustainable shooting in southern Europe. Here in the UK their hurdles are loss of food – they feed almost entirely on seeds from annual and perennial plants – and loss of habitat for breeding.

Operation Turtle Dove works with farmers, land managers and smaller community sites like Lukeswood to improve breeding and feeding habitats. Over the summer months last year we scattered seed every week over a specified area at Lukeswood and made several new drinking pools to give them easy access to water. We're repeating the process again this year in the hope of attracting these beautiful birds into our wildlife site. This year, with the help of Eliza and Matt from the RSPB, we're also improving the foraging ground by rotavating a plot of land. Loosening the soil will allow weed seeds to germinate and grow so that eventually the birds will be able to forage their own food directly. Matt and Eliza brought their impressive rotavator to Lukeswood and made short work of churning up the ground! Now we need some rain to get the growing process underway.....



We didn't see any Turtle Doves last year, but we know there have been sightings nearby, so it's only a matter of time before they find us and discover that our scrub and hedgerows offer excellent nesting habitat. If you see or hear a Turtle Dove in Lukeswood or nearby, please let us know. Here's hoping!



Apple Day – coming soon!

This year Apple Day is on **Saturday 26 September at Lukeswood**, and it's not too soon to be thinking about having a stall at our annual celebration of the apple (and all orchard fruits). We've been working hard in the orchard over the last few months so we're hoping for a good harvest of apples, pears, plums, gages and damsons. As usual, we have some great attractions planned for Apple Day, with interesting stalls, fun activities, and delicious refreshments. A great afternoon out for all ages. Once again, **admission is FREE**, so don't miss the opportunity to take a look at the orchard and enjoy all the action. **All pitches are also free** (but we do welcome donations on the day).

INVITATION TO ALL VILLAGE CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Would you like to book a stall at Apple Day? It's a great way to raise funds and have an enjoyable afternoon out at the same time. If you or your village club would like to have a stall, just get in touch.

ARE YOU A MAKER, OR HAVE CRAFTS TO SELL OR SHOW?

We especially welcome craft stalls of all kinds, so if you are a maker and would like to sell your wares or just get your work known to a wider audience, please contact us.

IS LOCAL FOOD YOUR SPECIALITY?

We would love to welcome you to Apple Day – contact us about a stall.

Mary Feeney
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Woodland Treasure Hunt

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Nibbled Leaf



Moss



Dewy Grass



Sticky Leaf Buds



New Green Leaf



Woodland Flowers



Lichen covered twig

Woodland Wordsearch



B	G	L	F	E	A	T	H	E	R	M	S
L	I	A	B	C	U	R	X	E	I	O	U
O	D	R	E	H	W	E	P	S	S	S	M
S	B	L	D	W	L	E	A	V	E	S	J
S	D	C	T	S	F	B	G	S	D	A	N
O	W	H	W	E	H	E	W	T	F	D	F
M	H	T	F	O	X	O	H	I	H	G	H
O	K	N	D	Y	O	Q	B	B	L	J	B
A	W	P	E	B	B	L	E	B	R	K	V
T	A	H	E	U	P	H	A	A	C	L	I
W	S	T	R	O	L	S	G	R	A	S	S
F	M	J	A	F	S	A	S	A	B	U	A

Can you find the following words;

Feather Leaves Grass Moss Blossom
Pebble Fox Deer Rabbit Birds Tree



Woodland Medals

To make these super woodland medals with adult support you will need;

- A piece of wood similar size to a biscuit.
- Using a hand drill, you will need to make a hole.
- Decorate your medal using pens, glitter and paint.
- Thread some ribbon or string through the hole.

How do trees get on the internet?
They log in!!

Why do bees hum?
Because they don't know the words!!

What did the tree wear to the pool party?
Swimming Trunks!!

Why did the fly never land on the computer?
He was afraid of the world wide web!!

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AGM

**The Annual
General Meeting
of the
Blackbourne
& Wesley-Tavern
Management
Association
will be held
at Wesley on
Thursday 11th June
beginning at 7.30
to be immediately
followed by the
first meeting of the
new Committee.**

The Association meets bi-monthly to review the activities and running of the Parish Council's letting facilities and to advise Council as appropriate.

Representatives from 17 village organisations are appointed and there are 4 non-affiliated members elected as Registered Electors of Elmswell.

**To register for election
contact Lucy Holt:
[clerk@elmswellpc.
co.uk](mailto:clerk@elmswellpc.co.uk)
01350 244134
10th June.**



Your Parish Councillors are

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

Non- Councillor officers and representatives on external bodies:

Poor's Land Charity; Mrs Linda Waspe
 Tree warden; Mrs Janet Spencer

The Council belongs to the following organisations:

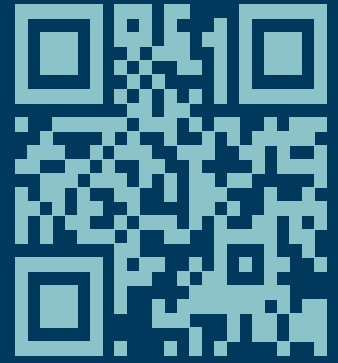
Community Action Suffolk
 Suffolk Preservation Society (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England)
 National Community Land Trust
 MARPA – The Mid Anglia Rail Passenger Association
 SLCC – The Society of Local Council Clerks



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Road Schemes included in Government Five-Year Plan

The government has announced its five-year Road Investment Strategy for 2026-2031, which includes four key projects in Suffolk:

- **A12 improvements at Woodbridge** – a recommitment by the government to funding its share during this period of the £63m scheme to upgrade the A12 between the Seven Hills junction with the A14 and the Woods Lane roundabout, subject to Suffolk County Council submitting the final business case later this year
- **A140 - A1120 Earl Stonham junction improvements** – this has been classed as a scheme 'recommended to continue', where the government accepts work on developing improvements should go ahead during this period. However, the work will be subject to affordability, value for money and deliverability assessments.
- **Improvements to the A11 Fiveways junction near Mildenhall** – the government and National Highways will continue to develop this scheme but it will not be delivered before 2031
- **Improvements to the A12/A14 Copdock Interchange** – the government and National Highways will continue to develop this scheme but it will not be delivered before 2031

More information about the projects the government is committing to for 2026-2031 can be found here: <https://maps.dft.gov.uk/road-schemes-spring-2026/index.html>

Homes for Ukraine: Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme Launched

The government has introduced the Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme (UPES) to allow people living in the UK under an existing Ukraine Visa scheme to apply to extend their stay in the UK for a further 18 months when their valid Ukrainian visa expires. If the application is successful, Ukrainian guests will be able to continue to live, work and study in the UK and access public funds. Guests must actively apply to extend their visa (it will not happen automatically) when their current permission has 90 days or less remaining, and they must be physically present in the UK while applying and not leave the UK while the application is being processed.

More information on the extension scheme can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/applying-to-the-ukraine-permission-extension-scheme>

New Chair for Suffolk Business Board

The Suffolk Business Board has

appointed Lisa Perkins, Chief People Officer and Director of Growth Partnership at Plexal, as its new Chair for the forthcoming year. Lisa is an existing Board member, and takes over from Mark Pendlington, who is stepping down from a two-year term in the role. The Suffolk Business Board is administered by the council but led by local business representatives to oversee funded programmes supporting business growth and skills development across Suffolk. As Chair, Lisa will work with the rest of the Board and local business partners to promote its ongoing programme of clean and inclusive growth across the local economy. Four other appointments have also been made to the Board, bringing in expertise in agri-food, clean energy, port and logistics and the visitor (tourist) economy: Bee Kembal, Managing Director of Debach Enterprises Ltd, Jonathan Reynolds, Managing Director of Opergy Group, Genevieve Christie, Chief Executive Officer of First Light Festival CIC and Andrew Wilkinson, formerly Chief Executive Officer at The University of Manchester Innovation Factory Ltd.

Pupils Pitch for School Active Travel Funding

School pupils from across Suffolk took part in a Dragon's Den style event at Endeavour House to secure active travel funding for their schools. The event, part of the Active Travel Ambassador programme with secondary schools, was delivered by Modeshift. They provided £200 of funding which was matched by Suffolk County Council to provide £400 available for each school, with an additional £50 for the best presentation. Schools can use the money for anything from competition prizes to promotional materials, and the following projects were put forward:

- **Northgate High School in Ipswich** – is promoting active travel through a 'golden bike lock' competition and a prize wheel for students who walk, cycle, or travel sustainably to school. It is also encouraging students who face barriers to active travel to take part by walking, helping everyone experience the benefits of physical activity
- **Ormiston Endeavour Academy in Ipswich** – is encouraging active travel by rewarding students with tokens which can be exchanged for prizes. The school is also running a photo competition, inviting students to capture and share what they see on their journey to school
- **Claydon High School** – the school Green Team organised a Sustainable Travel Day, rewarding students and staff who travel actively with raffle

tickets and prizes, alongside a 'golden bike lock' competition. It is also exploring ways to promote active travel year-round and have highlighted safer walking routes and crossings around the school

- **Hadleigh High School** – the school's Eco Committee is bringing back its successful 'Hidden in Hadleigh' initiative, hiding painted rocks along popular walking routes for students to find and exchange for prizes. It has also introduced a points system that rewards active and sustainable travel
- **King Edward VI School in Bury St Edmunds** – proposed a 'golden bike lock' prize alongside daily rewards for pupils who walk or cycle to school and suggested collaborating with nearby schools on a joint active travel campaign.

Schools that took part in the event last year have all reported an increase in active travel, with more pupils choosing to cycle or walk to and from school.

Suffolk Ramps Up Energy Sector Training

Suffolk Economy and West Suffolk College are launching the second phase of their Energy Readiness Programme to support employers as they prepare for major developments, including Sizewell C, growing investment in renewable energy, and the emergence of new clean energy technologies. Project partners will include Suffolk Chamber of Commerce, Suffolk New College and East Coast College. The programme aims to help local people gain the skills needed for well-paid careers and give businesses the confidence to grow, recruit and take advantage of the new opportunities emerging across the energy industry. Employers taking part will be able to access a bursary to help them reduce the costs that can prevent people from undertaking training. There will also be more training options, including new courses shaped by what local employers say they need, extra support for apprenticeships to make it easier for businesses to bring in and train new talent, a focus on innovation to encourage employers to explore new energy solutions and improved monitoring and evaluation to make sure the programme delivers real benefits and adapts as the sector evolves.

Phase two will also introduce training designed specifically for work on the Sizewell C site, including courses covering minimum onsite standards and Fit for Sizewell requirements. It will also support skills development across Suffolk's wider energy economy, linking with initiatives such as Freeport East and offering training in emerging technologies.

Recent local Elections

The new County Councillor for Elmswell and Woolpit is Councillor James Patchett (Green Party). Following the recent County elections we now have a Reform administration at Suffolk County Council, with the Green party forming the official opposition as the second largest party.

Better Recycling – new bin collections

The new recycling programme started 1st June – alternating weekly between blue, black and green bins plus a weekly collection of the food caddy. Every Mid Suffolk household should have received a letter explaining how to use the new bins, plus a detailed bin collection calendar for the local area. If you have not received your new bins, please advise the council of this with your address and postcode via recycling@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk – or let Jen or Sarah know.

Locality Budget

The 2026-27 Locality budgets have now been launched. We'd love to receive applications for funding from any community group in Elmswell or Woolpit. More details are on the website: <https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/locality-awards>. You can get in touch with one of us for an application form, and we are always happy to talk through any application you are considering.

Local Government Reorganisation

A new website has recently gone live, called *Future Suffolk*, jointly created by county, district and borough councils - www.suffolklgrhub.gov.uk. Content includes an interactive map of provisional ward boundaries, a timeline, and details about the 2027 shadow authority elections. This is a temporary website, aiming to communicate the changes ahead in a clear and transparent way. It provides a single point of contact for resident to submit questions and comments via a "Contact Us" form - www.suffolklgrhub.gov.uk/contact.

All the districts and boroughs have now agreed to form voluntary joint committees who will work together preparing for the new unitary authorities. The new Reform County Council are fighting the Government decision to go ahead with the reorganisation via Judicial Review, but officers continue working towards LGR until we hear otherwise.

Joint Local Plan

Both Babergh and Mid Suffolk have recently approved and published formal notice to commence preparation of a new joint local plan, available on the Mid Suffolk website. The statutory Scoping Consultation will run for a period of 8 weeks from June and provides an

opportunity for residents to share their views.

Suffolk's Armed Forces Day celebrations

Mid Suffolk is hosting the annual Armed Forces Day this year, and this free family event takes place on Saturday 27th June, 11am to 3pm, at the Recreation Ground in Stowmarket. The programme will include live music, a range of family-friendly attractions, food and drink, military displays and historic vehicles.

Councillor drop-in sessions

Jen and Sarah are regularly available for residents to meet with us to share concerns or issues, or just to say hello.

Upcoming dates are

- Thursday 18th June 10 – 12 at Green Wolf Café, Woolpit
- Thursday 9th July 10 – 12 at Green Wolf Café, Woolpit
- Thursday 13th August 10 – 12 at Green Wolf Café, Woolpit
- Tuesday 29th September 10 – 12 at the Wesley Café, Elmswell



Mid Suffolk District Council: 0300 1234000 www.midsuffolk.gov.uk
 Cllr Sarah Mansel: 07860 829517 sarah.mansel@midsuffolk.gov.uk
 Cllr Jen Overett: 07928 512591 jen.overett@midsuffolk.gov.uk



The Elmswell Repair Café

At Wesley

NO BOOKING NECESSARY - JUST TURN UP

Our team of volunteers is at Wesley again on Saturday 20th June to help us to recycle and re-use rather than just throw away. Clothing items, small electrical items, furniture, toys, jewellery...anything fixable they'll have a go! NO BOOKING NECESSARY – JUST TURN UP... and no charge is made, although donations to offset expenses are invited.



Volunteers always welcome – not just repairers, but administration on the day... contact Sue Reynard at stowrepaircafe@gmail.com or be in touch through the Parish Clerk's office... clerk@elmswellpc.co.uk 01359 244134

**NEXT SESSION: SATURDAY 20th JUNE
2.00PM - 4.00PM**



**DON'T BIN IT – REPAIR IT.
WE CAN HELP**

Council has met 10 times over the year since May 2025 and the reports published each month in the Elmswell Newsletter accurately reflect the year's activities.

In no particular order, I list here some of the matters worthy of note resulting from Council's deliberations since our last Annual Meeting.

TAVERN The Tavern project has, understandably, consumed considerable time and effort on the part of staff, volunteers and the small team of Councillors who have spearheaded the works. The doors opened officially on 22nd April but it was significant that the first users were community groups, the BWTMA and the Bowls Club, who both used the premises for meeting before that date. The opening week of events has proved to be extremely busy and has provided a valuable test of the staff and the facilities. It will be several weeks before the initial anomalies are evened-out and long-term projections can be made, but all of the early feedback suggests that the village will stand to benefit considerably from the establishment of the combined Wesley – Tavern facilities for many years to come.

AFFORDABLE HOMES The purchase of the Tavern site from Greene King in 2020 included the substantial plot on which the building stands and which it was hoped might provide the opportunity for community-owned affordable housing. This aspect has been explored in some depth and at some cost in professional fees towards identifying a route allowing for the houses to be built and which would ensure community ownership in perpetuity. This has proved to be problematic to the extent that such a scheme cannot proceed unless and until the village is consulted on the potential loss of all of the houses and, therefore, the land, into the private sector through statutory, 'Right to Buy'. I would hope that the re-visiting of the Elmswell Neighbourhood Plan, which must happen within the next 12 months if we are to continue to have a say in the growth of the village, will provide a framework for consultation on this crucial issue.

SCHOOL PARKING Council was vocal over recent years in trying to control the dangerous parking situation at Elmswell School and it was gratifying to have the necessary Traffic Regulation Orders made and the statutory trial period elapsed without objection so that our children are safer to and from school.

COMMUNITY PATH TO WOOLPIT We continue to pressure Suffolk County Council in the matter of realising the Elmswell-Woolpit community cycle / pedestrian path for which scheme EPC secured Planning permission in 2007. The scheme looks now to be achievable within 2 years, with the bulk of funding now in place and EPC continues to be a key player in making this happen.

SOLAR AT BLACKBOURNE July 25th saw the switch-on of a substantial addition to our solar PV generation facility at Blackbourne and the back-up batteries. The new system has made a considerable dent in the electricity costs, particularly given that all of the heating relies on electricity through the ground source heat pump. The total cost of £46,702 was offset by grant aid of £35,026 meaning that the predicted output of 18,348 kWh per annum allows for the payback of the village's outlay within 5 years.

STREET LIGHTS There are some 110 street lights owned by the Parish rather than Mid Suffolk or Suffolk County Council. Many of these are old and often obsolete, so a continuous programme of repair, replacement and upgrading is necessary. This can be a long job if the light unit shares its pole mounting with electricity supply cables & switchgear when specialist UKPN engineers have to attend. We budgeted £15,794 for the power, maintenance and upgrades of these lights over the year and spent £15,638. The upgrades will have to continue for several years to come as the old units fail

PLAY AREAS A task & finish panel of Councillors with relevant experience has successfully steered the refurbishment and expansion of the Junior facility at Crown Mill and are currently addressing the need for a 0-4yrs toddler / pre-school facility on the Council's other land on the estate. Council is aware of the further shortfall in provision for older children & teenagers and this is likely to feature prominently when our Neighbourhood Plan is reviewed in the coming year.

PLANNING The most significant Planning issue has been the Application for a 66 bed care village with 37 sheltered bungalows, 3 almshouse and ancillary buildings on land at School Road which was, encouraged by EPC, subject to widespread public objection, and subsequently refused Permission. An Appeal against the Refusal failed and it is to be hoped that this significant aspect from the heart of the village to St John's is safe for the moment.

TAXI BUS Elmswell played a significant role in establishing the twice-weekly mini bus service into Bury calling at 3 neighbouring villages. The aim was to develop the scheme towards a demand-led service and away from the fixed-bus, set time, set route pattern which would seem not to be what people nowadays want. Unfortunately, the established operators have been able to steer the available funding their way towards maintaining the status quo for as long as that funding lasts. Perhaps at this stage there might be an opportunity to look at alternative ways of providing public transport in our region, as has happened elsewhere. Meanwhile, the experiment, since ceased, remains as an interesting example of a possible different way forward.

STREET TRADING We made strenuous efforts to have trading by the hot food vendor at the Station Road Industrial Estate approach road regularised in face of complaints about dangerous and poor operating practice and, significantly, the loss of the parking spaces for rail travellers. That battle eventually won, it is gratifying to see that Mid Suffolk have taken on board our suggestion of a system of street trading licencing which is currently undergoing due process.

EV CHARGING EPC was an early subscriber to the 'Plug In Suffolk' scheme which provided free installation of electric car chargers at both Wesley and at Blackbourne. The system administration proved to be problematic and use diminished as more home chargers were fitted. When SCC decided to change the service provider, we decided to pause the provision and rely on the new EV charging facility at The Tavern. The situation can be reviewed at any time.

TURNERS' FIELD The village was gifted 6 acres of land abutting Blackbourne by Stan & Ian Turner who were successful housing developers in Elmswell over recent years and who wished to make a contribution towards community facilities. Unfortunately, to have this land levelled, drained and seeded as a recreational resource we need Change of Use Planning Permission which requires compliance with recent legislation requiring payment or works on the site to enhance the biodiversity which would otherwise be lost by the development. Unless we can find a way of compensating by way of habitat creation on the site, the payment in lieu would amount to £307,750. We continue working with our professional advisers and the Planners towards resolving what is, clearly, an unintended consequence of the new law.

CROSSING GATES As rail traffic increases and is planned to increase much further, the problems of delay and frustration caused by the down-time of the railway crossing gates becomes more of a factor. Councillors have met with Peter Prinsley MP and are seeking to have him convene a meeting with train operators towards ensuring that the current signalling protocols are set with the road traffic as a factor as well as ensuring proper safety limits are observed.

MOVING ON We are an extremely busy council and I can only highlight here some of the more significant aspects of our year. Clearly, the Tavern project has dominated and I have been pleased to be able to steer the design and build process with the help of other Members, thus allowing a saving on professional fees and capital costs well in excess of £100,000 and making a significant contribution to our having brought the scheme in on budget. This has been achieved without significant pause in the day-to-day administration of the Council and smaller initiatives have continued to flourish, often as advised by the Blackbourne & Wesley-Tavern Management Association' such as the bicycle repair stations at both Blackbourne and Wesley, the digital support sessions and the Repair Café. The inevitable and considerable strain on the Clerk's Office has been absorbed largely through the extra-ordinary efforts of Ann Brett, our Responsible Finance Officer, who deserves recognition and special thanks.

This is the current Council's last year in office. Sadly, we lost Cllr David Hawes who died in April and who's contribution to EPC and to the wider Elmswell community went back over several decades. It highlights the fact that, as in many communities, your councillors are drawn from an older demographic and that the 2027 elections will offer an opportunity for fresh input. It has been the Elmswell way in the recent past to fight its corner despite the wider political picture. As we enter the turmoil of Local Government Reorganisation and Mayoral Devolution it will need fresh energy and commitment from individuals within our much-expanded and still-growing community if Elmswell is to continue as an exemplar of community growth matching population expansion.

Cllr Fred Pallett
15.05.2026



ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL MAY 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 May meeting is the Annual Meeting, rather like an AGM with various matters of administration included relating to accounts, reports and due process. The 2026 May meeting with 8 councillors present together with newly-elected County Council Ward Member James Patchett, District Council Ward Member Jen Overett the Parish Clerk Peter Dow and 8 members of the public took place at Blackbourne on Monday 18th. 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 meeting held on 20th April, as approved at this meeting, are posted in the Council's notice board at Crown Mill.

Annual administration documents

Councillors formally noted and approved the accounts for the year to 31st March, the Annual Governance & Accountability Return, the schedule of Risk Assessments and written Policies and the Internal Audit Report which confirms that the council continues to maintain effective governance arrangements including a robust framework of financial administration and internal controls. The annual governance statement and accounting statements prepared during audit for submission to the Council's external auditors were also approved.

District Council

Cllrs Sarah Mansel & Jen Overett, Ward Members on Mid Suffolk District Council, tabled an Annual Report which is printed elsewhere in this Newsletter, as is their regular monthly Report.

Council posts

Cllrs Fred Pallett and David Barker were unanimously re-elected to the posts of Chairman and Vice-chairman of Council respectively. Similarly the status-quo was maintained with regard to other Council officer posts, to representation on other bodies, to Committee memberships and bank account signatories plus Council membership of other organisations.

County Council

Cllr James Patchett, newly-elected Ward Member on Suffolk County Council, confirmed his contact details and that, once SCC has had the first meeting of the new Administration, he would begin monthly reporting to parish council meetings.

Clerk's Report

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

STREET TRADING

It was pleasing to see that EPC's efforts to persuade Mid Suffolk to consider controls on street trading

in light of the problems experienced by the hot food outlet working from a van at Station Road have borne fruit. A Public Notice to Pass A Street Trading Resolution was published on 1st May which would effectively require any street trading to be licensed. The decision will be made on 23rd June. Given this Council's part in the proposal to adopt such a policy, it is suggested that it might be appropriate to respond to the statutory consultation by way of a formal letter of support.

CASUAL VACANCY

The statutory notice of a Casual Vacancy, as issued by MSDC, was posted on Thursday 23.04.2026. As no request for an election was made I shall advertise the post as open for co-option giving the same 14 working-day timescale for response by Application as per the statutory 2006 Rules.

PARKING

I have circulated correspondence regarding the perceived long-term parking hazard at Wetherden Road, being the latest complaint from a resident and the Police response which remains, as before, that there is not a problem justifying action on their part.

TAVERN MAPPED

Cllr Hancock has, to the public good, indulged two of his personal interests by persuading Ordnance Survey to update their mapping to show the Elmswell Tavern correctly named as such. They have since confirmed that the location is at British National Grid reference of **TL 996 636** and that the relevant co-ordinates are: **Eastings:** 599600 **Northing:** 263600 (just opposite the chip shop).

PATH TO WOOLPIT

I agreed to host at Wesley on 12th May a meeting of the group which has been working since 2007 towards delivery of the Elmswell to Woolpit pedestrian & cycle community path. There has, over the past 2 years been an unhelpful merry-go-round

of SCC agencies & officer personnel and a consequent frustrating lack of progress. The scheme is now managed by the Growth, Highways and Infrastructure (GHI) Directorate at Suffolk County Council which manages economic development, infrastructure projects, transport strategy, and public highways and is, 'responsible for sustainable transport initiatives designed to support growth and improve network resilience'. The meeting was convened by the Project Manager of the Infrastructure Works Delivery Team and offered a far more realistic and hopeful picture of the proposed outcomes including the funding channels. I have circulated the updated preliminary designs which show certain permitted compromises to the absolute Local Transport Note (LTN) 1/20 Standard for the scheme to be feasible. [LTN 1/20 (Cycle Infrastructure Design) is the current UK Department for Transport guidance setting mandatory standards for high-quality, safe, and coherent cycle infrastructure]. The works will be contracted to M-Group Services who are the current SCC preferred contractor. The projected build programme begins, 'early to mid 2027'. The next meeting of the group will be potentially significant in giving some idea as to whether the welcome new momentum is maintained.

TAVERN PROGRESS

Cllr Pallett has painstakingly pulled together the statutory and regulatory certification relating to the Tavern project and the last of the Planning conditions, as at 27.3 is signed off. Snagging issues and recent teething problems with the drainage and heating have been dealt with and the facility is open for business.

BLACKBOURNE INSURANCE CLAIM

The damage to the underground collector pipe network servicing the ground source heat pump at Blackbourne remains live as a claim against the contractor's insurers who have acknowledged their involvement

in the matter. The sum claimed is £8,750.69. Should this claim fail for whatever reason, EPC's own insurers would be obliged to consider some, but not all, of the damages claimed as they include an element of inconvenience and upheaval to user groups when the system was down.

Planning Results

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

DC/26/00994 Erection of part two storey extension...16 Cooks Road
GRANTED EPC made no comment

DC/26/01449 Application to determine right to proceed...Botany Bay Farm, Grove Lane APPROVAL DEEMED NOT REQUIRED EPC made no comment

DC/26/01127 Discharge of Conditions DC/23/05878...Elmswell Tavern, School Road APPROVED EPC made no comment on its own Application.

Planning Applications

Councillors supported the application ref DC/26/01643 for the erection of a rear single storey extension and supporting internal alterations at **2, Hulver Close, Grove Lane**

They opted not to comment on the application ref. DC/26/01853 under S73 for the Removal or Variation of Conditions following grant of DC/24/2890 dated 23/08/2024 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Erection of 4 no. dwellings (following demolition of barns. - To vary Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) and Condition 16 (External Facing and Roofing Materials) and confirm compliance with Conditions 11 and 12 at **Willow Farm**, Ashfield Road on grounds that the technical assessments involved were better delegated to Planning Officers.

Ecological Appraisal

Council received the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal as commissioned from Connected Ecology ref 26.04.12 on land at Crown Mill and further instructed Connected

Ecology to advise on a pre-works check prior to any breaking ground work on the site or significant works to shrubs for a sum not to exceed £650.00 net.

Street Trading

The Meeting agreed that a formal Representation of Support be made to Mid Suffolk District Council relating to their proposal under Schedule 4 of the LGA (Miscellaneous Provisions) 1982 to pass a Resolution to designate streets within its area for the purposes of street trading control stressing that such designation should include all of the streets in Elmswell.

Public & Councillor comment

When the Meeting was opened for comment from public and Councillors, the following was noted

- The phrase, 'breaking ground' with reference to the Preliminary Ecological Assessment on the proposed play garden site at Crown Mill was queried and the suggestion proffered that reference should only be made to maintaining shrubs.
- A suggestion that a definition of, 'streets', with regard to the proposed street trading licensing initiative might be that they are roads to which the public have access.
- A suggestion that the proposed play garden site at Crown Mill should be left as is until a review of play provision throughout the village is made which might include the designation of land to the rear of the Elmswell Tavern for pre-school / toddler play provision.
- Concerns expressed that the recent Preliminary Ecological Assessment Report from Connected Ecology makes mention of, 'excavations'.
- Confirmation that the current team of village litter pickers had all the equipment they needed.
- Confirmation that the vehicle which remains stationary at Wetherden Road where it has been the subject of complaint of highways hazard for many months, has a valid MOT only until June when action might be taken.

- Confirmation that litter picking initiatives in the village had, originally under the auspices of Cllr Dick Burch., been a regular feature for some 25 years.
- Confirmation that EPC could not condone any litter picking on the A1088 roundabout by private individuals given the prohibition by SCC on grounds of the clear personal hazards posed from traffic.
- The initiative to address Succession Planning with regard to the inevitably impending need for the Clerk's role to be otherwise filled was increasingly urgent and might be addressed now that the Tavern project proceeds as a much reduced workload. No action was determined.
- Confirmation from the Clerk that the third element of the Rights of Way improvement scheme conducted in tandem with SCC on 3 paths in the village was to be delivered before the end of the year once complications regarding creation, extinguishment and diversion had been addressed and that the agreed financial contribution to the works would not be made until all of the improvements were completed.

Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Meeting of Council was scheduled for 15th June 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.

June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
15 th	20 th	17 th	21 st	19 th

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

VILLAGE INDEX



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

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

Amenities Association	Jean Barker (Sec)	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@labbot.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	elmswellgadmin@btinternet.com	07748 442951
Guides	Viv	elmswellguides@outlook.com	
Harry Huson Bridge Club	Amanda Roberts	robertsar@sky.com	07526 743734
Health Centre - Woolpit			240298
History Group	Stella Chamberlin	stellachamberlin@yahoo.co.uk	
Ladies Voices (Choir)	Anna Wilton Mills	annawm63@gmail.com	
Library	Miles Row - Manager	Elmswell.Library@suffolklibraries.co.uk	240974
Little Elms	Paula Reynolds / Samantha Willers	info@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 Floodlighting	Trevor Sadler	trevor.sadler@dsl.pipex.com	240908
Sewing Bee	Isabel Burgess	isabel.burgess@live.com	
Village Tree Warden	c/o Parish Clerk	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
Wesley – all enquiries	Parish Council office	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
WI - evening	Tricia McNeeney	triciamcneeney@gmail.com	241197
Youth Football	Wayne	wsast@hotmail.co.uk	

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

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

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

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

June 2026

- 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
- 14 Elmswell CC versus Brockley at Blackbourne
- 16 Elmswell Gardening Club, 7.30pm Speaker Jim Paine -Trees for all Seasons', Wesley Chapel
- 18 Elmswell Over 55's Club Graham-Country& Western
- 21 Elmswell CC versus Brettenham at Blackbourne

July 2026

- 1 Elmswell WI Afternoon 2.00 pm Helen Hillier Floral decorations
- 2 Elmswell Over 55's Club Strawberry Supper and Bingo

- 11 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP 2-4.30pm in Wesley Chapel Speaker Steve Bolton: Talk & Exhibition on History of English Women's Football since WW1
- 14 Elmswell WI Fish & Chips & Stuff & Folly
- 16 Elmswell Over 55's Club Steve Key (may be a bit of Line Dancing)
- 26 Elmswell CC versus Milden at Blackbourne
- 30 Elmswell Over 55's Club The Hut Felixstowe

August 2026

- 5 Elmswell WI Afternoon 2.00 pm John Sutton Route 66 in the USA
- 9 Elmswell cc versus Nowton at Blackbourne
- 13 Elmswell Over 55's Club Haughley Hoofers
- 23 Elmswell cc versus Hadleigh at Blackbourne
- 27 Elmswell Over 55's Club Basket Mealand Elmswell Ukulele Band

September 2026

- 2 Elmswell WI Afternoon 2.00pm Service by Emergency Response Volunteers Work of SERV as Emergency Responders
- 10 Elmswell Over 55's Club Mystery Tour
- 24 Elmswell Over 55's Club Harvest Supper and Bingo

October 2026

- 7 Elmswell WI Afternoon 2.00pm Sabine Dornbusch Bury Drop-in
- 8 Elmswell Over 55's Club Medley of Fun
- 22 Elmswell Over 55's Club Ray Smith(may be a bit of LineDancing)

November 2026

- 4 Elmswell WI Afternoon 2.00pm Stephen Moody Origin & History of Christmas Traditions
- 5 Elmswell Over 55's Club Bangers and Mash and Bingo
- 19 Elmswell Over 55's Club Thurston Ladies Choir

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 19:00 to 21:15 Diann Armstrong tel. 241002
 - PILATES** – Monday & Friday mornings – suzanne@triformpilates.co.uk
 - RAINBOWS** - elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com
 - TREFOIL GUILD** - 1st Tuesday monthly lesley.grout@btinternet.com
 - WI** – afternoon at Wesley 1st Wednesday monthly at 2.00pm Carol Blissett carolblissett@hotmail.co.uk
 - WI** – evening at Wesley 2nd Tuesday monthly 7.30pm triciamcneeney@gmail.com
- If we've missed you out, do let us know...all enquiries to Ann at the Council Office Tel. 244134 Email clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk

Your Newsletter Fact File

For future editions we need copy by: June 23rd, July 28th, August 25th, September 22nd, October 27th

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

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

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