

'Like a friend dropping in'



# The Elmswell Newsletter



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

**MARCH 2026**

**On line at [elmswell.suffolk.cloud](https://elmswell.suffolk.cloud)**



## Elmswell Tavern

EST. 1856  
REBORN 2026

Building work nearly done... Team Building begins

## Recruitment Day

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
at Elmswell Tavern, School Road, IP30 9EE

We are looking for all front of house & back of house positions with opportunities both full and part-time:

- **HEAD CHEF**
- **ASSISTANT MANAGER**
- **SUPERVISOR**
- **CHEF DE PARTIE**
- **TEAM MEMBERS**
- **KITCHEN PORTER**
- **CLEANER**

**SEE PAGES 4-5**

There will be three group sessions 1pm | 3pm | 6pm  
Email Nadia at [manager@elmswelltavern.com](mailto:manager@elmswelltavern.com)  
to register your interest. Please specify which session you would like to attend and attach your CV

*We look forward to meeting you!*



Nadia, our new General Manager, who is working hard to assemble her team.

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.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

**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.**

The invitation to comment on our monthly Editorial seldom yields a response. It is normally taken to mean that no-one has bothered to read it and that we really should abandon the archaic constraints of the printed word and rely on a podcast or simply bang out 5-second gobbets of scrolled text with a fetching photograph of a kitten / puppy / baby seal in an hilariously amusing, but safe, predicament involving a ball of wool, flour, or underwear. Last month was different. We got our sums wrong. As any fule kno, with 20 shillings to the pound, £5 must equal 100 shillings rather than 60 as we so cockily asserted. A letter flooded in – not via the Post Office – and we duly acknowledge the need to Do Better.



The other points made came in the form of questions. If change is to come, how is it to be managed and by whom? What can little old Elmswell do to maintain what has been a commendable recent history of keeping pace with the pressures of the bigger, wider world so that we are not left behind? With more and more housing development on the horizon, can we relax and hope that what we have built up over the years by way of community provision (a work in progress - see our Tavern page)? We suggest that the answer is 'No' and would add an exclamation mark but it might seem bossy.

Three good suggestions are proffered: 1 We do not start by calling (yet another) meeting calling for, 'common sense'. Declaring that, 'enough is enough'. Asserting that, 'this is turning into a town...it's not a village any more', or, most aggravatingly, 'this isn't the village I moved into' or, the developers are only in it to make money'.



Here we are in the world of the chocolate teapot, of assuming the post of Chief Stoker on a raft or of nailing jelly to the wall. There's a big wide world as already referred to. We have to be part of it, but we might, read on, be able to take part on our own terms. Knee-jerk, ill-informed griping is as much use as a 'clean up after your dog' poster or declaring ourselves a Nuclear Free Zone. A vaguely warm glow from something done, instantly forgotten.

2 Despite the wide-held belief that our fate is plucked at random from a big bran-tub of placenames, the whole process is planned. It is planned up to 25 years ahead. And we are all invited to help with the planning. But it is complicated and extremely boring. As an example, Mid Suffolk are soon to publish a map showing sites in Elmswell that landowners have submitted for consideration for development. The consultation process is long and, to most minds, tedious. The results go towards informing a big Local Plan which, once approved by Whitehall becomes the rule book for development in our village.

Meanwhile, as long as we don't try to undermine this guidance, we have the opportunity to re-visit our own Neighbourhood Development Plan and identify our own priorities. A limited range of scale will not allow, 'no more houses here', or, 'we need our own heliport / swimming baths / cottage hospital'.



These would not fit in with the bigger plan... if there is to be another swimming baths in the District it would be strategically sited to suit more than just one settlement. However...

- It may be fair to suggest that, as our youngsters might begin to be persuaded to engage with a world beyond a screen, we need to offer them more places to be;
- There is some (limited) scope to try to reduce our traffic problems which, although dominated by the railway crossing, could be the subject of serious

and informed consideration towards mitigation – always accepting that such change might be many years coming;

- There are seismic changes due in the plan-making process as (prepare to yawn now) Local Government Reform could leave us lumped in with Norfolk and our extremely active and effective local councillors might be lost to the vagaries of party politics. Look away now, but we could end up being governed by, effectively, the people who have the administration of SCC Highways on their CV.

Begin at the beginning. If we really have the self-born power to overthrow law and overwhelm custom, where do we start?

The answer has been shouted loud these last few days until dimmed by the noises of war. The recent re-drawing of the political landscape suggests that there may be a chance for the people to have a voice to power. It's a one-off. It bears multiple interpretations, but let it serve as a suggestion that we can have our say. Beginning in May of 2027 when, regardless of the shameless machinations of the party politicians, our own parish council stands to be replaced /refreshed / reinvigorated. Unpaid, largely un-thanked and often derided, our most local representatives have, unarguably, made a difference in recent years.

You, too, could play a part in what, by any standards, is the administration of what is a great place to live.





## ELMSWELL ART CLUB

This month, we would like to introduce one of our newest members, Elmswell resident Dr Matthew Lockyer.

For thirty-two years Matthew was a family doctor and medical writer in a country practice close to Bury St Edmunds.

In 2023, Local Radio for Suffolk (RWSfm 103.3) launched him onto local radio with his dream job of a Classical Show, which he broadcasts weekly, playing classical tracks and telling anecdotes. He has also graduated to breakfast and chat shows, despite having somewhat dodgy taste in popular music.

Matthew plays the French Horn in several orchestras, including the Bury St Edmunds-based Suffolk Sinfonia. When not playing music or on grandparent duty, he can be found on the Suffolk rivers sailing his boat, or, more likely, stuck on a mudbank!!

Matthew feels that people who work in emotionally demanding jobs often enjoy music, sailing and art, because they require complete concentration; one cannot worry about anything else. Even at an amateur level they help us appreciate the achievements of the talented people who make a living in those fields.

Matthew has never had any formal art tuition and has no ambitions to exhibit or sell any art - just to enjoy the process and to enjoy mixing with local artists. He mostly tries his hand at pen and ink, watercolours and Lino cuts.

The following pictures show two of Matthew's creations, both in watercolour

paints. The first is titled "Hot Day in Kennebunkport, Maine".



Matthew's second picture is closer to home – St John's Church, Elmswell looking towards Woolpit.



Our next picture was produced by Jo Finter (our Club Treasurer) in watercolours. Jo's lovely painting is of a Redwing; the Redwing is a bird in the thrush family and is usually a winter visitor to the UK; it is also the UK's smallest true thrush. Its key features are the creamy strip above its eye and the orange-red flank patches - I think you will agree that Jo has captured these features brilliantly.



**Finally, make a note in your diary for our Art Show & Sale which will take place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at the Wesley.**

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

Eddie Douglas

tollandscapes.co.uk

## The Country Life Landscapes

*"Growing with you"*

**Supply**

- Decorative Stones
- Soil Improver • Turf
- Aggregates • Stones
- Woodchips • Barks
- Hardcores • Logs
- Sands • Topsoils
- Composts & More

**BULK BAG**

Garden Supplies & Waste Collection

Tel: 01359 240094

Email: orders@tollandscapes.co.uk

- Design
- Construction
- Maintenance

As well as a complete landscape and maintenance service, we offer garden supplies and waste collection

**Collection**

- Green Waste
- Wood • Soil
- Turf • Weeds
- Hardcore • Stone
- Brick • Slabs
- Concrete • Metal

**ELMSWELL ART CLUB**

# 2026

# ART SHOW

# & SALE

ORIGINAL WORKS  
BY LOCAL ARTISTS

**SATURDAY 25<sup>th</sup> APRIL**  
**& SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

10AM TO 4PM

THE WESLEY HALL,  
SCHOOL ROAD, ELMSWELL

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

ADMISSION FREE.

**TOMBOLA.**

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE.



# Andrew Bingham

INDEPENDENT FUNERAL SERVICE

**Local Caring Independent Funeral Service**

[www.andrewbingham.co.uk](http://www.andrewbingham.co.uk)  
**01449 771666**

**Golden Charter**  
 Funeral Plans

The Nutshell, Milton Road South,  
 Stowmarket, IP14 1EZ



## Don't just take our word for it ...

“ From the outset the service we received was prompt, efficient, first class and friendly - with good feedback. ”

“ Your service was helpful & professional from start to finish. We were most impressed. ”

“ My house sold within days of you putting it on the market and thereafter you were always on the end of your phone, in order to answer my many questions. ”

“ Your knowledge of the local property market proved invaluable and your attention to potential purchasers, a great time saving asset. ”

“ I have used Coakley & Theaker Estate Agents to sell three properties, all of which they handled extremely professionally. ”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**PLEASE CALL FOR YOUR FREE VALUATION**  
 01284 769691 • 01449 737706 • 07803 138123  
 or visit [www.coakleyandtheaker.co.uk](http://www.coakleyandtheaker.co.uk)

\*If you have instructed another agent on a sole agency basis, then the terms of these instructions should be considered to avoid a possible liability to pay two fees.



**NOW IN ELMSWELL**  
**CALL 01359 256821**  
 Reduced fee for Elmswell Sellers\*  
\*T's & C's and minimum fees apply



*WESLEY Coffee Shop...*

where you are warm and welcome

**Weekdays 9.00 – 4.00, Saturdays 9.30 – 4.00**

# AROUND & ABOUT

## ELMSWELL FOOTPATH WALK

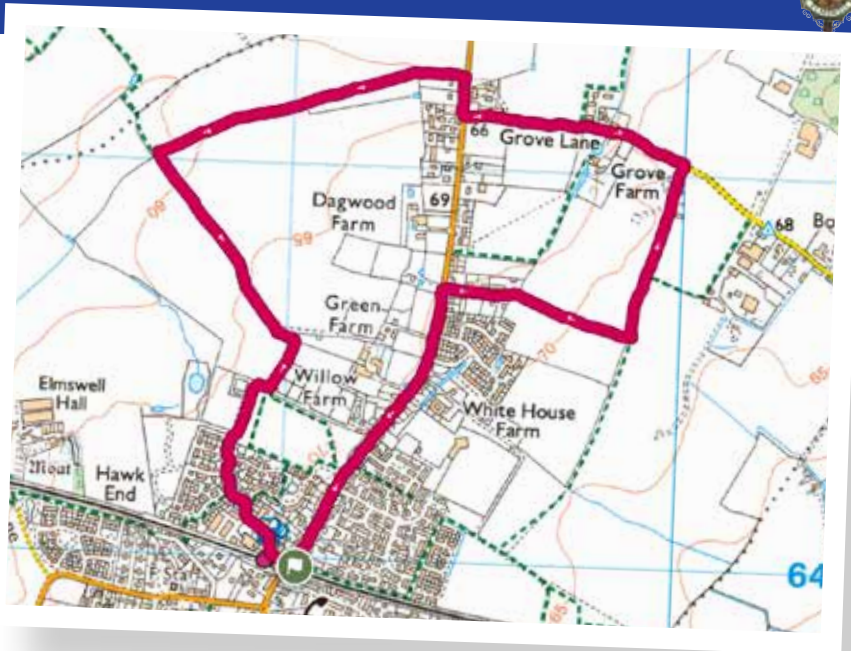
**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

'Prepare for the worst and hope for the best' was the mantra on the very rainy February morning that 6 hardened veterans of the village walk girded up their loins and laughed in the face of adversity.



The walk was not destined to be long but it was destined to be wet and at a good pace.

A right and left took us through the Industrial Estate and a further right led us through the houses heading north and hence on to FP1 in the open



countryside to the rear of Willow Farm.

A half left then had us heading north east on a boggy track to the rear of Green Farm and then Dagwood Farm.

After some 600m we turned right at the junction of FP3 where a further 800m, now heading north east, took us over open fields on to the junction with Ashfield Road.

Now with improved underfoot conditions a right and left took us along Grove Lane turning right on to FP6 and back towards home.

A right on to FP7 steered us away from the worst of FP6 and on to the terra firma of Oak Lane.

A left back on to Ashfield Road gave the group an easy walk out back to Crown Mill.

Well done all!

A simple but dogged walk of approximately 2.96 miles in 1 hour and 7 minutes (an average speed of 2.7 miles per hour).

*Peter Hancock, EPC Footpath Officer*



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



# WESLEY UKULELE BAND

## WESLEY UKULELE BAND

Another quiet month, this month. We started with a return visit to Oxlip House on Morton Hall, where Ted once again joined us on drums. His superb timekeeping kept us all together. The picture, below, shows the group at Oxlip House.

The other two gigs were strangely similar in that they were both for wine-tasting evenings. The first was in the refurbished and very smart Norton Village Hall, where we entertained the members of the Nowton Twinning Association. The second, at our own Wesley hall, was in aid of the Suffolk Punch Trust. Both were lively affairs with our audiences joining in and singing heartily. I am sure that the wine had nothing to do with that!?! Our second picture show the Ukes, bathed in blue light on Norton's stage.

The next month looks a little bit busier with seven gigs in the calendar.

'Til next time. Take care.

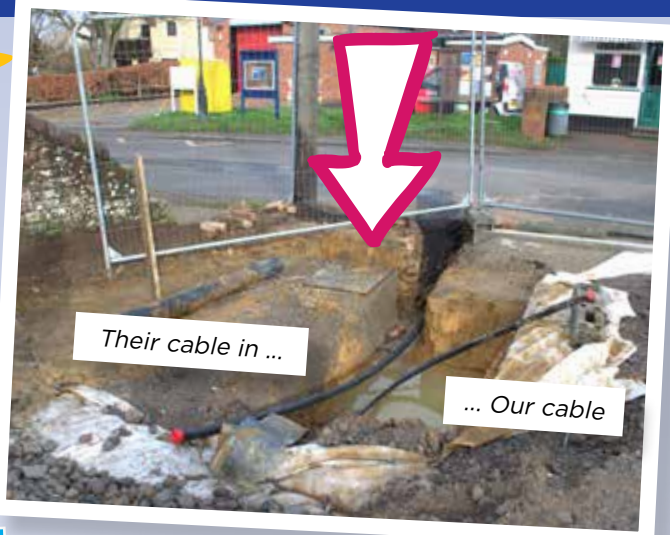
Or email: [Kevin.Knock99@gmail.com](mailto:Kevin.Knock99@gmail.com)



## ELMSWELL TAVERN

### POWER PLAY

The key factor of a new electricity supply is now well advanced. The road was dug up over the weekend to try to reduce the closure period and we now have cable from the supply box beyond the Fire Station all the way into our site and under the emerging car park to the plant room. Snow(!) and rain have conspired to slow things down, but the power is available from 27<sup>th</sup> February and our meter will be fitted the following week. Only then can the kitchen / heat pump kit be commissioned and trialled. The way is also clear - literally - for access and tarmac works, hopefully completed 2<sup>nd</sup> week in March.



### MEANWHILE, INDOORS

The kitchen extraction system is now fitted along with the stainless steel wall covering along what will be the cook line - hobs and grills and fryers etc. The full fit-out must wait for the laying of the flooring scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> March when the hot & cold pipe runs will be in place.



Nadia, our new General Manager, who is working hard to assemble her team.

### LESS DRAMATICALLY

Finishing touches continue on the fixtures & fittings such as CCTV, wi-fi, EV charging point, outside bins area, cellar cooler...whilst Nadia, our Wesley-Tavern General Manager specifies kitchen equipment, cutlery & crockery etc. Nadia is also arranging a Recruitment Day to begin her team-building process.

**Wesley**  
ELMSWELL

EST. 2020



**W&T**  
Working Together

**Elmswell Tavern**

EST. 1855



Stormwater heading off-site

## OPENING TIME?

It looks like the Easter Bunny won't be getting fed or watered. The unforgiving nature of the soil on site means that the recent very wet weather has slowed the groundworks down preventing access for the indoor trades. Mid- late April looks either possible or likely, depending on your state of mind. There will be a 'soft' opening allowing for a trial run of menus and staff and equipment.



# Elmswell Tavern

EST. 1856  
REBORN 2026

## Recruitment Day

WEDNESDAY 18TH MARCH 2026  
AT ELMSWELL TAVERN, SCHOOL ROAD, IP30 9EE

We are looking for all front of house & back of house positions  
with opportunities both full and part-time:

HEAD CHEF

ASSISTANT MANAGER

SUPERVISOR

CHEF DE PARTIE

TEAM MEMBERS

KITCHEN PORTER

CLEANER

There will be three group sessions 1pm | 3pm | 6pm

Email Nadia at [manager@elmswelltavern.com](mailto:manager@elmswelltavern.com) to register your interest  
Please specify which session you would like to attend and attach your CV

We look forward to meeting you!

# KH

## Kevin Hollings KITCHEN STUDIO



Unit 14 Lodge Works, Stowmarket Road,  
Old Newton, IP14 4EE  
01449 257160 [www.kevinhollings.com](http://www.kevinhollings.com)  
[info@kevinhollingskitchens.co.uk](mailto:info@kevinhollingskitchens.co.uk)

## Expert Tech Support In Elmswell And Nearby

Setup, configuration, troubleshooting and  
support of all gadgets & tech

### Services:

- Computers & Laptops ●
- Mobile Phones ●
- Photo Scanning ●
- Wi-Fi & Internet ●
- Smart TV's & TV boxes ●
- All Gadgets & Tech ●
- Printers ●
- Bespoke Training & Support ●



### Why Choose Me?

- Problems Solved In Your Home
- Same Day Service Available
- Discounts For The Elderly & Charities
- Fair & Simple Pricing
- Fully DBS Checked
- Proudly Local

### Contact Me:

[07411 218222](tel:07411218222)

[www.askmathew.co.uk](http://www.askmathew.co.uk)

[mathew@askmathew.co.uk](mailto:mathew@askmathew.co.uk)

W  
E  
L  
D  
I  
N  
G  
•  
T  
Y  
R  
E  
S  
•  
B  
R  
A  
K  
E  
S



## MOT CLASSES 4 & 7



- CLUTCHES
- BATTERIES
- CAMBELTS/TIMING CHAIN
- SERVICING
- TRACKING
- WHEEL BALANCING

[Mkautosmotcentreld@gmail.com](mailto:Mkautosmotcentreld@gmail.com)



MOT: 01359 241158/244421

REPAIRS: 01359 245998



The Workshop  
Grove Lane  
Elmswell  
IP30 9HN

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



Find us on  
Facebook.

E  
X  
H  
A  
U  
S  
T  
S  
•  
D  
I  
A  
G  
N  
O  
S  
T  
I  
C  
S



## EXCHANGE WI

Mary welcomed everyone to our first meeting of the year. Our speaker this month was John Saunders and his subject was "Sixty years in Constable country". John's talk was about his and his father's careers in the police force in Suffolk.

In 1845 the West Suffolk Constabulary was formed and from 1857 till 1897 it was based in Moyes Hall. John's father Ron started his career in the 1930's and was either on foot or on his bike. In 1939 he became a Sergeant in Sudbury and in 1943 he was stationed in Long Melford. On the 20th May 1944 a B24H Liberator crashed into woodland north of the Kentwell Hall estate. It crashed shortly after takeoff from Lavenham airport. Ron Saunders rushed to the scene to try and rescue the airmen. Five died in the crash and another later. There were four survivors. Ron dashed into the burning wreckage in the days when health and safety were non-existent! He was awarded the British Empire Medal for his actions. In those days when policemen married their wives were vetted before they married. In 1946 women were allowed to join the police.

In 1948 John was born. He left school at sixteen and despite never wanting to be a policeman he joined and started his training in Framlingham. It was really a boot camp for thirteen weeks. He was then sent to Stowmarket. He spent a lot of time standing by the public phone box waiting to find out where he was needed. In 1967 the breathalyser was introduced and in the mid 1970's police radios started. In 1975 John became a sergeant in the CID in Lowestoft. These were the days of police shows such as "Kojak" and "Starsky and Hutch" and misogyny was definitely present in the police force. By 1987 John was head of the Suffolk CID. In March 1988 he was asked to review a murder case in Jersey. A couple had been murdered and the chief suspect was their son and he was eventually arrested in Gibraltar. In 1991 he was sent to review the police service in Trinidad and Tobago. In 1997 he retired after thirty two years during which time he received three commendations. He had seen many changes and innovations during his career. John's talk was interesting and amusing and we would recommend him.

The competition was a crime related book. First was Lesley Reed, second was Stephanie Lester and third was Carol Blissett.

Next month's speaker is Rev. Alison Roberts and her talk is about her life's journey. The competition is a religious item/artefact.

Carol Blissett

## ELMSWELL WI

Terry welcomed Sue, who was visiting us, as well as our new members. Unfortunately, our speaker was unable to come but fortunately, three members stepped in and said they would entertain us with stories from their lives!

Tricia lived in Cyprus for ten years and whilst she was there, in 2004, she became a volunteer for some of the Olympic Athletes. These athletes came to the island to practice in the pool at Pathos, which was the right size. Tricia and several others looked after them in the special secure area of the hotel, where they were staying apart from holidaymakers. A special badge had to be worn and a Cypriot police car was parked outside the hotel. One day, Princess Anne arrived and Tricia was introduced to her. Apparently she was lovely to talk to. What a special experience! Sylvia Wilson told us about her childhood in Birmingham, where she lived near the Bournville chocolate factory, established in 1879 as a "factory in a garden". The owners of the factory were Quakers and really looked after their workers, providing them with model housing, parks, sports facilities and other amenities, enabling them to live healthier more enjoyable lives.

It was a lovely environment to be brought up in, with the added bonus of being able to visit the factory several times a year. Visitors were given special tins packed with chocolates, on leaving. Sylvia showed us the tin she still possesses with a picture of the factory on the lid. If your parents worked there you could go and ask for chocolate anytime! Sylvia and her friend went frequently, after school.....

Our last speaker was Pat, and she proceeded to tell us about how she was chased by an elephant! Her son spent a year in South Africa in 1994, as part of his degree course. It was the year when Nelson Mandela was elected as the first black president, following the country's first multiracial election.

Pat and her family went on Safari in the Kruger National Park and came across a huge bull elephant quietly eating. They went past it very slowly but suddenly, it decided to chase their vehicles. They speeded up but it continued to run at them and was gaining on them. Pat was in the back and it was extremely close! It was a terrifying experience - a white knuckle ride..... she was shaking badly afterwards. Someone asked her "Did you get a photo?"

During their holiday there was a forest fire, at the Spa Hotel, where they were due to stay and they ran out of petrol in the Drakensburg Mountains, but were rescued by some loggers. What an eventful visit!

So in the end we all had a very enjoyable, interesting evening with free chocolate! In our March meeting, we shall find out about the St Nicholas Hospice

Rosie Collins 01359 241652

## OVER 55'S CLUB

We held our first meeting this year on February 12<sup>th</sup> a short AGM was held and Diann officially stood down as Chairperson, with all the formalities complete we can look forward to this year's events.

Brotherhood entertained us all on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February and we are looking forward to a busy March with Pie & Mash and fun quiz on 12<sup>th</sup> March and Bob Whiting will return to entertain us along with the Easter Draw on 26<sup>th</sup> March.

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



Relaxed, friendly,  
midwife-led  
antenatal classes

"The BEST investment we have made in preparation for the arrival of our little one and something I would shout from the rooftops about!"



For more information, visit us online or scan the QR code

Running from Woolpit village hall



allhomes



**READY, SET, SOLD!**

Selling your home doesn't have to be difficult—it's about highlighting location, lifestyle, and comfort. We know what today's buyers are looking for, and we'll position your property to stand out in the right market, right where it matters most.

01359 234444 - mail@allhomes.uk.com

allhomes.uk.com

 **TRAVEL STOP**  
BIG ENOUGH TO OFFER THE WORLD, SMALL ENOUGH TO CARE

**UPCOMING EVENTS  
IN HADLEIGH**

TUES  
31  
MAR

**KIA ORA, NEW ZEALAND!**  
ANZCRO

WEDS  
15  
APR

**SIMPLY SRI LANKA**  
TRAVEL GALLERY

WEDS  
13  
MAY

**IMMERSIVE SOUTHEAST ASIA**  
EXPERIENCE TRAVEL GROUP

Please note that from February, the Elmswell office will be open for walk-ins and appointments on Thursdays from 9am to 4pm.

We will be contactable by phone and email Monday to Saturday.

01359 242555 [elmswell@travel-stop.co.uk](mailto:elmswell@travel-stop.co.uk)



*More than just boundaries*



**YOUR LOCAL FENCING SPECIALISTS - GET IN TOUCH TODAY FOR A FREE CONSULTATION AND NO OBLIGATION QUOTATION**

☎ 01359 242496/07590580512

✉ info@tarlingfencing.co.uk

🌐 www.tarlingfencing.co.uk



## Suffolk Grapevine Catering Ltd

Catering for all occasions

Catering for all occasions

Buffets and corporate

Lunches available

Now taking bookings after personal problems

50 years' experience

Mostly homemade foods

**Val Warby**

**07815 049293**

**01359 241708**

3 School Road,  
Elmswell IP30 9EW  
[elmswellval@gmail.com](mailto:elmswellval@gmail.com)





## ELMSWELL LIBRARY

Hello Elmswell,

We have a couple of special events coming up in March.

As part of the National Year of Reading we have John Oxlade who will be in the library doing an free author talk on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March. John will be talking about his historical fiction book *The Road to St Nazaire*, inspired by true events. This is a story about two brothers and a ship. Set in the early months of the Second World War, John and Joe find themselves abandoned in France. Meanwhile a former cruise liner is sent to rescue allied stragglers. Originally sent to Brest, it gets diverted to St Nazaire with disastrous consequences.

We have Lab in the Library 2pm on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March. They bring you an Eggstastic Experiment time to the library. There will be a mini table top treasure hunt with a science theme, terrific test tubes and experiment with eggs. There will also be the chance to make a buggy from lego to transport an egg. Make your egg aerodynamic on a transport device! Tickets are £5 available from the library. This event is being part funded by Elmswell Library Friends.

We have a new Crochet and Chat group starting up in March with the first one being 11am Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Then it will take place every fortnight. It is for complete beginners to experienced crocheters and other textile crafters such as knitters.

This month's display is inspired by International Women's Day and includes a book by a diamond thief, fantasy books where queens are in charge, a physician and midwife in 15<sup>th</sup> century and more.

We have some interest from people to help with our home library service so if you are unable to get to the library for health reasons, we can organise a volunteer to drop book to you. This can be for a short period or for longer periods.

See you in the library soon,

*Miles*

### What's on

#### John Oxlade Author Talk

5.30pm Thursday 17th March

#### Mahjong

3.30pm Friday 13th and Friday 27th March (fortnightly on Fridays)

#### 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

#### Crochet and Chat

11am Thursday 5th and Thursday 19th March (fortnightly on Thursdays)

#### Pokémon Club

10.30am Saturday 7th March (every 1st Saturday of the month)

Creative Writing Group

6pm Thursday 5th March (every 1st Thursday of the month)

#### Chess Club

4.30pm Thursday 12th March (every 2nd Thursday of the month)

#### Fantastical Book Club

11am Saturday 28th March (every 4 weeks) - ask in the library for this month's book.

#### The Keep in Touch Community Café

10.30am Wednesday 18th March at the Wesley Café (every 3rd Wednesday of the month except August and December)

#### Catch Up In The Library

2.30pm every Wednesday

#### Gwel's visits

3.30pm – 4.30pm

Tuesday 3rd March (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 18<sup>th</sup> March  
between 10:00 am and 12:00 noon.**





  
**ELM**  
WELLNESS & MASSAGE LOUNGE

**BOOK NOW**

Time for a Massage?

Full body | Deep tissue | Back, neck and shoulder |  
 Pregnancy | Hot stone | Lymphatic drainage |  
 Indian head | Ear candling | Reflexology |  
 Caesarean scar therapy

BOOK ONLINE 

  
 GET IN TOUCH [elm.wellnesslounge@gmail.com](mailto:elm.wellnesslounge@gmail.com)

TY

THOMAS & YOUNG

WEALTH MANAGEMENT LTD

---

- Investment Planning
- Income Protection
- Retirement Planning
- Long Term Care
- Estate Planning
- Life Assurance
- Business Protection
- Inheritance Tax Planning

---

Find us at:  
**Risby Business Park,  
 Newmarket Road,  
 Risby, Bury Saint Edmunds  
 IP28 6RD**

---

CHARTERED FINANCIAL PLANNERS

---



Call: **01284 334400**  
[www.tywm.co.uk](http://www.tywm.co.uk)



SJP Approved 29/04/2024





HEATING OIL TANK REPLACEMENT SERVICE

- ✓ Accredited Heating Oil Tank Installer
- ✓ Approved Tuffa Tanks Supplier and Installer
- ✓ Tanks Available in Plastic or Steel
- ✓ Accredited Fire Protected Heating Oil Tank Supplier & Installer

Visit our Website: [www.cbstanks.co.uk](http://www.cbstanks.co.uk)

Get in Touch T:01284 630021 E: [info@cb-services.co.uk](mailto:info@cb-services.co.uk)







## CITIZENS ADVICE MID SUFFOLK

**My council tax bill is due in March, and I'm dreading it as it seems to rise every year. My income hasn't increased, but everything else costs more, leaving very little left over. I'm worried about how I'll cope if my payments go up again.**

Many people are feeling the same pressure as bills increase. You're not alone, and importantly, support is available.

Some people are entitled to council tax discounts depending on their circumstances. Your bill may already include an automatic reduction, or you can contact your local council to check if you qualify.

If you're the only adult living in your home, you should receive a 25% single person discount. When councils calculate how many people live in a property, certain people are not counted. These are known as "disregarded people" and include under-18s, student nurses, apprentices, and others. You can find the full list on the government website: [www.gov.uk/](http://www.gov.uk/)

council-tax/who-has-to-pay.

If someone has recently moved out, it's important to tell your council, as this could change your eligibility. Any discount you're entitled to can be backdated to the date they moved out, even if you inform the council later.

If you're on a low income, you may qualify for a Council Tax Reduction. This applies whether you're working or receiving benefits, although having other adults living with you can affect how much support you get. Only one person in the household needs to apply. The council will assess your income and circumstances and issue an updated bill if you're eligible. You can apply via [www.gov.uk/apply-for-council-tax-discount](http://www.gov.uk/apply-for-council-tax-discount).

Extra support may also be available if

you've reached State Pension age. The rules differ depending on whether you or your partner receive certain benefits such as Universal Credit, income-related ESA or pension credits. Details are available at [www.gov.uk/state-pension-age](http://www.gov.uk/state-pension-age).

Even if none of these apply, councils can sometimes reduce or cancel council tax through a discretionary reduction if you're experiencing severe financial hardship. This is available even if your immigration status restricts access to public funds.

Council tax is a priority bill, so it's important to stay in contact with your council if you're struggling. Citizens Advice can help you explore your options and find a way forward, without judgement, and alongside you every step of the 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](http://midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us). Opening hours are Monday-Thursday 9.30am – 3.30pm and Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm.**



Mid Suffolk

## ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB

Our first speaker of the year was the knowledgeable Tim Fuller, co-founder of The Plantsman's Preference in South Lopham.



Tim shared his passion and 30 years' experience of growing grasses at the nursery. He talked us through the types of grasses from the very large statement grass *Stipa gigantea* with flowering stems reaching up to 8ft tall to the small evergreen sedges and rushes that can create a carpet effect in a border. Grasses can be used in a formal design for example with roses and in more informal prairie types borders such as those made famous by Dutch designer Piet Oudolf. Tim's general rule is if you know where a plant originated from, it will give you a good idea as to whether it will thrive in your garden. Generally, grasses will flower in the autumn with the heads staying firmly put through the

winter providing a long period of interest when the garden can look bare. The exception to this is the *Calamagrostis* genus which flower earlier in spring/summer and are apparently well behaved and easy to look after! Tim's ultimate tip for growing grasses is to treat them mean...grow them on poor soils, no feeding or mulching or adding of manure. Grasses are also perfect for lifting and dividing in spring creating free new plants.

The Plantsman's Preference is open between March and October, Thursday – Saturday so if you want to branch out and plant grasses it's the place to be. It's on my list to visit to find some for my own tricky wet garden.

Our speaker for March 17th meeting has changed as our planned speaker has had to sadly cancel. Paul Hansord has kindly stepped in at short notice and will cover how composts have changed since John Innes was developed, the effects of the government banning peat, the importance of air porosity and how modern fertilisers have helped in

creating the perfect compost. In the last 5 years Paul has used over 70 different composts so if you buy compost you can't afford to miss this talk.

Upcoming speakers are:

April 21<sup>st</sup> – Chris Wiley 'Hellebores'

May 19<sup>th</sup> – Ian Bedford 'Insects, Six of the Best'

June 16<sup>th</sup> – Jim Paine 'Trees for all Seasons'

All meetings start at 7.30pm in Wesley Chapel, School Road.

Whether you are an experienced home gardener or just starting out there is always something new to learn or ideas to take home to your own garden. Non-members are always welcome and you may make some new friends. There is a small fee for non-members of £5 for each meeting, but membership for the year is a bargain at just £20 for all ten meetings.

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

Wendy



**For Information contact [elmswellgadmin@btinternet.com](mailto:elmswellgadmin@btinternet.com) or myself on 07748 442951.**



## ST JOHN'S CHURCH

### Happy Spring Greetings from St John's Church

As I write this, we are still in a very dull February. And as I look into the back garden, I cannot help but notice how all the trees are adding to the dullness. They are completely bare and appear to be devoid of life. However, I know that change is on its way. Already the daffodils are beginning to come through, bringing cheer to the dullness of my garden with their joyful, happy yellow flowers. This means that in 6 to 8 weeks the trees too will be undergoing a transformation - new life appearing, as dull, dead branches are turned into shows of cheerful, bright green.

In the Christian calendar, we are in the middle of Lent. This season of 40 days can feel a dull time as we reflect on our shortcomings and mortality. Lent began with Ash Wednesday and the ash reminds us that we have but a short time to live. We are destined to become like the lifeless branches I see on the trees in my garden. But, again, I know that Easter is coming at the end of Lent and I know that those who trust in Jesus will be transformed just as my garden will be transformed. Because of what Jesus did that Easter weekend, we too can know new life and be transformed into vibrant shows of new life that will last into eternity.

In our Sunday services, we are continuing to reflect on the days leading up to the death of Jesus on the cross (sometimes described as a lifeless tree). However, as we do this, we also look forward to Easter at the start of April and the resurrection and promise of new life. Our Sunday School meets during the service and is currently focussing on the amazing miracles Jesus performed, listening to the stories and doing craft activities.

Talking of Easter, our next Messy Church ("Messy Easter") is on 2 April at 10:45am. Families are invited to come along to enjoy songs, stories, crafts and lunch.

We are a warm, welcoming church that loves to share the good news of Jesus. Why not pop along to one of our Easter services, or on any Sunday at 10:30am, to hear more about our great God? Tea and coffee are available afterwards.

### Upcoming Dates:

<b>Sun 1 Mar</b> 9:00am	Holy Communion
<b>Sun 1 Mar</b> 10:30am	Family Service
<b>Sun 8 Mar</b> 10:30am	Sunday Worship with Holy Communion
<b>Sun 15 Mar</b> 10:30am	Sunday Worship
<b>Sun 22 Mar</b> 10:30am	Sunday Worship with Holy Communion
<b>Sun 29 Mar</b> 10:30am	Sunday Worship with Holy Communion
<b>Tue 31 Mar</b> 12:15pm	Holy Week Communion with soup lunch
<b>Thu 2 Apr</b> 10:45am	Messy Easter with lunch
<b>Thu 2 Apr</b> 7:30pm	Tenebrae Service with Communion
<b>Fri 3 Apr</b> 10:00am	Good Friday Service on the Green
<b>Sun 5 Apr</b> 10:30am	Easter Sunday Family Service

### Every Saturday:

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

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

*Rector:* Peter Goodridge  
*Email:* [elmswellrector@gmail.com](mailto:elmswellrector@gmail.com)  
*Tel:* 01359 240512  
*Web site:* [www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk](http://www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk)  
*Facebook:* [www.facebook.com/stjohnselmswell](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnselmswell)  
*YouTube:* [www.youtube.com/@stjohnselmswell](http://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 March the lights will be on between 7.00 p.m. and midnight. The deadline for inclusion in the April Newsletter is Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Your support is very much appreciated. Thank you.

### FEBRUARY 2026 SPONSORSHIPS NOT PREVIOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED

- 21 to celebrate our Amethyst Wedding Anniversary (55 years) - Alan & Sylvia Carter.
- 22 to celebrate our Amethyst Wedding Anniversary (55 years) - Alan & Sylvia Carter.
- 23 to celebrate our Amethyst Wedding Anniversary (55 years) - Alan & Sylvia Carter.
- 24 to celebrate our Amethyst Wedding Anniversary (55 years) - Alan & Sylvia Carter.

### MARCH 2026 SPONSORSHIPS

- 2 Margaret Clarke - remembered with love on her Birthday.
- 5 PURSGLOVE. Our precious baby Andrew would have been 50 today. Loved and remembered every day.
- 8 in loving memory of our beloved Tina (Christine Pyke) on what would have been your 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday. "You're always in our thoughts". Love from Biff, Mim and the family. xxxxx.
- 15 in loving memory of Joyce Ivy Jackson. Also her son Barry Anthony Jackson, formerly of Bury St. Edmunds, with Elmswell roots.
- 15 cherished memories of Dora Lily Handyside. "Remembered with love". xx.
- 15 in loving memory of Mary Eveline Skinner. "Remembered with love". Margaret. xx.
- 15 Evelyn Simpson. Remembered with so much love on Mothering Sunday, and always. "God Bless".
- 19 Evelyn Simpson. Cherished birthday memories of a very special Mum/ Nan and Gt. Nan. xx.
- 22 to remember and thank all those past Elmswell Fire-Fighters who served their village and community so well.
- 24 in loving memory of Joyce and John Parsk on their Wedding Anniversary, 24<sup>th</sup> March 1956. "Miss you both". Love, Andrew and Charlotte. xx.



29 Happy Heavenly Wedding Anniversary to our dear Mum and Dad (Audrey and John Goddard), 73 years married. "Loved and missed every day". From all the family. xx.

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



**CATHOLIC  
PARISH  
OF OUR LADY,  
STOWMARKET**

**Parish Priest:**

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

**MASS TIMES:**

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

**Sundays – 8.30am & 10.15am**

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

**Holy Days – 10am & 7.30pm**

Our Lady's Strickland Road Stowmarket

Weekday Mass is usually 10am, see the weekly Newsletter or the Parish Website – [www.ourladystowmarket.org.uk](http://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.

**MAKE A NOTE...**

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

**NEW MEMBERS ARE  
ALWAYS WELCOME.**




**ELMSWELL  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> February we celebrated the 139<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our church building being opened in the same year that Queen Victoria celebrated her Golden Jubilee 1887. Our service was led by the Rev Greg Marlam who was the last incumbent Minister to lead worship at Elmswell, when we were part of the Bury Group of Baptist Churches, we were joined by friends from Norton Baptist Church and former members of our fellowship who knew Greg back then. Greg moved on to his next church in 1980 since when we have not had our own permanent minister.

Despite not having a minister of our own we carry on trying to bring the message of Jesus to the people of Elmswell through our services, our Ladies friendship meetings, our Food and Friends lunches, and by providing a base for the Elmswell Food Bank.

Our 10.30.am Sunday Services in March will be led by

- 1<sup>st</sup> March  
Rev Reg Craig (inc. communion)
- 8<sup>th</sup> March  
Rev Reg Craig
- 15<sup>th</sup> March  
Rev Paul Hills
- 22<sup>nd</sup> March  
Mark Partridge (café style family service)
- 29<sup>th</sup> March  
John Cornell

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 2.00 PM our Ladies Friendship group meet to hear a talk by Nan Eshelby entitled "Spark a Love of Nature" all ladies are welcome there is no membership fee or restriction to church attendees only a donation for a cup of tea and cake is asked, contact Margaret on 07926753882 for more details

12<sup>th</sup> March our Food and Friends lunch takes place at midday at the church soup and a roll followed by a sweet and cheese and biscuits will be on the menu these lunches are aimed at the older folk in our community contact Dorothy on 01359245811 for more details.

As ever we guarantee a warm and friendly welcome to anyone joining us for any of our activities or services please visit our website or contact Tony on 07784095225 or email him on [cockant2@btinternet.com](mailto:cockant2@btinternet.com) for any further information you may need

*God bless you one and all  
Dave Hollings*



**The  
Old Tea Room  
Veterinary Surgery**

For a professional caring service

Local independent practice serving the community.



Station Road, Elmswell, Bury St Edmunds IP30 9HA

Tel: 01359 241761 | [www.elmswellvets.co.uk](http://www.elmswellvets.co.uk)

**OPEN TO ALL!**  
**We're Transforming Our Trade Counter to a Brand-New Value Priced Showroom!**

Our in-house tile showroom offers a stunning selection of premium tiles to bring your kitchen or bathroom vision to life. Our selection includes the latest trends, with a wide range of styles to fit your taste.



We pride ourselves on offering a personalised service to both trade and retail customers. We use state-of-the-art CAD technology to create 3D graphics to help you visualise the perfect design, with over 30 displays of bathrooms and kitchens in our expansive showroom to inspire you. We are committed to offering high-quality products at affordable prices, catering to all budgets without compromising on style.



We will continue to stock bathroom plumbing supplies but we will be focusing more showroom area to trade and value priced bathroom products.

**CONTACT**  
**01449 774900**  
[www.stowmarketbathrooms.co.uk](http://www.stowmarketbathrooms.co.uk)  
3 Mill Street, Stowupland, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 5BJ

www.clearfinancialservices.co.uk

**Worried about Savings?**  
Let our team of financial advisers help you to get the most from your savings and investments.

**Confused about your pension?**  
We would be happy to discuss the options available for your retirement planning.

**Want to protect your family or income or mortgage and loan?**  
We are here to advise on the right solutions for your budget.

**Mortgages?**  
For a competitive mortgage, we have advisers to assist with that purchase or remortgage.



We make it

Clear and concise financial advice

The Old Police House,  
Cooks Road, Elmswell,  
Bury St Edmunds,  
Suffolk IP30 9DB.  
**Tel: 0345 271 3245**



Approver Quilter Financial Services Ltd 01/12/2025.



**W. Jarvis & Son**  
**Tree Services & Landscapes**



Scan me!



**All aspects of tree surgery, landscaping and fencing undertaken.**

Fully insured, 24hr callout, council approved contractor with over 40 years in the industry.

Call for a free estimate & advice

T: 01359 241958

M: 07891 208710 • 07850 046504

Visit our website for information about our company and the work we do  
[www.wjarvistreeservices.co.uk](http://www.wjarvistreeservices.co.uk)

## NEWS FROM ELMSWILD



### Willow weaving success

Our March Hare willow courses are proving a hit! With one completed at the time of writing and one about to happen, everyone seems delighted with their sculptures. This is a different method of willow working from those applied in traditional basket making – it's much more about free weaving and allows individual imagination to be part of the creative process. As our photo shows, the results are very impressive. We certainly have some talented crafters in the village! We're planning some more willow weaving sessions for the summer – this time in the lovely outdoor setting of Lukeswood – so if you would like to take part or if you have any ideas for the sort of weaving we could do, please get in touch. Our thanks, as ever, to Jo Hammond, our expert tutor, and to everyone who took part.

### Are you appreciating the APRICITY?

Sometimes it's hard to find the right word to describe a very particular sensation or feeling. For example, at this time of year as spring begins to break through the winter gloom, we occasionally experience the delightful sensation of warm sun on the skin on a cold winter's day. It's the feeling that has you instinctively turn your face towards the sun to enjoy that feeling of heat and the promise of warmer days to come. As is often the case, there is an old English word that exactly sums up that delicious feeling – *apricity*. This term originates in the seventeenth century and derives from the Latin *apricus*, meaning 'having the sun's warmth' and *aperio*, meaning 'to open'. It's now considered archaic, and you certainly don't see it very often, but what a wonderful word to sum up that brief, welcome burst of sunshine that raises the spirits after so many days of cold and rain! So, enjoy the apricity now in the expectation of spring sunshine to come.



### Join us!

We sometimes get complimentary comments from passers-by as we're working in one of our many sites in the village – Lukeswood, Town Field, Kiln Meadow, or the Memorial Garden. We do enjoy it when people stop to have a chat and find out what we're doing – it's great to know that residents notice our work and appreciate the difference we're making. If you've seen us working in the woodland at Lukeswood or buzzing about in our hi-vis jackets in the garden at the library, have you thought about coming to join us? As you can see from our photos, we're a friendly group of volunteers and we always have a great time, wherever we're working. Here are a few thoughts that might encourage you to take the plunge!

- You don't need any special knowledge or skills. We all started out not knowing much, but we learn from each other and build skills over time. There's always someone to ask for help.
- If you do have expertise or experience in any aspect of conservation work, we'd love to hear from you, too.
- You don't have to commit to a regular work day. We meet every Tuesday morning, but it's perfectly fine if you don't want to come every week – we're more than happy to see volunteers whenever they can join in and fit it in around other commitments. Or perhaps you would like to take on a particular project in your own time – for example, we would love someone to keep an eye on our tree nursery next to the library.
- We have a good stock of tools and equipment, so you don't have to bring your own.
- You don't have to be super fit and outdoorsy. Everyone works at their own pace and does what they feel happy with.
- Being in nature is a wonderful boost to physical and mental health, and there's the added bonus of knowing that you're doing something to help wildlife in your own patch.
- There are lots of different ways to join in which are all equally important and appreciated. For example, you might be especially good at techie things or admin – it doesn't have to be getting your hands dirty.
- We always stop for a coffee/tea break, which involves a good natter and, thanks to our wonderful helper Lynn – delicious cake!
- When you come to volunteer you get to wear the coveted ElmsWild orange hi-vis gilet – recognised as a symbol of quality throughout the village!

If you're tempted, we'd love to see you – perhaps join us for a taster session one Tuesday morning at Lukeswood?  
If you would like to know more, please do get in touch.

Mary Feeney  
[info@elmswild.org.uk](mailto:info@elmswild.org.uk)



## ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

A large appreciative audience enjoyed our February meeting which consisted of three short presentations by our members, supported by several displays.

Stella Chamberlin began with her colourful talk on **The History of Postcards** in the U.K. She described the origins of the postcard, i.e. the first plain one being sold by the Post Office on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1870, going on to explain how the sending and receiving of postcards became a huge phenomenon and tradition throughout the UK, with 860 million(!) postcards being sent during 1908-1909. We further learnt about the introduction of postcards with images, and how collecting them became such a prominent activity during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, supported by a growth in the number of specialised postcard publishers, who would produce all manner of postcards with different themes. Stella's presentation was supplemented by a number of Elmswell postcards, thanks to Paul Peachey, who has a very large collection of these. His oldest one is dated 1903, and they depict many street scenes, the village church, factories, railway station, sports teams and pubs. Paul has lived in the village all his life and started his collection 36 years ago, his passion leading to him writing and publishing a book on Elmswell through a postcard, which sold out within six months! He would very much like to compile and publish a similar book so, if anyone has any old postcards of Elmswell, he would be delighted to hear from them. Meanwhile, many of Paul's postcards are on our website, and Bury St Edmunds has a Postcard Club (01284-769480), from which some collectors' magazines were on display during the evening.



The second presentation was by Gerald Curtis, **Growing Up on the Ickworth Estate**, which was full of evocative and witty reminiscences. Ickworth was one of the largest estates in the country, where Gerald's grandfather was the Head Forrester and his father was a Forrester. Gerald spoke about the long hours all the estate workers had to work and with only two days off a year, Good Friday and Boxing Day! He fondly remembered his schooldays, including trying to learn to cross stitch, maypole dancing and sharpening pencils with a knife that nowadays would be classed as a dangerous weapon! One of the highlights of his younger days was the annual Children's Party on the Estate, where all the children were invited to play in the grounds and have their tea in the servants' quarters but they had to bring their own mugs! However, this was always financially beneficial because, at the end of the day, Lord and Lady Bristol would drop a half-a-crown coin into each of their mugs! To mark their significant contribution to the Estate, the Curtis family now have a tree planted in the grounds near their former estate cottage.



The final presentation by Trevor Sadler, **Memories of 1950-60s Woolpit**, was yet another wonderful set of youthful reminiscences. Although Trevor was not born in Woolpit, he moved there in 1954, spending his teens and early twenties there. He described how different the village was back then; there were many more shops, such as Mrs Snells Sweet Shop, Whiteheads Butchers, Masons General Stores (now the Co-Op), Clandore Café & Guest House, Addisons Butchers & General Store, Post Office, Elmers Bakery and the Fish & Chip Shop, which is the only shop still remaining! Of the five pubs, only The Bull survives, but The Wheatsheaf holds special memories for Trevor as it was a quirky pub with no traditional bar (all the beer was kept in the cellar), so the landlady, Mrs Norman, had to disappear to get the customers their drinks. However, for Trevor and his friends, Mrs Norman was brilliant, because she never questioned their ages which meant this was the only pub they could use in the village in their early years! We learnt about the social fabric of the village from playing sports to having a village policeman, a doctor's surgery, the village hall (known as The Institute and now the Village Museum), as well as the three churches. However, it is the old Post Office that holds special memories for Trevor because as a young teenager whilst still at school, he was employed in the school holidays to assist the two regular postmen at Christmas and cover them when they took annual leave. Christmas Day was always very memorable with lots of tips and tipples!





Our next meeting will be on **12<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm** at the **Wesley Hall**, when we welcome a highly-recommended speaker, Roy Clare, who is a retired Royal Navy Vice Admiral and was director of the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich and New Zealand. His talk will detail the development of meteorologist, Admiral Robert Fitzroy, of Euston Hall's Grafton family, and his association with **Charles Darwin's voyage on HMS Beagle** (1831-1836). This promises to be a fascinating evening at which non-members/visitors are always welcome (£6pp, cash only please), so do join us then. Should there be any doubts about the weather, please check our website, Elmswell Next Door on-line, or ring the number below before setting out, to save you a possible wasted journey.



**Elmswell  
HISTORY  
GROUP**

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

**[www.elmswell-history.org.uk](http://www.elmswell-history.org.uk)**

or contact our Secretary, on 01359-242601



**BEAVERS**



**Scouts**

Hi Elmswell,

My name is Mark Pernot, and many of you will know me as the Cub Scout Leader in Elmswell for a number of years. I am now also the Group Lead Volunteer (previously known as the Group Scout Leader) for the Elmswell Scout Group.

I'm really pleased to share that the Scout section reopened last month, which is fantastic news for the group and the wider community. The Scout section is open to young people aged 10½ to 14 who are interested in adventure, learning new skills, and having fun as part of Scouting.

We also have a new website at <https://elmswellscouts.org.uk>, which explains more about Scouting and what we get up to. Currently, Elmswell Scouts offers Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts, all meeting weekly during term time. Full details can be found on the website.

The Scout section had been closed for almost 18 months due to a lack of leaders, which brings me to why I'm writing. To keep our group growing – and to hopefully reopen Squirrels and Explorers in the future – we really do need more adult volunteers. You don't need previous Scouting experience; just enthusiasm and a willingness to help make a difference for young people.

If you're interested in helping, or would like to find out more, please get in touch via the website or email me directly at [glv@elmswellscouts.org.uk](mailto:glv@elmswellscouts.org.uk).

Thank you for your support – I look forward to hearing from you.

*Mark Pernot*

*Group Lead Volunteer*

*Elmswell Scout Group*



**cubs**



# P H Peckham

Plumbing & Heating Engineer

T. 01359 240958 M. 07802 642884

e. [phpeckhamplumbing@gmail.com](mailto:phpeckhamplumbing@gmail.com)

- 24 HOUR CALL OUT
- FREE Estimates
- Corgi Registered Solid Fuel, Oil or Gas
- Bathroom Suites Designed and Installed
- Water Softners Fitted
- Tiling
- Boilers Serviced



214650

# Wayne Salmon Electrical

For all your electrical requirements - Domestic, commercial and industrial.

All work carried out to a high standard.

Mobile 07843 302798



**ServiceMASTER**  
Clean

Upholstery

Carpets & Rugs

Amtico+Karndean

Curtains

t.01359 241577 m.07398251908

[westsuffolk@servicemaster.org.uk](mailto:westsuffolk@servicemaster.org.uk)



[www.servicemasterclean.co.uk/west-suffolk](http://www.servicemasterclean.co.uk/west-suffolk)



41 BURY STREET  
STOWMARKET IP14 1HA  
Tel:- 01449 612812/674030

As an Experienced Independent Opticians, we offer a more personalised eyecare service for all the family including:-

- Enhanced Optomap and OCT examination
- Colorimetry and Overlay Testing
- A wide range of competitively priced frames and Spectacle lenses
- Contact lenses Trials and Fitting
- Prescription and non-prescription Sunglasses

Your sight care is our priority

## TONY FISHER PLUMBING & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

- 24hr Emergency Callout
- Bursts, leaks, blockages etc.
- Bathroom/shower installation
- Tanks/cylinders/radiators
- Tiling floors/walls
- Painting & Decorating
- General DIY jobs
- Garden Maintenance

Tel. 01359 242556

Mobile 07758327743

Reliable & Friendly Service!



## Ear We Go

Mobile Ear Wax removal  
Microsuction & Irrigation

My name is Georgie  
Please call or text me on  
07921550958  
or email  
[earwego12@gmail.com](mailto:earwego12@gmail.com)

Fully Insured & DBS

## 'I'm in PAIN!' Can Chiropractic help me?

### Your initial visit will include:

- A consultation with the Chiropractor
- A thorough spinal examination with Orthopaedic & Neurological tests
- A confidential report of findings
- An explanation of our treatment programme if we determine Chiropractic can help you.



6 Glastonbury Road  
Bury St Edmunds,  
IP33 2EX

01284 706570



7 Stowupland Road,  
Stowmarket,  
IP14 5AG

01449 612620

Call TODAY for an appointment

Please visit our website for further information

[www.abbeychiropractic.com](http://www.abbeychiropractic.com)

Registered with The GCC, RCC, SCA & BCA



## Spring Word Search

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

## Spring Biscuits

### Ingredients

- 125g butter
- 125g golden caster sugar
- 1tsp vanilla extract
- 175g plain flour
- 1 large egg yolk

### To decorate

- 250g ready to roll icing
- Pink and yellow paste food colouring
- 1 egg white, lightly beaten
- Pink sugar sprinkles
- Wooden skewer
- Flower cutters

### Method

Put the butter and sugar in a bowl with the vanilla and mix. Add the flour and egg yolk and knead into a ball. Turn out on to a floured surface and knead the dough lightly for a couple of minutes until smooth.

Wrap in cling film and chill for 20 minutes.

Set the oven to gas mark 4 or 180°C.

Roll out the dough between 2 sheets of baking parchment.

Use the cutters to stamp out shapes, then lift away the dough around them.

Carefully lift the biscuits and paper on to a baking sheet and cook for 12-15 minutes until they are firm and pale golden.

Cool for 5 minutes then transfer them to a wire rack to cool completely. (The biscuits will keep undecorated in an airtight container for up to 1 week.)

### To decorate the biscuits

Divide the pack of icing into 3. Dip a wooden skewer into the pink paste food colouring and knead into 1 portion of the icing until evenly coloured. Repeat with the yellow food colouring.

Roll out the icing on baking parchment and stamp out flower shapes, using the cutters.

Brush the biscuits lightly with egg white and place the white, yellow and pink icing on top of the biscuit. Also, brush the base of the flower decorations with egg white and secure in the centre of the flowers.

Add sprinkles.

Daffodil

Flower

Gardening

Green

Growth

Jacket

Melting

Puddle

Rainbow

Raindrops

Rubberboots

Seeds

Splash

Springtime

Sprout

Sunshine

Tulips

Umbrella



Get Creative this spring with some of these lovely craft ideas

### Homemade daffodils



Grass Heads





## WINE TASTING AT THE WESLEY

On 7<sup>th</sup> February 2026, nearly 70 wine enthusiasts descended on the Wesley, Elmswell to sample "Wines from Around The World" with local wine host Bob Stopp. This was a fund raising event organised by Green Punch in conjunction with Friends of Elmswell School (FreSch).

A welcome glass of Prosecco started the evening before the first wine, a 2023 Della Venezia Pinot Grigio 11% from Italy got the taste buds moving. This was followed by a very acceptable 2025 South African Western Cape Chenin Blanc 11% which proved to be very popular amongst the white wine buffs.

Platters of nibbles were introduced and accompanied the wine tasting.

As Elmswell's favourite band, the Wesley Ukulele Band were setting up, Bob teased the audience with a superb Australian 2025 De Bortoli Astronomer Viognier 12.5%. Friendly banter ensued before the "Ukes" handed around tambourines to those who were in fine voice. Much hand waving and a glass of 2024 Western Australia Rose 11% was a sign that people were having a good time.

Before we tasted each wine, Bob gave us the origin of the grape used in the fermentation process for each wine.

A very enjoyable 2024 DOCG Italian Chianti 12.5% started the second half.

The last two reds of the evening really hit the sweet spot. A cheeky 2024 Valle Central Cabernet Sauvignon 12.5% from Chile proved to be popular amongst the tasters before moving on to the last tasting of the evening, a French 2024 AOC Bordeaux 12.5%.

It was a case of save the best till last as this full bodied belter had the tasters wanting more.

**Unfortunately, you will all have to wait until next year, date to be advised, 2027 before we go again. Details will be shown in the Elmswell Newsletter What's On in Elmswell section.**



## Woolpit HEALTH CENTRE

At Woolpit Health Centre we are proud to operate a 'total triage' model. Every patient access request, whether online, telephone or walk-in, is clinically assessed and triaged by our 'on the day' GP team. A senior GP mentor who is always available to guide clinical decisions.

Requests are prioritised based on their level of urgency, then assigned to the healthcare professional best suited to meet individual needs. This may result in an urgent or routine call or appointment or self-care/signpost to other services.

In the 12 months since we switched our online request service to Anima, we have received over 45,000 requests, an average of 175 per day (Monday – Friday). Approximately one third of these requests are completed by our reception team on behalf of patients who telephone or walk-in.

### Andi, our new Virtual Care Navigator!

On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026 we launched a new automated system called Andi, designed to help improve how we manage patient requests and phone calls.

Andi is a Virtual Care Navigator and has been created by the same team behind Anima. We will be trialling over the next 3 months.

### What is Virtual Care Navigation?

When you call the surgery, instead of waiting in a queue, you can speak to Andi, who will ask you questions, take down your request and send it to the triage team for review.

### Benefits for Patients

- No need to wait in a call queue.
- A quick and easy way to submit your request.
- Fast and efficient triage.

### Benefits for the Health Centre

- Frees up staff time to focus on patient care.
- Helps us manage requests fairly and efficiently.
- Reduces waiting times and phone line pressure.

**A quick note: Andi isn't a robotic sounding voice – he sounds quite natural! This may feel a little unusual at first, but we encourage you to give it a try.**

*Thank you and best wishes from Woolpit Health Centre*



Barry Hayward and Rob Dann contesting the final while Richard Vince looks on



John Irving and Chris Edmonds taking on Coney Weston

## ELMSWELL BOWLS CLUB

First the good news, I had a reply from last month's plea for new players. The bad news was that there was only one! So many of you out there and only one brave soul took the plunge. Never mind, there will be another chance to try it out on our opening day or any of our roll-up days. And 'trying it out' is all we ask.

We now have the season's fixture list in and the players available, so we can begin planning our season. We have lost several players through illness but can still field Linda Vince's Division 1 Monday

team, Kevin Knock's Tuesday evening team and Dick and Barry Hayward's Thursday night team. So exactly how we will fare, remains to be seen. We will know after a few matches, I suppose. Quite what we will do for refreshments is undecided at the moment. Sadly there will be no division 2 Monday team but I will run a drive instead to give the remaining Monday players a competitive Monday game to get their teeth into instead. It will follow the format that Janet Sparrow used when I began playing for the former Elmswell

Bowls Club before they took themselves off to Stowupland. It will have several advantages, it will always be at home, and optional because I will adopt the format according to numbers and there will be a trophy at the end of the season.

That is all the news I have at the moment, so, as always, a couple of photos from days past.

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

Elmswell  
Fox



Bowls Club



*WESLEY Coffee Shop...*  
*where you are warm and welcome*

**Weekdays 9.00 – 4.00, Saturdays 9.30 – 4.00**

## Computer Help

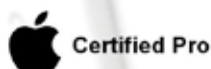
PC, Mac, Server or Tablet support in your office or home.  
A rapid response from a qualified IT professional.

- laptop and desktop repairs, speed up your system
- cyber security, cloud systems, network setup
- data recovery and virus removal
- improve wifi, smart TV, phone, tablet etc
- individual tuition

**Gage Computer Services** (01359) 245273  
www.comphelp.co.uk steve@comphelp.co.uk



Est. 2003

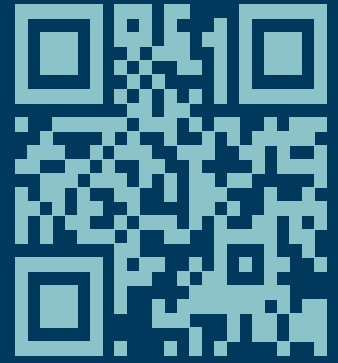


**COMING SOON**

# Keith Avis Printers

For **quality** printing, friendly advice and quotations on any printed item

Call us on 01473 823366



Business Stationery • Display Boards • Banners • Hardcover Books  
Softcover Books • Booklets • Magazines • Carbonless Books and Pads  
Business Forms • Brochures • Branded Clothing • Merchandise  
External Display Boards • Eyeletted Banners  
**For Anything else, just ask.**

# PRINTING

DESIGN | PUBLISHING | SIGNAGE

**Same Day Service**  
on many printed items

## Plumbing, Heating & Building Refurbishment Services

Our primary service area covers a 30 mile radius of Bury St Edmunds



### PLUMBING, HEATING & RENEWABLES

- ✓ Bathrooms
- ✓ Boiler installations
- ✓ Boiler Servicing & Repairs
- ✓ Power Flushing
- ✓ Central Heating
- ✓ Underfloor Heating
- ✓ Air Source Heat Pumps
- ✓ Electric Boilers & Radiators
- ✓ Water Softeners & Filter Taps
- ✓ Oil Tanks



### BUILDING & REFURBISHMENTS

- Refurbishments, Conversions & Alterations ✓
- Building & Property Maintenance ✓
- Bricklaying | Carpentry ✓
- Electrical Services ✓
- Groundworks, Landscaping & Fencing ✓
- Disabled Adaptations ✓
- Flooring Services ✓
- Kitchen, Bathroom, & Exterior Tiling ✓
- Plastering & Rendering ✓
- Painting & Decorating ✓
- Roofing ✓



WILLOWSERVELTD.COM



01359 259886



07771 557937

## From the Office of Peter Prinsley MP

Member of Parliament for Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

The author Margaret Mead famously said: "never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has", a sentiment beautifully illustrated by recent events in Elmswell, and the thoughtful and committed citizens who got in touch with me.

At the end of January, it was announced that the Elmswell Post Office would be closing, with no plans to open a replacement branch.

There are over 4,500 residents in Elmswell. In villages like Elmswell Post Offices are more than a place to buy stamps. They are the cornerstones of village life, particularly for those who are vulnerable or isolated. The closure of the village's only Post Office would have forced residents to travel two miles to the nearest Post Office in Woolpit to access services.

I'm hugely grateful to the many of you who got in touch with me to tell me what the closure would mean to you and to raise questions about the decision. Many of you were concerned about the impact the closure of the only village post office would have on older people, disabled residents and those without access to a car. These were all concerns I shared.

I took your concerns and questions to the Post Office because, as you'd told me, Elmswell's Post Office is not just a convenience, it's an essential local service.

I am extremely pleased that following my letter to the Post Office, the Post Office has confirmed that they are now looking at options to replace this vital service, so it can continue to be available to the community.

Despite the good news, I would still encourage all those willing to submit their views on the situation to the following email address: [Comments@postoffice.co.uk](mailto:Comments@postoffice.co.uk).

Your feedback to the Post Office, as well as the correspondence you've already sent to me as your MP, which I was able to amplify on your behalf, is how we can make change happen. If not in the world, then at least in Elmswell.

**If you would like to write to me about any issues, or find out more about what I've been up to, you can visit my website: [www.peterprinsley.org](http://www.peterprinsley.org).**

**If you need support or have a casework query, please don't hesitate to get in touch. You can reach me by email at: [peter.prinsley.mp@](mailto:peter.prinsley.mp@)**



### Margaret Palmer

Ronnie would like to thank all of the friends and relatives for their kindness, cards and sympathy following the sudden loss of Margaret on 8<sup>th</sup> January.

*Margaret with Tess and Barni at Ingleton Falls in 1996*

# PARK GARAGE SERVICES

Units 1-2, Station Rd Industrial Estate, Station Rd, Elmswell, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP30 9HD.

ALL TYPES OF SERVICING - WELDING - MOT WORK - CLUTCHES - EXHAUSTS - SHOCKS  
AIR CONDITIONING - TYRES - COMPUTER DIAGNOSTICS - BATTERIES - CAMBELTS - BRAKES

Your LOCAL GARAGE with over 20 years experience servicing and repairing all makes and models.

TEL: 01359 242479 OR VISIT: [WWW.PARKGARAGESERVICES.CO.UK](http://WWW.PARKGARAGESERVICES.CO.UK)

## BJW PLUMBING & HEATING YOUR RELIABLE LOCAL PLUMBER

Boiler Servicing  
Central Heating Installation  
Maintenance & Repairs  
Bathroom Suites, Showers, Tiling  
Install Washing Machines/Dishwashers  
Burst/Leaking Pipes  
Water Softeners  
General Plumbing Needs

**GAS Safe registered 200169**

BARRY WARD: 01449 615339/07734 872549

## Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation:

Here's the current timescale as laid down by Government:

- Government is due to decide on one Unitary or three around mid-March this year, but it is possible that this timescale will change.
- The twice-postponed County Council elections are now on again for 7th May this year, following a sudden change of mind by Government.
- Elections for Unitary councillors (who will take over formally once the councils are re-organised in May '28, at which point existing county and district councillors will all step down) are due to take place in May '27.
- The Mayoral elections (postponed from May '26) are due to take place in May '28.

## Better Recycling update:

A leaflet explaining the changes to our waste collections has been delivered to all homes in Mid Suffolk – if you haven't received one please let us know so that we can request a copy is sent to you. There will be a weekly food waste collection, and more items such as glass containers, tetra-pak, plastic bags and film will be able to be recycled too.

Residents will begin to receive their new bins over the coming months ready for the new collections to start in June 2026.

## Community Nature Recover Grants:

The New Community Nature recovery grants were launched in February. Community groups can apply for grants up to £50K for projects such as expanding wildlife corridors, tree planting, creating wildflower meadows and other environmental initiatives to safeguard natural spaces for future generations. More details of the grants can be found on the website [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk) (search for 'boosting biodiversity by funding nature in your neighbourhood').

**Other Mid Suffolk Grants:** Mid Suffolk offers a range of other grants to support community projects and organisations across our towns and villages – see: <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/community-funding>.

## Planning application for housing on Warren Lane, Elmswell:

The planning application for 27 homes accessed from Warren Lane was determined by planning committee on 11<sup>th</sup> February. The application was approved with a Grampian condition, which requires that a fully accessible

pedestrian/cycle path connection to and along Cresmedow Way must be guaranteed in advance of building work starting.

**Locality Funding:** We were delighted to award all the funds in our locality budget 2025/26. The following projects in Elmswell were supported:

- New scoring system for Harry Huson bridge club
- Contribution towards the surfacing of the path between Ashfield Gardens and the Blackbourne.
- Venue hire for Elmswell Over 55s.
- New kit for Elmswell Carpet Bowls club.
- Art display boards for Elmswell Art Club
- Advertising and magnifiers for the launch of the Repair Café/

The 2026-27 locality funding budget will be launched in the spring – we are always open to discussions about future possible applications.

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

- **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 10:00 – 12:00 at Wesley Café, Elmswell (PLEASE NOTE change of previously advertised date of 31<sup>st</sup> March)**
- **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 10:00 – 12:00 at Wesley Café, Elmswell**

Mid Suffolk District Council: 0300 1234000 [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk)  
 Cllr Sarah Mansel: 07860 829517 [sarah.mansel@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.mansel@midsuffolk.gov.uk)  
 Cllr Jen Overett: 07928 512591 [jen.overett@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:jen.overett@midsuffolk.gov.uk)



## The Elmswell Repair Café

As part of our efforts to re-use, recycle and reduce waste, our repair volunteers will be at Wesley each month to repair advise on a range of problems to encourage people to repair items rather than throw them away, thus reducing waste and saving you money! There is no charge for this but donations are accepted to cover running costs.

The team will be happy to mend clothing items, small electricals, small items of furniture, toys, jewellery and anything that needs fixing or gluing. If they can't fix it they can usually suggest what you need to do.

At Wesley



Sewing & darning & zips and more....



Electrical & electronic



Jewellery

We need to find local volunteers to help administer the sessions, manage publicity, organise volunteers etc. and to register visitors on the day.

Please consider helping to keep this valuable community service going in Elmswell – contact Sue Reynard at [stowrepaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:stowrepaircafe@gmail.com) or be in touch with the Parish Council office if you think you can help in any way.

**NO BOOKING NECESSARY - JUST TURN UP**

**Last Saturday monthly 2.00 - 4.00pm**  
**Next session: 28<sup>th</sup> March**

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



# ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL FEBRUARY 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 February meeting with 10 councillors present together with County Ward Member Andy Mellen, the Parish Clerk Peter Dow and 7 members of the public took place at Blackbourne on Monday 16th. This report is compiled from that meeting by the Parish Clerk and edited by the Council's Editorial Board which comprises the Council Chairman, the Council Vice-chairman and Cllr Sue Roots, elected by her peers to join them. It seeks to cover some of the more interesting or significant items thought to deserve wider public attention. Included, where appropriate, are matters reported to the meeting by external bodies such as the County and District Council Ward Members or as raised at the meeting by members of the public. Further background and reference to subsequent events are included where relevant.

The Minutes of recent Parish Council meetings and Committee meetings when ratified, together with the agenda for the next meeting, are available online at [elmswell-pc.gov.uk](http://elmswell-pc.gov.uk) and from the Parish Clerk by arrangement. Bound copies of older Minutes are lodged in the Village Archive at Blackbourne and with the Suffolk County Records Office in Bury St. Edmunds. The most recent Minutes from meetings held on 19th January & 2nd February, as approved at this meeting, are posted in the Council's notice board at Crown Mill.

## County Council

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

### *Local elections in May 2026 postponed*

At an extraordinary council meeting on Monday 12 January, a debate was held about the resource implications of an election in May on the delivery of Local Government Reorganization in Suffolk. The Conservative administration unanimously voted down an amendment proposed by my group that the council was in favour of the elections going ahead, although we spoke passionately about the importance of Suffolk voters getting to have their say. A Cabinet meeting was held following the council debate, where the administration voted unanimously to write to the government outlining capacity concerns that might be felt if elections were to go ahead. On 22 January, the government announced that the elections in Suffolk, and in 28 other councils around the country, would not take place in May this year. Needless to say, I and many others are disappointed by this turn of events, where it appears that a Labour government and a Conservative council have conspired to deprive Suffolk electors of their democratic right. The elections were postponed already in May 2025, so this second postponement means county councillors like myself will end up serving a seven-year term instead of four years. (As part of the Local Government Reorganization process, unitary councils are due to be in place in the county from April 2028).

*Council budget 2026-27* At Cabinet on Tuesday 27 January, the budget for the 2026-27 financial year was presented for approval. The council is planning to raise council tax by the maximum 4.99% this year, reflecting the serious financial concerns it is facing. The budget for 2026-27 is forecast to overspend by £5.9m and the council will need to draw that from its reserves to balance the books. It is also planning savings of £46.5m across the council to make ends meet, and is predicting a budget 'gap' of £23.4m for 2027-28 and £24.6m by 2028-29 which it will need to fund by savings. Cost pressures for the council include care purchasing in adult social care, high-cost social care placements for children and young people and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Regarding

SEND, the council holds a 'negative reserve', a debt of education funding under the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) that the government allows it to hold until 31 March 2028. This is a national issue rather than just relating to Suffolk County Council, but the council will not be able to repay it if the government calls it in: by the end of 2027-27 it is forecast to be -£252.3m. Although the council is allowed to hold the debt, it is spending millions on interest costs to service the debt, by 2027-28 the cost of that will be £8.9m. There are also concerns about the amount of money the Local Government Reorganisation will cost the council. This is currently estimated as £47.8m overall, but will be divided between all Suffolk councils.

*Net Zero Carbon Report* Also coming to Cabinet on Tuesday 27 January was the annual report on the council's efforts to reach net zero carbon by 2030. In view of the Local Government Reorganisation and Suffolk County Council not existing past 2028, the target has been adjusted to a 63% reduction in emissions by 2027-28 and will only include scopes of emissions that the council is in direct control of – that is, excluding things like its supply chain, or staff commuting to work. In addition, to reflect the financial position of the council, any measures taken by the council towards this will now have to create an in-year financial saving: this means that the financial benefit from it must be greater than the cost. The work undertaken so far for the net zero programme has saved the council many thousands of pounds, for example changes to the heating controls in Endeavour House should reduce energy costs by £30k each year, and a new car park solar array and battery storage at Beacon House is expected to save more than £50k a year. The council is also involved in a heat network project in Ipswich to heat large buildings by drawing heat from the River Gipping.

*Suffolk Roads Rated Red by UK Government* The government recently released RAG (Red, Amber, Green) ratings each county based on how effectively they use the government's highways maintenance funding. Suffolk's road maintenance was rated as Red, the worst category. This has struck a chord with residents in the county, who have been clear that they agree and want the quality of Suffolk's

roads to improve. Suffolk County Council's administration, however, has denied that the rating is accurate, saying that overall the condition of Suffolk's roads are rated Amber, with the overall Red rating being arrived at because the Department for Transport did not include in its assessment £10m of highways funding that it brought forward from the 2025-26 financial year and invested early in a resurfacing programme in 2024-25. The council has met with the Department for Transport to press for the Suffolk rating to be raised to Amber, pointing out that Department for Transport data shows that only 3% of the county's A roads is in poor condition, which is better than the England average. In addition, in December the council received £2.9m from the Department for Transport's Incentive Fund, which rewards authorities with a record of good performance in highway maintenance.

*New 20mph Policy* At Cabinet on Friday 9 January, a new 20mph speed limit policy was approved with the aim of making the process for communities to apply for a 20mph speed limit easier and more streamlined. From now on, any application for a new 20mph limit in an area where recorded average traffic speeds are 28mph and under is likely to be approved by the council. The local county councillor must also be in favour of the change, and there should be majority support from residents. My group pointed out that the new requirement to prove majority support for the new speed limit was likely to make the process more onerous for town and parish councils rather than less. The council states that local engagement needs to be carried in the community, for example a survey or consultation of residents living on the roads/in the area. Any new 20mph limits will also still need local funding to be in place, unless the scheme aligns with a council programme as part of the Local Transport Plan. The new policy is based on recording speeds as follows;

- Below 28mph – likely to be accepted, with a speed limit sign only, although signs warning that a 20mph zone is ahead may be required
- Between 28 - 32mph - unlikely to be acceptable with signing alone. Gateway signing and traffic calming throughout the area may be required
- Above 32mph - Unlikely to be

acceptable without extensive traffic calming measures such as road humps, plus night-time lighting. It would also be subject to a Road Safety Audit

## District Council

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

## BW-TMA

The Blackbourne & Wesley-Tavern Management Association tabled a Report which is printed elsewhere in this Newsletter.

## Clerk's Report

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

**RECYCLING:** The changes in the MSDC recycling arrangements take effect from June this year. I have copied Councillors in on the recent briefing and will also post, as requested, on our Facebook page.

**POST OFFICE** The recent about-turn on the part of the Post Office regarding the branch closure is referred to at agenda item 24. I have received no complaints since the closure and a meeting with Bob Goodall has confirmed the very poor business case that would inform any decision to restore the facility.

**COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP** The proposed launch of the Community Rail Partnership at agenda item 23 ties in with Cllr Shaw's expressed interest in providing signage which extends to his having agreed to attend the inaugural meeting. I have stressed the priority that is raised with me by potential train users that the car parking arrangements be improved by way of attendance to the very poor state of the car park and the blocking of some 30% of the spaces on Station Road by the Kebab Van or its ancillaries.

**LETTING FEES** Towards clarification of agenda items 20&21, it has been custom and practice for many years for Council to follow advice from the BW-TMA regarding the day-to-day running of the letting facilities at Blackbourne and at Wesley. This has included the setting of fees. The trajectory of fee level has been inexorably upwards given cost pressures, notably of late in light of government action on Minimum Wage levels and National Insurance increases. A concession in the latest recommendation was made towards the fees levied on local groups with recognition of the cost saving of the new solar pv installation. I attach a note to the relevant BW-TMA Members' meeting which refers. Also, the schedule of fees as pertaining last year and as recently introduced. If Council wishes to assume responsibility for the management of its facilities, possibly by establishing a Committee, letting fees would all have to increase by 20% to cover the VAT then chargeable.

Comparison with other venues is difficult given the very wide range of facilities that are variously offered. The broad business test of year-on-year demand suggest that the Blackbourne & Wesley fees are appropriately set.

With regard to the bar fee, there is a

strong possibility that, if there was no fee charged, hirers would require a bar for events which do not attract sufficient customers to cover the cost. The 2 bar staff net-out at c£30.00 per hour and the average bar lasts some 5 hours. Setting up and clearing down averages 3 hours of janitorial time. Prices are kept low in recognition of the community nature of many hirings, so the margin, after VAT is deducted, struggles to break-even at less than a £480.00 take. The bar fee serves to concentrate the mind of potential hirers as to whether they want a bar or not and, in the case of an unprofitable bar, to reduce the loss. Having an in-house bar allows the provision of draft beers which are, in most cases, the biggest sellers. The facility that a bar offers is a plus in terms of hiring.

Meanwhile, lettings and demand increase year-on-year.

**PLAY AREAS** The Junior Play Area is taking shape and the contractor provides video reports confirming progress. The weather caused a late start and has slowed progress so that we will not be open for half term as planned.

**TAVERN** The weather has also played its part in slowing progress on the Tavern groundworks which has a knock-on effect given that it makes site access difficult. UKPN have agreed to work weekends to help reduce the road closure time. Meanwhile water supply is now delivered and live. The painters have finished and all of the internal fixtures & fittings, including kitchen and extraction are commissioned or completed. Nadia Tunmore is using her skill and experience to source the catering kit and other smaller fixtures & fittings competitively. It is far from certain that everything will be finished in time for the hoped-for Easter opening.

## Planning Results

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

**DC/25/05548** Removal or variation of Condition...Land North of Dagwood Farm, Ashfield Road GRANTED  
EPC had opted not to comment

## Planning Applications

The following Planning applications as notified by Mid Suffolk District Council, were supported:

**DC/25/04964** Erection of front and rear extensions at **15 Mill Gardens**

**DC/26/00086** Application for consent to display an Advertisement(s) - Installation of replacement signs to include 1x new panel to existing projecting gibbet, 1x fascia sign, 1x transom sign, 1x menu case, 1x sign written house name and logo, 1x sign written directional sign, 1x single sided post mounted sign, 2x wall mounted Corex signs and 1x double sided post mounted Corex sign at **The Fox, Station Road**

No objection was raised to the Application ref. **DC/26/00363**, the

Application for Approval of Reserved Matters pursuant to Outline Planning Permission of Hybrid Planning Permission DC/22/04002 - Access, Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale for Parcel 6 - 2no. commercial buildings; parking; and areas of Landscaping on **Land at Lawn Park Business Centre, Warren Lane** Councillors, relying upon the professional judgement of the District Tree Officer, made no comment on the Application ref. **DC/26/00467** Notification of works to trees in a Conservation Area - Walnut Tree T1 To reduce tree back to previous cutting points - removal of deadwood. reasons for this tree is growing close to the property and has been cut back before to allow clearance of the property and to re-shape remainder of tree to blend in and giving more light to property at **11 Farm Meadow**

Councillors made objection to the Application under Section 73A of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 ref. **DC/26/00161** for the Variation of Condition 3 (Occupation Restriction) DC/22/06217 dated: 07/02/2023 - Retention of existing residential annexe, conversion of part of existing garaging to extend annexe, replacement of existing roof, including addition of solar panels, adjustments to existing fenestration and application of external cladding, and associated works at **Mulberry Farm, Ashfield Road**.

Councillors objected to this Proposal on the following grounds:

- 1 The works required to effect the conversion of the garage, roof replacement, changes to fenestration and the application of external cladding constitute more than a variation. These proposals should come forward as a full Proposal as they exceed the reasonable scope of a s73A application which might normally retrospectively reference minor adjustments and works of a minimal nature already carried out.
- 2 A major element of the original Permission was the restriction of occupation which was intended as a bar to the development of the annexe into a separate dwelling. Removing this constraint would allow the possibility of the creation of a new house without due process and the checks and balances this affords.
- 3 There is no scale or design for the proposed building works making an informed judgement on their effect impossible.
- 4 In summary, these proposals should be re-presented as a full Planning application.

## Toddler/Pre-school play area at Crown Mill

Members of the public spoke to reiterate their concerns regarding the planned installation of pre-school and toddler age-appropriate play equipment on land

at Crown Mill on grounds that there is not a clearly-evidenced demand and that the site is unsuitable. It was agreed that the Minutes should show that these concerns had not been accurately reflected in the Clerk's Report and that it should be recorded that the Parish Council had acknowledged that such concerns remained vehemently held, namely that it is against published guidelines, has no proven public need yet uses public funds and could cost more public money to remove if complaints to Mid Suffolk resulted in a requirement to do so.

### Letting fees

The Meeting agreed to follow the recommendations of the Blackbourne & Wesley-Tavern Management Association with regard to an uplift in letting fees at Wesley and Blackbourne of 2% for village groups and organisations, 4% for Elmswell residents and 7% for outside hirers. The arrangement for the provision of a bar was left unchanged.

### Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Ordinary Meeting of Council was scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> March 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](http://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](mailto:clerk@elmswellpc.co.uk)

Tel. 244134 [www.elmswell-pc.gov.uk](http://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.

Mar	Apr	May	June	July
16 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>

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

## BLACKBOURNE & WESLEY-TAVERN MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

The BW-TMA advises the Parish Council on matters relate to the management of the village's community facilities at Blackbourne, Wesley and, soon, The Tavern. Membership is drawn from 16 user-groups as well as councillors, staff representatives and residents elected at the AGM. Together the membership speaks on behalf of more than 500 villagers, across all age ranges from the toddlers through the sporting youngsters, the 3 senior sports clubs to the Over 5's & The Companions and beyond. At the latest meeting, held at Wesley on 24<sup>th</sup> February, the following matters were among those discussed:

- Nadia Tunmore, the Wesley / Tavern General Manager who took up her post on 1<sup>st</sup> February, is working with BW-TMA Member Peter Hancock on specifying the twin illuminated external signs proposed for Wesley and The Tavern to be post-mounted at either entrance.
- The insurer of the sub contractor who, whilst working on the construction site adjacent to Blackbourne in February 2025, inadvertently ripped up some ground source heater collector pipes have finally confirmed that they have been in touch with the insured and confirmed that the claims process is underway.

- Efforts continue, advised by the ecology consultancy which surveyed Turners' Field and provided the professional assessment of the biodiversity net gain requirement, to devise a land allocation profile which allows the provision of community recreation land whilst retaining on-site sufficient appropriate area to balance the assessed diversity deficit. The clear objective is the provision of a large grassed area suitable for community sport & recreation with the remaining land dedicated to diversity gain by way of such as wildlife / conservation area with footpath access.
- The Treasurer's Report showed projected receipts across both venues continuing to increase year-on-year with an anticipated total of £96,557.
- The Meeting noted the success of the trial session of the proposed monthly 'Repair Café' event at Wesley. It was very busy and everyone seemed very happy. 37 repairs were taken in, of which 26 were successfully repaired and 2 were advised on parts needed so may come back. 2 more sessions are booked to allow a full assessment of the initiative and to hopefully attract more Elmswell based volunteers.

- Members noted that works on the refurbishment and extension to the existing junior play area at Crown Mill are scheduled for late January and that the final specification for the pre-school/toddler facility is awaiting final input from the residents who have been meeting with the Council's working party.
- New bookings include by the Cricket Club who hope to run 2 teams next season as well as the established Ju Jitsu group now hosting women's self defence classes at Blackbourne.
- The leak in the ground source heat pump collector network at Wesley is under investigation. Meanwhile, the system runs at half capacity but this is not posing any problem now that cold weather is not expected. The cost of the investigation and repair is to be borne by the installer as a Latent Defect under the original Contract.
- Progress on the Tavern project was reported as being steady but that time lost to the weather might mean the opening is likely to be mid-late April

Peter Edmonds  
Secretary



WESLEY Coffee Shop... We are open!

where you are warm and welcome

Weekdays 9.00 – 4.00,  
Saturdays 9.30 – 4.00

# VILLAGE INDEX



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

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

Amenities Association	Jean Barker (Sec)	eea@elmswell.org.uk	241135
Art Club	Eddie Douglas	edward.douglas2@gmail.com	
Arts Society of West Suffolk	Diana Hollins	theartssociety-westssuffolk.org.uk	01449 736930
Baby & Toddler Group		elmswellbtgroup@gmail.com	
Baptists	Dave Hollings	davehollings@btinternet.com	241323
BATS (Badminton & Table Tennis)	Mike Burgess Wilson	burgesswilsonmike@gmail.com	07513 336412
Beavers	Ruth Salmon	ruthcourt4@hotmail.co.uk	
Bingo at Blackbourne	Brian Hawes		07761 125093
BWMA	Peter Edmonds (Sec)	edmondspeterj@gmail.com	07860 395720
Blackbourne – all enquiries	Parish Council office	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
Brownies	Megan & Frankie	elmswellbrownies@hotmail.com	
CAB		advice@midsuffolkcab.org.uk	01449 676060
Carpet Bowls Club	Mike North	mcnorth8@gmail.com	
Christians Together in Elmswell	Peter Goodridge	elmswellrector@gmail.com	240512
Companions	Linda Waspe	linda@labbott.plus.com	
County Councillor	Clr Andy Mellen	Andy.Mellen@suffolk.gov.uk	
Cricket Club	Ben Whatling (Captain)	benwhatling@mail.com	07760 174811
Cubs	Mark Pernot	mark.pernot@gmail.com	
District Councillor	Sarah Mansell	Sarah.Mansel@midsuffolk.gov.uk	07860 829517
District Councillor	Jen Overett	Jen.Overett@midsuffolk.gov.uk	
Elmswild	Mary Feeney	info@elmswild.org.uk	241901
Exchange Afternoon WI	Carol Blissett	carolblissett@hotmail.co.uk	242884
First Responders	Merv	merv.smith@tiscali.co.uk	07909 006 496
Football	Chris Edmonds	edddd101@gmail.com	
Fox Bowls Team bowls at Blackbourne	Rob Dann	rccsdann@btinternet.com	07917 013846
Gardening Club	Wendy Walker	elmswellgcadmin@btinternet.com	07748 442951
Guides	Viv	elmswellguides@outlook.com	
Harry Huson Bridge Club	Amanda Roberts	robertsar@sky.com	07526 743734
Health Centre - Woolpit			240298
History Group	Stella Chamberlin	stellachamberlin@yahoo.co.uk	
Ladies Voices (Choir)	Anna Wilton Mills	annawm63@gmail.com	
Library	Miles Row - Manager	Elmswell.Library@suffolklibraries.co.uk	240974
Little Elms	Paula Reynolds / Samantha Willers	info@littleelms.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](http://www.elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk) - it might help you in planning dates for your events.

## March 2026

- 10 Elmswell WI St Nicholas Hospice
- 12 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Roy Clare: Suffolk Connections with Charles Darwin's Voyage on the Beagle
- 12 Elmswell Over 55's Pie & Mash and Fun Quiz
- 17 Caroline Holmes - A Royal country house estate - Sandringham, Wesley Chapel
- 26 Elmswell Over 55's Bob Whiting and Easter Draw

## April 2026

- 1 Elmswell WI Afternoon 2.00pm Heather Frick All about fostering
- 7 West Suffolk Arts Society Haute Couture's Holy Trinity After World War II Speaker: Scott Schavione
- 9 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Mark Lawrence: Hadleigh Guildhall

- 9 Elmswell Over 55's Natter & Nibbles
- 9 Midday Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church April 9 Midday Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church
- 13 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church, Suffolk Smugglers with Pip Wright
- 14 Elmswell WI Food Sensitivity
- 14 Elmswell WI Annual Meeting
- 21 Chis Wiley - Hellebores, Wesley Chapel
- 23 Elmswell Over 55's Stew & Dumplings and Bingo

## May 2026

- 5 West Suffolk Arts Society The Fall & Rise of Denmark Greatest Designer. Finn Juhl Speaker: James Vaux
- 6 Elmswell WI Afternoon 2.00 pm AGM Bring & Buy and Members talks
- 11 2pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church when John Cornell will be talking about Visiting Lourdes

- 14 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Helen Everett, Sutton Hoo Ship's Company: Project to Reconstruct a Replica Anglo-Saxon Longboat
- 19 Ian Bedford - Six of the Best - 3 beneficial and 3 problematic bugs in our houses and gardens, Wesley Chapel

## June 2026

- 1 Ladies Friendship Group - a visit to Thetford Nursery
- 2 West Suffolk Arts Society Calouste Gulbenkian As Collector & Oil Titan 1869 - 1955 Speaker: Jonathon Conlin
- 3 Elmswell WI Afternoon 2.00 pm Margaret Brackenbury A craft workshop
- 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

## STOP PRESS

Regular sessions at Blackbourne & Wesley include:

- ART CLUB** at Wesley every Tuesday 9.00 - 12.00 Eddie Douglas [edward.douglas2@gmail.com](mailto:edward.douglas2@gmail.com)
  - ARTS SOCIETY OF WEST SUFFOLK** first Tuesday monthly, October-June. Diana Hollins 01449 736930 [theartsociety-westsuffolk.org.uk](http://theartsociety-westsuffolk.org.uk)
  - BABY & TODDLER GROUP** - Monday mornings [elmswellbtgroup@gmail.com](mailto:elmswellbtgroup@gmail.com)
  - BATS**- badminton / table tennis at Blackbourne TUESDAY night 7.15 - 9.15 pm [burgesswilsonmike@gmail.com](mailto:burgesswilsonmike@gmail.com) or tel. 07513 336412
  - BEAVERS /SCOUTS** - Wednesday 5.45 - 9.15 [ddc.paula@stowmarketsscouts.org.uk](mailto:ddc.paula@stowmarketsscouts.org.uk)
  - BINGO** - Blackbourne, last Friday monthly doors open 6.30...eyes - down 7.30
  - BOWLS** - [barryhayward1902@gmail.com](mailto:barryhayward1902@gmail.com) tel. 240951
  - BRIDGE** - Blackbourne - Monday afternoons from 1.15pm - Phil Peters 07825 016884 [peters33@btinternet.com](mailto:peters33@btinternet.com)
  - CARPET BOWLS** - Wednesday 7pm at Wesley - [em.mcnorth8@gmail.com](mailto:em.mcnorth8@gmail.com)
  - CIRCLE DANCING** - Thursdays 1.45 - 3.15 [jenlerner@gmail.com](mailto:jenlerner@gmail.com)
  - COMPANIONS** - every other Friday 10 - 12 at Wesley - [linda@abbott.plus.com](mailto:linda@abbott.plus.com)
  - CUBS** Tuesdays 6.15 - 7.30 - [mark.pernot@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:edddd101@gmail.com)
  - GARDENING CLUB** at Wesley 3rd Tuesday monthly 7.30 [elmswellgcadmin@btinternet.com](mailto:elmswellgcadmin@btinternet.com)
  - GUIDES** - [elmswellguides@outlook.com](mailto:elmswellguides@outlook.com)
  - HISTORY GROUP** at Wesley 2nd Thursday monthly 7.30 [stellachamberlin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stellachamberlin@yahoo.co.uk)
  - JAPANESE JUJUTSU / SELF DEFENCE** - Monday & Wednesday 6.30 - 8.30 [ryoishintowaryuheiho@gmail.com](mailto:ryoishintowaryuheiho@gmail.com) tel. 07711 680262
  - JUNIOR FOOTBALL** - [smyth98@hotmail.com](mailto:smyth98@hotmail.com) 07717 841591
  - KARATE with Lewis** - Friday 5.00 - 7.00 [info@greatheadma.com](mailto:info@greatheadma.com)
  - MARDLE QUILTERS** - last Friday monthly [carpajak@aol.com](mailto:carpajak@aol.com)
  - MOO MUSIC** - Fridays 12.45 - 3.15 [bury@moo-music.co.uk](mailto:bury@moo-music.co.uk)
  - OVER 55'S** - every other Thursday 6.30 - 10.30 Diann Armstrong tel. 241002
  - PILATES** - Monday & Friday mornings - [suzanne@triformpilates.co.uk](mailto:suzanne@triformpilates.co.uk)
  - RAINBOWS** - [elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com](mailto:elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com)
  - TREFOIL GUILD** - 1st Tuesday monthly [lesley.grout@btinternet.com](mailto:lesley.grout@btinternet.com)
  - WI** - afternoon at Wesley 1st Wednesday monthly at 2.00pm Carol Blissett [carolblissett@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carolblissett@hotmail.co.uk)
  - WI** - evening at Wesley 2nd Tuesday monthly 7.30pm [triciamcneeney@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk)

## Your Newsletter Fact File

For the next 3 months we need copy by: March 24<sup>th</sup>, April 21<sup>st</sup>, May 26<sup>th</sup>, June 23<sup>rd</sup>

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

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

Reg. Charity No. 304879. 2500+ copies delivered free to households and to businesses in the community. A volunteer enterprise entirely supported by advertising.

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS**



# PROMECH



**SERVICING**

ProMech Elmswell

**MOT CENTRE**

ProMech Elmswell

**REPAIRS**

ProMech Elmswell

**DIAGNOSTICS**

ProMech Elmswell

**EXHAUSTS**

ProMech Elmswell

**TYRES**

ProMech Elmswell

**SUSPENSION**

ProMech Elmswell

**TRACKING**

ProMech Elmswell

**CLUTCHES**

ProMech Elmswell

**BRAKES**

ProMech Elmswell

**BATTERIES**

ProMech Elmswell

**AIR CON REGAS**

ProMech Elmswell

**TIMING BELTS**

ProMech Elmswell

**LOAN CARS**

ProMech Elmswell



Most manufacturers recommend you service your car's air-con every two years, but many people wait until it's not blowing cold air. **Have you??**

Poor working air con will work the engine harder, thus using more fuel. It's not worth putting off a system check. **Call and book yours today.....**



**01359 242420**

Find us at: Station Road Industrial Estate, Elmswell, IP30 9HR

BULBS - ALTERNATORS - SHOCK ABSORBERS - COIL SPRINGS - WHEEL ALIGNMENT - REPAIRS - MOT PREP - WHEEL BALANCING - PUNCTURE REPAIRS

KEY BATTERY REPLACEMENT - STARTER MOTORS - SPARK PLUGS - ELECTRICAL FAULTS - AIR BAG FAULTS - ENGINE MANAGEMENT LIGHTS - TPMS RESET