

'Like a friend  
dropping in'



# The Elmswell Newsletter



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

SEPTEMBER 2026

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



WOW!

## Things Looking Up

...see page 14

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[EAA@elmswell.org.uk](mailto:EAA@elmswell.org.uk)

## AROUND & ABOUT

### VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

#### Meet Mike Bailey one of the repairers at the Elmswell Repair Café !

Describing himself as a “multi fixer”, Mike is happiest when he is working with wood. As a boy, he picked up his carpentry skills from his grandfather who was a cabinet maker and was keen to pass on his knowledge. Mike is equally happy passing on his skills to his own granddaughter and having worked as a GP during his career he's also keen to share health and safety advice. Mike's claim to fame is being involved with the V festival for more than fifteen years, where he organised the medical support.

Mike moved from Essex to Suffolk four years ago on retirement with his wife Ann. He was keen to get involved in the community and was looking for something to do, when he saw the advertisement for the repair café. Having been inspired by watching the Repair Shop on BBC he made contact. He feels there is not so much for men to get involved in locally as there is for women and he recognises the importance of socialising with others in the same position as himself.

Mike likes to see people coming to the repair café with their children and grandchildren, to teach them how important it is to repair things rather than throw them away and buy new.

His most memorable repair wasn't one of his own but watching a repaired teddy bear being reunited with its owner, which brought her to tears.

Through his involvement at the repair café Mike has since become involved in another volunteer role with Suffolk Sight and has encouraged his wife, whose expertise is sewing, in particular quilting, to join the repair café team.



If this has inspired you to get involved please come along to the next repair café on **Saturday September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2-4 at the Wesley Hall.**



## FREE Adult Bike Safety Check & Repair Session

The Wesley Hall, School Road, Elmswell, IP30 9EE

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2026, 12.00-4.00pm**

**Book your appointment by emailing: [dan@sessioncycles.co.uk](mailto:dan@sessioncycles.co.uk)**



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[BigBikeRevival.org.uk](http://BigBikeRevival.org.uk)

[#BigBikeRevival](https://twitter.com/BigBikeRevival)



**SESSION**  
CYCLES

# CLUBS & SOCIETIES



## ELMSWELL ART CLUB

I'm sure you will recognise the person in the picture below. Yes, it is Jimi Hendrix (born 1942 in Seattle, Washington USA; died 1970 in London). Hendrix was an American rock guitarist, singer, and composer who "fused" American traditions of blues, jazz, rock, and soul **with techniques of British "avant-garde" rock to redefine the electric guitar in his own image.** Though his active career as a featured artist lasted only four years, Hendrix altered the course of popular music and **became one of the most successful and influential musicians of his era.**

Bea Garwood produced this excellent image of Hendrix using pencil and charcoal.



For our second picture this month, Karen Nicholls has created the following wonderful image of a squid. Karen used mainly watercolour paints and produced the highlights using gel pens. Gel pens enable you to lay down a thick, opaque line that stands out over watercolour paints, producing an almost 3D effect, which really works in Karen's painting.



Our final painting was produced in acrylics by Linda Stephenson and depicts the St Edmundsbury Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds. The Cathedral's origins trace back to the 11th century; originally a

small monastic church, it evolved into a prominent parish church before achieving cathedral status in 1914. It stands adjacent to the historic ruins of the great Benedictine Abbey of St Edmund.

This is the **sixth** image of the Cathedral that Linda has painted – her first five creations have all been purchased by visitors to Art Shows where Linda has displayed them!!



Once again, we hope you enjoy this selection of our members' artistic creations.

Eddie Douglas



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

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# AROUND & ABOUT

## ELMSWELL FOOTPATH WALK

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2026**

With attendance well into double figures, 11 spritely denizens of Elmswell took advantage of the break in the latest heatwave to enjoy a much more temperate amble around the footpaths of Elmswell.

A left turn took us past the Co-op, on to The Street followed by a left on to Cooks Road and on past the Library.

A left on to Thedwastre Close and a right behind Clay Field led us on to Wetherden Road.

Just as a point of interest, part of Cooks Road, Thedwastre Close and part of Jubilee Terrace form FP19.

Turning left and crossing the road put us at the entrance to Mill Gardens (FP20) which we followed round to the footpath sign on the left.

We now broke out into open country with a view across to Kiln Lane and on to Woolpit beyond.

A left and right took us southish between the plantation and Warren Mill House on

FP21 where a further left took us on to Windmill Lane and past the two new houses on the left.

Now in Wetherden, FP25 beckoned from the right which we duly took for some 700m, past Lawn Farm Quarry on the right, and hence on to the recently re-stoned old A45.

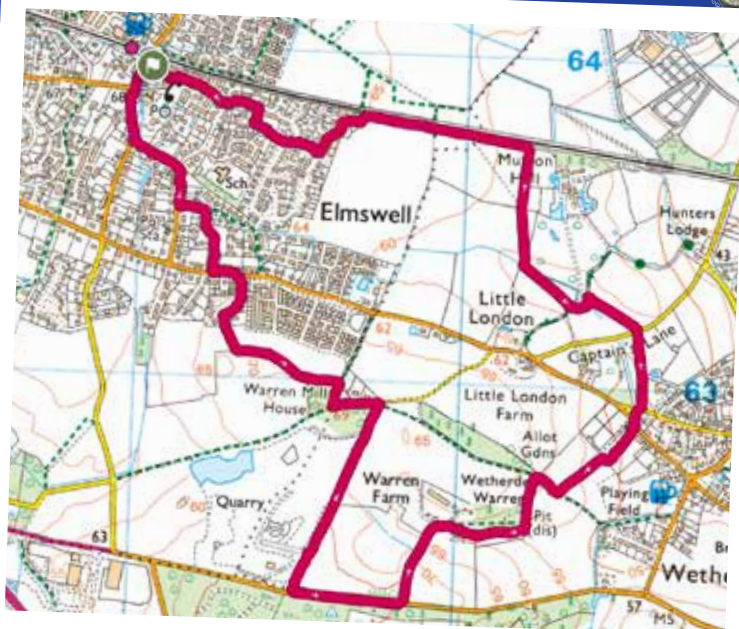
After a brief safety briefing the intrepid party turned left for 400m and then dived left into the safety of FP23.

Here the first potential challenge to the demographically challenged assembly appeared in the form of a style but thankfully a kind person had left the main gate open and a collective sigh of relief was heaved.

Down the slope we trundled, with the steam rally field to the right, turning right past Warren Farm on the left.

With loins fully girded we scampered over the next obstacle - style number two. A handy vertical sliding dog gate allowed the four legged member of the group unfettered passage.

Heading north up the hill and a right on to FP25A had us heading towards Wetherden. A left at the junction with FP23 had us on FP51 which led down past the allotments, alongside the Baptist Church and on to Elmswell Road.



A left and a right across the road into Kate's Lane had FP32 fingerpost in plain sight and we headed north on it up to Captain's Lane, across to FP33 and on further to the wooded tunnel that is RB46.

A left here and 100m brought us to Mutton Hall's locked gate no.7 which we passed through using the FPO's key.

Crossing the open sheep meadows we exited through gate no.3, again with the use of the key, on to FP9 on the south side of the railway track.

On to the familiar sight of Lord's Bridge and a left and right on FP25 delivered us to Eastern Way.

We meandered through the housing and arrived back at Crown Mill none the worse for wear.

A walk of approximately 3.99 miles in 1 hour and 40 minutes (an average speed of 2.4 miles per hour).

*Peter Hancock, EPC Footpath Officer*



**SEPTEMBER'S FOOTPATH WALK WILL BE ON SUNDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER STARTING AT 10.30 AT THE VILLAGE SIGN AT CROWN MILL**

## ELMSWELL LITTER PICKERS / ELMSWELL IN BLOOM

In what could be described as one of the most challenging years on record, now is the time to be reflecting and putting plans in place for the year ahead – which is why this article pulls together two new community initiatives, in an attempt to improve the village scene for years to come. Having lived in Elmswell most of my life, I've seen the village change exponentially over the years and it could be said that community involvement hasn't quite kept up at the same pace. That's why I'm appealing for your help, to kickstart two groups; Elmswell in Bloom and Elmswell Litter Pickers – the latter having been set up recently by Paul Peachey.

Elmswell in Bloom will be responsible for beautifying the village with climate-proof plants and running projects with the school, village clubs and organisations, and generating funding via sponsorship from local businesses and grants. Even tending to a small patch of land near where you live is enough to play a part and enhance the local environment.

Elmswell Litter Pickers is an ever-expanding group of residents that take it upon themselves to pick up litter both when they spot it as well as on pre-arranged volunteer days. This also involves cleaning of street signs and other small tasks – something that Suffolk County Council are supporting via a Community Self-Help scheme; the Council provides equipment, PPE and insurance in return for residents undertaking the tasks that SCC simply do not have the resources for these days.

**The next session for Elmswell Litter Pickers is to be held on Sunday 13 September, meeting at 0930 in the Co-op car park.**

**To volunteer for any of the above, please send me an email to [chris.wiley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chris.wiley@hotmail.co.uk)**

# KH

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



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## ELMSWELL EXCHANGE W.I.

After Mary welcomed everyone to the meeting our speaker was introduced. This month it was John Sutton and his subject was the Route 66 in the USA. John, his wife and two friends went on the trip between May and June 2011. Ideally he would have liked to have hired a Mustang but the practical solution was a seven seater vehicle!

They started in San Francisco and enjoyed the cable cars and seeing the seals that have made their home near Fisherman's Wharf as well as the Golden Gate Bridge and Alcatraz. Hearst Castle was a monument to the wealthy owner with no expense spared. The owner's daughter was Patty Hearst who was famously kidnapped and made headlines for seeming to be sympathetic to her kidnappers.

John also showed us pictures of the Hollywood hall of fame and the famous footprints and the Chinese theatre. We saw some pictures of Beverley Hills and of their visit to Universal Studios. The subway station looked as if it was part of the studios.

After leaving San Francisco they continued their journey along the route 66. They saw old deserted towns and trains with one hundred and twenty carriages. Along the way they came across petrol stations and motels that had been renovated in the 1950's style. One old town which had been used by miners had left their donkeys behind and they are looked after by the townspeople and a charity.

John's destination was the Grand Canyon and on route they came across a steam train and also Billy Connolly who was making a television programme at the time. John is a huge fan of Billy Connolly and was delighted to have his picture taken with him.

The pictures of the Grand Canyon showed the immense size and height and John told us that four people a month fall off the canyon. We saw the sandstone at Monument Valley. John took a trip in a helicopter to the bottom of the Grand Canyon and travelled on a boat along the Colorado River.

They visited Las Vegas and went on to Mammoth where there was still snow in June. Before heading back to San Francisco they visited Yosemite National Park and managed to see a bear.

John's pictures gave us all a very good idea of the part of the route 66 that he travelled and for those of us who had visited some of the places brought back some happy memories.

The competition this month was an American souvenir. First was Barbara Carter, second was Lesley and third was Jan.

Next month we will have a speaker from SERV as emergency responders. The competition is a teddy bear.

New members and visitors are always welcome.

Carol Blissett 242 8844

**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

## ELMSWELL W.I.

On Tuesday 11 August, a slightly smaller than usual group of WI ladies gathered at the Wesley Hall to find out about the East Anglian Air Ambulance from Julian. Fundraising started in 2000 after Frankie Dettori was involved in a plane crash and had to be transported by a RAF helicopter. By 2001 enough money had been raised for the yellow helicopter (the AA were a major sponsor) to fly one day a week, and by July 2001 the service was operating seven days a week. In 2013 it was the first air ambulance to fly in darkness, although only from Norwich, as night flying is not permitted from the current Cambridge site at Marshalls (planning permission has been granted for a new base in Fulbourn). The organisation currently has two helicopters and four critical care cars and respond to the most serious 1% of 999 calls, with an average of 8 call outs per day. The helicopters can be airborne within 3 minutes and can travel at a top speed of 178 mph, which means they can cover the whole patch (Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, and Bedfordshire) in a maximum of 20 minutes. The helicopter crew is made up of two pilots, a critical care paramedic and a doctor and both the helicopters and critical care cars carry the same equipment, with one exception, the cars don't have stretchers. Both carry blood to enable transfusions to be given at the earliest opportunity. The critical care paramedics have extensive training and the main reason for the EAAA is to get a highly trained medical professional to the patient(s) as quickly as possible. In situations where time is of the essence, having someone who can deal with things on the scene has resulted in many lives being saved and the motto of the organisation is "Together We Save Lives". One of our members Janet has first hand experience of the care provided by the East Anglian Air Ambulance, but fortunately she wasn't in a critical condition so didn't have to go anywhere in a helicopter. When we are visited by a charity organisation we like to raise some funds on the night for them, and we were able to send Julian away with over £200.

In September we will be at Elmsfest where a range of cakes and savouries will be on sale, along with tea, coffee, and squash. Please come and find us in the Blackbourne Hall and support this village event.

**Our next meeting is on 8 September at 7.30pm when we will be hearing about the work of The Hope Centre.**



Rachel Barber, Elmswell WI

**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN



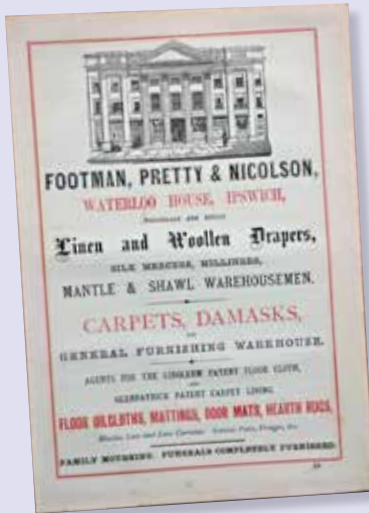
**WESLEY Coffee Shop...**  
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### FROM THE ARCHIVE

27<sup>th</sup> September 1867

A formal civic farewell was given at the Crown & Anchor Pub (*now sadly closed*) to mark Henry Footman's departure to Cambridge.



Henry worked for his father's firm – the draper's Footman, Pretty & Nicolson in Westgate Street (*later becoming Debenhams*) – but he was also a well-known public figure. He taught at the Mechanics' Institute (*opened 1824, moved to Tavern Street in 1834, still exists there today as the Ipswich Institute*) and he was a co-founder of a Working Man's College in a room at Ipswich Town Hall. He was also a Liberal town councillor and helped set up the Ipswich Penny Bank, but was leaving Ipswich to become an Anglican clergyman. Nearly



20 years later, he was still in touch with Ipswich life, when he heard that 250 'navvies' had arrived in the town to work on the docks and dig the sewers. Most public figures threw their hands up in horror at the thought of this influx of reputedly hard-living labourers, but Footman wrote to encourage Ipswich churches to set up a mission for them because, after all, he argued that they would leave some good work in the town. (Ref: *Ipswich Journal*)

### FROM THE ARCHIVE

6<sup>th</sup> September 1916

The young Enid Blyton (1897-1968) arrived in Ipswich on or about this date to train as a teacher at Ipswich High School for Girls, which was then housed in Constable Road, lodging with friends at 73 Christchurch Street. By the end of 1918, she had completed her course with first-class passes, and left Ipswich to start teaching in Kent. As no doubt many of us can remember, she went on to become a well-known and prolific children's author (of, amongst others, the sometimes controversial Noddy, Secret Seven, Famous Five, Malory Towers, and Faraway Tree series), publishing more than 700 books worldwide. (Ref: *Enid Blyton Society*)



The first meeting of our new season, 2026-7, will be on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September, 7.30pm in the Wesley Hall (School Rd, IP30 9EE), when our annual subscriptions will be due for payment. Our annual subs and monthly fees remain as previously, i.e. to join us as a member (or renew your membership), it is £12pp subs plus £4 per meeting attended (£16pp payable at your first meeting) or £6pp per meeting to attend as a visitor. As we cannot take credit/debit cards, we'd appreciate exact cash or a cheque (payable to "Elmswell History Group"); also for attendees to arrive a little earlier than usual (doors open at 6.45pm) to give us all time for this essential annual administrative procedure, before our prompt start of 7.30pm. Thank you.

On 10<sup>th</sup> September, we look forward to welcoming Darren Dordoy for his talk on *Stowmarket's 1871 Gun Cotton Explosion*. As Stowmarket's Mayor and Chairman of Stowmarket History Group, Darren is extremely well placed to give us detailed information on this catastrophic event in the town's Victorian history and its aftermath, so do join us then to find out much more.



**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



## ELMSWELL OVER 55's

On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July we had our annual trip to The Hut in Felixstowe, I think it is fair to say a good time was had by all, the sun was shining which allowed members to sit outside or go for a walk. We enjoyed fish and chips and homemade fruit scones (thank you Sharon), and a quick Bingo session.



Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August the Haughley Hoofers paid us a visit and entertained us with clog dancing; members had the chance to join allowing us to showcase our dancing skills!!!

We are looking forward to a basket meal on 27<sup>th</sup> August at the Blackbourne Community Centre, and a Mystery Tour on the 10<sup>th</sup> September.

We are taking part in ELMSFEST 2026 on 5<sup>th</sup> September, to raise funds for the club: We have a tombola, kids lucky dip, homemade cakes and bakes, plants for sale and puzzles for sale, we have some lovely prizes.

Please come along and support us if you can. Thank you in advance.

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

**Kay – 07730265316 or Sharon – 07885730911 or email [elmswellover55s@outlook.com](mailto:elmswellover55s@outlook.com) you can also find us on Facebook.**

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SJP Approved 22/04/2026



**Collections will be on a Thursday:**

### BLUE LID

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

**17<sup>th</sup> September, 8<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> October, 19<sup>th</sup> November**

### GREEN LID All card and paper

**10<sup>th</sup> September, 1<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 12<sup>th</sup> November**

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

### BLACK BIN

General rubbish – broken crockery, food pouches, nappies, pet waste, vacuum dust

**FRIDAY 4<sup>th</sup> September** (changed due to Bank Hol.),  
**24<sup>th</sup> September, 15<sup>th</sup> October, 5<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> November**

**For further information and queries:**

**Ring: 0300 1234 000 (option 4)**

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**Web: [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk)**



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



## 2026-27 Autumn / Winter Flu and COVID Vaccination Campaign

In line with government guidance, the main 2026-27 autumn / winter flu and COVID vaccination campaign commences on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

### Eligibility for a Flu Vaccination

- Aged 65 years and over;
- 18 – 64 years at clinical risk;
- Those in long stay residential care homes;
- Carers of elderly or disabled persons;
- Close contacts of immunocompromised individuals;
- Frontline workers in a health and social care setting.

### Eligibility for a COVID Booster

- Residents in a care home for older adults;
- All adults aged 75 years and over;
- Patients aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed.

At Woolpit Health Centre we will kick off the campaign with two large clinics as follows:

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**  
COVID and Flu for patients over the age of 75 years ONLY

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October**  
Flu ONLY for eligible patients under the age of 75 years

We will then plan smaller clinics for patients unable to make these dates.

Eligible patients will receive an invitation via a mobile phone text or by letter, depending on how they have consented for us to make contact. There may be occasions where patients of the same household have different appointment times. In this event patients can attend together at either time, without the need to inform us.

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

During this busy time, we try hard to minimise disruption to our core primary care services, protecting our Care Navigators so they can remain focused on supporting patients who need triaging into urgent and routine appointments. During the season our small, dedicated

vaccination team handle large numbers of telephone and email enquiries.

### Request to Patients

1. Please **wait** for your invitation.
2. Upon receipt please only contact the team if you need to change your appointment or cannot use the mobile phone booking link.
3. Our preference is for email contact as this keeps the phone line free and is an efficient way to communicate. Please email: [woolpit.covid19queries@nhs.net](mailto:woolpit.covid19queries@nhs.net)
4. If you need to phone our dedicated vaccine line, the number is **01359 243933**.
5. **Finally, we ask you please to be patient, whichever way you contact us we will get back to you. There is no need to leave multiple messages, this only slows down our responses. Be reassured, we have plenty of vaccine and plenty of appointments.**

*We look forward to another successful vaccination season.*

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## ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB

I am writing this month's article to the sound of rain....yes rain! I had almost forgotten the soothing sound and fresh smell of a good downpour and it's a relief for the garden after a hot and dry summer. My garden is in its' second year of creation and it's limping along and in the main looking quite sad, it's been a real test of my patience, but I'm still be-leafing in its potential.

There was no club meeting in August but in July club members enjoyed two trips. The first was a re-visit to Porters Lodge Garden and Tea Rooms in Cavenham. The garden, created by Craig Wyncoll and Lionel Sturgess when they moved to Porters Lodge 38 years ago, covers 3 acres plus an 18-acre woodland. It is divided into several rooms, each with different planting conditions and styles. It's a relaxing place with plenty of ideas to take home, and once you've had your fill, there is sampling to be had in the café.

The second trip was to Beth Chatto Garden, Elmstead Market, Essex, one of my favourite gardens to visit. Beth was a plantswoman, garden designer who loved unusual plants and was the original advocate for 'Right Plant, Right Place'. This means placing plants the environmental conditions that they grow in the wild, such as soil, moisture levels and aspect. The gardens she and her husband created are shaped by the land, with some areas being heavy clay and wet and some drier and sandy. One thing in common is that it's a part of the country with the lowest levels of rainfall, so its full of ideas to apply to our part of Suffolk. There are five gardens to walk around: Gravel, Water, Scree, Woodland and the Reservoir garden. There are over 2000 varieties of plants for the sale too so you can take the inspiration home, which many members did.

I am now off to see if my water butts are full, pick some tomatoes and aubergines from the greenhouse and try to nurture some more life out of the rest of garden. I wonder if talking to the plants might help.....

*Our speakers for the autumn months are:*

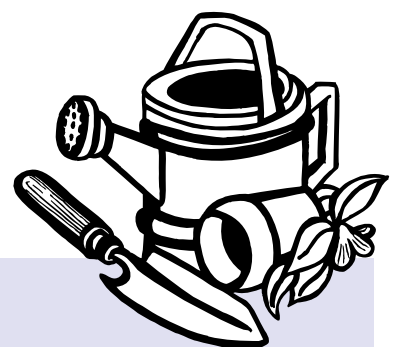
September 15<sup>th</sup>: Ruth Goudy 'How to Plan a Beautiful Border'.

October 20<sup>th</sup>: Geoff Hodge 'Happy Houseplants'

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

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.**

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If you would like to attend this event at our Hadleigh office, please contact us on: hadleigh@travel-stop.co.uk, or 01473 828728 or by simply popping into the branch.

**INSIDE** Inside  
**JAPAN** Asia

# REPAIR CAFE

## Join the Repair Café!

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

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

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

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

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

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

Want to sign up as a volunteer?

Send an email to [stowrepaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:stowrepaircafe@gmail.com).



DON'T BIN IT - REPAIR IT.  
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**NEXT  
SESSION:  
SATURDAY 19<sup>th</sup>  
SEPTEMBER  
2.00PM - 4.00PM**



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**Contact Andy**

**01449 403050 077487 85197**

**wade.andrew63@gmail.com**



## ELMSWELL LIBRARY

Hello Elmswell,

It is great that at time of writing we had 75 children sign up to the Reading Quest over the summer. They have enjoyed doing the activities and telling our volunteers about what books they have read. We couldn't have done it without Angela, Christine, Eileen, Emi-Jo, Jacky, Jane, Louie, Val and Sara volunteering their time.

Emma Graham, an illustrator is coming in at 2pm on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September to give out the certificates for those who managed 4 Reading Quest visits over the summer and do a craft session for kids.

We have Marion Leeper, a storyteller from Cambridge, coming in at 3.15pm on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September. Come in to the library after school to listen to her tell some traditional fairy tales for children.

The Reading Quest Celebration and Marion Leeper visit are kindly supported by Elmswell Library Friends as well.

Our next book group book is Blood of Elves by Andrzej Sapkowski. It is a book in the Witcher series so it will be interesting to see how it compares to the TV series and the games.

We have a new Lego club starting this month. This is for anyone aged 12+. Come along with your own projects or make something with the library's Lego. We regularly have Lego out for younger children but have been asked if we can do something for older children and adults. It will be from 5pm on the last Tuesday of each month with the first session on 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

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

The book display this month is themed around school including School Days by Jack Sheffield, The School Gates by A. A. Chaudhuri, A Schooling in Murder by Andrew Taylor, The School for Good Mothers by Jesamine Chan, The Topeka School by Ben Lerner and The Foundling School for Girls by Elizabeth Gill and more.

See you in the library soon,

*Miles*



## What's on

### Picture Bingo

10.30am Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August

### Mahjong

3.15pm every Friday

### Crochet and Chat

10am every Thursday

### Story Time

1.10pm – 1.30pm every Tuesday

(except 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month)

9.10am – 9.30am every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday

2.30pm – 3pm every Thursday

### Sunday Crafts

1pm – 2pm every Sunday

### Lego Club

Every weekday from 3pm

and every Sunday 11am – 12noon

### Pokémon Club

10.30am Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August

(every 1st Saturday of the month)

### Writing Group

6pm Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August

(every 1st Thursday of the month)

### Afternoon Chess Club

4.30pm Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August

(every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month)

### Evening Chess Club

7pm Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August

(every 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month)

### Fantastical Book Club

11am Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August

(every 4 weeks)

- ask in the library for this month's book.

### The Keep in Touch

#### Community Café

Not on this month

(every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month

except August and December)

### Catch Up In The Library

2.30pm every Wednesday

### Gwel's visits

4pm – 5pm Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August

(every 1st Tuesday of the month)



## Opening times

|                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Monday:</b>    | Closed                   |
| <b>Tuesday:</b>   | 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 7pm |
| <b>Wednesday:</b> | 2pm – 5pm                |
| <b>Thursday:</b>  | 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 7pm |
| <b>Friday:</b>    | 2pm – 5pm                |
| <b>Saturday:</b>  | 10am – 1pm               |
| <b>Sunday:</b>    | 10am – 3pm               |

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## ST JOHN'S CHURCH

### Greetings from St John's, your local parish church

I took this photograph over the summer on a day off. It was a lovely morning of well-needed rest and relaxation. The picture reminds me of Psalm 23, where God is described as our Shepherd who leads us by still waters and restores our souls.

I pray that you have had some moments of relaxation and recuperation over the summer. Life can get very hectic, and it is good to know that there is a God who cares for us and longs to restore and refresh us.

St John's Church would like to extend a huge thank you for a generous £1000 contribution towards the cost of the defibrillator located in the church porch. The money was raised by our wonderful local firefighters and former firefighters who run the bingo. We are extremely grateful for their generosity.

Looking ahead to September, we will be starting a series looking at the Old Testament book of Ezra. This is a book that is not that well known, but has some very useful lessons to teach us. We are also looking forward to being involved with the Lukeswood Apple Day on **Saturday 26 September**.

On **Sunday 27 September** at 3.30pm, you are invited to join us for a good sing together, with a mixture of old and new songs, to help support the work of The Bible Society. The church band and friends will lead the music and keep us up to date with the work of The Bible Society. There will be light refreshments and there is no charge, although donations will be welcome.

**Harvest Sunday** is on **4 October** - Harvest is a time to remember with thankfulness how "all good things around us are sent from heaven above." We also look forward to the local primary school visiting the church for their own celebration of Harvest the following morning.

Remember everyone is welcome at St John's. We meet each Sunday at 10:30am - simply come as you are. We would love to see you. If you wish to find out more about the Christian faith, or want more information on having your child Christened, or maybe you wish to get married at St John's, please do get in touch (details below).

#### Upcoming Dates:

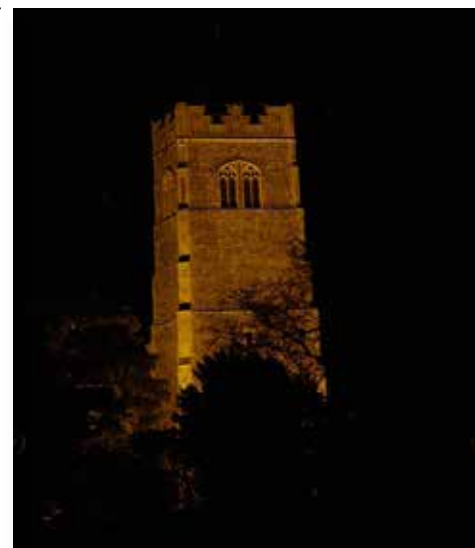
|                         |                                       |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Sun 6 September</b>  | 9:00am Lord's Supper (spoken service) |
| <b>Sun 6 September</b>  | 10:30am All Age Service               |
| <b>Sun 13 September</b> | 10:30am Worship with Lord's Supper    |
| <b>Sun 20 September</b> | 10:30am Sunday Worship                |
| <b>Sun 27 September</b> | 10:30am Worship with Lord's Supper    |
| <b>Sun 27 September</b> | 3:30pm Bible Society fundraiser       |
| <b>Sun 4 October</b>    | 9:00am Lord's Supper (spoken service) |
| <b>Sun 4 October</b>    | 10:30am All Age Harvest Festival      |

#### Every Saturday:

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

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

**Rector:** Peter Goodridge  
**Email:** [elmswellrector@gmail.com](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:** accessed via our website home page



## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH TOWER FLOODLIGHTING

As always, everyone is welcome to sponsor the floodlighting of St. John's, a lovely way to commemorate a personal event, an anniversary, or any special occasion.

Alternatively, you can simply make a donation. And it all helps to pay the ever-increasing day-to-day running expenses of our parish church.

For September the lights will be on between 8.00 p.m. and midnight.

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

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

Deadline for inclusion in the October Newsletter is Monday 21st September.

Your support is very much appreciated. Thank you.

### SEPTEMBER 2026 SPONSORSHIPS

- 6 to remember and thank all those past Elmswell Fire-Fighters who served their village and community so well.
- 8 cherished memories of Dora Lily Handyside. "Remembered with love". xx.
- 10 in loving memory of Gary Ferguson. "Always in our thoughts". Remembered with love and great affection by all of the family.
- 13 in loving memory of my dear Mum, Olive Rose Dalton.
- 16 in loving memory of William Victor Manning.
- 18 in memory of dear Tess.
- 23 for Ricky Woolnough - 38 years ago you left us Rick. We love and miss you every day, for ever in our hearts

to stay. "God Bless".

- 23 remembering Herbert Mulley on his Birthday. A dear Husband, Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad. "Loved and missed every day".
- 28 Margaret and Noel Clarke, on their Wedding Anniversary. "Remembered with great affection by all their family".
- 28 in memory of Lawrence Peachey.
- 29 in memory of Betty & Lawrence Peachey.

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



## **CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY, STOWMARKET**

**Parish Priest:** Rev. Michael Brookes,  
Tel: 07572545743  
E-mail: [michael.brookes@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:michael.brookes@rcdea.org.uk)

### **MASS TIMES:**

**Saturday (First Mass of Sunday) – 6PM**

St Mary's C of E Church, Woolpit IP30 9QG

**Sundays – 8.30am & 10.15am**

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

**Holy Days – 10am & 7.30pm**

Our Lady's Strickland Road Stowmarket  
Weekday Mass is usually 10am, no Mass on a Wednesday, see the weekly Newsletter or the Parish Website – [www.ourladystowmarket.org.uk](http://www.ourladystowmarket.org.uk)

All are welcome to "Coffee and Chat",  
2 – 4pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month. This is held in the Parish Centre next to the Church, Stricklands Road.

## **ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH**

The last few weeks have reminded us that we have no control over the weather and its effects on us and our environment the successive heatwaves have been overwhelming, as have the wildfires that have ensued at Dunwich /

The New Forest and perhaps the most terrifying at Solihull where family homes were destroyed, we remembered these events in our prayers during August. There is much argument about the causes of the climate change the world is under going whether it is man made or not, the fact is it is happening and we must listen to the science and do whatever we as individuals can do to lessen our carbon output. Around the time that you read this message schools will be opening for the autumn term students will be signing in at University, school leavers will be starting their first jobs it's a time of new beginnings maybe its time for a new beginning for you if that new beginning includes a spiritual need why not come and join us on a Sunday morning at 10.30AM for our weekly service we're a friendly bunch and can assure you of a warm welcome.

Our activities in September begin on the 7<sup>th</sup> September with our Ladies Friendship Group meeting at 2.00 pm when they meet to hear a talk by Alison Roberts entitled "My Life's Pathway" these meetings are open to ladies young and old no membership fees or subscriptions just a donation for a cuppa and cake, is all we ask, contact Margaret on 07926 753882 for more information.



On September our Food and Friends Lunch takes place on the 10<sup>th</sup> September join us for a light lunch and a chat with fellow senior citizens contact Dorothy on 01359 245811 for more information or to book your place if you've not been before.

*Our services in September will be led by*

|                            |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 6 <sup>th</sup> September  | Rev Reg Craig     |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> September | Rev Norman Tharby |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> September | Rev Robert Green  |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> September | John Cornell      |

Visit our website [www.elmswellbaptist.org.uk](http://www.elmswellbaptist.org.uk) or email our secretary Tony on [cockant2@btinternet.com](mailto:cockant2@btinternet.com) text or call 07784095225 or any of the numbers above for further info.

*Every blessing, Dave Hollings*



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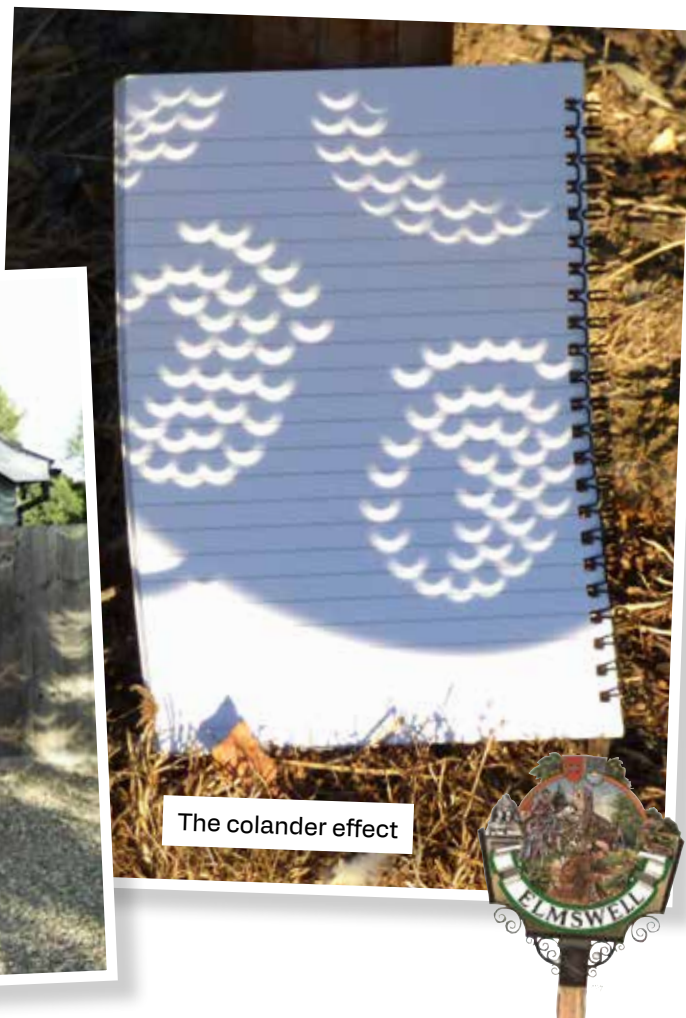


### THINGS LOOKING UP...

Our front cover shows residents of Ashfield Park, on Ashfield Road, responded to the primaeval tug of fear as passed down the generations at the possible end of all daylight and gathered in the hope that the loss would be temporary.

Relief all round, and an interesting solar graphic registered through a colander. Holey, if not actually religious.

If you missed it, 2<sup>nd</sup> August next year offers a replay.



The colander effect



A neighbour created this colander patterning at Wesley



## CITIZENS ADVICE MID SUFFOLK

**I hired a company to install concrete fencing and a gate in my back garden. The quality of the work is poor, some wooden panels are loose, and the gate doesn't shut properly. I paid before I inspected the work. What can I do?**

When you put your trust in a trader and they don't meet your expectations it can be frustrating.

When there's a problem caused by a trader, you should be able to get it fixed or get some money back. Evidence is important - take photos and make notes about what happened and when, including times and dates, and keep hold of receipts or other proof of payment.

People can experience different types of problems with traders, and there's specific advice available on our website depending on what the issue is. In your situation, it's important to note if a trader hasn't done a good job with 'reasonable care and skill', the Consumer Rights Act 2015 entitles you to ask for the problem to be fixed or for a refund.

This is something you can mention when you take the problem up with the trader

and cite your evidence. They should fix the problem within a reasonable amount of time, without causing you too much inconvenience. The law doesn't say what counts as reasonable, so you'll have to agree on it with them.

If they can't or won't fix the problem, you can ask for a partial or full refund, depending on how bad the problem is. You'll have to come to an agreement about how much you should get. It's a good idea to start by suggesting a figure and explaining why you think it's reasonable, then take it from there. Once you've agreed on the amount with the trader the law says you should get your refund within 14 days.

If you can't come to an agreement, or they refuse to fix the problem or give you a refund, there are other steps you could take - including complaining to your card provider if you paid by card.

You can check if the trader is a member of a trade association or quality scheme. If they are, they might have to follow certain rules, and if they've broken them, you could get help to take your complaint further. They might be part of an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) scheme - a way of solving disagreements with a trader without going to court - or they might agree to use one.

If the trader isn't part of an ADR scheme, and you've already complained to your card provider and the complaint isn't resolved, you may be able to complain to the Financial Ombudsman Service.

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](https://midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us). Opening hours are Monday-Thursday 9.30am - 3.30pm and Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm.

**citizens  
advice**

Mid Suffolk



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**For more details contact Jen Larner**

**07896 495574**

**[jenlarner@gmail.com](mailto:jenlarner@gmail.com)**

**[www.jenlarner.com](http://www.jenlarner.com)**

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## APPLE DAY at Lukeswood



All sorts of stalls  
Apple ID and tasting  
Games & activities  
Crafts  
Bric-A-Brac/Jumble  
Refreshments  
Entertainments  
BIG PLANT SWAP  
Bodgers' Corner

**Saturday  
26<sup>th</sup> September  
2.00 - 5.00**

**Everyone  
welcome!**

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ADMISSION**

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## NEWS FROM ELMSWILD



### Apple Day at Lukeswood

If you're interested in finding out about orchards, different varieties of apple, and local crafts, why not come to our **Apple Day on Saturday 26 September**. This is our main event of the year – everyone is invited to come along to Lukeswood, to explore the orchard and join in our autumnal celebrations. Amazingly, this is our fifteenth Apple Day – it's now a firm fixture in the village calendar.

If you haven't been before, you may be asking – What is Apple Day? Apple Day events were started 36 years ago by Common Ground, an organisation which aims to revive local customs and traditions, and is an annual nationwide celebration of apples and orchards. It traditionally falls on 21 October, but nowadays events are held any time from mid September through to late October. There are now many Apple Days held at various places around Suffolk and the celebrations can take a whole variety of forms. We at ElmsWild take a fairly wide view of Apple Day – anything goes, as long as people are having fun! We especially welcome local craft makers and food producers, along with games and activities of all sorts. A popular attraction is Bodgers' Corner, where local wood workers show off their skills with knife, axe and pole lathe. There will also be stalls where you can find out about local wildlife and environmental concerns. We're delighted to say that we will also be welcoming back to Lukeswood the fabulous Wesley Ukulele Band!



Once again this year we're hosting a **BIG PLANT SWAP**. Bring a plant and swap it for something different, or just take a plant and give us a donation in return. Garden plants big and small, houseplants, seeds, or even garden tools – all are welcome.

**NEW** for this year is our bric-a-brac/jumble stall. Come and have a look and grab yourself a bargain!



**Also NEW this year is our TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC. This is one for all ages – who amongst us 'oldies' doesn't still cherish their childhood bear? Please**

**bring along your bear – large or small – to join in! They will all go on display and there will be a reward for the owner of every teddy. PLUS prizes for the best dressed teds. Other animals will be allowed to participate, so if you don't have a teddy, do bring along your favourite cuddly toy to join the picnic.**



Last, but not least, the talented ladies of the Trefoil Guild will be providing delicious refreshments, including some really tasty home-made cakes. Not to be missed!

**Lukeswood Apple Day is on Saturday 26 September, 2.00-5.00.**

The entrance to Lukeswood is off Church Road, on the left before the School Road junction as you're heading towards the Church. The limited parking places on site are reserved for stall-holders and disabled visitors. Parking is possible along Church Road, but please be very careful crossing this busy road and avoid blocking driveways and pavements. Come on foot or bike if you can! Entrance is free to everyone – just come along and have a good time. Don't forget to bring some cash as many of our stall-holders are cash only

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



Finalists Jenny Murray and Julian Tuzinkiewicz



Finalists Rob Dann and Alan Hall about to take on Barry Hayward and Wayne Prigg

We held our Pairs Day on the 19<sup>th</sup> July and were very pleased with the turn-out, 7 pairs taking part, making it awkward for organiser, Jenny Murray, to come up with a system for all to play all. We picked up several new Members from our Open Day, and, rather than have them drawn together, it was decided to pair each with an experienced player and it turned out to be a Masterstroke. Eventually, Rob Dann and Alan Hall fought their way to the final, on Finals Day, September 5<sup>th</sup>, where they will face Jenny Murray and Julian Tuzinkiewicz to decide whose names are inscribed on the Honours Board. With the Club Competitions

coming along nicely, Finals Day should be well worth a visit.

Unfortunately, we are where the realists amongst us feared we would be, facing relegation on most fronts. Only Linda Vincas Monday Afternoon team, are flying the flag for us being about mid-table and notching up some notable victories along the way. Dick and Barry's Thursday night might be safe, but are not out of danger just yet and Kevin and Mark's Area D team which play Tuesday evenings are clinging on to life in Division 1 by the skin of their teeth and it is going to be a close run thing. Casting our

minds back to the start of the season, when we had so many people fall by the wayside, for one reason or another, and whether to run teams at all, was seriously contemplated, on that basis, we have done well. My apologies for missing last month issue as I suffered some technical difficulties

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



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## WESLEY UKULELE BAND

A quiet month this month, with only three gigs to tell you about. Firstly, we entertained the Community Village Shop volunteers in Rattlesden for their celebration dinner. They seemed to be having fun and we certainly did. Secondly, our monthly visit to the Time Out Club in Fornham. This is always a joy. Only six of us performing, as it is quite a confined space, but the staff and audience always make us very welcome. I have to say that it is one of my favourite gigs.

The third and final show this month was a return visit to Stowlangtoft Care Home. A lovely old mansion where we play in the Great Hall to a very small audience. Despite that, the acoustics are so good that we sounded like a proper band!

Upcoming is our third appearance at the Bury St Edmunds Beer Festival. We will be playing at 3 pm in the Nave of the Cathedral on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August.

Also in the future we will be playing at a concert to be held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October, at the Regal Cinema in Stowmarket. Acts will include the Ukes, Shades, Just Us and Father and Son Reunion. Tickets are priced at just £10 each and are available from the Regal's website. All profits will be given to the Children's Hospital in Cambridge. Please come along and support this great cause.

**'Til next time. Take care.**

**Email: Kevin.Knock99@gmail.com**



## WESLEY HOSTS WORLD CUP

### ...AMONGST OTHER THINGS

Our picture shows some of the youngsters (plus a couple of adults) who gathered at Wesley with their World Cup sticker albums to compare and trade and swap and talk football stickers. The impromptu gathering was suggested by staff member Charlotte and serves as another example of the community coming together along with the knitters, the natterers, the games group, the book clubs, the digital support seekers...and those just after an affordable cup of coffee with cake, or a bacon roll, or a freshly-filled baguette.

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and*

*Father & Son Reunion*



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*The Shades*

**and**

*The Wesley Ukulele Band*



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# BACK To School

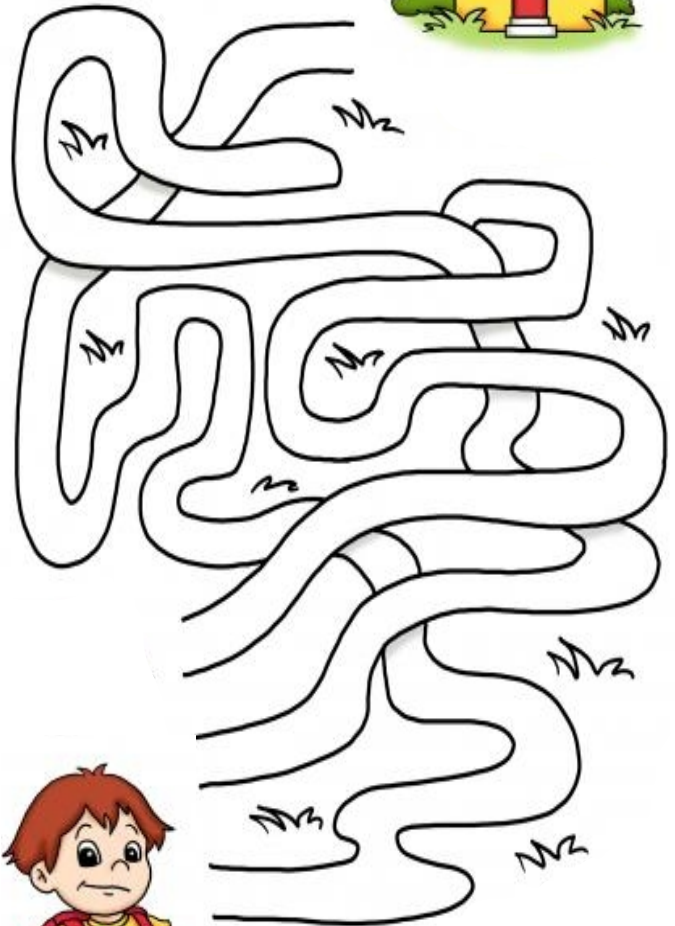
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Pencil Pen Teacher Playground Books  
Lessons Friends Maths  
English History School Ruler Story

Why didn't the two 4's want any lunch?  
**Because they already 8!**

What did one calculator say to the  
other calculator?  
**You can count on me.**

What is a butterfly's favourite subject at school?  
**Mathematics.**



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## **'Better Recycling'**

The service is now operating much as intended. A few issues for residents needing assisted collection of their food caddies have been resolved as new staff for food collections have become more familiar with their routes and with the location of homes needing assistance.

Contact volumes on the dedicated Better Recycling telephone line (0300 1234 000 option 4) have significantly reduced, and the service can also be contacted by email - [recycling@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk) - please copy in Jen and Sarah with any issues.

## **Local Government Reform**

Despite ongoing uncertainty around this process, Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC) remains focused on service delivery and support to businesses and communities across the district. The latest updates on Government's plans for reorganising our county can be found on the 'Future Suffolk' website - [www.suffolklgrhub.gov.uk](http://www.suffolklgrhub.gov.uk). Questions and comments can be submitted via the 'Contact Us' form [www.suffolklgrhub.gov.uk/contact](http://www.suffolklgrhub.gov.uk/contact).

## **Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre**

The centre has added a Wednesday gym class to their regular sessions for Mid Suffolk residents with physical or cognitive disabilities or long-term health issues. Other activities are swimming, bowls, table tennis and Inclusive Boccia. Contact the Leisure Centre for more details.

## **Pride in your Place Grants**

Grants of between £250 and £5,000 are available for community groups, parish councils and charities wishing to enhance and tidy up the local area and environment, promote local identity and heritage, and help residents to be proud of where they live. One grant only per parish each year, so check with your parish council if you are interested - more details available at <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/community-funding>.

## **Sustainable Communities Food Fund**

This £50,000 fund, open until 31.03.27 (or until funds run out) will back community-based food and drink businesses and projects, with a particular focus on small-scale and start-up primary food producers - such as fruit and vegetable growers, bakers and artisanal producers - and also cultural venues, pubs, and food banks. Grants can range from £250 to £5,000. More information via the Mid Suffolk website.

## **Community Infrastructure Levy funding agreed**

£430K of CIL funds have recently been awarded to a number of local projects, including Tostock Village Hall, Old Fire Station Community space in Stowmarket, accessibility features such as a lift for the John Peel Centre and an upgrade to the play provision in Creeping Road Stowmarket, a composting toilet for Bedfield Parish Church, and improvements to bridleways in the Akenham area.

## **Green Flag award for Needham Lake**

Needham Lake, owned by Mid Suffolk District Council, has been officially recognised as one of the country's best green spaces for a second-year running, after winning another prestigious Green Flag Award. Now in its 30th anniversary year, the award is the international quality mark for parks and green spaces.

## **National finalist for nature recovery**

MSDC has been shortlisted in Nature 2030's Political Purpose Awards, in the Planning for Nature Recovery category. Examples of the Council's activities are a £1.8m Nature Recovery Budget for communities, some of which is currently being spent in Thorndon, Palgrave and Stowmarket, with extensive public engagement helping to shape local management agreements.

## **Locality Budget:**

We welcome applications for funding from any community group in Woolpit and Elmswell. We're always happy to advise on eligibility and the application process and to forward applicants an application form. More details on the website at: <https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/locality-awards>.

## **Councillor drop-in sessions:**

Sarah and Jen are regularly available to meet with residents.

**Our next session is on  
29<sup>th</sup> September 10-12  
at the Wesley Café.**

**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)**



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

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

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

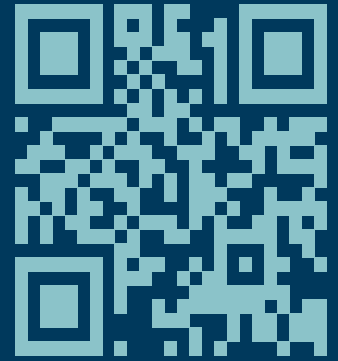
**The next session will be on the Wednesday  
16<sup>th</sup> September between 10:00 am and 12:00 noon.**



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# From the Office of Peter Prinsley MP

Member of Parliament for Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA



Despite having been assured back in January that the Post Office was exploring options to replace Elmswell's post office there has still been no progress. To make matters worse, we have learnt that the post office on Cornhill in Bury is also now slated for closure at the end of September following the restructuring of TG Jones, the Post Office's retail partner.

Post offices are much more than places to buy stamps, particularly for older residents and those with disabilities or without a car. In villages like Elmswell post offices are the cornerstones of village life, especially for those who are vulnerable or isolated.

Some post office users in Elmswell and in Bury will find that they can access alternatives in Woolpit, two miles from Elmswell, and in Hardwick and Moreton Hall, both more than a mile from Bury town centre. But for others these closures create real inconvenience, which is why I have urgently arranged

to meet Post Office officials to discuss the Elmswell replacement that was proposed and what I can do in terms of parliamentary advocacy, and to explore alternative sites for a post office in Bury. One viable location may be the vacant downstairs of the old post office building that has stood empty since 2016.

Communities and businesses need vital services like post offices and banks to pay their bills and access cash.

According to the Suffolk Chamber of Commerce 41% of organisations across Suffolk have been moderately or significantly impacted by local bank branch closures, and 42% by post office closures. When asked which services would be most useful following the impacts of recent closures, the most popular responses were the opening or reopening of more local branches and banking hubs.

Following the meeting I have scheduled with post office officials I will raise the issues of face-to-face banking services

in rural areas like ours in a debate in parliament on September 1, the first day back after the recess.

In the meantime, a consultation is now open and I would encourage everyone to write in and share their views by emailing [comments@postoffice.co.uk](mailto:comments@postoffice.co.uk).

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@parliament.uk](mailto:peter.prinsley.mp@parliament.uk) and I'll do my best to assist.



[www.peterprinsley.org](http://www.peterprinsley.org)



In 1982 Elmswell protested against the loss of its playing field. Suffolk County Council had suddenly reneged on an agreement that's 8 acres of land where ox are close and the school are now built would be retained as community land for a playing field for Elmswell. Our archive picture shows one of the protest marches held when our football club, for example, celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> year in existence with nowhere to play.

By 1989 the lack of facilities was addressed by the acquisition of Blackbourne. The idea was much derided and petitions signed deploring the expenditure – the £1m tag was merely a publicity stunt – but a dedicated few battled on and one of the best community facilities in Mid Suffolk was established. The spirit that inspired the Blackbourne initiative has remained with Elmswell ever since and with our Memorial Library, Lukeswood, Wesley, Kiln Meadow and, most recently, the Tavern Elmswell has kept pace with the considerable development pressures over the past 30+ years.

in Daily Times, Monday, January 2, 1989

## Elmswell celebrates birth of £1 million centre project

NEARLY 150 villagers toasted the vision of an ambitious project to build a community centre in Elmswell yesterday.

New Year's Day saw the passing of an 11-acre site into the hands of the village. It is hoped to establish a £1 million sports and social centre there.

One of the conditions of planning permission for the surrounding 150-house estate was that the Ashfield Road site would be designated for community use free of charge.

### Campaigner

The sports centre site was also inaugurated with mulled wine and mince pies by village amenity association chairman Mr. Peter Dow, of Church Road, who has been fighting for improved leisure facilities for the village for several years.

He said he was very excited by the prospect of giving Elmswell a "real physical centre."

Mr. Dow, who is also parish council vice chairman, said the present village Memorial Hall is too small. It will be sold together with a seven-acre playing field and it was hoped to raise £1 million which would be ploughed back into the multi-purpose sports and



Elmswell Parish Council chairman Alan Ling, left, footpath officer Joan Hunter, and planning committee chairman Peter Dow, right, celebrate with villagers the hand-over of the site for a new community centre.

social facility project.

"The village has been badly served for many years as far as playing fields and hall go. There is no real centre and (the village) has far outgrown the facilities it has," he said.

Mr. Dow sees the proposed centre as having two bars, full-size equipped sports hall and general use hall with underground disco.

It is hoped the building would be shared with smaller places such as Ash-

field and Norton.

The amenities association will form a special committee to plan the new facility and will apply for outline planning permission soon, added Mr. Dow.

"Then, all the organisa-

tions in the village will be consulted about their needs.

"We have taken expert advice on the feasibility of the plan" and Mr. Dow believes the project would have the support of Mid Suffolk District Council.



# ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL AUGUST 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. This year was a case in point as there was not enough substantive business to justify an Ordinary Meeting. However, an Extraordinary Meeting was called by the Chairman on 6<sup>th</sup> attended by 8 councillors, 12 members of the public and the Parish Clerk Peter Dow. A further Extraordinary Meeting was called by the Chairman on 19<sup>th</sup> August attended by 13 members of the public and the Parish Clerk. This report is compiled from those meetings 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 at The Hold in Ipswich. The most recent Minutes from the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June, as approved at the July meeting, are posted in the Council's notice board at Crown Mill.

## Planning Applications

Councillors agreed to formally support the Council's own application seeking to vary an original submission for the change of use of Turners' Field, adjacent to Blackbourne Meadow, from fallow agricultural land to community recreation space.

## Burger Van

The Clerk confirmed that the recently arrived burger van which trades at the station car park only attends on certain days of the week. The proposed new street trading licence system is not yet in place and therefore no licence is currently needed

## Tavern Management

A Tavern Management Group (TMG) was formally established by Resolution to provide input on Council's behalf to all matters of day-to-day and long-term management of the Elmswell Tavern, all subsequent actions and decisions to be formally ratified by the council's Proper Officer. This is in line with the Clerk having taken a step back from Tavern management issues as part of his gradual process of retiring from post and in accordance with a deliberate succession planning agenda allowing a trouble-free handover. The TMG is to comprise The Council Chairman & Vice chairman together with Cllrs Schofield, Shaw and Sparks.

## Employment issues

Councillors met without Press, public or the Clerk present to discuss issues relating to staff. The outcomes will not be known until Minutes are ratified and published.

## Next Meeting

The next Meeting of Council is scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> September 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.

| Sept<br>21 <sup>st</sup> | Oct<br>19 <sup>th</sup> | Nov<br>16 <sup>th</sup> | Dec<br>21 <sup>st</sup> | Jan<br>18 <sup>th</sup> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
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Meetings are held at Blackbourne, beginning at 7.30 unless otherwise notified



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# VILLAGE INDEX



Useful contacts for community groups & others..feedback is essential.  
Do be in touch to correct or add details or to suggest someone else deserving of listing.

|                                     |                                   |                                         |               |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------|
| Amenities Association               | Jean Barker (Sec)                 | aaa@elmswell.org.uk                     | 241135        |
| Art Club                            | Eddie Douglas                     | edward.douglas2@gmail.com               |               |
| Arts Society of West Suffolk        | Diana Hollins                     | theartssociety-westsuffolk.org.uk       | 01449 736930  |
| Baby & Toddler Group                |                                   | elmswellbtgroup@gmail.com               |               |
| Baptists                            | Dave Hollings                     | davehollings@btinternet.com             | 241323        |
| BATS (Badminton & Table Tennis)     | Mike Burgess Wilson               | burgesswilsonmike@gmail.com             | 07513 336412  |
| Beavers                             | Ruth Salmon                       | ruthcourt4@hotmail.co.uk                |               |
| Bingo at Blackbourne                | Brian Hawes                       |                                         | 07761 125093  |
| BWMA                                | Peter Edmonds (Sec)               | edmondspeterj@gmail.com                 | 07860 395720  |
| Blackbourne – all enquiries         | Parish Council office             | clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk           | 244134        |
| Brownies                            | Megan & Frankie                   | elmswellbrownies@hotmail.com            |               |
| CAB                                 |                                   | advice@midsuffolkcab.org.uk             | 01449 676060  |
| Carpet Bowls Club                   | Mike North                        | mcnorth8@gmail.com                      |               |
| Christians Together in Elmswell     | Peter Goodridge                   | elmswellrector@gmail.com                | 240512        |
| Companions                          | Linda Waspe                       | linda@labbott.plus.com                  |               |
| County Councillor                   | Cllr Andy Mellen                  | Andy.Mellen@suffolk.gov.uk              |               |
| Cricket Club                        | Ben Whatling (Captain)            | benwhatling@mail.com                    | 07760 174811  |
| Cubs                                | Mark Pernot                       | mark.pernot@gmail.com                   |               |
| District Councillor                 | Sarah Mansell                     | Sarah.Mansell@midsuffolk.gov.uk         | 07860 829517  |
| District Councillor                 | Jen Overett                       | Jen.Overett@midsuffolk.gov.uk           |               |
| Elmswell Tavern                     |                                   | manager@elmswelltavern.com              | 01359 301111  |
| Elmswild                            | Mary Feeney                       | info@elmswild.org.uk                    | 241901        |
| Exchange Afternoon WI               | Carol Blissett                    | carolblissett@hotmail.co.uk             | 242884        |
| First Responders                    | Merv                              | merv.smith@tiscali.co.uk                | 07909 006 496 |
| Football                            | Chris Edmonds                     | edddd101@gmail.com                      |               |
| Fox Bowls Team bowls at Blackbourne | Rob Dann                          | rcsdann@btinternet.com                  | 07917 013846  |
| Gardening Club                      | Wendy Walker                      | elmswellgadmin@btinternet.com           | 07748 442951  |
| Guides                              | Viv                               | elmswellguides@outlook.com              |               |
| Harry Huson Bridge Club             | Amanda Roberts                    | robertsar@sky.com                       | 07526 743734  |
| Health Centre - Woolpit             |                                   |                                         | 240298        |
| History Group                       | Stella Chamberlin                 | stellachamberlin@yahoo.co.uk            |               |
| Ladies Voices (Choir)               | Anna Wilton Mills                 | annawm63@gmail.com                      |               |
| Library                             | Miles Row - Manager               | Elmswell.Library@suffolklibraries.co.uk | 240974        |
| Little Elms                         | Paula Reynolds / Samantha Willers | info@littleelms.co.uk                   | 240491        |
| Newsletter                          | Editorial office                  | aaa@elmswell.org.uk                     | 244134        |
| Over 55's Club                      | Sharon & Kay                      | elmswellover55s@outlook.com             |               |
| Parish Council                      | Parish Clerk                      | clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk           | 244134        |
| Police Emergencies                  |                                   |                                         | 999           |
| Police; non-emergencies             | Mid Suffolk South SNT             | headquarters@suffolk.pnn.police.uk      | 101           |
| Poor's Land Charity                 | Peter Goodridge                   | elmswellrector@gmail.com                | 240512        |
| Power cuts                          |                                   | Powercut105.com                         | 105           |
| Rainbows                            | Gemma                             | elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com              |               |
| Royal British Legion                | Norman Plumpton (Biff)            | nplumpton@aol.com                       | 07707 524722  |
| School                              | Mr Richard Ratcliffe              | admin@elmswell.suffolk.sch.uk           | 240261        |
| Scouts                              | Mark Pernot                       | mark.pernot@gmail.com                   |               |
| St John's Church                    | Peter Goodridge                   | elmswellrector@gmail.com                | 240512        |
| St John's Floodlighting             | Trevor Sadler                     | trevor.sadler@dsl.pipex.com             | 240908        |
| Sewing Bee                          | Isabel Burgess                    | isabel.burgess@live.com                 |               |
| Village Tree Warden                 | c/o Parish Clerk                  | clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk           | 244134        |
| Wesley – all enquiries              | Parish Council office             | clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk           | 244134        |
| WI - evening                        | Tricia McNeeney                   | triciamcneeney@gmail.com                | 241197        |
| Youth Football                      | Wayne                             | wsast@hotmail.co.uk                     |               |

**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 [aaa @elmswell.org.uk](mailto:aaa@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.



## September 2026

- 6 Sozo Church Wesley Chapel 10.15am to 12.30pm.
- 7 2pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - Alison Roberts "My life's pathway"
- 8 ELMSWELL WI at Wesley @ 7.30pm The work of The Hope Centre.
- 10 Midday Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church
- 10 Elmswell Over 55's Club Mystery Tour
- 10 \*Annual Subs Due\* ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Darren Dordoy: Stowmarket's 1871 Gun Cotton Explosion
- 15 Elmswell Gardening Club, 7.30pm Speaker Ruth Goudy 'Plan a Beautiful Border', Wesley Chapel
- 20 Sozo Church Wesley Chapel 10.15am to 12.30pm.
- 24 Elmswell Over 55's Club Harvest Supper and Bingo

## October 2026

- 4 Sozo Church Wesley Chapel 10.15am to 12.30pm.
- 5 2pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - Tony Diamond "The 6 wives of Henry V111"
- 7 Elmswell WI Afternoon 2.00pm Sabine Dornbusch Bury Drop-in
- 8 Midday Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church
- 8 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Grant Bage: Ipswich Football Legend, Sir Alf Ramsey
- 8 Elmswell Over 55's Club Medley of Fun
- 13 ELMSWELL WI at Wesley @ 7.30pm Back care, Pilates and Looking after your joints
- 18 Sozo Church Wesley Chapel 10.15am to 12.30pm.
- 20 Elmswell Gardening Club, 7.30pm Speaker Geoff Hodge 'Happy Houseplants', Wesley Chapel
- 22 Elmswell Over 55's Club Ray Smith(may be a bit of LineDancing)

## November 2026

- 1 Sozo Church Wesley Chapel 10.15am to 12.30pm.
- 2 2pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - John Sutton "Travels in the USA Part 1"
- 4 Elmswell WI Afternoon 2.00pm Stephen Moody Origin & History of Christmas Traditions
- 5 Elmswell Over 55's Club Bangers and Mash and Bingo
- 10 ELMSWELL WI at Wesley @ 7.30pm Development of women's cricket
- 12 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Taff Gillingham: Suffolk Regiment's POWs in WW2.
- 12 Midday Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church
- 15 Sozo Church Wesley Chapel 10.15am to 12.30pm.
- 17 Elmswell Gardening Club, 7.30pm Annual General Meeting and Quiz, Wesley Chapel

## 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 [theartssociety-westsuffolk.org.uk](http://theartssociety-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 [glv@elmswellscouts.org.uk](mailto:glv@elmswellscouts.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 DANCING** – 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 / ZUMBA** Mondays 6.45 at Wesley  
**DIGITAL SUPPORT SESSIONS** – free at Wesley 3rd Wednesday monthly, no need to book  
**FOOTBALL** - Chris Edmonds [edddd101@gmail.com](mailto:edddd101@gmail.com)  
**GARDENING CLUB** at Wesley 3rd Tuesday monthly 7.30 [elmswellgadmin@btinternet.com](mailto:elmswellgadmin@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)  
**LEGS BUMS & TUMS** Mondays 7.30 at Wesley  
**MARDLE QUILTERS** - last Friday monthly [caraboe@btinternet.com](mailto:caraboe@btinternet.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 19:00 to 21:15 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 future editions we need copy by: September 22<sup>nd</sup>, October 27<sup>th</sup>, November 24<sup>th</sup>, December 22<sup>nd</sup> January 19<sup>th</sup>, February 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 editor: Peter Dow

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