

'Like a friend dropping in'



The Elmswell Newsletter



Twenty-seven years of Parish Record... all the Community News...

April 2015



WHO'S CLICKETY-CLICKED WITH THE FIREMEN?



...SEE PAGE 17



ELMSWELL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

YOUR QUESTIONNAIRE IS ENCLOSED – PLUS YOUR PRIZE DRAW ENTRY!



Published on the first Friday of every month by the Elmswell Amenities Association
Reg. Charity No. 304879.

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www.elmswellaa.org



Our editorial is designed to inform and to encourage debate.

If you wish to comment, please do so via the office at Gobblins on the industrial estate behind the Fox or via email at; elmswellamenities@f2s.com.

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

Thinking about the elections in May, it is clear that the world is run by those who turn up ...or put their head above the parapet, get stuck in, make their contribution.

Such people are in the minority. Most of us are too busy and, anyway, it's not our sort of thing. We let them get on with it. We know that pretty well all politicians are bent and that nobody does anything for nothing. We know about ego trips and vanity projects and brown envelopes. And we don't mind saying so. What did they ever do for us?

As close observers of the immediately local scene, your Newsletter speaks of what it knows and it speaks as it finds. It is obvious that the scheming and conniving and slipping and sliding of politics as practiced at the party political level is a world apart from our station flowers or our sports & social facilities, from the ground source heat pump at Blackbourne or the Fire Crew car wash, from 11 youth football teams or The Companions or any one of dozens of other patterns woven into Elmswell society. The real power of politics does not reside in Westminster. With a nod to the County and District levels, the power that we see making a difference is that which we give to 11 of our own. Once a month they gather. Once a month we have the chance to see and hear them decide on facilities and policies that are of immediate interest and concern to just a few thousand people – us, the residents of Elmswell. They

act directly – to plant trees, provide play areas, maintain and manage village facilities and much more; they facilitate – allowing things to happen by supporting, encouraging, grant aiding such as the Children's Holiday Club, the Great War exhibition, many such projects; they organise and co-ordinate where needed – the Neighbourhood Plan, the relief road, the Wesley chapel site, a never-ending fight for the best for Elmswell.

Once every 4 years they're all out of an unpaid and sometimes thankless job. They either stand again and seek once more the community's permission to serve. Or they opt to spend more time with the family. But, whoever is chosen, the Council continues as it has done since 13th December 1894 when Robert Atkins signed the first Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Elmswell has been lucky of late. Our council has not been of the dotty Dibley variety. Roughly half of the membership has been gainfully employed across a range of jobs, including local business owners and professionals. That helps keep a check on the sometimes rose-tinted views of folk who have retired from the whirl of work. 4 women – 36%, is better than many, and the age profile is short of the bumbling buffers

who traditionally feature. However, there is no doubt that what we now have to call 'the demographic' falls far short of a representative sample of our population. We should have at least 5 women. Those with young families are not (understandably, given the pressures!) represented. There is no-one under the age of 50!

Once again, we appeal to the very few who, despite widespread hostility to the London political establishment, despite the pantomime nature of Prime Minister's Questions, are willing to 'turn up' and help run our little world. The crisis of trust in national politics cannot, we argue, be allowed to seep into Elmswell; not when we have the Bacon Factory razed to the ground and 190 houses ready to go up; not when we have the chance of a relief road to re-shape the village for the better and forever; not when we have a Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire delivered with this magazine to steer us through the next 25 years; not when we stand to lose a landmark community site at the heart of the village if the Wesley chapel site goes for housing.



If you've read right to the end of this, surely you have the energy to stand for Council?

ELECTION Thursday 7th May



To elect your MP, 2 new District Councillors
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– but you can register in advance

Your Newsletter Fact File

For the next 6 months we need copy by:

April 21st	May 26th
June 23rd	July 28th
August 25th	September 22nd

...and don't forget you can view and buy most of the photographs in the magazine - and a whole lot more - by visiting the 'Elmswell Gallery' site www.elmswellgallery.com or ask at the Memorial Library or ring us on 241841.

Your editors:

Jean Barker, Maggie Bushell, Peter Dow

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Reg. Charity No. 304879.

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PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

Your Newsletter has been published by the Elmswell Amenities Association (Registered Charity No 304879) on the first Friday of every month since 1986. The advertising administration and the printing are handled professionally – otherwise the whole enterprise is voluntary, including our team of 36 distributors. The costs are covered by advertising, so, please, support our advertisers, and do mention us if and when you use them.

Last year the magazine made a contribution of £10,936.00 to the Association's funds – all of it directed to improvements in the village.

HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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All 11 seats are up for re-election on 7th May.

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To find out more, or to obtain the forms go to

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- tel. 01449 724672

or be in touch with the Parish Clerk

clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk - tel. 244134



ELECTION CANDIDATES - HAVE YOUR SAY

As in recent years, The Elmswell Newsletter is supporting and encouraging the democratic process by offering those standing for election to the parish council space to make themselves known to the village, without charge, through our pages. Such contributions will be printed entirely unedited and in alphabetical order by surname

This is the only personal election material that will be accepted. No paid election advertising is permitted.

Candidates are, therefore, invited to submit an absolute maximum of 300 words, by email if at all possible, together with a recent thumbnail head and shoulders photograph.

**Submissions which do not comply will be returned and can be re-submitted,
but the strict deadline for inclusion in the May 1st magazine is**

5.00pm on Friday 19th April.

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ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB



It seems that our 'Harbinger of Spring' was a welcome return visit from Guy Barker, our March speaker. We were greeted with a table groaning with spring flowering shrubs, plants and bulbs. Guy informed us that he still designed and tended five 17th/18th century Norfolk gardens and had recently taken on a new assignment to restore a large country house garden to its former 1930s glory. His only clue as to the layout was an old photograph in Country Life magazine. He has been given a budget of around one million pounds to achieve this transformation. As we gasped, Guy reminded us of a recent record auction price for a single snowdrop bulb – *Galanthus 'Golden Fleece'* - which fetched £1,390. Perhaps, therefore, his budget is not so extraordinary.

Of course, the first harbinger of spring is the snowdrop, *Galanthus elwesii*, which is strong, upright with a honey scent. Guy's theme was to bring scent into the Spring garden and he showed us a flowering currant *Ribes laurifolium* which was minus that distinctive cat smell but had hanging catkins of white sweetly scented flowers among dark green leaves on a small shrub. Guy challenged us to name each of his specimens with the remark 'Surely you know this' and our audience rose to the challenge naming most of the branches he passed around. Guy warned us that we should do our homework when pruning shrubs, as the following year's blossoms would be lost if pruned incorrectly. For instance, the Japanese quince with its beautiful red or pink blossoms, flowers on the old wood. Then Guy dangled before us the lovely *Stachyurus praecox* with its delicate cream pendants – each one packed with nectar. Our olfactory senses were on overload as the specimens progressed round the hall for examination. Guy seemed to take exception to the early *King Alfred* daffodil, the mainstay of many a garden and road verge. Instead he passed round the delicate narcissus '*Sailboat*'

with its creamy white windswept petals and also the vigorous narcissus '*Avalanche*' with its small acorn cup and said to be disliked by deer. So the coming of the warmer weather is not heralded by the sound of lawnmowers nor the sight of knobbly knees in baggy shorts but the delicate heads of graceful snowdrops and an abundance of spring blossoms.

Our next Gardening Club meeting will be on on **Tuesday, 21st April, 7.30pm, at the Blackbourne**. Our speaker will be **Leone Washington on 'Hedgehogs and Wildlife Gardening'**. We continue to be an extremely informal, social and friendly group and welcome new members or for just £3.00 you may come to any of our meetings and check us out. If you require further information about the Gardening Club please contact **Nick Chamberlin on 242601**.

ELMSWELL MILLENNIUM HISTORY GROUP

At our meeting on Thursday 12 March we welcomed as our speaker Bob Maltster whose topic was 'Suffolk Millwrights'. Bob, who is well known for his books on Suffolk, sailing and the sea is also an authority on Suffolk Windmills. He told us that the earlier mills, which would have been powered by horse power were built without drawings and plans to suit the individual miller. The mills were built primarily to grind flour. The more common types of mill which can be seen today are post mills and tower mills (also known as smockmills). Locally there are mills at Stanton, Bardwell, Drinkstone, Pakenham and Thelnetham. Buttrams Mill at Woodbridge is open to the public as is the one at Saxstead. Bob told us that in 1830 there were 11 millwrights listed in Suffolk and 19 in Norfolk. The mills in East Suffolk were considered to be the best – the millwrights in this area were John Whitmore and his father, working in the 18th-19th centuries. Their business gradually led to the building of an iron foundry employing 60 men producing parts for mills. They exported mills

to Jersey, New Zealand and Australia. Eventually wind power was replaced by steam power and roller mills became the method of the mass production of flour.

Our April meeting will be held on Thursday 10 April at 7.30pm in the Wesley Hall, when members of our History group will give a 'taster' of what will be on display at the Exhibition to be held on 11-12 April from 11am-4pm each day. This will include news of some of the discoveries recently made at the site of the Royal Flying Corps airfield as well as some of the social history recorded during the Great War. The War Memorial for Elmswell is situated in St John's Church and the Church will be open on both days of the Exhibition between 2pm and 4pm for those who wish to see the names recorded there. Everyone is welcome.

For more information about the Millennium History Group please go to our website www.elmswell-history.org.uk or telephone Stella Chamberlain on 01359-242601.

ELMSWELL LUNCHEON CLUB

Everyone at the Elmswell Luncheon Club was very grateful indeed for the very generous donation received from the Elmswell Fire Brigade team on Saturday, March 14th. It could not have come at a better time as our expenses continue to rise.

On the Monday following the presentation a "Thank you" card, signed by all the Club members, was delivered to the Fire Brigade.

The Elmswell Luncheon Club continues to flourish and our next major event is a day's outing in May and the donation will go a long way to making it a successful day!

We are always pleased to welcome new members and we meet on Mondays at The Bull, Woolpit where we enjoy good food and very friendly company. Transport is available to and from Woolpit.

If you are interested and aged 55+ and retired, why not 'phone one of our committee members on 241546 or 240268.

ELMSWELL ART CLUB



This month's artworks are "Camel in the Desert" by Ted Evans and "Sunset over Samson (Isles of Scilly)" by Barbara Clark. Ted moved to Long Thurlow in 1997 after retiring as a Senior Lecturer in HE. He has never received formal art training other than school (now 75 – that

was a long time ago!). His interests are water colour and pencil drawing, although he has done some work in oils with moderate success (his words). Barbara is a founder member of the Art Club and moved to Elmswell twelve years ago. Although always having drawn, she only started painting in the last three years (when the club started). She prefers to work in acrylics.



The club is having a demonstration on 31st March by Christopher Bacon, a watercolour artist from Harleston in Norfolk. He specialises in wild life painting. I'm sorry that this information was not available for last month's newsletter as we would welcome non-club members to attend for a small fee. I will be able to tell you about the demonstration next month (as it hasn't happened yet!).

We meet every Tuesday morning between 9.30am and 12.30pm.

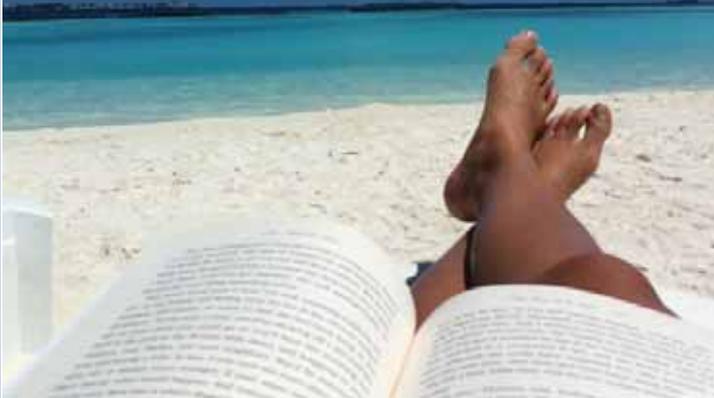
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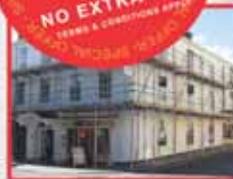
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ELMSWELL W.I.

After welcoming two visitors: Lynne and Brenda, Rachel told us about a W.I. garden party, which is to be held at Buckingham Palace to celebrate our centenary. Only one member of each group is able to attend and after a draw, Lesley Reed was chosen. (She is now planning an extensive shopping trip!) There were several dates for future events: 13.3, craft at Anne's; 16.3, Scrabble at Anna's; 10.4, Soup and Natter at Park Farm and 6.5, a walk with Felsham W.I. Rachel reminded us about entries for the Coop Cup – Rosie will talk to the craft group about possible ideas. Congratulations go to Yvonne, who won the Scrabble Competition at Park Farm!

Before she passed away, Pat Catton expressed a wish to her closest friends. She wanted the contents of her extensive craft room to be shared between friends and members of the W.I. Lesley made a display of these items and people chose what they wanted, in return for a small donation. Pat had accumulated a vast array of craft books and items, during her lifetime and had tried an incredible variety of skills, achieving outstanding results, as we all know.

During the remaining part of the evening, Steve Cook and John Amos entertained us. They are both skilled musicians, who have apparently been playing for a combined ninety years! They played various types of music, mainly on guitars, including jazz, classical, blues and pop, and also sang. Some of their most interesting music resulted from skilfully combining several



different pieces and blending them, seamlessly. We all enjoyed joining in to sing some of the songs, as well as listening to the repartee between Steve and John, who are obviously very good friends.

Steve also told us about ukuleles and played several different ones, including one he had made out of an old cigar box! It was interesting to hear him play some classical music – not the usual genre for this instrument. We all had a thoroughly good evening.

During our April meeting, we shall be sampling some Suffolk cheeses and hearing all about them.

Rosie Collins. 01359 241652

ELMSWELL EXCHANGE SOCIAL CLUB

Sylvia welcomed the members to the meeting and told us an outing had been arranged by Anice to Southwold on May 19th.

Our Treasurer had some exciting news for the club. We have been awarded £400 from the Firemen's Fund. We are very grateful for this generous donation and careful thought will be given on how best to spend it.

Sylvia announced our Christmas lunch will be held on December 8th at the Wesley Hall.

Our speaker Peter Lester was introduced and ably assisted by Derek and Jean Folkard. As members of the Elmswell Millennium History Group they had access to some old photographs of Elmswell. We were shown photographs of various spots in Elmswell and then shown the modern photograph. The photos sparked a lot of reaction from the members. They were able to help identify some people in the photographs and add information. Then we were shown various group photos such as the cricket and football teams of Elmswell in the past. This brought about much audience participation with nearly everyone in the photographs identified. All in all a thoroughly enjoyable talk with many

shared memories.

After tea and coffee the raffle took place.

The next meeting will take place on April 21st when there will be a Bring and Buy stall and Bingo.

New members are always welcome.

Enquiries to Sylvia on 241505.

ELMSWELL OVER 55'S CLUB

By the time you read this newsletter item a third of the year will be over and the throws of winter will hopefully be behind us with some warmer weather to encourage us all to get out.

On behalf of the club I would like to sincerely thank all the crew at Elmswell Fire Station for their splendid fund raising efforts during the last twelve months. Your kind donation to the club was much appreciated, Hazel, Sally and Myself went along to the presentation evening to receive the cheque.

It was pleasing to welcome some new members at the start of our activities for 2015.

The AGM was held recently with the normal business being conducted promptly resulting in the committee and officers being re-elected for a further year. As you elected me as your chairman again I would like to thank Herbert (Vicechairman) Grant (Treasurer) and all the committee for all their hard work in making the club the success that it is.

Our meeting on March 26th saw a new entertainer paying us a visit all the way from Gt Yarmouth. On April 9th we are out on the road with a Mystery Trip to include lunch, then on April 23rd we welcome back the ever popular "Shipshape" with their Traditional Music and Step Dancers.

If you enjoy Brass Band Music please make a note in your diary for Thursday May 21st when we will feature Stowmarket Concert Band everybody welcome just turn up and pay on the door for an arousing evening of music to suit all tastes.

Diann (241002)



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ELMSWELL EXCHANGE AFTERNOON W.I.

We had a smaller than usual gathering for our **March meeting** but the Wesley Hall was warm and it was lovely to feel comfortable and to dispense with our coats for once. There was only one birthday this month and a pot plant was given to Doreen Tomlinson.

Our speaker was Colin Hopper. He is a member of the Magic Circle and The Ipswich Magical Society. However, today he came to tell us about **Paper Sculpture** and demonstrate his skills in this art. How impressed we all were. Before Colin turned his hand to magic, he had been an engineer and this had obviously influenced his work. Each little model that came out of his large cardboard box was unique and very cleverly created. As he went along, Colin demonstrated how these were made. Some of the models were specially constructed

as table pieces for event banquets, The Water Rats being just one. Having shown us some of his secrets, we were able to purchase for a very small sum, a set of several patterns to attempt our own paper sculpture. Colin was an articulate, and entertaining speaker. He is highly recommended.

We then served refreshments and went through our business section of the meeting. Bobbie suggested two venues for our summer outing, and members voted for a trip to Sandringham House and Gardens. This would take place sometime in June.

Next month it is our Members Meeting which takes place on Wednesday 1st April. This means that we entertain ourselves !!! It hasn't gone unnoticed that this is, in fact,

April Fools Day. One of our members will be talking about her life and there will no doubt be other items during the afternoon.

We are an informal and friendly group and welcome guests and new members to our meetings. **Contact Barbara Yeates on 242788 or Maureen Davis on 241033.** Alternatively, just turn up on the day.



STANLEY KING

The sad news that Stan had passed away in hospital came too late for us to do justice to this much loved and widely respected pillar of the Elmswell community.

We invite your memories and stories of Stan for a tribute in the May magazine.

STOP PRESS

The grand total of the Firemen's 2015 donations (see page 17) was

£8626.83!

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NEWS FROM ELMSWILD



We get by..... just

Our storage container has arrived at Lukeswood – with a little help from our friends!

For a long time we've been planning to install a storage container at Lukeswood, where we can keep all the tools that we need in our work maintaining the woodland and orchard. It needed to be dry, secure, and quite large (to accommodate all our current tools, plus larger items of equipment that we plan to get in the future). Last year Parish Councillors kindly agreed to let us have one of the containers from Blackbourne, no longer needed since the additional storage areas in the new building came into use. We just had to get it moved from Blackbourne to Lukeswood. Not an easy task – especially negotiating the rough terrain, dips, hollows, and boggy areas that abound in our lovely woodland.

And so it proved last Sunday. In the end we needed the lorry AND a tractor to get it manoeuvred into its final position. Older readers will no doubt recall that wonderful episode from Dad's Army when they manage to get Jonesy's butchers van, Hodges's greengrocers van, a coachload of oldsters out on a day trip, and a passing steam engine all stuck in the mud. We didn't panic, though, and with a bit of ingenuity and a lot of horse power we got the job done.

Regular visitors to Lukeswood will notice that the ground is churned up and somewhat muddier than usual. It just requires a minor detour round the worst bits for the time being – we will soon have it all tidied up.

Now that we have somewhere to store all our tools, it will make life much easier for all the volunteers. Having everything to hand, exactly where and when we need it, will make a big difference – much better than bringing everything in by car for every work party. We're also looking forward to having a bit more space in our own garages and sheds!

A huge thank you goes to everyone who played a part in this tricky operation. Thanks to Peter for directing operations at the Blackbourne end (some tight squeezes involved there!), to our lorry drivers for their skilful work and for coping so admirably with the conditions in the woodland, and to our neighbours at Crossways Farm for coming to our aid and bringing the tractor so promptly. We're very grateful for all their help.

Got any old tools?

With the storage container in place, we're hoping to increase our stock of tools. So if you have any old or unwanted gardening tools that you can spare or that you'd like to be rid of, please do get in touch – we can give them a good home. We especially need spades, forks, trowels, bow saws, handsaws, wheelbarrows, etc. That would mean more tools to go round when, for example, the school children come for activities at Lukeswood – sometimes a spade has to be shared between four or five helpers. If you think you may be able to offer something, please let us know and we can collect. Even a wobbly wheelbarrow can be put to use – they can usually be repaired!

Mary Feeny
(info@elmswild.org.uk
or phone 241901)



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ELMSWELL LIBRARY

We are celebrating a huge achievement at Elmswell Library.

All the hard work by our friends group, ELF, and with some amazing support from very generous fundraisers, sponsors, local businesses and organisations we have hit out £10,000 target to re-shelve the library. Please don't look at the totaliser yet...we are trying to find the red tape to update the total!!

And fittingly, the final £500 came from our amazing village firefighters, who once again donated £500 to our cause. Fitting because it was last year when, overwhelmed by their generosity, manager Emma Yarrow, promised to make the money count and to update the library so it could become more of a community hub. So it was, that 12 months later we have raised the amount needed to totally re-shelve the library with more modern, moveable units which will enable the space we have to be more flexible.

We hope to begin the work in the autumn, but we are hoping to raise a little bit more in between so that we can re-paint and update the

furniture giving our community a new library to serve them.

So the fundraising continues for a while longer – and we are delighted to announce that the Elmswheelians are holding a third cycle ride in aid of ELF. It will be a little bit different this year – on the evening of Friday, July 17th a 15-mile cycle ride in the evening sunshine, rounding off with a raffle and some laughs at The Fox in Elmswell. More details will be announced closer to the time.

Before then Elmswell Library Friends will be holding its AGM on Wednesday, April 22nd at 6:30pm. We have had an incredibly successful year and hope to take that drive forward into an exciting future – if you are interested in helping us, or getting involved with the committee, then please come along. We are a friendly bunch with lots of ideas, but we could always do with more hands and more ideas!

And one of the best ideas was last year's cheese and wine evening – so we are holding another. On Friday, May 1 we would love to invite you to join us for A Taste of Spanish Wines and Tapas. Following the success of last year's event,

when the Rioja was the firm favourite, this will be a Spanish-themed evening, involving more obscure wines and morsels of food to accompany them. Local wine expert, Bob Stopp, will be hosting once more and we hope it is as much fun and raises more vital funds for our appeal. Tickets are available in the library priced at £12.50 per person.

And finally, for the first time we will be closed for the whole of the Easter weekend. This is unavoidable because Suffolk County Council, with which we still share some of our IT systems, will be shutting down its IT for essential maintenance over that weekend. So we will close on Thursday, April 2nd at 7pm and re-open on Tuesday, April 7th at 10am. We apologise for the inconvenience.

Elmswell Library is open Tuesday and Thursday from 10am-1pm and 2-7pm, Wednesday and Friday from 2-5pm, Saturday from 10am-1pm and Sunday 10am-3pm. We look forward to seeing you soon.



ELMSWHEELIANS 2015

Programme of Bike Rides

Another year; another challenge! If you enjoy cycling, you are invited to join us. There is no membership and nothing to pay; just turn up, and join a group of people who enjoy "social cycling". We cycle purely for fun, at a reasonable pace, and not a time-trial in sight. And on all rides we have a stop at a suitable hostelry for R & R.

Please note especially that this year's Fund Raiser for the Elmswell Library will be an evening ride on Friday 17th July. The ride will end at "The Fox", with a Grand Draw to round things off. If anyone can help with Draw Prizes, your support will be greatly appreciated.

Dates of our 2015 Rides are :

- Sunday 26th April (16 miles approx.)
- Sunday 17th May (16 miles approx.)
- Friday 12th June (evening ride - 12 miles approx.)

- Friday 17th July (evening ride and Library Fund Raiser - 15 miles approx.)
- Sunday 16th August (18/19 miles approx.)
- Sunday 18th October (18 miles approx.)

In time-honoured tradition, all the rides, *except the Library Fund Raiser*, will start from Abbots Warren, Church Road, Elmswell.

Start times for the Sunday rides will be 10.30 a.m ; and 6.30 p.m. for the two Friday evening rides.

If you would like to join us, you will be very welcome, but must be aged 16+.

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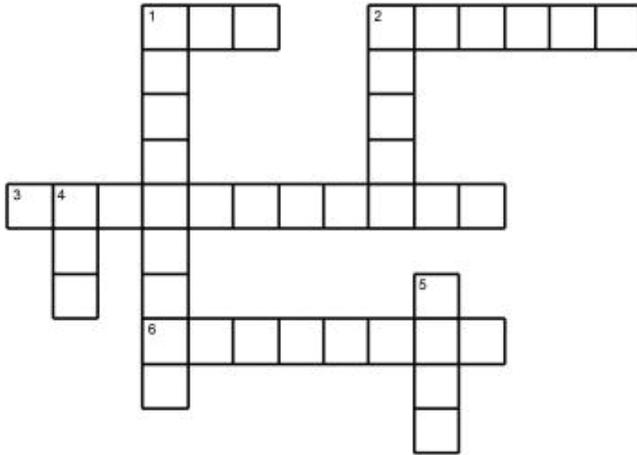
Minibeasts



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

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

MINIBEAST CROSSWORD



Across

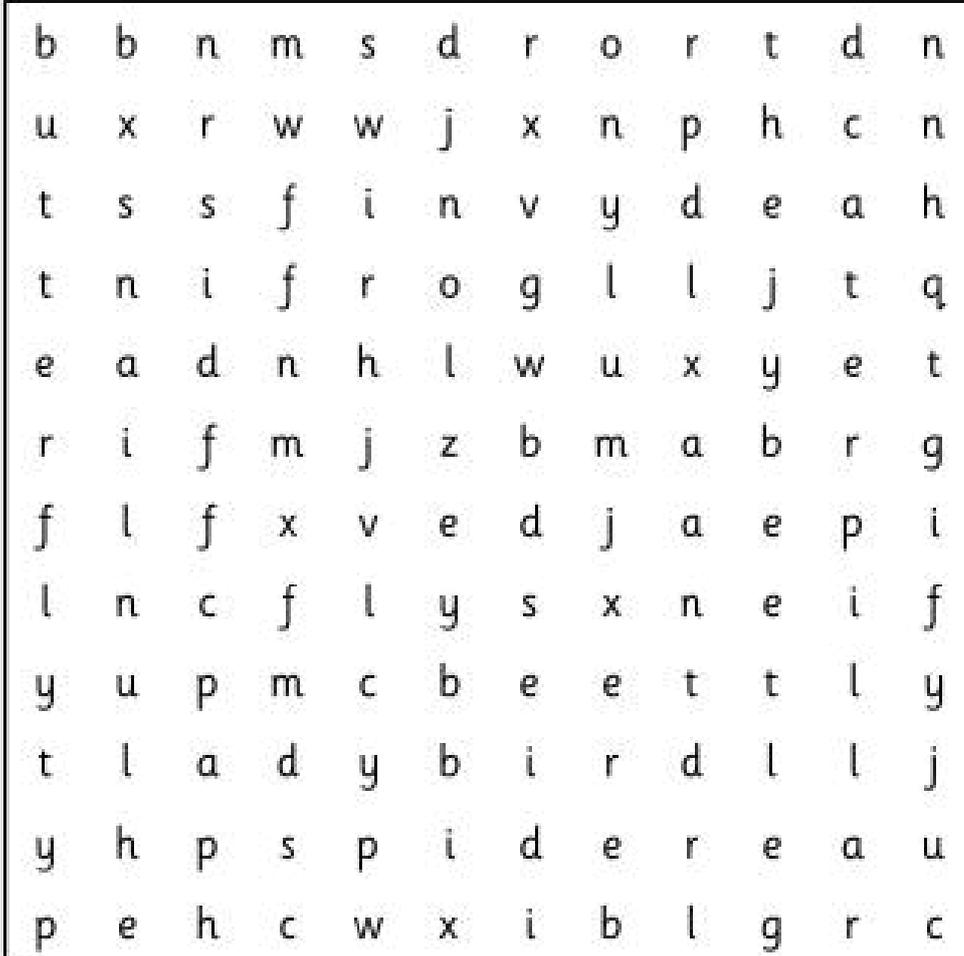
1. I make honey.
2. I spin webs.
3. I'm a baby butterfly.
4. I'm red and spotty.

Down

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



MINIBEAST WORDSEARCH



MAKE YOUR OWN MINIBEAST HOTEL

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



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ELMSWELL CAMERA GROUP

At our last meeting members watched an instructional dvd on Travel and Landscape Photography, all thought they had learnt something from it, and another dvd is planned for future viewing.

Our next meeting on the 7th April is going to be a critique evening. This will be where members bring along images so the group can discuss each and comment on any improvements that they feel could be made. This will be a constructive evening to help members to improve their photography.

On May 5th we shall be going out to put all we have learnt over the last few months into practice, hoping the weather will be kind to us.

All are welcome. So come along and see what we are doing and join in.

The next meeting is on the 7th April 7.30pm at the Blackbourne, new building at the end of the car park. Door on left hand side.

Mike Randall



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ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Contact: Revd Peter Goodridge tel: 240512
email: elmswellrector@gmail.com

Sunday 5 April

08.00am Holy Communion BCP
10.30am **Easter Family Communion**

Sunday 12 April

08.00am Holy Communion BCP
10.30am Morning Service (All Age)

Sunday 19 April

10.30am Holy Communion CW

Sunday 26 April

08.00am Holy Communion BCP
10.30am Morning Service followed by
Annual Parochial Church
Meetings

and into May.....

Sunday 3 May

09.30am All Age Service
11.00am Morning Prayer BCP with
Holy Communion BCP

A new event which we have tried this year has been a series of Lent Lunches. These were held in St John's Church on six Wednesdays and began on 18 February. After a short devotional time we enjoyed a simple lunch and took the opportunity to make a donation towards the work of the Stowmarket Food Bank, which at the time of writing has exceeded £100. This gift will enable the Food Bank to purchase items for the food parcels which they distribute to needy families in the Stowmarket area.

Mothering Sunday service was held on 15 March; the service included a song by SlamJam our junior choir; the Lesson was read by Caroline Long, prayers were led by Hannah Taylor and the talk was given by Canon Richard Webb. Towards the end of the service posies were distributed to all the ladies present and several were taken to give to those unable to attend the service.

Christians Together in Elmswell

(Secretary Jean Folkard 242099)

On Friday 6 March in St John's Church we held the Annual Women's World Day of Prayer Service. Unfortunately due to various commitments this service was not as well attended as usual. However we had an enjoyable time as we joined in the service which had been arranged by Christian women of the Bahamas, with music and readings as well as prayers.

The Children's Holiday Club would like to say 'thank you' to Elmswell Parish Council, Elmswell Amenities Association, the Co-op Community Fund and Elmswell Firefighters for their generous financial support. The money received will go towards the expenses incurred in the running of the Club which will be held at the Blackbourne from 17-21 August 2015.

The Friends of St John's Church

This year it is 20 years since we held our first Coffee Morning to raise funds for the Fabric of St John's Church. Since then we have held numerous Coffee Mornings, Concerts, Art Exhibitions, Flower Festivals, Talks, Poetry and Puddings evening, Just Dessert evenings, Beetle Drives, Sausage Suppers, etc., etc.

Later this year we shall be holding a weekend of events - an organ concert by Christopher Moore on 19 June, the AGM and Coffee Morning on 20 June, a Festival depicting 'Our Favourite Things' and the Annual Service on 21 June, with Clive Paine as our preacher. Please look out for posters advertising future events.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH TOWER FLOODLIGHTING

You are invited to sponsor the floodlighting of St. John's to help with the day-to-day running expenses of our parish church. You can choose to commemorate a personal event, an anniversary, or any other special occasion. Alternatively you can simply make a donation. A night's floodlighting costs £5.

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

Please make cheques payable to "ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, ELMSWELL".

MARCH 2015 SPONSORSHIP NOT PREVIOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED

11 remembering a loving father, Walter Howe, taken from me 11th March 1972. "Forever in my thoughts". Loving daughter, Audrey. Also remembering with love, a dear sister, Katharine Howe, who left me on 21st February 2008. "Never to be forgotten". Your loving sister, Audrey.

APRIL 2015 SPONSORSHIPS

- 6 in loving memory of Tony Bendall. "We love and miss you so much". Love Margery, Neville, Bryan, Malcolm, Philip and all the family.
- 9 remembering Grace Rush, a dear Mum, Grandma and Great Grandma, on her Birthday.
- 9 Dennis Hopper. Loving memories of dear Dad. "17 years and still sadly missed". Sally, Alan and family. xx.
- 14 remembering Carl Finch - anniversary of his death in 1999.
- 14 in memory of Ray Borrett's Birthday.
- 17 in loving memory of Jane Goodchild. Love, Colin. xx.
- 20 in memory of Jim Baker (1933 - 2009) on his Birthday.
- 21 remembering a loving mother, Frances

Howe, who left me on 21st April 1953. "Forever in my thoughts, never to be forgotten". Loving daughter Audrey.

- 22 in loving memory of Teasel.
- 23 remembering Carl Finch on St. George's Day.
- 30 in memory of David Lakey.
- 30 Ivy & Dennis Hopper. Loving memories of dear Mum & Dad on what would have been their 90th Birthdays. Love Sally, Alan and family. xx.

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HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2015

All the following services are at Our Lady's Catholic Church, Stowmarket:

Maudy Thursday, 2nd April:

We remember how Jesus gathered with his Twelve Disciples to eat the Last Supper, washed their feet as an example of service and gave us the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist as the abiding Memorial of his Passion and Death.

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30 pm.

Good Friday, 3rd April:

Catholics observe Good Friday as a Day of Fast and of Abstinence from meat.

We commemorate the suffering and death of Jesus on the Cross for us all.

Liturgy of the Passion at 3.00 pm; Stations of the Cross at 7.30 pm.

Holy Saturday, 4th April:

After waiting in spirit during the day at the tomb of Christ, we celebrate his Resurrection and our new life in him at the Easter Vigil and First Easter Mass at 8.00 pm. There is no evening Mass at Woolpit Church on Holy Saturday, 4th April.

Easter Sunday, 5th April:

With Masses at 8.30 and 10.15 am we share our joy that the Lord is risen.

We wish you a very happy Easter,
Father David Finegan



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ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH



Easter is the most important festival in the Christian calendar because it marks the culmination of Jesus' time on earth. This year, why not take a fresh look at Easter?

It's not about bunnies and chocolate.

The love of

God shown in Jesus' death on the cross and his resurrection three days later means forgiveness and new life for all those who believe. We'd be especially pleased to see you on Easter Sunday morning at 10.30am on April 5th when we have an Easter Songs of Praise.

Our activities in the next few weeks are:-

On April 3rd we will be joining in the Christians Together in Elmswell Good Friday service at St. Johns at 10am. ALL are welcome.

On Easter Sunday, April 6th, we are holding an Easter Songs of Praise at 10.30 am. We will start with Communion and continue in a joyful and informal time together.

Refreshments will follow as usual.

Food & Friends on Thursday April 16th at midday – for the older folk – a chance to meet other people and enjoy a nutritious meal at nominal cost. This is run in conjunction with Age UK. Phone Jackie on 245918 to book your place.

The Ladies Friendship Group meet on Monday April 13th when Flory Heller is coming to speak about Pearls. All ladies welcome. Phone Margaret on 241541 for further information.

CU at CU Club meetings resume at 6pm on Tuesday April 21st – games, quizzes, stories and craft for 5 to 11 year olds. An evening of FUN. Phone Tony on 241541 for more details.

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

April 5th The Congregation - Easter Songs of Praise(inc Communion)

April 12th Stephen Spurgeon - All-Age Service

April 19th Stephen Spurgeon

April 26th Rev. Norman Tharby

May 3rd Stephen Spurgeon (inc communion)

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

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

Tony

Thinking Allowed

I find watching the news can be quite disheartening. I switch on the TV in a good mood, thinking let's just catch up with world events. By the time the news is over, I have been reminded that I live in a world full of gossip, dishonesty, depravity and violence.



As I was pondering this recently, I came across these words of Justin Welby from his "Thought for the Month" back in 1995. He wrote: "the authentic Christian message is grimly realistic about the world. Jesus Christ died on the Cross so we can be put right with God, and experience his love. If the world was not so bad God would have needed to do anything. It is exactly because of all the evil that He provided a way of giving us hope."

As I write this, I am preparing my own Easter message entitled "The weekend that changed the world." The events we celebrate at Easter are all about God stepping into history to bring light, hope and new life into a world that is too often characterised by darkness, hopelessness and death. Next time, the news brings you down, why not counterbalance it by remembering that evil does not need to have the last word, because God in Christ has conquered it. We can, therefore, truly say to one another: "Happy Easter."

Rev Peter Goodridge (Rector of St John's)



FIREMEN TO THE RESCUE

Elmswell's Fire Crew are trained and ready to deal with emergencies of many kinds. From road traffic accidents where their skills are often a crucial factor in life-saving rescue, to the problems that no-one else is equipped to tackle involving deep-level or dangerous access, and, of course, as it says on the tin, to fighting fires. They train constantly to add to their skills, to stay fit and to improve their response times – which are already top class. This year they have attended more call-outs than ever before. They are busy.

But not too busy to stand outside the Co-op on Christmas Eve with a fund-raising bucket. Or to put in a full car-washing shift on several days throughout the year in exchange for donations to their cause. Or, as in our cover picture, to give up the last Friday of each and every month to entertain a hall full of Bingo fans at Blackbourne. Or, as our pictures show, to provide a social occasion at which they proceed to give the results of their efforts each year back to the community and to other good causes.

This year some 20 cheques were donated for sums ranging from £400 to £1,000. Beneficiaries included village stalwarts such as the St John's

Ladies Club, the Lunch Club, the Over 55's, the baby & Toddler group and the Companions, through special projects such as the Millennium History Group's, 'Memories of the Great War', exhibition, the annual Children's Holiday Club at Blackbourne and the Elmswell Library Friends' refurbishment scheme to one-offs such as the funding of new seating at the cemetery, a donation to St Nicholas Hospice and support for the Fire Fighters' Benevolent Fund.

Elmswell is lucky to have a fire station in the heart of the village. We are even luckier to have this Fire Crew at the heart of our community.

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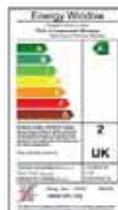
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Spaces are limited so call to reserve your place.

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Wednesdays: Elmswell - Juniors 6pm to 7.30pm, Adults 7pm to 9pm



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ELMSWELL BOWLS CLUB

Well this is the month for the big roll up.

Our season starts for our Monday team with a home match against Thorndon. The Tuesday afternoon team are away to Thornham Magna and our Wednesday team are away to Gipping Valley. All of these teams are in the Stowmarket Leagues.

The Tuesday evening and Thursday evening teams in the Bury league do not start until the following week.

Teams visiting us will have no excuse for not knowing where we are with our magnificent new sign.

Thanks to all those involved in making it a new feature of the club.

In the meantime we will be having an Open Drive likely to be held on Saturday 11th April all subject to our groundkeeper Nick Chamberlin's approval.



Nick working hard as usual spiking the green

On Saturday 14th March we held our annual quiz. Over 70 members and guests attended. The winners being:



The Lamb Chops Team

The team holding up the other teams was Coffee Morning Girls. This position was keenly contested with the Little Green People and Carpet Baggers just avoiding the glory of holding this position it is not the winning it's the taking part. Thanks to Doug Reed for setting the questions and to Brenda Begg, Social Secretary for the organisation of the event.

Don't forget our invite to come up and join us (look for our new sign) we look forward to welcoming you.

Michael Moore



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ELMSWELL CC

Big Thanks

Everyone at Elmswell Cricket Club would like to thank all the members of Elmswell Fire Station for their exceedingly generous donation of £400 towards the Club's activities. This amazing support will go a long way to maintaining the club and its facilities throughout this special anniversary season. Again, thank you to Elmswell Fire Station for all their efforts and generosity in raising the money that they do for so many local good causes.

40 Years and Counting

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, Elmswell Cricket Club is this season celebrating 40 years since it reformed at the end of 1974. It promises to be a special year with celebrations planned including an anniversary T20 match (on Sunday 19th July) and the unveiling of a new honours board (think Lord's only better - see our website for a sneak preview). You can also be part of the celebrations by becoming a club vice-president for this anniversary season. Please contact the Club through one of the methods below for more details.

Net Sessions

As the new season is almost upon us we will soon be starting net sessions to shake of the dust of a long, cold winter. These sessions are open to all those interested in joining the club and are very relaxed and informal. They are due to start on Wednesday 8th April at 6pm and run throughout the season. Sessions take place at the outdoor net area next to the main Blackbourne building and as a result are dependent on good weather. Please check the website for more details.

New Players

As always, we are on the look out for new players. Whether you are new to the game or restarting your cricketing career after a break, you will find a warm welcome at Elmswell Cricket Club. We pride ourselves on our team spirit with many opposition teams commenting on how we are a joy to play against (and that's not just the teams that beat us!). If you enjoy competitive yet enjoyable cricket then Elmswell CC is the club for you. Please get in touch via one of the methods below.

Upcoming Fixtures - April

19th Edwardstone Home
26th Battisford Away
See the Club website for a full fixture list

Contact Us

Phone: Call Ian on 244139
Email: elmswellcricketclub@gmail.com
Web: elmswellcricketclub.co.uk
Twitter: @elmswellcricket

LILY WEBSTER MEMORIAL FUND

Lily was the victim of Sudden Adult Death Syndrome when she collapsed and died at Stowmarket High School. It kills 12 youngsters every week in the UK alone.

Lily's schoolmates have joined forces with the charity **Cardiac Risk** in the **Young - CRY** to fund screening for local young people.

Over the weekend of 23rd / 24th May four of us 'Lily's Lovelies' are taking on the Ultra Challenge London to Brighton 100km. Walk...and we would like your support.

PLEASE....Donate online at www.justgiving.com/lilyslovelies1 or text LLLB50 followed by £...to 70070

MANY THANKS, **Lily's Lovelies**



Anyone for Tennis?

Then come and join Woolpit Tennis Club. The new season starts in early April and everyone is welcome.

- We have four courts available and a recently extended club house
- Coaching is available for all ages and sessions start in April
- You could join one of our friendly teams who play in local tennis leagues

Membership provides access to our courts for a year and costs just

- £77 adult
- £25 junior
- £165 family membership

Which is great value for money!

If you would like to join the tennis club or need more information, then please come along to the new season open night at the Club on -

Thursday the 16th April from 6:00 to 7:30pm

Or contact the Membership Secretary on 07808 015408



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ELMSWELL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



WHAT IS A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN?

A neighbourhood plan is a legal document which must be taken into account by developers and by the planning committee and planning officers at Mid Suffolk District Council when considering all future planning applications.

WHY DO WE NEED A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN?

If we, as a village, want to have any say in or control over what development happens in Elmswell in the future then we need a Neighbourhood Plan. Without it, the size and nature of development will be decided by developers and planners using policies and guidelines over which we have no control.

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY

This questionnaire is going to every household in the village. It is entirely anonymous. The reference number you see is simply there to avoid duplicate entries and cannot be linked to an individual or to the answers that he or she gives. The completed questionnaires will be handled by Community Action Suffolk who will give us the results.

The results of the questionnaire will form the Neighbourhood Plan, which will say how you, the residents of Elmswell, want the village to evolve in the future.

In order to make the plan a binding document, the village will have the chance to approve it in a vote organised by Mid Suffolk District Council - just like an election.

If this happens, all future planning applications will be made in light of the Plan's conditions for development.

So it's important that you complete the questionnaire!

Every questionnaire received will qualify for entry into a

PRIZE DRAW

WIN Co-op grocery vouchers...

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3rd - 4 prizes of £25.00

Results published in the Elmswell Newsletter

Simply fill in the slip below and leave it at the Co-op or at the Mace Stores.

I HAVE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED MY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE. PLEASE ENTER ME FOR THE PRIZE DRAW.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

YOU WILL HAVE NOTICED THE QUESTIONNAIRE?

Our thanks to the Newsletter distribution team for the considerable extra load which they have carted round the village and distributed...1775 sets of questions designed to help determine the factors that you feel are important in guiding the development of the village over the next 25 years.

A different questionnaire has been filled in by years 5 & 6 at Elmswell School. Another is to go to all Elmswell pupils at Thurston Upper School, and the businesses in the village will have their own version.

The questionnaires have been put together using computer software devised and managed by Community Action Suffolk (CAS) which used to be Suffolk ACRE. The responses will all go back, anonymously, on line directly to CAS who can then produce analysis of the answers in various forms. The unique code which is given to each responder cannot be traced back to them individually - it simply serves to prevent multiple submissions. This information guides the Steering Group towards putting together a Neighbourhood Plan - effectively a set of rules and guidelines which all developers must follow when considering building in our village.

The other half of the essential background information required for an effective plan is statistics on a wide range of issues which concern the planning process. Biodiversity, population, house types, traffic flows, projected school admissions, social facilities that exist and the use of them, business and retail infrastructure, provision of medical services...all this and more will be measured and assessed by professionals with planning experience and with a track record in helping to build Neighbourhood Development Plans. Grant aid has been accessed for the work so far, and more will be available to ensure that we can afford top quality professional input and guidance.

The Steering Group has consulted widely on the process to date, and will do so again with individuals and groups on specific topics and in public meetings as and when the first draft of a Plan is available - probably 6 months away! A final draft then goes to Mid Suffolk District Council who check that proper procedures have been followed and that the evidence provided is suitable and adequate. The plan then goes to an independent inspector who must agree that it is a properly researched and appropriate. If the document satisfies all these requirements it is the subject of a referendum - everyone has a vote, as in an election, as to whether or not the plan is adopted. If 50% or more of those voting say 'yes', the plan becomes part of the District Local Plan - it has the strength of the law behind it.

That is why this stage is so important. The group must be able to prove that it has consulted with and involved the community as widely as possible.

Please take the time to answer the questions, and please do it on line if at all possible. Group members - their names are in the questionnaire - will be only too pleased to help with any aspect of this or answer any queries.

To be in touch or to find out more visit www.elmswellneighbourhoodplan.org.uk or email contactus@elmswellneighbourhoodplan.org.uk or scan the QR codes.

WEBSITE



FACEBOOK

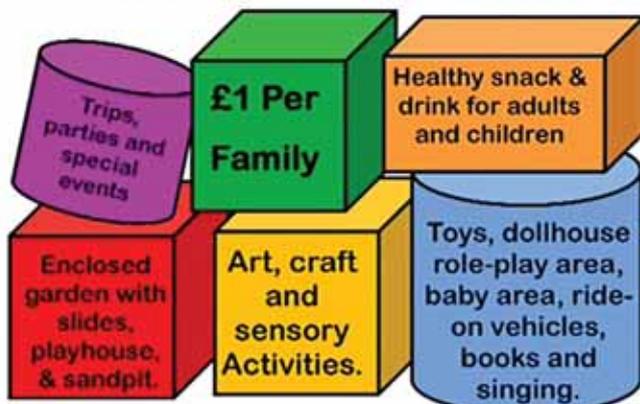


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Elmswell Baby and Toddler Group

AROUND & ABOUT

AUTUMN FAYRE

The Autumn Fayre has woken from its winter slumber, yawned, scratched and had a bit of a stretch and begun to roll like a lumbering juggernaut towards its climax on Sunday 7th September.

Some things will be the same this year and others will be different. The admission charge will be dropped so, hopefully, visitor numbers will increase. It has always been a bargain but the fee did seem to deter some people. It certainly caused some friction on the gate! The live music will be ever-so-slightly different with a Southern Rock/Americana combo doing the honours. I have been to their gigs and they are really very good. Our very own Elmswell Butchers will be doing the Burgers and, judging by the wares available in their superb shop, should take hot dogs to a whole new level! We have cancelled the Funfair and opted for a number of smaller fairground attractions and I have found someone



to bring along some exotic creatures for the youngsters to handle. Several people commented on the absence of the popular petting zoo last year after we were let down by the elderly couple who were contemplating retirement when I booked them (but took the booking, anyway). The RAF sent confirmation of the Dakota flypast, subject to the usual caveat regarding operational requirements taking precedence. Whether we will get a Spitfire bonus, or similar, as last year I could not say but last year did show that they will exceed their promise if they are able.

Finally, I hope next month to announce a major sponsor for this year and, hopefully, beyond, which mean that the Fayre could get a face –lift and a fillip and possibly more, but I have run out of words beginning with 'f'! Negotiations are just getting under way but thanks to Marian Abbott, always a doughty Fayre supporter, for her part in guiding the sponsor in our direction.

Peter Edmonds, Elmswell Amenities

ELMSWELL YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB SCORES AGAIN

The youth footballers of Elmswell go from strength to strength. No fewer than 3 of the teams have made it through to the finals of their respective competitions. Last weekend, the U14's won their semi final 3-0, the U15's won 2-1 and the U16's romped home with a 6-1 victory.

Meanwhile...the U9's, pictured here, have gone a step further. They won their final having been 2-0 down to claim the cup in a 3-2 victory!

Congratulations to all the players and to the dedicated adults who are supporting this great upsurge in the fortunes of our youngsters on the football field.



Max, Dexter, Austin, Alfie (sitting) Alex, Archie, William, Harry, Jensen & Ben.



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ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Full Council is scheduled to meet on the 3rd Monday monthly, excepting August and avoiding bank holidays. The March meeting took place in the Chamberlayne Hall annexe at Blackbourne on Monday 16th with all of the 11 councillors present, along with the Parish Clerk, District Council Ward Member Cllr Mrs Sarah Mansel and 28 members of the public.

This report is compiled from that meeting by the Parish Clerk and edited by the Council's Editorial Board which is made up of the Council Chairman, Cllr David Barker, the Council Vice-chairman, Cllr Mrs Marian Abbott and Cllr Mike Friend, elected to do so by his peers. 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 Police and 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, together with the agenda for the next meeting, when published, are available on line at www.elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk, in the Memorial Library and from the Parish Clerk by arrangement. Bound copies of older Minutes are lodged with the Suffolk County Records Office in Bury St. Edmunds. The most recent Minutes, from the January Council meeting, as approved at this meeting, are posted in the community notice board at the Co-op.

County Council

In a written report, Cllr Mrs Jane Storey reported on the County Council's annual budget meeting at which it was agreed that no council tax increase should be levied and that savings of £38m should be made in the forthcoming year. Details of this and all other SCC meetings are available at www.suffolk.gov.uk

Mid Suffolk District Council

Cllr Mrs Sarah Mansel tabled a written report which included confirmation of a council tax uplift of 1.75% on the part of Mid Suffolk District Council, an increase of 5p per week for the 'average' Band D property. Council house rents are to be increased by 2.8% which, on average, means an increase of £2.30 per week. Regarding Tudor Cottages on School Road, the Council, having decided to sell these, is to put them to the market again having failed to reach their reserve at a recent auction.

BMA

The Blackbourne Management Association, which comprises user-groups and representative Councillors, manages the Council owned facilities at the community complex at Blackbourne. The Secretary, Cllr Peter Edmonds, reported on its most recent meeting at which it was noted that the insurers were arranging repairs to the storm damaged roof at the new Jubilee Hall and that the Bowls Club had made a donation towards the repairs of accidental damage in the pavilion caused by a visiting team. Boot scrapers have been installed to help avoid mud from the field being deposited on the car park after football games. The most recent extension to the facilities, the addition of a meeting room, more storage and improved disabled access has been successfully completed. The Association has been asked to support a proposal from the Bowls Club who wish to find the finance to extend the pavilion facilities which have, since the building was first opened, been inadequate.

Fire Crew donation

Cllr Ann Richards proposed that a letter of thanks be sent to the Elmswell Fire Crew for their recent donation of £800.00 towards the provision of seating at the Elmswell cemetery. The firemen had noticed the lack of seating when attending the unveiling of a plaque at

the bier shed in the cemetery marking the completion of the refurbishment programme which Cllr Richards had driven and to which the firemen had also donated.

Election

The Clerk confirmed that he had nomination forms and further information on the forthcoming election town & parish council election on 7th May. He undertook to deliver nomination papers to the Returning Officer if delivered to him by candidates on or before 2nd April. Councillors agreed that separate polling cards for the parish council election were an unnecessary expense given that polling cards will be issued for the parliamentary & district council elections on the same day.

Wesley chapel site

The Clerk reported on productive liaison with Mid Suffolk officers, the Wesley Management Committee, representatives of the Wesley Church hierarchy and the Elmswell Amenities Association towards being in a position to try to secure for the village the Wesley chapel site on School Road when it is put to the market by the Methodist Church. The Meeting agreed that this process should continue towards the production of a business plan for presentation to grant aiding and funding bodies with the aim of securing finance for the purchase of the site for retention on behalf of the community in perpetuity. Furthermore, that the Council should register with Mid Suffolk an interest, on behalf of the community partners, in making a bid to purchase the site. A budget of £1,000.00 was agreed towards the cost of professional fees and other expenses in taking the scheme forward.

Planning Appeal at Linden Croft, School Road

The Planning Inspector's decision in an appeal by the developers, Hartog Hutton, against the refusal by Mid Suffolk, the Planning Authority, against an application for 3 houses on the site fronting Linden Croft on School Road found resoundingly in favour of the Developer. In summary, the Inspector said that the Authority had 'sought to prevent or delay a development which should clearly have been permitted'. The Authority must pay the Developer's costs.

Planning results The Meeting noted that Permission has been granted for renovations at Street Farm, a listed building, for the erection of a horse walker at Elmswell Park Stud and for alterations at the bungalow adjacent to Oakdene on Ashfield Road, all of which the Parish Council had supported. Permission was also granted for the removal of a walnut tree, the subject of a Tree Preservation Order, at Grange House in Bennett Avenue, on which the Parish Council had made no comment.

Planning applications

Councillors agreed to support applications for the erection of a conservatory to the rear of 25 Warren Close, extensions and alterations at Mercia International Aromatics on the Station Road industrial estate, to a first floor extension to an existing flat roof side extension at 4, Mill Gardens, to renovations of the storm porch and the replacement of a garage at The Blooms on Farm Meadow, a listed building, and for the erection of a detached garage at Linden Croft, School Road.

Library Friends grant

It was agreed that £200.00 be given to the Elmswell Library Friends for the provision of a notice board in the Memorial Library as part of the group's refurbishment scheme.

Audit

Town and parish councils are exhaustively audited both for their financial probity and for their governance within the regulations and statute that proscribe their operations and activities. At one level an independent and suitably qualified auditor must conduct an internal audit of the council's affairs with free access to all accounts and other documents. The meeting agreed that the Suffolk Association of Local Councils, which offers an audit service independent of its day to day activities supporting local councils, should be appointed to carry out the Internal Audit of Elmswell parish council for the 2014 / 2015 financial year.

Roadway at Blackbourne

As part of the on-going commitment to improving the village's main social facility at The Blackbourne, Councillors agreed to accept a bid of £19,792 from Messrs. AE



White, for the construction of a tarmac roadway from the car park to the rear of the Phase II extension. This will provide more parking and, most importantly, allow access to the rear of the Jubilee Hall when it is used for fairs, displays and other large events. The bid was one of 3 which were submitted under the Council's formal tendering process.

BMX track

The Meeting agreed to submit a planning application for a BMX / Cycle Skills track on the site at Old Schools Court. A pledge of £400.00 from the Elmswell Fire Fighters towards safety equipment, to be triggered should Approval be granted, was noted.

Holiday Club grant

It was agreed that a grant of £300.00 be made to the children's holiday club run by Christians Together in Elmswell at Blackbourne for a week in August.

Recycling centre stewardship

Councillors agreed that a letter of thanks should go to the ElmsWild group who have thoroughly and energetically looked after the Station Road recycling facility, including the clearing of the overgrown hedge adjacent which has made the site easier to clean in future. A grant of £200.00 is to be made to the Group's funds.

Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 20th April at 7.30 in The Blackbourne. The public are, as ever, welcome to attend all Council and Council committee meetings and the agenda will always offer opportunities for questions and comment. Agendas are published on line at www.elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk, on the Council's notice board at Crown Mill and in the community notice board at the Co-op outside the Post Office.



Enquiries on any or all of the above, or on any Council matter, are invited through the Parish Clerk, Peter Dow at the Parish Clerk's Office, Station Road, Elmswell IP30 9HR. telephone 01359 244134 email clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk.

The office is situated on the Station Road Industrial estate, behind the Fox pub and right next to the railway line above Goblins factory premises. It is open for business on weekdays from 9.00am – 5.30 pm, excepting Bank Holidays. The answerphone is monitored daily.

ROAD CLOSURES

The Parish council has long campaigned for more information, consultation and control at our local level on roadworks, particularly when they mean road closures. Contrary to popular belief, and to common sense, there is no such liaison except for the larger jobs which are planned well in advance. Hence the pop-up nature of such works without notice.

Statutory Undertakers – the utilities companies, Network Rail, etc., can close a road or install traffic controls or just dig a hole in case of emergency at no notice at all. This makes sense, but it would help if they could tell the Council - we'd pay for the call – so that we can deal with queries and concerns from residents, particularly relating to the duration of the works. We might also then have a contact to deal with the frequent confusion caused when the signage is left, telling people that roads are closed or that diversions are in place long after the job is done and the last cup of tea drunk.

2 recent overnight closures of the rail crossing and traffic controls at Church Hill and on Ashfield Road are cases in point...they appear without warning and leave many people frustrated without explanation. When they are in touch with the Clerk's office, we know nothing – which is annoying for all concerned.

On the occasions that Council is informed, notices are posted on the 2 notice boards at the Co-op and on Crown Mill and in the Newsletter if time allows, but this type of work is, generally, well publicised by road sign advance warning so that regular users are aware.

For example:

NOTIFICATION OF ROAD CLOSURES

For the week beginning Monday 20th April, the following roads will be closed for drainage improvements – although it might be for a shorter period if progress allows:

Wetherden Road from Jubilee Terrace towards Wetherden as far as Kate's Lane;

Kate's Lane (technically in Wetherden) as far as Captain's Lane.

During this period, the 7 1/2 tonne weight restriction on Warren Lane will be lifted.



FOOTPATH WALK

Our next walk starts, as usual, from Crown Mill, on

SUNDAY 12th APRIL

beginning at 11.00 am

Open to all comers & lead by Footpath Officer Dick Burch

A couple of hours gentle walking on the footpaths in and around Elmswell

*Dogs on leads welcome
– stout shoes recommended*

CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM (SNT)



To speak to an officer from your local SNT, because they may well be out on patrol, the easiest option is to telephone the number 101, which is the new number across England and Wales for local police forces. You will then be told you are being put through to Suffolk Constabulary's Police HQ, where you can speak to the operator and either ask to be put through to a particular officer, or to Mid Suffolk South Safer Neighbourhood team office.

As an alternative you can email them directly through the following link:

Email: midsuffsouth.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

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What's On in Elmswell ?



To be included in our events diary make sure you send separate notification of your announcement.

For a full year's calendar of what's booked at Blackbourne, please go to the Parish Council website at www.elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk - it might help you in planning dates for your events.

April 2015

- 2 Elmswell Exchange Afternoon WI Wesley Hall at 2pm Members Meeting
- 9 Over 55's club Mystery Day out
- 9 Elmswell History Group 15th Anniversary meeting, Wesley Hall. 7.30pm, Report on our WW1 research findings into RFC Elmswell, and social effects of the war onto the Elmswell area and its inhabitants.
- 10 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 11/12 Elmswell History Group EXHIBITION, Wesley Hall, 11am-4pm - "Elmswell & Memories of the Great War". FREE ENTRY and refreshments.
- 13 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church at 7.45pm Florry Heller on Pearls
- 16 Food 'n' Friends Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 17 St. John's Ladies Lunch Group at The Wesley Hall. 11.30am
- 21 Gardening Club - 7.30pm Blackbourne Talk: Hedgehogs and Wildlife Gardening
- 21 Elmswell Exchange Social Club. Wesley Hall 2.30pm. Bingo + Bring & Buy Stall
- 22 Elmswell Library Friends AGM at the Library commencing 6:30 pm.
- 23 Over 55's club music by Shipshape
- 24 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 24 Fire Crew Bingo session at Blackbourne Eyes down 7.30

May 2015

- 1 Wine Experience. Spanish Wines and Tapas with Bob Stopp at the Library. Tickets available from the Library. Price £12.50 each.
- 6 Elmswell Exchange WI Annual Meeting and Resolutions
- 6 Elmswell Exchange Afternoon WI Wesley Hall at 2pm Annual General Meeting & Resolutions
- 7 Over 55's club Bingo
- 8 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 11 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church at 7.45pm Rachel Andrews on Eye Care in Bangladesh.
- 14 Food 'n' Friends Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 14 Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall. 7.30pm, Speaker: Nick Sign: "John Winthrop of Groton, and the 1630 Expedition to USA's Boston, Massachusetts"
- 12 Elmswell WI AGM and Resolutions we meet at 7.30 p.m. at Blackbourne.
- 15 St. John's Ladies Lunch Group at The Wesley Hall. 11.30am
- 19 Gardening Club - 7.30pm Blackbourne Talk: Elmswild - Kiln Meadow Update
- 19 Elmswell Exchange Social Club. Outing - To be arranged
- 21 Over 55's club Stowmarket Concert Band Open Evening visitors welcome pay on the door see May newsletter for more information
- 22 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 29 Fire Crew Bingo session at Blackbourne Eyes down 7.30
- 30/31 Woolpit Steam Rally
At Warren Farm, Wetherden, IP14 3JX

June 2015

- 1 Ladies Friendship Group outing to Columbyne Hall and Gardens in Stowupland. Meet at chapel at 6.30pm. Phone Margaret on 241541 to book your place. Open to men as well.

- 4 Over 55's club Details T B C
- 5 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 9 Elmswell WI 'A journey to Citizenship' Linda Scoles we meet at 7.30 p.m. at Blackbourne.
- 11 Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall. 7pm A.G.M., then Speaker Mark Mower: "Crime on the Home Front - law-breaking in the two World Wars"
- 11 Food 'n' Friends Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 12 St. John's Ladies Lunch Group at The Wesley Hall. 11.30am
- 16 Elmswell Exchange Social Club. Wesley Hall 2.30pm. Talk by Graham & Sandra Mack on 'Letters from the 1st World War'
- 16 Gardening Club - 7.30pm Blackbourne Talk: Bats & Work of Suffolk Wildlife Bat Group
- 18 Over 55's club outing to Poppy Factory with Lunch and Tour
- 19 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 19 Organ Concert in St John's Church 7pm
- 20 Coffee Morning in St John's Church 10am
- 21 Annual Service The Friends of St John's Church 10.30am
- 26 Fire Crew Bingo session at Blackbourne Eyes down 7.30

July 2015

- 2 Over 55's club Ploughmans Supper
- 3 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 9 Elmswell History Group - Annual Outing: To be arranged
- 9 Food 'n' Friends Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 10 St. John's Ladies Lunch Group at The Wesley Hall. 11.30am
- 14 Elmswell WI Outing
- 16 Over 55's club Music by Jim Bob Duo
- 17 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 21 Elmswell Exchange Social Club. Wesley Hall. 2.30pm AGM - Strawberry Tea + Raffle
- 30 Over 55's club outing to Felixstowe "The Hut"
- 31 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 31 Fire Crew Bingo session at Blackbourne Eyes down 7.30

August 2015

- 3 Over 55's club Holiday to Weymouth reservations now being taken
- 11 Elmswell WI Members meeting we meet at 7.30 p.m. at Blackbourne.
- 13 Over 55's club Bingo
- 14 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 27 Over 55's club Outing Carvery Lunch and boat trip
- 28 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 28 Fire Crew Bingo session at Blackbourne Eyes down 7.30

September 2015

- 6 Autumn Fayre - enquiries Peter Edmonds 241640
- 7 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church at 7.45pm Sue & Dave from Fresh Start on making soaps.
- 8 Elmswell WI Harvest Supper we meet at 7.30 p.m. at Blackbourne.
- 10 Food 'n' Friends Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 10 Over 55's club Mike Reed entertains

- 11 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 15 Gardening Club - 7.30pm Blackbourne Talk: From Mountain to Garden
- 15 Elmswell Exchange Social Club. Outing - To be arranged
- 18 St. John's Ladies Lunch Group at The Wesley Hall. 11.30am
- 18 Elmswell Exchange Social Club. Wesley Hall. 2.30pm Shared Lunch + Raffle
- 24 Over 55's club Harvest Supper
- 25 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 25 Fire Crew Bingo session at Blackbourne Eyes down 7.30
- 26 Christian Aid Quiz at Elmswell Baptist Church at 7pm. Teams of up to 6. £7 per head including food.
- 26 Elmswell Baby & Toddler Group Nearly New Sale

October 2015

- 5 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church at 7.45pm Pip Wright on History from old local newspapers.
- 8 Over 55's club Music by Jim Hawkins
- 8 Food 'n' Friends Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 9 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 13 Elmswell WI 'Story of silk and Pashmina' Jenny Gibbs
- 16 St. John's Ladies Lunch Group at The Wesley Hall. 11.30am
- 20 Gardening Club - 7.30pm Blackbourne Talk: Plants for Difficult Places
- 20 Elmswell Exchange Social Club. Wesley Hall. 2.30pm Talk & Slides by Mr Parfitt - 'The Realm of the Polar Bear'
- 22 Over 55's club Outing Wherry Carvery & Lowestoft
- 23 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 30 Fire Crew Bingo session at Blackbourne Eyes down 7.30

November 2015

- 2 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church at 7.45pm Paul Kemp with an Update on home in Romania.
- 5 Over 55's club Sausage Supper
- 6 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 10 Elmswell WI 'Craft' we meet at 7.30 p.m. at Blackbourne
- 12 Food 'n' Friends Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 13 St. John's Ladies Lunch Group at The Wesley Hall. 11.30am
- 17 Elmswell Exchange Social Club. Wesley Hall. 2.30pm Talk to be arranged + Bring & Buy Stall
- 19 Over 55's club Gala bingo night
- 20 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon

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Regular meetings at Blackbourne

Monday

Guides 6.30 - 8.00,

Youth Club 7.00 - 9.00, Zumba 6.00 - 7.00

Tuesday

Beavers 5.15 - 6.30

Slimming World 5.30 & 7.30

WI (2nd Tuesday monthly) 7.00 - 10.30

Gardening club (3rd Tuesday monthly) 7.00 - 10.00

Wednesday

Scouts 5.45 - 9.00

Jujutsu martial arts class 7.00 - 9.00

Thursday

Brownies 5.30 - 8.00

Over 55's 7.00 - 10.00 (2nd & 4th monthly)

Friday

Bingo (last Friday monthly) eyes down 7.30

BATS - Badminton & Table Sports - 7.00 - 10.00

FIT4ALL with Jo Butcher 9.30 - 11.00

Sunday

Sozo Home Church 10.30 - 12.30, usually every 3rd Sunday. All welcome. www.sozohomechurch.com

To make a booking enquiry

Call; 244134

Email; clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk





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