

'Like a friend dropping in'



The Elmswell Newsletter



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

August 2015

GOING?...
see page 27



GONE?...
see page 31



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

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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.

First the good news

Over the past 15 years, the Post Office has closed 3 of its post offices each and every week. Elmswell's busy, vibrant and much cherished post office has remained open – and there are no plans to close it.

Then the not-too-bad news. One in five post offices such as ours is going to change. 'Restructuring', one of those management-speak words that mean more than their dictionary definition – 'restructuring' is under way. Restructuring meaning a move into a nearby retail facility to become a 'Post Office Local'.

Then the bad news. 'Restructuring' for Elmswell means that the Post Office might move over the railway line into the Station Pharmacy.

Elmswell folk are not NIMBY's. We can't afford to be. Our 'back yard' includes lucrative brownfield development opportunities such as the redundant bacon factory...look out in next month's Newsletter for details of the developer's exhibition at Blackbourne of how they propose to arrange 190 houses on the site. We can take it...not really much choice.

No, we have made it clear in response to the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire that the driver for change is out of our hands, but that we can fight, should fight and will fight to make that change fit our idea of a growing community. So we will give reasonable consideration to the idea of no more Sub Postmaster and specialist staff...Tony Green, Stanley King, Bob and Dee, all consigned to the village archive of living memory as the service they provided becomes a 'secondary function', an add-on. We know what it means, because folk from Woolpit, where it has already happened, tell us. They tell us as we chat with them in our post office. They come to our post office because Woolpit's, 'secondary function', over the Co-op counter with the cornflakes does not provide all of the services a sub post office does, and retail sales assistants cannot be expected to have the professional expertise and judgement that we expect and receive at our post office.

But still, we will, fair-minded realists all, give consideration to a reduced range of services provided by well meaning but largely untrained staff. We get longer opening hours – no lunchtime closure, but no-one asked Dee if he would open lunchtimes. (He will).

So why have so many people responded to the Post Office Ltd consultation that they have had to agree to take a second, closer look at their

proposal by referring it to independent scrutiny? Why has Dick Burch's petition to stop the move attracted 500+ signatures in the first 10 days?

Why have the fair-minded forward-looking folk of Elmswell dug their heels in?

Because the proposal is downright dangerous.

Five different retail sites have been approached to house the post office service – on more than one occasion. Eventually the Station Pharmacy has accepted the opportunity. A site which, says the consultation letter, has 'forecourt parking.' That's true – but you have to be quick and you have to be good at a three-point-turn. Five spaces are available when the Pharmacy van isn't there and when there aren't any deliveries to the Pharmacy or to 4 Paws. The same letter assures us that the current post office shop sells cards and stationery and that 'roadside parking is available nearby'. The PO's own 'Code of Practice on Public Consultation and Communication with respect to Change in the Post office network' requires that they will, 'outline the implications for service provision, including proximity to parking'. A reasonable person might assume that they would actually take a look first?

However, what screams out at those of us who have taken a look, who see every day the congestion and hazard at the railway gates, is that they want to put a busy retail facility - our post office – in the most dangerous place that could be imagined other than siting it on the central reservation of A14. They invite us, some better drivers than others, to cross the railway line and turn immediately right. As long as the traffic down Ashfield Road will let us. As long as no-one is coming out of the Pharmacy or 4 Paws and blocking the access. As long as the last person in has found one of the 5 parking spaces free. As long as no-one is trying to get in from the Ashfield direction.

If we can't turn right, we stop. We can't park on the road...well it is to be hoped that all do realise that we can't park on the road! So we stop and wait for the entrance to be clear. Hopefully the car or van or lorry or 40ft rear-steer 16 wheel low loader stops behind us. Hopefully they have recently read their Highway Code and left the yellow box junction clear. Or they stop across the railway line. It already happens. The question that the Post office questionnaire doesn't ask is, 'Adding the post office business to the traffic flow will make the railway crossing (a) safer (b) a bit less safe (c) downright dangerous.'

There is a questionnaire. The important reference number for our consultation is **063112:**

- ❖ You can pick up a copy of the questionnaire from the post office

- ❖ You can ring **03457 22 33 44** and make your comments known

- ❖ You can search postofficeviews.co.uk

- ❖ You can write to: **FREEPOST Your Comments**

- ❖ You can sign Dick's petition at the post office ...or for more details and assistance, ring the Parish Clerk on 244134, clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk The Parish Council realises the seriousness of the situation – see page 27. They are there to help.

The Post Office has already accepted that there is sufficient concern raised to refer the matter for Independent Assessment. The pressure for this can be maintained until the nominal closing date of 18th August. They are looking to save money. Last year their profits were £900,000+ each and every day. The deal isn't done yet. There is room for manoeuvre!

Your Newsletter tries to make you aware of the threats and opportunities which we are, very frequently lately, asked to voice an opinion. The average response to Parish Polls is 308 voters. Well over 1,000 filled in their Neighbourhood plan questionnaires. 128 visitors took the opportunity to have their say in the recent drop-in consultation regarding the Hawk End Lane railway crossing. In all these cases, and at every election time, your Newsletter urges you to play your part, have a view, have your say. This time we must do better.

This time it could be life or death.



Your Newsletter Fact File

For the next 6 months we need copy by:

August 25th	September 22nd
October 27th	November 24th
December 22nd	January 26th 2016

...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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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.

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

ELMSWELL ART CLUB

Now that summer has eventually arrived and everyone is warm (at last) thoughts turn to holidays. Our members are a little thin on the ground at our meetings at this time of year, but we still have enough people attending the club to make it viable. Sitting and painting/drawing is a very relaxing and pleasurable way to spend a Tuesday morning so if you want to join us, please feel free to do so. You only need to bring yourself and art equipment (paper and a pencil will do) to experience the friendly atmosphere of our club.



The pictures this month are paintings by Henry Gow and John Welford.

The Art Club meets at The Wesley Centre, School Road every Tuesday morning from 9.30am to 12.30pm. £5 yearly subscription, £2 per session (tea and coffee included).

Denise Lawrence
Club Secretary 01359 245207



ELMSWELL OVER 55'S CLUB

Firstly I would like to sincerely thank Peter and Mary Feeney for their generous donation of £200 for our club funds in appreciation of the many happy hours that "May" spent at the club meetings, out on day trips and away on our holidays from the 1990s when she moved to Hanover Court until she passed away.

Our July 16th meeting featured entertainment by "Jim Bob Duo" which was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

The trip to "The Hut" was fully subscribed to for customary Fish & Chips, after the short ride to Felixstowe the morning started with tea or coffee

and biscuits. After the Lunch was delivered there was time for a stroll along the promenade for ice creams with "Afternoon Tea" being served before our return home.

By the time you read this item some of the members and friends will have returned from a short break at Weymouth (more details about our adventures will be revealed in next month's report.

The end of August (27th) sees us out for a Carvery Lunch at Wroxham followed by a trip on the Broads from Horning, final day for booking is August 13th subject to space remaining.

Our annual fund raising event will be at the Autumn Fayre on Sunday 6th September where will have Tombola, Cake and Bric a Brac stalls. If anyone would like to support us by donating tombola prizes, such as Bottles of Wine etc or unwanted gifts in new condition please contact me asap as if necessary I can arrange collection or you can drop them into me at Mayfield Wetherden road.

Diann (241002).



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CLUBS & SOCIETIES

ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB

The Bury St. Edmunds' wolves were running. Thanks to the organisation of this summer event by Margaret Randall and Catherine Reynolds, our Gardening Club members were able to enjoy an evening visit to the Abbey Gardens. The contrast between the bustle of the town and the serenity and beauty of the gardens was much appreciated. We all took inspiration from the imaginative layout of the flower beds and the interesting planting schemes. The wolf trail was fascinating from the wolf howling beside St. Edmund's crowned head on the Southgate Roundabout to the beautiful white wolf made from discarded milk bottles inside St. Mary's churchyard. Being curious, we had to examine this wolf closely, as from a distance it seemed to be covered in white feathers. We chased down other wolves around the gardens and found they were fashioned from various materials such as willow, hessian, driftwood and even a green wolf made from box hedging. As the bells rang out from the Norman Tower, Catherine produced a delicious picnic for us all. Although reluctant to leave this tranquil place, dusk was falling so we quickly exited via the postern gate. With the bells still tolling and the breezes disturbing the wolves, better to leave while they were still on their bases!



There is no Gardening Club meeting in August. We next meet on **Tuesday, 15th September, 7.30pm at the Blackbourne.** Our speaker will be **Tony Goode** on the subject of **'From the Mountain Glen to the Garden'**. We continue to be an extremely informal and friendly group. New members are welcomed 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.

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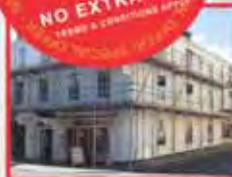
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ELMSWELL EXCHANGE AFTERNOON W.I.

THE MYSTERY OF THE DISAPPEARING SPEAKER

Our June meeting was to be special !

To welcome Drinkstone W.I. into the fold we had invited guests from all the other W.I.'s in our Group and our W.I. Adviser from Federation together with Drinkstone, of course. Our members had prepared home made biscuits and rather more expertise had gone into the preparation of the Hall. Our speaker, we understood to be of a special calibre and was to take us "On a virtual tour of the notorious highways and alleyways of Victorian London".

BUT, WHAT THE DICKENS HAD HAPPENED TO HER ???

After a great deal of embarrassment and worry, Mary Chown stepped into the breach and related her experiences at The Royal W.I. Centenary Garden Party held in Buckingham Palace the previous day. It was interesting to hear all the details of what seems to go on behind the scenes, what people were wearing and, most interestingly, what was provided to eat. Mary met other ladies who had travelled from all over the country, including the Channel Islands and obviously thoroughly enjoyed her day. All the members who attended were selected by ballot at their W.I. and we were only able to send one person from each group. We were all delighted that Mary had enjoyed herself and her account was very well received by us all.

Refreshments and lots of "catching up" filled the next thirty or so minutes and then Sylvia gamely ventured some stories of previous speakers she had heard at her old Insitute. These were highly entertaining and Sylvia had the audience in fits of laughter.

As the person responsible for arranging the speakers I left feeling slightly relieved. On behalf of our W.I. group I would like to acknowledge the contributions made by Mary and Sylvia who literally "saved the day". What did happen to our speaker ?? Well, she was on a publicity tour for her new book and it was apparently her electronic diary that made the error with the dates.

To add insult to injury, none of the members from the new W.I. in Drinkstone actually turned up on the day !!! Our guests that did join us apparently enjoyed their afternoon and went away happy. So, all's well that ends well.

Next month our speaker will be Celia Biscoe, who is a children's Book Illustrator. She sounds very interesting and talented and we are looking forward to welcoming her.

New members and, of course, guests are always welcome at our meetings. For further details please contact Barbara Yeates on 242788 or Maureen Davis on 241033. Otherwise, just turn up on the day.



APOLOGIES...this report should have appeared last month and we lost it!

Our apologies to the WI members who suffered a double disappearance!

ELMSWELL EXCHANGE SOCIAL CLUB

This month was the club's A.G.M.

Our chair person Sylvia Walton opened the meeting and said she would stand for another year but hoped someone else would like to take over in 2016.

The committee were re-elected en bloc. Yvonne has decided to step down as secretary but has kindly agreed to stay on the committee. The club would like to thank her for all her hard work which is much appreciated. Carol Blissett has agreed to be secretary.

After the Treasurer's report, Sylvia gave a report of the past year's activities which reminded us of the variety of events we had enjoyed.

Our next meeting on August 18th will be a shared lunch. A wide variety of food has been organised and all members have been reminded to bring their crockery and cutlery on the day.

On Friday 28th August the club are going to Felixstowe basing themselves at "The Hut".

Our September meeting will be a trip to Scottsdale garden centre on the 15th September.

After a delicious Strawberry Tea the raffle was drawn and the meeting was closed.

New members always welcome.

Any enquiries to Sylvia on 241 505.

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Our Annual Meeting was held on Thursday 11 June when the Officers and Committee were elected for the ensuing year.

Chairman	Tony Chaplin
Vice-Chairmen	Graham Mack and Peter McGee
Hon Secretary	Stella Chamberlin
Treasurer	Philip Blissett
Membership Secretary	Graham Mack
Meetings Secretaries	Sally Maidwell and Janet Sparrow
Newsletter & Refreshments	Jean Folkard
Refreshments	Juliet Walker

Kind offers of help were received from several non-committee members, which will help to continue the smooth running of the Club.

As usual, our Annual Outing was held in July and on the evening of 10 July a number of our members met up at the Suffolk Regiment Museum at The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St Edmunds. There were two groups, one meeting at 7pm and the other at 8pm, as the Museum cannot cope with more than 30 in a party. We were met by Gwyn Thomas, the Curator, who explained that the Keep is just a small remnant of the original Barracks which was built in 1878 and consisted of accommodation blocks, parade ground, and other buildings. The museum was originally housed in the Officers' Mess and was opened in 1935, moving to the Keep in 1968.

The Regiment, since its formation in 1685 by the Duke of Norfolk, was in 1751 designated the XII Foot, making it one of the oldest regiments in the Army. and had rarely been based in Suffolk until the 1870's when the Barracks were built. (The top floor is still in use as the Headquarters of the Royal Anglian Regiment) The regiment saw service in Flanders, the West Indies, France, India, Mauritius, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand and in 1914-18 served on the Western Front in Gallipoli, Salonika and the Middle East; during which time 360 Officers and 6,513 other ranks lost their lives.

In 1939-45 the Regiment saw action at Dunkirk, Burma, North Africa and Italy; after capture in Singapore in 1942 the rest of the war was spent as POWs and 87 officers and 1,508 other ranks lost their lives.

After the war the regiment served in Egypt, Palestine, Greece, Malaya, Germany and Cyprus, until 1959 when the Suffolk Regiment was amalgamated with the Royal Norfolk Regiment to form the 1st East Anglian Regiment, and today

is known as the 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment.

On entering the building and climbing up the stairs to the display room there are uniforms, drums, weapons, medals, photographs, etc - each item with a story to tell. Many of the medals have notes attached telling the story of the recipient, showing the bravery of the men of the Suffolks - two Victoria Crosses 'for most conspicuous bravery' won in the Great War, are on display. Gwyn had given us a brief history of the various battles in which the Regiment had been engaged and it was interesting to see familiar names like Dettingen, Minden, etc on the drums and flags, now names of roads in Bury, commemorating the history of the Regiment. There were many reference books which contained even more information

The Museum is open on the first and third Wednesday and the first Sunday in each month from 9.30am to 3.30pm.

Other items relating to the Regiment and its men are displayed in Moyses' Hall (open daily 10am-5pm) and the Regimental Chapel in St Mary's Church where there are memorials and a collection of old Regimental Colours, is also open daily.

This was a most interesting visit, giving an insight into life as a soldier from 1685 to 1959 and the Museum is a fitting tribute to those who served and especially those who gave their lives for our freedom.

The next meeting of the History Group is on 10 September when the speaker will be Dr Kate Jewell - her subject is 'Carnival! Drama and Popular Protest in Medieval Suffolk'. Subscriptions will be due and collected at the meeting - £6.50 per person + £1.50 each meeting attended, so for that evening or the first meeting attended £8.00.

We meet on the second Thursday of the month at the Wesley Centre, School Road at 7.30pm and everyone is welcome.

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

ELMSWELL EXCHANGE AFTERNOON W.I.

Our July meeting fell on the hottest day of the year, so far !! However, our loyal members turned out in force to hear about the work of **Cee Biscoe, who is a Children's Book Illustrator. Their efforts were not wasted.**

We spent the afternoon with a delightful lady who gave us a guided tour of how an illustrator works and how the end result of a completed book is achieved. Cee came along with a good selection of her work starting with early ideas and sketches leading to final proofs. All of her work is painted and not produced with the aid of digital graphics.



She obtained an M.A. at Cambridge School of Arts but was not sufficiently confident at this time in her life to follow this path as a career. Until her forties, her life went in a different direction. After successfully submitting some paintings to Greetings Card companies she reassessed her future. Redundancy from her job gave her the extra push she needed. We all felt that this had been a very wise move.



Her first commissioned children's illustration was for a book called

Gruff the Grump.

What a character he was! **We also met Super Pants,** an amazingly clever polar bear complete with colourful Y fronts and a cloak. Just our cup of tea !!



So many wonderful characters, and a few I have shared with you here. We found Cee a fascinating and talented lady and would recommend her as a speaker of merit. **Our competition was "A Favourite Book Illustration"** and Cee selected Lesley Clarke as winner, second was Betty Rice and third Barbara Yeates. Well done to them.

On the 17th June we enjoyed a trip to Sandringham House organised for us by Bobbie Fiske and Annice Webb. We had a lovely day which began with a tour around the Woolferton Station area to see the rhododendrons. It was beautiful and we all enjoyed this. We had a leisurely lunch in their very smart Restaurant and then everyone "did their own thing" for the remainder of the afternoon. The Sandringham Shop did well from us that day. Thanks go to Bobbie and Annice for arranging this.

After refreshments we went through the usual business and correspondence. Birthday girls were presented with dahlia plants and got a round of applause.

Next month, we have **Alistair Angus from The Elmswell Butchers** as our guest. His presentation is called **From Farm to Fork We welcome any guests who would like to join us for this meeting. Just turn up on the day.**





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NEWS FROM ELMSWILD



The Elmswell Medlar – now we're in the book!



A couple of years ago we were invited by the Tree Council to take part in their Jubilee Diamond Trees project. The aim was to plant a special tree in each of 60 different communities all over the country as a special gift to the Queen to mark her Diamond Jubilee.

The trees have finally all been planted, and all 60 trees along with photos of the tree planting celebrations have been recorded in a special book, presented to the Queen. The hope is that all the trees will flourish in each community's special place, serving as a reminder for generations to come of the long reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

As we've already reported in the Newsletter, our chosen tree is a medlar, a tree with a long history going back to medieval times, which we planted in Norman's Orchard at Lukeswood. It was planted with the help of Year 5 pupils from Elmswell Primary School (now Year 6, and soon to be students at secondary school). The children recently came back to Lukeswood to see how the tree is progressing. At that time it was just about to blossom – and it's flourishing at the centre of Norman's Orchard.



ElmsWild has two copies of the book, so on the last day of term we took one copy into school to show everyone the entry about our Medlar and the part they played in planting it. Everyone agrees – it's a great asset for our orchard and for the whole village, and we hope lots of people will visit our Queen's Tree for many years to come. One copy of the book will be kept in the village archive, and the other copy will be held in the Memorial Library. Do go along and have a look – we're on page 94! It's also interesting to read about the 59 other projects and the different trees they planted.

Pink, purple and white – orchids at Kiln Meadow

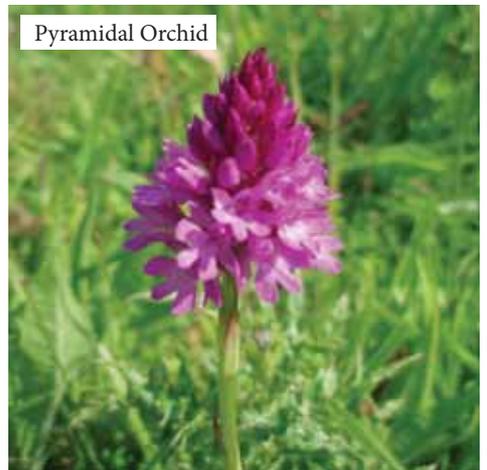
This has been an exceptional year for orchids at Kiln Meadow but, as so often with these fascinating wildflowers, there were a few surprises. We had about half a dozen Bee Orchids – not as many as previous years – but more than 50 Pyramidal Orchids, along with some splendid examples of Marsh Orchid in a variety of shades from nearly white to deep purple. They were a lovely sight from the end of May through to June – let's hope they keep on flowering in years to come!



Bee Orchid



Marsh Orchid



Pyramidal Orchid

Creative work inspired by Lukeswood

On their last visit to Lukeswood Year 6 children got inspired to make some clever and creative artwork. Some of these stayed at Lukeswood and others went on display in the classroom back at school – including these fabulous signs made of wood, nails and twine. Now that they're moving on to pastures new, our talented artists decided to give their works to ElmsWild. Thank you very much, girls – we'll put them on display at future events, such as Apple Day coming up on Saturday 26th September.

Mary Feeney, info@elmswild.org.uk





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AROUND & ABOUT

ELMSWELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

We have had a wonderful start to the summer!

As I write, more than 80 children have signed up to the Summer Reading Challenge, with a few having completed their first book and collected their first stickers already.

If you remember, the challenge is for the children is to simply read six books over the six weeks of the summer holidays, but they need to come to the library and talk to a volunteer about the books they read, perhaps read a little section or (if they're very young) point to their favourite pictures! It's an invaluable part of the year for the library, and it encourages children to continue reading for pleasure throughout the holidays.

The timetable until September 6th is:

Saturday and Sunday 11am-12pm

Tuesday 11am-12pm and 2.30-3.30pm

Wednesday 2.30-3.30pm

Thursday 3pm

Friday 2.30-3.30pm

This year there are new rewards to collect and new characters to meet as you progress through the challenge with each book you read. We had an amazing year last year, with 70 children completing the challenge and collecting their medals and certificates in another cake-fuelled celebration. You can still sign up, you will still have four weeks to complete the challenge.

And last month the Elmswheelians did it again, with another wonderful cycle ride through some of Suffolk's beautiful lanes to raise funds for the library. The Friday evening event, organised once more by Trevor Sadler, was sun-drenched for the 40 riders. And the donations plus the post-ride raffle helped raised an astonishing £550 which will go towards our refurbishment - provisionally planned for October. This means that the three rides the Elmswheelians have put on for us have topped £2,000! An incredible figure and we cannot express how grateful we are

to Trevor and everyone who took part. Thank you, it was a great night and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy it.

Elmswell Library is open Tuesday and Thursday from 10am-1pm and 2-7pm, Wednesday and Friday from 2-5pm, Saturdays 10am-1pm and Sundays 10am-3pm.

Have a wonderful summer, we hope to see you soon.



ELMSWHEELIANS 2015

Can I say a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who supported our Elmswell Library Fund-Raising Bike Ride on Friday 17th July 2015.

An amazing 42 cyclists turned out to tackle a very pleasant ride which took us out of the village via Warren Lane, then on to Borley Green, Shelland Green, Harleston Green, Buxhall Fen, Rattlesden, Drinkstone, Tostock, Norton, Norton Little Green, and back into Elmswell via Ashfield Road. Finish was "The Fox", for much needed refreshment, and more fun with a very well-supported Raffle.

Total distance covered was 16 miles.

Resulting from the evening's activities, we raised an amazing £550, which will all be given to our local Library to swell their current refurbishment fund.

Further thanks must be recorded to the many non-cyclists who supported us Elmswell Butchers, Mace Stores and Tesco Express; all the individual donors of Draw Prizes (23 in total); Lesley & Doug Reed for selling the Raffle Tickets; everyone who purchased Raffle

Tickets; and last but not least, Jimmy and all his staff at "The Fox" for their help, and for making us so welcome.

As to future rides, **all starting from Abbots Warren**, please note our next ride is on Friday 4th September :

Sunday 16th August - CANCELLED (with apologies).

Friday 4th September (12 miles approx.). Start Time 6.00 p.m.

Sunday 18th October (18 miles approx.). Start Time 10.30 a.m.

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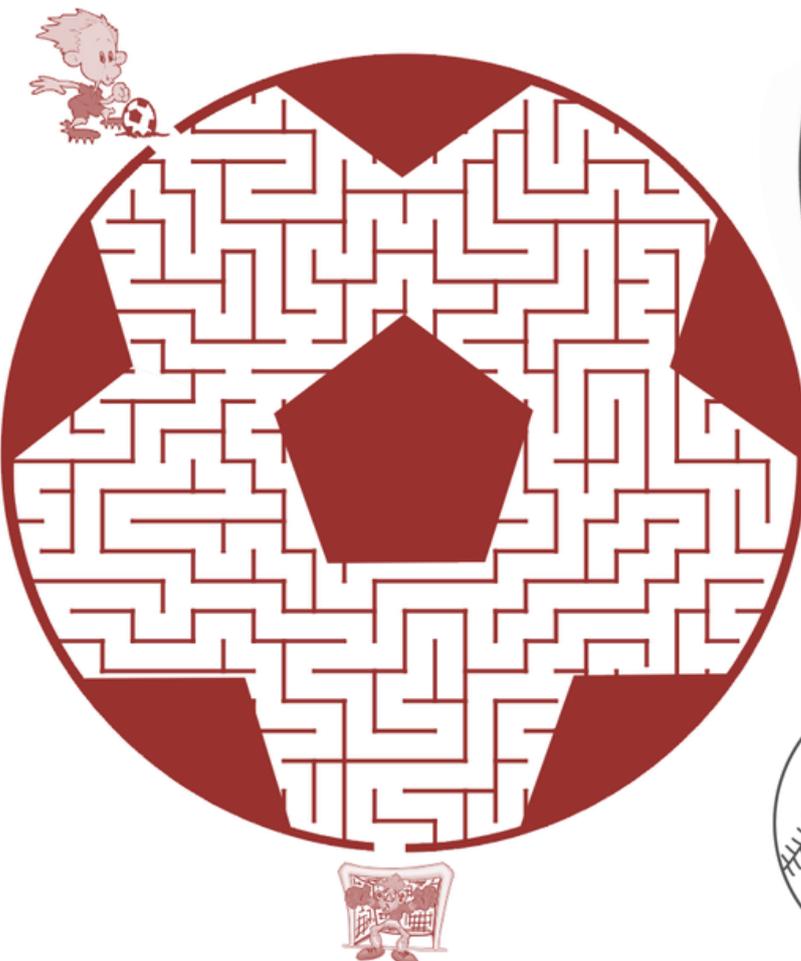
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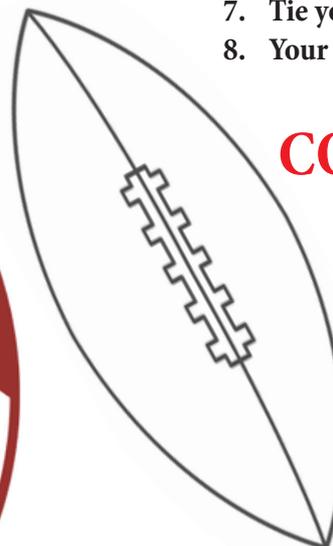
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STAN HOWE'S ELSWELL MEMORIES



Stan was born in Oak Lane in 1926, and had two sisters. From what he can remember of his Elmswell childhood (late 1930's), there was the Cricket Bat Factory (subsequently Tate & Lyle's, now Lyle Close), The Oak pub, and Mr Ball's garage where petrol cost 3s 4d per gallon in the early 1940's when Stan worked the petrol pumps there. Also, White House Farm where his father worked for 21s per week, and Dyball's Willow Farm near to which lived Jim George, a horse slaughterer. On down Ashfield Road towards the village was Mr Wyatt the Sanitary Inspector, then Elmswell Police Station, and the Baptist's Chapel where Stan went to Sunday School. Next to the chapel, there was Horrie Faires shop, then Nunns agricultural workshop where Stan used to bring horses to be shod, and remembers that Mr Nunn was the first in Elmswell to drive a car.

Stan also mentioned the shoemaker and cobbler, the busy Bacon Factory, Mr Godbold's Street Farm, and The Lion pub which held many events such as circuses and fairs. Onwards to Jacob's fish shop, the local Registrar, Sanderson's the dentist (behind where Margaret's hairdresser's is now), Jacob's Garage, and the Fox Inn where people could spend the night and where Greene King had their brass-funnelled steam-powered fire engine.

By the Railway Station were the old coal and goods yards, a small kiosk selling sweets and newspapers, and Pye's Timber Yard. Beyond the railway, there was the Albatross garage where they made 'The Flying Flea' aeroplane which actually flew from a local meadow. Down the drive, was another pub called The Crown, then a little shop called Farmer's (next to where the vet is now), and Jewers' Granary. Over the railway was The Bank House, the big Mill, the Post Office and several butchers' shops. Then into Hawk End Lane, Stan remembers Elliston's sweet shop, Miller's Transport down Rose Lane, and Davison's shop on the corner of (what is now) Pightle Close, as well as Rand's Bakery, and then on towards Stan's old school which his father had also attended.

Just past the school, Stan remembers Penny (now Parnell) Lane where there was a farm which he used to visit. Half way down that lane was a river, on the left of which was a little bridge over some water (used to be called 'the pond') and opposite were some elm trees, being reputedly where Elmswell got its name. Sadly, these trees were cut down, well before Dutch Elm disease.

Down Bunker's Hill was Stan's grandmother's thatched cottage where she had eight sons and one daughter. Continuing up the road there was Bunker's Hill Farm run by Woolnough's; then round the corner up the Norton Road, The Fox & Goose pub, and another farm, Elmswell New Hall (now the Stud).

Stan remembers the old Rectory, near to which he and his mates used to play football on 'The Park' meadow. Near the present-day roundabout, one of the houses had a well in the garden, where there used to be an underground tunnel (believed to be Roman, and understood to lead to Haughley Church), along which Stan and his friends used to walk, at least until their candle blew out!

In New Road were Jewers granaries, Hoods Farm (John Rannocho's), and Wrights electrical shop. At the Cooks/New Road corner there was a big farm and house called The Grange, opposite which was Jim Mulley's undertaker's (now "The Willows") from where Mr Mulley used to wheel the funeral bier up to the church and cemetery. Then there was the old Village Hall (now the Library), Hawes the Printers, and at the end of Prescott Drive Stan remembers the barber's shop of (German) Mr Kay. In Wetherden Road lived Clem Hardigan who used to do all the horse harness-making, and he also used to ring the church bells.



While at school, Stan had to walk from Oak Lane to school four times a day in all weathers. He worked on the farms during the school holidays, helping his father with the horses. He left school at 14, joined the Air Training Corps at 15, then joined the Royal Navy at 17. Sadly, most of Stan's schoolmates are now dead, but he remembers Terence Buckle (R.A.F.) and George Bruce. Other boys went into the T.A., then going with the Army to the Far East.

Stan served abroad from 1943 to 1946 with the Navy all over North Africa and the Mediterranean on a mine-sweeper (but that's another story, full details on the History Group's website - www.elmswell-history.org.uk). After that, he served 32 years with Elmswell's Fire Service.

When Stan came home after the war, he went to work on the railway in Stowmarket, and then became Horse Shunter at Elmswell, taking all the business to and from the Bacon Factory and at the busy coal yards. At the advent of trucks to do the shunting, Stan and his horses were made redundant, so he worked for Reckitt & Colman's semolina factory in Elmswell. However, when R&C eventually returned to Norwich, Stan changed jobs again, working for John Rannocho's at Hoods Farm (before they transferred to Haughley Park) for about 40 years.

Stan remembers the many Americans during the war, and "there wasn't a girl to be seen"! Stan flew from Ashfield airfield with the Americans in a B17 Fortress, this being thanks to the ATC's Commanding Officer, Mr Blaker (who kept The Fox), who persuaded the Americans to permit members of the ATC onto a local flight. They went out for about 90 minutes, experiencing a "near miss", but landing safely - what an experience!

Although the local American airmen gathered mainly at The Fox, they travelled everywhere in their Jeeps, and had much more money than our folks did. When they wanted to go to London, they'd all wait at Elmswell station, three or four deep on the platform, "never seen so many people at the station"! During the war, many tanks unloaded at the station, then trundled up the Ashfield Road to the airfield. British soldiers were billeted in tents at Haughley Park; it is true that the black and white American servicemen were segregated, the black men stayed under canvas in Tostock.

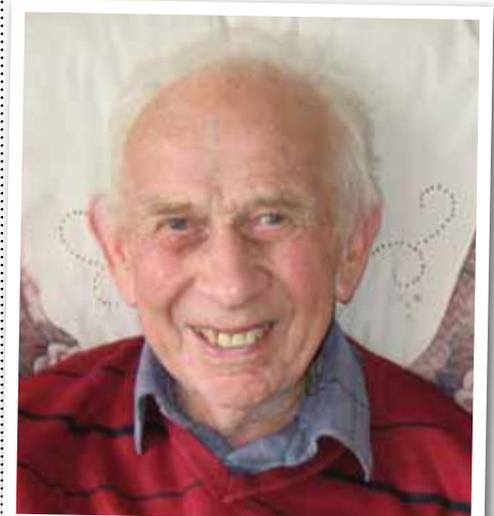
Stan's father served in WW1, captured on the Somme and endured three years in a PoW camp. Eight of the family went to that war, and sadly George and Charlie never came back. Stan's father was also in the village's WW2 Home Guard, starting as sergeant and then lieutenant.

In 1952 Stan married Evelyn, from Needham Market, remaining together for 62 years. Evelyn described a war-time incident when they were out potato picking, seeing a bomber come over which hit The Post Office, killing two people inside.

Stan also remembers the 1980's television series "Lovejoy" being filmed in and around Elmswell. A chap in the village used to maintain Lovejoy's motorbikes, and Stan played darts with the actor Ian McShane in The Railway Tavern. Although Stan didn't appear in any of the episodes, he remembers it as an exciting time for the village.

Stan returned to Malta for a holiday in 2014, re-discovering many places from 70 years ago when he was last there, and continues to live in Elmswell as an active member of the village.

Condensed version of reminiscences, as told to members of Elmswell History Group





Elmswell move to home ground

IT'S BACK. After a decade in exile, Elmswell Cricket Club has returned to the village.

The club has had to play outside Elmswell ever since the ground it used was sold for development. Now, through the parish council's efforts, the enforced absence is over.

Exhaustive, and skillful, negotiations with developers have culminated with Elmswell Parish Council securing the freehold of Blackbourne Meadow – an 11-acre recreation ground on which two full-size football pitches, a £60,000 bowling green and now a cricket pitch are situated. Some £16,000 has been spent on the professionally laid cricket square.

Graham Newman, chairman of the club which played all its matches away for two years before being based in Haughley Park for the last eight seasons, is delighted the club, which plays in the Mick McNeil Suffolk League and Mid Suffolk Evening League, is back where it belongs.

"We'll miss Haughley Park as a setting," Mr Newman said. "But it's great to be back. It'll be nice for people from the village to be able to stroll up to watch. That, of course, hasn't been possible for a while."

After a decade in exile, cricket returns to village

Mr Newman, whose years as captain bridged the difficult period when the club's future was in serious jeopardy, believes the club has to consolidate before moving forward.

"We do need to attract players," he added, "but I think this is a season when we'll have to be content to stand still."

"When we get permanent changing facilities [portable buildings are being used now] will be the time when we appear a more attractive proposition to those who might be tempted to join other clubs in the area who at present have better facilities."

The amenities are, it seems, in the pipeline. A £1million community centre, incorporating a social hall and changing rooms, for the village – the largest in Mid Suffolk – is more than just a dream.

Peter Dow, chairman of Elmswell Parish Council, said: "The planning application has gone in for the first phase of the £1m-plus scheme.

"We've put together a business plan for

the project. Our clerk is working towards securing grant aid and we're employing a professional fund-raiser. We're confident work will start before the end of the year."

Mr Dow feels that the cricket club's return and the facilities provided and planned will enhance villagers' lives.

He said: "It's very important for villages to have social focal points to maintain and rebuild communities. There is a danger of communities degenerating unless we provide places for people to meet. Sport is an obvious spearhead."

The club celebrated its return with a match against a Chairman's XI. Ex-members travelled from many parts of the country, and one even from Germany, to play.

Their journeys were made all the more worthwhile by a convincing victory, though the outcome was somewhat incidental.

By Simon Morse



ELMSWELL CRICKET CLUB: FORTY YEARS AND COUNTING...

Sunday 19 July saw Elmswell Cricket Club celebrate its 40th birthday. Although it can be traced back to at least the 1890s, the Club has not had an unbroken past. In 1974 local cricketers got together to re-form the Club which duly played its first game 'under new management' in 1975.

Forty years on, a remarkable number of former players - in varying states of 'fitness'(!), gathered to celebrate by playing a T20 match against current playing members. Whether through unbridled skill or as a product of generous sympathy (the jury is out), this special anniversary game was won by the ex-players under the leadership of the Club Chairman, Doug Reed, who was, as has arguably been the case for many years, more effective as a umpire than player.



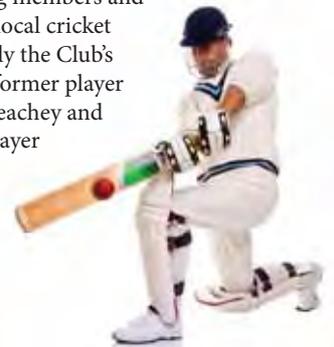
Turning the clock back seemed, though, to come effortlessly to many and the actual result was, in the end, a reasonably comfortable victory for the oldies in a game played in superb spirit

There were also many past players watching on from the sidelines and it was wonderful to see so many faces from the Club's past, particularly those so closely involved those 40 years ago.

With particular thanks to Waitrose for providing and sponsoring the food which accompanied the celebrations, the end of the game itself featured the inevitable speeches which mark such occasions. Particularly poignant was that offered by Colin Plowright, a founder-member of the Club who provided an emotional trip through the Club's forty-year history. Not least, he then unveiled the Club's new 'Honours Board' which now sits proudly in The Blackbourne in Elmswell, the Club's home ground. Current and past players alike took what

seemed like hours to scour the board to see if their names were included.

The board was specially commissioned for the occasion and was the product of hard work by Club member Terry Garner. In this landmark year for the Club, it will stand as a testament to all who have played over the intervening years. Further thanks on the day went to others who are long-serving members and well-known in local cricket circles, especially the Club's 'historian' and former player David 'Wink' Peachey and groundsman/player Nigel Burch.



a brighter approach

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10.30am Morning Service (all age) CW

Sunday 16 August

10.30am Family Communion CW

Sunday 23 August

08.00am Holy Communion BCP
10.30am Morning Service (all age) CW

Sunday 30 August

0800am Holy Communion BCP
10.30am Morning Service (all age) CW

and into August....

Sunday 6 September

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

On a lovely, warm, sunny afternoon on 19 July a large number of members and friends from St John's enjoyed a barbeque in the Rectory garden. An opportunity to relax and enjoy each other's company.

During August when there is no separate teaching for the youngsters we shall be having shorter, all-age services. Everyone is welcome to attend any of our services.

The Church will continue to be open for visitors during August on Sunday afternoons between 2pm and 4pm. Why not come and see this historic building which is also a vibrant place of worship. We will give you a warm welcome and make you a cup of tea!

The annual sponsored cycle ride in aid of the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust will take place on Saturday 12 September between 9am and 5pm. Would you be willing to take part in this fund raising event? You can walk or cycle to as many churches as you can manage; your sponsorship money will be split between the

Trust and St John's Church. If you would like more details, please contact Jean Folkard tel: 01359 242099.

The Friends of St John's Church

We continue our 20th birthday celebrations with a Beetle Drive followed by Afternoon Tea on Friday 14 August at 2.30pm in the Wesley Hall. Tickets - £5 - are available from Jean Folkard (242099). Numbers are limited, so please book early; proceeds will go towards the Church Fabric Fund, for repair, maintenance and insurance of the church building.

ChristiansTogether in Elmswell

Circus Fantastica comes to Elmswell - 5 mornings of fun activities, crafts, game, drama and Bible teaching from 17-21 August at the Blackbourne. For children in school years Reception to Year 6, registration will be from 9.20am; the morning's activities finish at 12.30pm. If you have questions or enquiries please call Jackie Hull on 01359 245918.

Booking forms may be downloaded from www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH TOWER FLOODLIGHTING

You are invited to sponsor the floodlighting of the tower at 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. For the summer months the lights will be on between 8.00 p.m. and midnight. A night's floodlighting costs £5.

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

AUGUST 2015 SPONSORSHIPS

- 1 in memory of Andrew Jones. "Always in our thoughts". Mum & Dad.
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- 1 treasured memories of Victor Shaw, a dearly loved Husband, Dad and Grandad. "Always in our thoughts". Rose and Family.
- 2 cherished memories of Dora Lily Handyside, a very dear Mum, Nan, and Gt Nan, on her Birthday.
- 6 4th Wedding Anniversary - Annette & Stuart Martin.
- 8 Happy Wedding Anniversary to Adele & Damian, from Mum and Dad.
- 18 in loving memory of Dean Goodchild. Love, Colin. xx.
- 19 in loving memory of John Davidson on his Birthday. From Joan and all the family.
- 20 Kay Mc Donald. Remembering our dear Mum today, which would have been her

100th Birthday. Lots of love from all the family.

21 John Bennington. "Remembering your Birthday". With much love from Elizabeth, and all your family. xx.

22 in loving memory of Betty Margaret Greathead.

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Parish Priest: Father David Finegan, The Presbytery, 29 Lockington Road, Stowmarket IP14 1BQ Tel: 01449-612946 E-mail: ourlady.stowmarket@btinternet.com

MASS TIMES:

Saturdays (First Mass of Sunday)

St Mary's C of E Church, Woolpit IP30 9QG - 6.00 pm

Sundays

Our Lady's, Stricklands Road, Stowmarket IP14 1AW - 8.30 am & 10.15 am

Holy Days

Our Lady's, Stricklands Road, Stowmarket - 8.00 am, 10.00 am and 7.30 pm

Weekday services in the Parish are advertised at the front of Our Lady's Church, in the weekly Newsletter and on the Parish Website www.ourlady-stowmarket.co.uk

Father David Finegan.



ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

Our picture this month shows some old members of the CU at CU Club, some were original members, who came to the Closing Party on July 14th and were seeing how much bigger their hands are now!! Sadly, the CU at CU Club will not be resuming in September, the leaders are simply getting too old!! We are praying that some younger people will join us in the work here which will enable us to relaunch a midweek activity for the children. If you're a younger Christian (ie under 60 although under 40 would be even better!) could this be what God is calling you to do?!



If you're going away over the summer we trust you will have real "Holydays" and will come back refreshed mentally, physically and spiritually. If the children are getting on your nerves (or you're getting on theirs!) after a few weeks, send them along to the Circus Fantastica Holiday Club at the Blackbourne from August 17th to 21st, 9.30am to 12.30pm each day. They will have a great time which you'll be able to find out about at the Sausage Supper on the evening of Thursday 20th. Telephone 241323 to register them or bring them along on the Monday morning at 9.15am.

Come and see us on our car boot stall at the Village Fete on September 6th - we'll have the usual array of things on sale and a fun game on the go as well with a prize for the winner.

Our midweek activities take a break in August but most will resume in September:-

The Ladies Friendship Group resume meetings on Monday September 7th at 7.45pm when Ann & Sue will be demonstrating Sugarcraft. Phone Margaret on 241541 for more information.

Food & Friends on Thursday have a month off in August, the next meal will be at midday on September 10th. 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.

On Sunday September 20th we will be holding The Big Welcome, a special event for those not in the habit of going to church. We will serve breakfast from 9.30am and continue with informal chat and discussion plus perhaps a taster of what we do on a normal Sunday morning. Do come and join us!

Put Saturday October 3rd in your diary now! We are again holding a Quiz in support of Christian Aid at 7pm. Teams of up to 6 people, £7 per head including food. Telephone Tony on 241541 to enter your team.

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:-

August 2nd Rev. David Thompson (inc Communion)

August 9th Stephen Spurgeon (All-Age Service)

August 16th Stephen Spurgeon

August 23rd Robert Foster

August 30th Stephen Horrex

September 6th The Congregation (Home Mission and BMS morning)

Another advance notice is our All-Age Harvest Service on October 11th, the Elmswell Scout Group will be joining us again for this and we will be having a Harvest Lunch to which all are invited after the service, please telephone 241541 to book your place.

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 any of the numbers in this text for further info.

Tony

WESLEY CENTRE USER GROUP

It has been a busy and productive month for our Committee. At the recent Parish Council meeting our Chairman, Helen Gunby, put forward a proposal which we were delighted to see approved. It requested the Council to work with us to save the Wesley Centre in its entirety, i.e. not just the site, but the buildings as well. This marked significant progress as the previous Council was only interested in the site. Further, it clearly reflected the wishes of the community.

The proposal included that a working group be set up comprising equal numbers of Parish Councillors and User Group representatives. So the real work now begins to try to find agreed options for securing the Centre's future. Success is far from guaranteed... but we have finally got the backing which we have needed and been seeking for some time.

Public consultation, on-going publicity and fundraising (at all levels) will be key to determining the way forward. Input from the whole community is vital in guiding how we use and develop the Centre.

We have also been working on becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) - a particular type of charity - and are, currently, awaiting confirmation of our new status, which will, hopefully, open up funding sources which would otherwise be denied to us. Finally, we have been working on and continue to compile a business plan setting out our objectives and development options for the Centre. As the Parish Council has, apparently, been doing the same since it passed a resolution in March, then we look forward to comparing notes and combining the documents for forwarding to grant-making bodies.

A Facebook group has been set up to keep people up to date with the progress we're making, and to enable local residents and Wesley Centre users to make suggestions, ask questions and share thoughts and ideas. Search for S.O.W. Save Our Wesley to find us.

If you can help, have ideas for what the Centre can do or how we can raise funds then please contact me: wesleycentreusergroup@gmail.com

Jen Tooke-Marchant
Secretary

CORRECTION



We headed last month's piece about the Blackbourne Management Association The BMA, "Elmswell Amenities Association."

Our apologies for the confusion.

The BMA - The Blackbourne Management Association, as the name suggests, manages the facilities at Blackbourne on behalf of the Parish Council which owns the site for the benefit of the community. Should this arrangement not be in place there would be no Discretionary Rate Relief from Mid Suffolk which would have cost the village this year £12,941.00.

The Parish Council pays for all of the running costs, improvements and maintenance on the facilities which allows another benefit as much of VAT on this expenditure can be reclaimed by the Council - a further considerable saving. The Parish Clerk's office handles all of the bookings, a convenient arrangement as it is open from 9.00 - 5.00 every day and on Saturday mornings. The Clerk co-ordinates the maintenance and day-to-day running costs on Council's behalf, manages any improvement projects and is line manager for the caretaker.

All of the income from the bookings is paid over to the Parish Council. The BMA spends none of the money. The Association makes recommendations as to capital expenditure for Councillors to consider. The current suggestions include external repainting and refurbishment of the original hall budgeted at £1,500.00, the purchase of a ride-on lawnmower for the caretaker's use in keeping the smaller areas of Blackbourne Meadow trim at a possible cost of £2,000.00 against which can be offset the annual fee currently paid to a contractor for this work, new curtains for the Chamberlayne Hall as suggested by the WI and a portable sound system to serve all of the letting rooms as well as outside areas when needed.

The BMA is made up of representatives of the village clubs and societies which use the facilities together with 3 parish councillors and 2 elected members.

The Elmswell Amenities Association is a registered charity which holds in trust for the community the Library and Memorial Garden site at Cooks Road together with the community sports field at Grove Lane. The Association comprises 9 representatives of village groups and organisations and 14 elected members. It has, over the years, developed the award winning Newsletter and the annual Autumn Fayre which, together with the rental income from the Library, have generated income allowing substantial financial support for village amenities. This has meant, for instance, grant aid in recent years of over £100,000.00, towards the facilities at Blackbourne where the Association has worked very closely with the Parish Council in developing an extremely successful community hub managed by the BMA - which is where we started!

CAKE ALERT



Val's Bistro

...a key feature of the Fayre, would appreciate donations of cakes and other sweet goodies to sell on Fayre day.

Please contact Val on 241708 or bring something on the day.

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AROUND & ABOUT

TOAD TIMES - THANKS FROM THE TOADS IN YOUR AREA

It was great to welcome back so many volunteers from last year and to gain some lovely new ones from Elmswell. It enabled us again to mount full patrols at both our main sites. We suspect you all know where the sites are by now and have probably seen us with our torches and in our high viz jackets patrolling in the nights from late February to early April. For those who are new to the area – the Badwell Ash site is just outside the village on the junction of the Hunston Rd, Westley Way and The Street, and the Walsham le Willow site is in Palmer St. This year we have also taken on a new site at Stowlangtoft.

It was a rather unpredictable toad patrolling season this year. It was generally very dry and when the wet weather came it tended to be late at night. This was good news for the toads as hopefully they were able to cross safely unaided. (It can't be much fun to be picked up and stuck in a bucket!) However, it has made it very difficult to know what sort of overall movement took place as our recorded figures were well down this year. We know from informal reports that there were big movements late at night on several days and as far as we know no major road kill at those times.

We have learned a lot this year – that our toads much prefer to move in wet weather and seem to know instinctively when wet weather is on the way and wait for it. In other years they have moved on very warm but dry evenings but not this year. Now we suspect that they will only move in warm, dry weather if rain is not expected.

It was heartening to hear at our end-of-patrol review meeting how much people had enjoyed their patrols even on the quiet evenings. They commented on the beautiful sunsets, the barn owls, the hedgehogs, the moonlit nights, etc, and also what good exercise it was!

Again, it was a real team effort with people not just contributing their time but also their skills, eg making signs. **A big thank-you to all those involved.** Toad populations are very fragile - they need all the help they can get.

Also, a big thank-you to all the drivers who slowed down and even stopped to let us help the toads across.

We took on a new site this year at Stowlangtoft which stretched our resources. It would be great to be able to do more next year – so if anyone feels they can help please do get in touch. All we need from you is a couple of hours one evening a week during the six-week patrolling season between late February and early April. The more volunteers the more toads we can help.

If you can help in any way, please contact:

Ann Richards on tel: 01359 240279 or e-mail: ann@richards47.plus.com

Frances Bee on tel: 01284 828284 or e-mail: francesbee@btinternet.com



The Autumn Fayre countdown is well under way with just over a month to go. The Craft Fair is filling up nicely but we still have plenty of space outside for those who want to take advantage of the sales and publicity opportunity the event offers. I don't need to know if you are coming but it does help to get the layout right if I do. That said, with 11 acres to play with, we are hardly likely to turn any genuine village group away, so do come even if you decide at the last minute.



We have a couple of trade stands and would like some more so, if you have a business you would like to promote, please give me a call. A lot of people will see you over the course of the afternoon.

Morris Armitage, the estate agents are backing us this year and are currently making new advertising boards for us so we can up-date the ones that Terry Southgate organised I- don't – know- how- many years ago. This will be only the third set after all these years of Fayres so they certainly do last well and the new ones will keep M & A in the public eye for a goodly while.

Do remember that entry is free but there is a £2 charge for cars so take the healthy option if you possibly can and you can have an afternoon entertainment for nothing. It is still an amazing good deal for £2 for that matter. There will, of course, be disabled parking as near as possible for those who are not as mobile as they used to be.

One thing that I have be sure to tell you is that, although we have an exotic animal petting zoo this year, it is only open for two 45 minute sessions during the afternoon. The first session will be at 1.30pm and the second at 3.30pm. It doesn't compare well with the elderly couple who used to come and stay open all afternoon but they have retired now. As it was so popular, I was anxious to try it and we will see how it goes and decide what to do next year.

We will need our usual band of helpers; stewards, fence-erectors, gate attendants, car park attendants and site clearers so please help if you can spare an hour or so. It is a great way for newcomers to get to know lots of people in one go and quite a buzz when it all goes well.

If you would like to offer a different form of support then Val Burch requires various baked goods for her Bistro.

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Forest School



Forest Schools is a prestigious award and an asset to Street Farm Day Nursery. After a great deal of hard work Lisa Pratt has achieved the Forest School Level 3 Leaders qualification and is pleased to have forged a close partnership with ElmsWild enabling Street Farm Day Nursery to hold a regular Forest School session at Lukeswood.

Forest Schools is an inspirational process that allows children to have the opportunity to learn in and about nature, giving each individual child the freedom to explore using multiple senses to observe their natural surroundings.

Lukeswood is such a special place which will give children the opportunity to develop intrinsically, guiding and building on their own learning and development. The children will experience a wide range of activities such as den building, craft activities, using tools, mini beast hunts, group games, observing the environment and free play, all of which focus on building and developing their self-esteem and confidence. The children are encouraged to solve problems and work together, challenging themselves to try new experiences.

The nursery will provide a high staff to child ratio of 1:3 which will allow the children opportunities and challenges in the natural environment providing them with lifelong skills for the future ahead.

If your child would like to join in the fun at Forest Schools with Street Farm Day Nursery please ring the nursery on 01359 240592 for more information.

ELMSWELL YOUTH

ELMSWELL BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

We have had a fabulous few weeks after a special visit to Elmswell Fire Station, where our little ones got to enjoy sitting in the fire engine and had a turn spraying the water hose, even our mums got involved some seemed to enjoy the trip more than the children, we would like to say a great big thank you to the fire crew for having us.

We also have just had our groups summer party, and although the weather wasn't so good for us on the day, we still managed to have a great time and would like to thank all our volunteers and all those who attended for helping make it a great day, and not forgetting the fabulous job Pennie Rogers made taking on BBQ cooking.

New Chair

We would like to welcome and introduce our new chair to the group Donna Fisk, after losing Claire mackintosh-hall due to personal reasons, Donna has stepped up to take on this position and is a very keen member with lots of new ideas to bring to the group.

Summer Holiday Trip

We have a lovely trip to Colchester Zoo planned for Wednesday 26th August, if you would like to join us please pop along to a session morning

on Monday or Wednesday, sign up sheets can be found just inside on the table, please note there will be no toddlers session on this date,

Nearly New Sale

Our Autumn / Winter Nearly New Sale date has now been moved from September 26th and will now be held on October 3rd, don't forget to put this date in your diary, we will still be looking for lots of volunteers for this event to help with the running of the day, and cake donations are always gratefully appreciated which can be delivered to the Blackbourne Hall on the morning of the sale, this is the group's biggest fund raiser which helps us pay for all the running costs of the group and keep us going twice a week and throughout the summer holidays, sign up sheet will be going up on our toddlers notice board that can be found inside the Wesley Hall on session mornings,

Dates For Diary

- Colchester Zoo Trip - 26th August
- Nearly New Sale - 3rd October
- Halloween Party - 28th October
- Christmas Party - 6th December

Also just wanted to check our new date for our nearly new sale has been changed in the what's on section to Saturday 3rd October, thank you.



Our fabulous but crazy set of lovely ladies left to right our committee Jen, Charlotte, Sharon, Jo - Treasurer, Donna - new chair, Evelyn - mum of the bunch, Claire - secretary, Claire M-H, Helen, Pennie, Jo-Jo.

NEWS FROM FRESCH

Summer Fair

The Summer Fair was a big success which saw lots of children and their parents enjoying themselves on the school field and even the sun shone creating a lovely atmosphere. We would like to say thank you to everyone who donated their time to help out, to ProMech for their sponsorship and to Elmswell Butchers for running the BBQ. Now all money has come in, we are pleased to say that we made just over £600 for the school which will go towards equipment required.

AGM

Looking forward to the next school year, our AGM will be being held on **Monday 14th September at 7pm** in the school hall. Please come along and get involved. In all reality, without people to run the events that the children all enjoy such as discos and the summer fair, these events won't be able to continue. We look forward to seeing you there.

Enjoy the Summer holidays!

FRESCH



GRADUATION DAY

Street Farm Day Nursery's 5th annual graduation ceremony at the Jubilee Hall at the Blackbourne Community Centre

On Saturday the 11th of July Street Farm held a graduation ceremony for the 26 children leaving to start their new adventure at full time school.

The children were all presented with a scroll and a present from their key person, to commemorate the end of their their time with us at Street Farm.

This year the children also enjoyed a 'Prom' after the ceremony. They were entertained by the fantastic 'James's D Party time' company and also had a party buffet too!!

Over 80 family and friends joined us for this emotional event.

We would like to wish all of our graduating children lots of luck in the new schools. We will miss them all!!



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In a letter addressed to, 'Dear Customer' and headed, 'Proposed move to new premises and branch modernisation' (you can pick up a copy from the Post Office), Post Office Ltd have set out their proposal to move our Post Office.

After 87 years of dedicated professional service, we are asked to consider a move to, 'a till on the retail counter in a modern open plan branch where...the majority of Post Office products and services will still be available.'

This has already happened in Woolpit. Which is why so many Woolpit residents now use the professionally staffed Elmswell Post Office. It's worth the journey, apparently.

The proposal is to move to a counter in the Station Pharmacy. Which is an excellent pharmacy. However, it can only, according to the Woolpit experience, be a second rate post office.

Bob, who owns the building, and Dee, the Postmaster are aware of the problems that this will cause for their customers. The Parish Council is also aware – their letter, printed here, gives a good summary of the problems posed by the proposals.

A petition begun by Dick Burch, a lifelong user of the post office at Shop Corner, has already attracted 500+ signatures. Bob & Dee would be pleased to have your signature as well. They will also give you a copy of the consultation letter which invites a response.

Elmswell has accommodated change since the railway sliced the village in two back in 1844. We are not a cosy NIMBY community unwilling to adapt, to modernise, to grow. But this is a change for the worse which threatens to have someone killed on the railway crossing.

The Post office are aware. Our local councillors and our MP have been made aware. Now that you are aware, your support would be welcome.

To sign up to help, visit the Post Office while you still can!



ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL
Clerk to the Council, Peter Dow
PARISH CLERK'S OFFICE, STATION ROAD, ELMSWELL,
BURY ST. EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK IP30 9HR
Telephone (01359) 244 134

Post Office Ltd email: clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk www.elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk
Postofficeviews.co.uk
22nd July 2015

By email to postofficeviews.co.uk

Dear Sirs

Your reference 06311299

Proposed move to new premises, Elmswell Post Office, IP30 9BS

In response to your letter of consultation dated 06.07.15, I am asked by my Council to respond in the strongest possible terms urging that you reconsider this proposal for the following reasons:

- The new location is entirely unsuitable. The access from the south over the extremely busy gated railway crossing and immediately adjacent to that crossing requires a right turn. This is across the traffic heading from the north. The traffic flow is often extremely heavy and includes a considerable number of HGV's emanating both from the industrial estate at Grove Lane and from all points north of the village seeking access to A14, given that there is a weight restriction on the A1088 which would, logically, serve otherwise. Stationary vehicles waiting to make the right turn tend to cause backing-up in the box junction which straddles the railway lines. Vehicles become trapped on the lines which poses an obvious and considerable hazard both to themselves and to rail traffic. To increase this traffic flow by inviting considerably greater use of the retail premises adjacent to the crossing is unacceptable.
 - The parking available at the proposed premises is minimal and tight, allowing for only restricted manoeuvring. This will inevitably result in poor parking and subsequent further restriction on available space. Vehicles driving into the premises without realising the absence of a parking space will exit in reverse. As above, the proximity to the rail crossing on this extremely busy feeder road makes this a hazardous prospect.
 - The 'information sheet' states that, in relation to the current Post Office location, there is, 'roadside parking available nearby'. This is an ill advised observation. There is no parking at all on The Street, adjacent or on Station Road. A foolhardy motorist might park at the bus stop on School Road and then walk to the Post Office. Very few do because of the obstruction and hazard that this causes.
 - With regard to the contention that, 'forecourt parking is available outside the proposed premises', please see above. The existing location is serviced by a car park shared with the Co-op and having 29 spaces. It is estimated that the very busy Post Office often requires up to a quarter of those spaces. The, 'forecourt parking', offers the very cramped option of some 5 spaces as long as there are none of the frequent van / LGV deliveries taking place. The obvious shortfall cannot be met by on street parking given the weight and nature of the traffic, the narrowness of the highway and, again, the proximity of the gated level crossing.
 - Again, with reference to the 'information sheet', which would seem to have been poorly researched, the current retail operation at the Post Office incorporates the activities of a busy newsagent rather than the much gentler activity and footfall suggested by, 'cards and stationery'. If this ancillary operation is to continue, it reinforces the argument that the proposed premises are unfit for a busy trading operation. If it is not to continue, then the community loses a much valued service.
 - Since the change of location of the Woolpit PO into general retail premises, footfall at Elmswell has increased as customers seek a proper and professional service. To suggest that Elmswell customers might also have to seek a full service by travelling to either Haughley or Rougham flies in the face of reasonable logic, given the relative demographics of those communities. Elmswell is a key service centre, scheduled for rapid and considerable expansion. It would be unwise to reduce the status and capability of this vital asset as is proposed.
- Council has received correspondence from residents which backs some or all of the above. There is considerable concern which has prompted a popular petition. I have been asked to ascertain whether this is a decision which has been already made or whether the consultation exercise carries weight. I would appreciate, on Council's behalf, reassurance on this point.

Yours faithfully

Peter Dow

Peter Dow
Clerk to Elmswell Parish Council



ELMSWELL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Group has met twice in July. On 15th, Dave Chetwyn, the Managing director of Urban Vision Enterprise led a workshop session confirming the processes which the Plan has to now go through prior to submission to the Inspector and referendum and then considering each of the 10 main issues identified from the questionnaire returns. Urban Vision is a Community Interest Company with considerable experience in community planning matters and Dave himself helped establish the criteria and train the Inspectorate in the Neighbourhood Development Plan Process. The Parish Council has agreed to buy in a package of professional support from the practice, although the cost will be met from Government grant.

A regular Group meeting the following week looked at Dave's feedback from the workshop together with his suggestions for a Plan structure which includes:

- an introduction which defines and explains Elmswell and why the Plan process has been undertaken;
- Elmswell in context – demographic profiling, key characteristics of the settlement and its community, how we fit into the wider area;
- a clear explanation of the aims of the Plan – sustainable growth, balance of housing stock, infrastructure imperatives etc;
- community engagement...working up the issues identified in the consultations and from the questionnaires

- growth strategy – an overview of an approach to achieving sustainable development and growth;

All this feeds into the actual Policies which will form the guidance that developers will have to follow with regard to such things as where they may build, what they may build and what infrastructure must be provided to support their building.

The next steps include a Housing Needs Assessment and a Strategic Environmental Assessment, both of which will be professionally undertaken with Government funded direct technical support.

Various of the Group members have agreed to begin drafting the various text elements and consultation towards the direct professional support continues.

Such is the pressure to make progress, the Group is to squeeze in an August meeting between holiday commitments.

The group is made up of the following members who can all be contacted by email:

Marian Abbott	marian731@btinternet.com
Philip Blissett	pblissett@btinternet.com
Julie Cole	jules.cole@hotmail.co.uk
Peter Dow	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk
Peter Edmonds	peterjedmonds@tiscali.co.uk
Mary Feeney	feeneymj@btinternet.com
Terry Garner	terryjgarner@btinternet.com
Peter Goodridge	elmswellrector@gmail.com
John Levantis	john.levantis@midsuffolk.gov.uk
Sarah Mansel	Sarah.Mansel@midsuffolk.gov.uk
Fred Pallett	fjp@oilgasassociates.com
Shaun Pratt	shaun.pratt@btinternet.com
Ann Richards	ann@richards47.plus.com
Jane Storey	Jane.Storey@councillors.suffolccc.gov.uk
Lesley Reed	Lesley@reed.org
Julia Taber	juliataber@4icloud.com

WEBSITE



FACEBOOK




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Email: lisa.dressmaker@gmail.com





ELMSWELL YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB



Come and join us!

We are looking for players for all our youth teams; especially the u8, u9, u10 and U11 teams (school years 3, 4, 5 & 6).

We play in the Suffolk FA WAYS league on a Saturday morning and / or the Ipswich & Suffolk Youth Football League on a Sunday.

Training is Saturday mornings at the Blackbourne, Elmswell IP30 9UH.

Every child that comes along will get 'fair playing time'.

We welcome boys and girls of all ages from 5yrs upwards irrespective of experience or perceived ability.

Please see www.elmswellyouthfc.co.uk for further information or contact Gary on 07799 030163.

Come and join in the football fun.



ELMSWELL CRICKET CLUB

Results

Sunday 28th June
Tendring Park 70ao
Elmswell 71-2

Sunday 5th July
Elmswell 198-4
Batisford & District 158-8

Sunday 12th July
v East Bergholt
Match Abandoned

Fixtures

August
2nd Long Melford (H)
9th Worlington (A)
16th Woolpit (H)
23rd Stowupland (A)

September

13th Tendring Park (A)

Contact Elmswell CC

Tel: Ian on 01359 244139
Email: elmswellcricketclub@gmail.com
Web: elmswellcricketclub.co.uk
Twitter: @elmswellcricket



ELMSWELL BOWLS CLUB

The season is now well on the way results have been mixed through all the leagues all teams have done their best endeavours with many a loss going on the 'wick' of a wood. Results to date as follows:

Stowmarket & District League Division 3

Monday Fixtures

Elmswell 70 (2) Stanton 74 (5)
Elmswell 73 (5) Combs Ford 69 (2)
Elmswell 64 (1½) Needham Market 82 (5½)

Stowmarket & District League Division 3

Tuesday Afternoon Fixtures

Elmswell 20(1½) Thornham Magna 33 (5½)
Elmswell 31 (2) Gipping Valley 34 (5)
Elmswell 19 (0) Stanton B 61 (7)
Elmswell 33 (7) St Botolphs 29 (0)

Bury & District league Area D Triples League

Division 1 Tuesday Evening

Elmswell 70 Stanton 63
Elmswell 56 Earl Stonham 82
Elmswell 70 Rookery 60
Elmswell 63 Mildenhall 65
Elmswell 59 West Row 69

Stowmarket & District Triples League

Elmswell 57 (1) St Botolphs 67 (6)
Elmswell 87 (6 ½) Bildeston 43 (1/2)
Elmswell 71 (6) Gipping Valley 58 (1)
Elmswell 53 (2) Thorndon 69 (5)

Bury & District League Division 2 Thursday

Evening

Elmswell 71 Risbygate 75

Club Competitions

Ladies Singles

Our club competitions have now commenced and on Saturday 20th June we held the Ladies Singles a straight forward knockout competition of 11 ends per game up to the semi-finals of 13 ends.

Other club competitions to be held throughout the season Men's Singles, Mixed Singles,



What every well-dressed bowler is wearing this year modelled by Michael Waspe he also plays well.

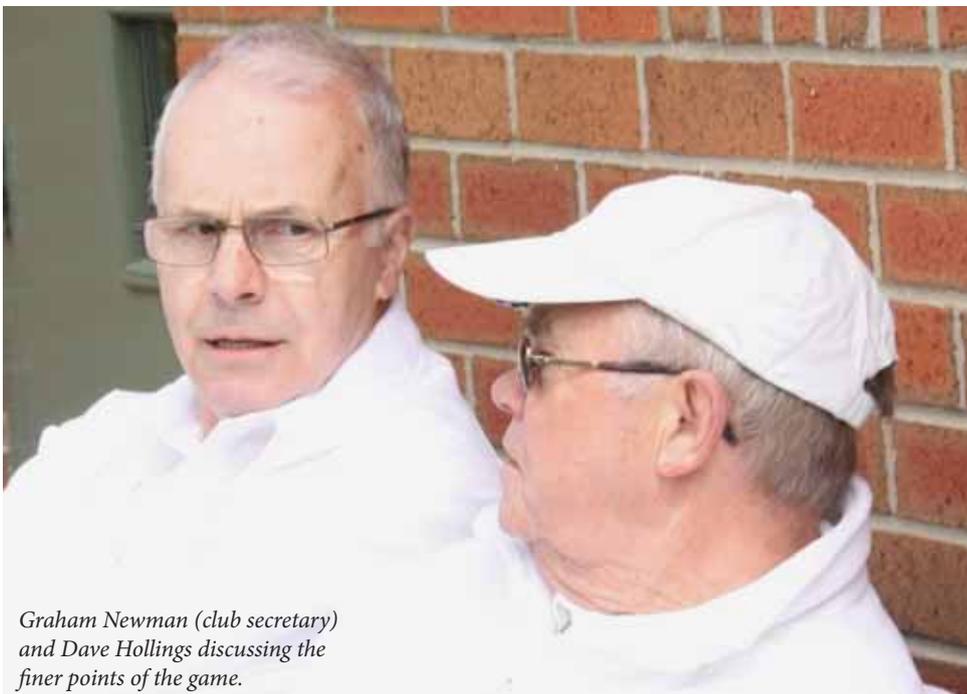
Chairman's Shield, Horseshoe Trophy and The Absent Friends Trophy.

Finalists for this event are Sheila Faulkner and Brenda Begg.

Due to a number of finalists not being available the original date of the finals day it has been changed to Saturday 29th August

Michael Moore

Thanks to Peter Edmonds for the photographs



Graham Newman (club secretary) and Dave Hollings discussing the finer points of the game.

ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL - AUGUST REPORT

Full Council is scheduled to meet on the 3rd Monday monthly, at 7.30pm excepting August and avoiding bank holidays. The July meeting took place in the Chamberlayne Hall at Blackbourne on Monday 20th with all 11 councillors present, along with Mid Suffolk District Council Ward Members Mrs Sarah Mansel and Mr John Levantis, Suffolk County Council Ward Member Cllr Mrs Jane Storey, Parish Clerk Mr Peter Dow, and 30 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, the Council Vice-chairman, and Cllr Steven Harrison, elected by his 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 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 June Council meeting, as approved at this meeting, are posted in the community notice board at the Co-op.

Mid Suffolk District Council

Cllr Mrs Sarah Mansel tabled a written report which included confirmation that the District is to join other councils and local partners towards a devolution proposal for Suffolk in order to better influence the recent Government approach to local public services. A new strategy to improve procedures has the target of reducing the time Council properties stand empty to an average of 28 days.

County Council

Cllr Mrs Jane Storey tabled a written report which included an outline of the joint initiative between SCC Trading Standards and Radio Suffolk to raise awareness of the increasing problem of fraudulent scams across the County. Bins are to be available for people to deposit suspicious communications, all of which will be analysed and the information shared with Trading Standards and partner enforcement agencies in the UK.

Police

PC Neil Brown and PCSO Steve Pendergast tabled a written report noting 10 crimes reported in Elmswell during the last month whilst 37 telephone calls from residents included road related offences, alarms, harassment, highway disruption, animal/wildlife issues, suspicious circumstances, environmental issues, criminal damage and civil dispute.

An operation to tackle criminals using Suffolk roads has resulted in 38 targeted vehicles being stopped and three arrests being made. Of the 38 vehicles apprehended, only 3 were free of any offences.

Police in Norfolk and Suffolk have launched an awareness campaign encouraging people to protect their personal information. The, 'Not With My Name', campaign, produced in partnership with the National Policing Lead for Fraud and the City of London Police is targeting identity crime in our communities. Identity fraud is an offence to which one in four UK adults (12.275 million people) are believed to have fallen victim, losing on average £1,200 each. Total losses to the UK adult population are estimated to be £3.3 billion.

BMA

Cllr Peter Edmonds, as Secretary to the Blackbourne Management Association which manages the facilities at The Blackbourne on Council's behalf, tabled a report which included both the Association's AGM and the first meeting of the new Committee.

The Chairman's Report to the former listed recent improvements at Blackbourne which the Association had driven and encouraged and confirmed that, to a large extent, their long standing programme of community improvement at the site was complete pending feedback from the Neighbourhood Plan which might suggest new directions. He regretted recent discouraging comments from the new Chairman of the Parish Council regarding the efforts of the volunteer members and urged that heads should not go down in face of the criticism. Turnover has doubled in the past 4 years and over the past 10 years the Association has earned £135,000.00 to hand over to the Council which spends it on running costs and improvements. The Committee meeting followed immediately on from the AGM and confirmed that the next most pressing task is the painting of the outside of the original hall, including the removal of the dilapidated MDF cladding.

Emergency action

In a written report, the Clerk thanked Councillors for agreeing to retain the powers that their Officer has always had to act quickly in authorising expenditure when necessary on grounds of safety or otherwise. He cited 3 recent incidents involving a broken manhole, dangerous broken tree bough and a large high level Jubilee Hall window smashed. All had been dealt with immediately and very efficiently using the Council's designated contractors.

Planning

The Meeting noted that Permission has been granted for work to trees at 4 Grange Meadows, for a barn conversion at Dagwood Farm on Ashfield Road and for a BMX / Cycle Skills track at Old Schools Court.

Hawk End Lane railway crossing

The Outline Planning Permission for up to 190 houses on the Bacon Factory site includes a Condition that the developer should fund

measures to reduce the risk posed by the increase in population immediately adjacent to an ungated footpath crossing across the railway from the new development to Hawk End Lane. A professional assessment of mitigation measures suggested 9 options, 2 of which were recommended as being achievable within constraints of time and cost. Councillors recommended that one of these options should be implemented. It proposes the diversion of the Right of Way along the side of the railway line to an existing underpass at Parnell Lane. This would provide an extended footpath network, remove entirely the risk posed by the existing crossing and can be effected well within budget. Any residue from the allocated budget of £1.3m comes back to the village to be split 50:50 between affordable housing provision and the proposed relief road. A road junction appropriate to the provision of a future relief road is also a Condition of the planning permission, however, the funding for such a road is only triggered if the Elmswell Neighbourhood Plan is in place by March 2017.

Councillors had the benefit of the Clerk's report on the consultation drop-in session held to inform residents of the proposals and invite comment. Of the 2 viable options, the footpath diversion was overwhelmingly the better supported. Support was also noted for the possibility of a footbridge over the railway at the station as a future project.

Neighbourhood Plan

It was agreed that Messrs Urban Vision, a Community Interest Company which specialises in advising on community planning matters, should be engaged to supply a 6 month support package towards developing the village's Neighbourhood Plan from the consultation stage towards referendum. The successful questionnaire and consultation sessions have provided pointers to the issues to be addressed and the general direction to be adopted. The working up from this stage relies on professional input which the consultants can provide. The cost will be covered by a Government grant, as were the costs to date which were met by £5,050.00 funding from the Government's Locality budget.



Recycling Centre

The village's recycling centre on Station Road is impeccably managed. The site is kept clean by a rota of volunteer organisations who visit daily. The Elmswell Over 55's Club recently did a 3 month tour of duty and it was agreed that a grant of £150.00 be made to the Club's funds. The Gardening Club are current custodians, combining these duties with their maintenance of the flowers on the station providing a colourful first impression to Elmswell for rail travellers. Other groups interested in taking part in the recycling centre scheme are invited to contact the Parish Clerk.

Post Office move

The Clerk was asked to make strong formal objections on behalf of Council to the proposal to move the current Post office activities into the Station Pharmacy. The new venue offers minimal car parking with no possibility of parking on the road adjacent to the railway crossing. The crossing itself poses serious problems for traffic trying to turn right into the car park when traffic can easily back up over the railway line.

Task & Finish Panels

When Council has a specific project in hand it can appoint councillors and others to form a Task & Finish Panel which meets to address the issues towards a recommendation back to Council for a decision. It was agreed that the Clerk should be automatically a member of all such panels providing an overview of the wider Council picture and with the powers to facilitate the activities of the group.

Cheque signatories

In the interests of openness and transparency, the Meeting agreed that none of the designated signatories to the Council's cheque account should also serve on the Council's, 'Internal Audit by Councillors', team. Cheques are signed by 2 members and the amount initialled by the Clerk who also initials the cheque stub and the relevant invoice which is also initialled by the cheque signatories. This process is spot-checked by 3 Councillors elected annually by their peers to audit the Council's governance and financial procedures and processes as required. The report of this audit is published and goes forward to the Council's Internal Auditor, an independent body whose findings go forward to the Government appointed External Auditor for formal signing off.

Trees

Wayne Jarvis & Son, retained as the Council's designated contractor for all tree work, are to be asked to cut back the trees on Crown Mill which are causing a nuisance and potential damage to the adjacent house and to tackle the annual maintenance of trees in the cemetery on Church Hill. The budget is £300.00.

Wesley Centre

A working group comprising equal numbers of parish councillors and representatives from the User Group Committee are to meet with the objective of saving the Wesley Centre in its entirety. The site on School Road is to be sold by the Methodist Church who have given notice of their intention to apply for Planning permission for residential development.

Council employees' wages

The Public were excluded from the meeting during discussion on the wages of hourly paid staff. It was agreed that, in line with an earlier decision to pay the National Living Wage, this should be raised to £7.85 per hour at a cost over the year of £332.80.

Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 21st September at 7.30pm 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, for the time being, 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.



WESLEY SITE PLANNING APPLICATION

The Methodist Church has lodged a Planning application – reference 2396/15 – with Mid Suffolk for: THE ERECTION OF A 2 STOREY DWELLING WITH PARKING AND ACCESS TO ROSE LANE FOLLOWING DEMOLITION OF WESLEY HALL.

More details are available on their website and from the Parish Clerk.

A Parish Council Planning Committee meeting is called for Monday 17th August at 7.30 in the Blackbourne to discuss the application and to make comment to Mid Suffolk. The public are welcome.

RAILWAY CROSSING CLOSED

Maintenance work will close the road over the crossing overnight from 11.00pm until 7.30 am on SATURDAY NIGHT 8th AUGUST

Contact the Parish Clerk for more details.

FOOTPATH WALK

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

**SUNDAY
9th AUGUST**

beginning at 11.00 am

Open to all comers & led 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*

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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.

August 2015

- 3 Over 55's club Holiday to Weymouth reservations now being taken
- 5 Elmswell Exchange WI, 2pm in the Wesley Community Centre. Alistair Angus - Elmswell Butchers. From Farm to Fork. Competition: A bull or cow in any medium
- 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
- 17-21 Churches' Holiday Club at Blackbourne
- 18 Exchange Club Shared Lunch
- 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

- 2 Elmswell Exchange WI, 2pm in the Wesley Community Centre. Dorothy Odam-Tyler MBE. The Life and Times of the Golden Girl of British Athletics 1936-1956 by Barry Tyler. Competition: Photograph of an Athlete
- 6 Autumn Fayre - enquiries Peter Edmonds 241640
- 7 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church at 7.45pm Ann and Sue with a demonstration of Sugarcraft.
- 8 Elmswell WI Harvest Supper we meet at 7.30 p.m. at Blackbourne.
- 10 **Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall.** 7.30pm, Speaker Dr Kate Jewell: "*Carnival! - Drama & Popular Protest in Medieval Suffolk*". *Annual SUBS due.*
- 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
- 13 Harvest Festival St John's Church 10.30am
- 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
- 20 9.30am The Big Welcome at Elmswell Baptist Church
- 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

October 2015

- 3 Elmswell Baby & Toddler Group Nearly New Sale
- 3 Christian Aid Quiz at Elmswell Baptist Church at 7pm. Teams of up to 6. £7 per head including food.
- 5 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church at 7.45pm Pip Wright on History from old local newspapers.

- 7 Elmswell Exchange WI, 2pm in the Wesley Community Centre. Graham Higgins. Tales from the Bench (with your change to sentence a miscreant!!). Competition: A favourite painting or drawing
- 8 **Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall.** 7.30pm, Speaker Phil Hadwen: *Felixstowe Seaplanes* *December Tickets will be on sale*
- 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.
- 4 Elmswell Exchange WI, 2pm in the Wesley Community Centre. Graham Jenner. A journey through NW Australia. Competition: Something Australian?
- 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 **Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall.** 7.30pm, Speaker Robert Leader: "*In Search of Secret Suffolk*" *December Tickets will be on sale*
- 12 Food 'n' Friends Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 13 St. John's Ladies Lunch Group at The Wesley Hall. 11.30am
- 14 St John's Church Christmas Fair at the Blackbourne 2pm-4pm
- 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
- 21 Gardening Club - 7.30pm Blackbourne AGM - Speaker to be arranged
- 27 Fire Crew Bingo session at Blackbourne Eyes down 7.30
- 27 Christmas Wines with local wine expert Bob Stopp. At the Library commencing 7:30 pm. Tickets £12.50 each from the Library
- 29 ELF Christmas Draw at The Fox.

December 2015

- tba Elmswell Exchange Social Club. Wesley Hall. 2.30pm Christmas Lunch - date to be arranged
- 2 Elmswell Exchange WI, 2pm in the Wesley Community Centre. Christmas Celebrations. Presentation to Competition winners (please bring a small gift for the Bran Tub).
- 3 Over 55's club Salvation Army Carol Concert
- 4 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 5 Xmas Party entertainment by Pat James
There will be a further update for next months newsletter
- 7 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church at 7.45pm Nosh & Natter, entertainment from Jancis Harvey. Open to men as well.
- 8 Elmswell WI 'Christmas Party' we meet at 7.30 p.m. at Blackbourne.
- 10 **Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall.** 7.30pm, Ancestral Voices: "*A Tudor Christmas - an entertaining evening of Live Music Performance, on traditional instruments*" Light seasonal refreshments will be served. *This event is ADVANCE TICKETS only, none on the door. Tel. 01359-242601 for details.
- 11 St. John's Ladies Lunch Group at The Wesley Hall. 11.30am
- 11 Fire Crew Bingo session at Blackbourne Eyes down 7.30

January 2016

- 14 **Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall.** 7.30pm, Members' Evening: *Several short talks on members' own researches*

February 2016

- 11 **Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall.** 7.30pm, Speaker Mark Mitchels: "*Oliver Cromwell*"

March 2016

- 10 **Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall.** 7.30pm, Speaker Chris Miller: "*The Suffolk Punch Horse and its Place in East Anglian History*"

April 2016

- 14 **Elmswell History Group's 16th Anniversary meeting, Wesley Hall.** 7.30pm, Speaker Clive Paine: "*Suffolk Men at Waterloo*"

May 2016

- 12 **Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall.** 7.30pm, Speaker Justyn Keeble: "*Elmswell's WW2 Home Guard - much more than Dad's Army!*"

June 2016

- 9 **Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall.** 7pm A.G.M., then Speaker Brian Milner: "*Six Hospitals and a Chapel in Medieval Bury St Edmunds*"

July 2016

- 14 **Elmswell History Group** - Annual Outing: *To be arranged*

..and at The Wesley Hall each week..

Every Tuesday 9.30am to 12.30pm Elmswell Art Club

Tell us more - telephone 241841 or email: elmswellamenities@f2s.com

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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

Sunday

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

To make a booking enquiry

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