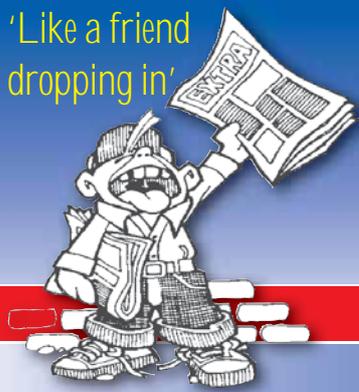


'Like a friend dropping in'



The Elmswell Newsletter



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

January 2015



Elmswell's Got Talent ...see page 1



Invasion of the body stretchers – follow the trim trail to Blackbourne...see page 6

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.

Before Dickens and Prince Albert set us on the road to turkey, tinsel and TV Christmas specials, the season was celebrated because, apparently...

With the end of the longest night the dark is defeated with the Return of the Sun, the return of light, hope and promise. The Goddess gives birth to the Sun. The Sun begins to wax and the days grow longer. All that is hidden will begin to emerge. This is the Sun's birthday! And it really is time to celebrate!

The rest is history. But very recent history. As recently as 1843 when Scrooge was convinced by The Spirit of Christmas to kick-start the turkey market.

For a long time before that Clinton Cards moment when the big-eyed urchin lad rushed off to buy the biggest turkey in the shop to earn himself half a crown and to earn Tiny Tim a place in Disney lore, we did feel the urge to celebrate, but not the celebration we've just enjoyed – or endured, [delete appropriately].

We had Yule logs. Ceremonially kindled at dusk using a brand from the previous year's fire. We passed around the wassail bowl and sang songs inviting prosperity and good health in the coming year. Our Chief Druid cut sacred mistletoe using a golden sickle...a long way from Black Friday, Click & Collect and supermarket adverts elevated to an art form.

The mistletoe still retains some of its ancient perceived power. It is still banned from some churches because of the strength of its pagan and magical associations. Whereas the main modern symbol of the ancient worship of green

nature, the Christmas tree, is not only accepted but celebrated in many churches. Christmas tree festivals are a common feature of many communities, bringing back to acceptance in full circle the seasonal symbolism of the ancient secular roots of the winter solstice.

This gradual confusion of the sacred and the secular has always been well observed in the words of our traditional Christmas carols. We remember the alms-giving 10th-century Bohemian duke Vaclav, aka Wenceslas, for no other reason, it seems, that that he famously trudged through deep, crisp, even snow. And, again thanks to Dickens, snow equals Christmas. No hint of nativity. We sing of three ships sailing by Bethlehem, a settlement which is miles from any river, and much further from the sea. A glorious mix of the sacred and profane culled from folk song and legend set to glorious sing-along tunes and dragged from the fields and the taverns into church. Despite research that shows that 26% of adults think that, 'In Dulci Jubilo', is an Aldi sparkling wine, the highlight of many Christmases is the nine lessons and carols service, not least the BBC version from King's College just down the A14. Meanwhile the highlight of many a lesser choir practice is the irreverent rendition of, 'While shepherds washed their socks by night...' and other parodies which are better left un-repeated. The process reversed as the songs come back to the people.

So where to from here? Is there any future for what we have known for the past 150 years or so as 'Christmas'? Is Christingle the slippery slope to Saturnalia? Coca cola invented Santa

and set the trend for commercialisation that has swamped the ancient festival. In a multi-cultural multi-faith society, where will it end?

Does it matter? With only a couple of million years to shrug off the ingrained terrors of winter darkness and the relief as the days lengthen, with only a couple of thousand years celebrating the birth at Bethlehem, surely change is not unreasonable? From December 22nd the days have been getting longer.

Lazily resorting to our 3 most reliable sources for the flourish of a closing quote, we have Shakespeare, of, 'Good Will to all men', fame, urging,

'Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon';

we hear Winston Churchill observing,

'behind the distant mountains is the promise of the sun',

whilst Lennon & McCartney

succinctly harmonise,

'Here Comes The sun.'

Happy New Year.



Your Newsletter Fact File

Our deadlines are important. It takes longer than you think to put the magazine together – despite our magnificent printers! Please help by sending us your contributions – the more the merrier – on time, and by email if at all possible.

For the next 6 months we need copy by:

January 27th	February 24th
March 24th	April 21st
May 26th	June 23rd

...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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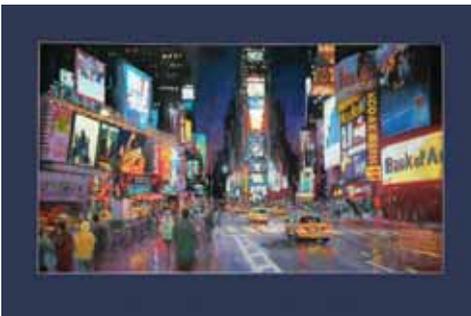
Deep and crisp and even on the New Year's Day walk... for the January walk see page 23



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.



ELMSWELL LUNCHEON CLUB

The Elmswell Luncheon Club rounded off another successful year with their popular Christmas festivities at The Bull, Woolpit.

On Monday December 8 members and guests enjoyed a delicious spread of traditional seasonal fare provided by hosts Val and Trevor and their team. A special 'Christmas' style raffle was held and in addition every member received specially wrapped gifts to add to their celebrations.

The Club's lunchtime was extended into the afternoon and was rounded off by a cup of tea, mince pies and a slice of a wonderful Christmas cake kindly supplied by Jean Barker. (Thank you Jean!)

After the Christmas break the Luncheon Club starts up again on Monday January 5 so, if you are 55+ and retired and want to join a happy, friendly group then please 'phone one of our Committee members on 241546 or 240268 for full details.

We meet at the Bull each Monday and transport is provided to and from Elmswell.

ELMSWELL W.I.

It is Christmas Party time again!

How this year has flown by.

Rachel is now in New Zealand, visiting her son and family, and so Janet was in charge of the proceedings. There were some dates for our diaries: 12.12, a craft morning at Liz's; 15.12, Christmas Scrabble at Anna's and 6.2.15, Soup and Natter at Park Farm. We were reminded that subs are due in January and are now £36 for full membership and £17 for dual membership.

The tables were decorated with evergreens, candles and sweets and hot punch was served on arrival - much appreciated on such a cold night. The committee had prepared a buffet supper of sausage rolls, cheese, pate and quiches etc. with meringues, mince pies and brownies to follow. Janet was a star, as always, preparing most of the baking herself, including a Christmas

cake, as well as bringing all the table coverings etc. Everyone had a most enjoyable evening, chatting to friends - there was lots of laughter! Later on, Daisy arranged a Bingo session. Many of us had not played for years and it was great fun. A good time was had by all.

We look forward to many more interesting times in 2015.

Rosie Collins 01359 241652

A shortened version of the report for November:-

Our speaker, Jane Robinson, who has written a book about the history of the W.I., related some interesting stories about its beginnings. Apparently, in 1918, these early members were quite reactionary: women formed democratic groups and were educated and inspired to consider topics, which were unusual for them in those days. Many of them supported the Suffragettes and they were instrumental in the formation of the N.H.S.

Rachel reminded us that the Centenary Baton would arrive in Elmswell on 17.11, before finally ending up at the Albert Hall in June, 2015. The main event of the evening was a Christmas Craft session, organised by Jane and Daisy. We were presented with an inspiring selection of trimmings, cards, papers, stamps, wool etc. with which to create our decorations. We obviously have, within our midst, a very talented, creative group of ladies, because there were some very attractive results. Also, we all had great fun!



ELMSWELL ART CLUB

Elmswell Art Club has now been running for over three years and is still very well attended. We run a friendly, inexpensive club with a wide range of artists - beginners, learners, accomplished and absolutely fabulous! We have no instructors - we all just come along to do our own thing - be it painting (in any medium), drawing or just a morning out to see what the other members are producing. Occasionally we will have a demonstration from an accomplished artist too.

If anyone wishes to join - just come along and see what the club is about. All you need to do is bring your own equipment (a piece of paper and pencil will do!).

We meet every Tuesday morning (9.30am to 12.30pm) at the Wesley Centre, School Road, Elmswell. The hall has natural light - which is important for artists and we hope that we can continue at this venue (the future of the hall is, at the moment, in doubt, which you may have read from the previous Elmswell Newsletter).

The Club is hoping to have its second Exhibition at the end of May at the Wesley Centre - so that everyone can see the amazing talent which exists in our local community.

An example (one of the best) of the art produced at the club is from Malcolm Wallis - a picture entitled "Times Square, NY (Original)".

Denise Lawrence
Elmswell Art Club Secretary
Tel: 01359 245207



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ELMSWELL EXCHANGE SOCIAL CLUB

On Tuesday 2nd December 40 members met at Wesley Hall for Christmas lunch. Betty Phillips had provided beautiful Christmas arrangements to decorate the tables.

We all enjoyed a lovely turkey dinner with all the trimmings and a choice of dessert. Thanks to Mrs Hubbard and her team for all their hard work.

After lunch Nina Wise played her accordion and everyone joined in singing carols and old familiar songs.

Father Christmas arrived and gave out presents to everyone.

The afternoon ended with our thanks to Sylvia Walton for all her hard work. Everyone received a cake baked by Sylvia's fair hand.

Our next meeting is on February 17th. We will be holding a Beetle Drive.

New member always welcome-enquiries to Sylvia on 241505.

Carol Blissett

ELMSWELL MILLENNIUM HISTORY GROUP

The Christmas Meeting of the History Group was held in the Wesley Hall on Thursday 11 December.

Around 80 members and friends were present and we were entertained by Mark Mitchels, who gave a selection of readings, including the old favourite, 'The Night before Christmas' by the American writer Clement Clarke Moore, an excerpt from 'Cider with Rosie' by Laurie Lee, an example of the Christmas 'Round Robin' by Lynne Truss (author of Eats, Shoots and Leaves) and to close, the story of the archetypal miser 'Scrooge' who is given the chance of redemption with the visit of three ghosts on Christmas Eve, from 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens.

A free Raffle was held and congratulations go to the winners of a £20 Co-op voucher, £15 and £10 Elmswell Butchers' Vouchers and a £5 Mace Voucher.

A 'festive' buffet had been prepared by the committee and was enjoyed after the entertainment.

Our January meeting will be held on Thursday 8 January at 7.30pm in the Wesley Hall. The speaker is Derek Palgrave and his subject is 'Interpreting Signs, Symbols and Trademarks'. Everyone is welcome.

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

ELMSWELL DOMESTIC OIL BUYING GROUP

Thank you to everyone for their orders during 2014. As a result we obtained very good prices. Wishing you all a very happy Christmas.

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The next order will be in January. Please give me a call by the 20th of the month, for delivery at the end of the month. Otherwise you can order in April, August or November

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

ELMSWELL COMPANIONS CLUB

Elmswell Companions Club enjoyed a special festive lunch at their meeting on 12 December, with entertainment by Johnny Guitar, including war time songs and Christmas carols. The group continues to grow in numbers and invites anyone (carers and 'cared-for' included) who would like to enjoy some company to come to their fortnightly meeting from 10.30am - 12noon at the Wesley Hall. Transport can be arranged, refreshments are provided and there is an opportunity to join in bowls and board games, etc. The next meeting will be on 9 January 2015.

For more information tel: 01359 242224. (see photo of Christmas party)



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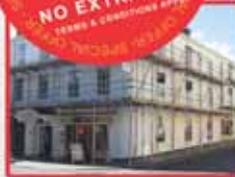
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CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

ELMSWELL EXCHANGE AFTERNOON W.I.



Our Annual Christmas Celebrations found us all on a bitterly cold afternoon, well insulated against the elements in our winter coats and warm woollies. The Wesley Hall was having heating problems so our gathering enjoyed an **afternoon tea** prepared by our Committee, including home made mince pies but their coats remained firmly on. Barbara, our President, welcomed our guest, Jill Reed, to the get together. Jill started our W.I. group in November 1999 with a handful of members, meeting in the Old Telephone Exchange Hall. Hence our name. It was nice to see Jill return to the fold, albeit for a brief time. The business was carried out and the **annual competition winners** were presented with their prizes and trophies. First was Florence Romain, second Lesley Clark and third Betty Rice. As we do not meet in the month of January, birthday flower arrangements were handed out for both months. A cyclamen plant was given to Stephanie who was standing down at this meeting and thanks were extended to her from the Committee and the members for her contribution to our Group over the last few years. Maureen Davis agreed to take over the secretarial duties for the remainder of our W.I. year.

Members then enjoyed some home-grown entertainment. A sketch, called **The W.I. Alphabet**, was performed on the stage by Carol Blissett and Maureen Davis. A range of varying odd and funny hats were used together with appropriate props. Carol very bravely stepped in at the eleventh hour to make up the duo as Lesley, who came up with the idea and did 90% of the work, was so full of cold that she couldn't speak let alone prance about on the stage. The members obviously enjoyed this short interlude and great fun was had by all including the "Hat Girls".

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 4th February** when we will welcome **Chris Parfitt** with his illustrated presentation **An Old and New Look at the Isle of Wight**. The competition will be a **seaside photograph**. We are an informal, friendly group and welcome guests and new members to our meetings. **Further details from Barbara Yeates on 242788 or just turn up on the day.**

theW.I.
INSPIRING WOMEN



THANK YOU

Just to say a heart-felt thank you to all in the village who have passed on their condolences and best wishes following May's death at the end of November. She'd reached the grand age of 94 and until quite recently had been fit, independent and very happy. She lived as a Hanoverian in sheltered accommodation for over 18 years, since she was widowed in 1996.

She came to Elmswell knowing only us as her son & daughter in law, and probably apprehensive about her future life, but the fact that she soon settled and made many friends is testimony to the qualities that make Elmswell such a special place. Over the years, she especially valued the Lunch Club, the Hanover Residents club and the over 55s. In her last months she also received superb care from Woolpit Health Centre as well as from her carers Pat & Charlotte. Thank you to everyone who helped make her life in our community so fulfilled and content.

Peter & Mary Feeny



The Popular Fire
Crew Bingo session
at Blackbourne takes place on
the last Friday of each month
– except this month!

Eyes down 7.30 on

FRIDAY 30th JANUARY

FRIDAY 27th FEBRUARY

FRIDAY 27th MARCH

FRIDAY 24th APRIL

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**TAKE A WALK...OR
GET ON YOUR BIKE....**

...and take a look at the newly installed Trim Trail at Blackbourne. Parish Councillors Ann Richards, Sol Indurain and Marian Abbott persuaded fellow councillors to budget some £15,000 towards installing the state-of-the art keep-fit equipment. They had in mind the teenagers, whose energies might be safely channeled and older residents whose energies might be revived with a spot of brisk exercising.

This all fits in with the Elmswell's 'Most Active Village' accolade which brought with it an award of £1500.00 which Ann Richards,

who coordinated the application, suggested might best be spent on the outdoor table tennis facility at Blackbourne.

Ideal for working off the Christmas excess!



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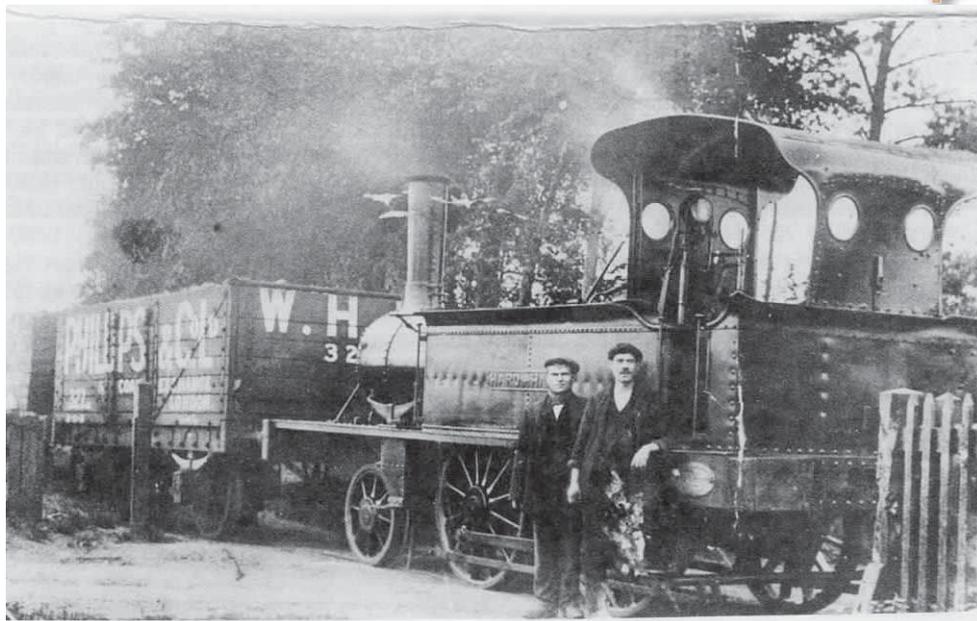
COULD THIS HAVE BEEN ELMSWELL STATION IN 1915?

“Porters in skirts!” gasped an article in the *Daily Mirror* of April 1915. This remarkable sight left a male porter staring “in helpless astonishment” at women actually lifting heavy items of luggage.



Women had been employed on Britain's railways from the first years of Queen Victoria's reign, but in limited numbers and with a low profile. By the start of the Great War there were 18,200 women in transport generally, but four years later this number had increased to an impressive 117,000, mainly to fill the gaps left by large numbers of men leaving to join the services. In 1914 there were just 3 female railway porters, but by 1918 this number had increased to a remarkable 10,000.

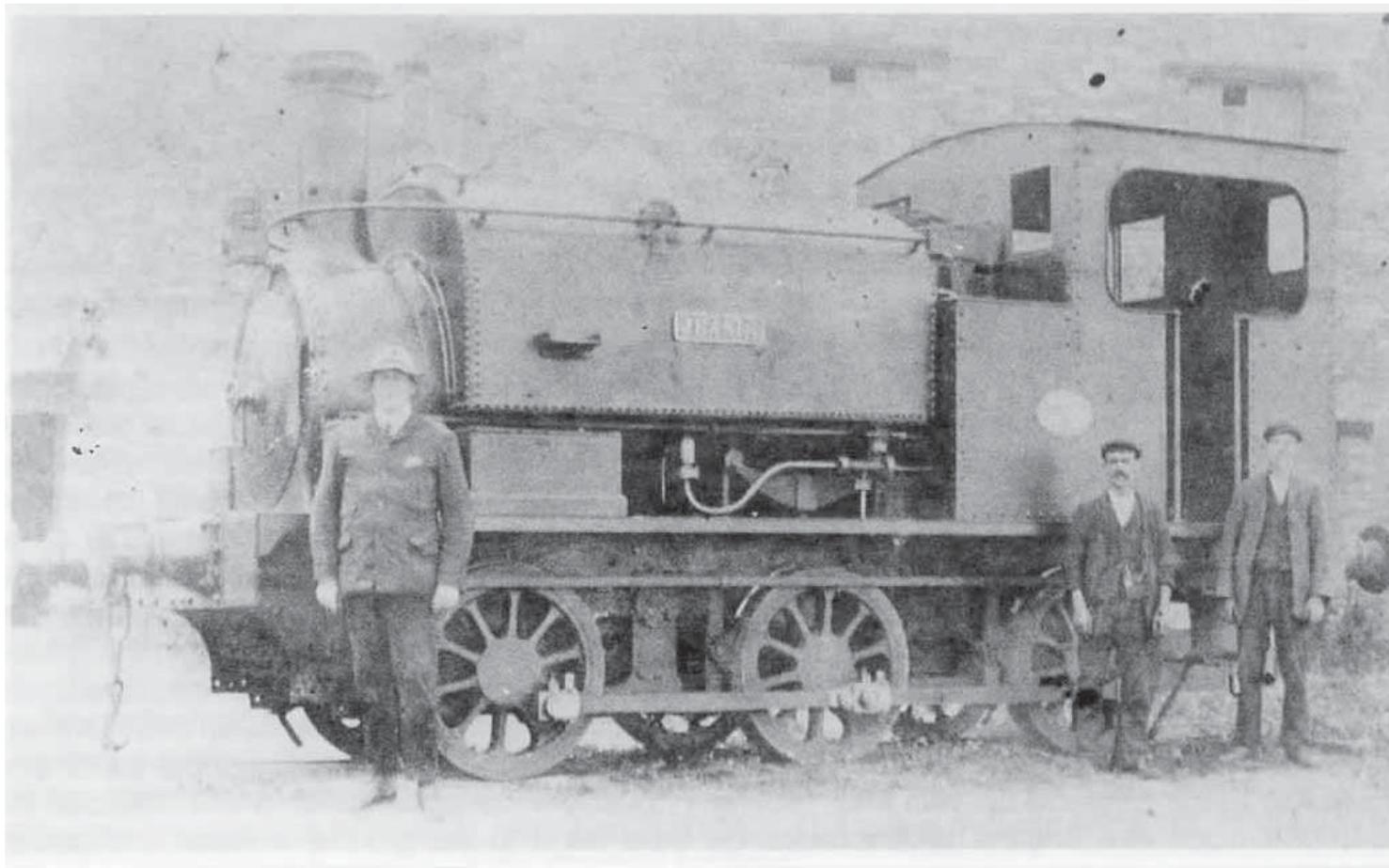
The Great Eastern railway line from Ipswich to Cambridge (via Elmswell) opened in late 1846, so Elmswell Station must have been an important employer in the village well before,



during and beyond the Great War. Do you or older family members have any record of women (or, indeed, men!) working at our village railway station between the years 1914-1918? Maybe you know of Elmswell railway staff who either served in WW1 or were exempt from war service as a “reserved occupation”, or possibly worked on the spur line to the brickworks of the Woolpit Brick & Tile Co (from 1911)? See attached two photos – the first shows a coal train on a road crossing (which road?) from Elmswell Station in about 1915; the second was in front of the boiler house at Woolpit with manager and crew in about 1912. Can you name any of the men shown?

If so, we would love to hear from you, to add to our WW1 researches for the History Group's exhibition next April. Many thanks, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Stella Chamberlin &
Anne McGee,
Elmswell History Group
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or 244001





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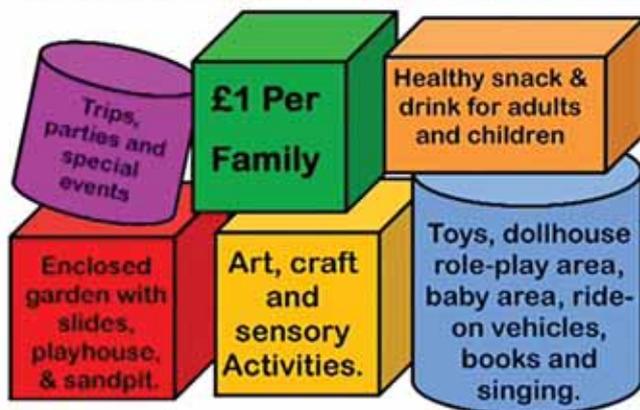


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ELMSWELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

We had a great end to the year at Elmswell and across Suffolk Libraries. You may have read the independent Library Report for England on the future of public libraries, published on December 18th. The report was commissioned by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Department for Communities and Local Government. It was carried out by an independent panel led by William Sieghart. I had the pleasure of hearing Mr Sieghart's views at the Suffolk Libraries AGM in September, where he praised the work the organisation has been doing. And the report featured Suffolk Libraries' independent model as a case study which highlighted the importance and potential of library services, and stressed how important it is that this report results in positive action to support libraries.

Tony Brown, chair of Suffolk Libraries' Board, said: "We welcome this report which strongly endorses the direction Suffolk Libraries has adopted in the past three years. The report focuses on community involvement and digital services – both areas in which Suffolk has made great strides in recent years. We are proud of what has been achieved here in Suffolk by our organisation, our staff and the amazing support from the community.

"Working to strengthen links with the community is so important for a library service – particularly in a place like Suffolk with a number of small towns and villages where people rely on their library. Our community groups have worked with library staff to generate fantastic ideas."



And I couldn't agree more because we have been privileged to receive enormous support from our friends group, ELF, and our community. As 2015 kicks off my staff and I are looking forward to forming stronger links in the community and working with ELF to raise the remaining funds for our planned refurbishment, which we hope will be completed in the autumn.

After an amazing raffle, which saw 35 prizes given away and more than £420 of tickets sold, we received a final boost from Elmswell Stud, part of the Shadwell group. Richard Lancaster, stud director visited the library and donated £1,000 to our appeal. He was really supportive of our plans and the work we already do in the community and was interested in what we have been achieving over the past few years.

So look out 2015, we're looking forward to lots of excitement and making new friends along the way.

On behalf of all the staff and ELF I would like to wish you a very happy New Year.

Emma Yarrow

ELMSWHEELIANS 2014

We rounded off the cycling year 2014 with a very enjoyable 11 mile pre-Christmas ride on Sunday 30th November.

16 riders braved the uncertain weather predictions, on what turned out to be a quite pleasant November morning. The ride took us out of the village via Ashfield Road; then on to Hunston, Langham, Badwell Ash and home through Great Ashfield, to finish at the "Fox".

At the request of ELF (Elmswell Library Friends) the day had been organised to coincide with their Christmas Draw at the "Fox", which conveniently gave riders the opportunity to spend a couple of hours socialising in our local hostelry to round off a year which has seen the successful re-formation of the Elmswheelians after a break of several years.

Looking forward to next year, the programme of rides for 2015 will be published in the early spring.

New members will be most welcome. If you enjoy cycling, just turn up, and join with a group of people who enjoy "social cycling". We cycle purely for pleasure; at a reasonable pace, but not at speed; there is no membership; and nothing to pay.

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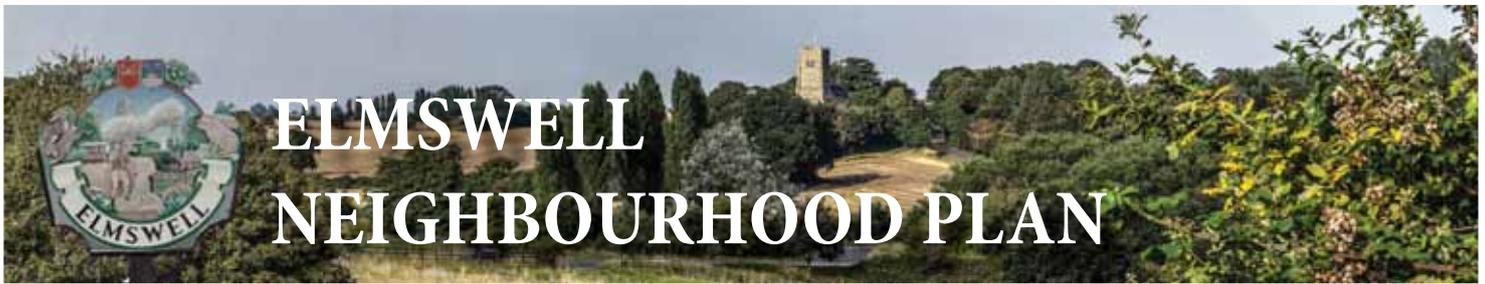


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ELMSWELL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meets each month to take forward the process which is intended to produce Planning guidelines for Elmswell that must be followed by developers for the next 25 years.

The Plan must be based on a sound assessment of what the community wants. Accordingly, the first few months have been taken up in devising 3 questionnaires. A general Household Questionnaire which will go to every house in the village, a Youth Questionnaire to be distributed through the schools and a Business Questionnaire.

Drafts have now been produced and Group members are making presentations to as many groups and organisations as will listen to test whether all the ground has been covered and whether it has been covered sensibly and in a user-friendly format.

Visits have been organised with the Art Club, Baby & Toddler Group, Exchange Club, Woolpit Health centre, FRESCH, The Ladies Lunch Club, The Millennium History group, Christians Together, and the WI. All of the groups and organisations with a wide membership have been approached with the aim of making sure that, when the questionnaires go out they are well put together and are looking to find a community response to all the issues related to the medium and long term development of our village.

The questionnaires will be finalised early in the new year and printed for distribution and return. The answers will be processed entirely by Community Action Suffolk whose computer software has been used to create the documents. The responses are entirely anonymous. Once there is confirmation of the areas of community concern as

they affect the planning process, a document will be written which lays down Planning guidelines that must be followed by all developers seeking to build in Elmswell.

The result is then put by Mid Suffolk to the village in a referendum which requires a 50%+ positive response for the plan to be assessed by a Government inspector and declared valid – or otherwise.

The Group thanks you in advance if you are one of the consultee groups over the next few weeks – so far the response has been very positive.

In addition, 6 local businesses have been good enough to review the draft Business Questionnaire and their comments are incorporated into a final draft.

The Group has obtained a grant of £5,050.00 from Locality UK towards the cost of the exercise.

Questions and queries are welcome via the Group's website elmswellneighbourhoodplan.org.uk or via email at contactus@elmswellneighbourhoodplan.org.uk

WEBSITE



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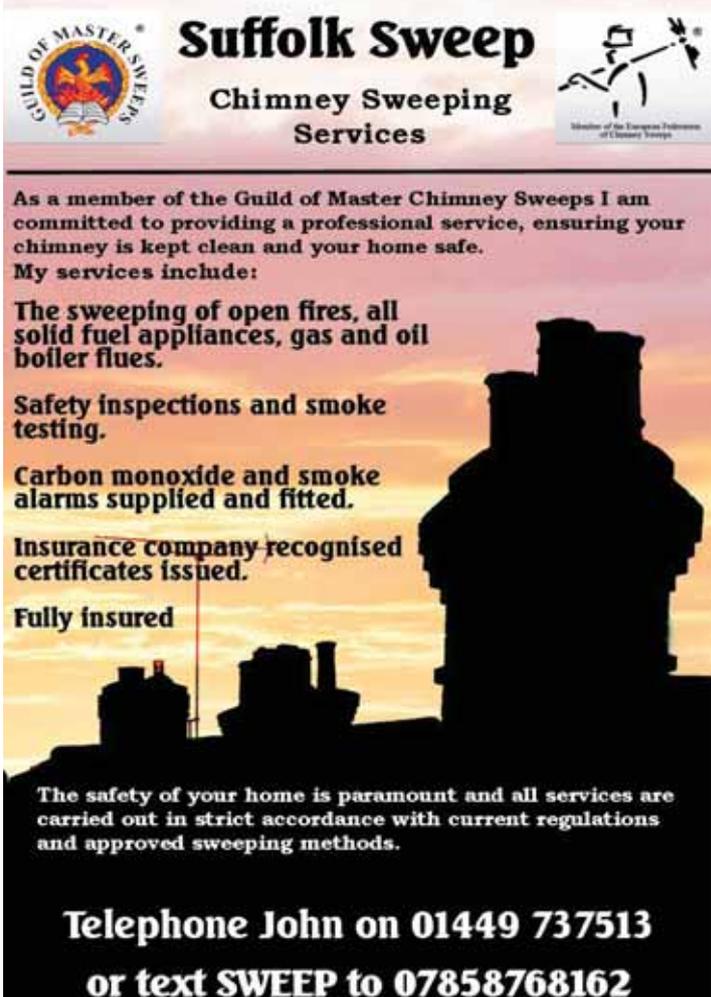
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ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

As I write this report we have just finished all our pre- Christmas festivities our Ladies Friendship Group's Nosh and Natter Evening went well with good food and entertainment by The Harvesters, as did our Food and Friends lunch and The Cu @ CU Club party, we finished up with two inspiring services on Sunday 21st our morning service was a D I Y service where we all took a small part some offering a reading, others sharing a few thoughts on those readings whilst all the hymns were chosen by members of the congregation; and in the evening our tiny chapel was packed for our Annual Carols by Candlelight Service, it was wonderful to welcome our old and new visitors, for this special evening service.

As well as our own services we were able to take part in The Village Carol Service at The Parish Church along with many other clubs and organisations, so we have had a busy time celebrating the coming of Jesus in that far off stable in Bethlehem.

We now look forward to 2015 in the hope that it will be a peaceful year and that the situation in the Middle East will be resolved, and bring a long awaited peace in that part of the world.

On Monday 5th January our Ladies Friendship Group meet for a surprise evening organised by Jenny Spurgeon ring Margaret on 241541 if you would like to know more about these friendly ladies and their activities all ladies are made most welcome.

Thursday 8th January is the first Food & Friends lunch of the year at midday ring Jackie on 245918 to book a place if you haven't been before, Food & Friends is run in conjunction with Age Concern (we can offer lifts if needed)

Tuesday 13th January CU @ CU club restarts for 5 to 11 year olds and runs during term time Contact Tony on 241541 for any more information.

Our Services for January will be led by:-

4th January The Congregation (Café Service with Communion)

- 11th January Stephen Spurgeon (All Age Service)
- 18th January Stephen Spurgeon
- 25th January Rev David Harper
- 1st February Carol Richardson (Communion Service)

All Services begin at 10 30AM

As ever we offer a warm welcome in a warm and comfortable building to anyone who wishes to join us for any of our services or group meetings.

Just prior to Christmas the world was shocked with events around the world, the café siege in Sydney, the school atrocity in Pakistan, the murder of the seven children in Australia, and the runaway lorry accident in Glasgow.

We will be including all the people involved in these incidents and others in our prayers and trust that you will join us.

Thank you and a Happy New Year to you all, from all of us at The Elmswell Baptist Church.



THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE PLAQUE

Many of those who helped make the bier shelter refurbishment possible are pictured here in front of the glorious restoration which is set to last at least as long again as Mr Borley's original 1904 building.

Talk is of bringing the bier trolley, not seen in Elmswell for half a century, back home – if only for a ceremonial visit in the future.

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What did the tornado
 say to the sports car?
 Want to do for a spin!

What kind of shorts
 do clouds wear?
 Thunderwear!

What bow can't be tied?
 A rainbow!

What falls but
 never hits the ground?
 The temperature!



You will need:

- A clear glass or similar see-through container
- Warm water
- Ice
- Metal or foil dish

Instructions:

1. Place the ice into the metal dish.
2. Pour a small amount of warm water into the bottom of the glass.
3. Wait until the dish is really cold. Then place it on top of the glass.
4. Watch the inside carefully. You should see a 'cloud' form near the top of the glass.



When rain gathers on the ground sometimes it can form a puddle, the puddle can change size during the day which you can measure.

What you will need:

- A puddle
- A piece of chalk

Instructions:

1. Choose a day when there has been rain overnight and the rest of the day is expected to be dry, warm and sunny.
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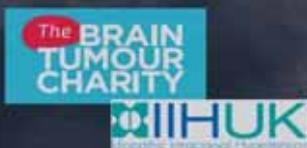
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Sunday 4 January

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

Tuesday 6 January

7.30pm Epiphany Evening Service

Sunday 11 January

08.00am Holy Communion BCP
10.30am Parish Praise

Sunday 18 January

10.30am Holy Communion CW

Sunday 25 January

08.00am Holy Communion BCP
10.30am Morning Service CW

and into February.....

Sunday 1 February

09.30am All Age Service
11.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

To help raise funds for some enhancements to the Church furnishings, a concert was organised by Alastair Blay on 29 November.

A full and varied programme featured several of Alastair and Angela's pupils, St John's SlamJam Choir and several other church members. The evening was enjoyed by all who attended as were the refreshments which followed.

A Christingle Service was held in the Church on Sunday 30 November, the First Sunday of Advent. Starting in the Moravian Church in 1747 this symbolic service was introduced in the Church of England by the Children's Society in 1968 and quickly became a popular Christmastime event.

At one point in the service each child holds an orange, representing the world, circled with a band of red ribbon, representing the blood of Christ, four sweets representing the four seasons and the fruits of the earth and the candle, representing Jesus, the light of the world. The candle is lit and the children join in a large circle around the church; this year our children also enjoyed crafts and refreshments were served.

On Sunday 14 December all the children who attend St John's gave their Nativity presentation, which as usual was acted out very well, illustrating all the gifts God has given us. SlamJam Choir sang another beautiful song, which featured a solo by Jody Wright.

During December the Ladies' Lunch Club and Men's Breakfast Group have enjoyed their Christmas celebrations – the Ladies' Lunch enjoyed music and songs from their guest, Johnny Guitar and the Men's group enjoyed a visit and talk by Mac Lambourne (formerly of Elmswell) who spoke about the work of Gideon's International.

Christians Together in Elmswell (Elmswell Fellowship of Churches) (Secretary Jean Folkard 242099)

The Village Carol Service organised by Christians Together in Elmswell was held on Monday 15 December; in addition to the poems, readings, carols and songs presented by the various organisations in the village, Elmswell Primary School Choir sang to us at the beginning of the service. An offering was taken, which has been shared between the work of 'Save the Children' and our own Children's Holiday Club, which will take place from 17-21 August 2015 at the Blackbourne.

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You are invited to sponsor the floodlighting of St. John's to help with the day-to-day running expenses of our parish church. You can choose to commemorate a personal event, an anniversary, or any other special occasion. Alternatively you can simply make a donation. For the winter months the lights will be on between 5.30 p.m. and midnight. A night's floodlighting costs £5.

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Happy New Year to all.

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- 3 today is a special day for a special Dad, Grandad and Great-Grandad, on his Birthday, with much love. xxx
- 5 in loving memory of Gary Ferguson on his 50th Birthday. "Always in our thoughts". With love from all the family.
- 6 in loving memory of Evelyn Simpson. "God Bless".
- 7 thinking of my brother Eric on this, his Birthday. Stan.
- 10 in loving memory of a dear friend, Les Pamment.
- 13 in loving memory of my mother Eileen Fraser on her Birthday.
- 19 in loving memory of Natasha Smith.
- 22 in loving memory of Rob Dalby on his Birthday, with love from all your Family.
- 23 in loving memory of Ricky Woolnough's Birthday.

- 23 Mary Sparkes, on what would have been her 100th Birthday. Don, Jim & Sheila; Doug & Carol; Billy and all the Grandchildren.

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Father David Finegan

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PAUL'S POSTCARDS

Another recent acquisition for Paul Peachey's collection of postcards depicting Elmswell past is this one of Station Road from south of the railway with the gates closed.

On the left is the original Baker's mill advertising 'Pig Meals, Seed Corn, Fertilisers' with the cottages, including Bank House, which remain today and then the OC Jewers building which is now the vets' surgery. Over the line is the fox, clearly recognisable but with no sign of Thai food as yet. On the right is the Albatross Garage on what is now Crown Mill – the petrol pumps still in place.

Do tell us more...and if you have any postcards of Elmswell, do let Paul know on 241517 – email Paul@falconpromotions.co.uk



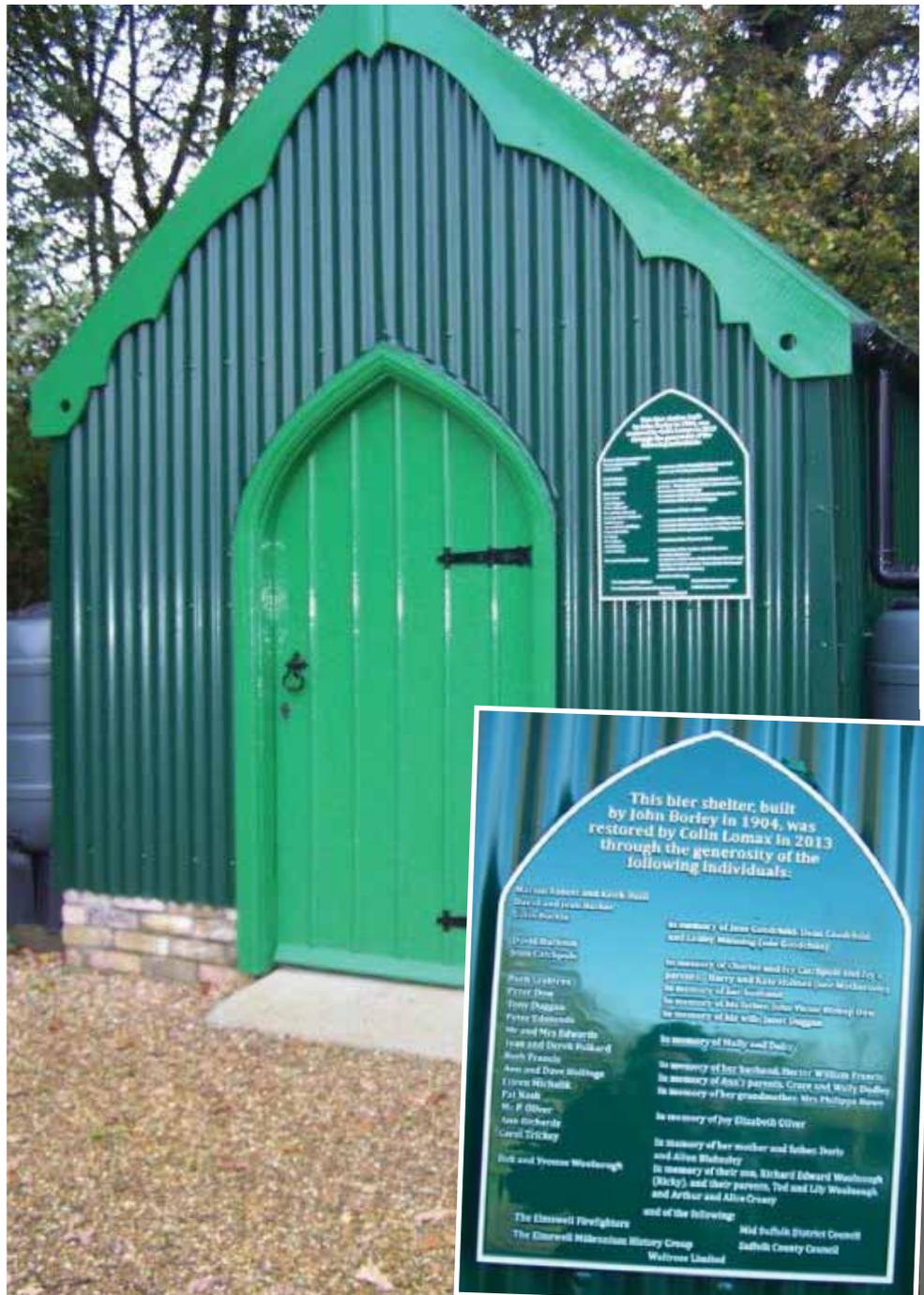
ELMSWELL'S BIER SHELTER

We have followed the restoration of the village's bier shelter at the cemetery through all of its stages. The Victorian building was built by Mr Borley in 1904 to house the bier trolleys which the parish council had purchased to carry coffins from St John's or from one of the village chapels to their new cemetery on Church Hill. The trolley has not been seen in the village since 1928 (it is safely housed in Havering museum) and its shelter was dilapidated and soon to be removed as it was close to posing a hazard.



Along came Ann Richards who generated funds, largely by public subscription, sufficient for a full and glorious restoration at the hand of Colin Lomax of CJ contractors.

The donors have the benefit of their name on the plaque which was unveiled on 10th December by Mrs Patricia Miller, the granddaughter of Mr Borley.



This bier shelter, built by John Borley in 1904, was restored by Colin Lomax in 2013 through the generosity of the following individuals:

Mr & Mrs Robert and Kate Hill
David and Jean Mather
S. J. Clarke

In memory of Mrs Constance (née Cook) Hill and Lilley Manning (née Goodwin)

In memory of Charles and Lily Carlisle and Lily's parents Harry and Lily (née) Carlisle
In memory of Ann Matthews
In memory of Mr Robert John Wainwright (son of the late Mr John Wainwright) (son of the late Mr John Wainwright)

In memory of Molly and David

In memory of her husband, Walter William Francis
In memory of Ann's parents, George and Lily (née) Dudley
In memory of her grandmothers Mrs Phillips (née) and Mrs (née) Phillips

In memory of my Elizabeth Oliver

In memory of her mother and father, Doris and Alice Shalby
In memory of their son, Richard Edward Woodrough (Ricky), and their parents, Ted and Lily Woodrough and Arthur and Alice Creasy

and of the following:

The Elmswell Firefighters
The Elmswell Historical Society Group
Mid Suffolk District Council
Suffolk County Council
Walford United

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ELMSWELL FC

ALL CHANGE AT ELMSWELL FC BUT STILL GOING STRONG !!

Following a disappointing start to the current season on the pitch, a quick committee meeting was called and a few changes were put in place. Shaun Pratt & Jamie Barter stepped down as first team managers, Tim Nice & Kev Harrington have stepped up from the reserves and taken on the first team duties. Andy Reid & Matt Lamplough have taken over the reserve team management.

As with most local football teams, its been a struggle to keep things going when results on the pitch are not the best. That said, the club still has a healthy team spirit with a youthful squad all looking to keep the EFC marching on !!

In recent weeks, Thurston first team, Stanton Res & St Clements have all folded and pulled teams from the league. Their loss is our gain & a number of their remaining players have joined Elmswell FC to bolster the ranks !!

We still welcome any new players to the club, we have superb pitches and the Blackburn still offers great facilities, just short of funds - so if you'd like to sponsor a much needed match ball or two (£35 each) your kind sponsorship would be very much appreciated.

The First team play at Blackburn & reserves at Grove Lane.

UPCOMING FIXTURES

	first team	reserves
3rd Jan	A Halesworth	H Halesworth Res
10th Jan	A Witnessham	A Felixstowe
17th Jan	H Ufford	no game
24th Jan	H Waterside	H Old Newton
31st Jan	A Kesgrave	A Bramford



ELMSWELL BOWLS CLUB



WE START BY WISHING EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY AND HOPEFULLY PROPEROUS NEW YEAR.

Who said that bowls isn't fun. This chap is clearly enjoying himself. Pam Riches is denying any connection with him.

Seriously bowls is very entertaining and at Elmswell Bowls Club we all enjoy our games whatever the result. We are all looking forward to the start of our outdoor season which is only 3 months away.

We would invite you to come along and 'have a go', whatever your age or gender. We are a welcoming and friendly bunch. Last season we welcomed 8 'newbie's' all of whom are still with us and did really well in their first try at bowls and we look forward to them playing in teams in the new season.

If anyone wants to come along and join us please contact our Chairman, Linda Abbot 242224.

In future editions I will bring more information regards season commencement and when we shall be holding our introduction to bowls sessions. You would have seen from our reports throughout the year that we have a mixture of men and women and ages from 14 to 70+ which denies suggestions that bowls is an old man's game.

Nick Chamberlain our groundkeeper has been organising a team to maintain the green through the winter closure, mainly to remove the worm casts from the green and minor ground maintenance.

By the way our bowler who is really enjoying himself is Graham Mack he must have won an end! Well done graham!

Michael Moore

Thanks to Peter Edmonds for the photographs

THANK YOU

Editors - please pass on my thanks to all of the volunteers, including yourselves of course, for producing our excellent Newsletter every month. You thoroughly deserve the pat on the back of yet another Newsletter of the Year award.

At a recent get-together of the region's WI groups, 3 ladies from 3 different villages commented on our lovely magazine.

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ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Your councillors are:

Planning Complaints

Mrs Marian Abbot 75 Eastern Way ELMSWELL IP30 9DP	01359 241370	marian731@btinternet.com	Council Vice chairman Planning Committee Vice Chairman Poors Land Charity	✓	
David Barker Linden Croft School Road ELMSWELL IP30 9 EA	01359 241135	david@linden-croft.co.uk	Council Chairman Poors Land Charity	✓	✓
Dick Burch 14 Wetherden Road ELMSWELL IP30 9DF	01359 240105		Footpath Officer Blackbourne Management Association	✓	✓
Peter Edmonds Little Acre Ashfield Road ELMSWELL IP30 9HJ	01359 241640 07860 395720	peterjedmonds@tiscali.co.uk	Blackbourne Management Association Elmswell Amenities Association Planning Committee Chairman	✓	✓
Mike Friend 22 Mill Gardens ELMSWELL IP30 9DQ	01359 241699	mike.friend@easidoor.co.uk	Transport Officer	✓	✓
David Hawes Dunelm Cooks Road ELMSWELL IP30 9BX	01359 240249	davidandanna70@yahoo.co.uk		✓	✓
Ms Sol Indurain 22 Mill Gardens ELMSWELL IP30 9DQ	01359 241699	sindurain@yahoo.co.uk	Blackbourne Management Association Poors Land Charity	✓	✓
Brian Lloyd 10 Blackbourne Road ELMSWELL IP30 9UH	0780 652 21911	bjlloyd22@googlemail.com	Poors Land Charity		✓
John Petchey 1 West View BACTON IP14 4LU	01449 782091			✓	✓
Lesley Reed Second Thoughts Church Road ELMSWELL: IP30 9DY	01359 241009	lesley@reed.org		✓	✓
Ms Ann Richards Rose Cottage Ashfield Road ELMSWELL IP30 9HG	01359 240279	ann@richards47.plus.com	NHS CCG representative		

The full council is scheduled to meet on the 3rd Monday monthly, excepting August and avoiding bank holidays. However, as sometimes is the case, insufficient business came forward to justify the meeting scheduled for 15th December.

However, the Council's Planning Committee met on 1st December with 7 Councillors and 2 members of the public present.

At the beginning of the meeting the Chairman drew the public's attention to notices posted in the room and to the header sheet of their bundle of meeting papers. These advise that all present should be aware of the possibility that their presence and any contribution which they may make might be recorded and could be broadcast, including via social media. If at this point, or at any point during the evening's proceedings, any member of the public wished to be excluded from any recording which may be taking place they were advised to let him, as Chairman, or the Clerk, know.

The meeting then noted, from correspondence:

- Notification of an Appeal by Hartog Hutton Ltd against MSDC refusal of their application 2174/14 at Linden Croft, School Road, for the erection of 3 dwellings.

- Notification of a Planning Application ref.3669/14, for the erection of a timber garage, the existing one to be demolished, in which Cllr Edmonds declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest as the immediate next door neighbour to the site and on which there was no discussion when the Clerk suggested that no meeting would be necessary to consider this application unless any Councillor were to contact him and suggest a contrary view.

- A copy letter referred by several residents of Pightle Close & Old Schools Court regarding a meeting called by a steering group seeking to establish a cycle skills area on the site previously suggested as a BMX facility. Cllr Mrs Abbott confirmed that, although she had not been aware of the meeting, this is, in fact, her BMX group,

The meeting considered a Planning application reference 3441/14 for the severance of part of rear garden and erection of one bungalow and the creation of vehicular access at Tirole House, Church Road. A proposal to object to this on the grounds that the access on to Church Road would be unacceptable was defeated and the proposal was supported.

The Meeting also supported an application for work to trees which are subject to the constraints of a Tree preservation order at Lewis House on Bennett Avenue, MSDC reference 3572/14..

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 ratified Minutes, from the October Council meeting, are posted in the community notice board at the Co-op.

The next meeting of full Council is scheduled for Monday 19th January at 7.30 in The Blackbourne. The public are welcome and there are opportunities on the agenda for public comment or questions on Council business.



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.



FOOTPATH WALK

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

SUNDAY
11th
JANUARY
beginning at 11.00 am

Open to all comers & lead by Footpath Officer Dick Burch

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

Dogs on leads welcome – stout shoes recommended



CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM (SNT)

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

As an alternative you can email them directly through the following link:
Email: midsuffsouth.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

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.

January 2015

- 5 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church at 7.45pm. A Jenny's Special.
- 12 Food & Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 8 Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall. 7.30pm, Speaker: Derek Palgrave: "Interpreting Signs, Symbols & Trademarks"
- 9 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 13 Elmswell WI 'Get together' we meet at 7.30 p.m. at Blackbourne.
- 16 St. John's Ladies Lunch Group at The Wesley Hall. 11.30am
- 23 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon

February 2015

- 2 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church at 7.45pm.
- 6 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 10 Elmswell WI 'Prints' Ed Wilson we meet at 7.30 p.m. at Blackbourne.
- 12 Food & Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 12 Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall. 7.30pm, Speaker: Edward Martin: "Henslow of Hitcham - the life, influence and legacy of Darwin's tutor"
- 13 St. John's Ladies Lunch Group at The Wesley Hall. 11.30am
- 17 Gardening Club - 7.30pm Blackbourne
Talk: Through the year with Horticultural Photographer
- 20 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon

March 2015

- 2 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church at 7.45pm Patsy Kemp on South America
- 6 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 10 Elmswell WI 'The Ukulele' Steve and John we meet at 7.30 p.m. at Blackbourne.
- 12 Food & Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 12 Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall. 7.30pm, Speaker: Bob Malster: "Suffolk Millwrights"
- 13 St. John's Ladies Lunch Group at The Wesley Hall. 11.30am
- 17 Gardening Club - 7.30pm Blackbourne
Talk: Harbingers of Spring
- 20 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 21 Elmswell Baby & Toddlers Group
Nearly New Sale

April 2015

- 9 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church at 7.45pm Florry Heller on Pearls
- 9 Elmswell History Group 15th Anniversary meeting, Wesley Hall. 7.30pm, Report on our WW1 research findings into RAF Elmswell, and social effects of the war onto the Elmswell area and its inhabitants.

- 10 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 11/12 Elmswell History Group EXHIBITION, Wesley Hall, 11am-4pm - "Elmswell & Memories of the Great War". FREE ENTRY and refreshments.
- 14 Elmswell WI 'Suffolk farmhouse cheeses' Jason and Katherine Salisbury we meet at 7.30 p.m. at Blackbourne.
- 17 St. John's Ladies Lunch Group at The Wesley Hall. 11.30am
- 21 Gardening Club - 7.30pm Blackbourne
Talk: Hedgehogs and Wildlife Gardening
- 24 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon

May 2015

- 8 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon 14 Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall. 7.30pm, Speaker: Nick Sign: "John Winthrop of Groton, and the 1630 Expedition to USA's Boston, Massachusetts"
- 12 Elmswell WI AGM and Resolutions we meet at 7.30 p.m. at Blackbourne.
- 14 Ladies Friendship Group at 7.45pm
- 15 St. John's Ladies Lunch Group at The Wesley Hall. 11.30am
- 19 Gardening Club - 7.30pm Blackbourne
Talk: Elmswild - Kiln Meadow Update
- 22 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon

June 2015

- 1 Ladies Friendship Group Outing venue to be confirmed.
- 5 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 9 Elmswell WI 'A journey to Citizenship' Linda Scales we meet at 7.30 p.m. at Blackbourne.
- 11 Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall. 7pm A.G.M., then Speaker Mark Mower: "Crime on the Home Front - law-breaking in the two World Wars"
- 12 St. John's Ladies Lunch Group at The Wesley Hall. 11.30am
- 16 Gardening Club - 7.30pm Blackbourne
Talk: Bats & Work of Suffolk Wildlife Bat Group
- 19 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon

July 2015

- 3 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 9 Elmswell History Group - Annual Outing: To be arranged
- 10 St. John's Ladies Lunch Group at The Wesley Hall. 11.30am
- 14 Elmswell WI Outing
- 17 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 31 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon

August 2015

- 11 Elmswell WI Members meeting we meet at 7.30 p.m. at Blackbourne.
- 14 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 28 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon

September 2015

- 6 Autumn Fayre - enquiries Peter Edmonds 241640
- 8 Elmswell WI Harvest Supper we meet at 7.30 p.m. at Blackbourne.
- 11 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 15 Gardening Club - 7.30pm Blackbourne
Talk: From Mountain to Garden
- 18 St. John's Ladies Lunch Group at The Wesley Hall. 11.30am
- 25 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 26 Christian Aid Quiz at Elmswell Baptist Church at 7pm. Teams of up to 6. £7 per head including food.

October 2015

- 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
- 23 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon

November 2015

- 6 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 10 Elmswell WI 'Craft' we meet at 7.30 p.m. at Blackbourne
- 13 St. John's Ladies Lunch Group at The Wesley Hall. 11.30am
- 20 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 21 Gardening Club - 7.30pm Blackbourne
AGM - Speaker to be arranged

December 2015

- 4 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 8 Elmswell WI 'Christmas Party' we meet at 7.30 p.m. at Blackbourne.
- 11 St. John's Ladies Lunch Group at The Wesley Hall. 11.30am

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Tuesday

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Slimming World 5.30 & 7.30

WI (2nd Tuesday monthly) 7.00 - 10.30

Gardening club (3rd Tuesday monthly) 7.00 - 10.00

Wednesday

Scouts 5.45 - 9.00

Jujutsu martial arts class 7.00 - 9.00

Thursday

Brownies 5.30 - 8.00

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

Friday

Bingo (last Friday monthly) eyes down 7.30

BATS - Badminton & Table Sports - 7.00 - 10.00

FIT4ALL with Jo Butcher 9.30 - 11.00

Sunday

SOZO CHURCH 9.00 - 12.00 (3rd Sunday monthly)

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