The Elmswell Newsletter

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

June 2015

BEING PREPARED TO HELP
...SEE PAGE 14

VE DAY REMEMBRANCE
...SEE PAGE 21

20 YEARS AND STILL GROWING...SEE PAGE 9

Published on the first Friday of every month by the Elmswell Amenities Association
Reg. Charity No. 304879.
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email: elmswellamenities@f2s.com www.elmwellaa.org
Our editorial is designed to inform and to encourage debate.
If you wish to comment, please do so via the office at Gobblins on the industrial estate behind the Fox or via email at; elmswellamenities@f2s.com. We reserve the right to edit any such contributions that we may use in a subsequent edition.

STOP PRESS

An architect's impression of a 21st century facility based on the 19th century chapel

At the Annual Parish Meeting held on 27th May, the main topic raised by the residents attending was the future of the Wesley chapel site on School Road. The Methodist Church is selling it and the community has reserved the right to buy it if it can raise the money within a 6 month window of opportunity during which the site can't be sold to a developer for housing without any community bid being considered.

The groups who use the hall attached to the chapel want to keep the 2 halls which stand adjacent to the Victorian chapel. There is a strong body of opinion supported by the Amenities Association, on professional advice, that the site is not viable with the old halls remaining. Funding, initially assessed at no less than £500,000, will not be found for a facility that is, arguably, unsustainable. They have drawn up indicative plans showing that the chapel can be re-developed to house all of the existing users, leaving much increased parking capacity, considered by them to be a major factor in making the site viable. These plans have been published in your Newsletter which, as published by the Amenities Association, suggests that they represent a realistic and viable option if a community future for this site is to be possible.

The community view is to be tested in a Parish Poll, called for by many at the meeting and signed by more than the 10 required residents. The Poll will be held some time in June and is conducted just like an election by Mid Suffolk. It is likely to cost some £1,200.00, but its supporters argued at the meeting that this is a small price to pay for saving for all time this very valuable community asset at the centre of our village.

The question to be put is:
Given that:

- funding is very unlikely to be obtained for keeping the old Wesley hall as it now stands on the Methodist chapel site in School Road, and,

- there will be a very limited time scale for grant aid bids before the site is sold for development;

Do you want Elmswell Parish Council to pursue the best chance for keeping the site as a community facility by:

- bidding for its retention without the existing halls;

- working on the proposals for upgrading and modernising the chapel to accommodate the existing users and attract a wider range of future users, and,

- working towards making the facility financially viable?

We will be asked to say simply, YES or NO. As a champion of the democratic process, your Newsletter urges you to look out for any information which may be provided from both sides, to form an opinion and to have your say.

Your Newsletter Fact File
For the next 6 months we need copy by:
June 23rd July 28th
August 25th September 22nd
October 27th November 24th

...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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ELMSWELL ART CLUB

At the time of writing this article, our May Art Exhibition has not yet taken place so I cannot report how it went! Obviously we are very busy getting ready – banners, bunting, posters and advertisements – so it’s “fingers crossed” that all goes well. We hope that everyone who comes to the Wesley Centre on the 30th and 31st May enjoys themselves.

The pictures this month are “Overstrand, Norfolk” by Malcolm Wallis, “Ice Floes under Holwickhead Bridge, Teesdale” by John Welford and “Autumn Woods” by Denise Lawrence.

Denise Lawrence – Secretary 01359 245207

ELMSWELL LUNCHEON CLUB

On a sunny and warm May morning, members and guests of the Elmswell Luncheon Club set off for their Spring outing. A cross-country route took them to Dunwich and the popular Flora Tearooms for a fish and chip lunch. Afterwards there was time to enjoy the warm weather before re-boarding the coach.

A ride through beautiful scenery took the party to the Wyevale Garden Centre at Woodbridge and the opportunity of afternoon tea with time to browse through the gifts and plants. The group returned to Elmswell with memories of the Suffolk Coast, countryside and pretty villages.

The Elmswell Luncheon Club meets every Monday at The Bull, Woolpit, where they enjoy excellent meals and good company. Transport is provided too and from Elmswell.

The club is always delighted to welcome new members, so if you are 55+ and retired, why not telephone one of our Committee members on 241546 or 240268 for full details?

The pictures this month are “Overstrand, Norfolk” by Malcolm Wallis, “Ice Floes under Holwickhead Bridge, Teesdale” by John Welford and “Autumn Woods” by Denise Lawrence.

Denise Lawrence – Secretary 01359 245207
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**ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB**

How verdant everything is following the torrential rain which bucketed over our gardens. Well done everyone who dodged the showers to join us. Gardening Club is now ready to re-plant the railway station tubs and boxes in their summer garb of red geraniums, fuchsias and marigolds which should make a bold display. Volunteers will be needed for watering duties from 3rd June onwards until autumn. Also the Gardening Club is taking its turn to tidy up the recycling bins. Any help you can give is much appreciated – Nick is in charge of the rotas and keeper of the water tap key.

Our May speakers, Mary Feeney and John Ibbetson from Elmswell, gave us a potted history and update of Kiln Meadow and Lukeswood. 20 years ago Kiln Meadow was a piece of scrubland owned by Anglian Water. It is amazing to see how, in such a short period of time, (aided by many dedicated volunteers) the site has become a magnet for so many diverse species of wildlife. The sewerage works are now hidden by trees, bushes and stands of teasels, nettles and other wild flowers. Pink, white and purple orchids abound and nettles make ideal homes for the hungry caterpillars of tortoiseshell butterflies. We were shown photos of BT volunteers energetically scything as this method of grass-cutting causes minimum damage to the site and protects delicate wild flowers.

Mary and John reminded us that Lukeswood was originally an old ‘set-aside’ field with poor drainage and useless as farm land. After much hard work and fund raising – not least from Norman Kenyon’s legacy and the Lottery – Lukeswood has become a major resource for both children and adults in Elmswell. Children are learning in memorable and practical ways about the environment by helping to plant the woodland and during the last two years have also planted an orchard containing many endangered Suffolk fruit trees. A Diamond Jubilee donation of a Medlar tree gave school children the opportunity to discover the joy of medlars, from harvesting to jelly making. We were much amused by the fruit’s alternative name ‘dod’s backside!’ John told us about the discovery and preservation of three rare black poplar trees at Lukeswood – alas with fungi growing on their diseased wood - but by careful treatment and pollarding the poplars will now survive for many years to come. There are presently over 10 different species of butterflies at Lukeswood to enjoy. Kiln Meadow and Lukeswood provide an important haven both for us and the wildlife in our ever-expanding village.

Our next Gardening Club meeting will be on Saturday, 16th June, 7.30pm, at the Wesley Hall. We will be hosting a bring-and-buy plant stall, so any spare plants are welcome. Our speaker will be Andrew Woodward of The Norfolk Wildlife Trust who will tell us more about Husbandry of Wild Places. 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 01359 242601.

**ELMSWELL EXCHANGE AFTERNOON W.I.**

Barbara welcomed Margaret Porcas, a new member, to our group. Summer plants were presented to ‘our birthday girls’. We approached our Annual General Meeting in May cautiously. This is traditionally the time when we gather to take stock of our situation from all angles and then hope to elect our President for the coming year and new Committee members.

We have had an eventful year. With threatened closure last year we rallied. Two ‘seasoned’ officers stepped up to the plate once again which meant we could continue to function. They could be forgiven for wondering if this was to be ‘their lot’ until they disappear in a wooden overcoat!! We sincerely hope not.

It was agreed that our speakers had been of good variety and interesting this year and it definitely proved beneficial to pay a little more in fees. We would continue in this manner and endeavour to raise extra funds if need be. It was very important to recruit new members and ideas for this would be discussed in the near future.

Our future at The Wesley Hall was causing some concern for us as a group. It seems that The Blackbourne is our only other option but sadly many of our members live in the centre of the village and whilst they are able to walk to The Wesley Hall, they would be unable to walk to The Blackbourne. The logistics of arranging lifts would be highly complex especially as less and less of our members are driving cars. Five of our members travel from Wetherden and this car is already full.

Election was held for President. Barbara Yeates agreed to stand again and was voted in unanimously. All the Committee agreed to stand again, with Maureen Davis standing as Secretary once more. They were voted in en bloc unanimously. Sadly there were no new Committee members.

Resolutions:- Our representative for the Annual Meeting at The Royal Albert Hall is Mary Chown. As the wording of the Resolution concerning personal and nursing care of the elderly may be altered, Mary was given our full agreement to use her discretion when voting on the day.

We ended the afternoon with refreshments and a fun quiz. Next month on June 3rd we are Walking on the Wild Side with Jean Fullerton. This is a virtual tour of the notorious highways and alleyways of Victorian London. If you would like to join us you would be most welcome. Just telephone Barbara on 242788 or Maureen on 241033. If you prefer, just turn up on the day.
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ELMSWELL OVER 55’S CLUB

The meeting on May 7th which was an evening of Bingo was as ever well supported by our members who enjoy their evening out. Thursday May 21st was an Open Evening with a visit from Stowmarket Concert Band who performed to a full house, special thanks to all our visitors who came along to support the event. It was a warm evening so we were able to throw open the doors so that the splendid numbers performed by the band echoed around the ”Blackbourne” car park and beyond.

Our next day out (fully booked) is on June 18th when a visit to the Royal British Legion Poppy Factory at Richmond in London where we will have lunch, followed by a guided tour of the factory to see the production lines where the nations tributes are made, with time to browse around the gift shop before we head home. There will be no meeting this evening.

July 2nd will be our ”Ploughmans Supper” with the catering being prepared by the committee. Would members please make sure they book to help us with the numbers we need to cater for.

We still have Double/Twin Rooms on our holiday to Weymouth departing Monday August 3rd so if you fancy a break with good company give me a ring immediately.

Diann (241002)

ELMSWELL MILLENNIUM HISTORY GROUP

At our meeting on Thursday 14 May our speaker was Dr Nick Sign, whose subject was the story of John Winthrop of Groton and the 1630 Expedition to USA’s Boston, Massachusetts.

Winthrop was born in 1588; his father had bought Groton Manor from Henry VIII at the Reformation and at first Winthrop was educated at Boxford, then at Trinity College, Cambridge – but he did not graduate, leaving at the age of 17 and being married to Mary Forth. He became a Justice of the Peace and then an attorney at the Court of Wards and Liveries.

Mary died in childbirth and he subsequently married Thomasine Clopton and then Margaret Tyndall. Winthrop was to marry four times, fathering a total of 16 children.

Winthrop was a devout Puritan and in 1629 this was to cost him his court post. So in that year when the Massachusetts Bay Colony obtained a royal charter to plant a colony in New England, he decided to make his escape to the New World. He had felt trapped by the economic slump in England, so he pledged to sell his estate and take the family to Massachusetts, where he was elected governor. Trade developed between England and the New World; he guided the colonists in laying out their towns and he and his family settled in Boston which quickly became the capital and chief port.

In 1647 his wife Margaret died and he was soon married again to Martha Coytmore. Around this time Winthrop was losing money and becoming embroiled in political arguments and in 1649 he died, being survived by Martha and their five sons.

This talk was a fascinating insight into the life of a son of Suffolk who became a founding Father of Massachusetts.

The next meeting of the History Group is on Thursday 11 June when we start at 7pm with our AGM. Following this our speaker will be Mark Mower, who will talk about ‘Crime on the Home Front’.

SAVE THE DATE

6th September 2015

Bookings and payment for our Outing on 9 July to the Suffolk Regiment Museum at Bury St Edmunds will be taken at the meeting.

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.

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ELMSWELL W.I.

Rachel welcomed Emma Yarrow from the library, who was our guest for the evening. Then she told us about lots of forthcoming events: 19.5, Scrabble at Anna’s; 22.5, Craft at Anne’s and then 5.6 at Jan Gordon’s; 1.6, Jenny Gibb will talk about her life in Turkey at Norton W.I.; 15.5 and 12.6, Techy sessions at Park Farm; 3.6, at Elmswell Exchange, in the afternoon, there will be a talk by Jean Fullerton, “A Virtual Tour of the Highways and Byways of Victorian London;” 17.5, 10 – 11.00am., and 26.5, 5.30 – 7.00pm., there will be a 20% discount for customers spending £20 or more; 12.9, 95th Celebration Concert at St. Mary’s Church – flower arrangements requested; 6.8, Festival of Quilts at Birmingham N.E.C. and 3.9 – 5.9, 2015 Centennial Fair in Harrogate. Something for everyone!

Rachel apologised for not being able to come to the next meeting, which will be our outing: a coffee- and chocolate-tasting experience with Richard Clark. (Last year, he recorded us singing Jerusalem, so he is obviously branching out!)

We discussed the Resolution: “Failing to Care,” which concerns the uneven access to care and the next meeting, which will be our outing: a coffee- and chocolate-tasting experience with Richard Clark. (Last year, he recorded us singing Jerusalem, so he is obviously branching out!)

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Finally, Emma Yarrow gave us a short talk about the encouraging progress which has been made in finding funds for the library: £10,000 has been raised. Many individuals and groups have contributed to make it a success. Apparently, in the future, libraries are to be seen as “community hubs,” where people will be able to attend lots of events, as well as borrow books, use the Internet, download E-books, music and audio books etc. Elmswell is seen as a great success in the county and is the smallest library taking part in the “Brave New Reads” event. Emma has been the main driving force in making all this happen and she deserves a great big “Thank you” for enabling us to keep our library – a huge asset to our community.

Rosie Collins. 01359 241652

ELMSWELL EXCHANGE

SOCIAL CLUB

This month the club took to the road and we had a day trip to Southwold.

After an enjoyable ride through villages and countryside we arrived at our destination. Sylvia entertained us by flying off the coach - a trick not to be repeated by the faint hearted!

Despite some very interesting skies we managed to dodge most of the showers. Some of us enjoyed a walk round the town before eating a very generous sized lunch. Then we made our way back to the pier after deciding even if we pooled together we still couldn’t afford to buy a beach hut!

After some shopping on the pier and a cup of tea it was time to get back on the coach.

Thanks to Anice for organising a lovely day out.

The next meeting will take place on June 16th at the Wesley Hall. We welcome Graham and Sandra Mack who will be giving a talk on letters from the 1st World War.

New members are always welcome.

Enquiries to Sylvia on 241 505

ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

Following the very successful Great War exhibition in April, and in recognition of and gratitude for his recent and continuing help to Elmswell History Group’s Great War researches, local landowner and farmer, Stephen Miles, is seen here accepting a group photograph of the Elmswell-based Royal Flying Corps 75 (HD) Squadron from members of the History Group. If you would like to help the History Group in their on-going research on this subject or, indeed, on other local Elmswell history of any era, please contact Stella Chamberlin on 01359-242601 – many thanks.

ELMSWELL BABY

AND TODDLER GROUP

With the Summer Season now here let’s hope the sun will keep shining, so we can all go out to play in our fabulous enclosed garden, full of lots of fun, with two large slides, seesaws, and an amazing playhouse, we now have a child’s table, four chairs, two trampolines and a BRAND NEW Pirate water play boat, if you prefer to get a bit more messy there’s always our sand pit in the corner of the garden ready and waiting just for your little ones to come and explore.

Our a craft table will still be running each week from 10-10.30am, we have some great crafts lined up, and don’t forget with Fathers Day soon coming up, this will give the little ones a chance to make that little something for all those special Dad’s out there.

Craft table will be followed by some healthy snacks and a drink for the children, whilst mums, dads and carers can enjoy a nice cup of tea and a biscuit.

New Chair

We would like to give a big warm welcome to our new Chair Claire Macintosh-Hall who has kindly stepped up to run as chair, please help Claire out as much as you can to settle into this role by offering as much help in the running of each session, Claire will be taking over from Jen as she has stepped down and is looking forward to the birth of her second child due early June.

Set Up Rota

Please remember we work as a Volunteer group, so don’t forget to stick your names down to help set up or pack away some times, this gives the committee members a chance to spend some time with their own children and also enjoy the session.

Committee Meeting

We will be holding our next Committee Meeting on Sunday 7th June 7.30 for 8pm at the Fox In Elmswell all members welcome.

Congratulations

We would just like to congratulate one of our mums and committee member Helen Gunby (Humphries) after running as a candidate for Elmswell Parish Council, she was Elected one of the 11 Councillors, thank you to all who supported Helen and voted for her.

A few words from Helen

I am delighted to have been elected as Parish Councillor but I could not have done it without the support of you all and your votes, so thank you! I intend to work hard for the residents of Elmswell and make my decisions with the people of Elmswell at the forefront of my mind. If at any time any of you have issues you wish to discuss please come and see me at Baby & Toddlers. Helen x

Craft dates: June / July

Mon - June - Wed
8th - 10th -
Father’s Day key rings and photo frames
15th - chalk boards 17th - book corner
22nd - painting rainbow 24th -puzzlers and Suncatchers games

29th -flower pot craft -
Mon - July - Wed
- 1st -flower Suncatchers - need flowers
6th -puzzles and games 8th -chalk boards and magnets
13th-flower Suncatchers 15th -happyland - need flowers
20th -book corner 22nd - painting rainbow Suncatchers
27th -happyland 29th -make a sunhat

We look forward to seeing you all soon
A&C

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Twenty years at Kiln Meadow – and we’re looking forward to another ten!

We first started work at Kiln Meadow 20 years ago – it’s amazing how quickly the years have passed! The project to start managing Kiln Meadow as a wildlife site was originally initiated by the Parish Council of that time. An agreement was drawn up with Anglian Water, Suffolk Wildlife Trust surveyed the site and put together a management plan, and the volunteers got to work – clearing rubbish and scrub, planting trees and hedgerows, putting up nestboxes, and cutting and raking the nettles and docks. Some of those original volunteers are still working hard at Kiln Meadow twenty years on. Responsibility for managing the site passed to ElmsWild ten years ago, and we have just signed a new agreement with Anglian Water for another ten years.

Looking back through the photos taken over the years it’s clear that the site is unrecognisable from what it used to be. The trees and hedges are reaching maturity now, the pond is full of life and the whole site is buzzing with insects. Here are a few of those photos, showing some of the milestones in the development of Kiln Meadow over the last two decades. We are very pleased that our partnership with Anglian Water will now continue for another ten years and thank them for their help and support in maintaining this wonderful amenity for the village.

Year 6 visit to Lukeswood

At the end of a very busy and challenging week sitting their exams we invited Year 6 children from the school to come to Lukeswood and let off steam! The weather was perfect for a day of outdoor activities. The children helped us to repair the stockade around the pond, which involved gathering large branches and sticks from all over the site and dragging them over to the pond where they were woven into a thick barrier. In a different activity, the children had to use their imaginations to “make something”, using material found within Lukeswood – sticks, stones, leaves and mud. They came up with a whole variety of different ideas, including a fishing rod, a range of wooden structures, and several artworks based on the name “Lukeswood”. Orienteering games helped to burn off any remaining energy. We all enjoyed a picnic lunch around the campfire – including toasted marshmallows. We wish all the children the best of luck with their results and with their move to Thurston in the autumn.

Midsummer Mayhem at Lukeswood – Friday 19th June

Plans are well under way for our annual celebration of Midsummer. This event will take place on Friday 19th June, from 5.00 to 7.00 at Lukeswood, and is being organised jointly by ElmsWild, FRESCH and Elmswell Scouts. There will be lots of activities to enjoy – welly wanging, treasure hunts, craft table, games, wood bashing, story telling and archery – something for everyone! There will also be a campfire, refreshments, barbecue and delicious cakes. Everyone is welcome – why not bring a picnic and the whole family? Admission is £2.50 per child – accompanying adults and under 4s are free. Please walk or cycle to Lukeswood if you can. If you have to bring the car, please park considerately on Church Road.

Mary Feeney
info@elmswild.org.uk
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What a month May was for Elmswell Library and ELF.

The Spanish Cheese and Tapas Night kicked off the month to a great start, raising around £560 thanks to the sterling efforts of local wine expert Bob Stopp, wife Marion and so many ELF members and their friends, who donated a host of tasty treats. It was, yet again, a fun evening, with plenty of opportunity to meet new people, bring new faces into the library and raise some further funds for our refurbishment plans.

We also enjoyed a brilliant evening launching the Brave New Reads initiative in Elmswell Library. The scheme aims to introduce new and quite challenging books to a new audience. We had a very interesting evening entertaining members from lots of local book groups and talking about the six new reads, plus all our favourite books. The choices are all available in the library, come and have a look and ask about them.

Manager, Emma Yarrow, visited the village’s WI group for their AGM and gave the members a whirlwind trip through the past five years of the library’s history, and advertising some of the new services. Thank you ladies for a wonderful welcome and some really quite tasty treats!

The annual Summer Reading Challenge will be upon us before we know it and we can’t run this brilliant scheme without the help of a team of volunteers to listen to the children reading, talk to them about books and celebrate their achievements.

The challenge 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. So if you could offer just one hour a week then please get in touch with library manager Emma Yarrow – there is a simple form to fill out and we need to get two references for you.

And finally, we hope you are all looking forward to an evening cycling in the summer sunshine with the Elmswellians, who once again will be holding a cycle ride in aid of the library.

This year we will be enjoying an evening ride along of Suffolk’s beautiful leafy lanes from 6:30pm on Friday, July 12th starting from the library. The 15-mile ride will end in The Fox at Elmswell, where we will have a raffle and, no doubt, exchange stories about our achievements.

We are looking to start the refurbishment in the autumn. With a little more fundraising we think we can not only re-shelve the whole library but we can also replace the children’s furniture, sort out the staff area and look at our storage options. It is a very exciting time and we will keep you updated as soon as we know more.

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

Ingredients
• 175g sugar
• 110ml boiling water
• 25g cocoa powder
• 55ml vegetable oil
• 1 egg
• 55ml milk
• 175g self-raising flour

Method
1. Put the cocoa powder into a small bowl and with adult help, pour on the boiling water and mix well
2. Microwave on high for 30 seconds and stir
3. Put the flour and sugar in a bowl, add the cocoa mixture, milk, oil and egg.
4. Mix well
5. Pour the mixture into a greased 8 inch wide microwave proof dish and microwave for 5 minutes
6. Let it cool in the dish before eating
7. Why not add some ice-cream

Make your own pizza

Ingredients
• 75g self-raising flour
• 10 soft butter
• 30ml milk
• 4 cherry tomatoes
• 25g cheese
• topping of your choice

Method
1. Put the flour and butter in a bowl
2. Rub the butter and flour with your fingers until it looks like crumbs
3. Add the milk, using a fork stir to make dough
4. Make the dough into a ball shape with your hands
5. Dust some flour onto the work surface, put your dough ball on top and flatten with your hand into a pizza base
6. Pop your pizza on a piece of baking paper and onto a baking tray
7. Pop your tomatoes in a bowl and cut them up using clean scissors, spoon them onto your pizza
8. Sprinkle the grated cheese on top and add your topping
9. Place in a preheated oven for 10 – 15 minutes at a temperature of 200˚c

Why couldn't the teddy bear eat his cake? Because he was stuffed!

Why did the student eat his homework? The teacher told him it was a piece of cake!

Remember to ask an adult to help you.

Remember to wash your hands before and after cooking.
The idea for the ride came in support of one of the Elmswell Scouts, 12-year-old Hari Sharma, whose family is originally from Nepal and still has close links with the Himalayan country. Ben Savill, Elmswell Group Scout Leader, said: “The horror of the earthquake was discussed at our regular Wednesday meeting, and the Scouts wanted to show support for Hari and his family.” He added: “A 25-mile bike ride seemed like a suitable challenge to get sponsorship from family and friends, and the Scouts who participated are well on the way to earning their Cycling badge.” Around 20 youngsters plus parent supporters rode the route, which started and finished at Elmswell’s Blackbourne Community Centre. In near-perfect cycling conditions, the group set off on a loop via Borley Green, Rattlesden, Felsham, Beyton, Tostock and Norton. Regular breaks for water and snacks kept energy levels and spirits high. Some of the younger Scouts completed a 12-mile route.

Ben Savill said: “The Scouts all did an excellent job, and the fabulous total reflects their effort and commitment. We’re very proud of what they achieved.” The £1,500 so far raised is significantly more than the original £1,000 target the Scouts set themselves. However, they would like to hit £2,000.

Hari’s dad, Guru Sharma, used to work as a sherpa in Nepal before moving to the UK. The money raised will be passed to him to distribute as he sees fit, and he has promised to report back to the Scouts on how it is being spent. If you would like to donate, please visit https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/ESGforNepal

In other news, Elmswell Scouts has recently been awarded more than £4,500 in funding from The Big Lottery. The money will be used to buy new equipment which will enable the group to carry out more camps and adventures.
Exhibitions, Flower Festivals, Talks, Poetry and shall be holding a Summer Fun Day; there will On 6 June at the Church from 1pm-3.30pm we very worthy cause. Barnabas Fund. Over £370 was raised for this numerous Coffee Mornings, Concerts, Art Coffee Morning to raise funds for the Fabric The Friends of St John’s Church Church was the preacher. The service was led by Stephen Spurgeon of the united service for Pentecost Sunday was held in the Baptist Church and Miriam Fife of St John’s Christmans Together in Elmswell (Secretary Jean Folkard 242099) The united service for Pentecost Sunday was held in the Baptist Church on Sunday 24 May. The service was led by Stephen Spurgeon of the Baptist Church and Miriam Fife of St John’s Church was the preacher. The Friends of St John’s Church This year it is 20 years since we held our first Coffee Morning to raise funds for the Fabric of St John’s Church. Since then we have held numerous Coffee Mornings, Concerts, Art Exhibitions, Flower Festivals, Talks, Poetry and Puddings evening, Just Dessert evenings, Beetle Drives, Sausage Suppers, etc, etc. There will be an organ concert by Christopher Moore on 19 June at 7pm, followed by Cheese and Wine; the AGM and Coffee Morning (with ‘Bring and Buy’) will be in the Church on 20 June, as will the Annual Service on 21 June, with Clive Pain as our preacher. Throughout the weekend there will be a small exhibition depicting ‘Our Favourite Things’ Please look out for posters advertising future events.

ST. JOHN’S CHURCH TOWER FLOODLIGHTING
You are invited to sponsor the floodlighting of St. John’s to help with the day-to-day running expenses of our parish church. By doing so you can celebrate an anniversary, a birthday, or any other personal event / 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.”

PREVIOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED
1. in loving memory of Peter Worby. “You are always in my thoughts”. Love, Jean.
2. in loving memory of my dear Husband, Thomas Robertson.
3. in memory of Dorothy May Bloomfield.
4. in loving memory of Amy Pleasance, a dear Mum, Birthday.
5. Lesley Manning. Remembering you on your Birthday. Love Colin. XX.
6. in loving memory of Joy Elizabeth Oliver on her Birthday.
7. remembering Dorothy of Bloomfield.
8. remembering our Dad with love from his children and families. x. 25.
9. Kay Mc Donald. 2 years have passed since we lost our dear Mum.
10. “Remembering her always”. Much love from all the family.
11. Tony & Cindy Redit. Wedding Anniversary. All bookings and payments please to :- Trevor Sadler, Abbots Warren, Church Road, Elmswell (Tel: 24908)

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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.ourladys-stowmarket.co.uk
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When elected just 4 years ago they took on the several projects both individually and together. The Council lost 2 of its most active members far behind. Mike failed to keep his seat, with Sol not having won the Parish Council of Cllr Mike Friend and his wife Cllr Sol Indurain. By a margin of just 3 votes Mike was defeated.

The election brought an end to the service on the very last day of the Parish Council. The outgoing Councillors thanked them both at the last Council meeting. A wider public thanks them here.

DOG OWNERS BEWARE: GRASS SEEDS

Why are they a threat?
Grass seeds may be small, but they are a significant threat to our dogs, as they can actually migrate into the body of an animal’s body. Those seeds causing the most problems are those shaped like small darts. When they come into contact with an animal’s skin or other body part, they prick it and if the awn or seed is not removed immediately, it may actually start to move inwards. Once seeds and awns become buried, it is often very difficult for a veterinary surgeon to find them. The entry point may or may not be visible and it is possible that the seed may have migrated several inches. Having to make several different incisions in an attempt to find the seed is not uncommon, and there may be more than one seed. Some animals have had to be placed on ongoing medications due to infections caused by plant seeds and awns.

The seeds are most commonly seen between the toes, but may enter the nose, get between the eye and eyelids, or make their way into the gums, ears, toes, or other parts of an animal’s body. There are many reported cases of grass seeds entering the body through the toes and travelling up through the leg, or even into the shoulder!

Particularly at risk are long-haired dogs and dogs that spend more time outside, especially field dogs and working breeds.

How to minimise the risks
If possible, avoid taking your dog through areas of tall grass, or grass that is obviously seeding. When returning from a walk or field work, groom your dog immediately and remove any seeds. Check closely between the toes, in the ears, and in the ‘armpits’ and groin areas, since these are common places to find seeds and awns. If you find a seed, try removing it with a pair of tweezers. If you cannot remove the seed, contact your veterinary surgeon as soon as possible, since it will only become more deeply buried and harder to remove.

• Clipping long-haired pets would also be helpful, particularly around the feet. This will make it more difficult for the seeds to cling on and also makes it easier for you to spot.

• Most cases of grass seeds are found during the summer months, but they can occur at any given time.

Signs to look out for:
Ears: head-shaking, pawing or rubbing the ears
Paws: excessive licking or chewing, lameness
Eyes: inflammation, pain, redness or weeping
Nose: sneezing, nose rubbing, nasal discharge
Mouth: inflammation, swelling, coughing, or difficulty eating.

If you have any health concerns about your pet, contact The Old Tea Room Veterinary Surgery in Elmswell on 01359 241761.

ELMSWELL FELLOWSHIP

Food & Friends on Thursday June 11th at midday – for the older folk – a chance to meet other people and enjoy a nutritious meal at nominal cost. This is run in conjunction with Age UK. Phone Jackie on 245918 to book your place.

CU at CU Club continues at 6pm on Tuesdays – games, quizzes, stories and craft for 5 to 11 year olds. The last meeting this term will be on July 14th. Phone Ann on 241323 for more details.

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

- June 7th Miss Eileen Warner (inc Communion)
- June 14th Stephen Spurgeon - All-Age
- June 21st Stephen Spurgeon

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

DEPARTING COUNCILLORS

The election brought an end to the service on the Parish Council of Cllr Mike Friend and his wife Cllr Sol Indurain. By a margin of just 3 votes Mike failed to keep his seat, with Sol not far behind.

The Council lost 2 of its most active members who had spearheaded and carried through several projects both individually and together. When elected just 4 years ago they took on the responsibility for designing and coordinating the village’s very successful Jubilee celebrations. Since then, Sol has driven the initiatives to plant the new feature trees at Blackbourne where she played a leading role in providing the outdoor keep fit equipment. As a First Responder she has also championed the provision of the village’s second defibrillator now sited at the Blackbourne car park providing life saving opportunities on both sides of the railway line. Meanwhile, Mike has persuaded fellow councillors that Elmswell Station should be ‘adopted’, under the train operator’s scheme and has, for the past 2 years liaised with them over problems there – as well as picking up the litter! He has also taken on board the production of a street plan and footpath map for display in the village and for general publication. He is seen here putting house names on the map – a crucial factor when the emergency services have to find an address in a no-number street. Mike has agreed to stay on as the Village Transport Officer.

Councillors thanked them both at the last Council meeting. A wider public thanks them here.

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CIRCUS FANTASTICA COMES TO THE BLACKBOURNE

This August marks the tenth anniversary of the very popular Holiday Club, a venture run jointly by St. John’s Church, headed by Rev. Peter Goodridge, and Elmswell Baptist Church, headed by Stephen Spurgeon. It is open to all local children who are in the primary age group. There is a core of adult volunteers, many of whom have been with the club from the start, who work hard to make this week a thoroughly enjoyable experience and help the children to learn more about Christianity. Also on hand are members of the Fit Crew, children from the local upper schools, who organise activities for the younger children and work alongside them, helping with the tasks they are given. At its peak, the holiday club has had as many as 90 children attending and, such is its popularity, some families plan their holidays around that week.

The Blackbourne is transformed into a theatre set, reflecting the theme for the week, and each of the groups of children has an area of the hall where they are based. Large banners hang from the walls and provide a space where the children can display pictures and written responses to what they have learned. If they wish, they can also add their own prayers.

The club brings in an amazing couple, who are responsible for the whole show - Elaine and Ian Coules. They come all the way from Liverpool and, the minute their feet touch the ground, their energy and enthusiasm spreads to everyone in the room. No matter what age the children are, they are drawn into the themes and stories that are acted out, told to them or sung about in easy to remember songs and choruses. There is also a Fit Crew dance that everyone learns. The theme this year is Circus Fantastica and focuses on Jesus and his Miracles and the whole set up that are acted out, told to them or sung about in easy to remember songs and choruses. And when the Fit Crew dance is introduced. The children then go back to their group areas and have a chance to reflect on what they’ve been listening to. They can ask questions of their adult helpers and the Fit Crew, give opinions and get to know the Bible stories better. It is also an opportunity to understand the beliefs of Christianity and its importance in so many people's lives.

Once the children are back in the hall, they return to their work area for the art and craft session. This is always enjoyable and the adults and Fit Crew are very good at how much help they give to the children. The result is that everyone usually manages to complete the task. Again, the art and craft will reflect the theme of the Bible story and is something to remind the children about what they have learnt. If there is time, this is also an opportunity for the children to add to the displays on their banner.

For the final session, everyone gets together again and the groups have the chance to score points for their teams by remembering the memory verse for the day and taking part in competitive games. The games are adapted to the size and ability of the children, which gives everyone an equal chance. After more singing, fun and reflection, the last session comes to an end and the children return to their areas and get ready to go home.

On the Thursday night there is a hot dog supper for the children and their parents so they can all be together and have a chance to see what the children have been doing during the week and meet many of the people involved. It is also an opportunity for the Fit Crew to show their skills, when they perform a cheerleading routine and a puppet show, having had a practice on the Wednesday afternoon. Everyone gets a chance to sing the songs they have learned during the week, and then its time to eat. Needless to say, it is a very popular event.

This year the week will run from August 17th to 21st, Monday to Friday. You can get booking forms through Elmswell CP School on June 26th - a Friday evening - at the School Fayre or in the school playground on the last week of term at the end of the school day. Otherwise, you visit the St. John’s church website www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk

The Holiday Club brings Christians together in the village and, as Stephen Spurgeon sums it up, ‘they are able to work together to offer a good week of wholesome fun for children, offering the essentials of the Christian story in an inviting way’. 

Maggie Bushell
VE DAY REMEMBERED IN ELMSWELL

VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY

On 8 May 1945 a public holiday was declared to celebrate the formal acceptance of Nazi Germany’s unconditional surrender of its armed forces. Effectively this marked the end of the war in Europe, although a bloody vicious and terrible conflict continued in Japan until August of that year when World War 2 ended.

70 years on this date, known since then as VE, Victory in Europe, Day, was marked worldwide as possibly the last significant commemoration of the peace to be attended by survivors of the conflict.

Such occasions are bitter-sweet. For the carnage to have ceased we celebrate; for those who gave their lives in order to achieve this we mourn.

A congregation of some 60 souls gathered in St John’s on Friday 8th May in the Gardener chapel where the Elmswell War Memorial takes pride of place. Rev. Peter Goodridge led a brief and extremely poignant meditation upon, ‘reconciliation between the nations, that all people may live together, live in freedom, justice and peace.’

Turning to face the names of Elmswell’s fallen, in two minutes of perfect silence, remembered before God were, ’those who have died for their countries in war; those whose memories we treasure; and all who have lived and died in the service of the people of the world.’

A short but special commemoration of the 70th anniversary of VE Day was held in the Elmswell Memorial Garden on 8 May, when forty-five people gathered at 3 pm for two minutes silence, in tribute to those that took part in, and those who lost their lives in World War II.

Prayers were said, a poem was read and individual poppies were laid beneath the memorial stone. The fire officers attended with fire engine and leading fireman Brian Hawes read the names of the ten Elmswell service men who died during WWII. Just before 3 pm Pam Harland played the Last Post - an amazingly clear and pure sound which, in the open air, must have carried for some distance.

Afterwards, a chance for those that lived through the wartime to reminisce and for all of us a chance to ponder on the sadness and futility of war and violence. But also a chance to think about the joy that must have been felt at 3 pm on that afternoon on 8 May 1945 when Winston Churchill announced to the nation that the war in Europe had finished. Even though the war was officially at an end, in the Far East the war raged on, claiming more lives. Another five months were to pass before peace was finally to come on 2 September 1945.

Thank you to Brian Hawes and colleagues, Derek Jones, Marian Abbott, Pam Harland and all those that attended. A special thank you to the Elmswell library manager, Emma Yarrow for her help and support.

ELMSWHEELIANS

Programme of Bike Rides and Notice of Fund-Raising Bike Ride for Elmswell Library on Friday 17th July 2015

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

Rides are held either on a Sunday morning or on a Friday evening, and please note that this year’s Fund Raising Ride, for our local Elmswell Library, will be an evening ride on Friday 17th July. It will also be a little bit shorter than the previous fund-raising Sunday rides.

The finish, however, will be the same as before… ending at “The Fox”, with a Grand Draw to round things off.

If anyone can help with Draw Prizes, your support will be much appreciated.

Also, if anyone would like to get themselves sponsored to do the ride, Sponsorship Forms are available from the Elmswell Library, or from me direct.

Dates of our 2015 Rides planned so far are:

- Friday 12th June (evening ride - 12 miles approx.)
- Friday 17th July (evening ride and Library Fund Raiser - 15 miles approx.)
- Sunday 16th August (18/19 miles approx.)
- Sunday 18th October (18 miles approx.)

All the rides, except the Library Fund Raiser, will start from Abbots Warren in Church Road; Sunday rides at 10.30 a.m.; the two Friday evening rides at 6.30 p.m.

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

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Anniversary Match
Preparations for our anniversary match are well and truly under way. The match takes place on Sunday 19th July at The Blackbourne and all are welcome.

We would like to thank the following who have kindly agreed to sponsor the club for this special occasion:

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Wells Stitched Embroidery
Stowmarket Vets

We are also extremely grateful to the following Club Vice Presidents for their generous donations:

C. Plowright
C. Salmon
D. Dyball
D. Cowley
D. Peachey
P. Christie
D. Royal

It’s not too late if you would like to make a donation towards our 40th year celebrations. Please contact D. Peachey on 01359 242622 for more details.

Latest Results
Sunday 26th April
Battisford (A)
League Match - Cancelled

Sunday 3rd May
East Bergholt (A)
League Match - Cancelled

Sunday 10th May
League Match (A)
Earl Stonham 201 for 4
K. Barnes 2 for 53
L. Stannard 1 for 34
Elmswell 181 all out
N. Greathead 66
T. Haynes 25

Sunday 24th May
League Match (H)
Stowupland 199 for 9
G. Stannard 3 for 28
N. Greathead 2 for 41
Elmswell 71 all out
G. Stannard 28
K. Barnes 27
Upcoming Fixtures
May
31st Worlington (H)

June
3rd Salvation Army (H)
7th Woolpit (A)
10th Old Newton (H)
14th Battisford (A)
17th Battisford (A)
21st Long Melford (A)
24th Bardwell (H)
28th Tendring Park (H)

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

ELMSWELL BOWLS CLUB

At last our league matches have commenced, although we have had somewhat of a slow start against some good and established teams we can only improve over the season.

Results as follows:
Stowmarket & District League

Tuesday Fixtures
Elmswell 72 (5) v Combs Ford 78 (2)
Elmswell 57 (1) v Needham Market 89 (6)
Elmswell 69 (1.5) v Rookery 70 (5.5)

Tuesday Afternoon
Elmswell 29 (2) v Thornham Magna 39 (5)
Elmswell 30 (0) v Gipping Valley 43 (7)
Elmswell 24 (2) v Stanton B 34 (5)
Elmswell 21 (0) v St Botolphs 39 (7)
Elmswell 20 (2) v Old Newton B 39 (5)

Wednesday Triples
Elmswell 58 (5) v Gipping Valley 55 (2)
Elmswell 50 (0) v Thurland 76 (7)
Elmswell 24 (1) v Walsham le Willows 55 (6)
Elmswell 36 (0) v Wortham 111 (7)

Thursday Bury & District League
Elmswell 79 (2) v Risbygate 85 (5)
Elmswell 70 (2) v Coney Weston 73 (5)

Well done to all our players for their efforts especially the Tuesday Afternoon ‘Newbies’

On Saturday we held the second of our Drives the weather was decent and everyone was able to have a good afternoon bowls.

Ian Tullett and Sheila Faulkner having a relaxing afternoon just letting the world go by.

Whilst this might look like a movement in a square dance it is players changing ends facing are Linda Smart (lhs) and Brenda Begg. The ‘rear enders’ are Ian Tullett, Dave Hollings and Michael Waspe.

Three of our ‘elders’ Messrs Waspe, Tullett and Hollings studying the outcome.

(Th is being the frontage of the previous photo, not sure which is the better view?)

Overall winner of the Drive was Elizabeth Bennington who scored more winning shots than anyone else.

There is still time for anyone who wishes to come and play bowls to join us. Give our Chairman Linda Abbott a call 01359242224.

Michael Moore, Bowls Reporter

Thanks to Peter Edmonds for photographs

LC
Dressmaking & Alterations
Bridal, Womenswear, Menswear
Tel: 07401 902 620
Email: lisa.dressmaker@gmail.com
Our picture shows some of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group at the Co-op drawing the prize winners in the draw which encouraged an excellent response to the questionnaire exercise. The answers will guide their efforts to produce a plan setting out the community’s wishes, hopes and aspirations in the planning of our community over the next 25 years and beyond. The lucky winners were:

1st prize of £100.00 Co-op grocery vouchers
Mr & Mrs Grunbaum of Pightle Close

2nd prize of £50.00 Co-op grocery vouchers
Mrs Mulley of Mill gardens

2nd prize of £50.00 Co-op grocery vouchers
Mrs Miller of Miller Close

3rd prize of £25.00 Co-op grocery vouchers
Mr & Mrs Rye of Pightle Close

3rd prize of £25.00 Co-op grocery vouchers
Mrs Knight of Oxer Close

3rd prize of £25.00 Co-op grocery vouchers
Ian Tulliet of Orchard Close

3rd prize of £25.00 Co-op grocery vouchers
Mr & Mrs Emerson of Blackbourne Road

Free childcare is available to eligible 2 year olds (please call the nursery for more information)

Extra activities offered including Spanish Lessons, Yoga and Educational Visits

The group is to engage, via the Parish Council, professional help and guidance from the experienced team at Urban Vision, who are already engaged on steering other communities in the area through the Neighbourhood Plan process. The funding for this, as has been the case so far, is met by Government grant aid as part of their, ‘localism agenda’, encouraging just such community involvement in the Planning process. Rachel Hogger, from Urban Vision, attended the most recent Group meeting and mapped out a provisional way forward towards shaping the views expressed by the community via the questionnaires and other consultative exercises into a Plan that meets the strict Government criteria ready for presentation in a referendum to the residents.

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

Marian Abbott mariann731@btinternet.com
Philip Blissett pblissett@btinternet.com
Julie Cole jules.cole@hotmail.co.uk
Peter Dow clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk
Peter Edmonds peteredmonds@tiscali.co.uk
Mary Feeney feenemj@btinternet.com
Terry Garner terrygarner@btinternet.com
Peter Goodridge elmswellrector@gmail.com
Sarah Mansel Sarah.Mansel@mid.suffolk.gov.uk
Fred Pallett fp@oilgasassociates.com
Shaun Pratt shaun.pratt@btinternet.com
Ann Richards ann@richards47.plus.com
Jane Storey Jane.Storey@councillors.suffolkcc.gov.uk
Lesley Reed Lesley@reed.org
Julia Taber juliataber41cloud.com

For further information call:
01359 240592
or email darestreetfarm@aol.com
www.streetfarmdaynursery.co.uk

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Peter Edmonds peteredmonds@tiscali.co.uk
Mary Feeney feenemj@btinternet.com
Terry Garner terrygarner@btinternet.com
Peter Goodridge elmswellrector@gmail.com
Sarah Mansel Sarah.Mansel@mid.suffolk.gov.uk
Fred Pallett fp@oilgasassociates.com
Shaun Pratt shaun.pratt@btinternet.com
Ann Richards ann@richards47.plus.com
Jane Storey Jane.Storey@councillors.suffolkcc.gov.uk
Lesley Reed Lesley@reed.org
Julia Taber juliataber41cloud.com
PARISH COUNCIL

Reporting back...

At the Annual Parish Council Meeting, reports are tabled from a variety of officers and other council consultees.

Over the next few editions, as space allows, your Newsletter will publish some of them – starting here with the report from the retiring Chairman of the Council, David Barker.

The council has met 10 times in the year. The accounts, as presented in full detail at each meeting and in advance to Councillors, demonstrate a prudent and businesslike approach to the proceedings of the Council, as directed by Members. The Clerk to the Council has maintained, in a fast-moving legislative environment, his training and grasp of appropriate rules and regulations so that, once again, Council has been given a clean sheet at all 3 levels of audit, including by the Government appointed External Auditor, Messrs BDO LLP, who, once again, found no matters of concern and that relevant legislative and regulatory requirements had been met.

In a village such as Elmswell, which is under considerable pressure for development, not least that already with planning permission for up to 190 houses where the fast-disappearing Bacon Factory stood, the Council must work, broadly, on 3 levels. There is the day-to-day administration of the allotments, cemetery, play facilities, bins, streetlights, litter and the many other day-to-day concerns of residents. There is the need to look ahead regarding such facilities, to plan and allow for the inevitable stresses as the community grows. And there is the essential duty to have an eye to the broader, strategic, picture so that Elmswell does not miss out in an ever-changing regulatory and statutory environment, particularly with regard to planning.

The Clerk’s office deals admirably with the first requirement and enquiries receive extremely prompt attention and an excellent response. The new caretaker at Blackbourne, Mark Edwards, has made the job his own and improved on what was already an excellent experience for the many and growing number of users of the Blackbourne facilities. In close liaison with many village groups and organisations the weekly youth club flourishes, the Gardening Club floral display groups and organisations the weekly youth club facilities. In close liaison with many village and growing number of users of the Blackbourne, now has adequate storage space, another much-needed meeting room and vastly improved disabled access. The contract has been awarded for the new roadway allowing access to the rear of the complex and straight into the Jubilee Hall as well as even more parking.

The outdoors keep fit equipment, the digital projector for users at Blackbourne, the new grounds maintenance roller mower are all good examples of community improvement providing benefits across the board. In helping others to do likewise, grants have been made to & external bodies whose work benefits our community as well as to the Poppy Appeal which enjoyed special prominence this year and when Council willingly supported the very successful Poppy Festival at St John’s.

In terms of ‘future-proofing’ we are, in common with others in our sector of local governance, having to work hard with no guarantee of success. We do our best and, I contend, we do it well. The excellent Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has firmly established a lead position, completely independent of Parish Council control, towards establishing the community view on the policies which should guide development in our village over the next 25 years and towards writing and having approved those policies. At the behest of the Amenities Association and some of the user groups Council stands ready to act towards saving, for the village both now and in the future, the Wesley chapel site as a community facility at the heart of the village. Through our Clerk we maintain an excellent relationship with other agencies. They are aware of, and take account of, Elmswell’s needs and aspirations. We are aware of the ferment of policies and initiatives which must be addressed if we are to stay, as we have been for the past several years, ahead of the game.

This is my 12th and last report. As such, I feel that it would be remiss of me not to mention the difficulties which have been put in our way over many years by just one individual Councillor’s relentless campaign to bring down myself, Peter Dow and anyone considered to have been tainted by either or both of us. I am aware that, over several administrations, many wiser counsels have urged reason to no avail and I harbour the hope that, in the future, their energies might, even now, be directed to less destructive ends. In the meantime, I am proud to say that a dogged determination not to be browbeaten has, it seems, spurred all those affected on to greater efforts to achieve results which are of obvious and considerable benefit to Elmswell.

On a more positive note, I am delighted to observe that I leave the Council in a better condition than when I was first asked to serve as Chairman in 2003 after, ‘The Troubles’. Through the revitalisation of Village of the Year and the subsequent village-wide improvements, particularly at Blackbourne, I very much hope that it is felt that I have played a positive part. My further hope is that the new administration reflects the mix of professionalism, skills and experience that, at this crucial juncture in Elmswell’s development, we so obviously need.

Throughout the past 12 years, and beyond, the effort, professionalism and commitment of Peter Dow has enabled the Council to punch well above its weight. My sincere thanks go to him. Finally, my sincere thanks also go to all those Councillors who, over the years have both supported me and worked for the benefit of all. It is not an easy task and I wish all the new Councillors, who have been elected for the first time, every success in responding positively to the responsibilities which lie ahead.

David Barker
18 May 2015
The first meeting of a new parish council is in May and is the Annual Meeting – a sort of AGM with other business attached. This year it was held in the Chamberlayne Hall at Blackbourne on Monday 18th with all 11 of the newly elected councillors present, along with the Parish Clerk, County Councillor Mrs Jane Storey, District Cllrs Mrs Sarah Mansel and John Levantis together with 34 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 one other Member elected by their peers. It seeks to cover some of the more interesting or significant items thought to deserve wider public attention. Included, where appropriate, are matters reported to the meeting by external bodies such as the Police and Ward Members or as raised at the meeting by members of the public. Further background and reference to subsequent events are included where relevant.

The Minutes of recent Parish Council meetings and Committee meetings, together with the agenda for the next meeting, when published, are available on line at www.elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk, in the Memorial Library and from the Parish Clerk by arrangement. Bound copies of older Minutes are lodged with the Suffolk County Records Office in Bury St. Edmunds. The most recent Minutes, from the April Council meeting, as approved at this meeting, are posted in the community notice board at the Co-op.

**Chairman** The retiring Chairman, Cllr David Barker, oversaw the election of Cllr Lesley Reed as Council Chairman for the year with Cllr Brian Hawes as Vice chairman.

**Reports** Reports were received from the Council Chairman for the year 2014/15 together with other officers of the Council and representatives of the Council on other bodies. Many of these reports will be published in The Elmswell Newsletter in coming editions.

**Accounts** The Clerk prepares an annual Statement of the Accounts for the year ended 31st March. These include the Balance Sheet, the Assets Register which lists everything that the Council owns and notes disposals and acquisitions together with the original costs and current values, a fully itemised report on income and expenditure over the year and a Supporting Statement which outlines the current financial commitments. Approval of this Statement forms a key element of the Governance Statement made to the external auditor for approval. The Statement of Accounts was approved.

**Annual Return** The Council's external auditor is appointed by the Government and requires an annual statement confirming that Councillors, aware of the financial and governance processes and procedure which are in place and having had free access to all accounts and their supporting documentation over the year, confirm their approval of the Clerk’s Accounting Statement and Annual Governance Statement. Approval was formally given and minuted and the Chairman and Clerk were authorised to sign the relevant documents.

**Risk Assessments** A schedule of Risk Assessments covering all aspects of the Council’s responsibilities, including Financial Risk, was published and the Meeting approved this comprehensive document as representing a proper assessment of the risks and demonstrating appropriate management of them.

**Internal Audit** The Council annually appoints an internal audit to examine and report on the finances, processes and procedures which have maintained for the previous financial year. The 2014/15 audit was carried out by The Suffolk Association of Local Councils which has a stand-alone department, independent of the Association’s day-to-day activities, dedicated to carrying out audits for town and parish councils. The Auditor’s report was received by Council. It was formally noted and minuted that the accounts and other documentation were well presented for audit purposes with no comments or recommendations made which required action on the part of either the Council or the Council’s Responsible Finance Officer.

**Officers** The Council has a number of advisory roles and other representative appointments, often filled by volunteers who are not councillors which, good practice suggests, benefits community liaison and brings fresh insights. These were filled by agreement of the Meeting and the posts held by Councillors will be published as part of the schedule of contact details.

**Committee memberships** The Council has 2 standing committees. The Planning Committee exists to allow for the consideration of planning applications when the timetable required by Mid Suffolk, the Planning Authority, cannot be met within the framework of Council meetings. The Committee met twice last year. The Complaints Committee meets when required to deal with complaints about the Council from members of the public. This committee has not met since 2008.

**Mid Suffolk District Council** Cllr Mrs Sarah Mansel tabled a written report on the past month’s activities which included details of the new political makeup of the Council. She confirmed that Elmswell is now grouped in one of 18 functional clusters following the Babergh model, grouped with Woolpit, Badwell Ash, Great Ashfield, Hessett, Hunston, Langham, Wetherden, Drinkstone and Gedding. This is the result of a mapping exercise which took into account access jobs, schools, shops etc so that consideration can be given to these real-life patterns in future planning for growth and services. With more flexibility in the planning system than has previously maintained, the Local Plan is a key document. The functional clusters will form part of that plan.

**Planning results** The Meeting noted that Permission has been granted for work to trees the subject of Tree Preservation Orders at 8 Grange Meadow, which the Parish Council had supported.

**Blackbourne expenditure** The meeting agreed to suspend approval of any capital expenditure on Blackbourne pending sight of a budget for the financial year 2015 / 2016 and with a business plan from the Blackbourne Management Association.

**Annual Parish Meeting** It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting, the opportunity for the community to come together and discuss any matter relevant to the village, would be held at Blackbourne on Wednesday 27th May beginning at 8.00pm.

**Improving meetings** A group of Councillors are to come together as a ‘Task & Finish Panel’ to look into ways of making Council meetings more public-friendly. There is currently no system of amplification which can make the proceedings difficult for the public to follow.

**Departing councillors** The meeting thanked Cllrs Friend and Indurain who had recently failed to gain re-election. They had both served 4 active years on the Council.

**Next meeting** The next meeting is scheduled for 15th June 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 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 01139 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 Gobblins factory premises. It is open for business on weekdays from 9.00am – 5.30 pm, excepting Bank Holidays. The answerphone is monitored daily.
Your councillors are:

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<th>Posts</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dick Burch</td>
<td>14 Wetherden Road, ELMSWELL IP30 9DF</td>
<td>01359 240105</td>
<td><a href="mailto:clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk">clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk</a></td>
<td>Footpath Officer</td>
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<td>Blackbourne Management Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Edmonds</td>
<td>Little Acre, Ashfield Road, ELMSWELL IP30 9HJ</td>
<td>01359 241640</td>
<td><a href="mailto:peterjedmonds@tiscali.co.uk">peterjedmonds@tiscali.co.uk</a></td>
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<td>07860 395720</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helen Gunby</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:helen.gunby79@outlook.com">helen.gunby79@outlook.com</a></td>
<td>Elmswell Amenities Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Harrison</td>
<td>1 Manns Court, Cooks Road, ELMSWELL IP30 9BZ</td>
<td>01359 245223</td>
<td><a href="mailto:steveandlyn@hotmail.com">steveandlyn@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Hawes</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:brian.hawes@live.co.uk">brian.hawes@live.co.uk</a></td>
<td>Vice chairman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Hawes</td>
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<td>01359 240249</td>
<td><a href="mailto:davidandanna70@yahoo.co.uk">davidandanna70@yahoo.co.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fred Pallett</td>
<td>Maple House, New Road, ELMSWELL IP30 9 BT</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:fjp@oilgasassociates.com">fjp@oilgasassociates.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Shaun Pratt</td>
<td>Winlow, Spong Lane, ELMSWELL IP30 9 DX</td>
<td>07813 302808</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shaun.pratt@btinternet.com">shaun.pratt@btinternet.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lesley Reed</td>
<td>Second Thoughts, Church Road, ELMSWELL IP30 9DY</td>
<td>01359 241009</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lesley@reed.org">lesley@reed.org</a></td>
<td>Chairman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julia Taber</td>
<td>4 School Avenue, ELMSWELL IP30 9EH</td>
<td>07921 882206</td>
<td><a href="mailto:juliataber4@icloud.com">juliataber4@icloud.com</a></td>
<td>Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group</td>
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<td>Blackbourne Management Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Wiley</td>
<td>28 Gardener’s Walk, ELMSWELL IP30 9 ET</td>
<td>07544 762448</td>
<td><a href="mailto:chris.wiley@hotmail.co.uk">chris.wiley@hotmail.co.uk</a></td>
<td>Blackbourne Management Association</td>
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The Blackbourne Management Association AGM will be held at The Blackbourne on Wednesday 24th June 2015 beginning at 7.30.

Nominations for 2 elected Committee members to be with the Association Secretary Peter Edmonds - peterjedmons@tiscali.co.uk Little Acre, Ashfield Road, Elmswell IP30 9HJ 01359 241640 on or before Friday 19th June

The Association largely comprises Blackbourne user groups and manages the Blackbourne facilities on behalf of Elmswell Parish Council

Footpath Walk

Our next walk starts, as usual, from Crown Mill, on SUNDAY 14th JUNE 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
What’s On in Elmswell?

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

June 2015
1 Ladies Friendship Group outing to Columbyme Hall and Gardens in Stowupland. Meet at chapel at 6.30pm. Phone Margaret on 241541 to book your place. Open to men as well.
3 Over 55’s club  Details T B C
4 “Companions” meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
5 “Companions” meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
6 Fun Day/Fair at St John’s Church 1pm
7 Elmswell WI ‘A journey to Citizenship’ Linda Scoles we meet at 7.30 p.m. at Blackbourne.
8 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” N.B. Book & Pay for place on July Outing - for details ring Anne McGee, 01539-244001
9 Food ’n’ Friends Elmswell Baptist Church midday
10 St. John’s Ladies Lunch Group at The Wesley Hall. 11.30am
11 Elmswell Exchange Social Club. Wesley Hall.
12 Food ’n’ Friends Elmswell Baptist Church, midday
13 Elmswell WI Harvest Supper we meet at 7.30 p.m. at Blackbourne.
14 “Companions” meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
15 Over 55’s club Mike Reed entertains
16 “Companions” meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
17 Fire Crew Bingo session at Blackbourne Eyes down 7.30

July 2015
1 Elmswell Exchange WI, 2pm in the Wesley Community Centre. Cee Biscoe. The work of a Children’s Book Illustrator. Competition: A favourite book illustration
2 Over 55’s club Ploughmans Supper
3 “Companions” meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
4 Elmswell History Group – Annual Outing: Suffolk Regiment Museum, Bury St Edmunds - for details ring Anne McGee, 01539-244001
5 Food ’n’ Friends Elmswell Baptist Church midday
6 St. John’s Ladies Lunch Group at The Wesley Hall. 11.30am
7 Fire Crew Bingo session at Blackbourne Eyes down 7.30

August 2015
3 Over 55’s club Holiday to Weymouth reservations now being taken
4 Elmswell Exchange WI, 2pm in the Wesley Community Centre. Alistair Angus - Elmswell Butchers. From Farm to Form. Competition: A bull or cow in any medium
5 Elmswell WI Members meeting we meet at 7.30 p.m. at Blackbourne.
6 Over 55’s club Bingo
7 “Companions” meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
8 Over 55’s club Outing Carvery Lunch and boat trip
9 “Companions” meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
10 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
3 Autumn Fayre - enquiries Peter Edmonds 241640
4 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church at 7.45pm Sue & Dave from Fresh Start on making soaps.
5 Elmswell WI Harvest Supper we meet at 7.30 p.m. at Blackbourne.
6 Food ’n’ Friends Elmswell Baptist Church midday
7 Over 55’s club Mike Reed entertains
8 “Companions” meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
9 Gardening Club - 7.30pm Blackbourne Talk. From Mountain to Garden
10 Elmswell Exchange Social Club. Wesley Hall.
11 “Companions” meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
12 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
14 Elmswell Exchange WI, 2pm in the Wesley Community Centre. Graham Higgins. Tales from the Bench (with your change to sentence a Victorian item)
15 “Companions” meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
16 Fire Crew Bingo session at Blackbourne
17 Gardening Club - 7.30pm Blackbourne AGM – Speaker to be arranged
18 Fire Crew Bingo session at Blackbourne Eyes down 7.30

October 2015
1 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church at 7.45pm Pip Wright on History from old local newspapers.
2 Elmswell Exchange WI, 2pm in the Wesley Community Centre. Graham Higgins. Tales from the Bench (with your change to sentence a Victorian item)!. Competition: A favourite painting or drawing
3 Over 55’s club Music by Jim Hawkins
4 Food ’n’ Friends Elmswell Baptist Church midday
5 “Companions” meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
6 Elmswell WI ‘Story of silk and Pashmina’ Jenny Gibbs
7 St. John’s Ladies Lunch Group at The Wesley Hall. 11.30am
8 Gardening Club - 7.30pm Blackbourne Talk. Plants for Difficult Places
9 Elmswell Exchange Social Club. Wesley Hall. 2.30pm Talk & Slides by Mr Parfitt - ‘The Realm of the Polar Bear’
10 Over 55’s club Outing Wherry Carvery & Lowestoft
11 “Companions” meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
12 Fire Crew Bingo session at Blackbourne Eyes down 7.30

November 2015
1 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church at 7.45pm Paul Kemp with an Update on home in Romania.
2 Elmswell Exchange WI, 2pm in the Wesley Community Centre. Graham Jenner. A journey through NW Australia. Competition: Something Australian!
3 Over 55’s club Sausage Supper
4 “Companions” meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
5 Elmswell WI Craft we meet at 7.30 p.m. at Blackbourne
6 Food ’n’ Friends Elmswell Baptist Church midday
7 St. John’s Ladies Lunch Group at The Wesley Hall. 11.30am
8 Elmswell Exchange Social Club. Wesley Hall. 2.30pm Talk to be arranged + Bring & Buy Stall
9 Over 55’s club Gala bingo night
10 “Companions” meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
11 Gardening Club - 7.30pm Blackbourne
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15 Elmswell Exchange Social Club. Wesley Hall.
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18 “Companions” meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
19 Fire Crew Bingo session at Blackbourne
20 “Companions” meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
21 Gardening Club - 7.30pm Blackbourne
22 Fire Crew Bingo session at Blackbourne Eyes down 7.30

December 2015
1 Elmswell Exchange WI, 2pm in the Wesley Community Centre. Cee Biscoe. The work of a Children’s Book Illustrator. Competition: A favourite book illustration
2 Over 55’s club Ploughmans Supper
3 “Companions” meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
4 Elmswell History Group – Annual Outing: Suffolk Regiment Museum, Bury St Edmunds - for details ring Anne McGee, 01539-244001
5 Food ’n’ Friends Elmswell Baptist Church midday
6 St. John’s Ladies Lunch Group at The Wesley Hall. 11.30am
7 Elmswell Exchange Social Club. Wesley Hall.
8 Over 55’s club Salvation Army Carol Concert
9 “Companions” meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
10 Xmas Party entertainment by Pat James
11 There will be a further update for next months newsletter
12 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church at 7.45pm Nosh & Natter, entertainment from Janice Harvey. Open to men as well.
13 Elmswell WI ’Christmas Party’ we meet at 7.30 p.m. at Blackbourne.
14 Elmswell WI Craft we meet at 7.30 p.m. at Blackbourne
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Regular meetings at Blackbourne

Monday
Guides 6.30 – 8.00,
Youth Club 7.00 – 9.00, Zumba 6.00 – 7.00

Tuesday
Beavers 5.15 – 6.30
Slimming World 5.30 & 7.30
WI (2nd Tuesday monthly) 7.00 – 10.30
Gardening club (3rd Tuesday monthly) 7.00 – 10.00

Wednesday
Scouts 5.45 – 9.00
Jujutsu martial arts class 7.00 – 9.00

Thursday
Brownies 5.30 – 8.00
Over 55's 7.00 – 10.00 (2nd & 4th monthly)

Friday
Bingo (last Friday monthly) eyes down 7.30
BATS – Badminton & Table Sports – 7.00 – 10.00

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

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