

'Like a friend dropping in'



The Elmswell Newsletter



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

March 2015

ELMSWILD TAME THE STATION...



...SEE EDITORIAL PAGE



SHADY LADY AT BLACKBOURNE?
SEE EDITORIAL PAGE



BANK BONUS
SEE EDITORIAL PAGE

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 Goblins 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.

In March 2013, our editorial centred on the possibility of change to one of our cherished institutions.

The Memorial Library was under threat. Suffolk County Council, itself subject to massive budget cuts from Government, had to save money. Their 'diversification' of Libraries forced a dramatic re-think in the way Elmswell used and enjoyed their own much loved community facility.

A combination of organisational changes at all levels, together with the dedication and inspiration of Emma and her staff and by the determination and innovation of Jimmy Jewel and his band of ELF's, has meant that our Memorial Library is safe for the moment.

However, the Newsletter article brought into play the chance of yet another community setback. Dave Hollings had pointed out in his Baptist Church report that the Methodist Church was no longer holding services, and that, 'money and ideas are needed if the building is to be saved for community use'. It went on to muse on the possibility of combining the 2 embattled enterprises...put the library into the chapel which would then benefit from the rental whilst the original Memorial Library building could realise a much enhanced market rent bringing in more funds for the community. Nothing more than musing, but, perhaps, an example of the order of thinking and innovation which might be necessary now.

Right now. For the Methodist chapel site is up for sale. Not struggling. Not short of a few bob. Not merely threatened. It will be sold.

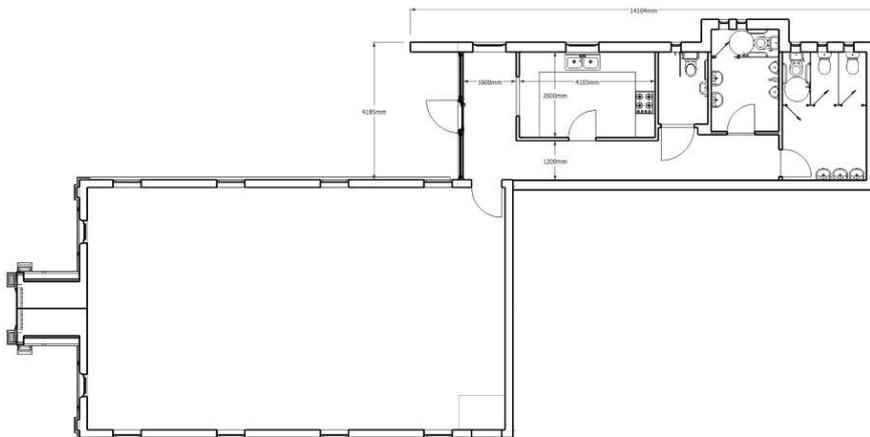
The Methodist congregation nationwide is declining at 10% per year. Back in 2013 it had declined in Elmswell to the level that services were no longer viable. So, as they had done in Woolpit some years before, the Church hierarchy in Manchester decided to dispose of the site. They have since taken professional advice and will soon market a development opportunity comprising, 'A fine Victorian chapel building well suited to conversion into a single dwelling with ample scope for the addition of up to 4 other dwellings'. There have already been approaches from developers.

The Wesley Hall Management Committee sought the help and advice of the Parish Council and of the Amenities Association, both with experience of raising funds for and of managing large community schemes. There was a joint resolve that the site must be saved for community use in perpetuity. With more than a century of service as a focus for the people of Elmswell coming together, and at a time when Elmswell is destined to increase dramatically in size, there is, they agreed, no reason to invite more houses.

Alan Wilkinson of WPP Architects in Ipswich is acknowledged by many to be the specialist in the field of designing community facilities of all shapes and sizes. He was asked to draw up a scheme which could form the basis of a business plan for presentation to funding bodies who might then assist in the purchase. The guideline that was used for the purchase and refurbishment was £500,000. Half a million pounds is needed. Half a million pounds is needed before an August deadline.



The plan, as seen here, is not, forgiving the pun, set in stone. It is a plan which can be defended as offering to grant aiding / funding organisations a rational and coherent way forward for the site based on the following thinking:



- 1 The current arrangement is unsustainable given the Methodist church has traditionally borne the costs of much of the maintenance and the whole of the costs of the chapel. They are putting £500 each month into keeping the buildings open.
- 2 For the site to be made appropriately self-sufficient for the community at large to take on some of the costs, there must be changes which address the 3 main drawbacks of the current facility...it is very expensive to heat and very costly to adapt to modern and affordable standards of heat efficiency...it is of an age and style that does not appeal to many potential hirers who seek attractive and up to date facilities...it has very restricted parking.
- 3 The result should offer sufficient space to accommodate the current uses and be adaptable enough so as to encourage many more users from outside of the village, to help underwrite the village users.

On the basis of these designs, the Amenities Association has agreed to continue in partnership with the Council and the User Group Management Committee towards funding. The local Methodist Circuit is entirely supportive of the continued community use of the site but they are obliged to secure the best possible price on the open market. They can't do Elmswell any favours other than encourage us to, once again, fight our corner and not only win, but win well.

There is no time for petty squabbling or peurile observations based on personal agendas. The plans here are by no means a blueprint for what has to happen. Effectively, they simply replace the existing hall with the chapel and add new, modern facilities to leave enough parking to attract user groups. But they form a credible platform on which to build a case for external funding. If and when funding is in place, fine tuning is inevitable.

The other inevitability is that, unless the village does something, the site will be lost.

Your Newsletter Fact File

For the next 6 months we need copy by:

March 24th	April 21st
May 26th	June 23rd
July 28th	August 25th

Your editors:

Jean Barker, Maggie Bushell, Peter Dow

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SHADY LADY... Cllr Sol Indurain proposed the 3 trees seen here and recently planted at Blackbourne as the final phase of planting to provide shade on the site.

BANK BONUS... our current custodians of the Station Road Recycling Centre, ElmsWild, not only persuaded the powers that be that a new contractor was needed for the textile bank - here they pose with the new one, but cleared the adjacent hedge to discourage litter and present a cleaner & tidier impression to rail passengers.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

ELMSWELL ART CLUB

The pictures this month are "Wild Waters" – Cornwall by Malcolm Wallis, "Poppies" by Henry Gow and "Clematis" by Denise Lawrence. Malcolm and Henry are two of our most talented artists who produce beautiful art work – but we all aspire to be better and the help that the experienced artists give to those of us who are learning is invaluable. I was left art equipment by my father when he died and it lay forgotten about for years and only surfaced when Pam Riches, Barbara Clark and I discussed starting an art group in the village. We expected to have about 10 people attend – but were amazed to find so many people with talent and ambition come along. Sometimes we are a little short of space (as we have well over 30 members) but usually we all manage to fit in as some members only come along once a fortnight.

We meet every Tuesday morning between 9.30am and 12.30pm and the cost is £2 per session (bargain!) with refreshments included. As mentioned before in the Art Club article we are having an exhibition at the Wesley Hall on Saturday 30th May and Sunday 31st May – more details to follow next month.

Denise Lawrence
Secretary – Elmswell Art Club
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CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB



Winter is disappearing and Spring must be on its way when Gardening Club members, new and old, gathered for the first meeting of the gardening year. Sadly, our Treasurer, Nick Chamberlin, was laid low with a winter bug and missed a fascinating run through the horticultural year with Michael Warren, a horticultural photographer. Michael began his career in engineering with many years at Ransomes in Ipswich but his love of gardening and his hobby of photography pushed him into a new career which has taken him all over the world in search of plants and flowers.

We were shown winter slides of green and white snowdrops with yellow aconites poking through a snow laden bowl. Apparently one may have instant snow by pouring water on sodium polyacrylate to simulate the real thing. As it was a chilly evening he moved swiftly on through shadowed gates onto two-tier hedges with peepholes forming a perfect vantage to spy on any burglars in the garden beyond. Slides of the National Rose Collection near St. Albans were so vibrant and colourful it was felt that smellovision would enhance our experience. But beware what you wish for. Ever the

experimenter, Michael grew an Amorphophallus Konjac plant in his greenhouse. It sprouted a huge purple spike which attracted every bluebottle for miles around to feast on the spike's rotting meat smell – so maybe we will delay having aromas with our slides! Due to his involvement in matters horticultural in London Michael was invited to join The Worshipful Company of Gardeners and in that capacity he became a judge of City premises' best exterior garden displays. None of the businesses knew they had entered or even won until invited to attend a reception to collect their award. Whilst prowling London streets, Michael took this marvellous photograph of the gardens at Trinity Square with the Tower of London looming over them. He took the photograph from a low angle so that there is no sign of the intervening very busy road.

Michael brought in some plants mentioned in his slides which were snapped up by members. If you are interested, our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, 17th March, 7.30pm, at the Blackbourne**. Our speaker will be **Guy Barker on 'Harbingers of Spring'**. We continue to be an extremely informal, social and friendly group and welcome new members. If you require further information about the Gardening Club please contact **Nick Chamberlin on 242601**.



ELMSWELL OVER 55'S

Welcome to the latest news from the Over 55's Club.

We have now resumed our meetings after our winter break, our first evening was on Thursday February 26th with music provided by "Brian of Note". Our next meeting is on March 12th when we will have our AGM which gives members a chance to have their say, replace or re-elect the committee. It has been decided to keep subscriptions at £15pp which we will collect after the AGM the evening will continue with Bingo refreshments and raffle.

Our meeting on March 26th will feature a sing a long with "Hank". Into April on the 9th we have booked a Mystery Day out further details soon. We are also taking names for our Summer Holiday to Weymouth staying at the "Crown Hotel" from Monday August 3rd (Mon /Fri) including two day trips to local attractions in the area. **Diann (241002)**

ELMSWELL CAMERA GROUP

A short message for the newsletter from the group.

Just to remind everyone that the Elmswell Camera Group meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. We now meet in the new building at the end of the Blackbourne Centre facing you as you walk up the car park, door on the left hand side.

Our next meeting is on the 3rd March where we shall have an instructional dvd on Landscape and Travel Photography.

On the 7th April there is a photo critique of members images.

On the 5th May with the nights getting longer we will be venturing out to put some of the knowledge gained into practice.

All are welcome. So why not come along and join in.

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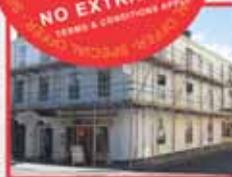
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ELMSWELL EXCHANGE AFTERNOON W.I.

Our February meeting was the first since our Christmas Party in December. It was certainly a bit warmer in the Wesley Centre which helped a great deal. Potted patio roses were presented to our birthday girls, Joan and Betty. Our guest speaker, who was our old friend Chris Parfitt, took us on a nostalgic school trip to the Isle of Wight. Having been a school teacher at a primary school in Wickham Market, this was an event that he organised every year. He took us on a photographic journey from outside the school with children, the coach and wellwishers all the way to the island. We enjoyed the school trips with the children learning, as they had done, history, English literature, geography and last but not least, how to manage our pocket money !!!! Chris threw in a few amusing anecdotes which made the afternoon entertaining as always. It was strange to see the old style vehicles in the streets and made us realise how fast things change although the island itself is still very beautiful and well worth a visit.

The competition was a Seaside Photograph. Chris judged this for us and the winner was Lesley Clarke, second was Florence Romain and third Barbara Yeates. Congratulations to them.



**TO THE
ISLE OF
WIGHT**



We then enjoyed refreshments whilst the business matters were dealt with. Annice and Bobbie offered to take on the organisation of our two annual outings which was a great help to the Committee.

Next month our speaker will be Colin Hopper, whose expertise is folded and sculptured paper. Members were asked to experiment with a sheet of A.4 paper and bring the results along on the day for entry into our competition. Just a bit of fun !!

We are an informal and friendly group and would welcome any ladies who are interested in joining us. Alternatively, come along as a guest and try us first. If you would like more information please contact Barbara Yeates on 242788 or Maureen Davis on 241033.

ELMSWELL EXCHANGE SOCIAL CLUB

At the first meeting for 2014 Sylvia welcomed the members and wished all a belated Happy New Year!

The new programmes were distributed and Anice was thanked for arranging the trip to Felixstowe on August 28th.

The Treasurer reported we had £900 in the bank. Terry Garner was introduced to the meeting. He gave a brief outline of the Neighbourhood Plan and it's objectives. Many members had already heard about it but it was useful to some members. Questionnaires were distributed to those people who hadn't seen them before and invited to comment and return them. It is hoped that the questionnaires would be distributed at Easter time and replies will be on line or can be collected. The replies would be anonymous. Sylvia thanked him for coming.

Derek Folkard was welcomed to the meeting as he had organized a Beetle Drive for the members. Our best wishes were sent to Jean Folkard who was unwell.

After tea and coffee the raffle took place.

The next meeting will take place on March 17th when Peter Lester assisted by Derek Folkard will give a talk on Elmswell.

New members are always welcome. Enquiries to Sylvia on 241505.

ELMSWELL W.I.

Rachel welcomed Margaret Stevens, who was standing in for Berny, as Secretary, and two visitors, Jan and Mary, also joined us. Rachel thanked Janet for all her hard work as acting President while she was in New Zealand and told us about the local W.I. branch, which she had contacted. It consists of only eight members and it was interesting to hear about their many and varied activities. There was even an article and photograph in the local newspaper - Rachel has now achieved fame Down-under!

As always, at this time of year, the proceeds of W.I. raffles will be sent to help other less fortunate women. The nurseries and food-producing gardens of the women of Tonga will benefit this time. Rachel reminded us about the "300 Club" - £5 shares may be obtained from Park Farm and there is a monthly draw. Members from Haughley will be joining us for our April meeting, "Suffolk Farm Cheeses." The Centenary Thanksgiving Celebration will be held at St. Mary's Church, 12.9.15. There were several other dates for our diaries: Scrabble at Anna's, 17.2; the next Craft Morning will be at Rosie's, 27.2 and Soup and Natter at Park Farm, 6.3.

The main event of the evening was a talk by Sylvia's husband, Ed, a retired teacher and artist who specialises in prints. He had created an interesting display of different examples of prints and after giving us a brief history of printing, explained some of the different methods: relief, intaglio (etching), planographic, in which the image is drawn onto a marble or zinc plate, and silk-screen printing. We enjoyed hearing Ed's anecdotes about the different methods and his experiences, as well as Sylvia's, who obviously is his "muse!" (One of his prints was inspired by one of her boxes of chocolates.) Some of us had fun trying out mono-printing and making prints from a lino-cut and they were very successful. Of course, Ed uses a proper press, when he is producing his own work. An interesting and informative evening!

Rosie Collins 01359 241652

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AROUND AND ABOUT

ELMSWELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

It was a very happy Harry Potter Day at Elmswell Library last month.



Dozens of children and their parents joined Hannah and Emma for a magical day full of fun and activities to celebrate our favourite literary wizard.

And they all helped us decorate the library with scores of weird and wonderful hats, which won Beatrice Place a £10 Waterstones voucher for her design – it included so many Harry Potter references we couldn't count them all.

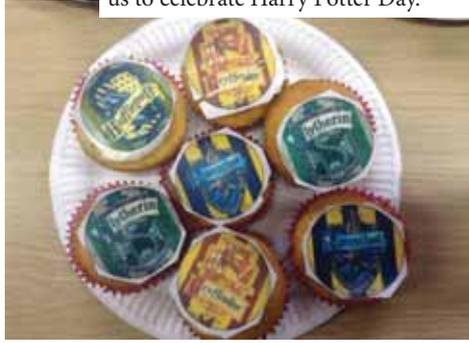
Elmswell author Annie Stewart joined in the excitement, sharing the popular stories with the children, many of whom went wild with the fancy dress theme. And there were crafts to complete, games to play and free cakes and drinks for youngsters and adults alike. It was a wonderful day for all, and a great celebration of reading and books. Thank you to all who came and joined in the fun, it was great to see you.

If you want to carry on the celebrations then it is World Book Day on March 6, a perfect opportunity to lose yourself in a good book, come and tell us all about it, and we might be able to find something else you would enjoy. We



Hannah and Emma from the library with first prize winner Beatrice Place

Some of the gorgeous cakes made for us to celebrate Harry Potter Day.



have some £1 vouchers that we have been giving out to children to spend on books until March 29th, if you hurry we might have some left so come and pick one up and have fun choosing something new to read.

There are a few notices we need to make sure our customers know about – for the first time we will be closed for the whole of the Easter weekend. This is unavoidable because Suffolk County Council, with which we still share some of our IT systems, will be shutting down its IT for essential maintenance over that weekend. So we will close on Thursday, April 2nd at 7pm and re-open on Tuesday, April 7th at 10am. We apologise for the inconvenience.

Elmswell Library Friends will be holding its AGM on Wednesday, April 22nd at 6:30pm. We are fundraising to refurbish and modernise the library – we want to transform it into a flexible space that can be used as a community hub, with movable shelves, updated furniture for the children and a new service area. We have had an incredibly successful year and hope to share more good news with you very soon. If you are interested in helping us, or getting involved with the committee, then please come along. We are a friendly bunch with lots of ideas, but we could always do with more hands and more ideas!

And one of the best ideas was last year's cheese and wine evening – so we are holding another.

On Friday, May 1 we would love to invite you to join us for A Taste of Spanish Wines and Tapas. Following the success of last year's event, when the Rioja was the firm favourite, this will be a Spanish-themed evening, involving more obscure wines and morsels of food to accompany them. Local wine expert, Bob Stopp, will be hosting once more and we hope it is as much fun and raises more vital funds for our appeal. Tickets are available in the library priced at £12.50 per person.

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.

Emma Yarrow



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VILLAGE GREEN

NEWS FROM ELMSWILD



Five years and counting!

Time is a funny thing. There are times when it drags so slowly, and others when it just whizzes past, the latter usually when you're working hard and really busy. Time has certainly sped past at Lukeswood, so it's hard to believe that five years have gone by since we bought the first 4 acres and starting tree planting, but this month does indeed mark a small but significant anniversary for us. In March 2010 we started planting up the gaps in the hedgerows, the first steps in a very busy year during which we planted 1683 trees – one for every household in the village – helped by the whole community, especially children from Elmswell Primary School.



When you're working hard and really absorbed in the tasks at hand it's easy to forget just how much things have changed over the years. Five years is a significant milestone for Lukeswood because after that time you really can start to see the woodland taking shape – it looks less like a



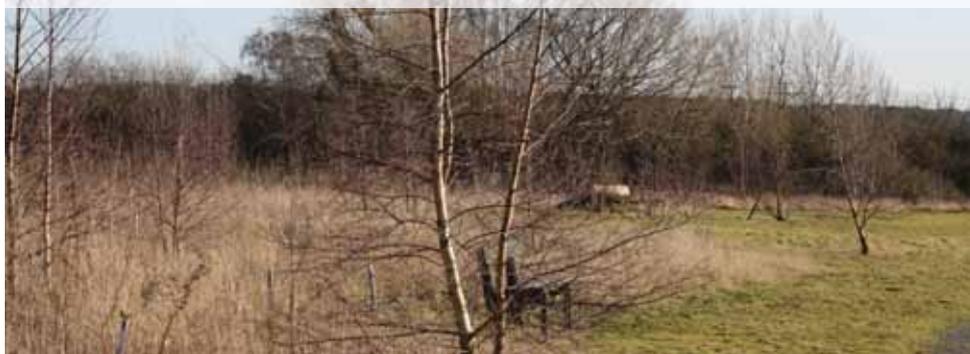
forest of plastic spirals and more like a growing habitat. So now is a good time to look back to March 2010 and compare Lukeswood then with Lukeswood as it looks now. We've tried to recreate some of the photos taken 5 years ago with the same views now to show how much the site has developed.

We started back then with an empty field. Except, of course, that's not true – there was plenty going on under the surface. Dormant seeds, given the chance to grow, have sprung into life producing wildflowers of all sorts and new saplings. Many of the new trees now growing at Lukeswood were there all along, they just needed a little help to get started.

Over the last five years we've inevitably had downs as well as ups. The weather has presented

many challenges. Our plans for the first winter season of tree planting were thrown into disarray by snow and freezing temperatures that lasted well into 2011. That was followed by drought – very difficult conditions for newly planted saplings. We've had too much water, too – when we started digging holes for some of the fruit trees in the orchard we had to abandon many of them as they filled to the brim with water. But there have been many, many pluses too – most notably securing the final piece of land with the help of Norman's donation and beginning to develop the orchard that now bears his name. So the last five years have been challenging, productive, but most of all – great fun. It's great to look back at how much has been achieved – here's to the next five!

Mary Feeney



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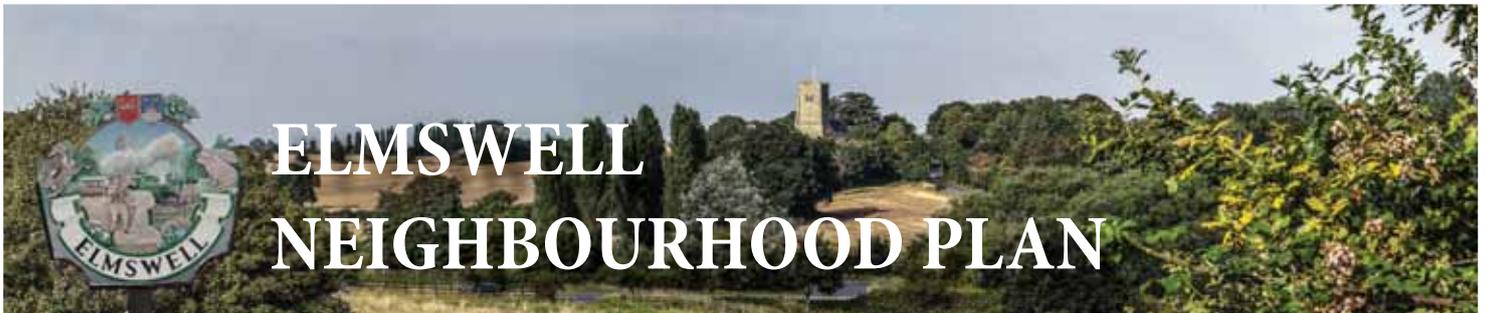


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ELMSWELL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

At last, the village has completed the last of the initial consultation processes and the printer has the draft of the questions which will form the questionnaire to be distributed to every household.

With the kind co-operation of many village groups, members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group have visited their sessions, explained the Plan process and distributed draft sets of questions for discussion and recommendations for improvement.

There were many useful comments, and changes have, accordingly been made. It was encouraging to hear so many positive comments about the work that the Group is trying to do. People seem, on the whole, to grasp that this is a real chance to put our local stamp on the way our village grows over the next 25 years. Equally encouraging

was the general approval of the way the Group has structured the questionnaire and of the contents. It is sometimes hard to remember that we are writing something which will be a legal Planning document...guidelines and limits and rules that will have to be followed by developers who wish to be part of building Elmswell's future.

As the demolition of the Bacon Factory site moves rapidly forward, we are reminded of the pressures to come. Landowners have been asked by Mid Suffolk to submit their suggestions as to parcels of land around the edge of the village which they think might be suitable for development. We are not privy to this process, but various hints have come from landowners, from developers and from their land agents and it is obvious that there are many potentially large bids in the pipeline.

The mood in Government is robustly in favour of more houses. The pressures in the housing market are clearly directing these new houses towards the south east and to eastern England. Two magnets for the ensuing development are Felixstowe and Cambridge – the largest container port in the country and our very own 'silicone valley'. Half way between these exploding centres of population, sitting slap bang on the A14, served by a railway station and with a school, shops, pubs, and excellent community facilities – 'infrastructure' – is us. It stands to reason that, if you are in the business of building and selling houses, Elmswell is very near the top of your site wish list.

The community must be ready for development on terms which it has agreed, in advance, offer the best chance for us to retain the balance which currently makes us a

thriving, happy and attractive place to live.

The Neighbourhood Plan gives us a chance to have a real say and some real control. The group is aiming to have the questionnaires out with the April Newsletter. Your response is essential and can help make a difference.

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Spring Biscuits

Ingredients

- 125g butter
- 125g golden caster sugar
- 1tsp vanilla extract
- 175g plain flour
- 1 large egg yolk

To decorate

- 250g ready to roll icing
- Pink and yellow paste food colouring
- 1 egg white, lightly beaten
- Pink sugar sprinkles
- Wooden skewer
- Flower cutters

Method

Put the butter and sugar in a bowl with the vanilla and mix. Add the flour and egg yolk and knead into a ball. Turn out on to a floured surface and knead the dough lightly for a couple of minutes until smooth.

Wrap in cling film and chill for 20 minutes.

Set the oven to gas mark 4 or 180°C.

Roll out the dough between 2 sheets of baking parchment.

Use the cutters to stamp out shapes, then lift away the dough around them.

Carefully lift the biscuits and paper on to a baking sheet and cook for 12-15 minutes until they are firm and pale golden.

Cool for 5 minutes then transfer them to a wire rack to cool completely. (The biscuits will keep undecorated in an airtight container for up to 1 week.)

To decorate the biscuits

Divide the pack of icing into 3. Dip a wooden skewer into the pink paste food colouring and knead into 1 portion of the icing until evenly coloured. Repeat with the yellow food colouring.

Roll out the icing on baking parchment and stamp out flower shapes, using the cutters.

Brush the biscuits lightly with egg white and place the white, yellow and pink icing on top of the biscuit. Also, brush the base of the flower decorations with egg white and secure in the centre of the flowers.

Add sprinkles.

Spring Word Search

O M G Q R A I N B O W S T H G
 E N I H S N U S F Z Y P E S Y
 J D A L V B N J C K S O K A S
 G N I T L E M I P V T R C L P
 E M I T G N I R P S O D A P R
 G A D A F F O D I L O N J S O
 G N L S E I Y W Z H B I M E U
 R R I L P H Q A E T R A T C T
 Z E O N E I I I L M E R A J E
 F G W W E R L H T R B Z V J E
 H E D O T D B U Y A B H F L G
 U U Q V L H R M T W U M D R I
 S E E D S F K A U O R D E J R
 O R N D M C T Z G V U E A N F
 Q F I Z W Y E Z Y P N A F Z P

Daffodil

Flower

Gardening

Green

Growth

Jacket

Melting

Puddle

Rainbow

Raindrops

Rubberboots

Seeds

Splash

Springtime

Sprout

Sunshine

Tulips

Umbrella



Homemade daffodils



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Grass Heads



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Military Training in Elmswell



ELMSWELL IN THE GREAT WAR: A TIME OF CHANGE

For several months researchers from the History Group have been finding out what life was like in the village during the war years. We are now drawing that information together as we prepare photographs and storylines for the exhibition 'Elmswell and Memories of the Great War' on 11 and 12 April (11am – 4pm in the Wesley Hall). The exhibition will have several themes. It will include a commemoration of the men from the village who died; an exploration of RFC Elmswell (the aerodrome established by the Royal Flying Corps); Elmswell as it was reported in local newspapers; and observations relating to those who remained in civilian life.



Many historical records are available to us, though often the information we would like to find no longer exists. We know, for example, that large numbers of individual service records from the Great War were destroyed by bombing raids in London in the Second World War. Of those left intact, what exists is often patchy. Nonetheless, we have succeeded in finding out a good deal about Elmswell and its population from a variety of other sources, including the Royal Air Force Museum at Hendon, the National Archives and the Record Offices in Bury St Edmunds (BRO) and Ipswich (IRO). Never sure what we will find, the evidence we have uncovered so far is helping to build up a picture of an Elmswell that is very different from the village we know today.

News in the Stowmarket Weekly Post of 1915 shows the resolve of people to continue many aspects of life much as before. Nancy Baker passed the Advanced Grade for Singing at the Guildhall School of Music in London, Mary George was successful in the lower division of the school pianoforte exam and Olive Fox passed the elementary division on the violin. This stoical attitude must have helped people to confront previously unknown aspects of warfare experienced right here in the village. There was a 'Lecture on War' in the Church schoolroom in April 1915 and the Voluntary Training Corps (VTC) was set up soon afterwards. However, at the beginning of May Zeppelin LZ8 piloted by Captain Erich Linnarz dropped a bomb in a field beside Kiln Lane, along the boundary with Woolpit. The drills planned soon after that at the Bacon Factory confirm that war had infiltrated many aspects of daily life in Elmswell.

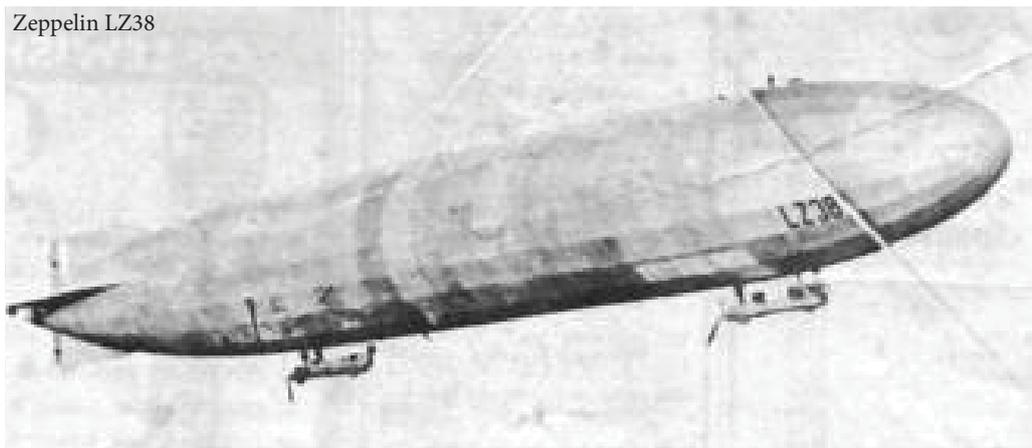
From records at BRO we know that R Hoggs (the building firm in Coney Weston) undertook extensive work in North Suffolk/South Norfolk to extend and improve the military facilities built by the Army. This included work to upgrade the aerodrome at RFC Elmswell which had been constructed in 1916. Hoggs were able to supply the materials to build a perimeter fence, but a

shortage of manpower meant that they could not undertake to put it up. We can only assume that local volunteers contributed to this work.

The loss of life of many young village men continued to shock families throughout the war. This loss also pervades the evidence we have found in respect of the aerodrome: there were many casualties here too. But a further theme is that of change. Whereas the census of 1911 gives the Elmswell population as 853, there were additionally reckoned to be 200 uniformed men (and some women) at the aerodrome, as well as other troops stationed locally, largely because the railway facilitated the movement of people, equipment and supplies.

Our research is 'work in progress' but the exhibition in April will offer a reflection on many interesting aspects of life in Elmswell during the Great War. Children from the village have been invited to enter a competition (see last month's Newsletter) and we look forward to seeing their entries. Please do come to the exhibition to find out more about village history and, perhaps, to offer us information and photographs that we do not already have. For further information, please phone 01359 242601 or 244001.

Zeppelin LZ38



ELMSWELL MILLENNIUM HISTORY GROUP

At our meeting on Thursday 12 February we welcomed as our speaker Edward Martin; his topic was 'Henslow of Hitcham: The Life, Influence and Legacy of Darwin's Tutor'.

John Stevens Henslow was born at Rochester in Kent on 6 February 1796. He was educated at St John's College, Cambridge from where he graduated in 1818. As a child he had a passion for natural history, also studying geology, chemistry and mineralogy. He had works printed in the 1820s about the geology of the Isle of Man and Anglesey. These pamphlets became the first volume of the Transactions of the Cambridge Philosophical Society which was founded by four professors from the University.

In 1821 Henslow organised a herbarium of British flora, his notes being labelled with the collector's name, date and place of collection, comparing specimens to show the variation within the species. Charles Darwin joined one of Henslow's courses at this time and helped to collect plants in Cambridgeshire. In 1835 Henslow published 'Principles of Descriptive and Physiological Botany'.

In the summer of 1831 Henslow was offered a place as naturalist to sail on the survey ship HMS Beagle on a 2 year voyage to South America, but he did not accept; instead Henslow wrote to the ship's captain, Robert Fitzroy telling him that Darwin would be the ideal man to join the voyage. Throughout the voyage Darwin corresponded with Henslow and collected plants

and specimens of birds for him, each specimen carefully labelled.

Also in 1831 Henslow founded the Cambridge University Botanic gardens.

Henslow was appointed to the living at All Saints Church, Hitcham in 1837 and moved into the Rectory in 1839. He worked hard for his parishioners and in 1841 founded the village school, raising funds and using his own money. He also founded the Hitcham Labourer's Mechanics' Horticultural Society. Many people from the parish visited the Great Exhibition in 1851, thanks to Henslow.

Darwin was a visitor to Hitcham and it is thought his 'Origins of the Species' might have been started in the Rectory there.

The Museum at Ipswich, originally in Museum Street and now 'Arlingtons Restaurant' owes much to Henslow who was elected president in 1850.

Henslow died at Hitcham on 16 May 1861, where his simple gravestone can be found in the churchyard there.

Our March meeting will be held on Thursday 12 March at 7.30pm in the Wesley Hall. The speaker will be Bob Malster and his topic 'Suffolk Millwrights'. Author of many books on Suffolk, its waterways and countryside and urban history, this should be a very interesting talk.

Everyone is welcome.

Looking forward to our World War 1 Exhibition in April, please see the feature elsewhere in the newsletter, with details of a competition for children.

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.

FRIENDS OF THE WOOLPIT HEALTH CENTRE

Thank you to all those who in the past year have contributed to the funds - from individuals or groups and also those who have given donations in memory of a friend or relative who has died. There are no administration charges, so every penny has been spent on equipment or services for the benefit of patients who attend the Woolpit Health Centre.

During the past year the main items purchased are a syringe driver for £1,306 for the use of the District Nurses in terminal care, and a 24 hour blood pressure monitor for £1,143 which is in addition to those already out on loan and has reduced the waiting time for patients needing to borrow this equipment.

Room 7 in the Health Centre has been converted into an additional treatment room and an adjustable bed costing £921 has been provided by the Friends. Maintenance costs to keep all existing equipment in good order amounted to £1,500.

We are very much indebted to all your contributions and hope you will continue to support us in the coming year.

Sue Eburne, Treasurer



LILY WEBSTER MEMORIAL FUND

Lily, a happy and lively teenager was at school at Stowmarket High when she collapsed and died in January 2012. Lily was the victim of Sudden Adult Death Syndrome - it kills 12 youngsters like Lily every week in the UK alone.

Lily's schoolmates have joined forces with the charity Cardiac Risk in the Young - CRY. Last year they raised enough money to fund screening for 208 young people in Stowmarket at about £30 a time!

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

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MANY THANKS, Lily's Loveslies

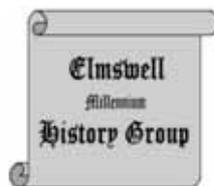


Claire Thompson

Jenni Salt

Melanie Webster (Lily's mum)

Ruth Welsh



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Just after Tony joined the navy.

'If you take from a system, you should be prepared to put something into it.'

So says Tony Chaplin and it is a philosophy that he follows in his own life. A former member of the Royal Navy, he is now 'retired'. I use the term loosely as he is involved in a great many aspects of village life and is hardly ready for his pipe and slippers! He is Suffolk born and bred, having been born in Aldeburgh where his grandparents lived. His father was from Suffolk and his mother was a Norfolk girl. Tony went to school in Eye, and through the grammar school system. When he left school, he decided to join the Navy as he didn't want to do eighteen months of National Service in the Army.

The beginning of a distinguished career
Tony joined the Navy in 1954 and had to take his ration book with him - probably being one of the last people to have to do so. He joined as a shipwright apprentice. This involved learning all about the ship's hull and systems such as the ventilation, water and pumping systems, as well as repairs. Excuse the pun, but he took to it like a duck to water, although he admits that he was initially seasick, particularly on small ships. Luckily, it took him only a few days to get over it. However, for those who didn't get better, they had to be discharged as medically unfit. Tony once met a man at an airport and was chatting to him when the gentleman revealed that he had joined the RAF because he couldn't swim. He then became a radio operator and was put in Sunderland Flying Boats, requiring him to be constantly flying over the sea!

Tony had to do an apprenticeship of four years, in Cornwall and Rosyth in Scotland, and then a year's training at sea on a big ship. He learned a great deal because he had good people overseeing him.

Travelling the world

Tony went to the Far East on aircraft carriers in the 50s and 60s, which he said was very interesting and he enjoyed it. It was termed a 'world cruise' because he went to New Zealand, South Africa and South America. When he came back to England, he had his first brush with submarines, where he worked on the hull

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and did metalwork repairs. Then he went to the Antarctic and was based in the Falklands. His ship was HMS Protector and the current ship based there now retains the same name. On his journey he encountered the Roaring Forties. Once south of Cape Horn the terrible winds make the sea incredibly rough but Tony explained the further south they went, towards the Antarctic, it became more sheltered with sun, blue sea, blue sky and huge pieces of ice.



Enid and Tony attending a Royal Garden Party at Holyrood House

Meeting his wife and going for promotion

In 1965, Tony's grandmother died. At that time it was usual for families to look after their elderly relatives but, sadly, Tony's mother had died and it fell to her younger sister to take on her care. When it became increasingly difficult, the grandmother went into a hospital and, during his visits Tony would talk to the nurses caring for her. One of them, Enid, clearly made an impression because she became his wife in 1964. They started their married life in Cosham, Hampshire, in a house that backed on to a goods yard- so not the quietest places to live- and a long way from Scotland where Enid originally came from. Tony told me that when he was on ships there was always noise and it was the silence that woke you up, so perhaps it was good preparation living in Cosham.

Tony decided to study in order to go for promotion and, after he got married, he sat his exams to go to the Naval Engineering College in Plymouth to do a course on Naval Architecture, which involved a study of the design and building of ships and their repair. After completing this successfully, he was off to sea again on an aircraft carrier and then back to England and Portsmouth, where he was in charge of a hull maintenance team. He

and his family then went to Gibraltar – along with thirteen pieces of luggage -for three very enjoyable years. At the time the Spanish had closed the border completely, so when they needed to leave it was via Morocco.

Inspecting new build ships, more travelling and working with submarines

Back in England, Tony worked for the Ministry of Defence, inspecting new build ships. Whilst in Barrow in Furness, he worked with HMS Sheffield and even ships for the Argentinian Navy. Then he went to sea on a cruiser along the Pacific side of the United States, operating with the US Navy. It was then to Clyde Submarine Base. This was at the time of the Falklands War, and Tony was in charge as Dockmaster of Admiralty Floating Dock Number 60, which involved docking Polaris submarines as part of the Polaris missile programme. Other submarines had attachments that needed to be removed and it was done by lifting the boats out of the water. Regardless of anyone else's rank, Tony had total charge at the dock and they had to do what he told them, whoever they were. If you have ever had problems parking in the spaces at the Co-op, there is only a leeway of nine inches either side of the ships Tony was docking!

HMS Blake was the last ship that Tony sailed on, and he was in charge of the Fire Brigade. It had operating helicopters on board and, in the middle of the night, he heard the sound of propellers and then the revs went up. He was out of bed, half dressed in his firefighter's kit when the 'emergency landing' was broadcast and a helicopter landed –safely– on the deck with gearbox problems. Not all emergency landings had such an outcome. After that he left the Royal Navy.

Tony is one of few people who has crossed both the Antarctic and Arctic circles. He has also rounded both Cape Horn and the Cape of Good Hope, and has been through both the Suez Canal and Panama Canal (three times). He managed to go on two tours of the Royal Yacht, once when he lived on Gibraltar and then again in Newcastle, when his son-in-law, Brent, was a chef on the yacht.

Another Royal connection was when he and Enid went to a garden party at Holyrood House. Tickets were given to the Navy and you could put your name forward to go, and he and Enid were chosen. Whilst they were there, Enid was surprised to meet up with her cousin Mary, who she hadn't seen for years, so it was a reunion as well.

Life after the Navy

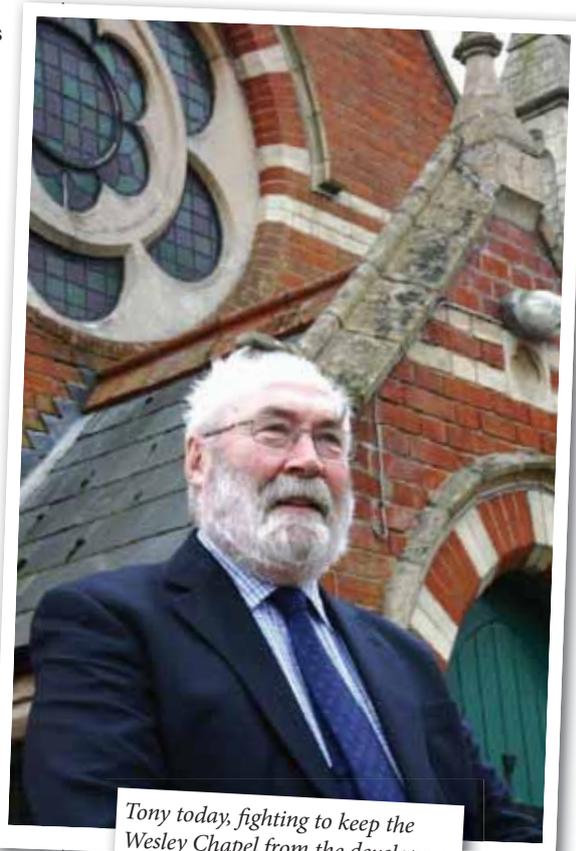
When Tony left the navy he and Enid went to live in the borders of Scotland and bought a village sub post office. When the elections came, Tony was encouraged to stand for the Scottish Conservatives for a seat on the Scottish Borders Council. Unfortunately, he was not successful in his bid, although he wasn't entirely surprised or too disappointed.

Since Tony has been back in Suffolk – some years now- he doesn't seem to have slowed down. He has taken over organising the poppy collections in both Wetherden and Elmswell, since the end of 1996. It takes far more organisation than you may think, with the ordering of poppies having to be done by the summer. When everything arrives, Tony then has to take it round to the distributors and he does the whole of Wetherden himself. There is a hectic fortnight in November when all this is happening and the money has to be counted and banked – imagine the weight of all those coins being carried to the bank! However, it is well worth it as far as Tony is concerned as he has seen the amount collected go up every year. Last year it was a magnificent £3,826.50.

He is also chairman of Bacton British Legion, takes an active role in the History Group, who are planning an exhibition centred on the First World War, and is involved in the Westley Hall and what the future will be for that. And then there is the At Home Library Service when, once a fortnight, he takes books from the library to housebound people.

Tony and Enid are also parents to four children –one of whom was also in the Navy – eleven grandchildren and one great grandchild. What great role models they have in both Enid and Tony. Tony joined the Navy as an engineer apprentice and retired as an Engineer Lieutenant Commander. That achievement alone is quite a feat, and yet Tony plays it down along with the little kindnesses he does for other people, staying true to his philosophy that if you take from a system you should be prepared to put something into it. And he certainly has done that.

Maggie Bushell



Tony today, fighting to keep the Wesley Chapel from the developers

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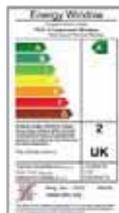
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ST JOHN'S CHURCH

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

Friday 6 March

3.30pm Women's World Day of Prayer

Sunday 8 March

08.00am Holy Communion BCP
10.30am Parish Praise

Sunday 15 March

10.30am **Mothering Sunday**
Holy Communion – All Age – CW

Sunday 22 March

08.00am Holy Communion BCP
10.30am Morning Service CW

Sunday 29 March

08.00am Holy Communion BCP
10.30am **Palm Sunday**
Morning Service – All Age

and into April.....

Thursday 2 April

7.30pm **Maundy Thursday Service**
Holy Communion

Friday 3 April

10.00am **Good Friday**
Christians Together in Elmswell
All-age service

Sunday 5 April

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

A new event which we are trying this year is a series of Lent Lunches. These will be held in St John's Church on six Wednesdays and began on 18 February. We meet at 11.30am and eat at 12 noon – just a simple lunch, and the opportunity to make a donation towards the work of the Stowmarket Food Bank.

We are now looking forward to several special services, starting with Mothering Sunday on 15 March; then with Palm Sunday on 29 March the Easter Services begin. There is a special poster advertising these services elsewhere in the Newsletter. Everyone is welcome to any of these services.

Christians Together in Elmswell

(Secretary Jean Folkard 242099)
On Shrove Tuesday at 6pm at the Baptist Church there was a Pancake Party.

On Friday 6 March in St John's Church we shall hold the Annual Women's World Day of Prayer Service. There has been a change of time for this service, **which will now begin at 2.30pm.** All are very welcome – men and women, boys and girls, young and old!! It's not just an hour of prayer – this year it has been arranged by the Christian women of the Bahamas, with music and readings as well as prayers. We look forward to seeing you.

The Friends of St John's Church

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

Later on in the year we shall be holding a weekend of events - a concert, the AGM and Coffee Morning, a Festival depicting 'Our Favourite Things' and the Annual Service, with Clive Paine as our preacher. This will be during the weekend of 19-21 June – please look out for posters advertising future events.

CHURCH TOWER FLOODLIGHTING

You are invited to sponsor the floodlighting of St. John's to help with the day-to-day running expenses of our parish church. You can choose to commemorate a personal event, an anniversary, or any other special occasion. Alternatively you can simply make a donation. During March the lights will be on between 6.30 p.m. and midnight.

A night's floodlighting costs £5.

Please make cheques payable to

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28 in loving memory of Ronnie Miller, who would have been ninety today.

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- 2 Margaret Clarke. Remembered with love on her Birthday.
- 6 in loving memory of Stella Wade.
- 7 in loving memory of John Hopewell. With love from all the family.
- 9 in loving memory of Rob Dalby. "Always in our thoughts on this

sad day". Love, Mum, Dad, Victoria and Emma.

9 in loving memory of Bill Cammell. "Always in our thoughts".

Love from all the family.

10 loving memories of our Wedding Day 59 years ago. "Never forget that lovely day".

Elizabeth.

15 remembered with love, Mary Skinner, on Mothering Sunday, special Mum to Margaret & Tony. "God Bless".

15 treasured memories of Dora Handyside on Mothering Sunday. "God Bless".

15 in loving memory of Joyce Ivy Jackson, formerly of Bury St. Edmunds, with Elmswell family roots.

16 in loving memory of Vic Wade.

19 Evelyn Simpson. Loving thoughts of our dear Mum, Nanna and Great Nan

on your Birthday. "God Bless".

23 in loving memory of Joy Cammell. "Always in our thoughts".

Love from all the family.

31 in memory of Don Baker.

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

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Parish Priest: Father David Finegan, The Presbytery, 29 Lockington Road, Stowmarket IP14 1BQ Tel: 01449-612946

E-mail: ourlady.stowmarket@btinternet.com

MASS TIMES:

Saturdays (First Mass of Sunday)
St Mary's C of E Church, Woolpit IP30 9QG - 6.00 pm

Sundays

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

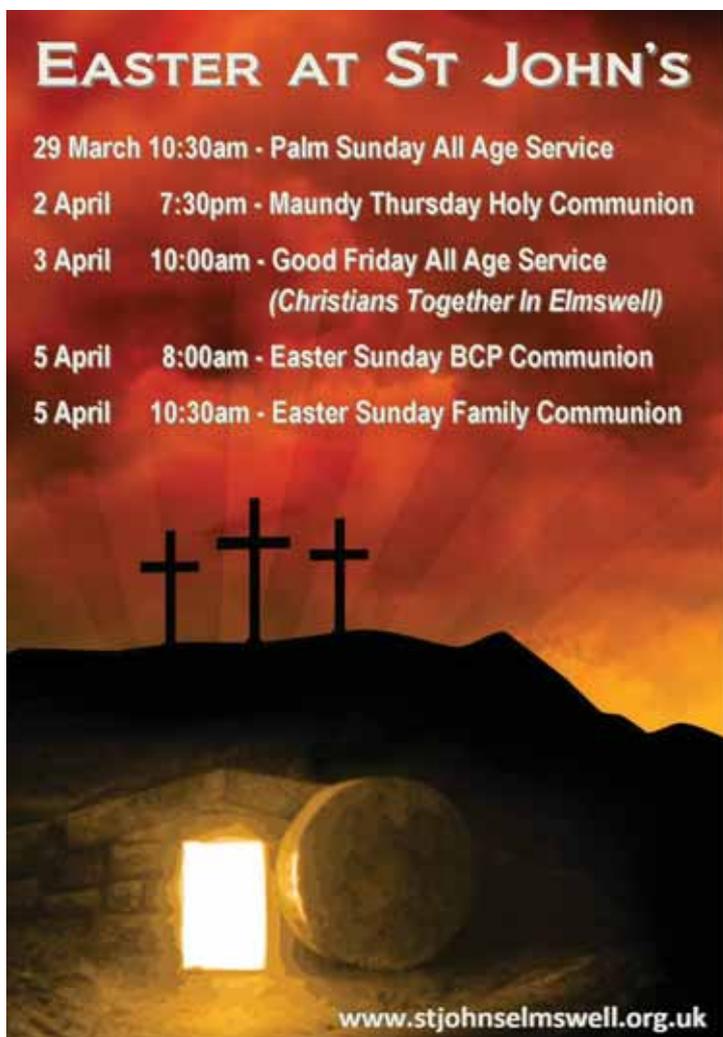
Holy Days

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

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

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2015

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, 29th March: We commemorate the Entry of Jesus into the City of Jerusalem at the start of Holy





Week and read the Gospel of the Passion. Masses at usual Sunday times, blessed palms being available at each Mass. 10.15 Mass will begin with the Procession.

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

Maundy Thursday, 2nd April:

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

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30 pm.

Good Friday, 3rd April:

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

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

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

Holy Saturday, 4th April:

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

Easter Sunday, 5th April:

With Masses at 8.30 and 10.15 am we share Easter joy in the Risen Lord.

Father David Finegan

ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

Earlier this month we saw the start of the demolition of the Elmswell Bacon Factory that had been part of Elmswell's skyline since 1911, during its 100 plus year existence it had seen many owners and been a major employer of Elmswell folk and had a significant impact on village life.

Now it's being broken up to make way for new homes and new families who will no doubt be welcomed into our community as so many have been in the past, an estate of its size will also have an impact on our village which I hope and pray will be seen as a positive.

Change can be scary as well as exciting, we all remember our first days at a new school or in a new job or moving to a new area and how we worried if we would be accepted by the folk already there. Let's hope we can make all the people who move to the estate feel accepted and welcome when they do arrive.

February was as busy as ever at our Chapel with all our activities continuing we saw the retirement of our Regional Minister Rev. Paul Hills who had served our region for many years, a few of us were able to attend his farewell service in Ipswich, on Shrove Tuesday we hosted the Christians Together in Elmswell Pancake Party where 30 or so folk enjoyed an evening of fun games and pancakes. February 19th saw our

A.G.M. where all members of our congregation had an opportunity to have their say in the affairs of the church.

Our activities for March will be:-

Tuesdays in term time CU@CU Club continues for children aged 5-11 years where they enjoy quizzes, games, bible stories and craft contact Tony on 241541 for more information.

Food and Friends lunch (run in conjunction with Age UK) takes place on Thursday 12th March where we welcome our older friends for lunch and a chat, all are welcome so contact Jackie on 245918 if you haven't been before in order to book a place.

Our Ladies Friendship Group will meet next on April 9th to learn about Pearls from Florry Heller, any lady young or old will be made more than welcome, if you haven't been before contact Margaret on 241541 to find out more.

During March our services will be led by:-

- March 1st Eddie Kerridge
- March 8th Stephen Spurgeon
- March 15th Gavin Minthorpe
- March 22nd Stephen Spurgeon
- March 29th Rev Rodney Sawtell

We at Elmswell Baptist Church are always being complimented about the warmth of the welcome we offer visitors and guests to all our activities if you need any more information about any of our groups or services contact us on either of the numbers above or see our website at:-

www.elmswellbaptist.org.uk



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 Suffolk IP30 9UH
 tel: 01359 242622
 email: ewinkeil@aol.com web: www.
 elmswellcricketclub.co.uk

Dear former players and Elmswell residents,
 Regarding 40th Anniversary

We have reached a milestone. 2015 marks 40 years of playing since the Club re-formed in 1974. So we would like to invite you to attend an in-Club T20 match to be held at The Blackbourne on Sunday 19th July to help us celebrate. We would not only be delighted if you could attend but also, perhaps, you might care to play in this significant one-off event (which will not be so serious that retired cricketers are disadvantaged!)?

Also, the Club has produced an 'Honours Board' in celebration of all those who have taken five wickets or more in a match, or scored a century. Club Captains, too, are featured. So on the same day, there will be a formal unveiling. Hopefully, you might even be on the board! If you are able to attend and/or would like to play then please would you get in touch as soon as possible but, in any event, by no later than Friday 20th March as, obviously, there is an amount of planning required.

Next, as you will know, it is hard to keep the Club afloat. It survives on a relatively small membership. So we would like to invite you to become a Vice-President for this special year, in exchange for a small donation. Again, 20th March is the deadline, if you would be so kind. All contributions will be acknowledged and your name will be emblazoned on the Web site, on fixture cards and even, perhaps, in the "Elmswell Newsletter"!

For all of the above, please contact Wink - contact details as per the Hon. Sec.

Finally, please mention this to any other former player you know or come across. We want to ensure that as many turn up as possible. Importantly, though, we hope to hear from your good self.

David Peachey

ELMSWELL BOWLS CLUB

We're almost there is not a question for our annual quiz (who was the artist who sang the song. (I think it was Andy William's. I am sure if I am wrong Doug Reed our quizmaster will put me right) due to be held 14th March but is a reference to the fact that we shall soon be in the month when we have our opening drive.

If you are thinking of joining us contact Brenda Begg 01359 242025, she is looking forward to hearing from you.

Last season we received a good response to our invitation to join us, from Elmswell, Woolpit and Shelland as they say in the adverts **Get Inspired** to play a sport a nice relaxing way is to play Lawn Bowls at Elmswell. Go on give our chairman Linda Abbott a call 01359 242224. You needn't necessarily have played bowls before, don't be shy give us a call.

The green is looking remarkably in good condition as we come to the end of winter, all looks good for a good season ahead.

Our new Signboard, looks brilliant I am sure when it is erected on the outside of the club house, it may well be done by the time you read this, and nobody will be able to miss where we are. Thank you to all those involved in providing 'the sign' and erecting it.

I look forward to meeting some of you when we start bowling.

News hot off the press the league season opens week commencing 20th April, can't wait.

Michael Moore



ELMSWELL CRICKET CLUB

Elmswell Cricket Club are already starting preparations for the coming season and this one promises to be extra special as it marks 40 years of cricket played since the club reformed. Please see below a letter from the club regarding these celebrations and how you can be a part of them.

We are always on the look out for new players so would be interested to hear from anyone who would like to join our friendly club. Fixtures begin mid-April so please get in touch as soon as you can. You can contact the club in the following ways:

Tel: Call Ian on 01359 244139

Email: elmswellcricketclub@gmail.com

Web: elmswellcricketclub.co.uk

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Because both Brian Hawes' and Lesley Reed's incorrect contact details were attached to this article when it appeared in the December Newsletter, we have asked the editors to re-run it.



A WAR MEMORIAL FOR ELSWELL?

The Centenary of the First World War with the remarkable poppy tribute at the Tower of London has caused many people to ponder on the sacrifice of the men of our own small community and the manner in which we honour them. This has led to a resurgence of the call for a permanent, easily accessible Elmswell war memorial to be built, dedicated and located in a suitably appropriate public space.

There is no doubt that Elmswell would support this. There is also no doubt that Elmswell can afford this. There is no doubt that the 'Fallen' of Elmswell, from two World Wars, deserve this. There will be space for the future, but we fervently hope that no other Elmswell name will ever be added to it.

In order to launch the project, the Elmswell Fire Officers have pledged £1,000 from their 2014 community fundraising.

In January 2015 we will hold a meeting to discuss how we can take this project forward; how we can seek expert advice, locate a site, choose a design, obtain the right permissions and how we can raise funds to finance it. It is likely that Elmswell people will want to give, but we will also be looking for support and a major contribution from organisations such as the Parish Council.

Our target date for completion and inauguration is 11 November 2018. Please contact us if you wish to help.

Watch Commander Brian Hawes email: brian.hawes@live.co.uk, 07761125093

Parish Councillor Lesley Reed email: lesley@reed.org, 01359 241009



Date for
your diary

Next years' Fayre date
6th September

ELMSWELL SCHOOL

We all returned from our half term break refreshed and ready to learn. If you pass the school you may have noticed that we have installed new fences and gates around the main entrance. Not only do these look much smarter they give us added security.

So last term seemed to pass very quickly and we were all very busy.

Year 6 Athletics

Our year 6 students took part in an indoor sports athletics tournament at Thurston Community College. The tournament included lots of disciplines - relay, running, jumping etc. and all those who participated from Elmswell did us proud. All of the primary schools in the Thurston cluster took part and we came a very respectable third place.

Transition to Thurston

The process of preparing our Year 6 students for their move to Thurston has begun with their participation in after school clubs at Thurston on a Tuesday afternoon. These are open to all year 6 pupils across the Thurston primary schools. They are designed to give them a 'taster' of what lessons at Thurston will be like and a chance to get to know the school a bit better. They are taking part in sample lessons in Drama, Science, Creative Writing, History and Modern Foreign Languages. The feedback from the children so far has been very positive.

Year 3 & 4 visit to Colchester Castle

As part of their topic learning all about the Romans, children in Years 3 & 4 visited Colchester Castle at the end of last term. Visits like this are a great way to bring history to life for children as they were able to see artefacts for themselves, try on some Roman costumes and even have a go at building castles and round houses.

Year 3 & 4 Performance

This month our lower key stage two pupils are putting on a production of The Selfish Giant which we are all looking forward to seeing. The

children are involved in all aspects of the play including costuming designing, prop making as well as singing and acting.

Key Stage 1

KS1 have been busy studying China this term and the children of Badger Class performed a very colourful Lion Dance in assembly recently. They got a real 'taste' of china when they sampled some Chinese food too. Towards the end of term they will be visiting Hollytrees Museum in Colchester as part of their learning about the Victorians.

Welly Wednesday

Early Years children (from Nursery and Reception) continue to have Welly Wednesday where they take part in Forest School getting out in the forest we are lucky to have around the grounds. The sprinkling of snow we had earlier this term has inspired some wonderful writing and new vocabulary for them.

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ELMSWELL BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

Elmswell Baby and Toddler group runs every Monday and Wednesday mornings 10am - 11.30am at the Wesley hall on school road, so if your new to the village or just had a little one, come along and join us, we have a baby corner for newborns, and an activity table for toddlers making some fantastic crafts to take home each week, we also have lots of toys from our wooden dolls house very popular along with our play kitchen and baby area, a lovely train track to build, cars with garage, ride on's, story corner.

In the warmer weather we open up the doors to our fabulous enclosed garden for the children to play in which has a fabulous new playhouse, a very popular sandpit, slides and trampolines, we also arrange a number of outings through the summer and still to come this month our exciting Nearly New Sale on Saturday 21st March at Elmswell Blackbourne Hall 11am - 2pm

Cake Donations

Not forgetting we run a cafe on the day of the sale selling refreshments, and a selection of home made yummy cakes so don't forget to bring your purses and treat yourself after your shopping!

Any cake donations can be dropped off on the morning of the sale between 8.30-10am.

All money raised from the cafe goes towards help with funding of the group, we work on a 100 % volunteered basis so every donation is gratefully appreciated.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Craft Dates

Mon 9th March	Mothers' Day Craft
Wed 11th March	Mothers' Day Craft
Mon 16th March	Cornflour goop!
Wed 18th March	Colouring books and stickers
Mon 23rd March	Happyland
Wed 25th March	Cornflour goop!
Mon 30th March	Stencils and crayon rubbings
Wed 1st April	Painting – butterflies
Mon 6th April	GROUP CLOSED
GROUP CLOSED	Easter Monday
Wed 8th April	Stencils and crayon rubbings

Dates For Diaries

21st March	Nearly New Sale (Spring /Summer)
28th March	Adults Bowling Night
6th April	Group Closed (Easter)
4th May	Group Closed (Bank Hol)
25th May	Group Closed (Bank Hol)
31st August	Group Closed (Bank Hol)
26th September	Nearly New Sale (Autumn/Winter)
28th October	Halloween Party
6th December	Christmas Party

AGM Meeting : Letter For All Members Please Read!

Hello everyone! We recently held our Annual General Meeting and there are some decisions we need to let you know about.

Firstly, since nobody has volunteered to take on the role of chairperson yet, we are going to continue running, temporarily sharing out the chairperson's duties among the committee members. We still need a new chairperson (or person's – it works well shared between two people) to oversee the running of the group, so if you feel you could help, please speak to one of us. It's not as daunting a task as you might think!

The biggest duty, as always, is simply turning up in the morning to set up for sessions. With two or three people, it only takes half an hour to get the toys and tables out and set up for craft, so we arrive at around 9:15 to get started. At the moment, this job is falling entirely on the committee members and with pregnancy, work commitments and some members having children too old for toddlers, it's becoming increasingly difficult and tiring making sure there are enough of us there to get set up. We are all volunteers, with children of our own to care for during each session, and we pay as much as everyone else to attend. Our group functions best if everyone takes responsibility for the various jobs, then everyone has an equal opportunity to enjoy chatting with friends and playing with their children.

If each parent who attends volunteered to set up just one a month, the job would be MUCH more manageable, as the committee members could take it in turns to set up, rather than the same few people turning up twice a week, every week! We'll be chasing you around with the setting up rota begging shamelessly for help and if we have dates where there aren't enough people to set up, we simply won't be able to open. Help with tidying the craft away, sweeping up, washing and drying up after snack and putting toys back under the stage during the session is always welcome too, as most of us committee members are trying to keep our eyes on our toddlers at the same time!

Secondly, from April this year, we will be changing the price of entry into the group. At the moment, thanks to the money we make at the biannual Nearly New Sales, we are able to cover our rent at Wesley Hall, and much of the cost of food and craft materials. We are even able to subsidise trips and special events, like the Christmas party. This is how we have been able to keep our price stable at £1 per family.

However, there is uncertainty about whether we will be able to keep using Wesley Hall, as the Methodist Circuit is putting the entire plot up for sale. Although there is a plan afoot to try to purchase Wesley Hall for the village to continue to use, we may find ourselves having to move to a different location and/or having to pay much more for rent. For this reason, we feel it would be wise to have some money in the bank account, so we can cope with increased costs.

Therefore, from April we will charge £1 for one adult and one child, and an extra 50p for each extra child over the age of 6 months. This will only be to a maximum of £2. So if you bring two children, you'll pay £1.50 and for three or more children, £2. This way, the price we pay at the door will cover more of the food and materials we buy, meaning a greater proportion of our NNS funds can go towards rent. Please feel free to speak to any of the committee members if you have questions or comments. And please do volunteer to set up when you can!

Thanks, Committee



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Full Council is scheduled to meet on the 3rd Monday monthly, excepting August and avoiding bank holidays. Very occasionally there is insufficient business to justify calling a meeting and this was the case in February.

The next meeting will take place on Monday 16th March at 7.30 in The Blackbourne. The public are, as ever, welcome to attend all Council and Council committee meetings and the agenda will always offer opportunities for questions and comment.

Agendas are published on line at
www.elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk,

on the Council's notice board at Crown Mill and in the community notice board at the Co-op outside the Post Office.

Approved Minutes are also published on the website as well as being posted on the community notice board at the Co-op and available in the Memorial Library.

WHAT'S THE COUNCIL BEEN UP TO...

Councils are elected for a 4 year term of office. This administration is on week 200 – only 8 weeks to go.

Although the powers of town and parish councils are limited they can be remarkably effective in providing facilities for their area and extremely efficient in managing those facilities. Much of their work is carried out without fuss or fanfare and, as the opportunity approaches on 7th May for new people to have come forward to make their contribution, it seems appropriate to highlight just some of the work which has gone on for the past 4 years.

- **Young people** The Council has developed a relationship with youngsters in the village by funding a youth worker who created the group which eventually was able to move into the Blackbourne where, under very professional supervision, a youth club has blossomed offering a wide range of activities and opportunities and continuing to develop a sense of community responsibility which is reflected in very low rates of antisocial behaviour which had been a problem in the past. Council also drove the provision of a youth shelter at Blackbourne, adjacent to the multi use games area, largely funded from grant aid. These facilities, along with the 2 play areas for younger children, are checked weekly, maintained to a high standard and inspected annually by RoSPA.
- **Developing Blackbourne** Considerable resources have been put towards ensuring that Elmswell has a community facility which is appropriate both to its current size and to the demands of an inevitably growing population. 'Phase II' has provided indoor sports facilities and meeting rooms to accommodate all of the uniformed youth groups as well as many of the village's clubs and organisations. A loan from the government's Public Works Loan Board provided £250,00 of the build cost and the Elmswell Amenities Association made a grant of £175,000

which, together with other grants and drawing on the Council's reserves, made a £600,000 project possible. The investment is paying off and a further recent extension has provided much needed extra meeting and storage space with improved disabled access. Measures such as the installation of a ground source heat pump and solar panels help considerably in the management of running costs and allow for constant underfloor heating which is a major benefit in letting the facilities, particularly to outside bodies to effectively subsidise community use.

- **Housekeeping** The Council has had to accommodate some pressure from the devolution of costs from other tiers of government – emptying of litter and dog bins, traditionally a cost borne by Mid Suffolk District Council now costs £1,000+ each year. However, by adopting part night lighting and engaging in a programme of street light replacement for much cheaper LED units, the power cost of our 113 Council owned lights has dropped from over £4,000 to £2,500 per annum. The allotments and cemetery are efficiently managed and Councillors agreed to the establishment of new allotments and a green cemetery on land which they had acquired at Lukeswood in collaboration with the Elmswell Amenities Association and the ElmsWild group. Liaison with other authorities means that Elmswell secures good service in terms of such day-to-day concerns as the repairing of potholes and the maintenance of street lights whilst support is given to initiatives to tackle the perennial problems of litter, dog fouling, speeding and nuisance parking.
- **Planning** A high standard of presentation and debate means that Elmswell makes a worthwhile contribution to the consideration of Planning applications in the village. The emerging final details of permission on the redundant bacon factory site are informed by considerable Parish Council input, not least in winning the link into

the development from Ashfield Road for the proposed relief road bridging the railway directly to A14.

- **Community support** The Council has supported organisations in the community whenever called upon. A grant was made to the Police for a bike which has proved effective in improving patrols in the village. Similarly support has been given to road safety initiatives at the School and to the Children's Holiday Club at Blackbourne. Contributions to the achievement of the 'Most Active Village' award have encouraged activity through the monthly footpath walks, and the provision of the outside table tennis table at Blackbourne where outdoor gym equipment has also been added. The Council plays an active role in keeping an eye on the activities at Lawn Farm Quarry and continues to support the long term initiative to resurface A14 to reduce noise.
- **An active council** In very many ways, often unnoticed, the Council makes life better for residents. A portable hearing loop has made meetings more accessible and is available on loan to other Blackbourne users. The Gardening Club is grant aided towards ensuring that their excellent floral displays on our station are possible. Blackbourne continues to develop in ways as diverse as the provision of a picnic table and a defibrillator unit and the recent extension to provide more meeting and storage space and better disabled access completes a recent programme of such improvements.
- **Governance** The 3 annual audits of the council's procedures, practices and procedures consistently produce a clean bill of health and it seems appropriate to suggest that Elmswell well deserves its Quality Council status. In driving the Neighbourhood Plan process and providing the secretariat for the Steering Group through the Parish Clerk's office, the Council demonstrates an awareness of the challenges and opportunities which face Elmswell.

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 Gobblins factory premises. It is open for business on weekdays from 9.00am – 5.30 pm, excepting Bank Holidays. The answerphone is monitored daily.





PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION

All 11 seats on Elmswell Parish Council are up for re-election on 7th May.
 More information and nomination papers are available from
 the Returning Officer at
 Emily.yule@midsuffolk.gov.uk,
 from the Electoral Commission's website - www.electoralcommission.org.uk
 or from the Parish Clerk at
 clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk

Full details of the electoral arrangement, the rules and regulations
 come with the nomination papers which must be delivered by
 4pm on Thursday 9th April.

If the election is contested – ie if 12 or more candidates put themselves forward,
 then there will be a poll which will be counted on Saturday 9th May.

BEWARE BOGUS POLICE OFFICERS

An 81 year old Bury woman was recently contacted by phone. A man claiming to be a Police officer told her that someone had accessed her bank account and that she must draw all her money out for checking. Luckily, despite several further persuasive calls, the lady contacted the real Police and no money was stolen. In another case near Shotley a pensioner lost £4,000 to an identical fraudster.

- Don't give your bank details to anyone over the phone- real banks will never ask.
- If you suspect a caller is trying to con you, hang up, wait 5 minutes then call the Police.
- Keep an eye out for vulnerable relatives, friends and neighbours



FOOTPATH WALK

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

SUNDAY
15th
MARCH
 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.

March 2015

- 2 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church at 7.45pm Patsy |Kemp on South America
- 4 Lent Lunch St John's Church 11.30am
- 4 Elmswell Library Friends Committee Meeting commencing 6:30pm at the Library
- 4 Elmswell Exchange Afternoon WI Wesley Hall at 2pm Colin Hopper - Paper Modelling & Sculpture
- 6 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 6 Women's World Day of Prayer in St John's Church 2.30pm
- 10 Elmswell WI "The Ukulele" Steve and John we meet at 7.30 p.m. at Blackbourne.
- 11 Lent Lunch St John's Church 11.30am
- 12 Over 55's club AGM
- 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
- 17 Elmswell Exchange Social Club. Wesley Hall 2.30pm. Talk on Elmswell by Peter Lester assisted by Derek Folkard
- 18 Lent Lunch St John's Church 11.30am
- 20 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 21 Elmswell Baby & Toddlers Group Nearly New Sale
- 25 Lent Lunch St John's Church 11.30am
- 26 Over 55's club Sing along with Hank
- 27 Fire Crew Bingo session at Blackbourne Eyes down 7.30

April 2015

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

May 2015

- 1 Wine Experience. Spanish Wines and Tapas with Bob Stopp at the Library. Tickets available from the Library. Price £12.50 each.

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

June 2015

- 1 Ladies Friendship Group outing to Columbyne Hall and Gardens in Stowupland. Meet at chapel at 6.30pm. Phone Margaret on 241541 to book your place. Open to men as well.
- 4 Over 55's club Details T B C
- 5 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 9 Elmswell WI 'A journey to Citizenship' Linda Scoles we meet at 7.30 p.m. at Blackbourne.
- 11 Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall. 7pm A.G.M., then Speaker Mark Mower: "Crime on the Home Front - law-breaking in the two World Wars"
- 12 St. John's Ladies Lunch Group at The Wesley Hall. 11.30am
- 16 Elmswell Exchange Social Club. Wesley Hall 2.30pm. Talk by Graham & Sandra Mack on 'Letters from the 1st World War'
- 16 Gardening Club - 7.30pm Blackbourne Talk: Bats & Work of Suffolk Wildlife Bat Group
- 18 Over 55's club outing to Poppy Factory with Lunch and Tour
- 19 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 26 Fire Crew Bingo session at Blackbourne Eyes down 7.30

July 2015

- 2 Over 55's club Ploughmans Supper
- 3 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 9 Elmswell History Group - Annual Outing: To be arranged
- 10 St. John's Ladies Lunch Group at The Wesley Hall. 11.30am
- 14 Elmswell WI Outing
- 16 Over 55's club Music by Jim Bob Duo
- 17 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 21 Elmswell Exchange Social Club. Wesley Hall. 2.30pm AGM - Strawberry Tea + Raffle

- 30 Over 55's club outing to Felixstowe "The Hut"
- 31 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 31 Fire Crew Bingo session at Blackbourne Eyes down 7.30

August 2015

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

September 2015

- 6 Autumn Fayre - enquiries Peter Edmonds 241640
- 7 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church at 7.45pm Sue & Dave from Fresh Start on making soaps.
- 8 Elmswell WI Harvest Supper we meet at 7.30 p.m. at Blackbourne.
- 10 Over 55's club Mike Reed entertains
- 11 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 15 Gardening Club - 7.30pm Blackbourne Talk: From Mountain to Garden
- 15 Elmswell Exchange Social Club. Outing - To be arranged
- 18 St. John's Ladies Lunch Group at The Wesley Hall. 11.30am
- 18 Elmswell Exchange Social Club. Wesley Hall. 2.30pm Shared Lunch + Raffle
- 24 Over 55's club Harvest Supper
- 25 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am -12 noon
- 25 Fire Crew Bingo session at Blackbourne Eyes down 7.30
- 26 Christian Aid Quiz at Elmswell Baptist Church at 7pm. Teams of up to 6. £7 per head including food.
- 26 Elmswell Baby & Toddler Group Nearly New Sale

October 2015

- 5 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church at 7.45pm Pip Wright on History from old local newspapers.
- 8 Over 55's club Music by Jim Hawkins
- 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

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Guides 6.30 – 8.00,
Youth Club 7.00 – 9.00, Zumba 6.00 – 7.00
- Tuesday**
Beavers 5.15 – 6.30
Slimming World 5.30 & 7.30
WI (2nd Tuesday monthly) 7.00 – 10.30
Gardening club (3rd Tuesday monthly) 7.00 – 10.00
- Wednesday**
Scouts 5.45 – 9.00
Jujutsu martial arts class 7.00 – 9.00
- Thursday**
Brownies 5.30 – 8.00
Over 55's 7.00 – 10.00 (2nd & 4th monthly)
- Friday**
Bingo (last Friday monthly) eyes down 7.30
BATS – Badminton & Table Sports – 7.00 – 10.00
FIT4ALL with Jo Butcher 9.30 – 11.00
- Sunday**
SOZO CHURCH 9.00 – 12.00 (3rd Sunday monthly)

To make a booking enquiry

Call; 244134

Email; clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk





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