

'Like a friend dropping in'



The Elmswell Newsletter



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

March 2016

A picky lot ...



... see page 23



HELP SAVE ELMSWELL'S HERITAGE

...see page 24



REMEMBERING STAN

...see page 25

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.elmswellaa.org



Our editorial is designed to inform and to encourage debate.

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

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

We had hoped to offer our reader a Brexit - free zone. It's all sooo boring!

All this stuff about net input as a proportion of gross domestic product...the element of social housing deficit attributable to migration...the air fare to Torremolinos going up by a whopping £2.85! This is what we pay our politicians to sort out, surely?



But they keep asking us what we think. And this time we can't say they'll only ignore us. This time it's our decision. We get to vote. In or out. 23rd June at the Blackbourne or Wesley, and, 'Whatever', is not an option. Unless you forgot to apply for a postal vote and have gone to Torremolinos for fear of the horrendous air fare price rises. In which case, 'lo qea sea' on a postcard will have to do.

So that's all right then. We are being consulted and the consultation is real, decisive and will lead to a result. The people will have spoken. Please, let no-one mention an 'X' parrot.

Meanwhile, closer to home and possibly more important, is another shake-up of responsibilities. Closer to home whether you live in Suffolk, in Norfolk or in Cambridgeshire.

This could be considered to be simply going back a bit - about 1500 years, give or take - to when the Icenic regions of Norfolk and Suffolk were 'persuaded' by the new Anglo Saxon warriors-on-the-block to be lumped together, and later Ethelreda married strategically and added the Isle of Ely to the mix. The rest of Cambridgeshire sort of sneaked in since. So nothing new, what's the problem?

The proposal is, do stop us if you've heard this before, for 'Devolution'.

Since the 1974 shake-up which gave us County and District Authorities we have seen proposals for various new ways of structuring Local Government. You may have heard vaguely of Unitary Authorities, Suffolk Together, 2 tier System, One Suffolk, Your Place and the ill-fated, 'New Strategic Direction'. Now add Devolution to your, 'Whatever', list of gobbledegook.

But we know what's coming next. We will be told it matters. And it does. But, see above, sooo boring!

The Scots started it in 2014 when they voted to stay in team GB. In a surge of devolution zeal, half a dozen or so cities and combined local authorities have since been given a decisive say over certain administrative areas, notably health and transport, in return for subjecting the control of their region to a new authority lead by a mayor. Norfolk and Suffolk were, however, sent away to talk to each other about a combined approach. They are deemed to be too small on their own...so no mayor of Suffolk, no mayor of Norfolk...but possibly, it now emerges, a mayor of East Anglia. And Cambridgeshire might join in, bringing Peterborough with them.

Talk is on an 'Eastern Powerhouse'. Talk we've heard before...see above...but this time there is an element of hurry-up which is almost unseemly, possibly scary and certainly deserving of proper attention. A 'powerhouse' with powers. Powers to keep local property taxes, including business rates, in the region to be spent at the discretion of the region. Powers to impose fines on developers who sit on 'property banks' rather than building houses. Powers to co-ordinate health care and deal with A14 improvements for the whole of its length. Powers to spend many millions of pounds of investment funding within the region without Whitehall interference.

This talk is happening now. A first draft was seen, possibly appropriately, on Valentine's Day. Since then, i.e. in the last couple of weeks, the leaders of the 3 County Councils have met with treasury mandarins and an agreement could be signed in the first couple of weeks of March. There is a distinct feel that Government negotiators would like to be able to create a deal for the Chancellor to pull out of his budget hat. The budget is on Wednesday 16th March. That's 4 weeks after the first draft. That's fast! In Suffolk terms, that's as if off a shiny shovel.

Too fast to be boring - in fact too fast, it might be said, for proper deliberation and certainly for consultation. Which is where we started. Do we want to be consulted, or is it too boring?

Do we want a say or would we rather leave it to the elected representatives - we put them there for just that. To make decisions in our best interests.

Another referendum, anybody?



Your Newsletter Fact File

For the next 6 months we need copy by:

March 22nd	April 26th
May 24th	June 21st
July 26th	August 23rd

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

Your editors:
Jean Barker, Maggie Bushell, Peter Dow

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Reg. Charity No. 304879.

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PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

Your Newsletter has been published by the Elmswell Amenities Association (Registered Charity No 304879) on the first Friday of every month since 1986. The advertising administration and the printing are handled professionally - otherwise the whole enterprise is voluntary, including our team of 36 distributors. The costs are covered by advertising, so, please, support our advertisers, and do mention us if and when you use them. Last year the magazine made a contribution of £10,936.00 to the Association's funds - all of it directed to improvements in the village.

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

ELMSWELL ART CLUB



Two of Suffolk's famous sons, the artists Gainsborough and Constable, one the son of a woollen manufacturer, the other of a miller both ensured that our county is well known for art. They both died at the relatively young age of 61 - which makes most of the members of our club seem quite ancient (there are a few exceptions)! However, we are all young at heart and whilst not as famous as Gainsborough or Constable at present - who knows in a hundred years or so!

The paintings this month are both watercolours - Kersey, Suffolk by Malcolm Wallis and an Italian scene by Josephine Hale.

Denise Lawrence
Club Secretary 01359 245207



ELMSWELL EXCHANGE SOCIAL CLUB

Sylvia welcomed members to the first meeting of 2016. A belated happy new year was wished to all. Sylvia thanked everyone for her Christmas present which she thoroughly enjoyed.

Our speaker this month was Nick Chamberlin from the East Anglian Air Ambulance. Sylvia had written to the Duke of Cambridge as a pilot for the E.A.A.A. to invite him to the meeting. A letter explaining his unavailability had been received so as a surprise an Elmswell look alike attended the meeting - thank you Mark!

The East Anglian Air Ambulance covers Norfolk, Suffolk, Bedfordshire, and Cambridgeshire. It is a local charity funded by the people of East Anglia.

Two helicopters operate from bases at Cambridge and Norwich. Over 5000 square miles are covered and the service works 365 days a year. The helicopters are fitted with the most up to date medical equipment and a doctor and paramedic attend all calls. They attend road traffic collisions, horse riding accidents, cardiac arrests and agricultural accidents.

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Nick made us realise how lucky we are to have the East Anglian Air Ambulance and that fundraising is vital to keep the service running.

Our thanks to Nick for an interesting talk and to Ted for manning the merchandise stall.

After refreshments and the raffle, members were informed the trip to Felixstowe will be on May 10th.

Our next meeting will be on March 15th when we will be holding a Beetle Drive.

New members always welcome.

Enquiries to Sylvia on 241 505

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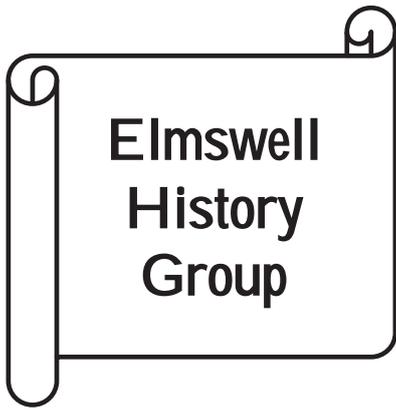
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ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

(formerly Elmswell Millennium History Group)

Our meeting on 11 February started early with an Extraordinary General Meeting, when all amendments to the constitution were unanimously approved. The constitution is now on our website (www.elmswell-history.org.uk) or a hard copy can be obtained from our Secretary, tel: 01359 242601.

Result of January's 'Mystery Object' Competition

Congratulations to our two winners, Gerald Curtis and Rosie Ellis, who correctly named the object as a device to facilitate the changing of a cartwheel. Thanks go to Peter Jones for organising the competition, to those who took part and to Wells Stitched Embroidery for generously donating the personalised items for prizes.

Our speaker for the evening was Mark Mitchels; the subject of his talk was Oliver Cromwell, who surprisingly was known to be not intellectual, dour, simple and uncultured. This was the man who would change history, yet left no record of what he did. He was born to Robert and Elizabeth (nee Steward) Cromwell in Huntingdon on 25 April 1599. Aged 17 he went to Sydney Sussex College but ceased his studies when his father died. He later attended Lincoln's Inn but did not become a lawyer. In 1620 he married Elizabeth Bouchier, daughter of a city merchant at St Giles, Cripplegate, whose family were ardent Puritans.

From 1631 he lived at St Ives, then Ely, where his house can still be seen, close by the Cathedral. At various times he was MP for Huntingdon and Cambridge and entered the Civil War as a 'Roundhead' where he gained quick promotion and became one of the principal commanders of the New Model Army.

His military career and style was described by Mark, but is too long and complicated to summarise here!

Cromwell was one of the signatories of King Charles 1's death warrant in 1649. Cromwell himself died in 1658, being buried in Westminster Abbey; however, when the Royalists returned to power in 1660 they had his corpse dug up, hung in chains and beheaded!

On 10 March at 7.30pm in the Wesley Hall, we have the story of the 'Suffolk Punch Horse and its place in East Anglian History' as told by Chris Miller.

ELMSWELL W.I.

After welcoming Terri, a new member, Rachel proceeded to tell us all about the numerous activities available to us, this year: Val has put a lot of effort into arranging a boat trip from Ipswich to Pin Mill in July. It will be a day to remember, I expect, and members will only pay for afternoon tea, not the coach or the boat. Anne has finalised arrangements for the dinner at West Suffolk College on March 16th and the A.G.M. will be held at the Apex on April 28th. Rachel reminded us about the Denman Cup competition: "Write a Letter to Your Younger Self." Further activities, including craft, a quiz, Soup and Natter, Techie sessions, bowls, Scrabble and chicken foot dominoes(!) were mentioned. Something for everyone!

At last we were introduced to our speaker, Jenny, a member of Walsham-le-Willows W.I., who has represented the W.I. charity, A.C.W.W. (Associated Country Women of the World), for about twenty years. It is the only charity for which the W.I. is allowed to fundraise, because its aims and objectives are similar.

The International Council of Rural Women was set up in the 1920s, when women's prospects were very limited, many being treated as "universal voluntary slaves," with little access to education and communication. The Suffrage Movement began about this time, as did the W.I. itself. All these developments probably arose from the aftermath of the First World War, when so many millions of men were lost. This resulted in lots of women being unable to marry and losing their traditional roles as wives and mothers. They had time on their hands to make the World a better place, particularly for women. The A.C.W.W was finally born in 1933, in Stockholm and in 1935, "Pennies For Friendship" was set up. Originally, each member contributed a penny to help other less fortunate women in different parts of the World.

Each year, an international meeting takes place in a different country and any women's group may apply for a grant to help them in some way. An incident, which took place at a meeting around the time of the Second World War, illustrates the solidarity of the women involved. Delegates from nineteen countries were present, some in national dress and some not understanding the language. As you can imagine, the German representative was extremely nervous and very unsure of her reception. However, there was deafening applause for her, which illustrated how all women were included and respected, whatever their governments (run by men) were involved in. After being welcomed so warmly, she was highly emotional, as she left the platform.

These days, each W.I. contributes some money, every year, to this very worthwhile cause and the lives of many women, all over the World, are improved.

Rosie Collins.
01359 241652



ELMSWELL EXCHANGE AFTERNOON W.I.

February meeting - It was good to get together for our **first meeting since Christmas** and catch up with everyone's news. Barbara, our President, welcomed one new member, Joan and a guest, Pamela. Our speaker was Celia Stevens who came along to tell us all about her life as a Racing Driving. Well, I think we were all exhausted when Celia finally left us. Not only did we learn about her life and how she ventured into racing but we went through every bend, chicane and straight with her, right to the chequered flag. The epitome for her was the Le Mans 24 hour endurance race in France which she undertook several times, the final one being with Antonia Loysen in a 1932 Citroen C4 which her partner Ian had completely restored. The two ladies completed this fete and were each awarded a special prize of a treasured Le Mans wrist watch for their outstanding contribution to the race.



Celia Stevens

Our competition was "a Photo of your Favourite Car" and we had a lot of entries. Celia judged this for us and first was Elizabeth Bennington, second Betty Rice and third Florence Romaine. Congratulations to them.

We all enjoyed tea and then completed two months' accumulation of correspondence. Next month our speaker is Derek Langley who will be exploring the night sky with us. The competition is "a night scene in any medium".

New members and guests are always welcome. Further details from Barbara on 242788 or Maureen on 241033 or just come along on the day.





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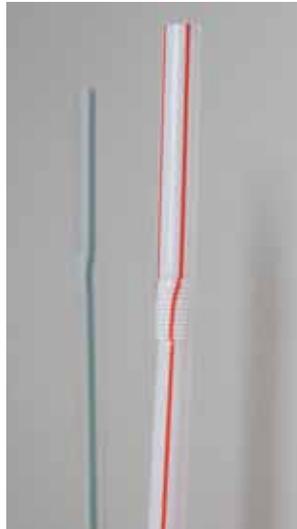
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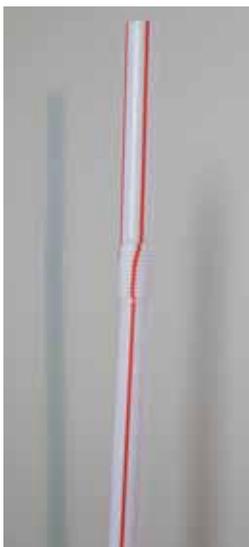
At our last meeting we practised Depth of Field. This is how we can isolate a subject from its background. Useful for portraits or children so that they stand out from the surroundings.



It can also be used so all the subject is sharp from front to back, as in Landscapes, where we need to see all the vista.

This is done by use of the Aperture, by turning the dial on top of the camera to the AV/A setting you can alter the Aperture by turning the top wheel.

A large Aperture, small number 4-5.6 will give you a blurred background, a small Aperture 16-18 will give you a much clearer and sharper background.



So next time your out with your camera give it a try.

Our next meetings are on Tuesday 1st March, 5th April, 3rd May, at 7.30pm at the Blackbourne, room at the end of the carpark.

Hope to see you all there.

Mike 01359 241431



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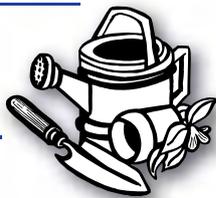
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ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB



It seems a long time since our last gathering in November and the Gardening Club welcomed an eager crowd to our first meeting of 2016. Nick told us that the station flowers had managed to stay bright and cheerful despite the inclement winter weather. Hopefully, the pansies and wallflowers will continue flowering until May when we will re-dress the tubs in their summer garb.

Also, the date has been set for Elmswell Open Gardens, which will be on **Sunday, 17th July** this year. It is never too early to start planning for this event, so make a note in your diaries. The aim is to show off our gardens and to discuss with our many visitors any gardening problems or successes we have had. So it does not matter if it is a pocket handkerchief-sized garden or acres where Capability Brown would be in his element; they are all of interest.

Our February speaker was Rodney Tibbs, whose talk was entitled 'Patio Gardening and Gardening in Small Spaces'. He pointed out that gardens are getting smaller and a gardener's lot might be a frustrating one; but even with a one-metre square space there are still exciting opportunities. Developing a distinction between a paved patio and lawn may create a vibrant outdoor room. It is wonderful what may be achieved by carefully placed pots or small hedges which blur hard boundaries and often lead to focal points such as large pots, statues, fountains – or a table with a welcoming glass of wine. Seasons are reflected by juggling the position of pots. No empty monuments to past glories – discard them – replant to reveal fresh, innovative pots. Unusual containers – planted-out watering cans, upturned tree roots or old boilers – enhance these areas, especially if used in conjunction with trailing plants. Rodney used a large strawberry pot planted out with dwarf sweet peas (*Snoopea*) to achieve a fragrant kaleidoscope of colour - a delight on any patio. All his timely advice was taken to heart by our members!

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, 15th March, 7.30pm, at the Blackbourne**, when **Michael Perry from the well-known nursery, Thompson & Morgan**, will be talking to the Gardening Club on the subject of 'New, Different and Unusual Plants'. He will also be bringing along some plants for us to buy. Our meetings are informal and friendly with members eager to learn from our expert speakers and even give very good advice themselves. Membership is still only £13.00 per year, but if you would like to sample our offerings – non-members may attend for £3.00 per session. For further information please contact **Nick Chamberlin on 242601**.

ELMSWELL OVER 55's

Following our winter break we have resumed our meetings at the Blackbourne when we welcomed back the "Jim Bob Duo" for an evening of music and song.

It was pleasing to see everybody enjoying the evening along with some visitors.

Our next meeting is on March 10th when we will hold our AGM when we elect a committee for the next 12 months the evening will continue with Bingo Meetings or Days Out then continue every two weeks through to December (We regularly update the "Whats on section" at the rear of the Newsletter).

Noteable Dates for your diary which are open evenings are March 24th with "Brian of Note" and a special visit of "The Broadside Boys" on April 21st when we will be celebrating the Queens Birthday in true style. so please join us as visitors are most welcome to these events which commence at 7 15pm through to 9 30pm.

Diann (241002)

MATTHEW POLLEN

Susan & Rob Pollen, would like to thank everyone for their kind messages of sympathy, following the tragic loss, of their cherished son, Matthew J Pollen on 5th November 2015.

The funeral service for Matthew was held on 8th December.

The donations received, have reached the grand total of £578.10 which have been given to Cricket Meadow Mental Health Support Unit at Stowmarket (part of The Richmond Mental Health Charity).

We greatly appreciate everyone's support for this charity.

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AROUND & ABOUT

MID SUFFOLK BRASS

Mid Suffolk Brass was formed in August 2014. Since then, we have been honoured by the presence of Andrew Bannister who is a top musician from Brighthouse and Rastrick Band, one of the country's championship bands. Andrew conducted a music workshop in the morning with our band members and then played some amazing solo pieces during our concert in the evening.

During the last 17 months, Mid Suffolk Brass has performed at the above concert, two Christmas concerts, played in support of our Mayor Barry Salmon at Old Newton Bowls Club, Gig in the Yard at Fox Yard, Stowmarket and the Meadow Centre, Stowmarket. We also appeared at the Mayors event at the Museum of East Anglian Life in between many other carolling events.

Some of these events have enabled us to raise much needed funds to purchase ties for our musicians and banners to hang on the music stands, helping us to emphasise our identity.

We have many events planned for 2016 including joining another band to make it a massed bands concert and an invite to play in Germany.

One of our supporters this year is the Stowmarket Town Mayor, Barry Salmon. Barry is about to host a Charity Chinese Buffet at The Chinese Chequers, Stowmarket on Tues 8th March 7pm for 7.30pm. Tickets are £20

and available from Stowmarket Town Council Offices, Milton Road South, Stowmarket.

Mid Suffolk Brass would like to thank all our supporters, especially the Councillors, Local Councils and businesses, big and small, for all their support this year. We would also like to thank our band members for all their hard work during the last year and we are looking forward to a busy 2016.

If anyone is interested in joining us, even if you haven't picked up an instrument for many years, come along and join our friendly team, we practice at St Peters Church Hall,

Stowmarket every Monday evening at 7.45pm. Alternatively contact Mel Stammers on 01449 774651.



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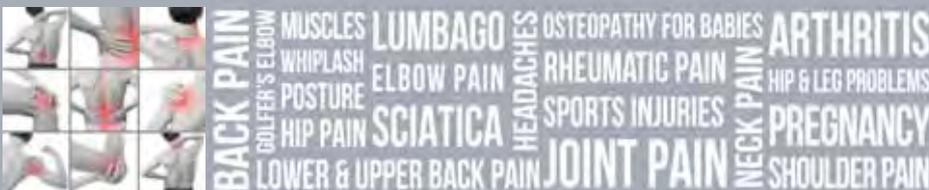
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ELMSWELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Are you interested in family history? Have you started plotting your family tree and got stuck? Or have you always wanted to but don't know where to start?

A Family History group is kicking off in Elmswell Library from 2:30-4:30pm on Wednesday, March 16. Volunteers Peter and Julie, who have both been investigating their families for years, would like to help interested people get started or help with problems fellow amateur genealogists may have encountered.

They will be using the free Ancestry and Find My Past services that are available to all customers in the library. Initially the aim is to get together every two weeks.

Space will be limited, so if you would like to take part then you will need to book a place – please call the library on 01359 240974 and leave your name and telephone number – or simply pop in to put your name on the list. On the day, if you are a beginner, you will need to bring your birth certificate, marriage certificate (if applicable) and as many details as you know about your parents. If you are stuck on a certain piece of your own studies then please bring the information with you.

As well as free access to Find My Past and Ancestry, the library service offers a multitude of services to customers. As well as a huge number of reference services available on www.suffolklibraries.co.uk you can download books for free via Overdrive, audio books through Borrow Box and music from Freegal. There is also Zinio, our free magazine download service, which offers dozens of popular titles absolutely free.

Suffolk Libraries - www.suffolklibraries.co.uk

Suffolk Writes: Make your prose, non-fiction and fiction available to Suffolk Libraries customers in eBook format.

And remember our regular children's session – Baby Bounce and Tot Rock – at 9:45am every Friday. It is a lovely session of songs and rhymes with Hannah aimed at babies and toddlers.

And crafts on Sunday from 11am-12pm for slightly older children. Both sessions are completely free.

You may have also seen in the local press and on the news recently that Suffolk Libraries launched its Year of Reading. It is aimed at celebrating and promoting reading across Suffolk in 2016, helping us improve literacy, encourage reading for pleasure and remind everyone of the importance of reading. You can find out more and make a pledge for 2016 at <http://suffolklibraries.co.uk/our-year-of-reading>

On the same site there is also information about Suffolk Writes - a pilot project to enable aspiring writers to get some of their work published as a library eBook which people can download from the library service – and about the Suffolk Literary Festival, which will take place in October this year.

Elmswell Library is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am-1pm and 2-7pm, Wednesdays and Fridays from 2-5pm, Saturdays from 10am-1pm and Sundays from 10am-3pm.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Emma Yarrow



ELMSWHEELIANS 2016

PROGRAMME OF BIKE RIDES

Another year and time to hit the road once again (but not literally, hopefully).

If you like cycling, 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 for fun, at a reasonable pace; and not a time-trial in sight.

And on all our rides we have a stop at a suitable hostelry for R & R.

Please note especially that this year's Fund Raiser will be an evening ride on Friday 22nd July for the Bumblebee Children's Charity, a locally based organisation who work directly with children with learning / movement problems. They are based in Sproughton, rely solely on donations, and do not have the marketing power of the national charities.

The ride will end at “The Fox”, with a Grand Draw to round things off.

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

Draft Programme of 2016 Rides :

Sunday 24th April
(15 miles approx.)

Sunday 29th May
(15 miles approx.)

Friday 10th June
(evening ride - 12 miles approx.)

Friday 22nd July
(evening ride -
Bumblebees Fund Raiser - 15 miles approx.).

Sunday 21st August
(15 miles approx.)

Sunday 25th September
(15 miles approx.)

All the rides will start from Abbots Warren, Church Road, Elmswell.

Start times :

Sunday rides 10.30 a.m ;
Friday evening rides 6.30 p.m.

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

**Trevor Sadler,
Abbots Warren,
Church Road,
Elmswell.**

Tel : 01359 240908

BLACKBOURNE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION



The Blackbourne Management Association does what it says on the tin – it manages the village's facilities at Blackbourne which are owned by the Parish Council. By maintaining this separation of management from ownership, the Association qualifies for an exemption to business rates – a saving to the community in the current financial year of £13,836.00. The Association comprises 8 members delegated from groups which use the facilities plus 2 elected members and 3 parish councillors. This committee meets monthly to discuss the day-to-day running of all of the halls and outside sports & recreational space and suggests to the Council how it might consider moving forward by way of improving the facilities. The bookings are handled through the Parish Clerk's office which is open for business every week day and on Saturday morning, allowing for an efficient and speedy response to enquiries. Payments are made to the Association which spends none of the income. It is all passed across to the Council, either as a regular monthly amount or, when surplus accrues, in a lump sum. This money is spent by the Council, as published in the monthly financial reports to Council meetings. In light of the increase in turnover, the BMA is moving away from the manual bookkeeping which served well in the early years to computer generated reports.

The January meeting agreed that the monthly payment to the Council should increase from £700.00 to £1,000.00 and that a lump sum payment of £5,000.00 be made with the suggestion that this goes towards new curtains in the Chamberlayne Hall, as suggested by the WI, and the proposed portable sound system which will allow a P.A. system with hearing loop in all of the letting venues. Members considered that, having seen much of their recommended growth and improvement achieved, they have no plans for major schemes and that the income they are generating can be passed across more directly.

It was also agreed that a nominal £5.00 be added to the annual fee charged to the Football, Cricket and Bowls Clubs. This now stands at £190.00 per club and, after discussion, this fee is also to stand for the Youth Football Club, despite their more intensive use of the facilities as they have, through the excellence of what they offer, grown to some 13 teams offering training and recreation to over 200 boys and girls.

Members noted the very successful recent stripping and re-sealing of the Chamberlayne floor and agreed to support Chris Wiley's suggestion of the installation of a new PIR activated light at the gate on the new perimeter roadway, together with the request from the caretaker for a pressure washer to help him deal with the mud on the approaches to the halls caused by the increased football use.

Peter Edmonds, Secretary



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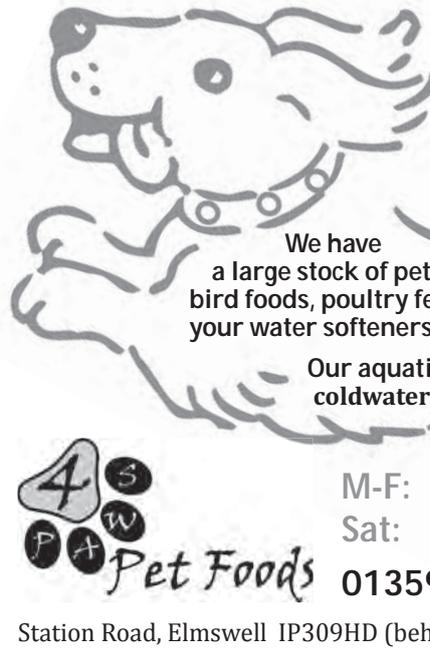
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NEWS FROM ELMSWILD



When did you last see – or hear – a Turtle Dove?

We sing about this bird at Christmas time – “On the second day of Christmas my true love gave to me, Two Turtle Doves” – but in fact we only have a chance of seeing it in the late spring and summer. Turtle Doves are migrants, arriving here in April from their wintering grounds in Africa, to nest and raise their young.

Until recently this was one of the iconic birds of summer, its lovely purring call as much a part of the soundtrack of warm summer days as the buzzing of bumblebees. The name Turtle Dove does not refer to the tortoiseshell patterning of its plumage (although it looks very like it), but instead derives from the French word “tourterelle”, meaning dove, which imitates the “turrurr, turrurr” sound of the turtle dove’s song.

This summer sound risks becoming a thing of the past permanently, as the RSPB is warning that the Turtle Dove is on the brink of extinction here in Britain. The population is halving every six years and is down 91% since 1995.

Why is this happening? One reason is that the migratory journey the birds undertake every year from the Sahel region of Africa takes them over the Mediterranean where they have to run the gauntlet of hunters’ guns, especially in Malta where there is a long tradition of shooting migratory birds. Although this practice is now illegal under EU laws, it still occurs, despite vigorous campaigning by the RSPB and other organisations.

However, a further reason – and one that is tipping populations towards extinction – is that breeding and foraging habitats here are being lost to modern farming methods. Once widespread, populations are now restricted to small areas of East Anglia and the South East. Turtle Doves need tall, bushy hedges to nest in and weedy seeds to feed their chicks. As these disappear from the landscape, breeding attempts are declining and overall breeding success is low.



Operation Turtle Dove

However, it’s not all bad news for the Turtle Dove. The RSPB and their partner organisations are working together to turn the situation around. Operation Turtle Dove was launched a couple of years ago to try and restore both nesting and foraging habitats in order to improve breeding rates. They are also working with conservation partners in Europe to help protect Turtle Doves from the threat of hunting along their migratory routes.

Although the birds have all but disappeared from most parts of England, Suffolk is something of a stronghold for Turtle Doves, so it’s a good place for a sustained effort to halt population declines and restore these birds to sustainable numbers.

Turtle Doves at Lukeswood

We plan to play a part in this restoration. Earlier in February Sam Lee, RSPB adviser, came to Lukeswood to assess its potential for improving habitats specifically for Turtle Doves. And it’s good news! Some of our hedgerows are already good potential nesting sites, and others can be improved with some work to make them bushier and higher with a good proportion of prickly and climbing plants. We can also work to encourage areas of weedy seeds to provide the food that Turtle Doves need – and Sam has already given us a huge bag of specially formulated seed to start growing this Spring.

There have been occasional sightings (and hearings!) of Turtle Doves close to Lukeswood, even quite recently, so we’re hoping that with some effort and encouragement we can attract these beautiful birds to our wildlife site. It may take years to rejuvenate populations to sustainable levels, but we can start now and play our part to bring them back from the brink.

Wouldn’t it be wonderful to walk into Lukeswood in years to come and hear the soft “turrurr, turrurr” of a pair of Turtle Doves over the summer breeze?

Can you help us – with a rotavator?

To sow our special Turtle Dove seed we need to break up the ground with a rotavator. Has anyone got one that they would be willing to lend? Or bring to Lukeswood to help us with the work? It would be a tremendous help.

If you can help at all, please get in touch with Mary (241901), John (241086) or Bob (240171), or email us at info@elmswild.org.uk



Mary Feeney
info@elmswild.org.uk

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YOUNG ELMSWELL

ELMSWELL BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

"I'm shy", "I won't know anyone", "My child can be boisterous", "My little one is only a baby and won't get anything from the group", "The group will be cliquy", "No-one will talk to me" are only a few of the reasons we hear that people don't attend our Baby & Toddler Group. We were all in that position once, with the same fears and apprehensions and I for one wish I had plucked up the courage to attend a lot sooner.

We do our utmost to ensure every new member receives a warm welcome from at least one committee member who will show you where everything is and will introduce you to people with children the same age as yours. You don't have to worry about being shy; we are all capable of doing lots of talking to try to make you feel at ease.

We already have boisterous toddlers and it causes us no problem as long as they don't stray into the baby area, we are all very relaxed parents and we all look out for all the children, so they can never get too boisterous. Don't feel bad if your child is the one racing around on one of our ride-ons bashing into walls as next session it could well be my daughter doing it! (She is the one normally climbing on tables, eating glue or drawing on the walls!)

FRESCH

We would like to say a big thank you to all of you that brought in cakes for our Valentines cake sale and to those of you that bought them. Thanks to you we made a fantastic £200!

Dates for your diary!!!

15th April
Bingo Night!

22nd April
St George's Day
Cake Sale

20th May
School Disco

8th July
School Summer Fayre

More to follow
so watch this space!

The FRESCH Team



Elmswell Baby and Toddler Group

Wesley Hall, School Road, Elmswell

Every Monday & Wednesday
10:00-11:30am Includes School
(except bank holidays) Holidays

- Trips, parties and special events
- £1 Per Adult & child (Extra children 50p (fees capped at £2))
- Healthy snack & drink for adults and children
- Enclosed garden with slides, playhouse, & sandpit.
- Art, craft and sensory Activities.
- Toys, dollhouse role-play area, baby area, ride-on vehicles, books and singing.

Elmswell Baby and Toddler Group

We have a special baby corner for the little ones who do not move about yet and you will be surprised how much they will get out of a session. We have a sensory box full of interesting things with different textures and sounds as well as a box of baby toys. The Baby & Toddler group is not just about baby it is about Mum (or Dad, or Grandma, or Auntie) too, everyone has a story to tell about teething, sleeping, nappies, weaning, playing which will make you feel you are not alone when baby has been up all night crying. We learn so much from each other and some weeks it is just nice to sit and chat with new friends.

We pride ourselves on not being cliquy and welcome everyone and anyone into our little (but ever growing) family. People travel from nearby villages to join us and we even have Mums that would NEVER join a Toddler group but now enjoy coming twice a week and actively get involved with the group.

If you are sitting at home reading this plucking up the courage to come along, just do it we will be there to welcome you and make you feel at home the same way other Mums did it for us. We are open Monday and Wednesdays from 10:00 until 11:30 at the Wesley Hall, on School Road and we hope to see you soon.



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February was a busy month at St John's; we started the month with our all age Christingle service. The children (and adults) delighted in making their individual Christingles. We lit the candles and turned off the lights and shared a short prayer with one another; it was beautiful.

Our Ash Wednesday service was relocated to the Baptist Church. (Many thanks for having us and for the friendly, warm welcome!) We enjoyed a truly meaningful and thought-provoking service together.

The monthly Ladies Lunch was held on February 12th. The ladies enjoyed soup, bread and cheese together and the speaker talked about her teaching career. The next day was our Men's Breakfast in the Church Room. Following an excellent serving of eggs, bacon, sausage, black pudding, beans mushrooms and tomatoes, Matt Rushby of Bury Christian Youth spoke about their work: delivering Christian input into all of the Middle and Upper schools in and around Bury St Edmunds.

Finally, February saw an upgrade to the church heating, which means we now feel even more snug and warm when we meet together.

We will be "springing" into March with two special services on **Sunday 6th March**:

10:30am Mothering Sunday All Age Service - Invite the special lady in your life to celebrate motherhood in all it's complex and wonderful forms. (Please note the start time!)

7:00pm Open to God: Healing and fullness service - Join us to share and enjoy God's unconditional love.

And, the remainder of the month as follows:

Sunday 13th March

8:00am Holy Communion
10:30am Morning Service

Sunday 20th March

10:30am Palm Sunday Service

Thursday 24th March

7:30pm Maundy Thursday Holy Communion

Sunday 27th March

8:00am Easter Day Holy Communion
10:30am Easter Family Service

Sunday 3rd April

9:30am All Age Service
11:00am Holy Communion

We look forward to seeing you there!

The Friends of St John's Church

A series of Lent Lunches has been organised by the Friends - each Wednesday at 12.15pm in the Church Room (last session 23 March) we meet to discuss a study guide by Bishop Michael Baughen 'Centred on Christ' based on St Paul's letters to the Philippians. This is followed by a light lunch of soup and bread; there is no charge but donations are welcome and will go to the Stowmarket Food Bank.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Contact: Revd Peter Goodridge tel: 240512
email: elmswellrector@gmail.com
web: www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk

...and now find us on facebook!

Happy Easter everyone! We have a selection of all age services and celebrations this month - please join us - everyone is welcome.

St John's Church
welcomes you



www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk

Happy Easter from St John's - celebrate with us!

Sunday 20th March

10:30am Palm Sunday Service

Thursday 24th March

7:30pm Maundy Thursday Holy Communion

Friday 25th March

10:00am Good Friday at Baptist Church

Sunday 27th March

8:00am Holy Communion
10:30am Easter Family Service

Sunday 3rd April

9:30am All Age Service
11:00am Holy Communion





On Saturday 9 April at 7pm there will be a piano concert in the Church by Alastair Blay. Alastair is an accomplished pianist and also plays other instruments. There will be refreshments during the interval. For further information please look out for the posters which will go up shortly.

The Friends of St John's Church is a registered charity and raises funds for the insurance and fabric of the church.

J Folkard tel: 01359 242099

Christians Together in Elmswell

CTIE was formerly known as the Elmswell Fellowship of Churches and was made up of members of the Methodist, Baptist and Anglican Church. Sadly the Methodist Church has closed, but there are still members in the village as there are of other denominations. CTIE welcomes people from all denominations or none and would be pleased to see you at any of our united services.

This year the Good Friday service is at 10am at the Baptist Church on Ashfield Road. Everyone is welcome.

J Folkard tel: 01359 242099

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH TOWER FLOODLIGHTING

You are invited to sponsor the floodlighting of St. John's to help with the day-to-day running expenses

of our parish church. You can choose to commemorate a personal event, an anniversary, or any other special occasion. Alternatively you can simply make a donation. 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 "ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, ELMSWELL".

FEBRUARY 2016 SPONSORSHIPS NOT PREVIOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED

- 12 happy memories of Ted on his Birthday, with love from all his family. xx.
- 21 in loving memory of Evelyn Bloomfield, a dear Mum, Nan and Gt. Nan. "Always in our thoughts". Love from all the family.
- 21 in memory of my sister, Katharine Howe, taken from me on 21st February 2008, never to be forgotten. Loving sister Audrey (Hunt).
- 27 Happy "17th" Birthday Louise. Lots of love from Mum, Nan, Storm, Poppy & Diesel. xxxxxxxxxx.

MARCH 2016 SPONSORSHIPS

- 1 Brian Robinson. Remembering you on your Birthday, with love from all your family.
- 2 Margaret CLARKE, remembered with love on her Birthday.
- 6 in loving memory of Stella Wade.
- 6 Evelyn Simpson. Treasured memories of a very special Mum on Mothering Sunday.
- 6 Dora Handyside. Cherished memories of a very special Mum.

- 7 in loving memory of John Hopewell on his Birthday. "Always in our thoughts".
- 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 remembering John on our lovely, happy, sunny Wedding Day, 60 years ago.
Elizabeth Bennington.
- 15 in loving memory of Joyce Ivy Jackson, formerly of Bury St. Edmunds, with Elmswell roots.
- 16 in loving memory of Vic Wade.
- 23 remembering Stanley King, missed by all at the Over 55's Club.
- 23 in loving memory of Joy Cammell. "Always in our thoughts". From all the family.
- 24 Stan King. Remembered with love, a very dear friend.
- 27 Mary Skinner. Remembered with so much love at this special time of year.

All bookings and payments please to :-

Trevor Sadler, Abbots Warren, Church Road, Elmswell (Tel: 240908)

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY, STOWMARKET

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.ourladystowmarket.org.uk

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2016

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, 20th 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, 24th March:
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, 25th March:

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, 26th March:

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 Saturday, 26th March.

Easter Sunday, 27th March:

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

Father David Finegan.

ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

February was a relatively busy month for us here at the Ashfield Road Chapel, we joined our friends from St John's on Ash Wednesday for a combined service, to herald the start of lent the signing of the cross on our foreheads with ashes was a new experience for some of us.

On the 25th we held our Church AGM where all members of our congregation have an opportunity to express their opinions on the business and spiritual affairs of our church.

Our business affairs are somewhat insignificant when you look around us at what is happening in the rest of the world, with the UN trying to get a meaningful ceasefire in Syria and Mr Cameron our Prime Minister rushing around Europe trying to win over other EU leaders to support his amendments to the rules on benefits etc. and let's not forget the plight of thousands of refugees trying to start a new life here in Europe away from the bombs and carnage in the Middle East. We just pray that all these things will be settled without animosity and peace will come to pass wherever there is conflict.

March looks as though we will continue our busy programme with:-

4th March we host at 12.30pm The Women's World Day of Prayer service.

7th March Our Ladies Friendship Group meet at 7.45pm to hear member's memories and experience a cooking demonstration.

10th March Food and Friends Lunch takes place at 12 noon

25th March Christians Together In Elmswell Good Friday Service at 10 AM will be held at our church.

Our Services in March will be led by :-

6th March Stephen Spurgeon (inc Communion)

13th March Stephen Spurgeon

20th March Rev Stuart Wood

27th March Congregation (Songs of Praise)

As always we extend a warm welcome to all of our activities to anyone wishing to join us.

Dave Hollings

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

Robin Footprint Picture

You will need

Brown Paint, Red Paint, Orange Pen, Black Pen

Instructions

Paint the bottom of your foot with brown paint and firmly press on to paper. Once dry using your red paint, colour in the breast.

Draw on your legs and beak with your orange pen.

With the black pen add the eye.



Bird Feeders

You will need:

lard, fir cone, bird seed and string.

- Mix the bird seed with the lard
- Push the mixture into the fir cone
- Put in the fridge overnight to harden
- Remove from the fridge
- Tie some string on to the top
- Hang outside in the garden for the birds to enjoy

Chaffinch Magpie Blackbird Robin Blue Tit
Great Tit Wood Pigeon Starling

Can you see any of the birds below in your garden?



Blue Tit



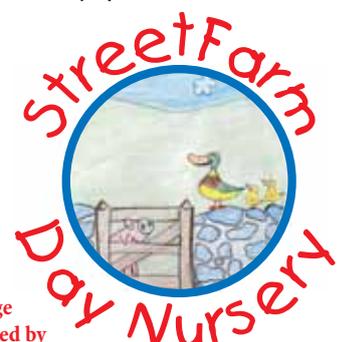
Robin



Blackbird



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ELMSWELL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering group met for its monthly meeting at Blackbourne with guests Nick Ward, Corporate Manager for community Led Planning at Mid Suffolk / Babergh and Ian Poole. Ian has recently been contracted by Mid Suffolk to act as a 'critical friend' to Neighbourhood Plan groups in the District. He is a Town Planner with extensive knowledge and experience in managing and delivering planning services and projects at a senior management level in the public sector, including masterplanning,

public realm projects and procuring consultants studies, all of which relate well to the needs of the Elmswell project. Locally, Ian worked as St Edmundsbury Borough Council's Planning Policy and Specialist Services Manager and now runs his own consultancy. Places4People specialising in providing advice on strategic planning, planning policy and public realm projects.

The meeting drew widely on the input from the professionals and made progress in taking

forward impact assessments regarding various levels of growth over the next 15 years and beyond.

In order for Ian to be in a position to guide the group towards a draft Plan, in conjunction with Dave Chetwyn and Rachel Hogger of Urban Vision, who are retained as advisers, a meeting is to be arranged with members who have been involved in data collection before the Group next meets in April.



THEN & NOW

From the Elmswell History Group's excellent website we learn that, in 1900, The Cottage, at the junction of New Road / Church Road / Warren Lane & Cross Street, was occupied by, "John Henry Newson, coal and manure merchant."

Further, that, "Elmswell's older inhabitants knew this junction as Newson's Corner."



Despite the changes in the modern photograph, they still do!

The 1954 postcard of Mr Newson's house is from Paul Peachey's considerable and growing collection of village people and places. If you have a postcard of our village or know of the whereabouts of one, Paul would be very interested to hear from you on 241517 or via paulpeachey53@icloud.com

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ELMSWELL BOWLS CLUB

The Green

I asked the Club's Greenkeeper, Nick Chamberlin, if he would like to talk to us about his preparation of the Green through the winter months following closure of the 2015 season. He, and a team of volunteers, takes all of the necessary actions (and precautions) to prepare the green for the re-opening in mid-April. With my thanks for his help; here are his comments:



"It does not seem very long since we put the green to bed last September, although this year with the warm and wet weather it never really 'slept'. The winter has been unusually wet and windy; creating conditions which allowed the grass to continue growing. Unfortunately, this also encourages moss to grow and disease to break-out; so we have had to keep a close eye and treat as soon as we spot the various actions to be taken. In fact it has been so wet that use of our machinery on the green has been made even more difficult, as the weight would damage the extremely soft surface. However, all in all, the green looks in pretty good condition for the time of year and, having cut it again today (19 February); it was tempting to get the woods out for some early practice!

The mowers are currently being serviced as we speak, so everything will be ready for action when the time comes to start the practice for real! Hopefully, members are also getting their bodies serviced so that we will have plenty of help with getting the green and the general surrounds looking pristine in condition for the 'opening drive' of the 2016 season.

So now at the beginning of March, we will already be starting the preparation works for

the new season, which will start mid-April. Now is also time to start stretching your bowling muscles, which may not have been used for a few months!"

Becoming a Member

I would like to remind all members of the village of Elmswell that the Club is always looking for more people to play the game. No experience is required, no age group is favoured, bowls can be provided, to begin with, until you know what your needs are. So all you need to do is speak to the Club's chairman, Linda Abbott on 242224 (or any other member of the Club that you already know) about how to start. Teaching will be available to help you decide whether to continue to play and there will then be plenty of chance to practice your new skills as the season gets into full-swing.

And finally...

- A further reminder about the forthcoming Club's Annual Quiz night on Saturday 19 March at 7.30pm; to be held in the Chamberlayne Hall, at Blackbourne.
- Admission is £6 per person (for teams of up to 6 people) to include supper. Teams should simply contact Brenda Begg on 242025 to confirm a place as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made.
- Anyone from the Village is welcome and is entitled to join- in the evening, for £6.00 per head.

Trevor Clarke



ELMSWELL CARPET BOWLS



These pictures show members of Elmswell Carpet Bowls presenting their cheque for £75 to Tony France of the W.E.N.T. Community First Responders.

The short-mat Carpet Bowls Club meets at the Wesley Hall every Wednesday, 7-9.30pm, for a fun and relaxing evening of gentle exercise for all ages and abilities. No special clothing required, and all equipment is provided.

For more details of this friendly and sociable club, contact Frank on 01359-244591.

Thinking Allowed

I was very disturbed recently to see that IS have been crucifying people in Libya. This horrific, ancient form of execution was made famous by the Romans. But even they knew how barbaric it was – Roman citizens were exempt from crucifixion, because it was so awful and shameful. It was reserved for the lowest of the low.

And yet, as Easter draws near, Christians will be looking to a cross and remembering that this is how Jesus died. Moreover, Jesus allowed his enemies to inflict this agonising death on him. He did not have to die. He clearly said that he could call on an army of angels to rescue him. Instead he submitted to a corrupt court of judgement that condemned him to this cruel death.

The Easter message is that Jesus submitted to this out of love for humanity. He knew that only by drawing the evil of humanity onto himself, then carrying it to the cross in self-sacrifice, could the world be saved. That this plan of rescue works can be seen in how 3 days later Jesus was raised to new life. How marvellous that death has now been defeated.

However, this great act of self-sacrificial love by Jesus is also a model for us to follow. Can you imagine what the world might be like if we all put others first instead of our own ambitions? We would see an end to poverty, an end to hunger, an end to war, an end to racial hatred and an end to violence. This need be no pipe dream.

Best wishes,
Rev'd Peter Goodridge
Rector, St John's Elmswell



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

Email:

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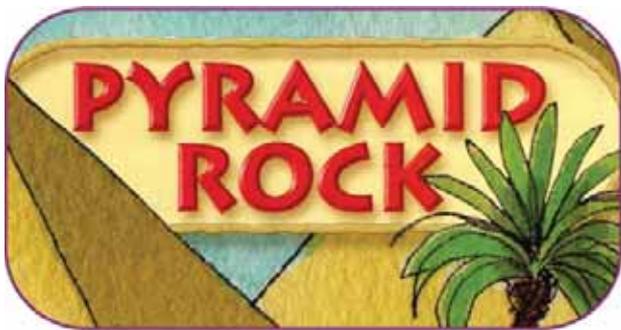
AROUND & ABOUT



The recent Community Litter Pick managed to half fill a Mid Suffolk van – the beginning of the pile is seen here. Meanwhile, Peter Edmonds tackled some of the grubbier road signs. As a professional, he reveals the secret so that anyone can tackle their local street signs: water, a brush and some hard surface cleaner. Give it a try?



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SAVING A COMMUNITY FACILITY FOR ELMSWELL HELP!

Yet another Planning application has been made which could scupper the chances of the village taking ownership of the Methodist chapel and halls on School Road.
It is to turn the chapel into a house.
This would severely restrict the usefulness of what remains – possibly to the point where it would not serve the village at all.

The previous application to build a house on the garden and hall was turned down largely because the facility is registered as an Asset of Community Value.
This severely restricts the developer and allows the community the chance to buy.

The argument this time is that the chapel has not been used for community use – only as a chapel.
In law, use as a chapel is not community use.

However, in law, if there is intended community use and a need for future community use, then a case can be made for refusal.

PLEASE TRY TO HELP MAKE THAT CASE

GO TO THE MID SUFFOLK PLANNING WEBSITE...

- by searching 'Mid Suffolk Planning Applications'
- and click on 'View Planning Applications On Line'
- click the red icon at the end of the bold statement, 'To view or comment...click here'
- enter the reference number **0610/16**
- select Login at the top of the page and register to make a comment
- copy it to the Parish Council...clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk

Or write to:

The Planning Department, Mid Suffolk District Council, 131 High Street, Needham Market, IP6 8DL
quoting the reference number **0610/16**
and copy it to:
Elmswell Parish Council, Parish Clerk's Office, Station Road, Elmswell IP30 9HR

The case has to be made on proper Planning grounds.

These might include the following - **just 2 or 3 of these points chosen at random and repeated in your own words in a letter or email to the Planners and the Parish Council would make a valuable contribution.**

There is no room at Blackbourne for any more evening weekday bookings – the very type of booking that would be served by a second, smaller and very central facility.

The chapel is included in the booking diary as a letting option – however the works to treat the problems of dry rot have prevented it being used – there is a need for more space now and in the future and the chapel can provide it.

The Neighbourhood Plan plus Mid Suffolk's designation of Elmswell for 'growth' and common sense all say that our village is going to grow massively in future years. One community facility won't cope.

Day time bookings at Blackbourne are a growing trend. They are made by outside organisations and bring in 50%+ of the income which keeps it going for community use. To try to squeeze the current Wesley users in would cut off that income and threaten the viability of community facilities in our village.

To split the chapel off reduces the available space to such an extent that the remainder could well be too confined to serve the village. The developer has suggested it will allow 6 parking spaces. This is optimistic – and, even if correct, 6 parking spaces are just not enough given the traffic load on School Road and the existing shortage of parking for the shops etc.

The chapel has been used as a very useful overflow venue on occasions since it ceased to be a place of worship. The chapel space is needed and will be developed to serve the village.

The Asset of Community Value registration was for the existing facility. To drastically reduce the size would, in effect, remove the value to our community.

Both you and the community put enormous value on the present facility which needs to be developed rather than threatened.

This application could be crucial in the battle to save an essential community facility.

The community support is vital in that battle.

Please take the time, as a member of that community, to lend your support.

If the village wins, it wins for the community today, for tomorrow and for ever!

It is a fight worth winning.



YOUR COMMUNITY

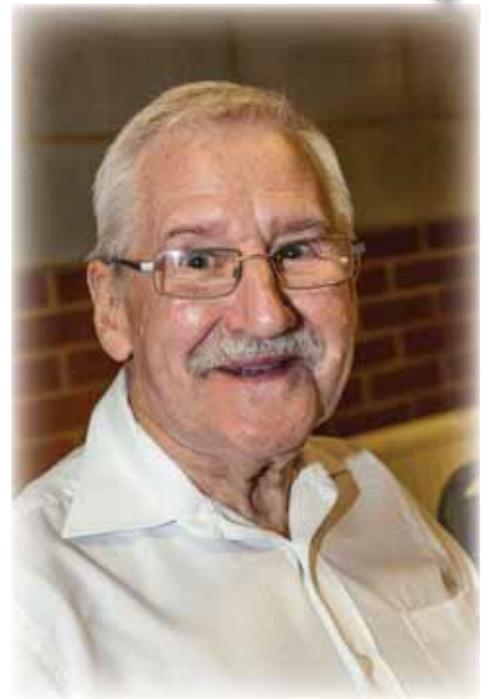
You are invited to join a community tribute to Stanley King who passed away last year after a lifetime of service to the community.

A plaque remembering Stan will be unveiled in the Jubilee hall at Blackbourne on Thursday 31st March.

We gather at 7.30pm. There will be refreshments supplied by Stan's friends in the Over 55's Club and a sherry toast - Stan's favourite tippie.

Mid Suffolk Brass will play to remind us that Stan's second love was music of all sorts.

Stan's first love was the village of Elmswell.



THE WESLEY CHAPEL AND HALLS

The Parish Council nominated 5 of its members to work with the Parish Clerk towards purchasing for the community the site that the Methodist Church decided to sell in 2015. The initial exercise included liaison with a group elected from the various organisations who currently use the Wesley Hall on the site. It soon became clear that only the Parish Council could realistically fund a purchase.

The site is registered with Mid Suffolk as an 'Asset of Community Value' (ACV). The Parish Council has lodged a 'Right to Bid' under the ACV rules which means that only the Parish Council can purchase the property up until 24th May, after which it is on the open market. Although the Parish Council can make a bid within the 6 month, 'moratorium', the vendors do not have to sell.

However, the owners, the Methodist Church have expressed their support for a community bid to buy the facility for continued community use and professional Agents on both sides are currently engaged in determining a fair price.

Until the professional negotiations are completed there really is little else to be said. The Parish Councillors involved in taking this forward are confident of good will on both sides being the key to unlocking the rather complex matter of a fair valuation. Once this is achieved and ownership is, through the Council, in community hands, then a way forward towards realising the full potential of the facility will be sought involving the current users, potential users and the village at large. We will all have a stake in it.

The current aim is, therefore, to own the facility for Elmswell for the benefit of the community for ever. All concerned look forward to working to this end.

Councillors Fred Pallett (Chairman), David Hawes, Shaun Pratt, Julia Taber, Chris Wiley & Parish Clerk Peter Dow.

ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL

There will be a meeting of the Council's

Planning Committee

on

Thursday 10th March

in the Chamberlayne Hall at Blackbourne beginning at 7.30.

The agenda will include the Planning Application reference 0610/16 which seeks approval to change the use of the Wesley chapel on School Road and convert it into a house.

The public are welcome to attend this meeting and will be offered the opportunity to make their views known.

**Enquiries to: The Parish Clerk's Office, Station Road, IP30 9HR
t.01359 244134 e. clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk**

ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL - FEBRUARY REPORT

Full Council is scheduled to meet on the 3rd Monday monthly, excepting August. The February meeting took place at Blackbourne on Monday 15th with 9 of the 11 councillors present, along with Mid Suffolk District Council Ward Members Mrs Sarah Mansel and John Levantis, Parish Clerk Mr Peter Dow, and 7 members of the public.

This report is compiled from that meeting by the Parish Clerk and edited by the Council's Editorial Board which is made up of the Council Chairman, Cllr Fred Pallett, the Council Vice-chairman, Cllr Brian Hawes and Cllr Steven Harrison, elected by his peers to join them. It seeks to cover some of the more interesting or significant items thought to deserve wider public attention. Included, where appropriate, are matters reported to the meeting by external bodies such as the Police and Ward Members or as raised at the meeting by members of the public. Further background and reference to subsequent events are included where relevant.

The report includes matters dealt with at a Planning Committee meeting held on 11th February when 6 Councillors, 23 members of the public and District Council Ward member Mrs Sarah Mansel attended largely to deal with a Planning application at the Bacon Factory site.

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.onesuffolk.net, in the Memorial Library and from the Parish Clerk by arrangement. Bound copies of older Minutes are lodged with the Suffolk County Records Office in Bury St. Edmunds. The most recent Minutes, from the January Council meeting, as approved at this meeting, are posted in the community notice board at the Co-op.

Mid Suffolk District Council Cllr Mrs Sarah Mansel tabled a written report which included confirmation that she is supporting the preparation of an alternative budget which hopes to include the following:

- Clearer, more open and transparent budgeting
- Facilitate building of homes where planning permissions have been granted but not built
- Sell-off Mid Suffolk Head Office site for housing and build a new joint HQ with Babergh in a sustainable location.
- Create small business hub to help micro-businesses grow laying the groundwork for greater business rates retention
- Increase skills and capacity in grant funding so that communities can get help in leveraging greater funding into Mid Suffolk
- Capitalise on the district's arts heritage providing a boost to our tourism ambitions by funding additional support.

She also confirmed that the mandatory 1% reduction in council housing rents is no longer applicable to supported housing rents, so MSDC is now proposing that the supported housing rents will rise by CPR+1% (as laid out in the previous HRA budget). However, this, taken into consideration with the changes in utility and service charges, will result in an average saving to tenants of £2.44 per week.

The report included information on a proposal to create a new 'in-house' responsive repairs team which will cover both Babergh and Mid Suffolk housing stock. MSDC currently have an 'in house' team whilst Babergh currently contract out to a private contractor.

Cllr John Levantis reported orally on the work of the Syrian Vulnerable Person Scheme to integrate some 40 refugees per year into the Ipswich area. He confirmed that the Community Infrastructure levy will effectively replace the developer s106 contribution in April providing some £10,000.00 per eligible dwelling towards infrastructure costs, 15% of which goes to the town or parish council – 25% if that council has a neighbourhood plan in place.

County Council Cllr Mrs Jane Storey tabled a written report which included reference to the recent commendable action on the part of the Elmswell Fire Crew in helping tackle the house fire at Grove Lane. This is in the context of the SCC consultation on the Integrated Risk Management Plan on which feedback is still invited.

BMA Cllr Peter Edmonds, the Secretary of the Blackbourne Management Association which manages the Council owned facilities at Blackbourne, tabled a written report which included input from the Association's treasurer, Nick Brooks. This confirmed that all Blackbourne expenses appear in the Council's books and form part of the Council's accounts. They are thus open to scrutiny by the Councillors and the Council's auditors. They are not the direct concern of the BMA committee as they are not the expenses of the BMA but of the Council which owns and maintains the site. The BMA does not spend any of the lettings income, it is passed to the Council and Councillors decide how each and every penny is spent. This is recorded and strictly audited. As the Blackbourne has grown in popularity and use, a computerised booking system has been gradually introduced and incorporated in with a robust paper trail which is now fully reconciled. The BMA accounts can now be 'reviewed' by a suitably qualified examiner and this will happen annually. Meanwhile, the monthly payment across to the Council of letting income has again been increased and is now £1,000.00 per month. A lump sum of £5,000.00 has also been paid across as residual income over and above the lower monthly payment. The Association has suggested that Council might look at a WI suggestion for new curtains in the Chamberlayne Hall and is encouraging expenditure on a portable PA system with meeting microphones. Annual fees for the 4 sports clubs have been increased by £5.00 to £190.00. This covers all aspects of the use of outside facilities and changing rooms for the Bowls, Football, Cricket and Youth Football clubs.

Wesley chapel & halls The Clerk confirmed the following in the matter of the proposed acquisition by Council of the Wesley facilities for community use. The

stage has been reached whereby both sides have appointed professional agents who will soon be in negotiation. The vendor is, quite properly, looking at various strategies which might maximise the return on a sale and the Council representatives are taking advice accordingly. During this process it is essential that all concerned observe the usual 'commercial in confidence' conventions. This is particularly important in ensuring that no individuals who have an interest on both sides of the proposed transaction, either declared or perceived, are placed in a position where their judgement might be seen to be subject to pre-determination, bias or any conflict of interest. The Council team has the benefit of input from extremely well qualified members in the very relevant fields of commercial negotiation, property sale and development and community facilities management. They also, on an individual basis, speak with and listen to the wider community, including current users of the facility. Advised by experienced retained professionals, this team proceeds on a 'need to know' basis so as to best represent the interests of the wider community without prejudice. Until the sale process is complete and the outcome known it is the view of the principals concerned that speculative forward planning is not a good use of time or resources.

Planning results At the Planning Committee meeting, the following were noted as having been received from Mid Suffolk, the Planning Authority:
4281/15 Erection of single storey rear & side extension...Kasita, Church Road
EPC supported
PERMISSION GRANTED
4170/15 Erection of extension and new access...Orchard cottage, New Road
EPC supported
PERMISSION GRANTED
4468/15 Replacement of windows and rear elevation doors...Alms-houses, Church Road
EPC supported
PERMISSION GRANTED

Planning Applications At the Planning Committee meeting, Councillors agreed to support an Application ref.0025/16 for a rear two storey extension with alteration of outside side wall finish (including the extension) from painted brickwork to hardy plank at Maryville, New Road. They also



supported the proposed change of use and conversion of the former dairy and adjoining workshop into 2 one bedroomed dwellings at Dagwood Farm, Ashfield Road.

Bacon Factory Councillors objected to Planning Application 3918/15 for approval of reserved matters pursuant to outline planning permission 0846/13 relating to Appearance, Landscaping, Layout & Scale for the development which includes the erection of 190 residential dwellings at the Former Grampian Harris site, St Edmunds Drive.

They cited the following reasons for urging refusal:

1 The disappointing proportion of Affordable Houses reinforces the need, as identified by the emerging Elmswell Neighbourhood Plan and by community feedback, for 'starter home' housing stock. Accordingly, the imbalance in favour of larger dwellings - 33% being 3 bed dwellings, 33% being 4 bed dwellings & 10% being 5 bed dwellings - does not adequately reflect the community's needs. It is felt that 9 No 1 bed dwellings or flats should be included in the housing mix by reducing each of these larger dwelling allocations by 3 dwellings each.

This is seen as better serving the NPPF stricture whereby opportunities should be sought to meet the development needs of the area with regard to objectively assessed need and where developments should be planned with a mix of housing to meet the needs of different groups in the community, reflecting local demand. Further, it relies upon the Core Strategy Objectives 6 & 7 which seek to enable communities to be balanced and inclusive, respecting diversity in function and character.

Local Plan Policy H14 reinforces the need for a range of dwellings catering for different accommodation needs.

2 The concerns expressed by the Environment Agency with reference to the lack of land contamination information, taken together with the issues raised by SCC Resource Management with regard to the lack of SuDS compliance regarding a sustainable drainage system and the fact that the proposed surface water drainage system does not appear to reach local or national standards, all come together to raise serious reservations with regard to this element of the proposal in light of the

protection which must be afforded to the River Blackbourne.

Local Plan Policy CL4 encourages the conservation of the ecological qualities of our rivers and must be properly addressed.

- 3 The need for attenuation of nuisance sound, in particular from the railway adjacent to plots 55 - 65 inclusive, must be detailed, as per Condition 10 of the OPP, and must be to the satisfaction of Officers. A scheme has not yet been submitted and this is an essential requirement before permission is granted
- 4 There is no Travel Plan submitted. The site will impose further strain on the travel infrastructure of Elmswell and Condition 14 of the OPP reflects the importance of this element of the development proposal. As at 3 above, this must be detailed to the satisfaction of Officers prior to Approval.

Chairman Cllr Peter Edmonds was congratulated and thanked for his having chaired the recent Planning Committee meeting at short notice as the Chairman was indisposed. He had, it was said, done so with commendable calm under public scrutiny and dealt extremely well with the understandably high feelings which went with the significant Planning application on the Bacon Factory site.

Street map The meeting agreed a budget of £1,000.00 towards the provision of a street map including the footpaths within the immediate village boundaries to be installed on display at Crown Mill and made available elsewhere, including the Post Office. The long considered initiative to provide a street plan / footpath map for public display was boosted by Mike Friend undertaking, when a Parish Councillor, to organise an Emergency Plan initiative for the village. This needs good mapping for emergency services etc. Mike Friend has since worked with the Council's mapping system and created the basis for a display size map by painstakingly researching missing / wrong information and compiling a gazetteer / grid reference system. Cllr Burch is working with the Clerk to add to the map an accurate indication of the footpaths which begin in the village and run them to the map boundary in the hope that this will lead to a similar exercise of a scale that allows the footpath to be shown in their entirety.

The Clerk is working with Taylor Wimpey to have their new estate accurately overlaid where the Bacon Factory is currently shown.

Complaints The meeting noted that Code of Conduct Complaints made against Cllrs David Hawes, Fred Pallett and Peter Edmonds have been considered by the Monitoring officer at Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils and that no action will be taken.

A complaint received by the Monitoring Officer in respect of Mrs Lesley Reed remains under consideration.

Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 21st March 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 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.



THIS PAGE IS PUBLISHED AND FUNDED BY ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL

FOOTPATH WALK

Our next walk starts, as usual, from Crown Mill, on **SUNDAY 13th MARCH beginning at 11.00 am**

Open to all comers & led by Footpath Officer Dick Burch

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

Dogs on leads welcome - stout shoes recommended



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 2016

- 2 Elmswell Exchange W.I. Derek Langley - Our Tiny World (exploring the night sky)
- 4 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 7 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church 7.45pm - Memories and Cooking Demonstration by members
- 8 ElmswellWI we meet meet at The Blackbourne for 7.30pm Citizens Advice Bureau
- 9 Lent Lunch St John's Church 12.15pm
- 10 **Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall.** 7.30pm, Speaker Chris Miller: "The Suffolk Punch Horse and its Place in East Anglian History"
- 10 Food & Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 10 Over 55's Club AGM and Bingo
- 11 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 11-15 Over 55's Club Llandudno Holiday
- 15 Gardening Club 7.30pm Blackbourne Talk: New, Different and Unusual Plants
- 15 Elmswell Exchange Social Club Beetle Drive Raffle
- 16 Lent Lunch St John's Church 12.15pm
- 18 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 19 Elmswell Toddlers Club Nearly New Sale 11am - 2pm
- 23 Lent Lunch St John's Church 12.15pm
- 24 Over 55's Club Brian of Note Open evening
- 25 Good Friday Service Baptist Church 10am
- 25 Elmswell Bingo at the Blackbourne, doors open at 6.45, eyes down 7.30

April 2016

- 1 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 4 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church 7.45pm - Flower Arranging with Ann Hollings
- 6 Elmswell Exchange W.I. Chris Parfitt - A pictorial visit to the Scilly Isles
- 7 Over 55's Club Bingo
- 8 April Children's Society coffee morning at Wesley hall 10am - 12.00 noon.
- 9 Piano Concert in St John's Church 7pm
- 12 ElmswellWI we meet at The Blackbourne for 7.30pm Craft evening
- 14 **Elmswell History Group's 16th Anniversary meeting, Wesley Hall.** 7.30pm, Speaker Clive Paine: "Suffolk Men at Waterloo"
- 14 Food & Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 15 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 19 Gardening Club 7.30pm Blackbourne Talk: Current Threats to our Precious Woodland
- 19 Elmswell Exchange Social Club Alistair Angus From Farm to Fork Raffle
- 21 Over 55's Club Broadside Boys entertain Open Evening
- 22 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 29 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 29 Elmswell Bingo at the Blackbourne, doors open at 6.45, eyes down 7.30

May 2016

- 4 Elmswell Exchange W.I. Annual General Meeting and Resolutions plus a little something extra !
- 9 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - outing to High Hall, Nettlestead meet at chapel at 6.15pm - open to men as well
- 10 ElmswellWI we meet at The Blackbourne for 7.30pm AGM
- 12 **Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall.** 7.30pm, Speaker Justyn Keeble: "Elmswell's WW2 Home Guard - much more than Dad's Army!"
- 12 Food & Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 13 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 17 Gardening Club 7.30pm Blackbourne Talk: Garden of Gertrude Jekyll and Lutyens
- 17 Elmswell Exchange Social Club Outing to Thetford Garden Centre
- 20 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 27 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 27 Elmswell Bingo at the Blackbourne, doors open at 6.45, eyes down 7.30

June 2016

- 1 Elmswell Exchange W.I. Glen Abassi - My Courier Work for Anthony Nolan
- 2 Over 55's Club Brick Lane 60's Show with 3 Course Lunch
- 6 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - meal at Bunbury Arms, Gt. Barton - meet at chapel at 6.30pm - open to men as well
- 9 **Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall.** 7pm A.G.M., then Speaker Brian Milner: "Six Hospitals and a Chapel in Medieval Bury St Edmunds"
- 9 Food & Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 10 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 14 ElmswellWI we meet at The Blackbourne for 7.30pm Suffolk Law Advice Centre Speaker Ann Barber
- 17 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 21 Gardening Club 7.30pm Blackbourne Talk: The Perennial Mr Potter
- 21 Elmswell Exchange Social Club Talk by Juliet Walker and PAT dog Raffle
- 24 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 24 Elmswell Bingo at the Blackbourne, doors open at 6.45, eyes down 7.30

July 2016

- 6 Elmswell Exchange W.I. Sheila Jeffrey - My Role as a Marie Curie Nurse
 - 8 **"Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon**
 - 12 ElmswellWI Outing
 - 14 **Elmswell History Group - Elmswell History Group - Annual Outing:** 7pm meet at WW1 Huts Project, Hawstead.
- Details from Stella at 01359-242601, and tickets on sale at May and June's meetings. 14 Food & Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 14 Over 55's Club Male Voice Choir
 - 15 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am

- 17 Elmswell Open Gardens
- 19 Gardening Club - Summer Activity
- 19 Elmswell Exchange Social Club AGM Strawberry Tea Raffle
- 22 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 28 Over 55's Club Outing The Hut @ Felixstowe
- 29 Elmswell Bingo at the Blackbourne, doors open at 6.45, eyes down 7.30

August 2016

- 3 Elmswell Exchange W.I. Members Meeting - Garden Party at Carol's
- 5 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 9 ElmswellWI we meet at The Blackbourne for 7.30pm Members meeting
- 16 Elmswell Exchange Social Club Shared Lunch
- 19 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon

September 2016

- 5 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church 7.45pm - Memories of a holiday in New Zealand with Flory Heller
- 7 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 7 Elmswell Exchange W.I. Colin Hopper - The World of Optical Illusion
- 8 Elmswell History Group, to be arranged
- 13 ElmswellWI at the Blackbourne for 7.30pm Harvest supper
- 16 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 20 Gardening Club 7.30pm Blackbourne Talk: Passion for Gardening
- 20 Elmswell Exchange Social Club Speaker T.B.A. Raffle
- 21 Elmswell Exchange Social Club Outing to Suffolk Punch Horses
- 22 Over 55's club Sing along with Hank
- 23 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 24 Elmswell Toddlers Club Nearly New Sale 11am - 2pm
- 26 Elmswell Bingo at the Blackbourne, doors open at 6.45, eyes down 7.30
- 30 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 30 Elmswell Bingo at the Blackbourne, doors open at 6.45, eyes down 7.30

October 2016

- 3 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church 7.45pm - Modern Day Nursing with Alice Skull
- 5 Elmswell Exchange W.I. Andrea Davey - Let's Build a Gingerbread House
- 11 ElmswellWI we meet at The Blackbourne for 7.30pm Elmswell Butchers Speaker Alistair
- 13 Elmswell History Group, to be arranged
- 14 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 18 Gardening Club 7.30pm Blackbourne Talk: Good Companions
- 18 Elmswell Exchange Social Club Mr. Parfitt Return to Bhutan in the Himalayas Raffle

..and at The Wesley Hall each week...
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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
Winters Academy - dance classes 4.00 - 6.00

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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