

'Like a friend
dropping in'



The Elmswell Newsletter



Thirty years of Parish Record... all the Community News...
April 2017

Going (Elms) Wild!



... see page 11

Our Community Comments ...
see pages 20 & 21

Published on the first Friday of every month by the Elmswell Amenities Association
Reg. Charity No. 304879. 1,776 copies delivered free to households and to businesses in the community.
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PLEASE NOTE Our new 'phone number is 0759 389 3602
for all Amenities Association business, Newsletter and adverts
Our new email address is EAA@elmswell.org.uk



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; eaa.elmswell.org.uk We reserve the right to edit any such contributions that we may use in a subsequent edition.

We publish on the first Friday in the month. The next time that this date is April 1st will be in 2022. Many of our competitors – think The Times of London, Manchester Guardian, Daily Mirror etc, publish daily and therefore have an annual chance to celebrate the Feast of Fools.

This year has posed a problem for them. The emergence of the 'fake news' phenomenon has produced so many weird and wonderful stories that little trust can be placed in media reports... and none at all in the burblings of the devotees of social media who can rely on anonymity and a vast gullible readership eager to hear the worst.

This year's better examples of 'real' fake news included the suggestion that the Army are to camouflage soldiers deployed in built-up areas by painting them to look like bricks. This is echoed in the report from the Elmswell Camera Group later in this Newsletter – but it has been denied by the Top Brass.

Or consider hardware retailer Wilko's offer to, *'Guarantee your feathered friends aviary (see what they did there? – Ed.) good time with Wilko's brand new Hot Tub for Birds – the ideal garden accessory for bird lovers looking for a modern upgrade to the traditional bird bath. Complete with mini-jets for a truly relaxing spa(arrow) experience...etc'.*

Sometimes there's a gentle hint that there is mischief afoot. A report in that august journal, the Liverpool Echo, that the Royal Mint is to produce a 99p coin to cut down on the amount of copper coins given in change confirmed that the designer, delighted that his design had been

chosen, said: "Coming up with design of the first 99p coin is my biggest achievement since I caught a red herring in the River Mersey in 1981."

Similarly, a report in The Sun, supposedly from a scientific journal, suggesting that parts of the anatomy of a Miss Katy Price - 'glamour model' – are visible from the moon, was attributed to Prof. Lia Saloyd whose name can be conveniently rearranged as 'April fools day'.

Better late than never, your Newsletter offers the chance to spot any flaws in logic or likelihood in the following Press reports which may, or may not, have appeared on 1st April.

DEFIBRILLATOR PREVENTS CARDIAC ARREST

One of the bright yellow defibrillator boxes which are now a common sight in our towns and village proved its worth recently when a member of the public was shocked at the appearance of a policeman walking the streets of their village. So great was the surprise that the 78 year old grandmother felt unsteady and apparently seemed to be on the verge of collapsing. Luckily, her companion, who had captured the sighting on her mobile phone to show her children, realised the problem and ushered her friend to the defibrillator nearby in nearby Letsbey Avenue which soon had the colour back in her cheeks. A police spokesman said



AFFORDABLE HOMES 'U' TURN

In an unprecedented move prompted by Brexit, a Government spokesman has confirmed that, as 'the world is now turned upside down and anything goes', the 'Affordable' reference in 'Affordable Housing' is to define what is affordable for people to buy rather than what is affordable for developers to build most profitably. The detail is yet to be announced, but is thought to include the ground breaking policy that people buying, 'affordable homes', must not already have a home. There is, furthermore, a suggestion that a similar approach, flagged up by a source 'very close to the PM' might be applied to the concept of, 'sustainable', although Paul Theotherwon of Oxford University's Regional Area 1 suggests in an article

PROPOSED ELMSWELL HOUSES ASPIRE TO HIGHER THINGS

The possibility of residential development close to Elmswell's iconic church of St John The Divine has produced concern recently from residents who feel that a housing estate may not be the best setting for their much treasured Medieval masterpiece. A suggestion from a local architect seeks to address the potential clash of style by proposing that the new houses nearest to the Church might be built each with their own tower or spire, 'to designs contemporary with the very typical ecclesiastical vernacular which St John's celebrates'. The lead partner in the Bury practice Arvin Yewon went on to say that, 'a key element to any pleasing street scene is cohesion, a simple conversation, one building to another with common reference

We hesitated to print the story that, the Brexit vote has been reversed following a mix-up similar to that seen recently at the Oscars ceremony. Too obviously from La-La-Land.

Your Newsletter Fact File

For the next 6 months we need copy by:

April 25th	May 23rd
June 27th	July 25th
August 22nd	September

Contact us on our new 'phone number is

0759 389 3602

for all Amenities Association business, Newsletter and adverts. Our new email address is

EAA@elmswell.org.uk

Your editors:

Jean Barker, Maggie Bushell, Peter Dow

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CLUBS & SOCIETIES



ELMSWELL ART CLUB



Well spring is finally here and along with it the sunshine, rain, wind, hail and almost every season covered within a couple of days! We have a trip organised for our members in April, to the Sainsbury gallery in Norwich which should be a great day out and wonderful inspiration for our artists.

We also would remind you all of our upcoming Art Exhibition on the second weekend in May the 6th and 7th. Don't miss it as there is a great deal of very splendid work on show and many paintings for sale or commissions taken if a particular artists work or subject takes your fancy!

This month we have a beautiful floral water colour painting done by our very, very talented Anna Hawes, a vibrant and watercolour of a superb kingfisher by Annette Blanchard and an almost biblical watercolour of dark mountains, with light breaking through the dark clouds and gleaming onto the sea below by Brenda Thompson.

Art Club Secretary, Josephine Hale, 01359 242592



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Elmswell Art Club



Exhibition and Sale of art by local artists

at The Wesley Centre, School Road, Elmswell, Suffolk
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ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

Our speaker for the March meeting was Gareth Davies; the title of his talk was 'Pablo Fanque's Victorian Fair and Circus'. Similar to several of our speakers, Gareth has been writing a book – exploring Victorian entertainment – during his studies he came across Pablo Fanque who was an English equestrian performer and the first non-white circus owner in Britain.

Pablo was one of the major circus acts in the 19th century and he achieved 'immortality' through being featured in the Beatles record 'Sergeant Peppers Lonely Hearts Club Band'. John Lennon was inspired to write 'Being for the benefit of Mr Kite' having bought a poster advertising Pablo Fanque's circus act.

It is possible that Pablo's father was African born and came to Norwich where he trained as a house servant. Born William Darby in 1796 in Norwich, after an exciting life travelling the world with his circus, Pablo died in May 1871 in Stockport. Having been attracted to the circus his first performance was in Norwich in 1821 with William Batty's company. His act included horsemanship, rope walking, leaping and rope vaulting, juggling and other exciting feats.

Pablo Fanque married Mary Stamp from Norwich and in 1848 she met with a tragic accident when the theatre gallery collapsed. He remarried in the same year and his three sons from that marriage all performed as equestrian clowns.

The Group's next meeting, our 17th Anniversary Meeting, will be held at the Wesley Hall, School Road, Elmswell on Thursday 13 March at 7.30pm when the speaker will be Edward Martin and his subject 'Moated Halls of Suffolk'. Edward is a well known archaeologist, working with Suffolk County Council and specialises in historic landscape studies.

For more information visit our website www.elmswell-history.org.uk or telephone Stella Chamberlin on 01359 242601.

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EAA@elmswell.org.uk

ELMSWELL CAMERA GROUP



We had a good meeting again last month, when we delved into the world of Portraiture.

One of the members brought in his home studio and gave a talk on lighting.



The group then took it in turns to photograph someone so as get an idea of what it is would be like in a studio atmosphere.

Next month there is a Photoshop Lightroom presentation. Eagerly awaited by the members.

The next meeting is on April 4th 7.30pm Blackbourne, Olympic room.

In May we will have an evening at Lackford Lakes, and hope the birds cooperate.

And in June a Portrait shoot at Rougham Manor. Bothe dates and times TBC.

For more information phone (01359) 241431

ELMSWELL EXCHANGE SOCIAL CLUB

This month we welcomed Mr. Parfitt to the meeting to speak about Northumberland. It is England's most northerly county and he took us on a visual tour of the coast, moorland and hills. There are 56 castles in various conditions in the county including Banbergh and Alnwick. The gardens and treetop restaurant at Alnwick are worth a visit. We traveled to the Farne Islands and were shown the varied bird life including guillemots, cormorants and puffins. Grace Darling was a famous resident of these islands and we were reminded how Grace and her father rescued people from a shipwreck. Holy Island is not the place to be when the tide comes in or you will be stranded. We were shown the railway bridge at Berwick on Tweed with 19 arches which was designed by Robert Louis Stevenson as well as Hadrian's wall. Our thanks to Mr. Parfitt for showing us the diversity of scenery and the history of Northumberland.

After refreshments and the raffle, Sylvia informed the members about the outings in May. On the 16th of May we are visiting Corncraft and on May 23rd it is our annual visit to Felixstowe. Members are reminded to bring £15 to the April meeting for the Felixstowe trip.

Our next meeting is on April 18th when our speaker will be Mr. Jackson from the Woolpit Nursery.

After the meeting, our chairperson Sylvia Walton decided to step down from this role. She is about to have an operation and feels she needs to focus on her recovery. The members and committee would like to thank Sylvia for all her hard work, energy and enthusiasm she has put into the club and wish her a speedy recovery. Her last meeting as chair will be the Felixstowe outing.

Our AGM is in July and we hope a new chair will come forward at this time. If no one comes forward, the committee will run the club for the rest of 2017 and our last meeting will be our Christmas lunch in December.

Enquiries to Carol 242 884

ELMSWELL OVER 55's CLUB

We are now into April with three meetings quickly gone our last evening was a splendid Fish & Chip Supper followed by an interesting quiz compiled by one of our committee thanks Barry for your efforts the prize winners receiving free bingo at our next bingo session. Bookings will be taken for the Mystery Day out (May 4th) at our next meeting when we welcome Maureen Wilson as a new entertainer.

Grant (240943)

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Come and join us for a friendly meal and get to meet other people in the village.

Meetings held on second Thursday of every month at Elmswell Baptist Church, Ashfield Road. (12pm-2pm)

Next Meeting ... 13th April 2017

For further details please contact Jackie (01359 245918)

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May	2nd & 23rd
June	6th & 27th

citizens advice

Mid Suffolk



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Mid Suffolk

My employer has asked me to work 4 more hours per week, but I currently receive Child and Working tax credits but am worried the payments will change what should I do?

You must tell HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) about any change to your money, work or home life if you're getting tax credits. HMRC calls this a 'change of circumstances.'

You have to tell them even if it seems like a small change, or it's only for a short time. For example, if your partner or child moves out – even if they're planning to move back in with you.

Most changes have to be reported within 1 month. It's best to report all changes as soon as possible to make sure you're getting the right amount of tax credits. Don't wait until it's time to renew your tax credits claim each year.

When HMRC has got the information they need they'll write to you to explain how your tax credits will change. Look out for the letter – this confirms they've recorded your change of circumstances and will be paying you the right amount of tax credits.



Tax credit claims are calculated by HMRC on things like:

- Your income from the previous tax year
- How many hours you work
- How many children, or young people in approved education or training live with you
- If any of these children or young people are disabled
- Whether you're part of a couple

In order to calculate how your tax credits payments will change as a result of your change in circumstances we would need details of your income, working hours and childcare costs.

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can help you get the best idea of how much you can get – come and see at The Elmswell Outreach at The Blackbourne or email us advice@midsuffolkcab.org.uk or call us on 01449 676060.

Client quote:

"Citizens Advice were brilliant – I'm so glad I popped down to the Blackbourne to see them, they helped me look at my gas and electricity bills and compare suppliers. Then they helped me switch to a new supplier and saved me £220!"



Did you swim at Beyton school pool? This large and lovely outdoor pool closed in 2015 when the ancient boiler gave up, but since then there has been a campaign to restore and re-open it for community use. The project is now gaining momentum, with support from Thurston Community College to lease the pool and changing room to a community group.

To refurbish the pool and changing room to modern standards will cost some £120,000. Fundraising has already started, with the next event a car boot sale at Beyton Campus on 28th May (more details to come).

The team is always looking for new volunteers – e-mail Helen Geake on hg260@cam.ac.uk if you can spare some time to help, or find our stall at the car boot sale.

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ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB



Glorious Primavera! No, not an exotic cabbage – but harbinger of ‘Spring’ now visiting every part of Elmswell. Colourful flowers are budding forth, skylarks soaring over the fields and passionate toads risk being flattened as they cross the Ashfield Road. Also, beetles and bugs are waking up so there is no chance of this new life starving. Our speaker, Dr. Ian Bedford, Head of Entomology from the John Innes Centre, Norwich gave us an insight into whether we should control, conserve or just cohabit with our garden insects and gastropods.

Ian said that insects have been around for 400 million years and invertebrates over one million years so we might as well learn to live with them. Our control options are either chemical, biological, physical or netting. Predatory bugs, which love to eat aphids, such as ladybirds, lacewings and centipedes are beneficial to the garden. Bloodsucking spiders and aggressive mites are all doing their bit to keep the nasties in check. One of Ian’s slides showed the nemesis of caterpillars; a parasitic wasp. Encourage these wasps. They have no interest in humans but lay their eggs inside host caterpillars. The larvae then eat the caterpillar from the inside before erupting from the caterpillar skin ‘Alien’-style. After a collective shudder, Ian mentioned nematodes, which are sold to help control slugs. He warned they were most beneficial when put in the ground from June onwards and best in enclosed spaces such as greenhouses. Ian warned us, there is a new kid on the block, the Spanish slug. It is big, black or orange, self-fertile and lays twice as many eggs as our native slug. Resistant to most controls, even normal slug predators avoid it as it is covered in a thick layer of slime. Farmers despair as it munches its way through entire fields of rape and these slugs will eat virtually anything – including carrion. If found in your garden try drowning them in washing-up liquid with bleach and then bury them deep. Also inform the John Innes Centre. Members staggered from the meeting somewhat shell-shocked with the numbers of creatures beneath our feet but determined to either love or control them!

Our next Gardening Club meeting will be on **Tuesday, 18th April, 7.30pm at the Blackbourne**, when **Peter Green of the National Trust** will talk about **‘Wicken Fen - Past, Present and Future’**. Also there will be a plant stall where members may Bring-and-Buy plants. An opportunity to split out all those overgrown clumps of flowers and overflowing seed beds. If you wish to find out more about us, do come along to one of our lively meetings. Visitors pay only £3.00. Our meetings are friendly and informal, so give us a try. Further information may be obtained from **Nick Chamberlin on 242601**.



The China Silk Route

ELMSWELL EXCHANGE (AFTERNOON) WI

A full house at our March meeting welcomed **Chris Parfitt, who took us on a journey Along the China Silk Route**. He took us from Xian (the old capital of China) to Dunhuang, Turpan, and finally Kashgar on the Kazak border. (see map) All were oases and where the silk traders would have stopped and conducted business. First stop Dunhuang, the site of the Mogao caves created in 366 AD by the Buddhists and a World Heritage Site. Amazing wall art and sculpture still in it’s original pristine condition and protected very carefully by the Chinese. Then on to Turpan, 154 metres below sea level and with sand so hot that you could bake a cake in it. Not wise to put your bare feet along side though! We enjoyed a camel ride here on No. 48. No names, just numbers. Finally we arrived at Kashgar on the border and with a much reduced population of Chinese. Our treat was a visit to the Bazaar and an Aladdin’s cave to lovers of fabrics everywhere, especially silks. The colours were vibrant and Chris’s photography captured the atmosphere perfectly. As always various local items purchased on the trip were displayed on a table for us to explore. We can thoroughly recommend Chris as a speaker. He holds everyone’s attention for the whole hour that he talks and this is why he has become one of our regulars. The competition was a “Silk Item” and the winner was Dot with a most beautiful piece of embroidery on cream silk, second was Sylvia and third Doreen both with silk scarves.



The China Silk Route

After refreshments, we spent a short time on the business matters and organised our trip to The Apex for the Suffolk West Federation Annual meeting on 23rd March. The guest speaker this year is Giles Brandreth so we are all looking forward to this.

Our next meeting on Wednesday April 5th is an Open Event. We will welcome Imogen Sheeran (Ed’s Mum), who takes on a “Trip Around the World in 80 Beads.” 30% of Imogen’s profit for the afternoon will be donated to EACH and she is not charging us for her visit. We would like to see that 30% be as large as possible. There will be tea time nibbles afterwards. If you would like to join us just get in touch with Barbara on 242788 or Maureen on 241033. You will be made very welcome.



ELMSWELL LUNCHEON CLUB

Everyone at the Elmswell Luncheon Club was very grateful indeed for the very generous donation received from the Elmswell Fire Brigade on Saturday, February 25th.

On the Monday following the presentation a “Thank you” card, signed by all the Club members, was delivered to the Fire Brigade.

The Elmswell Luncheon Club continues to flourish and our next major event is a day’s outing in May and the donation will go a long way to making it a successful day!

We are always pleased to welcome new members and we meet on Mondays at the Bull, Woolpit where we enjoy good food and very friendly company. Transport is available to and from Woolpit.

If you are interested and aged 55+ and retired, why not ‘phone one of our committee member on 241546 or 240268

COMPANIONS CLUB

Once again our Companions Club has recently been fortunate enough to receive a cheque from our Firefighter friends. Over the past few years they have been very kind to our members who have enjoyed outings and a Christmas meal.

The Club meets on alternate Friday mornings from 10.15am to 12 noon at the Wesley Hall when members can play scrabble or crib, do jigsaws and so on, but most of all enjoy a chat and a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit. New members are always welcome.

We are a ‘dementia friendly’ club and are open to anyone who needs some company; carers are also welcome. If you would like more information please telephone 01359 242224.

So thank you again to the Firefighters, whose hard work in raising so much money each year to help organisations in the village is very much appreciated.

DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW NEED EXTRA SUPPORT DURING A POWER CUT?

Although power cuts don’t happen very often when they do they can be worrying. UK Power Networks is the electricity network and it provides a ‘Priority Services Register’ for people who might need extra help in a power cut. You can find more details and register for free support by visiting ukpowernetworks.co.uk/prioritysupport or calling 0800 169 9970.



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ELMSWELL W.I.

Rachel opened the meeting by welcoming our visitor, Jill Newell, from the Federation and two of our retained firemen, Paul and Mark. We were also pleased to have Olive and Betty back.

Paul has been a fireman in Elmswell for a magnificent thirty-four years and Mark is finishing his three-year training in a year's time. It was very interesting to hear about our local station, which not only gives a superb service but is very much involved with our community, helping clubs and organisations and raising money.

There are thirty-six fire stations in Suffolk and Elmswell covers thirteen parishes. It has a very good reputation for a quick turn-out: there are about one hundred and sixty to two hundred calls per year. In the last few years there has been an increase, which is probably due to modern technology and the large amount of electrical appliances owned by people, eg. tumble drier fires are very common. There are eleven retained firemen in Elmswell and four to six are called out at any one time. They are trained in many different skills, including trauma care, because they are often the first people to arrive at the scene of an accident. The reasons for call-outs vary with the seasons, eg. in January, accidents result from chimney fires, icy roads, Christmas lights etc. We were told some very amusing stories about various incidents!

There have been quite a few changes over the years: more women are becoming firefighters, health and safety rules are much stricter and soon, uniforms will be black, instead of the traditional navy. This last change is highly unpopular, because firefighters will look the same as the police, which would be a disadvantage in some situations.

Sylvia Wilson thanked the firemen for their informative and interesting talk. It was good to meet and talk to Paul and Mark, although some ladies became rather over-excited, when Mark dressed up in his fire-fighting uniform!

The winner of the Pat Catton Award was Lesley Clarke for her beautifully-crafted cat, playing with a ball. Stephanie is going to create an entry for the Coronation Cup: a flower arrangement inspired by a famous painting. The Lady Denman Cup (a national competition) will be awarded for the best poem about how climate change has affected the entrant, personally. There have been requests for knitted squares from the Animal Health Trust, to keep animals in scanners warm. (These should be given to Rosie.)

There were several dates for future activities: Scrabble at Anna's, 28.3; craft at Sarah's, 31.3; Imogen Shearan will be speaking at the Afternoon W.I., 5.4; Soup and Natter lunch, 7.4; Recipe Swap coffee morning, 19.5 and the Spring Concert, 31.5.

In April's meeting, we shall be learning all about coffee and the competition is a coffee-flavoured bake.

Rosie Collins
01359 241652



Rogue Fish Sellers in Suffolk

They are back!!

We have received reports that they have targeted properties in Ipswich and Felixstowe in the last week.

This fish is generally of poor quality, unrefrigerated and short weight. The sellers often demand a cash or cheque payment and can be very persuasive in their selling techniques.

Although there are legitimate doorstep fish sellers operating in Suffolk, we advise residents to be cautious if approached by unfamiliar traders.

Please warn your neighbours and report any suspicious traders to us via Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 040506.

An 86 year old Elmswell resident was recently approached by a man who said that he worked for a company that advertised garden services in the Newsletter and offering to tidy his garden for him.

For a couple of hours he cut the grass and did some weeding.

He demanded £200.00 in cash and would not give a receipt.

The Newsletter has checked with all of its relevant advertisers, past and present. They do not seek business on the doorstep – the Newsletter adverts bring in all the business they need!

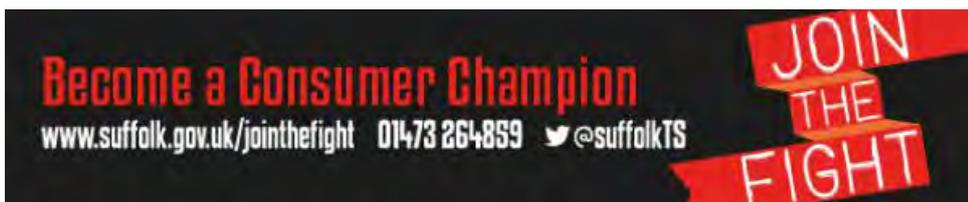
They are all very happy to show documentation if asked by anyone employing them and will always give a signed receipt for any cash they earn.

If confused or in doubt:

- 1 Say NO.
- 2 Tell a friend, relative or neighbour...
- 3 or ring Ken Coulling, our Scam-buster Champion, see below...
- 4 Or ring the Parish Clerk's office on 244134.

Our local Trading Standards champion is Ken Coulling – always keen to hear of suspicious approaches or practices.

Contact him at
Kenneth.coulling@gmail.com
01359 242797



FLY TIPPING

As we reported last month, Mid Suffolk, on being made aware by residents through the Parish Clerk of this mess dumped at Clay Field, investigated before disposal.

RESULT... the individual concerned was identified, received a fixed penalty fine plus the bill for proper disposal costs.

Please report any fly tipping through the Parish Clerk on 244134 or email clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk



PLEASE NOTE

Our new 'phone number is

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Our new email address is EAA@elmswell.org.uk





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23rd April
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Event Guide

Start Time	Cruise line seminars	Cruise expert seminars
11:00	Cruise 5 Maritime Voyage	Welcome on board - first time cruisers
11:30	Celebrity Cruises	
12:00	P&O Cruises	The Cruise Concierge
12:30	Fred Olsen Cruise Lines	A Taste of Luxury
13:00	Crystal Cruises	Which Cruise is Right For You?
13:30	Silversea	The Destinations Guide to Cruising
14:00	Scenic / Emerald	
14:30	Ama Waterways	
15:00	Insight Vacations	



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NEWS FROM ELMSWILD



Our Diamond Jubilee tree – officially marked

It's five years since we celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, but here in Elmswell we still had some unfinished business to finally tie up. As part of those celebrations in 2012 we were invited by the Tree Council to be one of the 60 communities throughout the kingdom to plant a special tree for the Queen – one to mark every year of her reign. We chose to plant a Medlar at Lukeswood – an unusual fruit tree that would fit very well amongst all the local varieties in Norman's Orchard.

We planted our Medlar in 2013, with the help of year 6 children from Elmswell Primary School. The children also found out all they could about medlars, a fruit prized in this country since medieval times, and even made a batch of medlar jelly that was much enjoyed at breakfast club for weeks afterwards. At the same time they learned about the history of the Queen's reign and what life was like here when she first

came to the throne 60 years ago. A letter was dispatched to Buckingham Palace inviting Her Majesty to our tree planting but unfortunately she had a prior engagement and couldn't make it – but it was thrilling to get an official reply from the Palace! The Tree Council produced a book showing all 60 trees, including the Elmswell Medlar – there is a copy in the library, if anyone would like to have a look.

The aim of the project is to provide a lasting legacy, a commemoration of the Queen's reign that will last many years into the future. In order that future residents of Elmswell will be able to see our special tree and know its history it needs a special marker. The Tree Council has duly provided a plaque for each of the trees planted. We felt that its installation next to the tree deserved a special ceremony, so we invited the current year 6 children to come along to Lukeswood and unveil our new plaque. They did a great job, ably assisted by our three special guests: Cllr Jane Storey; Ashley Seaborne of the Green Light Trust, and Gary Battel,

Landscape and Woodland adviser at Suffolk County Council. The plaque is there for future generations to find and admire our Jubilee tree – it even has a QR code, so those with smart phones can scan it to be taken to the Tree Council website and read the whole story. You can't come to Lukeswood and leave without planting a tree! So we rounded off the festivities by planting two more – a lovely Suffolk variety of apple called 'Suffolk Pink', and a Christmas tree. The latter is very dinky at the moment, but it will soon grow and, suitably decorated, will be the focus of Christmas celebrations at Lukeswood. A big thank you to our guests and to all the children, staff and helpers from school who made this a special morning! The Medlar will soon be in blossom, so please come and admire it – and take a look at the handsome plaque that commemorates the Queen's special anniversary.



Bats at BioBlitz

Our plans for the Lukeswood BioBlitz are progressing apace, and we're very pleased to announce that a special bat walk will take place on the evening of Friday 30th June, starting at 9.15 p.m. We will have an expert from the Suffolk Bat Group to guide us and we'll be using a variety of bat detectors. It will be fascinating to see (or more likely, hear) what bats we have at Lukeswood. If you would like to take part, please get in touch. There will be more information in forthcoming newsletters.



Mary Feeney
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ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Contact: Revd Peter Goodridge, 01359 240512, elmswellrector@gmail.com, www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk ...and find us on facebook.

Happy Easter from St Johns!

We have lots going on this month - please join us to celebrate Easter :) Bring your chocolate eggs, Easter bonnets and bunnies, friends and family! Let's celebrate the life we have, and life of Jesus, and everything they both stand for.

In addition to our regular "lent lunches" organised by the Friends of St John's, a number of us have been doing the St John's Lent Photo Challenge. There's still time to get involved! Details can be found on our website and facebook page. We have been challenging people to reflect upon certain words and select an image which represents that word. We've enjoyed focussing on various words, exploring their various meanings and meditating upon that word or theme through the day. We've been able to think more deeply about aspects of Lent, and Easter, and to make them relevant to our lives now.

Mothering Sunday at St. John's was an awesome celebration! Every lady received a small posy of spring flowers during our well attended 10:30am service. The children made paper dolls - linked to one another - and we remembered how we are linked to one another - brothers and sisters in Christ. We hope you had a lovely mothers day are were able to spend sometime rejoicing and remembering the women in your life.

The regular clubs and activities will continue through April, with some taking a break for the School Easter Holidays. Full details of what is going on can be found on our website and information sheets in the church. We also have lots of volunteer opportunities - do you feel able to give something back to our community? Please do get involved, we'd love to have you join us :)

Take a look at our range of services at St John's coming up this month:

Sunday 2nd April

9:30am All Age Service

11:00am BCP Holy Communion

Sunday 9th April - Palm Sunday

8:00am Morning Prayer (BCP)

10:30am Morning Service

Thursday 13th April - Maundy Thursday

7:30pm Holy Communion

Friday 14th April - Good Friday

10:00am Christians Together In Elmswell Service

Sunday 16th April - Easter Day

10:30am Easter Family Communion

Sunday 23rd April

10:30am Holy Communion

Sunday 30th April

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10:30am Morning Service with Annual Meeting

And looking further ahead:

Sat 6 May 19:30

Friends Concert by Alastair Blay in Church

Thu 25 May 19:30

Ascension Day Service

Sat 3 Jun 19:00

Quiz Night at St John's

Sat 10 Jun 09:30

Friends APCM & Coffee morning

Sat 17 Jun 12:00

Summer Fair (Wesley Hall)

Sun 18 Jun 9:00

CPAS Sunday (Breakfast Church & 11am Communion)

Sat 1 Jul 16:00

Church BBQ (The Rectory)

Sun 9 Jul 10:30

Friends of St John's Service & lunch

Mon 14 Aug 9:00

Holiday Club begins

THE FRIENDS OF ST JOHN'S CHURCH, ELMSWELL

The Friends was started in 1995 when the Church roof needed repairs - since then we have raised over £57,000 and still the need is there; our current aim is to raise money for the Church Fabric Fund for repairs to the inside of the chancel roof.

Our first event for this year was a Sausage Supper held in the Wesley Hall and our next event, a piano concert by Alastair Blay will be held in the Church on Saturday 6 May at 7.30pm. Admission to the concert is free, but we would welcome donations.

This year the Friends' Committee has again been organising Lent Lunches - a light lunch, a short Bible discussion and a collection which is given to the Stowmarket Food Bank, as well as items in the box of goods which goes to the Food Bank each week.

New members to the Friends' group are very welcome - membership is just £5 each year and all money raised goes to the upkeep, insurance and repairs of our beautiful medieval Church.

For more information please telephone 01359 242099.

ST JOHN'S 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. A night's floodlighting costs £5.

During April the lights will be on between 7.30 p.m. and midnight.

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

MARCH 2017 SPONSORSHIP NOT PREVIOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED

11 remembering my dear father, Walter Howe, taken from me on 11th March 1972. "Gone but never to be forgotten". From his loving daughter, Audrey Hunt (Mrs).

APRIL 2017 SPONSORSHIPS

- 1 to remember and thank all the Elmswell Fire-Fighters who have served their village and community so well.
- 2 in loving memory of Grahame Woods on what would have been our 40th Wedding Anniversary. With love from Jane and family.
- 6 in loving memory of Tony Bendall. "We love and miss you every day".
Love Margery, Neville, Bryan, Malcolm, Philip and families.
- 9 remembering Grace Rush, a dear Mum, Grandma and Great Grandma, on her Birthday.
- 9 in loving memory of a dearly loved Dad, Dennis Hopper. "Always in our thoughts". Sally, Alan and family.
- 14 remembering Carl Finch on the anniversary of his death in 1999.
- 14 in memory of Ray Borrett's Birthday.
- 17 in loving memory of Jane Goodchild. Love, Colin. xx.
- 20 in memory of Jim Baker (1933 - 2009) on his Birthday.
- 20 Joan Davidson. One whole year since Mum died. "Sadly missed".
With love, Ann, James and family.
- 21 remembering with love a dear mother, Frances Howe, taken from me on 21st April 1953. "Forever in my thoughts". Your loving daughter Audrey Hunt (Mrs).
- 22 in loving memory of Teasel.
- 23 remembering Carl Finch on St. George's Day.
- 30 in memory of David Lakey.
- 30 remembering a much loved Mum and Dad, Ivy & Dennis Hopper, on their Birthdays. Sally, Alan and family.

All bookings and payments please to :-

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

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY, STOWMARKET

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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 new Parish Website www.ourladystowmarket.org.uk **Father David Finegan**



ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

The picture shows Hayley Wood with her dog Mitsy who came along to the Ladies Friendship Group in March to talk about Pets Therapy and her work in Addenbokes and care homes in Cambridge. As you can see, the men were allowed along as well!



The Ladies Friendship Group meeting in April will have gone by the time you read this, their next meeting will be on May 8th when Ken Donaldson from Talitha Koum will be explaining the work they do in Ipswich. All ladies welcome. Phone Margaret on 241541 for further information.

Amongst all the commercialism of easter eggs, flowers and chocolate it's easy for the meaning of Easter to get lost. Why do we get two Bank/

Public Holidays over one weekend and the large shops have to be closed on Easter Sunday? For Christians, Easter is a time to remember that Jesus came to this earth (something we celebrated what seems like yesterday, at Christmas) to clear the path for the relationship between God and humankind to be repaired. Jesus allowed himself to be crucified on Good Friday but rose again on Easter Sunday, conquering death and allowing us all direct access to God without the need for any priests or other intermediaries. This was symbolised by the curtain, in front of the most holy place in the temple (behind which only the High Priest was allowed to go just once a year), being torn from top to bottom at the moment Jesus died. If you'd like to think more about this do join us on Easter Sunday morning.

Our activities in April are as follows:-

Food & Friends on Thursday April 13th at midday – for the older folk – a chance to meet other people and enjoy a nutritious meal at nominal cost. This is run in conjunction with Age UK. Phone Jackie on 245918 to book your place.

On Good Friday, April 14th, there is a Christians Together Service at St. Johns at 10.00am in which we will be participating. If you normally worship outside the village why not join us?

On Easter Sunday, April 16th we will be meeting as usual here at the chapel at 10.30am in a celebration of Jesus' resurrection.

All are welcome to both these services.

In the week after Easter the Deacons and the Church and Congregation will be meeting to discuss the business of the church. A major thing we will be considering is the painting of the outside of the chapel. We hope by the summer we will have a completely new look!

Looking much further ahead. Do you enjoy a Barn Dance? We are planning a Barn Dance with "Clutching at Straws" on Saturday October 7th as part of our Harvest Celebrations. Tickets will be on sale later in the year, put the date in your diary/on your calendar now!

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

April 9th Stephen Spurgeon - All-Age Service

April 16th Stephen Spurgeon – Easter Sunday

April 23rd Eddie Kerridge

April 30th Rev. David Harper

May 7th Stephen Spurgeon (inc Communion)

A warm welcome is extended to all who wish to attend any of the above events.

Visit our website at www.elmswellbaptist.org.uk, email cockant2@btinternet.com or telephone either of the numbers in this text for further info.

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ELMSWHEELIANS 2017

Bike Rides

Our first ride of the year will be on Sunday 9th April, an evening ride starting at 5.30 p.m. Distance will be approx. 15 miles.



The start, in time-honoured tradition, will be from Abbots Warren, Church Road, Elmswell.

Other Rides planned:

Sunday 14th May

(starting at 11.00 a.m. - 15 miles approx.)

Sunday 25th June (evening ride starting at 5.30 p.m. - 15 miles approx.)

Friday 14th July (evening ride - starting at 6.30 p.m. - 15 miles approx.).

Friday 11th August (evening ride - starting at 6.30 p.m. - 15 miles approx.).

More dates to follow for the autumn / winter months.

If you enjoy cycling, do come and join us. You will be very welcome.

There is no membership and nothing to pay; just turn up, and join a group of people who enjoy "social cycling". We do ask, however, that you are aged 16+.

**Trevor Sadler, Abbots Warren,
Church Road, Elmswell. Tel : 01359 240908**



ELMSWELL SPEED WATCH

As you drive through our lovely village you know doubt would have seen the Viz Jackets of our team at work. We work in with Suffolk police to give information regarding numbers of vehicles driving through, but most importantly **SPEED**.

We are not as some drivers think out to catch them, please be assured we are strictly under police code guide lines.

Elmswell is becoming a "cut across country" village because surprisingly the number of people being given traffic offence warnings well outnumber residents who reside here.

Changes are coming we all of us know that new house's will bring more cars and yet more congestion and everybody knows that **FAST** traffic kills.

All of us living here in our village with more children coming here, or elderly people must realise that as a team of volunteers we can only do so much to try to insure **SAFETY** for all of us living here.

If you would like to join our Happy Team call in the first instance to:

*Mo Coulling on 07774 695784 or
e-mail mocoulling@gmail.com*

FRIENDS OF THE WOOLPIT HEALTH CENTRE

This Trust was set up 30 years ago and over that period more than £328,500 has been received in donations and with no administration charges, all this has been used for the benefit of patients who attend the Health Centre. Many of the items are in continuous use, such as the blood pressure monitor and weighing machine in the main entrance, as well as items out on loan.

In the past year major purchases include four additional adjustable couches for the doctors' consulting rooms for £3,576 which are particularly helpful for those with limited mobility, as well as two phlebotomy chairs for £1,128 and a replacement ECG machine which cost £1,237. Other purchases include spirometry equipment for testing lung function which cost £1,343 and a doppler device for £263 which is used to check the circulation of patients with leg ulcers, as well as an additional 24 hour blood pressure monitor for £259.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to the funds during the past year – individuals, organisations and donations given in memory of friends or family - all of this is very much appreciated and we hope you will continue to support us in the coming year.

Sue Eburne, Treasurer

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Easter Egg Hunt

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Easter Nests

Ingredients

- 1 normal-size box of Shredded Wheat (16 large biscuits or 500g bitesize biscuits)
- 400g milk chocolate, supermarket own-brand is fine
- 2 100g bags of Mini Eggs
- Bun cases

Method

- Crush the shredded wheat biscuits into a bowl
- Break the chocolate into pieces and melt in the microwave on a low heat, stirring every 30 seconds
- Pour the melted chocolate into the bowl and mix with the crushed shredded wheat
- Once all the shredded wheat is covered with chocolate spoon the mixture into bun cases and press down in the middle of each to create a place for the eggs
- Press 2 or 3 mini eggs into each nest
- Put in the fridge to set



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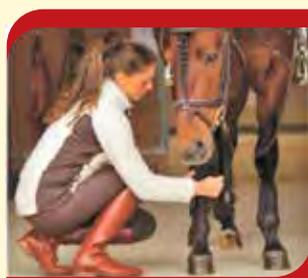
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PATIENT SERVICES AT WOOLPIT HEALTH CENTRE

Recently, members of the Patient Participation Group (PPG) at Woolpit attended a meeting with doctors, to discuss changes to two services:

Blood Tests (phlebotomy) and Leg Ulcer Care. This from Alex Jarrett on behalf of the Group.

PHLEBOTOMY

WHC requires c14500 blood tests annually. Up till now, the practice itself undertook 3500 of these, 7000 were done at West Suffolk Hospital and the remainder, 4000 were done by the visiting phlebotomists, at their appointed time at Woolpit. The service of the visiting phlebotomist has ended, with the withdrawal of the service as at April 1st 2017, and those 4000 blood tests will have to be performed at West Suffolk Hospital. The surgery itself can slightly increase the number of tests it carries out but inevitably, a lot of people will no longer be able to avoid going the hospital.

Every possible option as to how one might avoid the inconvenience this will cause to patients, has been considered, and under current funding, contractual and administrative constraints, the health centre cannot find a way around this.

LEG ULCER CLINIC

Patients suffering from leg ulcers are currently treated at the Health Centre's excellent leg ulcer clinic, however, Woolpit has been advised that this service is also to stop at Woolpit, with the treatment being undertaken by Suffolk Community Healthcare, at a location yet to be decided. The service is scheduled to stop on October 1st 2017.

Patients will be treated at first for 6 weeks at Woolpit, and then be referred to the new treatment under Suffolk Community Healthcare. Woolpit is concerned that there can potentially be a long waiting time between the end of its management of the patients problems and obtaining ongoing treatment under SCH.

In both the case of phlebotomy and leg ulcer care, it is inevitable that patients will have to travel further some perhaps with debilitating problems to receive care, which was previously provided in Woolpit.

This is directly contradictory to the Government mantra of "local services for local people"

And it has become clear that where anomalies exist within the system, however good they may be, they will come to an end. The two services mentioned here are such anomalies, but they are also what is best for the affected patients, having evolved for us in our locality over many years. Thus the quality of your healthcare will fall, and it is reasonable to assume further services will come under similar threats.

NHS policies appear to be working towards large Health Centres with perhaps a minimum size of twice the number of patients on the list at Woolpit.

That is fine in large conurbations, but to achieve this in a rural area such as this, the catchment area could become geographically untenable, yet the threat is there, and growing.

It is the thin end of a worrying wedge. I should emphasise that this article is specific to Woolpit Health Centre, here in West Suffolk.

We need your support as patients affected by these changes.

Members of the PPG are writing to the relevant Directors of this areas Clinical Commissioning Group, but if you feel that you yourself want to try to have these decisions reviewed for the good of yourselves and other patients at Woolpit, we would ask you to write to your MP.

Her details are as follows:

Jo Churchill
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA
Email jo.churchill.mp@parliament.uk

It was clear from our meetings at Woolpit that the team there are very concerned for the patients under their care, and that they have explored every avenue possible to avoid these issues, but it will it seems now only be the political will of our Parliamentary representatives who can push for changes of opinion.

The PPG would ask you to take the time to write in your own words to our MP, if you feel concerned as to how these changes will cause you difficulties in obtaining the healthcare you rely upon in the best way for you. Receiving numerous letters and emails from her constituents will make our MP take the subject forward.

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PUBLIC MEETING 13th March



Please bear with me..... my grammar isn't the greatest, and I'm not adept at public speaking or writing; however, I thought it appropriate to offer some comments in regards to the Public Meeting held in the Blackbourne on the evening of the 13th March;

I felt humbled by the high numbers that turned out to discuss the impacts of the extensive development's that threaten our village. Like many of you I live in Elmswell, I live at Cross Street with my wife, two young boys and extremely dopey dollop of a retriever. My wife

and I moved to Elmswell in August 2001 – yes we're relatively new comers I hear many of your cry; however, like many I was attracted to Elmswell with a view to settling into village life and starting and raising a family. I feel that this standard of life is now at threat and I'm keen to see if I (with others) can have a positive influence on what is a very concerning issue.

During this meeting, it appeared evident that not all in Elmswell comprehend the significant potential growth and threat to our village and its infrastructure; It was also evident that many

accepted the need for some development this feeling was with caveat in terms that any growth should come hand in hand with appropriate infrastructure along with the belief that the current infrastructure will not meet the demands of a vastly increased population of our village.

This meeting left with standing room only as an overview of the potential developments was offered, these being

Site No	Estimated Dwellings	Location	Actual / Consultation Dwellings	Status
ELM01	60	Church Road	0	Nothing stated?
ELM03	25	Ashfield Road	140	EPC Supported
ELM04	25	Wetherden Road	See ELM08	
ELM06	58	Warren Lane	38	EPC Objected
ELM07	100	School Road	308	Under Consultation
ELM08	30	Wetherden Road	240	EPC Objected
ELM09	400	Old Bacon Factory	190	Currently being developed
ELM11	100	Ashfield Road	0	Nothing stated?
	798		916	

- ELM data taken from the MIS Suffolk SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Assessment) that assesses sites for potential development.

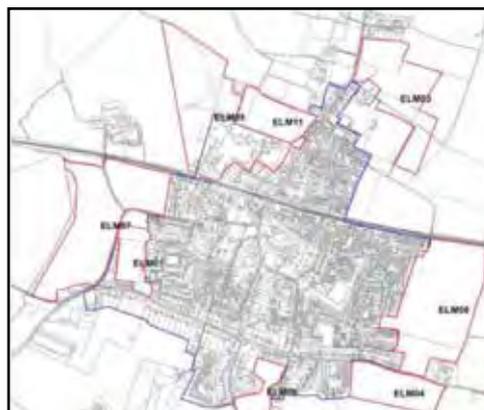
It is important to note the above data does not include the recently approved 60 dwellings for Borely Crescent; bringing the total new dwellings to be up to 976.

Considering that we currently have **1654** dwellings / **3950** inhabitants (estimated) the total number of dwellings could increase by **59%** to **2630** dwellings / **6,312** inhabitants (estimated)

This potentially equates to;

2,944 Cars (currently estimated at **1,247** cars (excludes commercial vehicles))

These numbers will put a significant strain on our current infrastructure.





The effects of such growth without

• **Transport**

The Old Bacon Factory development is expected to highlight 4 major pinch points or even push these junctions over capacity

- School Road – Church Road
- Church Road – Cross Street – New Road – Warren Lane
- Railway Crossing
- Wetherden Road (traffic through Wetherden)

• **Education**

Over prescribed when developments complete, Suggested that 2 extra classrooms that could get built on playground.

Roads around school VERY busy, risk of injury (or worse!!!)

- Area can be very busy, lack of safe parking.

• **Health**

- Woolpit health centre – insufficient parking

• **Amenities**

- Parking at Co-Op often VERY busy with lack of parking.

I don't recall anyone that attended this meeting suggest there should never be any building developments within the village, however it was clear that many villagers do not support the belief that our village is "Sustainable" and can thus be open to extensive developments.

There was a clear indication from those present that careful consideration and action in regards to the completion of the village neighbourhood plan along with making their opinions be heard to our elected representatives. It is important to note that at no point were any dissenting comments towards the Elmswell Parish Council, in fact there was agreement in support of this body of people that repeatedly give up lots of their free time to positively influence the direction of our village.

The purpose of this article is twofold;

- Advise all that could not attend the public meeting of what is potentially happening on your doorstep, and
- To reach out to those that may wish to assist us in influencing the decision makers;
 - Is there an item of planning law / conditions that has been overlooked?
 - We are currently investigating the application of two planning conditions that may affect our village, more information on these when its available.
 - Can you assist with progressing the neighbourhood plan?
 - Are you willing to get involved with holding positive correspondence with the decision makers?
 - Lobby MP?
 - Object formally to planning applications?
 - Support the Elmswell Parish Council in searching for a fair deal for our village.

Our intention is to place regular updates on the www.elmswellinfo.co.uk website relating to any progress or planned events, however should you wish to further contribute, please feel free to contact us via our email address sustainableelmswell@gmail.com

I would like to extend my thanks to all that supported the public meeting, especially those organisations and many volunteers that assisted with production and distribution of flyers advertising the event – Many thanks, and I hope we can call on your assistance again in the near future.

1

Thinking Allowed

I love the springtime. In particular, I love seeing all the signs of new life. And in the middle of spring lies Easter weekend, which is full of messages about new life.

One of the most amazing actions Jesus ever performed was to call a man, who had been dead for four days, out of his tomb. The witnesses were very concerned when Jesus suggested it. There is no record of anybody saying to Jesus, "What! Are you nuts?" But I am sure some of them thought it. What is recorded is the sister of the dead man, Lazarus, saying, "Master, by this time there's a stench. He's been dead four days!"

Despite these misgivings these people know from experience that it is wise to listen to what Jesus says and so they roll back the large stone from the entrance to the tomb. Jesus calls Lazarus to come out and, to the total amazement of the onlookers, he does so.

Christians believe this miraculous event is not only a sign that confirms Jesus' identity as the Son of God. We also believe it is a sign confirming that those who turn to Jesus in faith will be raised to new life too.

This hope of new life is made even more certain as we come to an even greater coming back from the dead. On Easter Sunday, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. This confirms our hope that those who seek will find eternal life. A few minutes before raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus made a wonderful promise. He said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die." This promise of new life gives us real hope in this world that is often dark, even in springtime. And the raising of both Lazarus and Jesus give us confidence that Jesus really did mean it. He keeps his promises.

May we all know new life this Easter.

*Revd Peter Goodridge
Rector, St John's Elmswell*



Footnotes

- 1) www.Elmswellinfo.co.uk used to determine number of dwellings in Elmswell
- 2) Volume of cars calculated (45% = 1 car, 23% = 2 cars, 7% = 3 cars via <https://www.statista.com/statistics/300036/break-down-of-people-buying-cars-in-the-united-kingdom/>)
- 3) Average 2.4 heads per household in England via <https://www.statista.com/statistics/295551/households-in-the-united-kingdom-uk-average-size-by-country/>

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

At a meeting on 22nd March, Mid Suffolk Planning Committee granted permission for 60 dwellings at Borley Crescent (ref 3469/16). This was done, as the Chairman said, 'with a heavy heart', in full realisation of the legal constraint on their discretion. One of the Members said, '...a pity these sort of things aren't joined up more.'

At an earlier such meeting, the Parish Council had managed to have the application deferred pending further advice from SCC Highways as to whether the effect of the development upon traffic at the level crossing would cause any residual cumulative impact that would be severe.

Mid Suffolk officers had received such further advice to the effect that, 'the development would not have a severe residual cumulative impact which would warrant refusal of this application.'

The Parish Council, encouraged by input from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG), has concerns regarding the statistical basis for much of the analysis behind this decision and is in the process of commissioning an independent survey of the relevant traffic factors. This is in tandem with a Viability Assessment, already commissioned and well advanced, on the proposed Relief Road linking Ashfield Road directly to A14 bridging the railway. Meanwhile, Mid Suffolk are co-ordinating meetings with all of the developers involved in the recent spate of schemes which, aggregated to include the Bacon Factory site, seek to build 956 houses – an uplift of 56% on the current housing stock of c1700 dwellings. Under pressure from the Parish Council / NPSG it is hoped that 'these sort of things' can, indeed, be 'joined up more'.



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ELMSWELL BOWLS CLUB

2017 Season

The summer season is almost upon us and the warmth of the last few days, suggests that we might be able to get on to the Green by mid-April. However, the Greenkeeper & Club management team will determine if this will be possible without damage that may affect the rest of the season.

The teams have been selected/issued by the Captains, for the various competitions that the Club competes in, in the Stowmarket & District League. The members will be getting their 'kit' ready for the 'off' in April. The Indoor Rinks in Stowmarket are now closed and there are no bowls games played at present, so anticipation is growing!

Newbies

There have been a number of eager, potential bowlers lined-up to join the Club at the start of the new season. The Club is looking forward to newcomers joining and learning the game. So, roll-up all newcomers, as soon as the season starts (enquiries to the Club Chairman, Linda Abbott on 01359 242224).

Bowls Club Quiz

The Club's annual Quiz Night was held on 11 March at the Blackbourne Centre. As always, a lot of hard work was put in by Brenda Begg, Social Secretary and her helpers before the event and also during the evening to ensure a great evening was enjoyed by almost 80 plus participants. Doug Reed created his magic and delivered, round after round of teasing questions to entertain us all. Following an excellent hot supper and drinks from the Bar; the raffle was called and a good number of those present to win prize. All in all, the evening was a huge success and the Club made a small contribution to its running costs after all of the evening's costs had been settled.

The Winners of the 2017 Quiz were The Woolpit Four, with Newbies 3 coming close runners up. This was the Woolpit team's second year's win. For those of you who don't remember them, the photo (from last year) is posted to help remind you of who won (please see photo below)

Trevor Clarke



ELMSWELL CRICKET CLUB

As we have now entered British Summer Time, cricketers up and down the land will be dusting off their pads and oiling their bats in preparation for another enjoyable season. Elmswell Cricket Club are no different, with preparations in full swing for a summer of great cricket action.

Pre-season Net Session

Our pre-season net session will take place on Sunday 8th April from 2-4pm at Stowmarket Leisure Centre.

Any one who is interested is very welcome to come along. We can provide any kit you might require so there is no need to worry if you can't find that old faithful bat from a few seasons ago. If you would like to come along then please get in touch via one of the methods below.

New Players

We are always looking for new players to keep both our teams thriving. Our Sunday team play in the Suffolk Cricket League (Division 5). Matches begin at 12:30pm most Sundays and are 40 overs per side. Our Wednesday evening team plays in the Stowmarket League and these matches are 20 overs a side, beginning at around 6:30pm.

If you are interested in taking up cricket for the first time or you have played before and would like to have another go then we would be delighted to hear from you. Please feel free to contact the club by one of the methods below to find out more.

2017 Fixtures

Below are the first few fixtures of the 2017 season. These are subject to change so please visit our website to view the most up to date list.

April 23rd - Mildenhall (A) Friendly Match

April 30th - Tendring Park (H)

May 7th - Old Newton (A)

May 14th - Horringer (H)

May 17th - Bardwell (H)

May 21st - Walsham Le Willows (A)

May 24th - Salvation Army (A)

May 28th - Twinstead (H)

May 31st - Stowupland (A)

Contact Us

If you would like to contact the club, you can do so via one of these methods.

Call Ian on 01359 244139

Email: elmswellcricketclub@gmail.com

Web: elmswellcricket.co.uk

Twitter: @elmswellcricket



FOOTPATH WALK

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

SUNDAY 23rd APRIL
beginning at 11.00 am
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Notice of all meetings and agendas is posted on
the Council's notice board at Crown Mill and in
the community notice board at the Co-op.

Council Meetings in 2017

April May June July Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec.
24th 22nd 19th 17th 18th 16th 20th 18th

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 AAA@elmswell.org.uk

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ELMSWELL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

After a gap of several months whilst waiting for advice and certain action from Mid Suffolk District Council, the Steering Group met on 9th March.

An intensive 2 hour session, chaired by Peter Goodridge, went over various significant issues which had developed in the intervening period. The Minutes of the meeting will be published after ratification at the next meeting in early April.

Meanwhile, of particular note, the long process of identifying a professional practice to carry out the proposed Relief Road Viability Study has come to fruition and Messrs Bailey Venning Associates have undertaken to produce a report to the next meeting. This is yet another tranche of the Group's work towards a written Plan funded by the Government's Locality agency. The recent decision by the Parish Council to fund a professional traffic survey to augment the Viability Assessment was noted. This closely follows the Group's advice that independent figures are needed if any serious case is to be made against the statistics published by various developers in support of their own projects, which figures are often slewed in favour of proving sustainability – often significantly at odds with what the village sees as the reality.

It was decided that the Group deserves the status of consultee to the speculative development Planning proposals currently or soon to be in the system. Accordingly, the following was drawn up for presentation to Mid Suffolk Planning Committee Members when the Borley Crescent application was discussed.

MCDC Planning Ref: 3469/16

Outline Planning Application sought (with all matters other than means of access reserved) for residential development of up to 60 dwellings with associated car parking, landscaping, public open space areas, pedestrian/cycle links and vehicular access from Borley crescent.

Location: Land to the east of Borley Crescent, Elmswell IP30 9UG

Comments from the Elmswell Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

- 1 **The Group's brief includes the need to take a wider, strategic, view of Planning and other issues in Elmswell and to point up issues affecting our community on a rolling 25 year time scale.**
- 2 **As such we consider it crucially important that the wider context of the 'A14 corridor' SC3 villages is taken into account, ie including Thurston and Woolpit, and that there be an awareness of peripheral smaller communities such as at Onehouse and Stowupland.**
- 3 The results of our various consultations and feedback exercises within community clearly point up the prime importance of the key infrastructure issues of Health provision, Education at both primary and secondary levels Highways and affordable / social housing.
- 4 Furthermore, there is an overwhelming view that all possible steps should be taken to make judgements on large speculative Applications on sites against the backdrop of the cumulative impact of all such current proposals aggregated so as to provide a realistic community infrastructure impact assessment. The schemes currently at varying stages of the development process comprise the following known aggregated applications
 - Elmswell – 956 houses
 - Thurston – c 930 houses
 - Woolpit – c 510+ house
 - **Total** c 2,400 houses
- 5 Members will appreciate that this level of development from applications already in process, with others almost certain to follow, equates to a new settlement considerably in excess of the size of either Elmswell or Thurston and rapidly approaching the combined size of both villages. The infrastructural impacts of this scale of development must be seen in this context.
- 6 The group realises the constraints against bringing into consideration factors relevant to other emerging applications. However, with 956 dwellings currently flagged up or in process in Elmswell alone representing a 56% uplift on current housing stock, they appeal for awareness of the aggregated threat and a willingness to seek legitimate ways of ensuring that such threat is addressed.
- 7 In this case, the proposed development will come on stream at a point when the capacity of Elmswell Primary School has been breached by the influx from the Harris Bacon Factory estate on which work has already begun. This scheme ignores the capacity issue at the school and does not begin to address the need for its extension, nor for how it will be funded. It totally ignores the pressures on secondary school places, something which, given the aggregated developments within the catchment, must also be addressed.
- 8 Similarly, the increased pressure on the Woolpit Health Centre consequent upon the input from all of its catchment must be closely accounted for.
- 9 The Highways infrastructure is of particular concern given the very poor quality of the reference material used in the Developer's assessment of traffic issues, namely:
 - 9.1 The figures are based on an inadequate manual count at just 4 junctions which, industry standards dictate, must be allowed a 15% tolerance.
 - 9.2 Junction capacity assessments were made using an urban maximum recommended capacity figure of 85% rather than the required figure for rural areas of 75%. (DoT)
 - 9.3 The surveys were carried out on a single day in June when the DoT requires a minimum of 2 weeks data to validate results which should be obtained in a 'neutral' month.
 - 9.4 The additional vehicle movement statistics rely upon urban base data for trip rate calculations i.e. the developer has used readings from suburban and edge of town sites, rather than those from a free standing settlement such as Elmswell. The TRICS database from which they are derived categorically states in its 2012 User Guidance Manual that such readings are entirely incompatible in our rural context and should not be used.
- 10 The Applicant relies upon earlier, extremely confused and contradictory, statistical evidence tendered by SCC Highways in response to Application ref. 0846/13 for the 190 dwellings currently under construction at the Harris Bacon Factory site on Ashfield Road. This included, by way of formal comment from the SCC Highways officer, the observation that: *'Further developments that may come forward may cause a greater impact on the level crossing and its safety in operation and therefore may be refused'*. This was appropriate professional foresight. It clearly and decisively informs consideration of this Application.
- 11 **IN SUMMARY**
The case is not made for the sustainability of this proposed development. It cannot, therefore, rely on NPPF strictures which would presume in favour of Permission. Rather, it must be tested against Local and Structure Plan policies which clearly mitigate against development in the countryside, specifically but not exclusively, Local Plan Policies SB1, H2 & H3. When measured against these policies, the Application fails and should be refused.

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

Marian Abbott	Marian731@btinternet.com	Sarah Mansel	Sarah.Mansel@midsuffolk.gov.uk
Julie Cole	jules.cole@hotmail.co.uk	Fred Pallett	fjp@oilgasassociates.com
Peter Dow	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	Shaun Pratt	shaun.pratt@btinternet.com
Peter Edmonds	peterjedmonds@tiscali.co.uk	Mike Schofield	mhaksch@gmail.com
Mary Feeney	feeneymj@btinternet.com	Ashley Seaborne	ashley@greenlighttrust.org
Terry Garner	terryjgarner@btinternet.com	Jane Storey	Jane.Storey@councillors.suffolccc.gov.uk
Peter Goodridge	elmswellrector@gmail.com		

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WEBSITE



Full Council is scheduled to meet on the 3rd Monday monthly, excepting August, at 7.30pm. If urgent business comes forward an Extraordinary Meeting can be called, as was the case on 6th March when the latest of the recent spate of large Planning applications, this proposing 120 houses on land near White House Farm east of Ashfield Road, was the main item on the agenda. 28 members of the public attended along with 8 Councillors, Parish Clerk Mr Peter Dow and Mid Suffolk Ward Member Cllr Mrs Sarah Mansell. The scheduled monthly meeting took place on 20th March at The Blackbourne with 10 of the 11 councillors present, along with Mid Suffolk District Council Ward Member Mrs Sarah Mansel, Parish Clerk Mr Peter Dow, and 9 members of the public.

This report is compiled from those meeting by the Parish Clerk and edited by the Council's Editorial Board which comprises the Council Chairman, Cllr Fred Pallett, the Council Vice-chairman, Cllr Shaun Pratt and Cllr Mike Friend, nominated 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 meetings by external bodies such as Ward Members or as raised at the meeting by members of the public. Further background and reference to subsequent events are included where relevant.

The Minutes of recent Parish Council meetings and Committee meetings, together with the agenda for the next meeting, when published, are available on line at www.elmswell.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 Meetings held on 20th February & 6th March, as approved at this meeting, are posted in the community notice board at the Co-op.

Planning application for 120 houses Ref 0210/17

In contrast to the other recent Planning applications for large housing developments adjacent to the village and outside of the Local Plan development boundary, the application for 120 dwellings on land to the east of Ashfield Road and adjacent to White House Farm has been in the public domain, including at public presentations, since a Consultation Draft was published in 1997. The understanding was always clearly stated that the development would offer 8 acres of land adjacent to Blackbourne for extra recreational space, land for the building of a primary school and a doctors' surgery together with the linking in of the access road to Blackbourne providing the opportunity for a one-way system serving the site so as to reduce at a stroke the community centre traffic using Blackbourne Road by 50%. For technical Planning reasons, the application before Councillors at an Extraordinary Meeting made no formal mention of the ancillary facilities. However, the accompanying Planning Statement confirmed that, in the case that the need for a new primary school is identified, *'our client is willing to reserve land for such a use.'* Further, *'Our client is also in a position to offer additional land to expand the Blackbourne Centre should there be a requirement.'*

Councillors agreed to support this application with the following comments:

- 1 Councillors take account of the long-standing initiative on the part of this developer to build on this site and to mitigate the effects on infrastructure in the community by offering land sufficient for the siting of a primary school a health centre and land to allow the effective doubling of recreation space at the Blackbourne, the adjacent community centre and playing fields.
- 2 These proposals were first formally tabled in 1997 and have since been properly noted at various stages of the Mid Suffolk Local Plan re-drafting process, including the 2002 Structures Report. They have, throughout this time, been the subject of consultations related to Strategic Planning at both County and District level together with formal presentation to the Elmswell Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Recent meetings convened by MSDC to address the problems of development pressure on the 'A14 corridor' CS3 villages of Elmswell, Woolpit and Thurston have noted the scope afforded in the proposals for providing extra primary school places.
- 3 Although not part of the formal red line application, the Applicant has made clear in the Planning Statement and elsewhere that the historic offer still stands, including the possibility of the adoption of the estate access road as a Northern approach to the existing Blackbourne site allowing the introduction of a one-way system serving this busy community focus with a 50% reduction in traffic using the current single vehicular access via Blackbourne Road.

- 4 It is noted that, as previously when this developer made over the 11 acres on which the Blackbourne now stands as part of the Blackbourne estate development, the land benefits would be gifted without impinging on any other infrastructure provision via s106 and / or CIL.
- 5 There have been serious reservations raised regarding shortcomings in the treatment of storm water drainage given that the site currently carries considerable volume from Ashfield Road as far north as Oak Lane where flooding has, historically, posed problems. The Applicant is addressing this, but Councillors support the view of nearby residents that proposed amendments dealing with the issue are fully scrutinised by the appropriate agency.
- 6 The assurance of Anglian Water that they will fulfil their statutory obligations with regard to foul water drainage deserve careful monitoring. The current requirement for tanker assisted disposal from the sewage facility on Ashfield Road towards Grove Lane causes considerable local nuisance. The extra loading that this application, if successful, would impose, should trigger an uplift in capacity through piped clearance and the opportunity taken to obviate the necessity for intrusive manual interventions.
- 7 The bend in Ashfield Road near to the proposed access road is a well-documented accident black spot where, as recently as February of this year, an articulated lorry jack-knifed into the ditch. Consideration should be given to addressing this problem which can only worsen in the event that these proposals go ahead. The installation of a roundabout might be constructively considered and, at any subsequent detailed Planning stage, the fronting of dwellings on to Ashfield Road with the inevitable result of on-street parking, should not be countenanced.
- 8 The Applicant's assessment of the traffic flow and waiting times at the railway crossing are noted as differing from those tabled as part similar recent applications and as not representing a fair picture of the nuisance and danger posed at this serious pinch point which splits the village in two. Elmswell Parish Council has commissioned a viability study under the aegis of the Government Neighbourhood Plan Technical Support scheme into the long-held aspirational proposal for a Relief Road bridging the railway and accessing A14. It has, in parallel, agreed funding for its own professional assessment of the current and safe available capacity of traffic over the crossing with projections forward allowing for proposed considerable expansion of rail freight. Until these initiatives are completed it renders a decision on applications such as this premature. Given the similarities in this regard, the recent decision to defer determination of

the application at Borley Crescent, ref 3469/16, pending the tabling of further traffic statistics is welcomed and reinforces this point.

- 9 In the context of the recent flurry of applications outside of the development envelope as defined by the 1998 Local Plan, Councillors are appropriately aware of the NPPF strictures in favour of development which is sustainable. Set against these other applications which offer no substantive mitigation of the extra pressure on infrastructure which their proposals impose, this application is seen as, relatively, 'sustainable'.
- 10 IN SUMMARY Councillors support this proposal in principle having an eye to the Applicant fulfilling earlier promises of land allowing infrastructure provision outside of requirements imposed as part of any permission. However, they urge the Planning Authority to stay its hand pending on-going and imminent initiatives to independently inform the process of traffic management with reference to the community's identified aspiration for a Relief Road to address once and for all the ever growing delays and hazards caused by the railway crossing.

Transport Secretary visit Secretary of State for Transport, Chris Grayling MP, visited Elmswell on 17th March and met informally with local councillors together with some members of the public including Simon Wilson of HC Wilson, the heavy-hauliers operating out of Grove Lane and with, therefore, much to offer to the debate regarding Highways issues in Elmswell and the threat of the various proposed speculative housing developments. The Press coverage included reference to the proposed Elmswell Relief Road.

District Council Cllr Mrs Sarah Mansell tabled a written report confirming that, at last month's Full Council meeting, the budget for 2017/18 and the medium term financial strategy were agreed. There is to be a 1.6% increase in council tax (5p per week for a Band D property).

Meanwhile, work is progressing with the move to Endeavour House. The move is scheduled to take place between mid-August and the end of September. Staff consultation is to take place from 24th April to 20th July. It is hoped to have about 220 desks on one floor of Endeavour House, and there should be flexible working arrangements for most staff.

MSDC have purchased Paddock House in Eye and Stowmarket Middle School site. It is hoped that these sites will be redeveloped as housing to meet local needs. The Council is hoping to appoint a development agent to progress both these schemes and any others in the summer. The Council has also submitted their response to the Boundary Commission with a suggestion that the number of councillors should be reduced to 34. The Boundary Commission will meet in April



to make their recommendation. There will then follow a consultation on the warding arrangements between May and July. Meanwhile, the Executive Committee have agreed the introduction of a 3 year rolling programme to deliver about 100 new affordable homes across the district. This will be on sites acquired by the district council and on packets of land already owned.

The delivery of the New Joint Local plan has been delayed by the introduction of the Government White Paper and the Suffolk Planning and Infrastructure Framework (SPIF). The gathering of the evidence base for the Mid Suffolk Local Plan is now complete and the draft Plan will be published at the end of March. It should be out for public consultation in July.

Following the decision to 'de-shelter' 186 Council owned properties a local lettings policy is to be introduced for these properties. Any existing tenants in these properties who wish to move are prioritised for vacancies, but many tenants wish to stay without the provided support. In order to ensure that the environment in these properties remains suitable for them, a number of criteria will be introduced. The policy will be subject to annual review.

Cllr John Levantis reported that the first tranche of affordable homes to be supplied directly from Babergh and Mid Suffolk commenced in 2015. Completion of 12 of the 27 in Babergh is due by the end of April with the remaining 15 to be completed by the end of the year. In Mid Suffolk 14 of the 38 are completed with the expectation that a further 18 will be completed by the end of the year.

Mid Suffolk has signed up to the Screen Suffolk Project which should enhance management of filming enquiries, enable greater promotion and streamlining of our approach as a 'film-friendly' county and supporting a 'no boundary' approach to filming in Suffolk.

Statistics on the District Waste Collection service show year-on-year increases in all areas last year, except in the annual weight of residual waste per household, which is down to 0.422 tonnes per annum, one of the lowest figures in the Eastern region. The Great Blakenham Energy from Waste plant is running at the high efficiency rate of 90.8% and it has consumed 300,000 tonnes of residual waste since 2015. Kerbside recycling increased last year by 100 tonnes to 14,031 tonnes and the overall recycling rate has increased by 0.9% to 45.67%; in the last quarter it reached 48.18%. The garden waste rounds have been rejigged to accommodate the urban growth that has occurred in some areas. The household waste rounds will be similarly rebalanced later this year. The number of Mid Suffolk subscribers has risen by 971 to 12,955. Income from *trade waste* has increased from £290,000 in 2015/16 to £360,000 in 2016/17.

BMA A report tabled by the Blackbourne Management Association, which administers the Council's Blackbourne facilities, confirmed that the way is entirely open for the conveyance of the Wesley chapel and facilities to the Parish Council but that the vendors seem not to consider the matter as urgent. Discussions on the way an enlarged management team will deal with the extra responsibilities continued and a draft Constitution is to be drawn up. The Parish Clerk's office has moved into the extension built last year to house it and there would seem to be distinct management advantages to having a presence on site for more of the time. The wooden floor in the Jubilee hall was never given its final sealer coat when the contractor went out of business. This has brought forward the date for attention to the surface which is to be abraded and re-sealed after permanent painted badminton game lines have been laid down. Council has agreed a

budget of £2,572.00 net of VAT for the work which will be completed before Easter.

CAB The Clerk reported on a review meeting with the Mid Suffolk Citizens' Advice team who have provided an outreach service at Blackbourne for the past 6 months. The sessions have been extremely successful with a response by way of enquiries which suggests that it is needed and valued. The initiative is jointly funded by the Parish Council and the Amenities Association with grant aid from the Elmswell Firemen. The sessions are held on the first and third Tuesday each month at cost £125.00 each, although advice is entirely free to residents. Funding is in place for 12 months after which further funding would need to be sought, although the Council has anticipated continued support in its budget for 2017 / 2018.

Planning results The meetings noted the following decisions made by Mid Suffolk District Council, the Planning Authority:

4451/16	Erection of 2 No 2-storey dwellings at Beech Stud, Elmswell Park	GRANTED	EPC supported
5056/16	Erection of a bungalow... at Orchard Cottage, New Road	GRANTED	EPC objected
0614/17	Erection of a conservatory at 3 Malting Field	GRANTED	EPC supported

Planning applications supported The meetings agreed to make no objection to applications:

- ✓ ref. 0412/17 for a conservatory & extensions at Old Manor House, Hawk End Lane;
- ✓ ref 0692/17 for the erection of a detached dwelling at Hill Farm Barn, Ashfield Road;
- ✓ ref 0166/17 & 0167/17 for works to provide parkin at Tudor Cottages, School road.

Planning application ref 0647/17 at Tudor Cottages Councillors repeated their earlier objection to a proposal for the removal of the chimney at first floor level between Listed Buildings at nos. 2& 3 Tudor Cottages on School Road on grounds, as supported by the Suffolk Preservation Society, that, if implemented these works threaten the integrity of the chimney breast structure throughout the spine of the building. If the principle of demolition at first floor is conceded it would be difficult to make a compelling case to resist the removal of the lower section and, possibly the chimney above the roof line.

This would detract from the historic reference to the provenance of these listed buildings which will always have had a heating system probably in this location.

In urging rejection of this application Councillors had reference to Local Plan Policies HB1, HB2 and HB3.

Planning application ref 0717/17 at Spinnakers, Ashfield Road Councillors objected to a proposal for a 1½ storey detached dwelling on this site as they were of the opinion that it seeks to create a dwelling of a height and orientation that, given the fenestration to the eastern elevation, would seriously impinge on the amenity of the adjacent dwellings at Hedgehogs and Treeview by way of overlooking. In this rural context they considered that the overbearing nature of the proposed dwelling and the intrusion into the privacy of

neighbours is unacceptable. In coming to this conclusion, Councillors had reference to Local Plan Policies H13 & H16.

Wesley Councillors heard the gist of an email from the Council's solicitor in the matter of the purchase of the Wesley chapel and halls site at School road to the effect that progress with the transaction continues to be somewhat sluggish. Due process is being followed and various amendments have been made to the draft conveyance deed, the aim being to ensure that it is both reasonable, realistic and actually achievable. The final version of the document was sent to the other side on 28th February and, despite a number of chasing emails, nothing has been heard back from the vendors. The Clerk undertook to ensure that the Council's side is responsive and pro-active towards a resolution.

Clerk's Office The move to the purpose built room at Blackbourne has been effected without disruption and is beginning to point up the worth of having a management presence on site there most days as the facility becomes much busier. The Councillors responsible for the recent Internal Audit were asked to meet with the Clerk and review practices and working hours in light of recent pressures related to large development Planning applications, the emerging role of facility management and the prospect of adding Wesley, plus the development of the facilities there, to the management / administration mix.

Traffic Survey Councillors agreed to fund an independent traffic survey towards addressing the conflicting scenarios presented by various developers recently in support of their applications for considerable housing growth. This follows advice from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Groups who have already arranged for the commissioning of a Relief Road Viability Study funded by the Government's 'Locality' budget.

BMX track In light of a letter from the Council's solicitor seeking further instruction, Councillors agreed to take no further steps towards supporting the bid by an independent group in the village to establish a BMX track on land at School Road adjacent to Pightle Close and to Old Schools Court. Council had set a budget limit of £1,000.00, now reached, for the scheme which was suggested in 2005 and has been the subject of 2 Planning applications given that the first one ran out of time without the Group having made any progress. Efforts to secure a cohesive dialogue with the various and frequently changing principals and other individuals concerned have failed and, given the controversial nature of the proposals and the very transient basis on which it was proposed to lease the site from Suffolk County Council it was considered best to withdraw any further Council involvement.

Bioblitz A grant of £145.00 has been agreed towards providing toilet facilities for the proposed ElmsWild event at Lukeswood on 30th June & 1st July.

Next meeting The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 24th April 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.onesuffolk.net, on the Council's notice board at Crown Mill and in the community notice board at the Co-op outside the Post Office.



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What's On in Elmswell ?



To be included in our events diary make sure you send separate notification of your announcement.

For a full year's calendar of what's booked at Blackbourne, please go to the Parish Council website at www.elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk - it might help you in planning dates for your events.

April 2017

- 3 7.45pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - An Armchair Walk along the Ipswich Waterfront
- 5 Elmswell Exchange (Afternoon) W.I. 2 pm, Wesley Community Centre
OPEN MEETING Imogen Sheeran Around the World in 80 Beads Competition - A Beaded Item
- 6 Over 55's Club Maureen Wilson entertains
- 7 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 11 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30 pm. Coffee Experience.
- 13 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 13 Elmswell History Group's 17th Anniversary meeting, Wesley Hall 7.30pm - Speaker Edward Martin: "Moated Halls of Suffolk"
- 14 Good Friday Service 10am in St John's Church - Christians Together in Elmswell
- 18 Gardening Club, 7.30pm Blackbourne Talk: Wicken Fen - Past, Present and the Future
- 18 Elmswell Exchange Social Club Speaker Mr. Jackson Woolpit Nurseries. Raffle
- 20 Over 55's Club Bingo
- 21 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 28 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 28 Elmswell Bingo at the Blackbourne, doors open at 6.45, eyes down 7.30

May 2017

- 3 Elmswell Exchange (Afternoon) W.I. 2 pm, Wesley Community Centre Annual General Meeting and Resolutions plus a little something extra!
Competition - A Single Flower from the garden
- 4 Over 55's Club Mystery Day out with Carvery Lunch
- 6 Concert in St John's Church for Friends of St John's - Alastair Blay (piano) 7.30pm
- 8 7.45pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - Talitha Koum
- 9 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30 p.m. AGM and Resolutions. With 'handbag bingo'.
- 11 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 11 Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall. 7.30pm, Speaker Mark Mitchels: "Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, Doctor & Mayor of Aldeburgh" *July tickets on sale*
- 12 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 16 Gardening Club, 7.30pm Blackbourne Talk: Seasonal Interest in the Garden
- 16 Elmswell Exchange Social Club Outing to Corn Craft
- 18 Over 55's Club Barry Phillips Singer/ Entertainer Open Evening
- 19 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 25 Ascension Day Service
- 26 Elmswell Bingo at the Blackbourne, doors open at 6.45, eyes down 7.30
- 26 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon

June 2017

- 1 Over 55's Club Harbour Lights Trio (formerly Shipshape) Open Evening
- 3 19:00 Quiz Night at St John's
- 5 Meet at chapel at 6pm to go for a Fish & Chip Supper at The Hut, Felixstowe with the Ladies Friendship Group from Elmswell Baptist Church - phone Margaret on 241541 to order your meal - men welcome as well
- 7 Elmswell Exchange (Afternoon) W.I. 2 pm, Wesley Community Centre
Jenny Steer - "Burnt In"
Demo and Story of Encaustic Art
Competition - A decorated wooden item
- 8 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 8 Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall. 7pm A.G.M., then Speaker Paul Peachey: "Elmswell's historical Postcards"
July tickets on sale
- 9 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 10 AGM Friends of St John's Church, in the Church at 9.30am followed by Coffee Morning
- 13 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30 pm. Turkish Cuisine and Pashminas.
Speaker Jenny Gibbs.
- 15 Over 55's Club Strawberry Supper and Bingo
- 16 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 17 Summer Fair (Wesley Hall)
- 18 9:00 CPAS Sunday (Breakfast Church & 11am Communion)
- 20 Gardening Club, 7.30pm Blackbourne Talk: Horticultural Forum - Houseplant Jungle
- 20 Elmswell Exchange Social Club Speaker Mr. Newman Prison Officer. Raffle
- 23 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 29 Over 55's Club Sing a long with Hank
- 30 Elmswell Bingo at the Blackbourne, doors open at 6.45, eyes down 7.30
- 30 9.30 a.m. - Lukeswood BioBlitz, plus evening Bat Walk.

July 2017

- 1 9.30 a.m. - Lukeswood Bioblitz
- 1 16:00 Church BBQ (The Rectory)
- 5 Elmswell Exchange (Afternoon) W.I. 2 pm, Wesley Community Centre
Jean Wright, Goldwork Display & Talk
Competition - An example of embroidery
- 7 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 9 10:30 Friends of St John's Service & lunch
- 11 Summer Social Event
- 13 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 13 Over 55's Club Welcome to the Jubilee Singers Open Evening
- 13 Elmswell History Group - Annual Outing: To be arranged
- 14 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 18 Gardening Club - Summer Activity
- 18 Elmswell Exchange Social Club A.G.M. Strawberry Tea. Raffle
- 19 Elmswell Exchange Social Club Outing T.B.A.

- 21 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 27 Over 55's Club Visit to the Chelsea Pensioners includes Lunch and Tour
- 28 Elmswell Bingo at the Blackbourne, doors open at 6.45, eyes down 7.30

August 2017

- 2 Elmswell Exchange (Afternoon) W.I. 2 pm, Wesley Community Centre
Members Meeting Garden Party at Carol's Competition - A Small Arrangement in a tea cup
- 4 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 7/11 Over 55's Club Holiday to Eastbourne
- 8 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30 pm. The Dogs Trust with canine companion.
- 10 Over 55's Club Normal meeting with Bingo
- 14 9:00 Holiday Club begins
- 15 Elmswell Exchange Social Club Shared Lunch. Raffle
- 18 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 24 Over 55's Club Harvest Supper
- 25 Elmswell Bingo at the Blackbourne, doors open at 6.45, eyes down 7.30

September 2017

- 1 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 4 7.45pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - The work of a Hospital Chaplain with Rev. Barbara Challis
- 6 Elmswell Exchange (Afternoon) W.I. 2 pm, Wesley Community Centre
P.C. Lee Andrews-Pearce
The Work of the Rural Crime Officer
Competition - A Favourite Crime Novel
- 7 Over 55's Club Proms & Picnic with Stowmarket Concert Band (outside Weather permitting Visitors welcome)
- 12 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30 pm. Harvest Supper.
- 14 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 15 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 19 Gardening Club, 7.30pm Blackbourne Talk: Growing for Gold
- 21 Over 55's Club Finchingfield Lunch & Harlow Garden Centre
- 22 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 29 Elmswell Bingo at the Blackbourne, doors open at 6.45, eyes down 7.30

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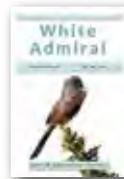
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Guides 6.30 – 8.00,

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
- Guides Trefoil Guild (1st Tuesday monthly) 7.00 – 9.00
- Karate 7.15 – 8.15

Wednesday

- Scouts 5.45 – 9.00
- Jujitsu 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
- Karate 5.00 – 7.00

Sunday

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

Forge Community Church one Sunday each month 1.10 – 6.00pm www.forgechurch.com

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