

'Like a friend dropping in'



The Elmswell Newsletter



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

December 2017

7th time lucky - again



2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017

...see editorial



Dick's New Year's day Walk ...see page 27



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. A volunteer enterprise entirely supported by advertising.

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Our editorial is designed to inform and to encourage debate.

If you wish to comment, please do so via the office or via email at; eea.elmswell.org.uk We reserve the right to edit any such contributions that we may use in a subsequent edition.

It could be tempting to simply resurrect an old editorial – just because a very busy Christmas is coming and there's the reconstituted turkey crown to defrost, the Paxo to be microwaved and gravy granules to be shaken, not stirred, into a delicious monosodium gloop. Tempting to save all that literary endeavour, the head scratching, the quivering quill. Just dig out a previous offering saying, perhaps:

'ONCE AGAIN THE ELMSWELL NEWSLETTER IS SUFFOLK'S NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR.'

We could find such a headline introduction from, say, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, or 2015.

But, no. We're better than that. No cheating. Nothing second-hand, pre-loved, recycled, up-cycled or freecycled.

Here goes:

ONCE AGAIN, THE ELMSWELL NEWSLETTER IS SUFFOLK'S NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR.

Have no fear of Trumped up fake news, dear reader. For it is so. The Suffolk Association of Local Councils recently looked in some detail at dozens of town and village magazines and said yours is the best. As it has done (see above) before. They brought in a new rule in 2016 to stop the previous year's winner entering. We bounced back. It is rumoured that they might not accept magazines with more than 3 letter 'I's in the title. We will find a way – for it is important that Elmswell has a showcase allowing all and sundry a glimpse of our community.

That glimpse suggests a wide range of activities and clubs and groups and societies working in the community or with the community or for the community or all three combined. From the helpers and carers of the Companions and the Church Fellowship through the self-help and caring of the baby & toddlers, Diddi Dance, Clubhouse Kids and more, to those dedicated to encourage self-help and improvement – the Scouts and Guiding groups, our 13 Youth Football Club teams and to the many working to provide interest, education and exercise for their members be it History, Bowls, Photography, Cycling, Pilates or simply by getting together as the WI, the Exchange Social Club or the Luncheon Club.

Each and all - and there are many more - deserving of recognition and commendation for the part they play in knitting together a remarkably robust community in our down-to-earth home village, with little chocolate box charm and little chance of featuring on a set of dishwasher-proof National Trust place mats.

One such group is, of course, the team that produces the Newsletter, month in and month out. They have their special mention on page 19 where we also dedicate the Award to our stalwart former co-editor Betty Pryke. Betty stood for so many of the values and ideals that our community groups bring into play. Her no nonsense, workmanlike approach served the village well in the roles that she took on, including, very significantly, as a co-editor of a magazine which she helped develop into a prize winner!

Thank you, Betty, and thank you to the foot soldiers out in all weathers delivering, and to our faithful advertisers helping ensure a commercial success for the village and to our contributors without whom there would be nothing to read

Our photo is of the get-together of some of the

distribution team with advertiser and contributors celebrating the award in 2011. Blackbourne Phase II, still then feared by some Fake News merchants as an emerging white elephant, is being built around them. Not a white elephant in sight, but Betty is 2nd Left in the front row.



A Merry Christmas to you all.

OUR MAIN COVER PICTURES SHOW...
Co-editors Jean Barker and Maggie Bushell with Gordon Mussett of SALC, head of the SALC Newsletter of the Year judging panel, and Jean with Donna, Betty Pryke's granddaughter accepting the award in Betty's memory.

Your Newsletter Fact File



For the next 6 months we need copy by:
December 19th January 23rd February 20

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

In mid October we held our AGM (too late to get an entry into the November newsletter). Linda Stephenson has now joined the committee and will continue to organise demos and gallery visits, something she has been doing successfully for some time. The last trip was to the Fitzwilliam in Cambridge to see an exhibition of works by Degas. Annette Blanshard takes over the role of secretary from Jo Hale who receives our thanks and appreciation for all her labours in recent times. We are delighted that Ted Evans remains our chairman and he reported on a successful year with an acceptable year-end balance which would have been higher but for his prompt and speedy purchase of some art display boards. Painting of the boards and improvements to the support brackets means we have **AVAILABLE FOR HIRE ART DISPLAY BOARDS.**

We continue to attract new members and always offer a warm and friendly welcome to newcomers whether experienced artists or anyone who wants to take up the hobby with aspirations but no experience. We all



have to start somewhere! This month's paintings are quite different. Maureen Bagnall's watercolour, "The Connemara Girl" is an excellent copy of an original work by Alexander Burke. The abstract blues and white acrylic is by Pat Quick. This is very much the sort of work she specialises in.

An apology, last month I got Joan Antrade's name wrong. I'll try to be more careful in future.

We wish everyone a happy and relaxing Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

John Welford 01359 240166

ART CLUB MEETS TUESDAY MORNINGS AT THE WESLEY.



OVER 55'S CLUB

Club meetings have continued through November when we served Hot Dogs and were entertained by Maureen Wilson on Thursday 2nd. On November 16th it was Cash Bingo although numbers were down those present had an enjoyable evening hoping for a win.

Our final meeting on November 30th was a Concert by the Band and Songsters of Norton Salvation Army.

Our Christmas Party on Saturday December 9th (5 30 pm for 6 00pm) with entertainment by "Pat James" concludes our activities for 2017.

I hope you have enjoyed everything we have put on in 2017, it is very difficult to find some new ideas to keep the momentum going each year.

We are taking a short break until Thursday February 22ND during which time myself and the committee will be preparing to produce next years card.

Now all it leaves me is to say a big thank you to my committee and to all the members for supporting myself and the Club throughout 2017.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Diann (241002)

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CLUBS & SOCIETIES

ELMSWELL EXCHANGE AFTERNOON WI

Quite a few apologies for our **November gathering**. It's that time of year I am afraid when all the viruses come out to play. Nonetheless, we had a goodly number present when Martyn Taylor, a historian and Bury St. Edmunds Green Badge guide arrived to "**Take us Under Bury St. Edmunds**". What an eye opener this turned out to be. None of us had any idea that there were so many caves, passages and undercrofts beneath this ancient town. Some of the Bury residents with larger premises and grounds have actually sealed the entrances up with iron bars to prevent "unwholesome activity" within them at night. (see picture) Our interest was aroused immediately !!!



Two excellent examples of undercrofts are within The Angel Hotel (pictured) and Moyses Hall Museum. Martyn also told us of the



catastrophic events in Jacqueline Close in the late sixties. A whole group of modern houses, built and sold, suddenly started to collapse. This estate was built above chalk workings and there are apparently quite a few of these in this area. The extra water from the soakaways softened the chalk and the houses were undermined. The owners lost everything and were ruined despite the fact that even old maps showed these workings. Some were given council houses and some moved to Elmswell. One of our members recalls her husband being called out in the middle of the night to turn off all the water to the area. Photos of these chalk mines were quite amazing.

The competition was an ancient artefact.

The winner was Betty Rice, second Margaret Hitchins and 3rd Florrie Heller.

Martyn has produced several books about the town and we were able to browse through these and purchase at a special price if interested. Good stocking fillers.

After refreshments, we went through the business matters. Members were brought up to date with all the future events. **Our December meeting will be held at Scotsdale's in Cambridge.** We are all looking forward to this trip. **Our new programme for 2018** will be handed out at this event and will also be found in the Elmswell Newsletter from January onwards.

The overall winners of our annual monthly competitions were announced and our winner for the year was Margaret Hitchins. Second was Sylvia Walton and third Dot Dixon. They were presented with beautifully planted patio pots to cheer the winter months created by Woolpit Nurseries.

Anyone interested in our W.I. Group will be welcome to come along to one of our meetings before making any decisions.

Contact Maureen
on 241033 or email
modavis6@gmail.com



ELMSWELL WI

Horri and Sue Parsons gave us a talk called "Nothing Like a Dame," really got us into the Christmas spirit by beginning with some panto repartee, eg. "Oh no you don't!"

"Oh yes we do!"

For about fifty years, they took part in many shows, including about forty pantomimes and proceeded to give us a real flavour of what it is like to be part of a theatrical company, as well telling us about the origin of the shows we know today.

Hundreds of years ago, the Harlequinade in Italy, with its characters dressed in diamond-patterned costumes, resulted in the first pantos. The colours of the diamonds represent different emotions, eg. red was anger. If black was pointed at, the character would disappear. The first pantomime was Babes in the Wood, closely

followed by Cinderella. In Victorian times, the plays evolved into shows which were more like the ones we see today, with music and singing etc.

Pantomimes are all about traditions: The Principal Boy is always played by a girl, the Dame is always a man (except Dame Hilda Baker), the Baddy always enters from the "dark side" – the left hand side of the stage, and the typical panto banter. As Horri pointed out, everyone goes to the pantomime expecting all these things to happen. In fact, they would be disappointed if things were not as expected!

During the second half of the talk, Horri dressed up as a dame and his manner and voice changed, as soon as he was in costume. He and Sue showed us some of the panto slapstick and also told us about some of the theatrical traditions. Eg. You should say "Break a Leg!" never "Good

Luck" to anyone, before they go on stage; there should be no clapping or whistling backstage and the last line of a play or panto should never be said until the First Night performance. We all enjoyed ourselves and had lots of fun.

Stephanie won the competition with a beautiful homemade cracker in blue and silver.

Future events include the W.I. Carol Celebration, 11.12 at St. Mary's Church, Bury St. Edmunds; World Indoor Bowls Championships, 15.1.18, Norfolk; Festive Lunch, 19.1.18 at Lavenham and the Whist Luncheon, 23.1.18 at Park Farm.

We are now all looking forward to our Christmas Party, which will take place during our December meeting. (Remember to look at our Facebook Page, set up by Siobhan, for more information about our W.I.)

Rosie Collins 01359 241652

All Wesley and Blackbourne booking enquiries are now handled from the Parish Council office at Blackbourne – right next to the car park:



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ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB

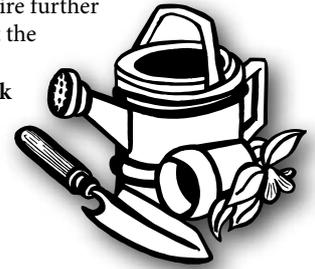
Oh no – so soon! The AGM signals the last Gardening Club meeting of 2017, and, as ever, the year has been both informative and entertaining. The station flower troughs we maintain have given a brilliant summer display and are now dressed in their winter garb of mixed pansies and ‘cloth of gold’ wallflowers – ready for Henry VIII or weary commuters. It was time to reflect on our Gardening Club year. We had an amazing collection of speakers, such as the one on ‘Gardening Bugs’ which confirmed our loathing of slugs; and ‘Self-Sufficiency in our Gardens’ which gave practical advice on healthy gardens and the 5-stage rotation plan. Many of our speakers have enjoyed our club so much they have volunteered other subjects which might interest us in the coming years. 2018 looks just as exciting, with diverse talks on herbs, butterflies and all-year-round colour in our gardens. Many thanks to Catherine Reynolds and Margaret Randall for searching out such an interesting selection of speakers for 2018. We will have a full programme of talks which you may see in the February Newsletter on the ‘What’s On’ page.

At our AGM, stalwart committee members have all agreed to serve for another year. Brenda Begg (Chair) and Nick Chamberlin (Treasurer) received a hearty round of applause for keeping us in order and their great organisational work during 2017 which they are willing to continue in 2018. Brenda and Nick are unable to organise the Open Gardens next year and if this is to go ahead then volunteers will be required to organise the event. Our membership fees have not risen for a number of years, but our speakers are now more expensive, and therefore subscriptions will rise to £15.00 per person and £4.00 for visitors in 2018.

As it was our last meeting of the year, Nick gave us a beautiful slideshow of our summer outing to Cambridge University Botanical Gardens. From his slides one can appreciate the beauty and tranquillity of the 40 acre site in the middle of Cambridge with its gardens from around the world. At present, the Botanical Gardens is hosting a photographic exhibition positioned around the gardens to show plants in their native habitats. Then, with much laughter, Catherine

and Margaret delivered their quiz which had varying degrees of difficulty – who would have thought Capability Brown – he of the sweeping landscapes – was born in Northumberland. This was followed by delicious nibbles to gird our loins ready to tackle Christmas.

We have had some welcome frosts, so get those sprouts boiling for Christmas and hang up your gardening boots for Father Christmas to fill. We look forward to welcoming you all to our first meeting of the New Year which will be on **Tuesday, 20th February** at the Blackbourne for a talk on ‘The Fatal Attraction of Plants’ about the poison garden at Alnwick Castle. If you require further information about the Gardening Club please contact **Nick Chamberlin** on **242601**.



ELMSWELL EXCHANGE SOCIAL CLUB

This month Mr. Parfitt was our speaker. He had recently returned from a trip to Ethiopia. He managed to show us the many faces of Ethiopia and dispel some myths along the way.

We started with a picture of an early human skeleton called ‘Lucy’ who is 4 feet high and 3.2 million years old to remind us how long this area has been populated.

Mr. Parfitt explained that 45% of the population are Christian, 30% are Moslem and the remaining 25% are a mixture of other religions. He visited various churches, one of which housed the Ark of the Covenant. We saw pictures of churches carved into the rock which were difficult to access. They were 2 storeys

high and we learnt that St. George is the patron saint of Ethiopia. Other churches were bamboo structures with walls of mud and straw. The paintings on material were glued onto the walls.

It was pointed out that Ethiopia is not just a desert. We were shown pictures of the various mountains and rivers. Mr. Parfitt visited just after the rainy season so everywhere was very green and a little muddy and slippery for the intrepid tourists!

Farming is mainly dependent on working by hand or using animals. The cattle, donkeys and horses looked healthy. Coffee is a major crop as a third of the world’s coffee comes from Ethiopia.

The markets were very colourful with a wide variety of fruit, vegetables and spices on display. Also handicrafts such as woven articles, jewellery and articles made from old tyres.

We saw pictures of the varied wildlife in the mountains including baboons, warthogs, colobus monkeys and the Ethiopian wolf.

It was a very interesting talk and we thank Mr. Parfitt for telling us about Ethiopia.

Members were reminded our next meeting is December 5th at 1.30 when we will enjoy a Christmas lunch.

Enquiries to Carol : 242 884

ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

At our meeting on 9 November we welcomed Lisa Harris from the Museum of East Anglian Life, which is this year celebrating its 50th birthday.

The Museum is located in Stowmarket and was originally part of the Home Farm for the Abbot’s Hall estate; dating from medieval times, it was purchased by the Longe family in 1903.

The Suffolk Local History Council was formed in 1953, with the aim of rescuing obsolete farm tools and machinery and the collection was in need of a permanent site which could be used as a museum. Various sites were explored and the Longe family offered 70 acres of land and buildings in trust. The Museum opened in 1967 and welcomed 2,000 visitors in the first week. Since then it has

grown, with the development of Abbot’s Hall, the reassembling on the Museum site of Edgar’s Farmhouse – a 14th Century aisled farmhouse found in Combs, Alton Watermill, Grundisburgh Smithy, a ‘Tin Tabernacle’, a wind pump from Minsmere and other buildings.

New buildings have been built to house the Boby exhibition of agricultural and craft workshops and the Bone building which contains an exhibition dedicated to the history of Ransomes of Ipswich.

Other attractions are the animals (eg the Suffolk Punch Horse, the Large Black Pig, etc.), a nature walk and an exhibition about Traditional Gypsy Life.

Our next meeting is the Christmas event on Thursday 14 December, when we are looking forward to the visit of The Colchester Waits Shawm Band – The Waits recreate the civic band that was employed by England’s oldest town from the Middle Ages till the 18th Century. Dressed in 16th livery, they play ‘medieval’ instruments.

There may be a few tickets left for the evening which includes a festive buffet, there will also be hot spiced punch and a free Prize Draw. Tickets (£3 members or £5 non-members) will not be available on the night, so please ring 01359-242601 to book.

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

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Merry Christmas to all our customers and supporters.

We have had a brilliant year, but we can hardly believe that Christmas has come around so quickly.

We realise that this time of year can be difficult for some, perhaps those who are bereaved or far away from family and friends, or recovering from a difficult time. We want to open our doors to anyone who is feeling a little less sparkly than most by offering an open house from December 1st for free tea, coffee, biscuits and mince pies. We can't warm the mince pies for you but we can offer a warm welcome and a friendly chat if that is what you would like – or you can come and sit, read the newspapers, browse our shelves and escape from the festive hullabaloo. We have teamed up with the East of England Co-Op for this initiative and depending on need we will look at perhaps continuing something similar in the New Year.

We will also be collecting non-perishable food items and toiletries for the Bury St Edmunds Gatehouse Foodbank. We will have a box in the library where you can place your items – ideally with three months still on the date – and we will make sure they're regularly delivered to the foodbank for distribution to those most in need at this time.

It's a year ago since we held our first community café and in November we held our first in its new home at The Fox pub. Landlord Jimmy made us most welcome with coffee and cakes and we enjoyed a chat with old friends and new. The sessions are aimed at people who are new to the village or want to meet new people because perhaps they have recently retired, had a baby

or been bereaved and find themselves at home a lot more. If this strikes a chord then please come along to our next meeting at 10:30am on Wednesday, December 13th. And if you enjoy books and reading then you can join the book group which also meets at the pub monthly, come along to find out more.

To support all these initiatives there are the brilliant ELF committee members who held another superb fundraiser in November – around 40 people joined us for an evening of Eastern European Wine and Food led by our local expert Bob Stopp, who once again generously gave his time. It has raised more than £300 for the ELF coffers which will support our continuing efforts in the community.

And another amazing and generous fundraiser has come in the form of a beautiful book by villager Paul Peachey. He has put together the most wonderful collection of black and white postcards of the village stretching back 100 years. It really is a beautiful glimpse of how Elmswell has changed over the century and would make a fabulous stocking filler on Christmas Day. It costs £8.50 and any profits are being donated to ELF. Huge thanks to Paul, who worked for two years putting the collection together, for this very generous offer. Look out in the library for details about where to get a copy of the book.

And speaking of history, our Family History Group continues to grow, with more amateur sleuths joining Julie to try and piece together their family tree. In December, there will be a session on Wednesday 13th at 2:30-4:30pm. Just pop along with any information you might already have to get started or enlist Julie's help to try and solve a conundrum. The sessions will restart in 2018.

Our Baby Bounce and Tot Rock group continues to grow with the wonderful support of our volunteer Alison – every term time Friday bring your little ones along to the library for a free song and rhyme session at 9:45am.

Over the Christmas period there will be some changes to our opening hours:

Christmas Eve (Sunday, December 24th) – open 10am-12:30pm

Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Wednesday, December 27th – closed

Thursday, December 28th - New Year's Eve (Sunday, December 31st) – open as usual

New Year's Day (Monday, January 1st) – closed reopening Tuesday, January 2nd.

So, don't forget to order your Christmas reads early to avoid disappointment. You can browse our catalogue online at www.suffolklibraries.co.uk and reserve all the latest titles with your library card and pin number.

So, it just remains for everyone at Elmswell Library to wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Emma Yarrow
Elmswell Library manager



ELMSWHEELIANS 2017

Our last ride was on Sunday 22nd October, a day that dawned to dire weather warnings surrounding "Storm Brian", and the excitement of the local football derby between Ipswich Town and Norwich City at Portman Road, all of which resulted in a very low turnout for our Sunday morning ride. As a result just 6 determined cyclists set off on a 15 mile ride that took us out of the village down Warren Lane, then on to Borley Green, Shelland Green, Harleston, Haughley Village, Haughley Green and Earls Green, Bacton. So far, so good, with the wind largely in our favour; but then we turned towards Wyverstone Street, and Long Thurlow, into what can only be described as a gale! Very challenging! Once through Long Thurlow it was home via Great Ashfield, from where the wind became much kinder and assisted our return to the village and some very welcome refreshment at "The Fox", including unplanned celebrations of both the leader and the back-marker's birthdays.

A very enjoyable, albeit challenging ride, for those who took part. The weather held good; we even had a little sunshine; and we certainly had to combat the wind!

**NEXT RIDE : SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER
STARTING AT 11.30 A.M.
FROM ABBOTS WARREN,
CHURCH ROAD, ELMSWELL.**

This will be our last ride of the year, no more than 10 miles in length, finishing at "The Fox" for some traditional pre-Christmas celebrations.

If you enjoy cycling, do come and join us. There is no membership and nothing to pay; just turn up, and join a group of like-minded people. We do ask, however, that you are aged 16+. You will be very welcome. And finally, Christmas Greetings to all.

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





ST JOHN THE DIVINE
ELMSWELL, SUFFOLK

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Merry Christmas from St John's! Details of our Christmas services are below – we'd love to see you over the festive period! Everyone is welcome :) If you'd like to know about our church, or enquire about getting married or having your baby christened, please get in touch! Revd Peter Goodridge, 01359 240512, elmswellrector@gmail.com, www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk ...and find us on facebook.

November has been an eventful month... with Christmas fairs, men breakfasts, ladies lunches, concerts, Remembrance services and more. We have been busy! On top of "normal activity," our Church was thrown into the spotlight following the theft of several tons of lead from our church roof. We had two visits from the BBC and one from ITV! Many thanks to all for your messages of support. Will December be a calmer month? Notoriously, the "busy" season for any church... we don't think so!

So, what are we up to? We are celebrating Jesus' birth! And, we're inviting you to come too!

December kicks off with our Christingle Service at 9:30am on Sunday 3rd December. Come along if you fancy placing a candle in an orange, then surrounding it with a ribbon and sweets on cocktail sticks... and most importantly learning what this has to do with Jesus! The church always smells beautiful during Christingle and the children (and adults) have a lovely time.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming Little Elms and Elmswell Community Primary School for their various Christmas activities. It is always good to see the church packed full of children (and doting relatives).

Our Nine Lessons and Carols Service takes place at 6:30pm on Sunday December 17th. We love this service; our church is cozy, warm, brightly lit with decorations and jam-packed with people singing their favourite Christmas carols! The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols. Simply lovely.

"I can't wait for Christmas!" is at 3:30pm on Christmas Eve, this slightly frenzy, fun, family-orientated service is the perfect way to kick-off your Christmas celebrations. If you don't have a Christmas Eve tradition yet, why not start one this year?

We will be bringing in Christmas Day in spectacular style. Our late-night communion on Christmas Eve, starting at 11:30pm, is a more dignified celebration of the nativity of Jesus! We welcome Christmas Day as soon as it starts and get to wish one another "Merry Christmas" first.

On Christmas Day we're celebrating again – our all age celebration at 10:00am is a lovely way to

rejoice in the happiness of Christmas Day and celebrate with other members of the community and church family. Everyone is welcome. Also, if Santa brings you anything nice – why not bring it with you?

We hope to see you at one of our Christmas events and share the true meaning of Christmas with you! God Bless.

Sunday 3rd December

9:30am All Age Christingle Service
11:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday 10th December

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10:30am Parish Praise Morning Service

Sunday 17th December

9:30am Breakfast Church (breakfast from 9am)
11:00am Holy Communion
6:30pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 24th December

10:30am Short Morning Service
3:30pm I can't wait for Christmas!
11:30pm Late Night Communion (BCP)

Monday 25th December

10:00am Christmas Day All Age Celebration!

Sunday 30th December

10:30am Informal All Age Communion

Sunday 7th January

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



ST JOHN'S FLOODLIGHTING

The good news is that we have managed to keep flood-lights working on St John's despite the damage inflicted upon at least one of the church's electrical circuits when lead roofing was stolen recently from the church roof.

You are therefore invited to sponsor the floodlighting of St. John's as usual, to help with the day-to-day running expenses of our parish church. You can choose to commemorate a personal event, an anniversary, or any other special occasion. Alternatively you can simply make a donation.

For the Winter Months the lights will be on between 5.30 p.m. and midnight. A night's floodlighting costs £5.

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

THANK YOU to everyone who has supported

the floodlighting this year, and Seasons Greetings to all.

NOVEMBER 2017 SPONSORSHIP NOT PREVIOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED

20 in memory of Hector Francis (November 20th 1988).
From wife Ruth and all the family.

DECEMBER 2017

- 1 "Happy Birthday Mum, thinking of you".
Colin and Carol.
- 3 in loving memory of Reginald Bloomfield.
- 10 in memory of Ray Borrett.
- 12 in memory of Ada Hunt on her Birthday.
From Carl & Sharon, Susan & Peter ,
Adrian & Tracey.
- 16 Ken Catchpole - in the Lord's keeping for twenty three years. "In our thoughts and hearts for ever".
Love Joan, Stephanie, Ivan, William and Glyn. xxxxx.
- 20 in loving memory of Betty Hart.
"Always in our thoughts".
Love from all the family.
- 23 Revd. Noel Clarke -
remembered with love on his Birthday.
- 23 Ivy Hopper - loving memories of dear Mum. "6 years and sadly missed".
Sally, Alan & family.
- 24 in memory of Evelyn and Roy Clark.
- 24 in memory of a dear Nana and Grandad this Christmas Time,
Eileen and George Stiff.
"Love you both. God bless you".
Louise and Brian. xx.
- 25 in memory of Mark & Andrew Jones.
"Always in our thoughts". Mum & Dad.
- 25 in memory of a dear Nana and Grandad this Christmas Time, Eileen and George Stiff.
"Love you both. God bless you".
Louise and Brian. xx.
- 25 in memory of a my dear Mum and Dad this Christmas Time, Eileen and George Stiff.
Love from Monica, Philip and family. xx.
- 25 John Bennington. "Thinking of you and the lovely times we all had at Christmas".
From Elizabeth and family.
- 25 Hopper. Remembering a dear Mum & Dad, Ivy & Dennis, also my twin brother, David, at Christmas.
Sally, Alan and family.
- 25 cherished memories of Evelyn Simpson, much loved and missed every day.
- 25 Catchpole, Ken, Charles and Ivy. "The special Christmases will not return, when we were all together.
With all the love in our hearts will always stay for ever". Love Joan, Stephanie, Ivan, William and Glyn. xxxxx.
- 25 remembered with love, Mary Eveline Skinner. "God Bless". Tony & Margaret.
- 25 cherished memories of Hugh & Dora

- Handyside. "God Bless". From all their family.
- 26 remembered with love, Mary Eveline Skinner. "God Bless". Tony & Margaret.
- 26 cherished memories of Hugh & Dora Handyside. "God Bless". From all their family.
- 30 to remember and thank all those past Elmswell Fire-Fighters who served their village and community so well.
- 31 in memory of a dear Nana and Grandad, Eileen and George Stiff. Love from Louise and Brian. xx.

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

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY, STOWMARKET

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

E-mail: ourlady.stowmarket@btinternet.com

MASS TIMES: Saturdays (First Mass of Sunday)

St Mary's C of E Church, Woolpit IP30 9QG - 6.00 pm

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

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

Weekday services in the Parish are advertised at the front of Our Lady's Church, in the weekly Newsletter and on the new Parish Website www.ourladystowmarket.org.uk

Father David Finegan



ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

We'll be lighting our first Advent candle on Sunday 3rd December, Advent being the time of year when Christians look forward to the coming of Jesus as a baby 2000 odd years ago.



The shops seem to want to tell us that Christmas is coming earlier and earlier, if it wasn't for the fact that they can now make equally large

amounts of money out of Halloween then they probably wouldn't wait till November to launch their Christmas ads! Snowmen, robins, penguins and food and drink adverts will divert our attention away from the true meaning of Christmas. In our services leading up to Christmas we will be contemplating the fact that God sent his Son, Jesus, to come to earth to live, die and rise again to establish a new relationship between God and mankind. A relationship where it is not necessary to have a priest as an intermediary or where one has to follow a mountain of rules and regulations. All we have to do is acknowledge Jesus Christ to be our Saviour and seek to serve him as Lord. If you'd like to consider this more, do come and join us over the next few weeks.

The Ladies Friendship Group annual Nosh 'n' Natter takes place on Monday 11th December to which all are welcome (men as well). There will be a fantastic meal as well as great entertainment from a Ukelele Band. This is at 7.30pm.

Telephone Margaret on 241541 if you would like to come.

Food & Friends on Thursday December 14th at midday - for the older folk - a chance to meet other people and enjoy a Christmas meal with all the trimmings, all for a suggested donation of £7.00. This is run in conjunction with Age UK. Phone Jackie on 245918 to book your place. We will conclude by singing a few Carols and Christmas songs with a short epilogue from Stephen.

On Wednesday December 20th Christians Together in Elmswell are holding Carols on the Green at Crown Mill at 7pm. Do come along and join us. There might be free mince pies as well.

We are holding our annual **Carols by Candlelight** on **Saturday December 24th at 5.00pm**, come and experience the unique atmosphere created by over 80 candles lighting the chapel and get your Christmas off to the perfect start. Coffee, tea and mince pies to follow. For those who don't like coming out in the dark (and anybody else who'd like to come!) we will have Carols in the Morning at 10.30am the same day.

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

- Dec 3rd Paul Kemp - inc Communion
- Dec 10th Stephen Spurgeon (All-Age Service)
- Dec 17th Rev. David Thompson
- Dec 24th 10.30.am Carols in the Morning
5.00pm Carols by Candlelight led by Stephen Spurgeon
- Dec 31st 10.30am The Congregation - Who do you think you are?

Just in case you don't read your January newsletter quickly enough, the Ladies Friendship Group meets again on January 8th at 7.45pm for another of Jenny's Surprise Evenings. All ladies welcome. Phone Margaret on 241541 for more details.

Visit our website at www.elmswellbaptist.org.uk
Have a truly Happy Christmas!! Tony



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A very special visitor at the St John's Christmas Fair! The Blackbourne, Elmswell, Nov 2017.



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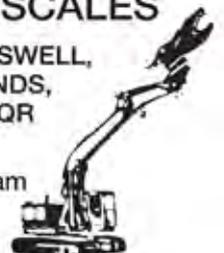
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CALLING ALL RAIL USERS!

If you live in Elmswell you'll be well aware of the rail line that bisects the village - even if only from being held up at the level crossing as yet another lengthy container train trundles through. Maybe you use the train services between Ipswich and Cambridge or Peterborough? Are you a regular commuter, or do you use the service less frequently for business or leisure? Would you like the opportunity to comment on any aspect of those services or suggest ideas for improvement based on your own experience? This is where MARPA - Mid Anglia Rail Passengers Association - comes in. It exists to act as a communication channel between the people who use the trains and the current service operator, Abellio Greater Anglia (AGA).

MARPA represents user views and advocate for improvements with the service operator. You may already be aware that AGA has been awarded the franchise to operate these and other services throughout East Anglia until 2025. There are commitments within this franchise for substantial improvements to trains - an entirely new fleet! - service frequency and station facilities. The promised new facilities

include electronic information boards, CCTV and a ticket machine at every station. And whilst MARPA warmly welcomes all these commitments, it is keen to monitor progress and ensure the necessary investment is made in a timely way for the benefit of the travelling public.

Through affiliation to RailFuture, MARPA is part of a national and regional network of passenger-focussed groups who lobby both the train operators and government to continue investing in services and facilities. The aim is to make rail travel as convenient and attractive as possible for the travelling public - so that where appropriate the train becomes the preferred travel option, taking some of the pressure off increasingly congested roads. How effective this effort is of course depends on the willingness of people using the services to add their voice. Locally, MARPA is in regular dialogue with the service operator, making a significant contribution by providing feedback on everything from timetables to station ticket machines, from the electronic information boards on platforms (something of a sore point for us in Elmswell) to the facilities being made available on the

new train fleet coming into service from 2019/20. In addition, MARPA submits feedback to consultations on planning issues with implications for rail users - most recently, the Suffolk County Council consultation earlier this year on making the Northgate Street/Tayfen Road axis in Bury more friendly for both cyclists and people walking between the station and the town centre.

For the more energetic, who might want to combine physical exercise with rail travel, MARPA has produced a series of 15 walks starting and finishing at stations served by the Ipswich - Cambridge line. One of the walks described starts (or finishes!) in the village. For more information on this and other roles undertaken by MARPA, please visit www.marpa.org.uk - with family membership currently a modest £6 per year, working out at less than 12p per week, this is a very cost-effective way of helping influence the quality of public transport in Suffolk. So get on board and get your voice heard!

Peter Feeney (peter.feeney@btinternet.com)

Peter Rutt (peterrutt06@aol.com)

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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NEWS FROM ELMSWILD



BT – back in town!

Last month we welcomed a team from BT who helped us cut and rake the wildlife site at Kiln Meadow. This month we were delighted to host a second BT volunteering day, this time at Lukeswood. Although a bit chilly, the weather was sunny and dry – perfect conditions for a day outdoors. We had a long list of tasks for Jon and his team to help us with, but many hands make light work, as they say, and we motored through them all, with plenty of time for refreshments around the campfire. There was more raking to do – this time in the orchard – as well as mulching around the fruit trees and replacing spirals and canes in the hedgerows. The volunteers helped us with clearing some of the self-sown birch trees which have been growing underneath the overhead power cables



that run over the centre of the site. While these are not a problem at the moment, we can't allow them to grow too tall and possibly jeopardise the cables. The coppicing also creates a sunny ride through the trees to encourage wildflowers and the butterflies and bees that feed on them. So a massive thank you to all the BT volunteers – we all had a great time, and it was very satisfying to see how much we had achieved at the end of the day, despite the aching muscles.



Autumn colour

Although Christmas is just a few weeks away, the trees are still a lovely sight in their autumn colours. Hard frosts, strong winds or heavy rain will bring down the remaining leaves, so enjoy them while you can before winter really sets in. Leaves on the ground are great to kick through as well, especially when they're dry and crackly! Or why not make a collage? See how many different shapes and colours you can find. You don't even need paper and glue – a pattern of leaves arranged on the ground can look stunning, until the next wind comes along and re-arranges the kaleidoscope. Have fun and take photos of your creations! We'd love to see them on our ElmsWild Facebook page.



Join us for willow cutting at Lukeswood

Our willows have grown particularly well this year with many long stems, some 6 or 8 feet long, which are perfect for weaving. We will be cutting the willow on **Saturday 6th January starting at 9.30**. Everyone is welcome to come along and join in. We will cut the willow and use the stems to weave a backing to the pole barn. It's quite easy to do – please bring along secateurs or loppers if you have them. Using the products of our own woodland to improve the facilities there is very satisfying – come along and be a part of the process! There will be refreshments around the campfire afterwards. A great way to start the New Year (and perhaps work off some the results of all that Christmas cheer!).

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas – see you in the New Year!

Mary Feeney
info@elmwild.org.uk



Follow us on Facebook, too.

HAVE YOU LEFT SOMETHING BEHIND?



Lots of people walk their dogs at Lukeswood and whilst the majority behave impeccably, we have been concerned recently to find that some owners are obviously not cleaning up after their dogs.

This is not the first time that we've been forced to draw

attention to this hazard and we would have thought that by now everyone understood their responsibilities as dog owners. Evidently not. Some people still do not get it. So for those few we spell it out here in graphic detail.

The children from Street Farm Forest School visit Lukeswood weekly and are encouraged to run around and explore. Their teachers do their best to check all areas beforehand, but it really should not be their job to clear up revolting dog faeces left behind by thoughtless owners.

Many families with children enjoy walking and playing in Lukeswood; they should be able to

do so without running the risk of encountering a serious health hazard.

School children often visit Lukeswood to take part in educational activities, most recently our summer Bioblitz, when they carried out surveys of wildlife, searching through the long grass and vegetation for bugs and spiders. It is a constant worry that they may get dog mess on their feet or hands.

ElmsWild Trustees, along with many other volunteers, give up their free time to develop our community woodland and orchard as a place for everyone to enjoy and for wildlife to flourish. The work involves hands-on contact with the grass, soil, vegetation. The job does NOT involve clearing up dog faeces that others could not be bothered to pick up. Volunteers should not have to risk endangering their health when working on behalf of the community in our wildlife site.

A dog bin is provided at the entrance to Lukeswood and there are many others in the

village. It's not hard to remember to put a couple of plastic bags in your pocket when you go out with the dog. And throwing the bag into the hedge instead of putting it in the bin is NOT acceptable. It doesn't magically disappear.

Our gallery of horrors shows some of what you can encounter on a single walk around Lukeswood. We do apologise to those dog owners who always clean up and to those who may be squeamish about such things, but we have to get the message across to the few who are spoiling things for everyone else. We've put up lots of signs and our Facebook posting on the subject has attracted thousands of views. Let's try and make this a thing of the past.

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stocking

Santa Claus



snowman



gift

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n	g	j	z	e	e	p	k	c	q	s	i	v	m	t	g
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f	g	l	l	z	t	g	q	z	a	c	n	t	b	h	w
o	c	e	r	e	i	n	d	e	e	r	i	g	k	c	i



gingerbread



reindeer



tree



cake



decorations



Melted Snowman Cookies

Ingredients:

- 200g Fondant Icing
- 6 White Marshmallows
- 6 Large Cookies
- 24 Mini Chocolate beans/smalties
- 6 Pretzel Sticks/Chocolate Matchmakers
- Black Writing Icing

What do you call Santa Claus when he doesn't move?

Santa Pause

Merry Christmas



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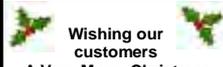
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Tuesday
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Slimming World 5.30 & 7.30

WI (2nd Tuesday monthly) 7.00 – 10.30

Gardening club (3rd Tuesday monthly) 7.00 – 10.00

Guides Trefoil Guild

(1st Tuesday monthly) 7.00 – 9.00

Karate 7.15 – 8.15

Wednesday

Scouts 5.45 – 9.00

Jujutsu martial arts class 7.00 – 9.00

Winters Academy – dance classes 4.00 – 6.00

Thursday

Brownies 5.30 – 8.00

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

Friday

Bingo (last Friday monthly) eyes down 7.30

BATS – Badminton & Table Sports – 7.00 – 10.00

Karate 5.00 – 7.00

Sunday

Sozo Home Church 10.30 – 12.30,

usually every 3rd Sunday. All welcome.

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ELMSWELL BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

It has been another busy month here at Elmswell Baby and Toddler Group. We had our Halloween party which was attended by nearly 40 (very cute) assorted princesses, pirates, pumpkins and witches. They enjoyed sensory play, collecting spiders from orange rice and insects from cold spaghetti (no animals were harmed!). I was especially pleased to rid my freezer of frozen hands which the children chipped away at and melted to discover assorted treasures. We made spider webs and toilet roll bats (kindly painted by Toni), had a wonderful lunch made by our chairs, Helen and Lesley, and Elysa made delicious cakes that the children took home.

We have also purchased a fabulous new black sensory tent using money made from our recent Nearly New Sale. Inside, our babies and toddlers can play with a variety of lights, some flashing, some colour changing and others emitting a warm glow. This kind of play helps our youngsters to develop their visual senses, stimulating neural pathways and helping them learn through play. We would be unable to treat our children without the support of our buyers, sellers and helpers at our sales so we are truly thankful to you all.

The craft list has been exciting this month too. Jen provided us with a fabulous firework craft, where the children made firework paintings using straws. Claire arranged for Stargazing

Ceramics to visit us, enabling the children (and parents) to create some beautiful personal ceramic pieces for Christmas presents, which I'm sure the recipients will treasure forever.

Elmswell Baby and Toddler group runs Mondays and Wednesdays, 10-11.30 at Wesley Hall, £1 per child, 50p for siblings up to a maximum of £2. Arrive at anytime - we always have a wide variety of toys and craft. The children enjoy a healthy snack while the adults relax with a hot drink and biscuit. We welcome all small people with their grown-ups at our group so please join us! With Christmas coming up, the committee members are busy planning parties, crafts and activities so there is lots to look forward to!

Ria Burch, Committee Member



Suffolk Newsletter of the Year – our thanks to Betty



Once again, for the 7th time since 2009, your Newsletter team's efforts have deserved the accolade of Suffolk Newsletter of the Year.

This year's award was dedicated to Betty Pryke, who died in September. For several years Betty was part of the editorial team. Being Betty, be assured that she was a significant part. As an ex teacher, Betty was not afraid to wield her red pen. Spelling mistakes, punctuation errors, grammatical faults would be ruthlessly struck out. The magazine flourished safe in

the knowledge that even our most assiduous and eagle-eyed reader would find no grounds for complaint in those departments where Betty held sway.

Betty's part in village life went way beyond the Newsletter. For some 20 years, and

until poor health suggested that she slow down, Betty was a stalwart of the Over 60's, latterly the Over 55's, Club. She served with community stalwarts Stanley King, Muriel King and Diann Armstrong with patience and humour but always with an eye to the right way of doing things. The strength of the current Club set-up owes much to Betty's input.

The 40+ volunteers who ensure that your magazine is through every door in the village, every first Friday of every month of the year are,

rightly, proud that their efforts are recognised yet again. Even more so when, as the recent Amenities Association AGM figures show, the Newsletter made a net contribution of more than £7,000.00 to community development in Elmswell. This is no flash in the pan. Year after year, until the rules were changed banning entry by the previous year's winners, The Elmswell Newsletter has reigned supreme in Suffolk since 2011. Before that it had been quietly getting on with the job since 1986. That's 372 magazines, including this one! A significant part of Elmswell history, as was Betty Pryke who we remember with respect and much affection. Or should that be, *'whom we remember'*? Betty would know!

Donna – Betty's granddaughter from Harleston was delighted to hear that the award was dedicated to her grandmother.





LAWN FARM QUARRY

Suffolk County Council are combining their policies on waste disposal and mineral extraction because it makes sense to fill the holes left by sand & gravel extraction with landfill waste.

They are seeking comments and views on the preferred locations which they have identified for these processes including Lawn Farm Quarry, down Warren Lane on the old A45.

Their consultation document simply says that there *may be* housing planned between the existing quarry and Elmswell.

There *will be* housing there – 240 planned along Wetherden Road, 38 off Warren Lane. Planning permission is granted.

The Parish Council is keen that this fact is fully taken into account. They regularly attend liaison meetings at the site with County and District Councillors and officers together with Wetherden Parish Council. These meetings raise problems regarding mud on the road to a dangerous level, of after-hours working, of noise

and of dust. The regulation has not seemed capable of requiring improvement, despite detailed logging of incidents by residents.

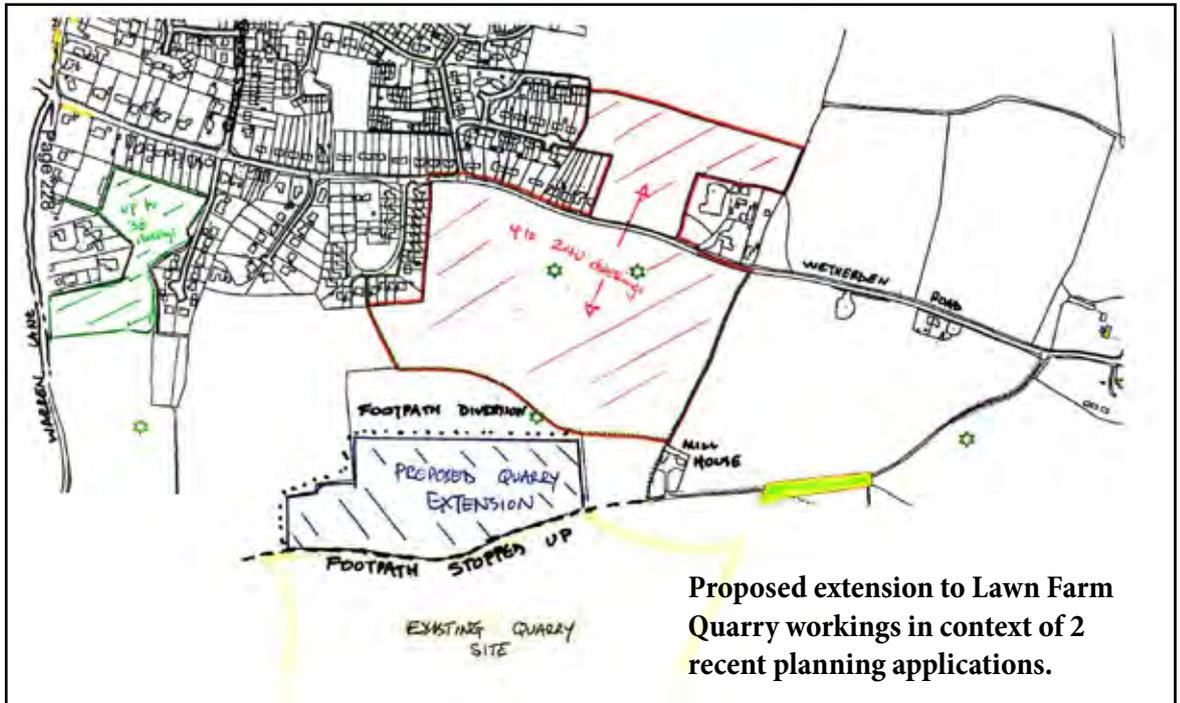
The views of local residents are invited until 11th December.

The consultation document is at

smwlp@suffolk.gov.uk

The Council's address is Endeavour House, 8, Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX telephone 0345 606 6067

Or contact your County Councillor, Jane Storey, Eastview, Mill Lane, Woolpit IP30 9QX 01359 240555 07714 427097 Jane.Storey@suffolk.gov.uk



Proposed extension to Lawn Farm Quarry workings in context of 2 recent planning applications.

Thinking Allowed

Many people in the media have asked me how I felt as, on Remembrance Day, we discovered significant damage to our parish church, St John's. Overnight a gang had stripped away several tons of lead from our south aisle roof. In doing this, they had knocked down ancient pieces of stonework from the parapet into our small garden of remembrance, smashing it into pieces. What I found most surprising was how the sophisticated roof alarm (installed just 2 years ago) failed to activate. The police and insurers are looking into this alongside the manufacturer.

In all truthfulness, I felt no anger or bitterness. I only felt sadness. Sadness that people can stoop so low. Sadness as I listened to one congregation member say, "The cross I planted in remembrance of my mother and father has been broken in half."

As a Christian, I believe humankind is significantly flawed and that evil is real. However, I also believe that God can change anybody. There have been countless examples of people throughout history being changed by encountering Jesus Christ in their life. It is my prayer that the thieves may see the error of their ways and turn from them. I also believe that God can bring good out of evil. In fact, I have watched this happen all around us since the lead theft. So many people have offered support. The church family were determined to make sure our ministry continued as "business as usual." The firemen were outstanding in coming quickly to help us make the roof watertight. Often God will take acts intended for evil and turn them round for good. Such trials only serve to make us stronger and malicious acts, such as this one, will not deter us from continuing our ministry of serving the people of Elmswell.

The media also asked if this was going to affect our services on Remembrance Weekend. I found this an unusual question really. Of course, it was not going to affect our services. Even if the roof had completely caved in, services would have continued - we would have met in the open air, if necessary. Remembrance Sunday is an important occasion. In particular, remembering the brave sacrifice made by previous generations puts everything else into context. Our struggles are so minor in comparison.

Unfortunately, the outcome of all this is that we now have 2 major building projects underway at St John's. Hopefully, the insurance will cover much of the costs in repairing the roof and associated damage inside the church (due to rainwater getting inside) following the lead theft. However we still have well over £50,000 of repair work to do on our crumbling chancel ceiling (the chancel is the narrower section at the front of the church) and St John's has significant ongoing running costs. People in the community have asked if we will be having some sort of giving page on the Internet. We are looking into this and will let you know shortly.

On behalf of all at St John's, I would like to thank everybody for their kind words of support and offers of help. You really have been wonderful.

With every blessing,

Revd Peter Goodridge, Rector, St John's Elmswell





ELMSWELL BOWLS CLUB

The Club held its annual end of season dinner and trophy presentations evening at Bury Golf Club on 11th November and all that attended enjoyed a grand evening and a good chat coupled with excellent food. The trophy and raffle winners went home content, carrying their awards and the rest went home content and happy. The event was very well organised by Brenda Begg.

On 16th November we held our AGM at the Wesley Hall and unfortunately this was not as well attended as expected. Many issues were discussed including the appointment of positions as the Club's Officers and we are

pleased that all of those currently in place have been re-elected. This was followed by electing Team Captains and other important positions in readiness for next year's bowling season and the meeting was finally brought to a close at 8.45pm.

Onto 2018 and our annual quiz night. This is to be held at the Wesley Hall on Saturday 24th February. WATCH THIS SPACE

All of us at Elmswell Bowls Club extend wishes to everyone for a Peaceful, Happy Christmas and rewarding New Year.

Graham Newman and David Begg



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I can't wait for Christmas!

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Full Council is scheduled to meet on the 3rd Monday monthly, excepting August. The November meeting took place on 20th at The Blackbourne with 9 councillors present, along with Mid Suffolk District Council Ward Members Mrs Sarah Mansel & John Levantis, County Council Ward Member Mrs Jane Storey for part of the session, Parish Clerk Mr Peter Dow, and 6 members of the public.

This report is compiled from the 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 Council's October Ordinary Meeting, as approved at this meeting, are posted in the community notice board at the Co-op.

County Council

Cllr Mrs Jane Storey tabled a written report which included details of the winter gritting arrangements which started on the evening of 5th November and will continue, as required, all the way through the winter and officially to the end of April. When temperatures fall to 1 degree C the gritter drivers are mobilised. There are 40 gritter lorries around the county with our local depot being Rougham. Grit is mixed in with a brine solution and spread first on priority 1 routes (A and B roads) and the priority 2 routes. A map of the gritting routes can be found on the SCC website <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/check-which-roads-are-gritted/>

Gritter drivers may be members of the Highways teams but can also include people who come in and are trained from other walks of life. There are retired HGV driving instructors, plumbers and the 'early retired' – those who have retired and want something 'different' to do. Full training is given and new drivers are always welcome.

Highways England grit the A14 from their depot near Cambridge.

The report also confirmed that Health chiefs in Suffolk are reminding people to get a flu vaccination to ward off the worst effects of a potentially debilitating illness.

Parents of 2-3-year-olds are being encouraged to take their child to have a simple nasal spray vaccination at their GP surgery, while carers are also advised not to put off their free flu jab. Flu is a highly infectious disease and can lead to serious complications, especially among some of the most vulnerable groups. People with long term health conditions such as diabetes, heart, kidney or liver disease are eligible for a free vaccination, as are pregnant women and all those over 65.

People should contact their GP, pharmacist or midwife to get the flu jab.

BWMA

A report tabled by the Blackbourne & Wesley Management Association, which administers the Council's facilities at both sites, confirmed that the architect who advises the Mid Suffolk Access Group under the Avenues East Advice & Advocacy Service has reviewed the proposed changes to disabled toilet access consequent upon the demolition

of the Exchange Hall and suggested that by widening the existing Gents' doorway and fitting the grab rails as proposed then the facilities would be satisfactory given that the arrangement is interim pending further development.

The result of the recent independent examination of the booking process from initial enquiry to banking was received and it was noted that no concerns were raised other than the *ad hoc* approach by the Scouts to bookings & payment which has no revenue implications but which will be addressed. Thanks will be forwarded to Ashley Seaborne who painstakingly carried out a thorough inspection over 2 sessions.

A second projector and stand have been purchased allowing 2 groups access to this popular facility at one time at either venue. The letting fee structure was examined in detail and a draft revised schedule will be circulated for final adjustment and ratification at the December meeting. Treasurer Nick Brooks reported turnover to 03.11.17 of £26,686.95 for both venues giving a forecast of £44,213.85 to 31st March. It was agreed that £6,000.00 be passed over to EPC with the recommendation that it go towards funding the demolition and stripping out works at Wesley together with the toilet adaptation project there.

District Council

Cllr Mrs Sarah Mansel tabled a written report which included confirmation that the existing Council offices at both Hadleigh and Needham Market have now been vacated. Most staff have some flexibility about where they work – either at Endeavour House, at home or at one of the touchdown offices – in Eye, Sudbury or Stowmarket. All Council meetings over the next few months will be held in Endeavour House. Both Customer Access points in Stowmarket and Sudbury are now open.

The planning applications for Thurston were discussed again at planning referral meeting on 1st November and all 869 were approved. The outline application for 106 dwellings east of Ashfield Road adjacent to White House Farm in Elmswell was also approved. The planning application for up to 250 houses on School Road in Elmswell is likely to be going to committee in the near future. Cllr John Levantis reported that currently in both districts there are 3 Neighbourhood

Plans adopted, 19 plans in hand at various stages and 17 expressions of interest. Staff changes since January this year have understandably influenced the support available to parish councils. All local authorities are feeling the effects of staff turnover with about 150 vacancies for planners in the region. MSDC's department are currently recruiting to fill six vacancies, and have created two planning apprenticeship posts to supply "home grown" professionals for the department. Meanwhile, it is hoped that the MSDC Five Year Land Supply target could be achieved by April 2018, although the possibility of the government increasing the target numbers in the next white paper cannot be discounted. The Joint Local Plan is expected to be ready for submission to the Inspectorate for adoption by early 2019.

Planning Result noted:

DC/17/02758

Erection of shed at Woodlees, Ashfield Road
Granted EPC supported

Planning Application

The Meeting objected to a Proposal ref. DC/17/04953 for the erection of 2 commercial buildings for use by Suffolk Lowland Search & Rescue next to the Stag Café on A14 slip road on the following grounds.

It is clear that the end-user of the proposed buildings cannot be constrained by a Planning Condition and that the suggestion of a likely occupier should not be relied upon. In effect, the application is for 2 substantial industrial warehouse buildings in the countryside. These are factory units of some 256 sq. metres without any of the support infrastructure necessary for their safe operation by way of access and parking. As such the proposal is unsustainable when measured against NPPF paragraph 17 requiring a good standard of amenity for future occupants and against paragraph 14 which seeks to ban such development where impacts outweigh the benefits.

Relying, therefore, upon Local Plan policies, Councillors had reference to E3 & E9 requiring a workable relationship with the primary road network, ie A14. This site can be reached from A14 in both directions, but access back on to the major road would require either the use of Warren Lane, which

is weight limited, or rat-running via the totally unacceptable lanes through Woolpit. Any requirement to use the roundabout at Tothill would, in practice, be unenforceable.

Further, the constraints conditioned upon Permission ref. 0668/10 do not allow for parking other than that related to the use of the café. This makes the siting of 2 industrial units unfeasible and raises the prospect of roadside parking which is clearly unacceptable and runs counter to Local Plan policies T9 & T10. Unresolved enforcement issues related to 0668/10 are themselves sufficient to require refusal of this application.

Railway crossing site – rubbish

The Chairman and Clerk, having undertaken to follow up previous failed attempts to begin the process of tidying the crossing area at the heart of the village, secured a promise from Network Rail that the many bags of saturated ballast which have lain there for months would be uplifted and taken away on 9th November. The lorry arrived and lifted a bag. The bag has, over those several months, rotted. The ballast, therefore, fell out of the bottom of the bag. A grab lorry was promised for 29th November. Councillors suggested that there might be a lesson here that Network Rail could learn.

Audit

The Council's finances and governance are examined 3 times each year. One such occasion is the Internal Audit which is when a suitably qualified and independent person is given open access to all of the files and accounts, both electronic and hard copy, towards close examination as they see fit and a Report back to Council which then goes forward to a Government approved External Auditor. Council agreed that Trevor Brown, a Certified Public Finance Administrator, should be asked to undertake the Internal Audit of the Councils accounts to 31st March 2018.

Exchange Hall / Wesley Chapel

Council has previously agreed, on the recommendation of their Task & Finish working Party and as reported to their Extraordinary Meeting in August, to remove the wooden flooring and panelling in the chapel so as to allow the thorough eradication of dry rot and to demolish the Exchange Hall leaving the ground levelled for parking. The Clerk & Chairman duly contacted various contractors and met with 3 who were local and reputable. All 3 visited the sites and demonstrated a suitably workmanlike approach giving no reason to doubt their ability to do a good job. It is suggested that the deciding factor should, therefore, be price. Written quotations were sought from, in alphabetical order: DR Cole Demolition of Brooke, Norwich, Finch (Elmswell) Ltd of Kiln Lane, Elmswell and KT Demolition Ltd of Beck Row BSE. The 3 quotes were, in descending order and net of VAT: £7,000.00, £6,700.00 £5,300.00. Mark Finch tendered the lowest price. It is assumed that his proximity to the site was a factor. There is recent experience of his work which suggested nothing against him

and Councillors agreed that he should be awarded the contract. The requisite Planning / Building Regulations permissions will now be secured for the works to begin.

Community Path

Council has worked in conjunction with Sustrans, the Government backed cycling charity, and others to secure a community cycle & pedestrian path from Elmswell to Woolpit. In 2007 Planning permission was granted, and Sustrans subsequently acquired much of the land needed along the route. Recent finance constraints have meant that the scheme has not made progress, but an approach from Sustrans, in light of recent development proposals in both village, has revived the process. Councillors formally agreed to continue their support, including the encouragement of the scheme as a recipient of 'Section106' & Community Infrastructure Levy funding from developers as appropriate.

Relief Road costings

The village's aspiration to have a relief road bridging the railway so as to avoid the ever-lengthening crossing gate delays was the subject of an engineering design exercise funded by the then owners of the Bacon Factory site in 2008. The costings were updated in 2014 and Councillors agreed to ask the original engineering consultancy, Messrs Richard Jackson, to re-visit the project and review the overall cost. This figure is key to the progress of the village's Neighbourhood Plan. District Cllrs John Levantis and Sarah Mansel have agreed to consider grant aiding the exercise which will cost £4,000.00 net of VAT.

Planning pressures

The Meeting agreed to write to legislators, regulators and the Press in support of recent statements made on behalf of Thurston Parish Council regarding the current pressures for development which are encouraged by Mid Suffolk's lack of an identified 5 year land supply for housing in the District. The statement of support will take full account of the legislative position introduced by the Government's National Planning Policy Framework and will dwell on specific areas where the judgement of District Council members is questioned when they are asked to consider the key aspect of, 'sustainability', given the straitened circumstances of the unwilling host communities.

Minerals & Waste Local Plan

Suffolk County Council are currently consulting on their Minerals & Waste Local Plan towards the production of a single document to cover both minerals and waste policy. Included in the documentation is a proposal for the extension of Elmswell's Lawn Farm Quarry. Councillors felt that it would be reasonable to suggest that attention must be paid to the recent and emerging Planning permissions at Wetherden Road and Warren Lane. The SCC documentation makes reference only to the fact that the emerging Joint Local Plan, 'may include an area of housing between the existing

settlement of Elmswell and the Quarry'. They observed that the operation of the current Quarry site has not been without problems and concerns raised by the local parish councils and via innumerable detailed incidents logged by residents. These have generally centred on out-of-hours working, dust, and mud on the old A14. At regular monitoring sessions attended by the Clerk and certain Councillors, held on site with Wetherden & Haughley parish councils represented together with Ward Members, concerned residents and SCC officers, the responses to specific problems have not inspired confidence that the monitoring / enforcement process is effective and highlights the inadequacy of controls in place which rely on much earlier Planning consents. Although it has been suggested that a new Permission would be an effective way to impose new constraints, Councillors agreed that the need for more effective enforcement would not be addressed given the current situation regarding SCC resource management. In light of these reservations and representations from residents objecting to the proposal, the Clerk was asked to respond to the consultation making objection on the grounds stated at the meeting. They noted that Wetherden PC are also raising a making formal objection.

Council administration

The Meeting accepted that the transition to the new Council office at Blackbourne, required by the changed circumstances whereby the Clerk could no longer make facilities available at no cost to the village within his business premises, has gone well. For the 12 years that this arrangement maintained, the Clerk was also able to offer clerical support services on an agency basis allowing a very flexible and cost effective service to the community. This arrangement, too, must end on 31st December and it was agreed that Ann Brett, who has actually carried out most of the clerical support services over those 12 years, should be employed directly by Council from 1st January as Deputy Parish Clerk for 21 hours per week at point 16 on the National Association of Local Councils salary scale, currently set at an hourly rate of £9.05. It was agreed that training of the Deputy Clerk would be necessary as the administration has to deal with growth at Blackbourne, Wesley and across the village as a whole, presenting new challenges and an ever-expanding work load.

Extension at Blackbourne

The Clerk was asked to proceed with applications for Planning Permission and Building Regulations notification of the proposed works at Blackbourne to provide further storage and office space adjacent to the Chamberlayne Hall. The works will also allow improvement to the natural air ventilation of the Hall which has become an issue given the number of large corporate gatherings which are now held there with

often 100+ people attending all day. Final details to the exterior finish will be agreed with the architect.

Theft of lead from St John's

The Meeting unanimously deplored the recent brutal theft and subsequent damage at St John's church and Councillors

wholeheartedly pledged to offer any and all support needed as appropriate.

Next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled for Monday 18th December 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.



recycle

Your Christmas tree at THE BLACKBOURNE




'Real' trees can be left at Blackbourne from 7am on Friday 5th January, until 6.30am on Wednesday 10th January.

Trees must be less than 7' tall & must have all decorations, stands & pots removed.



ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL



FOOTPATH WALK Our next walk starts, as usual, from Crown Mill, on **SUNDAY 10th DECEMBER** beginning at 11.00 am from the village sign.

Open to all comers & led by Footpath Officer Dick Burch
A couple of hours gentle walking on the footpaths in and around Elmswell
Dogs on leads welcome – stout shoes recommended



Dick Burch's New Year's Day Walk

Meet at the Village Sign on Crown Mill at 11.00pm
4½ miles easy walking and back to The Fox

Future Council Meetings

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.

Dec. 18th	Jan. 15th	Feb. 19th	Mar. 19th	Apr. 16th
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Meetings are held at Blackbourne, beginning at 7.30 unless otherwise notified

Enquiries on matters in the report or on any Council matter are invited to the Parish Clerk, Peter Dow.

The Parish Council's office has moved to Blackbourne...

The address is: Blackbourne Road, IP30 9UH

Email and telephone unchanged: clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk.

01359 244134 ...voicemail regularly monitored

We're right next to the car park and with full wheelchair access.

The office is staffed:

Monday & Wednesday 9.00am – 4.00pm

Tuesday & Thursday 9.00am – 12.00 noon

...and at other times by arrangement



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.

December 2017

- 3 9:30am Christingle Service at St John's.
- 5 Elmswell Exchange Social Club Christmas Lunch
- 7 Elmswell Exchange (Afternoon) W.I.
2 pm, Wesley Community Centre
Christmas Celebrations
Presentation to Competition Winners
Please bring a small gift for the Bran Tub
- 8 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall
10.15am - 12 noon
- 9 Over 55's Club Xmas Party 5.30 for 6.00pm
entertainment by PAT JAMES
- 10 Toddlers Group Christmas Party
- 11 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist
Church - Nosh and Natter with entertainment
by The Ukelele's. 7.30pm. Open to men as well,
book your place by phoning Margaret on 01359
241541.
- 12 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30 pm.
Christmas Party.
- 14 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church
midday
- 14 **Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley
Hall. 7.30pm, Colchester Waits Shawm Band:**
*"An evening of live Medieval Music, played by
several costumed musicians". Light seasonal
refreshments will be served. *This event is
ADVANCE TICKETS only, none on the door.
Tel. 01359-242601 for details.*
- 15 Elmswell Bingo at the Blackbourne,
doors open at 6.45, eyes down 7.30pm
- 15 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch
@ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 17 Nine Lessons and Carols
at St John's Church 6:30pm
- 24 I can't wait for Christmas
at St John's Church 3:30pm
- 24 Late Night Communion (BCP)
at St John's Church 11:30pm
10.30am Elmswell Baptist Church
Carols in the Morning
5.00pm Elmswell Baptist Church
Carols by Candlelight
- 25 Christmas All Age Celebration
at St John's Church 10:00am

January 2018

- 5 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall
10.15am - 12 noon
- 8 7.45pm Elmswell Baptist Church - Ladies
Friendship Group - A Jenny's Surprise Evening
- 9 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30pm
Lavenham Butchers - Gareth
- 11 Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley
Hall. 7.30pm, Speaker Geoff Clarke:
"Cine film of East Anglia"
- 11 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church
midday

- 12 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch
@ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 19 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall
10.15am - 12 noon

February 2018

- 2 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall
10.15am - 12 noon
- 5 7.45pm Elmswell Baptist Church -
Ladies Friendship Group - Games Evening
- 8 Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley
Hall. 7.30pm, Speaker Martyn Taylor:
"Have you Noticed Bury St Edmunds street
signs?"
- 8 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church
midday
- 9 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch
@ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 13 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30pm
Gemmeus - Classical and Revival jewellery
Speaker Nicky Wade
- 16 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall
10.15am - 12 noon

March 2018

- 2 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall
10.15am - 12 noon
- 8 Elmswell History Group meeting,
Wesley Hall. 7.30pm, Speaker Mark Mitchels:
"The Rise & Fall of the East Anglian Herring
trade"
- 9 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch
@ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 13 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30pm
Career in costume design for stage
Speaker Amanda Sutherland
- 16 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall
10.15am - 12 noon
- 17 Toddlers Group Nearly New Sale

April 2018

- 6 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall
10.15am - 12 noon
- 10 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30pm
Speaker Daisy Ship, Holistic Therapist
- 12 Elmswell History Group's 18th Anniversary
meeting, Wesley Hall 7.30pm, Speaker Nick
Amor: "Suffolk Clothier in the age of Henry VII"
- 13 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch
@ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 20 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall
10.15am - 12 noon

May 2018

- 4 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall
10.15am - 12 noon
- 8 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30pm
AGM Speaker Sue Stubly
Hedgehog Rescue Centre

- 10 Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall.
7.30pm, Speaker Joan Munden: "Nadine's
Story in WW2's Special Operations Executive
(SOE)" *July tickets on sale*
- 11 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch
@ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 18 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall
10.15am - 12 noon

June 2018

- 1 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall
10.15am - 12 noon
- 12 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30pm
Speaker Linda Scoles
Name that tune
- 14 Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley
Hall. 7pm A.G.M., then Speaker Bob Webb:
"History of the East Suffolk Railway"
July tickets on sale
- 15 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall
10.15am - 12 noon
- 22 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch
@ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 29 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall
10.15am - 12 noon

July 2018

- 10 Social evening - Elmswell evening WI
- 13 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall
10.15am - 12 noon
- 20 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch
@ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 27 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall
10.15am - 12 noon
- tbw Elmswell History Group -
Annual Outing: Date & Venue to be arranged

August 2018

- 10 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall
10.15am - 12 noon
- 14 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30pm
Speaker Brian Thurlow
Mr Potter venerable old gardener
- 24 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall
10.15am - 12 noon

September 2018

- 7 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall
10.15am - 12 noon
- 11 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30pm
Speaker Mandy Wild
How to look good in a bin bag
- 14 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch
@ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 21 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall
10.15am - 12 noon

To be included in our events diary, please send us a separate notification of your announcement.

PLUS>>>> regular bookings at Blackbourne & Wesley include, Art Club, Baby & Toddler Group, BATS table tennis & badminton, Bingo, Carpet Bowls, Children's dance classes, Companions, Exchange Club, Gardening Club, History Group, Ju Jitsu, Karate, Pilates, Mardle Quilters, Slimming World & WI (afternoon and evening groups).

Ring 244134 for details or email clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk

AMENITIES ASSOCIATION – Annual Report



The Elmswell Amenities Association, the registered charity which, among other things publishes the Newsletter, had its AGM recently at which the Chairman made the following report.

The Association continues to fulfil its various and long standing roles at the heart of the Elmswell community.

The Elmswell Newsletter is so successful that the rules of the, 'Suffolk Newsletter of the Year', award have been changed, debarring the previous year's winners. This year we were allowed to enter and duly won. There are some 40 community members involved in this enterprise, some have been serving for as long as the magazine itself has existed – for 30+ years. Once again, advertising revenue has increased. Of £29,002.00 income, printing costs and admin. absorbed £21,300.00, leaving a contribution to the Association's funds of £7,702.00. Meanwhile, advertising costs for village groups and organisations has remained at the same discounted rate for some 7 years.

The resolution of the tangled Lease problems with Suffolk County Council, latterly Suffolk Libraries IPS, have finally been resolved. Although the substantial resulting income, including back rent, will not show until next year's accounts, it is now banked and leaves us, yet again, in a position to make a difference in our community.

After a fallow year, Trustee Mike Friend, together with Chris Wiley, took up the challenge of filling the boots of the Autumn Fayre with their Elms Fest. The old hands gave some broad-brush advice and then took a back seat - obviously helping on the day - to allow and encourage a very different day out. Despite the 'L' plates the day was a resounding success and almost broke even. I will be supporting the same event next year and hope fellow Trustees will be with me both in spirit and in action as appropriate.

The trusteeship of the Grove Lane playing field remains problematic. The gradual change in social attitudes since the changing rooms were provided does not bode well for arrangements which rely on personal or group responsibility. The facility is uncared for and abused, despite the best efforts of a very few within the village footballing organisations. The promised extension of land at Blackbourne will help take pressure off this rather remote, outdated and declining asset which, in earlier years, was much valued.

I spoke last year of the prospect of community ownership of the Wesley chapel and halls. The

process was painfully protracted as a small group of individuals claimed to have the wherewithal, the skills, experience, drive and backing to purchase, restore and manage the facility. In the process of proving their point they specifically spurned the Amenities Association as not having, 'any relevant experience and knowledge,' regarding community buildings. That unproductive interlude can now be forgotten as common sense triumphed and the Parish Council, as owners on the village's behalf, can apply its undoubted experience and resources to creating another community meeting place to complement Blackbourne, itself an increasingly successful exemplar in terms of community facilities. The Association, over the years, has put considerable financial support the way of the Blackbourne project, money hard earned from its activities including the Autumn Fayres and the Newsletter. I trust that we stand ready again, when appropriate, to fulfil our stated Objects, 'to...provide facilities for recreation or other leisure-time occupation for the said inhabitants in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving their conditions of life.'

Peter Dow, 22.11.17

THE CHRISTMAS CREW

Each year the Elmswell Over 55's Club decorate the Chamberlayne Hall at Christmas for their Christmas party. Each year they are persuaded to put the decorations up early and leave them for longer...so many other groups benefit from their hard work.

Here they are on 25th November decking the Hall for the enjoyment of everyone between now and New Year.



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