

'Like a friend dropping in'



The Elmswell Newsletter



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



Good Advice...



see editorial?



Summer's on the way?...

see page 20



Published on the first Friday of every month by the Elmswell Amenities Association
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PLEASE NOTE Our new 'phone number is 0759 389 3602 for all Amenities Association business, Newsletter and adverts
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Our editorial is designed to inform and to encourage debate.

If you wish to comment, please do so via the office at Gobblins on the industrial estate behind the Fox 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.

ENOUGH POLITICS!

Last Thursday, May 4th, we traipsed to Blackbourne or to the Wesley to lick our pencils and ponder on the choices so temptingly advertised to us over the last few weeks on colourful promissory notes through our doors. Many of us were unsure who or what we were choosing...were we attending the inevitable blossoming of May, or simply picking the people who might help have the potholes filled, who would support the fight to stop disposable nappies going into the green bin?

On 8th June we'll be invited back. This one will have been on the tele., so we'll be aware that it's the Son of Brexit vote. Big, important stuff with swingometers and Dimlebens and a different dramatic Twitter gaffe each day.

A confusing system, but, better, we are assured, than the North Korean way of things. And even the most cynical saloon bar pundit must agree that Kim's game, outside of the Baden Powell sense, is not one we'd enjoy playing. Our freedom of speech, despite the best efforts of the humus munching metropolitan elite (you can tell who they are, they spell it, 'houmous'), allows us to call a political opponent a mugwump without fear of losing our fingernails or some close family members. But a system where the winner takes all and where the word, 'choice', rings less than true.

Whatever the national picture, East Anglia, protruding Kardashian-like into the chilly North Sea, remains in the political stasis that was established when the voters mostly worked for the politicians who owned the land, the houses and the opinions. Since the Liberals were ousted in 1880, the constituency of Bury St Edmunds has remained resolutely of one political hue. Even the Bambi Boomers of the 1997 landslide could only creep to within 368 votes of snatching choice from the chosen, losing by 1% of the votes cast. We are beneficiaries of the establishment's grip on the 'first past the post' voting system where original thought is stifled for, as Churchill once reasoned, 'the best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with a voter'.

Hence the shock-horror of the June 23rd referendum result. Voting by people not parties. The political class in disarray. Only punctuation separating the phrase, 'People revolting!' from, 'People? Revolting!'

Hence our heartfelt headline cry, 'Enough Politics'. At either local or national level, why bother? We are told that a tick in the box can cure the NHS malaise, or the shortcomings of education locally. But the problems of blight in these and other areas have arisen whilst we have been in the tender care of those very people who now offer to fix them.

To adapt a phrase borrowed from a recently emerged transatlantic Champion of the People, it must be, 'Elmswell First', if we are to have any chance of fighting our corner. The responsibility for our widely perceived, 'fine mess', can no longer be, 'their', fault. We cannot avoid complicity if, knowing that Elmswell comes low on the political to-do list, we twitter our frustrations away or stamp our little Facebook feet between pledging to fight world poverty and sharing disgust at the lack of colour choice in the new iPhone 7 plus (although, at a push, the Rose Gold is acceptable and laudably gender-neutral).

Hence local democracy in action. The recent public meeting called at Blackbourne by individuals with no political ties resulted in action. Volunteers recently sat over a full 12-hour day logging the traffic, both road and rail, over the level crossing. Their findings will test those of the professionals employed in a parallel exercise on our behalf by the Parish Council to conduct a thorough survey of traffic flows and junction capacities in the village so that arguments against the figures wheeled out in support of recent housing development proposals can be founded in fact. Similarly, the Parish Council's own Viability Study commissioned with grant funding to assess the costs – both in money and in growth – implicit in the aspirational scheme for a Relief Road is soon published. Surely there's a chance someone will sit up and take notice?

But, although the people might speak onto power, fear of the people's voice runs deep. In 2011, the Government's Localism Act promised much. Most notably, the idea of a Neighbourhood Plan whereby a properly tested community view on future growth would have the power of Planning law. Elmswell could have suggested, for example, that a 56% uplift in housing stock over the next 10 years is, well, just a little over the top. Unless, of course, the Health Centre was made capable, a new school provided, the road system improved to take the traffic, etc – little things, but important to us. Five years on and The System remains firmly in charge. Various obstacles have made progress on such Plans difficult, and those that have succeeded have often fallen victim to sleight of hand. Most recently, the Communities Secretary has 'called in' a housing scheme in Sussex to probe its compliance with an emerging neighbourhood plan which seeks to designate the site as local green space. Localism has had its say, but Government speaks louder. In Newmarket, despite the local decision to support a major development scheme producing much-needed market and affordable housing, and despite the validity of the Plan on which the decision relied, the Secretary of State has argued decisively that the threat to the horse

racing industry carried substantial weight, particularly the risks arising from increased traffic and congestion at a junction used widely by racehorses. Localism is alive and well if we all accept that Westminster is local.

Elmswell's Annual Parish Meeting at Blackbourne on 24th May (see page 23) gives another chance to voice grievances. In all honesty, there's little more to be said about the nonsense scenario that faces us – us and Thurston and Woolpit and so many communities around development honey-pots in South East England. But we are promised a panel of those who know the system, who listen to our concerns and do what they can within the ever-changing statutory and Planning advisory frameworks to address them.

It starts at 7.30, but do allow time for the crossing gates.



Your Newsletter Fact File

For the next 6 months we need copy by:

May 23rd	June 27th
July 25th	August 22nd
September 26th	October 18th

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Your editors:

Jean Barker, Maggie Bushell, Peter Dow

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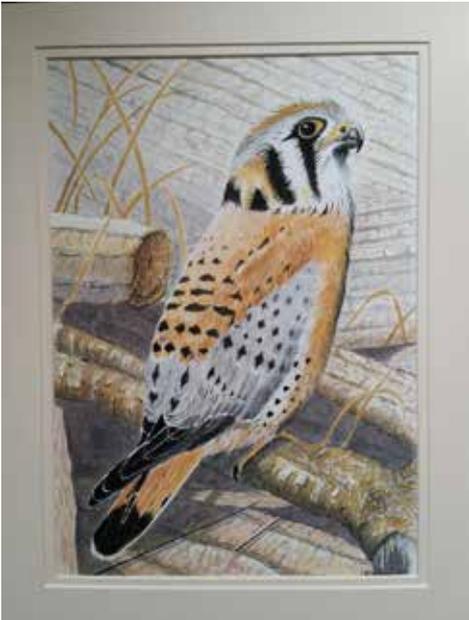
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CLUBS & SOCIETIES



ELMSWELL ART CLUB

May is a great month for artists. The more clement weather and the blossoming trees, make it a wonderful opportunity to get outside to paint the beautiful spring landscapes.

To all who appreciate art and all would be artists, please do come along to the Elmswell

Art Exhibition which takes place on the weekend of May 6th and 7th at the Wesley Hall. There will be a large selection of our artists work plus tea, coffee and cake will be available.

The art work displayed this month is a delicately painted water colour of a bird of prey by Annette Blanchard and Patricia Quick has a unique combination of clever cut out trees and

a water colour background that creates a lovely 3D effect. Lastly I have include one of Bob Colman's masterful wild life paintings of a Wren near its nesting box.

Art Club Secretary,
Josephine Hale,
01359 242592



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ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

Our speaker for the April meeting was Edward Martin; the title of his talk was "The Moated Houses of Suffolk".

The first places Edward spoke about were very local to us here at Elmswell – Haughley, with its motte and bailey castle built by Hugh de Montfort in the 11th Century, ringworks at Fakenham Magna, Acton Hall near Sudbury and Wattisham Hall.

Elmswell Hall was built as the Abbot's Lodge by the monks at Bury Abbey and parts of the house date back to 1550-80. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries it was granted to Sir Thomas D'arcy of St Osyth and then came into the possession of Sir Robert Gardener, who also owned Breccles Hall just over the Norfolk boundary and Newe House, Pakenham.

In East Anglia it is usual to find churches and manorial moated halls close together. There are around 2,500 moated halls in East Anglia with 5,307 in England. At Westhorpe, there are the remains of the moated hall which was owned by Charles Brandon, 1st Duke of Suffolk who married Mary Tudor, Queen of France. Most of the hall has been demolished - little is left except for a bridge over the moat.

Edward showed some excellent photos to illustrate his talk. One of the most complete examples of a moat and hall is at Helmingham. The present building was started by John Tollemache in 1391, with his descendants adding buildings in 1480 and further modifications taking place in the 17th and 18th centuries. The property has belonged to the Tollemache family since 1391. Many of the original domestic buildings are still there, with the Church a short walk away.

The Group's next meeting on Thursday 11 May will be held at the Wesley Hall, School Road, Elmswell at 7.30pm when Mark Mitchels will be speaking about one of Suffolk's most famous women – Dr Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, England's first woman Doctor who was later to become Mayor of Aldeburgh.

Then on Thursday 8 June the AGM will start at 7pm and will be held in St John's Church. Our speaker following the AGM will be Paul Peachey and his subject 'Elmswell in Postcards'.

At both of these meetings tickets for our SUMMER OUTING will be on sale.

On Saturday 15 July we meet at West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village at 9.50am for a prompt 10am start of a guided tour. Cost £3 for EHG members or £5 for non-members; booking and payment required in advance.

Please share lifts if possible – on site parking is £2 per car. The journey from Elmswell takes about 25 minutes.

More information will be available at the meetings in May and June.

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

ELMSWELL EXCHANGE SOCIAL CLUB

This month we welcomed Mr. Jackson from Woolpit Nurseries to our meeting. He told us that 38 years ago he started Woolpit Nurseries growing tomatoes after working in horticulture for some years and deciding to be his own boss. His daughter and son in law now run the business. They supply Bury St. Edmunds and Stowmarket councils with hanging baskets as well as the public. During the season they plant 3000 hanging baskets so we certainly had the right person showing us how to plant one!

He told us to think about the position of our baskets and the plants we use. A windy situation is not ideal as you land up with spinning baskets! Mr. Jackson's tips included always use the best quality compost - he is not a fan of reduced peat content, use a large basket as it retains moisture more effectively. His choice of plants were 3 fuchsias, 3 geraniums and 3 dichondra. We were told to water them every day and after the first 3 weeks, the plants should be fed every 2 weeks. That means there's no excuse for less than perfect baskets from now on!

Mr. Jackson explained that Woolpit Nurseries do not produce new strains of plants as it is an expensive business due to all the legalities. He also wondered if "Brexit" would mean our plants from E.U. countries would be more expensive in the future.

We all enjoyed his talk which was informative and amusing.

After refreshments and the raffle, members were reminded to pay for our trip to Felixstowe on 23rd May.

Our next meeting is a trip to Scottsdale leaving the Wesley Hall at 11am on 16th May.

Sylvia would like to thank everyone for the prayers, good wishes and cards that she has received. They are all greatly appreciated.

Our next meeting at the Wesley Hall will be June 20th. Our speaker will be Mr. Newman who is a Prison Officer.

New members always welcome.

Enquiries to Carol: 242 884

ELMSWELL OVER 55's CLUB

Our meeting on April 6th saw a large turnout of members and some visitors enjoy the talented voice of Maureen Wilson from Old Newton. We have just booked her to return by popular demand on Thursday November 2nd to replace the advertised entertainer listed on the card and in the whats on section of the newsletter.

April 20th was an evening of Bingo which was attended by approx 45 members. A get well card was signed by all present which was sent to Sylvia Walton wishing her a speedy recovery.

We will have been on our first trip out by the time you receive this edition of the newsletter, after travelling the byways of Suffolk and Essex we reached Clacton on Sea for our Carvery Lunch at

the "Toby Carvery" followed by some free time before returning home.

On May 18th we welcome Barry Peters "as our singer for the evening visitors are welcome to join us. This is followed by "Harbour Lights Trio" on June 1st which is also an open evening.

We still have seats available for the visit to The Chelsea Pensioners on July 27th £50 all inclusive and limited rooms for the Holiday to Bournemouth on August 7th @ £286 pp.

Please contact me if anyone is interested or for any other enquiries. **Diann (241002)**

ELMSWELL W.I. INSPIRING WOMEN

After welcoming everyone, Rachel told us that Sylvia Walton is in hospital. Sylvia is well-known in Elmswell for her unique personality and sense of humour as well as her generosity. She has a wonderful smile, which lights up any room and was very much missed at our meeting. We hope that she is soon feeling more comfortable.

Rachel told us that the A.G.M. at the Apex was an excellent meeting and Elizabeth Landsman's last, as an officer. In her talk, she was concerned by how other people view the W.I. The resolution for invisible disabilities was passed. Other speakers were Deborah Cadman, the Chief Executive at Suffolk County Council, Liz O'Rearden, a breast surgeon at Ipswich Hospital, who had breast cancer herself in 2015 and now takes part in triathlons and finally, Giles Brandreth, who was hilarious! So everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day. Julie Higgins is the new Federation Chairwoman.

Dates for our diaries were as follows: Scrabble at Anna's, 18.4; Techy sessions, 21.4, 12.5 and 16.6; Soup and Natter, 5.5; Art Exhibition at the Wesley Hall, 6.5 and 7.5, 10-4 pm. and 20.6, Walk and Mill Tower Visit at Bury St. Edmunds.

Our talk for the evening was about "Frank and Earnest," a coffee company, which was set up about two years ago by Richard Clark (Jan's son) and his partner. They import carefully-selected coffee beans from all over the world and roast them to produce distinctively-flavoured coffee. They have a cafe on Easton Way but will soon be moving to the Brew Shed, on Tayfen Rd., Bury St. Edmunds. However, their business is mainly wholesale, selling to cafes and restaurants. They recently had a stall at the London Coffee Festival and are becoming more well-known.

We learnt a lot about roasting coffee and the skills needed to produce different flavours: light roasting results in a fruity flavour and medium to high makes it more caramelized. The "Frank and Earnest" name was chosen to express the company's philosophy. They only use the best Arabica beans from single origins and use Fair Trade farmers, as much as they can. Everyone enjoyed trying the various coffees on offer. They were of different strengths and flavours, according to how the beans had been roasted. A very interesting evening!

Next month we shall be holding our A.G.M. and playing the intriguing game known as "Handbag Bingo!"

Rosie Collins 01359 241652



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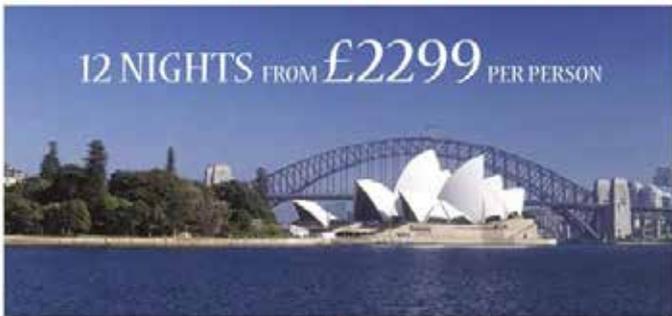
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ELMSWELL EXCHANGE (AFTERNOON) WI

What an amazing afternoon we spent with Imogen Sheeran on April 5th. This was our Annual Open Meeting. We were delighted with the response. We counted 46 in all and there was a definite buzz in the Wesley Hall. Imogen's passion is beads. Not just beads, but "Beads from Around the World" which was the title of her talk. Everything, from creations made with paper, wood, ceramic to felted wool and more. Some of the examples were beautiful in their colour and detail. She demonstrated the art of making paper beads which are produced by the Ugandan women from waste magazine paper. What they earn helps to feed the family and educate their children. The Women's Institute is staunchly supportive of empowering women, not only in England and Wales, but across the world. Her presentation was inspiring, followed by the opportunity to purchase some of her creations. Many of us did just that. Imogen, like her son Ed, is a great supporter of EACH and 30% of her profits on the day will be given to this worthy cause. Below is a picture of Imogen and her Beads from Around the World.



This was followed by a Buffet Tea prepared by the Committee.

Our competition was "A Beaded Item". First was Sylvia, second Margaret Hitchens and third Barbara. This was naturally, judged by Imogen.

Our May meeting, like all other WI. groups, will be taken up by our Annual Meeting and our Resolutions. We are hoping to recruit more members over the coming year. They will always be welcomed by an informal and friendly group of ladies.

For further details contact Maureen on 241033 or Barbara on 242788.



ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB



Gardening Club members are never 'doubting Thomases'. They know that May will fulfil her promise of a wonderful June. The station flowers are looking magnificent despite the frosts and Nick thinks that with a little string and sticky-back tape our tubs will last another season.

Members enjoyed a thoughtful lecture – full of hope – about Wicken Fen. Peter Green, a National Trust volunteer speaker, gave us an insight into the history and current-day conservation of one of the first nature reserves obtained by the National Trust. It was founded by the purchase of 4 acres at Wicken Fen in 1899 for £10. This was partly due to the vision of social reformer, Octavia Hill, who wished to give "the life-enhancing virtues of pure earth, clean air and blue sky" to the urban poor. Wicken Fen is a low-lying wetland area of East Anglia formed after the Ice Age, being mostly peat over gault clay with chalk islands. Hence Ely, 'the Ship of the Fens' is perched defensively on a chalk island. The rivers Ouse, Nene and Welland drain through Wicken Fen into The Wash and the Romans harnessed these waterways into navigable lodes. Over the centuries Wicken Fen's lowland marshes were not only a safe haven for Fenlanders but a major trading area. If you could stand the mosquitoes there was abundant wildfowl, eels, reeds and peat. Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries enabled the Earl



of Bedford to purchase most of the fen areas. He employed Dutch engineer, Vermuyden, to drain them for agricultural land. The Fen Tigers fought for their boggy land but profit not biodiversity was on the Earl's mind. The lost fens have been called England's greatest ecological disaster. During the last two centuries the National Trust has acquired large tracts of fen farmland. Peter told us the long-term plan is to purchase the land between Wicken Fen and Anglesey Abbey and restore it from its denuded state to a wild managed landscape with flowering meadows, sedge and reed beds. Grazing herds of Highland cattle and Polish Konik ponies help maintain this diverse range of habitats much to the delight of the many species of dung beetle. Octavia Hill would have thrilled to see walkers, riders and pond-dippers enjoying the managed wilderness that is Wicken Fen.

Members brought in a wide variety of plants and our plant exchange went very well. Our next Gardening Club meeting will be on



Tuesday, 16th May, 7.30pm at the Blackbourne. Plantsman, Matthew Tanton-Brown, from The Place for Plants at East Bergholt will give a talk about 'Seasonal Interest in the Garden'. Also, he will have some plants for us to sample and buy. 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.

citizens advice

Mid Suffolk

I've hired a builder for a loft conversion but he's now asking for more money to finish the job, despite agreeing a price in an email. What should I do?

Your options depend on whether you got an estimate from the builder, or a quote. An estimate is a rough outline of costs, while a quote gives exact costs both parties agree to.

If you got an estimate, ask the builder for a breakdown of the new costs - both materials and labour. The builder needs to be able to explain the price rise.

Try and negotiate if you think the new costs are unreasonable. Asking another builder or a trade association for an estimate could help you decide what's fair, and where to start your negotiation.

If the builder won't negotiate, make a complaint to them in writing describing why you think the costs are unreasonable.

If they still don't bring their price down, you can check if the builder is a member of a trade association to see if they can help. Or you could look for an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) scheme - this is an independent third party who can help you to reach a resolution.

Quotes are a legal agreement, so the builder shouldn't be charging more unless there were unexpected events affecting the work, or an error in their calculations. Contact an ADR scheme if there were no mitigating circumstances, who will help you to resolve the situation.

For further help and advice, contact Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk on 01449 676060 or email advice@midsuffolcab.org.uk or call in and see us at 5 Milton Road South, Stowmarket, Suffolk. IP14 1EZ

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ELMSWELL BABY & TODDLER GROUP

It was at the September Elmswell Baby & Toddler Nearly New Sale at the Blackbourne Centre that I won a prize in the raffle, and I decided to collect it from the group's Monday session just afterwards. It was so friendly and my daughter Jess had such a good time that we started to come regularly... and now I'm chair which just goes to show you really can find pretty much anything at one of our sales!



This month we held another sale and raised £1420 for the group. Things were looking a bit fraught with a shortage of volunteers but a few people really rallied round staying all day or coming in last minute and it was lovely to see. The sale is a vital part of our funding and proceeds from the sale mean that we can do things like our crafts, trips out and our easter egg hunt so your

help is really important and helps make the group as good as it is. I would like to say a really big thank you to all the volunteers who made it possible whether you donated cakes or clothes or gave up your time to help out on the weekend – and that includes the people at home babysitting. I'd like to say a special thank you to Pennie Rogers who coordinates it all and Simon Taylor who drove to the rescue in his white van to transport the rails for us! Marion deserves a mention for volunteering on her birthday as do Kia and Gina who both came with their very young babies to help us out. Then at the other end of the scale are the people whose children outgrew toddlers years ago or do not attend group (our lovely ladies in the kitchen, Christine, Dawn, Anne and Ella who was full of beans and so helpful at the end). In fact people who do not come to toddlers accounted for over half of our volunteers – something which I hope we'll be redressing at the next sale.

I'd also like to welcome Myla Chambers back to the group. Myla was diagnosed with a very rare heart condition and it has been a very stressful time for her family (especially her parents Michelle and Scott). Happily Myla's operation at Great Ormand Street went well and she is on the mend, it is so great to see her and Eddie back at the group and we all hope that her recovery continues. My advice is to enjoy the peace Eddie – it won't be that long until she's crawling after you!

This weekend the clocks went back and which should mean that spring is officially here. Let's hope that someone lets the weather know so that we can get out into the enclosed garden and have some outdoor fun. I'm hoping for sunny weather for our easter egg hunt but I have a contingency plan just in case. I'm toying with the idea of finding a victim volunteer if I can get my hands on a free bunny suit...when is my sister due to visit...

April's nice weather meant we could have some fun out in the garden at Wesley Hall – including the great Easter egg hunt. The Easter bunny made a lot of mess hiding those eggs in some very odd places (well, that's my story and I'm sticking to it), baths of porridge, bowls of pasta and even some bright balls of pink wool. There are many new experiences I thought I'd have as a parent, but transporting red porridge in a tub in the car definitely wasn't one of them. I'm not entirely sure who had more fun; the children or me.

We may be taking a break from the garden because it looks like the weather may turn a bit colder for a while, as I sit here writing this it's raining too. It doesn't matter though, as there's still plenty of fun to be had playing in the hall or having a go with one of our crafts. I have to say I loved seeing the bunnies that were made out of all those odd socks and the photos of them sunbathing. I'm sure that's one we'll be doing again and it's going to be a tough act to follow... are our clothes peg insects up to the job? You'll just have to join us and find out!

If there's a craft you'd like us to do or would like to have a go at organising one then please let me know. We love to have people get involved and it's good to have new ideas for the children, although my daughter Jessica is generally more interested in seeing if its edible and leaving me to do the making if it's not.

I'd like to give a big welcome to some of the new faces we have seen join us over the last few weeks. It's nice to know that as some of our bigger children

get ready to go off on new adventures there will be new babies and toddlers coming in to take their place on the slides.

Just a final reminder that while we are open most Mondays and Wednesday mornings we don't run sessions on the bank holidays so please remember that there will be no group on the 1st or the 29th of May. We will also be closed on the 8th and 17th of May as we'll be at Playworld in Stowmarket for our toddler trip out. It's usually me who forgets so if you see me looking confused outside the hall on any of those dates please feel free to remind me.



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ELMSWELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

You will all have read in the local newspapers or heard on the radio about the £200,000 reduction in the grant given to Suffolk Libraries by Suffolk County Council. The budget is already 33% less than it was in 2010, when Suffolk Libraries IPS took over the running of all 44 libraries, the mobile service, the school's library service (now LBaRT) and some prison libraries. Since then we have seen a massive change in how the organisation is run and we have been held up in a national report as the gold standard for how libraries should be run. We have also extended the mental health and wellbeing offer, updated the IT delivery (which should extend this year to a new self service machine), and reached out into communities as never before.

But tough choices will have to be made – currently there is no suggestion of library closures, charging for statutory services or handing libraries over to volunteers but opening hours may have to be looked at, as will the levels of paid staff and what we do for free as opposed to what we could charge for – as we do for DVDs, CDs and computer games currently. And to make these decisions we need your help – there is still a chance to complete the customer survey which is at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SuffolkLibraries2017

Suffolk Libraries Customer Survey 2017 - The Next Five Years

www.surveymonkey.co.uk

Web survey powered by SurveyMonkey.com. Create your own online survey now with SurveyMonkey's expert certified FREE templates.

Or you can pop into the library for a paper copy which we can forward on.

One of the ways the service has changed has been the addition of community groups to the libraries network and at Elmswell we are so lucky to have ELF, which has raised funds to totally refurbish your library and buy equipment when it has got 'over-loved'.

The AGM was held on April 26th and once again Jimmy Jewell agreed to stay on as chairman, June Pursglove as secretary and Jim King as treasurer. During his chairman's report Jimmy said: "Although there still remains uncertainty within libraries in Suffolk, I believe we are well equipped, not only to survive, but to grow Elmswell Library into a strong and vibrant cog in the Suffolk Libraries wheel." While giving the library report, manager Emma Yarrow thanked all the members of ELF for their support and hard work: "ELF really is the most incredible team and if there is some doom and gloom in the future I am confident we will remain an example of how a community group can be an enormous asset to a village library."

We are always looking for people to get involved in ELF activities – such as the forthcoming wine night on June 23rd. If you are interested please leave your name and number at the library and we will be in touch. Or if you want to contribute you could do as Oliver Jackson did, when he organised a hugely successful fundraising race night at The Maypole in Wetherden. He split £1,000 between Elmswell

Library Friends (ELF) and Prostate Cancer UK. Oliver said: "I am involved in the ITFC 'Tour of Suffolk' in mid-May for Prostate Cancer UK and thought a race night would be a great fundraiser. (see picture) Linking it with ELF meant attendees could see a local benefit as well as a national charity being supported. I was amazed at the amount we raised, it was double what I expected and down to all the hard work by everyone involved."

And remember some forthcoming dates – the Community Café will be at Dorothy's at 10:30am on Wednesday, May 17th and the Family History Group will be at 2:30pm on Wednesday, May 3rd, 17th and 31st.

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

Emma Yarrow
Elmswell Library manager



OIL SYNDICATE MAY 2017

Dear Member

I am writing to let you know after much consideration and sadness (and for various reasons) I will no longer be organising the Elmswell Oil Syndicate for us all.

Even though I have 93 members/households on the books, I probably only hear from approximately 15-20 households, for which I thank you for giving me repeat orders over the years. It was great to have cheaper oil, even if we only saved between 5 – 10 pence per litre, but it all helps.

I did write to you all in March 2015, asking if you are still interested in being in the Club and thank you to those that replied. Sadly I did not hear back from many of you, so I just presumed

that if I didn't hear, you would still be interested in placing orders when required.

It is not a five minute job contacting the 10 plus different oil companies for the best price (and haggling when/where necessary), whilst working full time in a busy office, for which I do not gain anything financially – it was not the reason why I took the club over.

So THANK YOU for you 'die hard' members. I was lovely chatting to you either on the phone or by email over time. If any of you want to carry on chatting, I would be delighted to hear from you. You have my details.

Would anyone like to take this over

If yes, please let me know

If you do not want your details to be passed to another person, please let me know by Friday 19th MAY 2017 - latest. If I haven't heard from you by then, I will presume that I can forward on your address and contact details to another person if someone comes forward wanting to take this over.

Again thank you to those of you who used this facility – sorry to be bailing out.

Best Wishes
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ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Hello from St John's! If you'd like to know about our church, please get in touch! Revd Peter Goodridge, 01359 240512, elmswellrector@gmail.com, www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk ...and find us on facebook.

How was your Easter? We hope that you had the opportunity to celebrate. We had a selection of services during the Easter period. Some were quieter, times for reflection, prayer and stillness. Others were a more boisterous celebration including egg hunting and enthusiastic children shaking various musical instruments.

If you haven't had chance to pop down to St John's on a Sunday morning yet, why not make it your own personal May Mission? We have a selection of services available... different start times, different lengths, different worship styles, different child-friendly activities – but always the same smiley warm welcome and truth-centred fellowship. We would love you to join us one week!

During April, we had our ever popular "Ladies Lunch" and "Mens Breakfast". These lovely informal meals are a great opportunity to meet people from the village and learn something new! The guest at the men's breakfast was Andy Malcolm, who talked about the Mission for Deep Sea Fishermen. Keep checking out our weekly notice sheets and facebook page for details of the next events :)

At the end of April we also had our annual meetings. We hold these during a regular Sunday morning service and there is input from all the people who keep St John's thriving. It's a great way to learn who's-who and what's-what at St John's.

We are gearing up for some summer events in Elmswell. Please "save the dates" in your diary so you don't miss out! (Details are below.) We have fairs and BBQs and lunches galore!

Sunday 7th May

9:30am All Age Service
11:00am Traditional Service (BCP)

Sunday 14th May

8:00am Morning Prayer (BCP)
10:30am Morning Service

Sunday 21st May

9:30am Breakfast Service (breakfast from 9:00am)
11:00am Holy Communion

Thursday 25th May

7:30pm Ascension Day Service, which begins a special week of prayer for Elmswell (check out our web site for details nearer the time)

Sunday 28th May

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

Sunday 4th June

9:30am All Age Service
11:00am Traditional Service (BCP)
6:30pm Joint Pentecost Service at the Baptist Church

And into the summer:

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 09:00 "Watt-a-Lott" Holiday Club begins

THE FRIENDS OF ST JOHN'S CHURCH, ELMSWELL

On Saturday 10 June The Friends welcome you to a fund raising Coffee Morning from 10-12noon in the Church.

There will be various stalls, including Books, Bric a Brac, Cakes, New items, Photographs of Suffolk Scenes, Plants and Preserves, etc.

Everyone is welcome. Admission Free.

(The Coffee Morning will be preceded by the AGM of The Friends at 9.30am)

For more information t. 242099

ST JOHN'S FLOODLIGHTING

30th April 2017 marked the end of the 23rd year of floodlighting St. John's Tower, a year in which we raised £872. This brings the sum accumulated since we started to a magnificent £18,852

. Over the years floodlighting the tower has become an integral part of village life. As well as raising funds for St. John's, it has become a very popular way of enhancing the profile of the church itself. As "taker of the money"

I would like to say, once again, a huge public THANK YOU to all those people who have sponsored the lights during 2016/17, and before.

Your support is hugely appreciated. St. John's really does benefit from your generosity; and many parishioners have told me how much they enjoy seeing our beacon on the hill

as they make their way home along the A14 late at night. Thank you all. As always, you are welcome to sponsor the floodlighting of St. John's, which helps 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, simply make a donation. For the summer months the lights will be on between 8.00 p.m. and midnight. A night's floodlighting costs £5. Cheques payable to "ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, ELMSWELL".

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- 1 Peter Worby. "15 whole years since you died, and sadly missed". Your loving wife Jean.
- 2 in memory of John Ray.
- 2 Dorothy Welin. "Rest in peace". The Booker Family.
- 3 in memory of John Ray.
- 4 in memory of John Ray.
- 4 in memory of John Davidson - Dad - who passed away on 4th May 2010.
- 5 in memory of John Ray.
- 5 Jane Goodchild. Remembering you on your Birthday. Love Colin. XX.
- 6 in memory of John Ray.
- 7 in memory of John Ray.
- 7 in loving memory of Rose Emma Manning.
- 9 in loving memory of Peter Rose on his Birthday.
- 9 remembering Rachel Louise Finch on her Birthday.
- 14 remembering Percy Pleasance, a dear Dad, Grandad and Great-Grandad, on his Birthday.
- 15 in loving memory of Joy Elizabeth Oliver on her Birthday.
- 16 anon.
- 22 anon.
- 25 Ted Rookard. Treasured loving memories of a Husband, Dad & Grandad, from all his family.
- 27 to remember and thank all those past Elmswell Fire-Fighters who served their village and community so well.
- 28 Dean Goodchild. Remembering you on your Birthday. Love Colin. XX.
- 30 in memory of Mark Jones. "Always in our thoughts". Mum & Dad.

All bookings and payments please to :-

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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

Easter probably the most important Christian Festival has been and gone for another year, to many people it's all about chocolate eggs and hot x buns but to Christians it is the basis of our faith, we believe in two implausible occurrences the virgin birth and the resurrection of Jesus. We at the Baptist church joined with our fellow Christian friends from the parish church for a service on Good Friday where we remembered Christ's suffering for us on the cross and then on Easter Sunday we celebrated in our own churches his resurrection. Our next significant festival will be Pentecost when we will meet with

our Anglican friends to remember when the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and thus began the Christian Church that has developed into what we know today, many different ways to worship but with the same fundamental belief in Jesus as our lord and saviour.

Our activities for May continue with on the 8th May at 7.45pm our Ladies Friendship which is exactly what it says in the name a gathering of ladies who don't all attend our church services who meet each month to hear speakers or see demonstrations in a friendly non pressurised atmosphere, followed by the obligatory refreshments, this month as Tony wrote last month the ladies will be hearing about the work of an Ipswich based Charity "Talitha Koum" if any ladies out there are interested in this event just come along or contact Margaret on 241541.

On Thursday 10th May at mid day our Food & Friends Lunch for our senior citizens takes place at the church where we look forward to welcoming folk for a home cooked lunch and chat with a friendly group of ladies and gents, if you haven't been before and are interested in joining us contact Jackie on 245918 to book a place.

Our services during May will be led by:-

- 7th May Stephen Spurgeon (including Communion)
- 14th May Stephen Spurgeon (All Age Worship Children Friendly)
- 21st May Dr Frank Fairweather
- 28th May The Congregation (We all take a small part in the service)
- 4th June Rev Barbara Challis

We at the Baptist Church endeavour to project the love of God in a warm and relaxed atmosphere our services start at 10.30 AM each Sunday why not give us a visit, to find out more about us have a look on our website www.elmswellbaptist.org.uk or contact either of the numbers above. *Dave*



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This Spring, Spinning Wheel Theatre's charming and heartwarming adaptation of Frances Hodgson Burnett's treasured childhood novel hits the road across East Anglia. A joyful and uplifting tale of magic, friendship and hope, this is a show for all the family - not to be missed!

Blackbourne Community Centre, Elmswell
Thursday 8th June, 7.30pm
Tickets: £9.50 (£7.50 concessions)
Available from www.spinningwheeltheatre.com or Station Pharmacy, Elmswell



NEWS FROM ELMSWILD

Wonderful willow

We planted willow at Lukeswood several years ago in one of the wettest areas of the site near the pond. It grows very easily – you just push a willow wand into the ground and it quickly takes root. We grew it as a crop, with the aim of cutting it every year and using the cuttings to make fences, hurdles and other structures. This year we managed to get enough to start making a back wall for the pole barn, as shown in our photo. Our first effort at this kind of work has turned out quite well! Using hazel rods as upright supports, the willow strands are twisted into threes and woven in and out to make a decorative panel. Not quite what you'd buy at the garden centre, but still very effective (and rustic looking!). Next year we hope to cut enough to finish that panel and start one of the sides. All the smaller pieces which are not long enough for weaving are there for the Forest School children to use. We're sure they'll love making all sorts of crafty things with them – perhaps even their own mini hurdles!



As soon as the willow has been cut it starts to grow again – see the green shoots in our photo. After each cut it produces even more stems and it grows taller. The aim is to get as many



six plus cuttings as possible – these are the best for weaving. Cutting in this way doesn't harm the trees; they will eventually grow into willow pollards, with a thick stump producing multiple stems every year.

Spring flowers



Despite being the driest spring for twenty years, this year has been good for early flowers. At Lukeswood we've had celandine, violets and a lovely patch of cowslips.

We also discovered a small group of lady's smock, with its pale pink petals. This is a first for Lukeswood, and we look forward to it spreading further into the site. In general, we don't sow or plant wildflowers at Lukeswood, preferring to wait and see what comes up naturally. This has worked well at Kiln Meadow, where we now have a variety of wildflowers through the year, including three types of orchid. However, we have planted some bluebells and ramsons, in the hope that these might naturalise and spread. Suffolk has some magnificent bluebell woods



(including Haughley Park on our doorstep), but equally there are many lovely woods where bluebells are entirely absent. If the conditions are right, they will thrive; if not, there's not much you can do to get them to establish. Ours are hanging on for the moment – we'll just have to wait and see if they spread and in years to come create a magical carpet of blue through the woodland.

Visitors will also have noticed a lot of daffodils growing amongst the trees at the top end of the site. We didn't plant these, they are escapees from the neighbouring gardens. These are not really suitable for a woodland setting, so this year we've transplanted them to the entrance to Lukeswood where we hope they will make a lovely splash of colour next spring.



BioBlitz

Our plans for the Lukeswood Bioblitz are progressing apace and we've had some very useful and generous offers of equipment. If you haven't already done so, put the date in your diary – Friday 30th June and Saturday 1st July. Don't forget our bat walk on the Friday evening: places are limited, so if you'd like to take part please get in touch to book your place. There will be lots more in next month's Newsletter!

Mary Feeney

info@elmswild.org.uk

Tel: 241901



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Remember to ask an adult to help you.

Make your own pizza

Ingredients

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

Method

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

Remember to wash your hands before and after cooking.



Method

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

Yummy Chocolate Cake

Ingredients

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



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AROUND & ABOUT

ELMSWHEELIANS 2017

We are back on the road! Taking full advantage of some beautiful evening weather on Sunday 9th April, 13 riders set off on our first ride of the year.



Our 16 mile route that took us out of the village along Church Road and Bunkers Hill to join the A1088 briefly before turning towards Tostock Green. Then it was on to High Rougham, Hessett, Drinkstone Park, Drinkstone Green, Woolpit Green, Borley Green, and back into Elmswell via Warren Lane to "The Fox", where we rounded off the ride with well-earned refreshment.

Slight navigational issues at High Rougham, but speedily resolved, and all-in-all, a thoroughly enjoyable ride. Well done everyone who took part.

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. 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.

All rides will start, in time-honoured tradition, from Abbots Warren, Church Road, Elmswell.

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



COOMUNITY SPEED WATCH

The Elmswell team continue their roadside checks, sharing their findings with SCC Highways and, of course, with the Police. Meanwhile new rules from the Sentencing Council came into force on April 24th. Fines can now be a minimum of 150% of the offender's weekly wage.

If you share concerns about the dangers that speed causes on our roads here in Elmswell, contact our local group for a chat - call Mo Coulling on 0777 469 5784



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2017 St John's Lent Photo Challenge

Lent doesn't have to be about "giving something up" or "restricting oneself". Lent can just as easily be a productive time. Think about it this way: taking something up, is effectively giving up your time. Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter in the Christian calendar. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter.

This year, we took part in the St John's Lent Photo Challenge. There were 40 words – one for each day of lent – and the challenge was to find a photo (or two or three!) that represented that word to you as an individual. Lent is a time to reflect and draw closer to God, so we aimed to do just that with the words for each day. So, how did it go...?

"The Lent Photo Challenge has given me the focus I need to think more deeply about aspects of Lent, and Easter, and to make them relevant to my life now. It has given me the opportunity to talk to friends and family about Lent, and to discuss aspects of Christian life with them. It also gave me time each day to be quiet and reflective."

Social media offers a new platform for easily sharing photos with the world. Copies of our challenge photos are delivered directly to the hand (via a tablet or smartphone) and home (via PCs and email inboxes) of our friends and family. Reaching out to people, in this friendly, non-confrontational way, has helped them think about these words from a spiritual and Christian perspective. Ultimately, we've been spreading the Christian message. Friends contacted our "St-John's-Photo-Challengers" to talk about the words, to share their own photos, to like (in the Facebook sense of the word) and add comments to the images they saw.

"I have spent time researching the meaning and thinking about different situations to which the word can be applied. Constructing prayer around each word has made me think deeply about meanings and situations. ... And, yes, doing this exercise has made me think of God and be more aware of His presence."

Looking at words, their construction, their meaning, the ways they can be used is completely fascinating. It's been interesting to spend time thinking about each word and what it means to different individuals in different circumstances. Our "Challengers" have also been able to discover meanings they had not thought of previously. The words in the challenge are vast: some positive, some negative, some comforting, some warm, some harsh, some cold. But all challenging and thought provoking.

"I found that each word has stayed with me throughout the day and has been the subject of constant thought"

Maybe the Photo Challenge interests you? Maybe you have questions about Lent and Christianity? Maybe you'd like to embark on a 40-day commitment to yourself, your world, your God? If you have questions, please get in touch! Revd Peter Goodridge, 01359 240512, elmswellrector@gmail.com, www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk ...and find us on facebook. Everyone is always welcome.

Revd Peter Goodridge, 01359 240512
elmswellrector@gmail.com
www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk
www.facebook.com/stjohnselmswell/



ST JOHN'S LENT PHOTO CHALLENGE 2017

1st March ASH	20th March REJECTION	8th April RETURN
2nd March SERVE	21st March SPACE	9th April CELEBRATION
3rd March MERCY	22nd March FORGIVE	10th April CRY
4th March CALL	23rd March OBEDIENCE	11th April SAVE
5th March CELEBRATION	24th March WATER	12th April PRAY
6th March STAND	25th March HUNGER	13th April WATCH
7th March SPIRIT	26th March MOTHER	14th April CROSS
8th March HONESTY	27th March REST	15th April SILENCE
9th March BURDEN	28th March TEACH	16th April CELEBRATION
10th March STRONG	29th March TEMPTATION	
11th March WALK	30th March HUMILITY	
12th March CELEBRATION	31st March CLOUDS	
13th March RESCUE	1st April CARE	
14th March LIFE	2nd April CELEBRATION	
15th March SHIELD	3rd April STILL	
16th March PERSEVERANCE	4th April THANK	
17th March COMFORT	5th April FLOURISH	
18th March HOPE	6th April SHELTER	
19th March CELEBRATION	7th April LOVE	

#LENTPHOTO2017

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ELMSWELL CRICKET CLUB

Pre-season Friendly

Sunday 23rd April saw Elmswell visit Mildenhall for a special pre-season friendly. In attendance was Colin Plowright, life member of Elmswell CC and faithful supporter of both clubs.

An enjoyable game was played in a good spirit and we by no means disgraced ourselves against opposition from several divisions further up the league. Some excellent fielding and good tight bowling reduced the hosts to 197 all out with a little over six overs to spare. Unfortunately, Mildenhall proved to be a strong bowling team and Elmswell were dismissed for 76.



New Players

We welcomed two new players into the team for our friendly against Mildenhall but 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 1:30pm 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 30th – Tendring Park (H)
 May 7th – Old Newton (A)
 May 14th – Horringer (H)

May 17th – Bardwell (H)
 May 21st – Walsham Le Willows (A)
 Many 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



ELMSWELL BOWLS CLUB

2017 Season

The weather was kind enough to allow the season start on 16 April, as planned. The Green was in magnificent condition and our thanks for this go to Nick chamberlain, our Greenkeeper. Well done for all of your hard work through the closed season, from all of the members. Although I have only been a member since 2014, this is the best condition I have seen the green in, since I joined.

The season started with an Opening Drive, which was attended by over 25 members, even though it was the Easter weekend. Rob Dann won the first Draw; so, our congratulations go to him for a good start to his season.

Bowls Rules & Regulations

The Club Chairman and President, Linda Abbott and Ian Tullett, refreshed everyone's memories of the rules of the game before the start of the season as they wanted all members to be aware of the basic rules and general etiquette for the game so that we can show good manners and understanding when playing both in competitions against other clubs as well as when we are playing at home in roll-ups etc. This was a useful reminder to all that attended and was much appreciated.

Newbies

It is still not too late for those considering to become potential bowlers for the new season! So, roll-up all newcomers, as now is the time for you to make the decision (enquiries to the Club Chairman, Linda Abbott on 01359 242224).

There is little else to say until the season is underway and there are both Club events and competition results, etc to report.

Trevor Clarke, 21-April-17

BEYTON SWIMMING POOL

Many will remember the day; when the outdoor pool at Beyton Middle School was; the focus; for fitness; fun open to all and made available in the holiday; and at weekends.

In the hope of reviving this; valuable facility - our own local; swimming pool – a restoration project is; under way.

Your; support would be welcomed at a

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trish.muxlow@gmail.com





ELMSWELL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Steering Group met on 4th April at Blackbourne. Analysis of the emerging Relief Road Viability Appraisal undertaken for the Group under the Government's Technical Support funding package noted a suggested 'average' contribution of £7.5k per dwelling yielding some £3.4m from the recent proposals at Borley Crescent, Wetherden Road, Warren Lane & White House Farm but that a re-appraisal of the £5m ball-park Relief Road build cost from Messrs Jackson engineering is yet to be firmed-up and updated. It was noted that

the necessary inclusion of a new Primary School would raise the estimated number of dwellings required to some 1200 and members discussed the understandable and inevitable community apprehension at such figure and the alternatives open, including having to accept housing to the limit of the existing road system with school expansion shoe-horned in to the Oxer Close site. The traffic analysis data collection exercise commissioned by the Parish Council was discussed and very much welcomed, as was the MSDC

proposal for meetings towards inviting landowners and developers to come together and consider an holistic approach to the proposals currently in the system. It was agreed that delegates from the recent public meeting called to discuss the development pressures should be invited to share the results of their consultation at the next Steering Group meeting and that the Parish Council be encouraged to make the issue a major theme of the forthcoming Parish Meeting.

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
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Full Council is scheduled to meet on the 3rd Monday monthly, excepting August. The April meeting took place on 24th at The Blackbourne with 7 councillors present, along with Mid Suffolk District Council Ward Member Mrs Sarah Mansel, Parish Clerk Mr Peter Dow, and 4 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 Meeting held on 20th March, as approved at this meeting, are posted in the community notice board at the Co-op.

District Council

Cllr Mrs Sarah Mansell tabled a written report confirming that, as part of the Public Access strategy, the new website is now live. Council papers can also be accessed by the public via an 'app' - modern.gov. There is now also a new phone number 0300 123 4000. The new website www.midsuffolk.gov.uk has a clearer layout and easier ways to find what you're looking for. Also it works on PCs, tablets and mobile phones.

BMA

A report tabled by the Blackbourne Management Association, which administers the Council's Blackbourne facilities, confirmed that progress on the part of the vendors towards the acquisition of the Wesley chapel and halls for the village remains disappointingly slow but that, in the interim, a Heads of Terms agreement which defines the Association's relationship to the Parish Council has been finalised and a revised 'BWMA' might be structured once the Wesley responsibilities are assumed is in process. Further extensions to the facilities at Blackbourne are under discussion, allowing direct storage into the Chamberlayne Hall, more Council office space and a separate gents' urinal block serving the Jubilee Hall. The much-expanded activities of the Youth Football Club provide excellent opportunities for 13 teams of youngsters to play and train at Blackbourne, but the strain on the caretaking provision in terms of having to check security of the building after sessions has required the Club to agree that an uplift in their annual fee is appropriate. The Cricket Club has, in co-operation with the Association, enhanced its security in terms of storage and the feasibility of web-cam coverage of circulation areas is under consideration towards identifying the occasional incidents of nuisance and damage which impose an avoidable cost. The replacement bearing on the roundabout in the play area has been installed at a cost of almost £1,000.00, but the facility is very well used and the cost thought to be justified. The Association agreed to rent space to the Amenities Association for the monthly distribution of the Elmswell Newsletter at a cost, including some storage, of £150.00 pa.

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

0165/17 Re-roofing 1-4 Tudor Cottages replacing cedar shingles with clay pantiles at Tudor Cottages, School Road...Permission Granted - EPC supported

0692/17 Erection of detached dwelling at Hill Farm Barn, Ashfield Road...Permission refused - EPC supported

0167/17 & 0166/17 Works to create new vehicular access and parking area at 2 - 4 Tudor Cottages, School Road...Permission refused - EPC supported

0919/17 Tree works at 21 Oxer Close... Permission granted - EPC made no comment

Planning applications

The Meeting supported an application ref 1134/17 for the removal of a flat roof and extension over the existing ground floor shower room to form an en-suite first floor bedroom, plus removing the existing flat roof and constructing a pitched roof, at The Willows, Warren Lane. It was agreed that the Clerk be asked to take advice from the Suffolk Preservation Society once the specification was confirmed for replacement aluminium windows proposed for 2 - 4 Tudor Cottages, School Road, and to forward the import of that advice as representing Council's view.

Speculative development bids

The Clerk reported on a meeting convened by Mid Suffolk Planning officers towards co-ordinating an approach to the various developers in the village responsible for the recent spate of bids for housing development which has given rise to considerable community concern. Elmswell is in a similar situation to Thurston and Woolpit where multiple applications are also threatening to swamp those villages without infrastructure provision to match the population growth. Current Planning regulation makes the defence of such communities difficult, but a recent exercise at Thurston has generated sufficient trust and understanding for there to have been progress by way of an holistic rather than piecemeal approach, and all

concerned, being officers and Ward Members at both District and County level together with Parish Councillors and members of the Neighbourhood Plan Strategy Group, agreed that a similar initiative should be promoted for Elmswell as a matter of urgency.

Planning Committee meeting

The Clerk gave notice of a Planning Committee meeting to be called for Thursday 4th May at Blackbourne when the agenda would include re-submissions for applications at Wetherden Road (240 dwellings) and at Warren Lane / Cresmedow Way (38 dwellings).

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting is a tradition going back to the early 1900's when they were introduced as part of the move away from ecclesiastical control of community affairs. Such a meeting must be held between 1st March and 1st June, but there is no statutory penalty should this not happen. Elmswell traditionally relies on the Parish Council to arrange such a community meeting with some relevance to current issues of concern to residents. This year's event is scheduled for Wednesday 24th May at 7.30pm at Blackbourne. A panel including Planning officers from Mid Suffolk and from Suffolk County Council, Ward Members, representatives of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and concerned residents will be chaired by Cllr Jane Storey towards outlining the background to the current spate of Planning applications threatening to increase the size of the village by some 50% or more and in answering questions from the public regarding what is being done and what else can be done to address the problems which will ensue.

Children's Holiday Club

The Summer week-long session run by Christians Together in Elmswell at The Blackbourne attracts many youngsters for professionally organised activities supported by a 'Crucial Crew' of adult helpers from across the community. Councillors agreed to support this year's event, as before, with a grant of £300.00.



Wesley

Councillors heard the gist of a recent email from the Council's solicitor in the matter of the purchase for the community of the Wesley chapel and halls site at School road to the effect that progress with the transaction continues to be somewhat sluggish, despite best efforts on the village's behalf. Due process is being followed and a final document is now with the vendor's solicitor for signature. Presentation Evening 2016 Award Winners

Traffic Survey

The Meeting agreed that Messrs Waterman Infrastructure & Environment Ltd be contracted to carry out traffic and level crossing surveys as outlined in their documentation, and as directed by the Clerk in consultation with Cllrs Pallett and Schofield, for a cost not to exceed £7,925.00 net of VAT.

Next meeting

The next meeting is the Council's Annual Meeting, scheduled for Monday 22nd June at the earlier time of 7.00pm 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.

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

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

The address is: Blackbourne Road, IP30 9UH

Email and telephone unchanged: clerk@elmswell.gov.uk
01359 244134...voicemail regularly monitored

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The office is staffed:

Monday & Wednesday 9.00am – 4.00pm

Tuesday & Thursday 9.00am – 12.00 noon

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FOOTPATH WALK

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

SUNDAY 14th MAY
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



Meetings are held at Blackbourne, beginning at 7.30 unless otherwise notified

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

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

Let's talk Policing



Police and Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore is hosting a series of meetings to give the opportunity to talk to him and senior police officers, to raise concerns and find out more about the work officers are undertaking in your area.

YOUR LOCAL MEETING: STOWMARKET

Thursday 25 May 2017 at 7pm

Blackbourne Centre, Blackbourne Road, Elmswell, IP30 9UH.

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The Elmswell ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

is called for

Wednesday 24th May

beginning at 7.30 at the Blackbourne

This is a chance for the community to come together to share and discuss matters of interest and concern.

The format will be a presentation and Q&A session headed by a panel of

County and District Council Strategic Planning officers, plus Ward Members, together with representation

from the Parish Council

and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

The evening will centre on:

DEVELOPMENT –
WHY ARE WE BEING EXPECTED TO TAKE SO MUCH?

CAN WE STOP IT?

CAN WE ENSURE THAT OUR FACILITIES KEEP PACE?

Everyone is welcome
Refreshments will be served by
The Trefoil Guild



THIS PAGE IS PUBLISHED AND FUNDED BY ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL

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.

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 (former 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, St John's Church. 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,
- 14 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 15 **10am - Elmswell History Group's Annual Outing, to West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village, please note this is a SATURDAY morning. Two-hour guided tour of museum and village. Advance-purchase ticket required, £3 for members or £5 for non-members, for sale on 11th May and 8th June. Own transport (please share if poss) - on-site parking is £2 per car. Tel: 01359-242601 for tickets and more information about venue, lunch, etc.**
- 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 Bournemouth
- 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
- 14 **Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall. 7.30pm, Speaker Julia Barrett: "Mrs Pretty, a Businesswoman's Role in WW1". *Annual SUBS due***
- 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
- 29 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon

October 2017

- 2 7.45pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - Bill and Ben's Nursery Pakenham
- 4 Elmswell Exchange (Afternoon) W.I. 2 pm, Wesley Community Centre Colin Hopper - The History of Magic Competition - A Holiday Souvenir
- 5 Over 55's Club Welcomes Richard Whymark & Chelsey Open evening
- 7 Harvest Barn Dance at Chamberlayne Hall organised by Elmswell Baptist Church. Watch out for tickets on sale later in the year.
- 10 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30 pm. Line Dancing - for fun and Fitness.
- 12 **Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall. 7.30pm, Speaker Sarah Doig: "A-Z of Curious Suffolk" *December tickets on sale***

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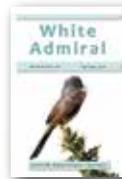
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Monday
Guides 6.30 – 8.00,

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

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. www.sozohomechurch.com

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

To make a booking enquiry

Call; 244134

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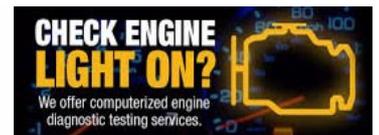
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