



'Like a friend dropping in'

# The Elmswell Newsletter



*Thirty* years of Parish Record... all the Community News...  
**January 2017**

## BATS in hats...



**see page 1**

**'Christmas tree'...**



**'Christmas tea'...**



**...see page 9**

Published on the first Friday of every month by the Elmswell Amenities Association  
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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; [elmswellamenities@f2s.com](mailto:elmswellamenities@f2s.com). We reserve the right to edit any such contributions that we may use in a subsequent edition.

## 2016 was the year that pub quizzers dream about. In one year we saw both the end of the European Dream - of unity, and the realisation of the American Dream - of a President who knows how to boogie. It was also the year that nearly everyone famous died.

Alphabetically, our chat-show sofas lost Ali (Muhammad) and Aherne (Caroline) via Bowie (David), Castro (Fidel) and Cohen (Leonard) through to Martin (George), Michael (George), Prince (Prince), Rickman (Alan) all the way down to Vee (Bobby), Vaughn (Robert), finally reaching Wood (Victoria) and, allowing minimal sleight of hand, Zsa Zsa (Gabor). Our own community lost stars of a more mundane firmament, friends, neighbours, colleagues and family who never made the chat shows, who led a life less remarkable, a life more ordinary. But all of whom have heritage. To each and to all can be attributed what we have begun to call a backstory, a contribution which may seem mundane and of small consequence without the perspective of history to add depth, to wrinkle out significance and to confirm provenance.

Prompted by Paul Peachey's appeal for information in last month's magazine, let us make our point via the person of William George, 'The Horse Slaughterer'. George is

linked with one of our own recently departed, Dennis Dyball. For in 1901 the Census has George, aged 25, living in Willow Farm on Ashfield Road - then listed as Buppenhaugh Green - where Dennis lived for most of his life. Starting out as a poultry dealer, by 1911 William George's occupation is listed as, 'farmer & horse slaughterer' and the household has grown from, wife Helen, their young daughter Mary, Helen's mother and a lodger to include daughters Anna and Winifred and two servants. Intriguingly, some 14 years later, our man has established international links, as the Bury Free Press carries his classified ad. where his business operates in Elmswell and, 'Antwerp, Belgium'.

As far as a community 'contribution', we can look at daughter Mary who was married in Elmswell Church in June 1927 to Rev. Evan Hopkins Jones of Port Talbot. The Press reports confirm that, 'Miss George has been organist at the parish church for upwards of eleven years and will be very greatly missed in the church and parish'.

Our point being...that here is a man of the world who has business interests in Europe, his family clearly enmeshed in village life and affairs - 70 of their neighbours went back to Willow Farm for the wedding reception - and yet there is no obvious trace. A few hours in the Suffolk County Archive yields what we know here, several more hours would further colour the picture of which the George's are part. As we who survived 2016 and fumble towards 2017 should accept, every one of us, and every one of our neighbours, are part of the picture, of an Elmswell frieze begun in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, continuing through massive agrarian change, the railway and the industry that followed through to 1700 households and 700 more in clear prospect. Some play a community role, some keep themselves to themselves; some raise families that network out as small local dynasties, some start a business and see where it takes them; yet others would be hard put to claim that they, 'do', anything much. Television and the world of social media help us to, 'do', very little. But another year ticked off deserves a memo to self, 'I matter'.

We would normally sign off at this time of the year with Good Old Mr Dickens. And Chas., as we like to call him, does, in his short novel, 'The Chimes' (often defined as 'a goblin story', but not here) express the wish, "...may the New Year be a happy one to you, happy to many more whose happiness depends on you!"

However, for fear of accusations of sameness, we turn to George Eliot. If you have read through thus far, you may well have the staying power to have tackled her weighty masterpiece of commentary on provincial life, 'Middlemarch'. The closing lines serve as a positive New Year's Thought for the vast majority of us, the unremembered many;

*"...for the growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts; and that things are not so ill with you and me as they might have been is half owing to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life, and rest in unvisited tombs."*

Keep up the good work,  
and a Happy New Year.

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

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# CLUBS & SOCIETIES



## ELMSWELL ART CLUB

“Firstly my apologies to our art club members for muddling up the work and for crediting the beautiful painting of anemones to the wrong person! It was in fact done by our very talented, Henry Gow! So having made a mistake on my very first issue in the Elmswell Newsletter the only way now for me is up!

To get the New Year off to a really good start I have chosen the beautiful landscape water colour by Caroline Cooke, which I should have put in last month! I have also attached one of Bob Colman’s masterful wildlife water colour paintings of an owl and the gorgeous, jewel like, and colourful butterfly in pastels by Bobby Fiske.

We hope all our members have had a wonderful Christmas and are all ready for some new painting challenges in the New Year 2017! Best wishes to you all.

*Art Club Secretary, Josephine Hale, 01359 242592*



## BATS ABOUT BLACKBOURNE

Friday evenings in the activities hall, the Jubilee Hall, at Blackbourne, Peter Edmonds hosts ‘BATS’; an open evening of badminton, table tennis, darts and pool to which anyone and everyone is welcome. It began, some say, as a thinly disguised excuse for Peter to find different playing partners. It has grown into a regular enjoyable activity evening for regulars and occasional visitors alike.

They start at 7.00pm and finish, ‘about 9 -ish’, and all ages are represented over the weeks. Our picture shows a younger contingent – but that’s because they were the ones with Christmas hats!

There is a system for allocating tables and courts which gives the older players an excuse to sit down between games, but the youngsters get full value for money and the improvement in their game week on week is remarkable.

There is no joining or registration fee – just £1 for youngsters and £3 for adults on the night with racquets, bats and balls etc available for use free of charge.

Mr William George, his pipe firmly clenched, sits on his ornately decorated cart, lettered, ‘Licensed Horse Slaughterer Elmswell’, in front of one of the outbuildings at Willow Farm on Ashfield Road. His 13 farmhands and labourers range in age from teenage lads to a couple of clearly no-nonsense older gentlemen...but all in cloth caps and, when of a certain age, be-whiskered.



*Photograph from the Suffolk Records Office archive with kind permission.*

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## ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

On 8 December our speaker was Michael Rimmer – who has recently published a book about the ‘unseen masterpieces of the Middle Ages’ – the angel roofs of East Anglia.

Michael started his talk by explaining that East Anglia has the highest concentration of medieval churches in the country and since moving to live in Norfolk it has become his obsession to record each one. Between 1395 and 1450 (the beginning of the Reformation) several hundred angel roofs were built and many of them were combined with a hammer beam roof. Some of the angel figures are around six feet tall; in some churches they all survive in others which were visited by Dowsing’s iconoclasts many of them have been defaced or completely destroyed.

The first angel roof to be built in East Anglia was at St Nicholas in King’s Lynn and was one of the churches featured in the photographs we were shown. Interspersed with music, we were treated to some wonderful pictures of churches including Woolpit, St Mary’s Bury, Mildenhall and Needham Market.

This was an excellent talk, followed by equally excellent seasonal refreshments provided by the Committee and Group members.

The History Group meets on the second Thursday of each month in the Wesley Hall. Our next meeting will be at 7pm (please note earlier time) on 12 January when the launch of our project about Elmswell’s First World War Airfield will take place, followed by a talk by Peter McGee and Graham Mack which will bring us up to date with their investigations into ‘Those Magnificent Men and their Flying Machines – Elmswell’s Great War Aviators.’

To find out more about the History Group, visit our web site [www.elmswell-history.org.uk](http://www.elmswell-history.org.uk) or telephone Stella Chamberlin on 01359 242601.

## ELMSWELL COMPANIONS

At the last meeting of Companions for 2016 we enjoyed a buffet Christmas lunch.

Entertainment – an abbreviated and hilarious version of Cinderella’s story - was provided by members of the Companions’ Committee and Carers. We shall forever remember Cinderella was SAD.

Companions is a friendly group for those suffering from dementia, for Carers and for those who would just like some company for a couple of hours once a fortnight. Our next meeting will be at the Wesley Hall on 6 January 2017 from 10.15am to 12 noon.

## ELMSWELL EXCHANGE AFTERNOON W.I.

**What a marvellous December meeting we had.** We were beginning to wonder if it was going to actually happen. As the week prior to the event arrived more and more of our members were falling by the wayside, the majority of them succumbing to this very nasty virus spreading itself with speed among us. In the end we finished up with 21 from our original 30. On the Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> we made our way in Mr. Perry’s little bus to **Elveden Courtyard**. How beautiful it all looked. The Food Hall and Gift Shop were just what the ladies wanted. Everyone seemed to be buying items it was all so tempting. At 3 pm we were seated in a marquee adjoining the restaurant and served with the most delicious scones with butter, jam and cream beautifully presented on individual white platters. It was proper tea too, which came in a china pot with its own inbuilt straining device. Most welcome! The staff were friendly, helpful and very efficient. The winner of our first prize was awarded to Betty Phillips for coming top in the monthly competition results. Several smaller prizes were awarded to runners up. The new programmes were handed out for 2017 and members then made a dash for any last minute items in the shop. It was all over far too soon and we were off home in the mini coach.

**We have no meeting in January** but get together again on Wednesday 1st February at The Wesley Hall at 2 pm. Our guest speaker will be **Oliver Miller from Bishop & Miller** in Stowmarket and his presentation is entitled

**“Tales of the Auction House”.**

Guests and new members are always welcome. For more information contact Barbara on 242788 or Maureen on 241033.



*Love is, giving your reindeer a hug !!!*

## ELMSWELL EVENING WI

The December Meeting of the Evening WI was the Christmas Party and once again there was a fabulous turn out of members and some husbands, who were able to share in the festivities, meaning everyone enjoyed an evening of food, drinks, chatter and fun.

The committee supplied a buffet, which was to the usual high standard with a piece of Christmas cake for everyone to take home. There was the usual raffle and the party gave everyone an opportunity to catch up before the Christmas break.

If you are interested in joining the WI we meet the second Tuesday of every month at the Blackbourne, commencing at 7.30 p.m. We have a varied and enjoyable calendar to look forward to in 2017, starting in January with a talk by Bridget Keevil and her “Adventures on the High Seas”.

In February we have Tai Chi and March we will be enjoying “The Experiences of our Local Firemen”.

Come along and give us a try, everybody welcome.

*Siobhan Holcombe, Committee Member*

## ELMSWELL LUNCHEON CLUB

The Elmswell Luncheon Club rounded off another good year with their popular Christmas festivities at The Bull, Woolpit.

On Monday December 12th members enjoyed a lovely spread of traditional seasonal fare provided by hosts Val and Trevor and their team...and this year the Cub was able, again, to enjoy it all at no cost through the generosity of Woolpit-based Lark Technologies. A special ‘thank you’ card signed by members has been sent to the company. We also enjoyed an early afternoon cuppa and a slice of Christmas cake kindly provided by Jean Barker.

The Club also had to say ‘good bye’ to Val and Trevor who have made the Club very welcome over many years. We wish them every happiness in their retirement.

After the Christmas break the Club starts up again as usual on Monday January 9th, so if you are aged 55+ and wish to join a happy, friendly group please phone

one of our Committee members on 241546 or 240268. We will be delighted to give you full details which include transport to and from Woolpit.

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# CLUBS & SOCIETIES

## ELMSWELL OVER 55'S CLUB



Our picture this month features Diann outside the Coop with Ryan (the store manager) and our cheque which we received courtesy of all the customers who put their tokens in our pot.

Another year is now beginning for the club when ideas and thoughts are being put together to create a programme to hopefully equal or better our activities of last year, it is always difficult to find new talents and venues for days out to avoid too much walking.

The first meeting will be on Thursday February 23rd at the usual time of 7.00pm when we will kick off with an entertainer. We welcome new members to join us, the Annual Subscription being £18 pp which we collect at the next meeting on March 9th.

Entertainment booked at the moment includes Richard Whymark, the Jubilee Singers and a night at the Proms with Stowmarket Concert Band which will take place outside (weather permitting) with a picnic.

There will be a Mystery Day out with lunch, we are also looking at a visit to the Royal Hospital Hospital in London for a guided tour and lunch more details at our first meeting.

For any enquiries you can contact Diann on 241002 or any committee member.

Grant (240943)



## ELMSWELL COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

### Speed Watching

Our Community Speed Watch team volunteers are highly thought of amongst our Safer neighbourhood team professionals. In December, Stowmarket Safer Neighbourhood Team decided that, based on the evidence gathered at Church Hill and Ashfield Road, both of these locations would be targeted by the Police Speed Enforcement Team. The criteria the Police use in allocating speed check resources is a 20% level of 'prosecutable' speeding. Our local CSW figures, always shared with the Constabulary, are, for Ashfield Road 42.35 and for Church Hill 39.9%. In both locations, more than half of the vehicles recorded by the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) are currently travelling at speeds which, if recorded by a Police Officer, could result in prosecution. Accordingly, sites have been identified for electronic speed checks controlled by Safety Camera Officers who can, importantly, operate in the hours of darkness when excessive speed is an even more dangerous factor in many road traffic accidents.

The results will, it is hoped, be reflected in the next few batches of statistics from the local group's own speed gun sessions and from the VAS data base.

Meanwhile, the latest VAS figures for Church Road from 17th November to 8th December 2016 (3 weeks) are:

- Total number of vehicles 75,409
- Highest speed 75mph on Saturday 3rd December at 19-35 (There was one other at the same speed)
- Weekly count
  - Average daily 3,719 (5 day) 3,447 (7 day)
  - AM peak 0800 - 0900 215 (5 day) 176 (7 day)
  - PM peak 17-00 - 1800 500 (5day) 421 (7day)
- Speeds. Of the 75, 409 (73,006) - figures in brackets are of the previous report.
  - 2 exceeded 75mph
  - 3 exceeded 70mph (4)

- 11 exceeded 65mph (16)
  - 75 exceeded 60mph (62)
  - 298 exceeded 55mph (310)
  - 1,474 exceeded 50mph (1,692)
  - 5,334 exceeded 45mph (5,922)
  - 11,742 exceeded 40mph (12,367)
  - 25,838 exceeded 35mph (25,610)
- Only 31,232 (27,023) were within the legal limit of 30mph.

It could be said that the efforts of our volunteers are working – other than the head-banger going up Church Hill at 75mph+, most other speed dropped from the last session. If so, we can only hope that it is a trend and that their hard work and dedication are helping keep our roads safer. NOT SO! We can hope - but we can also help! The more volunteers in the team, the more frequent their speed check sessions can be – and it spreads the load involved in moving the VAS about every 3 weeks. Think about it as part of a New Year's Resolution?

### If you would like more details, please, either:

Contact the Safer Neighbourhood Team on 101  
Email: [communityspeedwatch@suffolkpnn.police.uk](mailto:communityspeedwatch@suffolkpnn.police.uk)  
Call Mo Coulling on 0777 4695 784

## ELMSWELL EXCHANGE SOCIAL CLUB

This month the club enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch at the Wesley Hall, cooked and served by Mrs. Hubbard and her team.

Our thanks to Betty Phillips for providing the attractive table decorations.

Sylvia had kindly made scones for every member to take home. Everyone would like to thank Sylvia for all her hard work for organising the lunch and looking after everyone throughout the year.

We were entertained by the "Haughley Hoofers". Fortunately we did not have to join in as we were rather full after our lunch!

Father Christmas arrived and everyone received a gift. The raffle prize was won by Ruth - an attractive plant arrangement.

Our next meeting is February 21st when we will be holding a Beetle Drive.

New members always welcome.

Enquiries to Sylvia 241 505



## LILIES OF THE GUILD

Our picture shows one of the teams from the Thedwastre Trefoil Guild who have undertaken to keep our recycling centre the cleanest and safest in the District. They drew the short festive-season straw...work over Christmas and loads of bottles but, as seen here, entered into the spirit!

The scheme of 3 monthly stints of stewarding the bottle banks etc is open to all Elmswell groups, and it invariably attracts a £150.00 grant from the Parish Council towards funds in appreciation of such public spirited action. The Parish Clerk has more details.

The Guild, aimed at men and women aged 18+ is a branch of Girl guiding. They meet each month at Blackbourne and fill the rest of their year with activities. Contact Dot Marsden via [dot.marsden@btinternet.com](mailto:dot.marsden@btinternet.com) for more details.



# KH

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## ELMSWELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Happy New Year! 2017 already looks like it's going to be a busy year.

We are looking forward to our next fundraiser, a Charity Race Night, which will be held on March 3rd at 7:30pm at The Maypole in Wetherden. Tickets are just £6 which covers your entry and will pay for a small dinner. There is also the opportunity to sponsor a horse for just £2 extra – if the horse wins, you will get £3 back and a bottle of wine! There will be nine races, so stacks of chance to win, yet more opportunities to scoop prizes with a huge raffle and entertainment from a live vocalist. Tickets will be on sale in the library or from The Maypole. All proceeds will be split between Elmswell Library Friends and Prostate Cancer UK.

Our next Community Café will be on January 18th at 11am. We had 23 people come along to our last event, held at Dorothy's, and it was lovely to meet new people. So if you're new to the village and want to find out about local groups, or if your circumstances have changed and you have found yourself isolated, then please come along and for the price of a cuppa you might meet some like-minded people who live just around the corner.

We are re-launching our Baby Bounce and Tot Rock Group. Following Hannah's departure we have struggled to find a replacement, but a wonderful volunteer, Alison, will be picking up the mantle from Friday, January 20th at 9:45am. It's a song and rhyme session aimed at babies and toddlers (and their parents or carers). It will run in term time and is free to join.

We are also still looking at starting an At Home Library Service – where volunteers bring books to the homes of people who may not be able to get to the library for whatever reason. If you

are interested or if you know someone who you think might be then please contact the library.

And finally, on behalf of ELF can we thank all those people and businesses who kindly donated prizes to the Christmas Draw 2016. With your generosity our prizes were worth nearly £750. Profit from the draw was £783 and in addition ELF was able to donate £476 to the various groups which helped sell tickets.

To all those groups and people who sold tickets on ELF's behalf, also a very big thank you. The Co-op kindly allowed the 1st Elmswell Guides to sell tickets from its foyer and they did an excellent job.

Donations of 50% of their sales on the day, and the following groups' ticket sales have gone to Elmswell Cricket Club, Elmswell Scouts and Cubs, the Guides and Brownies, The Bumblebee's Children's Charity, The Railway Tavern charity, Street Farm Nursery, the Over 55's Club and Elmswell Youth FC. Sincere thanks must also go to Travel Stop for sponsoring the printing of the draw books and to Jimmy at The Fox for allowing the draw to be conducted there.

If you or a group you are connected with would like to raise valuable funds by selling tickets for the ELF Christmas Draw 2017 then please leave your name in the library. ELF is happy to donate 50% of your ticket sales to your group.

Elmswell Library is open Tuesday and Thursday 10am-1pm and 2-7pm, Wednesday and Friday 2-5pm, Saturday 10am-1pm and Sunday 10am-3pm. You can contact us on 01359 240974.

*Emma Yarrow*  
Elmswell Library manager



## ELMSWHEELIANS 2016

A lovely sunny morning on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December witnessed our last ride of the year.

Fortified at the start with mulled wine and other seasonal goodies (thanks to Carrol, Cora and Sally), 21 Elmswheelians cycled a 10 mile route that took us out of the village via Warren Lane, on through Haughley Park to Haughley New Street, Quarries Cross and Tot Hill (via the cycle path), Haughley Village, Base Green, Wetherden Village, and back into Elmswell to "The Fox", where we rounded off the ride in traditional Christmas style.

**Well done everyone who turned up, and thanks to all of you who have supported our rides during 2016.**

We will be back in the new year, so watch this space for details.

And for those of you who have never cycled with us, and enjoy cycling, do think about joining us in 2017. We cycle purely for pleasure; at a reasonable pace, but not at a great speed; there is nothing to pay; just turn up, and join a group of people who enjoy social cycling. You will be very welcome, but must be aged 16+.

Happy New Year.

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



## ELF CHRISTMAS DRAW 2016 WINNERS

- 1 £100 Christmas HamperCll & Landmark Scaffolding9744
- 2 £50 Christmas HamperCo-Op9006
- 3 £25 Christmas HamperEclipse Furniture4522
- 4 £25 Christmas HamperKing's Cooling9882
- 5 £25 Christmas HamperKing's Cooling13347
- 6 Meal For TwoThe Fox9901
- 7 10 Yr Tawny PortSteve Norman7572
- 8 Meal For TwoGardeners Arms9399
- 9 VoucherPromech
- 10 VoucherAll About Hair577
- 11 T42 @ Valeries PatisserieKevin Hollings8724
- 12 VoucherTydemans Jewellers8347
- 13 VoucherChinese Take Away8817
- 14 Poultry VoucherKliktronic9759
- 15 VoucherBlackthorpe Barns5584
- 16 VoucherMargaret's Hairdressers8287
- 17 VoucherUpmarket Dry Cleaners4790
- 18 VoucherUpmarket Dry Cleaners9004
- 19 1 Litre Gordons GinHartog Hutton9695
- 20 Gift Aromatic Flavours & Fragrances 12259
- 21 Bottle Of Tia MariaClear Financial Services9456
- 22 Bottle Of BaileysClear Financial Services762
- 23 £10 Poultry VoucherElmswell Butchers7371
- 24 Bottle Of Jim BeamAllpack Direct7227
- 25 VoucherElmtree Gallery10805
- 26 Bottle Of Gordons GinJohn Raffel8148
- 27 VoucherFake Over7652
- 28 Bottle Of Famous GrouseHartog Hutton8730
- 29 Bottle Of BrandyDavid Royal8837
- 30 Bottle Of VodkaColin Gould7131
- 31 Bottle Of Famous GrouseDriverhire Colchester
- 32 PortTriball Street Soccer8673
- 33 SherryAmazing Cakes By Jean8801
- 34 VoucherMace680
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- 36 Cream Tea For TwoDorothy's Tea Room7208
- 37 Lindt Swiss ChocolatesSue & Bill Blackby8754
- 38 ChocolatesCostcutter7200
- 39 Fish & Chips For TwoElmswell Chippy7625
- 40 Cinema Tickets For TwoRegal Stowmarket12011
- 41 3 Cyclamen PlantsWoolpit Nursery750
- 42 Bottle Of WineAlan Wells9420
- 43 Bottle Of WineLes King9894
- 44 Tin Of Quality StreetTesco10769

## 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](http://ukpowernetworks.co.uk/prioritysupport) or calling 0800 169 9970.





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## NEWS FROM ELMSWILD



### *New year, new you?*

Trying to lose a few pounds after all the Christmas festivities? Made a New Year resolution to take more exercise and get fit? Don't spend lots of money joining a gym – why not come and join our weekly work parties at Lukeswood and Kiln Meadow instead? It's free, you get lots of exercise in the fresh air, and it's fun, too! Plus you're helping to maintain an amenity that's there for all the village to enjoy, not to mention the benefit to the local wildlife.

### *New year, new trees!*

At the beginning of December we celebrated National Tree Week by planting new trees at Lukeswood. The Tree Council organises Tree Week at this time every year and encourages all communities to hold their own events. In those few days hundreds of people all over the country plant thousands of trees.

We got together with Elmswell Scouts for our celebration and planted a variety of saplings, all donated by kind residents who over the years have been planting seeds and acorns into pots and nurturing the little trees until they're big enough to plant out in the woodland. We had oak, beech, holly, yew, field maple and hazel – 74 trees in total.

The Scouts are working towards their community badge and wanted to do some work at Lukeswood as part of this. What could be better than planting new trees? The Scouts can enjoy watching them grow over the years into mature trees in the woodland. Everyone benefits from trees – both people and wildlife – so planting them is a great gift to the whole community.

Everyone worked hard to dig the holes, plant the saplings, and make sure they were all properly protected with guards and stakes. Then we celebrated with a campfire, hot drinks and lots of biscuits! A huge thank you to the Scouts and their leaders for all their help. We hope you'll be back soon to check how the new trees are doing. And thank you also to all those who donated the saplings.

We meet on Tuesday mornings, 9.30 to midday. All tools are provided, you just need gardening gloves, boots or wellies, a warm coat, and a flask for elevenses. Everyone's welcome to join in whenever – one session or as many as you like. But do get in touch first to check where we will be working – we mainly meet at Lukeswood but sometimes at Kiln Meadow. Our next work party will be at Kiln Meadow on 3rd January (weather permitting).



### *Here comes the sun.....*

January may seem a strange time to be writing about the sun, but we have now passed the winter solstice and can look forward to longer days and more daylight hours to get out and about in the countryside. The winter sun can be quite spectacular, too. We had some wonderful sunsets during December, as our pictures taken at Lukeswood show. With all the foliage gone the trees can be seen in a different way and you can appreciate the 'bare bones' of the woodland. Lukeswood is a great place for a winter walk – you may see birds such as fieldfare or redwing feasting on the last of the berries, or even be lucky enough to spot a beautiful fox gliding quietly past. If you stay till sunset there may be some glorious colours to enjoy, too.

A very happy New Year to everyone!



Mary Feeney  
Tel: 241901  
[info@elmswild.org.uk](mailto:info@elmswild.org.uk)





## ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Contact: Revd Peter Goodridge, 01359 240512, [elmswellrector@gmail.com](mailto:elmswellrector@gmail.com), [www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk](http://www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk) ...and find us on facebook.

Happy New Year from St John's. Please note that the service on New Year's Day - Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January - is at 10:30am :)

What a wonderful Christmas we have had! December was a busy month at St Johns. We hosted multiple nativities and carol services. The church looked magnificent with all the festive decorations. The Nine Lessons and Carols was atmospheric and moving as we thought about the identity of the baby in the manger, whereas the "I Can't Wait For Christmas" Christmas Eve family service was a fun time of family worship, storytelling and the excitement of waiting for Christmas to come.

Many of our groups (bible study groups, mums group, ladies lunch etc) had Christmas parties and end-of-year celebrations! Most groups stopped momentarily over the festive period and are starting back in January :) If you're interested in joining one of the groups at St Johns, please visit our website, join us on facebook, or pick up information from the church on Sunday. We really do have something to suit all ages and all spiritual journeys.

Looking into 2017, we are excited to announce that we are introducing a new look to our services.

We now have BREAKFAST CHURCH :)

On the third Sunday of the month – 15 January – 19<sup>th</sup> February – 19 March – join us at 9:00am

for breakfast at church! Light refreshments will be served and followed by modern worship, prayers and teaching at 9:30am. Children can stay in the service if they wish or join the other children in their Sunday Groups. We still have our traditional services and All Age services. Details are below:

### What is happening on each Sunday of the month?

#### FIRST

9:30am = All Age Service

11:00am = Traditional Service with Communion

#### SECOND

10:30am = Morning Service

#### THIRD

9:00 = Breakfast Church

11:00am = Service with Communion

#### FOURTH

10:30am = Morning Service with Communion

#### FIFTH

10:30am = Morning Service

Please note, there are children's groups, crèche and child-appropriate activities at every service (except the 11am Services).

We very much look forward to welcoming you at one of our services in 2017.

*With God as our leader,  
may we be prepared to live  
another year under His guidance.  
Happy New Year!*

#### Upcoming Services

##### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January

10:30am – Informal Communion service

##### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January

8:00am – Holy communion (BCP)

10:30am – Parish Praise

##### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January

9:00am – Breakfast church

11:00am – Holy Communion

##### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January

10:30am – Morning service with Communion

##### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January

8:00am – Holy Communion (BCP)

10:30am – Morning service

##### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February

9:30am – All age service

11:00am – Traditional service with Communion (BCP)

## ST JOHN'S FLOODLIGHTING

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

## JANUARY 2017 SPONSORSHIPS

- 1 Dorothy Welin. "You are always in our hearts". Love Pat and Gordon.
- 2 to remember and thank all those past Elmswell Fire-Fighters who served their village and community so well.
- 3 remembering with loving thoughts Albert Lufkin on his Birthday.
- 6 to remember Evelyn Simpson. Loving thoughts every day. "God Bless".
- 10 in loving memory of a dear friend, Les Pamment.
- 13 in loving memory of my mother Eileen Fraser on her Birthday.
- 16 Dorothy Welin. "Happy Birthday, Mum". Love Pat & family.
- 18 in loving memory of my mother Daphne (nee Hood) and father Dennis (Jock) Harvey. Also my aunt Mabel (nee Hood) and uncle Robert Cook.  
"Much loved and missed". Elizabeth. xx.
- 19 in loving memory of Natasha Smith.
- 19 in loving memory of my grandmother Ellen (Nellie) Hood (nee Meekings) and grandfather Robin Hood. Elizabeth. xx.
- 22 in loving memory of Rob Dalby, on his Birthday, with love from all the family.
- 23 in loving memory of Ricky Woolnough's Birthday.

All bookings and payments please to :-  
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Tel: 01449-612946

E-mail: [ourlady.stowmarket@btinternet.com](mailto: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](http://www.ourladystowmarket.org.uk)

*Father David Finegan*





## ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

May I on behalf of everyone at Elmswell Baptist Church wish you all "A HAPPY AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR".

2017 looks as though it will be a time of change for many, exciting for some worrying for others, America has a new and somewhat controversial President, the conflict in Syria appears to be coming to an end (I'm writing this in mid-December) we in this country will see the start of the Brexit negotiations and all the arguments that that will stir up between politicians both here and in Europe.

Many things will remain constant Ipswich Town and Norwich City will continue their rivalry in the Championship, and Colchester United will no doubt struggle to put a smile on Secretary Tony's face with their progress in League 2.

Austerity will continue with more and more cuts to services, night will follow day, spring will follow the winter and so on, but the most important constant we Christians believe is that God's love for us will continue.

As I have said earlier in this report it is the middle of December as I write this and later this morning I will be joining friends from our's and St John's Church to bring the story of the birth of Christ to the children of our primary school. A story which was and still is in my opinion the most important example of god's love for mankind when he sent his son to Earth as our saviour.

Our activities continue on 9<sup>th</sup> January when our Ladies Friendship Meeting takes place at 7.45pm with another "Jenny's Surprise Evening" these evenings are open to all ladies contact Margaret on 241541 for more details. Food and Friends Lunch for our older residents takes place on 12<sup>th</sup> January at midday contact Jackie on 245918 if you would like to join us for a nourishing home cooked meal.

Our services in January will be led by:-

1<sup>st</sup> January

The congregation. (We all take a small part in the service)(inc. Communion)

8<sup>th</sup> January

Stephen Spurgeon

15<sup>th</sup> January

Rev. Simon Goddard

22<sup>nd</sup> January

Stephen Spurgeon

29<sup>th</sup> January

Rev. Richard Edwards

5<sup>th</sup> February

Stephen Spurgeon

We are a small fellowship here at Ashfield Road but we guarantee a warm and friendly welcome to anyone wishing to join with us at any of our services or activities.

Once again we wish you all a very happy new year.

Dave Hollings



## ELMSWELL POPPY APPEAL

The Village Poppy Appeal for 2016 raised the magnificent sum of £3515.03p. This has now been forwarded to Appeal headquarters. My apologies for missing the deadline for the December newsletter. Thanks are due to everyone who gave so generously, all the collectors and all the shops and businesses who displayed collecting boxes. As always the work of the Poppy Fund goes on. Thankfully the number of British service personnel killed and injured has fallen dramatically in recent months. There remains much support work necessary amongst those from earlier encounters. Thank you once again to everyone who gave such willing and generous support.

I have run the appeal in the village since 1998 and would like to "pass the torch" over to someone else. There is some work required from late July to about December and it is necessary to store the equipment which requires some space. Anyone interested should contact me (242059) and I will explain what is required and help them next year.

*Tony Chaplin Poppy Appeal Organiser*



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# ELMSWELL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The village's Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has been in a state of informed limbo for some time.

## Two major factors have contributed to this:

- 1 The re-shaping of the support team at Mid Suffolk has, largely through the very experienced input of the new lead officer, Bill Newman, suggested a new direction. The Group is now advised to make the Relief Road the centrepiece of the Plan rather than something emerging from it, as was bound to be the case. The imperative of 700 new houses and of more on the horizon, sweeps away any lingering suggestion that Elmswell can say 'NO' to development.
  - 1.1 The Relief Road case cannot be made simply on the weight of traffic as existing or, unlikely as it may seem to residents, on the increases which 700 new houses inevitably create. There needs to be a professionally structured case, backed by figures, statistics and Policy references to place the scheme at the heart of infrastructure upgrades necessary to handle the new population. At the heart of, but not stand alone. Other factors, notably education and health, must also be researched and tabulated.
  - 1.2 Accordingly, and after some considerable negotiation on the part of the group's professional adviser, Ian Poole, a package of technical support has been agreed with the Government appointed Technical Support team at AECOM towards researching and reporting on the relevant factors. Put simply, the Group needs to have its own detailed analysis, for example of traffic flows, gates downtime, queue lengths, frequency of downtime etc for the crossing gates. Some of the statistics produced recently by developers in making their case for Planning permission seem, from public feedback, to be somewhat wide of the mark and skewed in their favour. There is a mass of evidence already

- collected by Group members. This will be incorporated into the professional presentation
  - 1.3 Some of the parameters set by the Strategic Planners at County level are not clearly laid out in any easily accessible format. It is important that further time is not lost pursuing policies which will not accord with the larger County picture. An example is school provision. The County perspective is for provision of reasonably accessible places. The Elmswell view is, clearly, places in Elmswell, not just 'reasonably accessible', ie by bus every day. Accordingly, the NPSG Chairman, Sarah Mansel, along with others including Parish Council Chairman Fred Pallett, are to meet with lead officers from SCC Education and Highways early in January specifically to discuss the Elmswell situation.
- 2 The nation-wide picture of the Neighbourhood Plan process has been bleak of late. There is a strong sense of communities being encouraged to spend considerable time and money producing Plans that do not carry the promised statutory weight. Mid Suffolk, as with some 70% of all Planning Authorities, does not meet criteria that give some protection against aggressive developers. Communities as close as Stowupland have had what they consider to be too much development, too soon and in the wrong place forced upon them by the current Planning system. Consequently, it has been difficult to summon the energy to keep fighting.
  - 2.1 However, the recent legal success on the part of East Bergholt Parish Council has been widely reported as an indication of a turning tide. It hinged on the importance that should be given

to emerging Neighbourhood Plans and must, obviously, be treated with caution as individual cases and local context are significant factors. It is not an 'open sesame', but David seems to have landed one stone on Goliath's thick head.

2.2 Further, a Statement made by the Minister of State for Housing on 12<sup>th</sup> December, deals with the weak link in the Planning chain which has left communities open to predation. It was the case that, if a Planning Authority could not demonstrate that it had identified a five-year supply of deliverable housing sites, then that Authority could no longer impose the conditions in its Local Plan on developers. These conditions govern all the important aspects of infrastructure, housing density, housing mix etc. In their place was the National Planning Policy Framework which simply says, in effect, 'if it's sustainable you can build it'. The definitions of 'sustainable' are many, but, as Mid Suffolk falls foul of the regulations, the policy has effectively opened flood gates – ask Stowupland. However, the Minister's Statement, amongst other things, reduces the housing supply time factor to 3 years. Tellingly, it also provides a get-out where, 'there is a significant lack of land supply for housing'. Nevertheless, It indicates an awareness of the problems caused by the steamroller tactics of the housebuilding industry and it gives sufficient cause for hope to encourage beleaguered Neighbourhood Plan groups.

The Group stands ready to resume its activities as and when the initiatives detailed allow meaningful progress.

*Peter Dow*

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

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Marian Abbott   | Marian731@btinternet.com                 |
| Julie Cole      | jules.cole@hotmail.co.uk                 |
| Peter Dow       | clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk            |
| Peter Edmonds   | peterjedmonds@tiscali.co.uk              |
| Mary Feeney     | feeneymj@btinternet.com                  |
| Terry Garner    | terryjgarner@btinternet.com              |
| Peter Goodridge | elmswellrector@gmail.com                 |
| Sarah Mansel    | Sarah.Mansel@midsuffolk.gov.uk           |
| Fred Pallett    | fjp@oilgasassociates.com                 |
| Shaun Pratt     | shaun.pratt@btinternet.com               |
| Ann Richards    | ann@richards47.plus.com                  |
| Jane Storey     | Jane.Storey@councillors.suffolkcc.gov.uk |
| Julia Taber     | Juliataber4@icloud.com                   |

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The sessions are held at the Blackbourne between 09.30 – 12.30 on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month and no appointment is necessary - just come along for a chat. Timed appointments can be arranged through the CAB Stowmarket office.

Advisers can help with any issue from housing, employment, welfare benefits, money and debt advice, family and relationship issues, legal and consumer rights.

The Stowmarket office can be reached by email at: [advice@midsuffolkcab.org.uk](mailto:advice@midsuffolkcab.org.uk)

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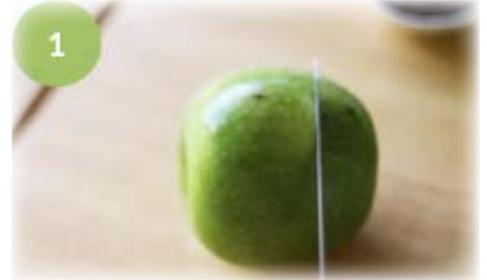


**FRUITS  
WORD SEARCH**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | K | O | L | I | M | E | C |
| B | I | R | E | G | E | P | A |
| F | W | A | M | R | L | E | P |
| R | I | N | P | A | O | A | R |
| U | F | G | L | P | N | R | I |
| I | N | E | U | E | L | G | C |
| T | L | E | M | O | N | E | O |
| S | C | H | E | R | R | Y | T |

SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THESE WORDS!  
 FRUITS APPLE ORANGE MANGO  
 APRICOT PEAR MELON CHERRY  
 KIWI LIME PLUM LEMON FIG

**APPLE TURTLES**



1. Wash apples and slice the base third from the apple.



2. Place the base on a serving plate and slice 4 grapes in half. Arrange them as the turtle's flippers.



3. Slice one third off the remaining 2 grapes and place as the heads.



4. Using the point of a knife just puncture two holes in each head for eyes. Turn the chocolate chips pointy side down and press into the holes.

**REMEMBER:** Always ask an adult to help you when using a sharp knife!



**Banana and Apple Smoothie**

*Ingredients:*

- 1 Banana, chopped
- 1 Apple, chopped
- 60g Natural yoghurt
- 60ml Milk
- 1 tsp Honey (runny)
- 3 Ice cubes

*What to do:*

**Whizz all the ingredients together and enjoy!**

**JOKE!**

**Q:** What's the fastest vegetable?  
**A:** A runner bean!

**JOKE!**

**Q:** What kind of shoes are made from banana peels?  
**A:** Slippers!

**FACT:**

Orangutans love mangoes

**FACT:**

Apples float in water because they are 25% air



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# ELMSWELL SPORT

## ELMSWELL BOWLS CLUB



Good wishes to the Residents of Elmswell from The Members of the Elmswell Bowls Clubs

The AGM - Problems with numbers?

I think there is probably one too many zeros in the statement of the 2016 results. Clubs such as ours do not justify so many zeros in their 'balance sheet'; that it is unlikely in a normal club, ever to be the case!

However, the Club needs a new mower, as the current one is at the end of its useful life and a replacement one will cost about £7,500 (*unfortunately, the correct number of zeros!*).

As you can probably appreciate, it is a difficult time of the year to report on a *summer sport* such as Lawn Bowls through the winter months! So, I thought that this would be a good opportunity to show some more of the photos from the 2016 season; taken throughout the year by our photographer, Pete Edmund.

Trevor Clarke



Trophies for presentation at EBC Dinner



The Triumphant Thursday Evening Team



'Chain Gang' - Gutter Cleaning In September



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# ELMSWELL COUNCILLOR CONTACTS



Your councillors are:

|   |  |                               |  |   |   |
|---|--|-------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <b>David Barker</b><br>Linden Croft<br>Hawk End Lane<br>ELMSWELL IP30 9ED | 01359<br>241135                        | david@linden-croft.co.uk      |  | ✓ | ✓ |
| <b>Dick Burch</b><br>14 Wetherden Road<br>ELMSWELL IP30 9DF               | 01359<br>240105                        | clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk | Footpath Officer<br>Poor's Land Charity<br>Blackbourne Management<br>Association | ✓ | ✓ |
| <b>Peter Edmonds</b><br>Little Acre<br>Ashfield Road<br>ELMSWELL IP30 9HJ | 01359<br>241640<br><br>07860<br>395720 | peterjedmonds@tiscali.co.uk   | Vice chair Planning<br>Committee   | ✓ | ✓ |
| <b>Mike Friend</b><br>22 Mill Gardens<br>ELMSWELL IP30 9DQ                | 01359<br>241699                        | mike.friend@easidoor.co.uk    | Transport Officer<br>Elmswell Amenities<br>Association                           |   | ✓ |
| <b>David Hawes</b><br>Dunelm<br>Cooks Road<br>ELMSWELL IP30 9BX           | 01359<br>240249                        | davidandanna70@yahoo.co.uk    |  | ✓ |   |
| <b>Sol Indurain</b><br>22 Mill Gardens<br>ELMSWELL IP30 9DQ               | 01359<br>241699                        | sindurain@yahoo.co.uk         | Poor's land Charity  |   | ✓ |
| <b>Fred Pallett</b><br>Maple House<br>New Road<br>ELMSWELL IP30 9 BT      | 01359<br>24414<br><br>07771<br>962441  | fjp@oilgasassociates.com      | Chairman of Council<br>Chairman of Planning<br>Committee                         | ✓ | ✓ |
| <b>Shaun Pratt</b><br>Wrinlow<br>Spong Lane<br>ELMSWELL IP30 9 DX         | 07813<br>302808                        | shaun.pratt@btinternet.com    | Vice chairman of Council   | ✓ | ✓ |
| <b>Mike Schofield</b><br>Minerva<br>Fairmead<br>ELMSWELL IP30 9HT         | 01359<br>241430                        | mhaksch@gmail.com             |  |   | ✓ |
| <b>Julia Taber</b><br>4 School Avenue<br>ELMSWELL IP30 9EH                | 07921<br>882206                        | juliataber4@icloud.com        | Poor's land Charity<br>Blackbourne Management<br>Association                     | ✓ | ✓ |
| <b>Chris Wiley</b><br>28 Gardener's Walk<br>ELMSWELL IP30 9 ET            | 07544<br>762448                        | chris.wiley@hotmail.co.uk     | Blackbourne Management<br>Association  | ✓ |   |

## Council Meetings in 2017

|              |              |              |               |             |              |              |               |              |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Jan.<br>16th | Feb.<br>20th | Mar.<br>20th | April<br>24th | May<br>22nd | June<br>19th | July<br>17th | Sept.<br>18th | Oct.<br>16th | Nov.<br>20th | Dec.<br>18th |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|



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The Parish Council is scheduled to meet on the 3rd Monday monthly but insufficient business came forward to justify a meeting in December.

Next year the conflict with Easter Monday forces a change and the following timetable is agreed: 16<sup>th</sup> January

20<sup>th</sup> February, 20<sup>th</sup> March, 24<sup>th</sup> April, 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 19<sup>th</sup> June, 17<sup>th</sup> July, 18<sup>th</sup> September, 16<sup>th</sup> October, 20<sup>th</sup> November and 18<sup>th</sup> December.

Meetings are held at 7.30 in the Chamberlayne Hall at Blackbourne, excepting in May when the Annual Meeting begins at 7.00pm. There is no meeting scheduled for August, but extra meetings can be called as necessary – for example, in 2016 Council met twice in August to deal with time-limited Planning and other issues.

A Planning Committee meeting is pencilled in for the first Monday monthly, but these are only called if there is a time constraint requiring a Parish Council response to an application outside of the regular meeting programme.

The Council's Complaints Committee only convenes as and when there is a formal complaint made against the Council. None such has occurred in recent years, but the Committee remains constituted to ensure speedy best practice should a complaint be made.

All meetings are open to the public and the public are invited to speak. The meetings are publicly posted giving the statutory 3 days' clear notice - usually more - in the Co-op notice board and in the Council's notice board on Crown Mill. The Minutes of Council meetings, once approved, are published in the Co-op notice board. All meeting papers to date and going back to January 2015 are filed in the Memorial Library in Cooks road. Bound copies of minutes going back many years are lodged with the Suffolk Records Office.

All agendas, meeting papers and Minutes are published on the Council's website at [www.elmswell.onesuffolk.net](http://www.elmswell.onesuffolk.net) and hard copies can be had on request from the Clerk's office, telephone 244134,

email [clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk)

Although there is no formal meeting, the work of the Council, through the Clerk and through individual councillors, continues, and the following updates are worthy of note.

**Wesley** The due process of purchasing the Methodist chapel and halls for community use continues. With the finance agreed via the public Works Loan Board, the deposit sits with Council's Solicitor ready for transfer. The Contract is substantially finalised with just a couple of technicalities to be agreed. Although little management information is available for the buildings, Council will have contingency figures in the budget for next year, including for the loan repayments. The Blackbourne Management Association, which has so successfully managed the Council's facilities at the Blackbourne complex for some 16 years, has agreed to expand its

brief to take on the new responsibility of a second site in collaboration with volunteers from the existing community groups based at Wesley. The Amenities Association has expressed its willingness to grant aid the project as it has done over the years so very substantially at Blackbourne. The agreed purchase price of £285,000.00 has been borrowed at a fixed rate of 2.46% over 25 years at 6 monthly diminishing repayments, representing equal instalments of principal, beginning on 7<sup>th</sup> May @ £9,205.50 and ending on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2041 with a final payment of £5,770.11. Early payment in the interim attracts no penalty other than a consideration reflecting any increased interest rate at the time of an early redemption.

**CAB outreach** The first 3 months of the scheme to provide advice from Mid Suffolk Citizens' Advice professionals on a fortnightly basis at Blackbourne has proved to be a great success with higher than anticipated levels of enquiry and some very real help and advice made available to Elmswell residents. Funding has come from the Council, from the Elmswell Fire Crew and from the Amenities Association and all concerned are to be encouraged to continue their support. The sessions are held between 9.30 and 12.30 on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. The next one is on 17<sup>th</sup> January with a special 'Energy Best Deals' session on 7<sup>th</sup> February when householders are invited to bring along their recent energy bills for comparison which can mean savings of up to £400.00 per year, with all of the change-over process managed, painlessly and without charge, by the CAB experts.

**Clerk's office** The Clerk's office has, for some 13 years, been accommodated without charge, along with various other community administrative functions, above the offices of Gobblin Wholefoods Ltd on the Station Road industrial estate behind The Fox. Despite a recent change in operating profile at Gobblin, the community activities continue and there is no change or interruption to the services provided.

**Burger van** The latest in a succession of roadside hot food retailing outlets siting themselves on the station car parking spaces off Station Road has recently decamped. There is word on the street that one of the previous incumbents intends to come back. This sits ill with the noticeable increase in commuter travel from our station. Recently, with no van present the 8 parking spaces are filled, as intended, with the cars of people who have usually driven into Elmswell to catch a train. Often they are there all day, but there is a constant stream of cars dropping off and collecting passengers, particularly at the busy times when the local roads are busy. To have a quarter of these parking spaces permanently taken up with a bulky fast food trailer and towing vehicle has recently led to a spate of people resorting to parking on both sides of the road and, inevitably, complaints through the Clerk's office and

with references to the Police as traffic, particularly HGV's accessing the industrial estate, have been stuck and caused gridlock. When this gridlock extends over the railway crossing there is serious hazard. Despite the commonly expressed view that, 'there must be something we can do', as long as the towing vehicle is roadworthy and properly parked there is no statutory control of street traders throughout Mid Suffolk. The Parish Council has lobbied for this to be addressed, but to no avail. There is now an attempt to have the parking at the station restricted to 12 hours in any 24 hours. Such initiatives require a Traffic Order – a lengthy and expensive process.

**Parking** As above, selfishness and thoughtlessness can lead to danger when cars are parked without consideration for other road users. Complaints to councillors and to the Clerk's Office often detail such instances and the problems seem to be occurring more frequently as our population and traffic increase. The process of statutory parking and speed control is long and expensive. County Council Ward Member Mrs Jane Storey recently reported that a new speed limit, once all relevant agencies (and householders /business owners in the vicinity agree to it, costs £4k - £10k to implement. Similarly, yellow lines are extremely difficult and expensive to install. Elmswell's problems at Ashfield Road, Wetherden Road, the junction of Cooks Road / New Road / The Street, School Road bend etc. are on the radar of SCC Highways and the Police. Unfortunately, diminished, and diminishing resources, mean that the list of such problems across the whole county is very long. A strict allocation by measurable priorities has not brought Elmswell's danger points to the top of that list. The Parish Council is very aware of the situation. Its support of the Community Speed Watch volunteers and for the new Vehicle Activated Sign are testament to the commitment to safer roads in our village, and the matter features large in comments both at the consultation stage and the formal Planning stage as and when the tide of speculative development proposals rolls in.

**Next meeting** The January Council meeting is scheduled for Monday 16<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 in the Chamberlayne Hall at Blackbourne. The public are, as ever, welcome to attend and there are opportunities on the agenda for public input. The agenda is posted on the Council's noticeboard at Crown Mill and in the community notice board at the Co-op adjacent to the Post office. It is also available, with supporting papers, on line at [www.elmswell.onesuffolk.net](http://www.elmswell.onesuffolk.net) In the interests of openness and transparency, meetings are now filmed and those attending should make the Clerk or Chairman aware if they have any personal reservations in this regard.

**Peter Dow CILCA  
Clerk to the Council**



Enquiries on any or all of the above, or on any Council matter, are invited through the Parish Clerk, Peter Dow at the Parish Clerk's Office, Station Road, Elmswell IP30 9HR. telephone 01359 244134 email clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk.

The office is situated on the Station Road Industrial Estate, behind the Fox pub and right next to the railway line above Goblins factory premises. It is open for business on weekdays from 9.00am - 5.30 pm, excepting Bank Holidays. The answerphone is monitored daily.



# FOOTPATH WALK

Our next walk starts, as usual, from Crown Mill, on **SUNDAY 15th JANUARY beginning at 11.00 am from the village sign and afterwards at The Fox.**

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*



## CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM (SNT)



To speak to an officer from your local SNT, because they may well be out on patrol, the easiest option is to telephone the number 101, which is the new number across England and Wales for local police forces. You will then be told you are being put through to Suffolk Constabulary's Police HQ, where you can speak to the operator and either ask to be put through to a particular officer, or to Mid Suffolk South Safer Neighbourhood team office.

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

Email: [stowmarket.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:stowmarket.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk)

**recycle**  
Your Christmas tree  
at the  
Blackbourne Centre

'Real' trees can be left at this site from 7am on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January, until 6.30am on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January.

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

Please call 01449 778678 for further details



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](http://www.elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk) - it might help you in planning dates for your events.

## January 2017

- 6 Elmswell Bingo at the Blackbourne, doors open at 6.45, eyes down 7.30
- 6 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 10 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30 p.m. Adventures on the High Seas. Speaker Bridget Keevil.
- 12 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 12 **Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall.** 7.00pm, Official Launch of HLF-funded WW1 Project "Elmswell's Lost Aerodrome, and 75 (HD) Squadron Royal Flying Corps". Followed by talk on "Those Magnificent Men and Their Flying Machines - Elmswell's Great War Aviators" by speakers Peter McGee & Graham Mack.
- 13 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 20 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 27 Elmswell Bingo at the Blackbourne, doors open at 6.45, eyes down 7.30

## February 2017

- 1 Elmswell Exchange (Afternoon) W.I. 2 pm, Wesley Community Centre Oliver Miller, Bishop & Miller Antiques - Tales from the Auction House Competition - A small antique item
- 3 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 6 7.45pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - Games Evening with Jenny Spurgeon
- 9 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 9 **Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall.** 7.30pm, Speaker Helen Geake: "After Roman Britain, who were the Anglo-Saxons?"
- 10 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 14 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30 p.m. Tai Chi - Medication in Motion. Speaker Michael Brown.
- 17 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 21 Gardening Club, 7.30pm Blackbourne Talk: New, Different, Unusual - Thompson & Morgan
- 24 Elmswell Bingo at the Blackbourne, doors open at 6.45, eyes down 7.30

## March 2017

- 1 Elmswell Exchange (Afternoon) W.I. 2 pm, Wesley Community Centre Chris Parfitt, Along the China Silk Road Competition - An item made from silk
- 3 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 6 7.45pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - Mission Aviation Fellowship
- 9 **Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall.** 7.30pm, Speaker Gareth Davies: "Pablo Fanque's Fair & early Victorian Circus"
- 10 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 14 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30 pm. Experiences of our local Fireman.
- 17 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon

- 21 Gardening Club, 7.30pm Blackbourne Talk: Gardening Bugs - Cohabit, Conserve, Control
- 25 Elmswell Baby and Toddler Group Nearly New Sale 2017
- 31 Elmswell Bingo at the Blackbourne, doors open at 6.45, eyes down 7.30
- 31 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon

## April 2017

- 3 7.45pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - An Armchair Walk along the Ipswich Waterfront
- 5 Elmswell Exchange (Afternoon) W.I. 2 pm, Wesley Community Centre OPEN MEETING Imogen Sheeran Around the World in 80 Beads Competition - A Beaded Item
- 7 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 11 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30 pm. Coffee Experience.
- 13 **Elmswell History Group's 17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting, Wesley Hall.** 7.30pm, Speaker Chloë Cockerill: "East Anglian Saints, including St Edmund"
- 18 Gardening Club, 7.30pm Blackbourne Talk: Wicken Fen - Past, Present and the Future
- 21 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 28 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 28 Elmswell Bingo at the Blackbourne, doors open at 6.45, eyes down 7.30

## May 2017

- 3 Elmswell Exchange (Afternoon) W.I. 2 pm, Wesley Community Centre Annual General Meeting and Resolutions plus a little something extra! Competition - A Single Flower from the garden
- 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 **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
- 19 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 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

- 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
- 6 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 **Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall. 7pm A.G.M.,** then Speaker Paul Peachey: "Elmswell's historical Postcards" **\*July tickets on sale\***
- 9 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 13 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30 pm. Turkish Cuisine and Pashminas. Speaker Jenny Gibbs.
- 16 Gardening Club, 7.30pm Blackbourne Talk: Seasonal Interest in the Garden
- 16 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 20 Gardening Club, 7.30pm Blackbourne Talk: Horticultural Forum - Houseplant Jungle
- 23 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 30 Elmswell Bingo at the Blackbourne, doors open at 6.45, eyes down 7.30

## July 2017

- 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
- 11 Summer Social Event
- 13 **Elmswell History Group - Annual Outing: To be arranged**
- 14 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 18 Gardening Club - Summer Activity
- 21 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 28 Elmswell Bingo at the Blackbourne, doors open at 6.45, eyes down 7.30

## 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
- 8 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30 pm. The Dogs Trust with canine companion.
- 18 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 25 Elmswell Bingo at the Blackbourne, doors open at 6.45, eyes down 7.30

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## Your Newsletter Fact File

For the next 6 months we need copy by:

January 24th February 21st  
March 28th April 25th  
May 23rd June 27th

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

Your editors:

Jean Barker, Maggie Bushell, Peter Dow

Published on the first Friday of every month by the Elmswell Amenities Association

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# Regular meetings at Blackbourne

**Monday**  
Guides 6.30 - 8.00,  
Youth Club 7.00 - 9.00

**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

**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](http://www.sozohomechurch.com)

Forge Church one Sunday each month 1.30 - 6.00

To make a booking enquiry

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