

'Like a friend dropping in'



The Elmswell Newsletter



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

April 2018

GOOD SNOW...

for playground fun



...See page 21

NOT-SO GOOD SNOW

...right on cue for the sale

...see page 21



Published on the first Friday of every month by the Elmswell Amenities Association Reg. Charity No. 304879. 1,776 copies delivered free to households and to businesses in the community. A volunteer enterprise entirely supported by advertising.

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Our editorial is designed to inform and to encourage debate.

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

We didn't like the poll tax. Twice. We didn't like it in 1381 when it was invented as a way to raise money for the war against France.

The good folk of Brentwood were particularly cross and killed a couple of the tax collectors. This, without the help of Facebook, went viral and spread to become The Peasants' Revolt which was only halted when some 1500 of the said peasants were slaughtered in a battle at North Walsham where the Bishop of Norwich led the joyfully bloody proceedings. The Reverend's reputation remains enshrined in the oft-misquoted acronym, 'Not One Rebel-left-standing When I Come Home'.

We didn't like it when Prime Minister Thatcher, some 600 years later, in 1989, tried again. Her government replaced the old council rates with the new 'community charge'. No-one was fooled by the change of name. Instead of rates paid based on the value of your house, you were charged for each person living there. It was a Poll Tax and proved equally unpopular as large families using a relatively small house saw their charges go up considerably, and the tax was thus accused of saving the rich money and shoving extra expenses onto the poor. The actual cost of the tax was set by individual councils. Some areas ended up charging much more than others and there was a widespread outcry. Opposition groups formed; some advocated a refusal to pay. The peasants were, once again, in revolt! However, the Bishop of Norwich stayed out of it this time and the worst battle was at a march in London in 1990 which turned into a riot, when no-one was slaughtered, just 340 arrested and 45 policemen injured. Enough, however, to prove that the idea was unlikely to catch on and should be dropped fairly quickly.

So, here we are, since 1993, with the Council Tax - a tax on domestic property rather than on the people living there. Our houses are put into one of eight bands (A to H) based on their value, and the money raised brings in about a quarter of the income of District & Borough Councils - in our case Mid Suffolk. In Elmswell this creates a range for the coming year from £1223.75 for Band A to £3368.24 for Band H...£23.53 per week up to £64.77 per week.

Looking at the Band D, middle of the range, rankings for our neighbouring 122 parishes we find Elmswell 6th from the top at £32.39 in the range from the lowest weekly charge of £30.66 up to Stowmarket, as the highest, at £33.53.

The factors which affect the different charges are obvious. Many of our neighbours have few facilities. For example, street lights - Elmswell owns 115 which will cost some £4,370 next year to keep lit and maintained, many of the smaller parishes are un-lit. Then there are our dog & litter bins - about 50 of them to be emptied weekly at a cost of £1,420 over the year...again, many parishes have none. Add in our allotments, cemetery, play areas, wages, Blackbourne and Wesley and our Parish Council has to find £151,000 before considering any innovations, schemes or projects. Councillors reckon to bring in about £125,000 from fees, grants and charges. The need for continuing improvements to the village facilities, notably the refurbishment of the Wesley chapel to cater for the ever-growing population and subsequent demand, explains the extra requirement. The cost to each average Band D household is £1.74 per week.

The wider picture is not so simply explained. At County Council level, where money handed over from central government has literally halved since 2010, demand for services has increased. There are more cuts planned whilst higher demand seems inevitable as an ageing population seeks support. The number of over-65's in care has risen by 14% since 2012. In that time, spending on social care has actually fallen by 3% as the money is stretched more thinly. Keeping all the plates spinning is the game...but the situation is reminiscent of the salutary story of the man who spent many months training his donkey to live without food. The man claimed success. He ended up not having to feed his donkey. However, the donkey died. Hence the drama of Northampton County Council effectively going bust. 21 libraries closed, all bus subsidies cancelled in a county as rural as Suffolk. Hence the drama to come of our richest county, Surrey, facing a shortfall of £100 million pounds this year. Hence the gradual decline in rubbish collection services and the consequent increase in fly tipping; the reduction in supported housing of 45% and consequent increase in homelessness; the drop in money spent on Planning services, and the consequent free-for-all in the housebuilding sector. The public sector donkey is looking far from well!

Our Parish Council has a recent history of staying ahead of the game. The report in this month's magazine is of a turnover at Blackbourne of some £45,000, from which it might confidently be predicted that there will be a surplus over and above running costs and loan interest. The investment at Wesley, considered by some to be foolhardy, begins to look essential as the Bacon Factory site is built-out adding 3 or 4 houses every month, a figure set to quadruple as our new neighbours settle in at Wetherden Road, where permission is now granted for 240 dwellings, along with the 60 at Borley Crescent and, coming to a community near you soon, 106 at Ashfield Road, 38 at Warren Lane with the threat, as yet untested, of 250 between School Avenue and St John's Church.

How far should our most local council go? A significant recent development has been the appointment of a Village Warden. So far hailed as a Great Success...the streets are cleaner, various other problems are dealt with quickly and soon the programme of cleaning the highway signs begins. But, don't we already pay Mid Suffolk or Suffolk County Council to do these jobs? Yes, we do. The decision our Councillors must make is, do we, effectively pay twice - once for a service that never arrives, then again to get the job actually done? The Parish Council report in this month's Newsletter confirms that the village might be pursuing its own yellow lines and even chasing the nonsensical HGV ban on A1088 through Norton which delivers considerable lorry traffic over our railway crossing and down New Road which is not even wide enough for 2 hay wains to pass. Should we spend our own money on such measures when the expense, rightly, should be shared county-wide?

The Parish Council has recently taken delivery of 2 road signs. They are to discourage HGV traffic from New Road in the hope that they encourage the use of the advisory one-way lorry route coming in via School Road, out via New Road. The signs are pukka highway kit - but not backed by any Traffic Order and not installed by SCC. They shouldn't be installed by anyone else. But the HGV's shouldn't be coming the wrong way down New Road. They represent the lesser of 2 evils - but we have to pay for them ourselves. £49.50 each. Worth it?

It won't stop hay wains...if you see one of them, call a constable.



Your Newsletter Fact File

For the next 6 months we need copy by:

April 24th May 22nd June 26th July 24th August 30th September 27th

Contact us on our new 'phone number is **0759 389 3602** for all Amenities Association business, Newsletter and adverts.

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

Your editors: Jean Barker, Maggie Bushell, Peter Dow

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CLUBS & SOCIETIES

ELMSWELL ART CLUB

Some people do. Some people don't. And the do's outnumber the don'ts by about 8 to 1. So what is it that distinguishes the do's from the don'ts. When creating pictures and paintings, all of those who do have some kind of image in front of them to either copy or to use as a guide, to enable them to create an interesting painting. The don'ts have nothing to copy or give them inspiration. The two pictures shown this month fall into one of these categories, but which one? Are they created using an outside image or are they created simply using inspiration from within? Have a good look and decide. Answers on a post card please! No don't do that. Both have been created using images from inside the artist's head with no physical picture, photo or drawing were used to provide inspiration or guidance. Clever or what? I most certainly cannot do that. Believe me I have tried! The tone painting in watercolour of seagulls flying over stormy cliffs and turbulent water is by Brenda Thompson. Caroline Cooke also used watercolour to do this emotive landscape of Borrowdale in Cumbria.

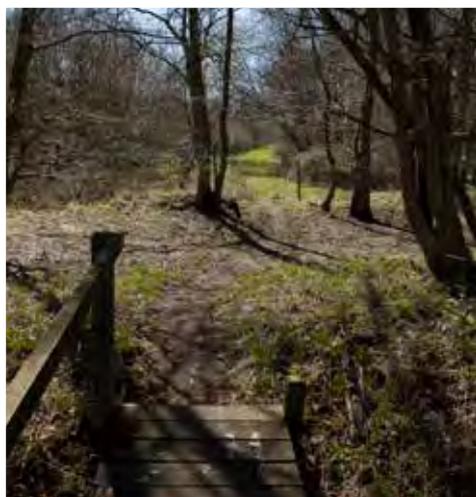


On Tuesday 27th February we had a guest artist, Paul Seymour, give us a really interesting and worthwhile demonstration of pen and ink drawing with colour wash, followed by a workshop which proved particularly useful and informative. As the saying goes, a good time was had by all, including a number of non-members who were warmly welcomed.

Date for the diary: 27th and 28th October : Art Show and Sale of paintings and pictures by our members. Nice time to chose an original piece of artwork for a Christmas gift. John Welford 01359 240166

“ If I create from the heart, nearly everything works; if from the head almost nothing” Marc Chagall

Art club meets Tuesday mornings at the Wesley.



FOOTPATH WALK

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

**SUNDAY 15th APRIL
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*

ELMSWELL EXCHANGE (AFTERNOON) WI

How could we have known that our **March meeting** would contain so many surprises. Who would have guessed that wool can be made from camels, possums, buffalo and milk protein. I can personally guarantee that the camel wool does not smell, or spit but is as soft as soft can be. The ball of wool produced from milk protein was pink and just like normal sheep wool. As for the possum wool none of us could think how this was obtained, even our speaker **Becky Poynter from Yarnsmith**. **This was certainly Tales of the Unexpected.** Becky gave us a digital presentation of the history of knitting through the ages. We began with a pair of strangely shaped knitted socks from ancient Egypt and travelled right through knitting fashions until the present. This only really proved that what goes around, comes around. Fashions certainly return time and time again. Becky also demonstrated different ways of knitting and some of the new types of circular needles popular at present. One thing we were all sure of; we all needed our woollens on that particular afternoon as the heating in the Wesley Hall was barely noticeable. In fact, once again coats remained firmly on.

Our competition (a knitted or crocheted item) was won by Mary Chown with a Norwegian style jumper. Second was Sylvia Walton with a splendid knitted dishcloth, her first attempt at knitting at 89 and three quarters. Well done Sylvia !! Third was Connie with an intricately crocheted tray cloth. We had a lot of entries so congratulations to the winners.

Our speakers next month are Marilyn Bartrup and Lynne Ready who are Gap Year Pensioners. Now isn't that intriguing !

We are an informal and friendly group and welcome guests and new members. For further details contact Mary on 242788 or Maureen on 241033.



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ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

At our meeting on 8 March we welcomed the return visit of Mark Mitchels whose topic was 'The Rise and Fall of the East Anglian Herring.'

From 1209 when their Royal Charter was granted Yarmouth and Lowestoft were able to exploit the harvest of the sea and once the railways came they were able to supply the cities with all the fish they required.

The towns were laid out so that the fishermen had easy access to the shore and today 'The Rows' in Yarmouth and 'The Scores' in Lowestoft tell us where the brave fisherfolk lived. Entire communities thrived during the herring season and almost as famous as the crews themselves were the Scottish fisher girls who followed the shoals and produced thousands of barrels of salted herring, kippers and bloaters which were sent around the world.

Mark had several photographs that illustrated the large number of drifters in the harbour, the fisher girls working at their dangerous job, gutting and packing the herring into barrels at the rate of 30 herrings per minute.

After the First World War the herring stocks were gradually exhausted and the industry died. From the enormous number of boats, only 2 drifters still survive, the Excelsior and Lydia Eve. Excelsior has been restored and is used for sail training for disadvantaged children. Lydia Eve has also been restored and is part of the floating museum at Great Yarmouth.

During questions after Mark's talk it was interesting to hear that several of our members had links with the fishermen and the Scottish fisher girls.

Our next meeting is on 13 April when Nick Amor will give a talk on The Suffolk Clothier in Henry VII's time - this will be our History Group's 18th Anniversary evening. Nick is a local solicitor, living in Suffolk; his book 'Late Medieval Ipswich' has recently been published.

Our meetings are held at the Wesley Hall at 7.30pm. 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. Parfitt to the meeting to speak to us about Thailand - the land of smiles. It is a southeast Asian country known for tropical beaches, opulent royal palaces,

ancient ruins and ornate temples displaying figures of Buddha. Bangkok is the capital.

Mr. Parfitt visited Sukhothai which was the first capital and is now a UNESCO Heritage Site. It was left in ruins after Burma invaded. He visited many temples of which there are at least 30,000. The stupas are covered in gold and many of the Buddhas are covered in gold leaf. We learnt that most younger men are monks for a certain period such as 3 months. They do this to honour their mothers and have to beg for their food during this time.

Houses are built on stilts because of monsoons and under the house is a cool, shady place to escape from the heat. The villages are self contained with meat, fruit and vegetables sold at the side of the road. Rice and pineapple are grown and the pineapples are much larger than seen in our supermarkets.

We were shown an elephant camp where the elephants are looked after as they are trying not to over harvest the teak so do not need as many elephants.

The children attend school from the ages of 6-13. Mr. Parfitt found the people to be full of smiles and he certainly conveyed the colour of the floating markets and the wonderful gardens of one of the hotels he stayed in. We thank him for an interesting talk.

Members were reminded to sign up for the trips to Felixstowe and Sandringham. Further details available from Anice.

Our speaker on April 17th is Martyn Taylor who will be speaking about Victorian buildings in Bury St. Edmunds.

New members are always welcome.

Enquiries to Carol 242 884

ELMSWELL W.I.

Rachel welcomed new members and visitors and then introduced us to our speaker, Amanda Sutherland, who is a textile artist and designer.

There before us, was a wonderful display of beautiful fascinators, unusual cravats and jewellery. They were stunning - all original designs.

Amanda proceeded to tell us about her career and how she came to live in Suffolk, creating her works of art. What an interesting story! She was a creative child and even sold jewellery, made out of inner soles, to teachers at her school! When she was older, she went to college to study fashion and theatre design. She always seemed to do things a little differently from the other students and won the "Fashion Student of the Year" award for her

final collection, which was based on the theme of a Gothic wedding.

Next, she went to the London College of Fashion, where she learnt pattern cutting, tailoring and more about creating textiles on a large scale, using industrial machines. She also worked with Kylie Minogue's designer, who was her tutor. During this time, she took every opportunity to do work experience in many different places and this resulted in a very interesting C.V., which included working for London Fashion Week and the BBC, as well as designing wedding clothes and jewellery etc.

After a nine-month bursary, working for the Royal Opera House, where she had an interesting time sourcing materials from all sorts of fascinating places, Amanda went free-lance and became a wardrobe mistress for Jesus Christ Superstar. Soon afterwards, she became a costumier at a prestigious London company, where she was responsible for sourcing costumes, from different eras, for films and television programmes such as Downton Abbey. During this time, she met many famous people and even appeared as an extra on Eastenders.

However, Amanda felt that she would like to be more creative and took the bold step of setting up on her own, as a designer. Her wedding business flourished and eventually, after some problems caused by the economic climate, she and her husband bought a house near Haverhill, where she could display her work in her own showroom. Now, she hosts group making sessions, where people learn to make their own fascinators etc. She also uses unusual materials, like old coke cans and underwear, recycled ties and socks to make ingenious articles of clothing and jewellery. You would never guess at their origins!

What a fascinating talk, delivered with such energy! We were all held spellbound.

Amanda judged the entries for the Pat Catton competition and it was won by Lesley Clark, for the second year running. The brief was to decorate a box and Lesley's was a beautiful sewing box, decorated with hand-made tiny cotton reels etc. - a work of art. Well done Lesley! Rachel made a request for more committee members and revealed that we had raised £48 from the raffle to help Cameroon women to develop ways to make an income. (This is our annual contribution to the A.C.W.W.)

In April, Daisy Shipp is coming to talk to us about her work as a holistic therapist.

Rosie Collins 01359 241652

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



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ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB

Just when we thought it was safe to put heads above the parapet, a whole load of snow was dumped on our burgeoning gardens. Oh, how our thoughts sailed through the bitter easterly winds to the soft breezes of summer and butterflies fluttering in our sweetly scented gardens. Hopes were raised by another great guest speaker, Dr. Ian Bedford, Head of Entomology from the John Innes Centre, Norwich. He gave us an insight into the fragile world of butterflies and moths. Described sometimes as 'living petals' or 'summer snowflakes' - jewels of the summer. Butterflies emerged over 150 million years ago along with flowering plants; even older butterfly fossils may have fed on ferns. What a survivor. Now our modern world is the greatest threat to their continued existence.

Dr. Bedford described the life cycle of butterflies and the metamorphic soup at the chrysalis/pupa stage which transforms caterpillars into a butterfly/moths. Butterfly lifespan depends

on species and also weather conditions. A small species such as the Common Blue may live only a few days, whereas a Peacock emerges from its pupa in August, feeds up, hibernates, mates and lays eggs the following spring. It is still be on fragile wings in June. One of our rarest East Anglian butterflies is the Purple Emperor. It spends most of its time in deciduous woodland feeding on aphid sugar. The male has a penchant for animal droppings and carrion providing it with much-needed salts and minerals. Of course, rarity encourages ruthless collectors, who risk prosecution by putting down rotten fish or banana skins, to capture the Emperor. Some butterflies, e.g. the Large Blue, have a symbiotic relationship with ants. The ants tenderly nurture the caterpillar underground until it pupates and then the ants escort the fully-formed butterfly to the surface. Modern farming methods and the use of neonicotinoids is poisoning our countryside and even garden centre plants do not escape this insecticide. Dr.

Bedford hoped we would fill our gardens with nectar-rich plants and also garden ponds attract all kinds of amphibians, birds and sometimes unusual butterflies. Look out for the Small Copper or Purple Hairstreak butterflies – surely a bonus.

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday, 17th April, 7.30pm at the Blackbourne**. Despite the changeable weather we hope to have a Club Plant Exchange Table, so bring along your surplus bulbs and plants, your overflow may be another member's much-needed plant. Our speaker next month is **Karen Kenny**, who regularly contributes to BBC Radio Suffolk. She will be inspiring us with **the Magic & Mystery of Herbs**. We are a friendly inclusive group and would love to welcome more members. If you just wish to check us out it is only £4.00 for visitors. If you require further information about the Gardening Club, please contact **Nick Chamberlin** on **242601**



ELMSWELL OVER 55's CLUB

Our AGM has come and gone with no further nominations for our committee so it falls to the existing faithful to continue for a further year to keep the show on the road.

Our first outing is on May 3rd if you haven't put your names down please do so at the next meeting (April 4th) when we will also collect the fares.

Our Holiday to the Isle of Wight leaving on Monday July 20th still has a few double / twin rooms available.

New members are always welcome at our meetings, details are printed in the "Whats on Section".

ELMSWELL LUNCHEON CLUB

The end of an era!

The Elmswell Luncheon Club has, for many years, provided a weekly hot lunch for the older people of the village.

In its early days the Club met a real social need for those in the community who were unable to get out much.

We used to cater regularly for more than three dozen each week. We were based at the Blackbourne and were funded by Social Services.

But there was a squeeze on and we lost out and had to become a self-sufficient group.

We found a new home at The Bull, Woolpit where Val and Trevor made us most welcome.

Many of the original members are no longer with us and, as today's 70's and 80 year olds are more mobile and independent, numbers have fallen and it has proved difficult to attract new members. Lately we have seen attendance as low as seven or eight folk.

We realised we could not continue like that and at a special meeting on March 5th we voted unanimously to close the Club at the end of March. A difficult and sad decision but a practical one.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the many people who have given their time and advice to the Club.

These include Peter Dow who guided us over the move to Woolpit; Douglas Reed – who ably followed Alan Sparrow – in looking after our finances; Jean Barker for delicious cakes provided for our Christmas parties; Paul and his team who, over the last year, have fed us well at The Bull; various organisations and MSDC for their donations which have been most welcome; Michael Perry for transporting us to The Bull and on the Club's outings.

And last, but by no means least, our dedicated committee of Anice Webb, Margaret Borrett and

Stella Davey who have given much of their time to help the Club to run smoothly.

When all our liabilities have been met the committee, with the approval of the members, will be dividing the Club's proceeds between Elmswell Fire Station and the Woolpit Health Centre.

David Joughin, Chairman

FRIENDS OF WOOLPIT HEALTH CENTRE

Thank you to all those who in the past year have contributed to the funds – from individuals or groups and also those who have given donations in memory of a friend or relative who has died. Every amount, whether large or small, is very much appreciated and used for the benefit of the patients who attend the Health Centre.

With the extensive building works at the Health Centre, funds will be used to equip the new rooms with the extras which will make a substantial difference to patient care. In the meantime it is proposed to purchase additional blood pressure and ECG monitors to add to those already loaned out. These extra monitors will result in patients not having to wait too long to borrow this equipment.

We are very much indebted to all your contributions and hope you will continue to support us in the coming year.

Sue Eburne, Treasurer

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ELMS FEST



ELMSFEST

As each month passes, the excitement for ElmsFest grows and the stress levels begin to increase, as it seems hard to believe everything will come together in such a short space of time – but we do what we can and give it our best shot!

ElmsFest returns on Sunday 02 September at Blackbourne and aims to promote all the clubs, charities and organisations that make Elmswell one of the most active villages in Suffolk.

But to make that happen, we're calling out for anybody or any group that would like to participate in this year's fair. We have indoor and outdoor pitches available for crafts, fundraisers and general promotion of local groups.

We are also eager for people to help us by volunteering an hour or two of their time to help us man the gate, car park and attractions. If you feel like you could lend us a hand or want to enquire about a stand, please be in touch via the contact details below.

We, the organisers, are extremely excited to welcome Ridgeside Falconry & Little Nippers as our main attraction for 2018 – a professional flying and static bird display with dog racing and an opportunity for the crowd to get involved too! PLUS, we are thrilled to be able to welcome back Kate McCabe, Harry Cambridge (the Luther

Vandross tribute that everybody has been raving about) and True Fable, our village duo that have just recently released a charity single!

Sponsorship from local businesses really helps to keep costs for us (and you) down, so if your business would like to be heavily advertised in all of our publicity on the run up to ElmsFest, we'd love to hear from you. Just like Park Garage Services have done already – thank you Will!

You can email bookings@elmsfest.info or contact Mike on 01359 241699 or Chris on 07544762448.



ELMSWHEELIANS 2018

Bike Rides

If you enjoy cycling, and think you might like to join us, please note below our initial programme of rides planned for 2018 :

Draft Programme :

Sunday 22nd April

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

Sunday 27th May

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

Sunday 24th June

(evening ride - starting at 6.00 p.m. - 15 miles approx.)

Friday 27th July

(evening ride - starting at 6.00 p.m. - 15 miles approx.)

More dates to follow for the autumn / winter months.

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

As always, everyone welcome, but must be aged 16+.

There is no membership, and nothing to pay; just turn up, and join a group of people who enjoy "social cycling".

If you like the idea, do come and join us.

Trevor Sadler,

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ST JOHN'S CHURCH

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At St John's Elmswell, we aim to share and celebrate the best news of all. This news focuses on Jesus and the events of Easter. Why not come and discover more? We offer a range of popular Sunday services. You can learn more about the different styles of worship we offer, the communion service times and the child-friendly activities on our website.

If you would like to find out more about the best news ever, why not try come along to Christianity Explored. It's a relaxed and informal way of providing space and time to think about the big questions of life. In a small group, over seven sessions, you can find out more about the life of the person at the heart of the Christian faith, Jesus Christ. A new group will be starting in June – details will appear on our web site or from Peter, our Rector.

Throughout the week, we run a variety of other "small groups" that meet together on a weekly or fortnightly basis. The small group setting is the best place to get to develop deeper friendships with other church members and to get that sense of belonging to something special. Our small groups form a central part of church life, health and growth. Each groups has its own distinct style - some meet during the day and some during the evening, some have a crèche option, some are centred around drinking coffee! Our small groups also include an opportunity to hear something from God as the Bible is opened up and encourage us to think how we can serve by helping out in our churches and community.

Belonging to a small group not only enjoyable, but is also key if we wish to enjoy the genuine Christian community (mutual support, encouragement, discipleship and outreach) that is in line with the New Testament vision of church.



Looking back over the last month, March dealt Elmswell some pretty crazy weather. However, we are pleased that many of the events at St John's went ahead as planned. The "cinema at church" was a success and the pop corn stall was especially popular with the children :) Our Mothering Sunday celebration was also very enjoyable as we thanked God for Mums and thought about the even greater love God has for us, his children.

Remember, everyone is welcome at St John's. If you'd like to know about our church, or enquire about getting married or having your child christened, please get in touch! Revd Peter Goodridge, 01359 240512, elmswellrector@gmail.com, www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk ...and find us on facebook.

Interested? Give us a call or pop along to one of our services time month – details are below:

Sunday 1st April Easter Sunday

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10:30am Easter Family Communion

Sunday 8th April

10:30am Morning Service

Sunday 15th April

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

Sunday 22nd April

10:30am Holy Communion

Sunday 29th April

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

Sunday 6th May

9:30am Family Church
11:00am BCP Morning Prayer plus Communion



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH TOWER FLOODLIGHTING

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

can choose to commemorate a personal event, an anniversary, or any other special occasion. Alternatively you can simply make a donation. A night's floodlighting costs £5.

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

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

MARCH 2018 SPONSORSHIP (CORRECTION)

10 John Bennington. "Remembering our Wedding Day 62 years ago, a lovely sunny day at the Methodist Church".
Love, Elizabeth. xx.

APRIL 2018 SPONSORSHIPS

- 1 to remember and thank all the Elmswell Fire-Fighters who have served their village and community so well.
- 6 in loving memory of Tony Bendall. "Loved and always in our thoughts".
Love Margery, Neville, Bryan, Malcolm, Philip and all the families.
- 9 remembering Grace Rush, a dear Mum, Grandma and Great Grandma, on her Birthday.
- 9 Hopper. Treasured memories of my dear Dad, Dennis. "Always in our thoughts".
Sally & Alan. xx.
- 14 remembering Carl Finch on the anniversary of his death in 1999.
- 14 in memory of Ray Borrett's Birthday.
- 17 in loving memory of Doris Last.
- 17 in loving memory of Jane Goodchild.
Love, Colin. xx.
- 18 "Happy Birthday Mum.
Thinking of you always." Judy.
- 20 in memory of Jim Baker (1933 - 2009) on his Birthday.
- 22 in loving memory of Teasel.
- 23 remembering Carl Finch on St. George's Day.
- 30 in memory of David Lakey.
- 30 Hopper. Loving memories of a dearly loved Mum and Dad, Ivy & Dennis, on their Birthdays.
Sally & Alan. xx.

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Elmswell (Tel: 240908)**

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29 Lockington Road, Stowmarket IP14 1BQ
Tel: 01449-612946

E-mail: ourlady.stowmarket@btinternet.com

MASS TIMES: Saturdays (First Mass of Sunday)

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

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

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

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

Father David Finegan



ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

When I was writing these notes for the April 2017 Newsletter I commented that we would be discussing having the outside of the chapel painted. 12 months on not only has the outside been painted but the inside has also been done and along with some new furniture the chapel really does look very different and refreshed. When you read this we will have just celebrated Easter which is very much about things being new and changed. Jesus dying on the cross enables us to have a new relationship with God, the tearing of the curtain in the temple which hid the most holy place from all but the High Priest means we can approach God directly without the need for any intermediary. The fact that Jesus rose again after 3 days, a fact that is supported by the sort of evidence that academics would drool over in any other instance, means that death is not the end and if we accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour we can look forward to an eternity with Him. Quite what heaven will be like, we don't know, but we do know it will be absolutely wonderful and a world away from what it will be like to spend eternity apart from God. This is the message that the lately departed Dr. Billy Graham preached so eloquently in the 20th Century and we try, imperfectly and in much more humble circumstances, to continue to do in the 21st Century.

Our activities in April are as follows:-

The Ladies Friendship Group are visiting the Fire Station on Monday April 9th at 7.45pm. All ladies are welcome to come along. Phone Margaret on 241541 to find out more.

Food & Friends on Thursday April 12th at midday – for the older folk – a chance to meet other people and enjoy a nutritious meal at nominal cost. This is run in conjunction with Age UK. Phone Jackie on 245918 to book your place.

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

- April 8th Stephen Spurgeon - All-Age Service
- April 15th Rev. Barbara Challis
- April 22nd Stephen Spurgeon
- April 29th Rev. Richard Edwards
- May 6th Kevin Moore (inc Communion)

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

Visit our website at www.elmswellbaptist.org.uk, email cockant2@btinternet.com or telephone either of the numbers in this text for further info. You can also find us on Facebook.

Tony

WHO CARES?

Last year Churches across Suffolk embarked on the first phase of a campaign called *Who Cares?* This phase was an anonymous survey asking people the question - "what hurts the most?" The goal was to simply find out what in life people find difficult to handle. What issues are people in our community worried about and how might we be able to respond?

In Elmswell, over 200 responses have been received so far. The figure across Suffolk currently exceeds 4000. Here is a summary of what we have observed in Elmswell:

Firstly, it is no surprise that in the over 66 age bracket, issues relating to physical suffering, death and loneliness were very prominent.

Secondly, we know that many in our communities have significant financial difficulties. Interestingly, money issues did not figure significantly at all in the responses. However, if you are worried about debt, an organisation such as CAP (Christians Against Poverty) can help. Their website is <http://capuk.org> or call free on 0800 328 0006 for more advice or to book an appointment. Thirdly, and perhaps most significantly, the category that stands out is injustice. Over a fifth of the responses have been to do with injustice. Injustice includes both global issues (such as concerns over war and hunger) and more personal issues (such as lying and bullying). This concern is reflected across all age ranges - rising to over 25% in the under 18s and 35-66 age brackets!

It strikes me that we have the power to do something about issues of injustice. There are many ways we can get involved. For example, at St John's Church recently a 13 year old boy organised a cake sale and raised £250 for Toilet Twinning. He was concerned that 1 in 3 people across the globe do not have access to a proper toilet. The money raised has enabled the provision of 4 toilets in the Democratic Republic of Congo. For £60 you can twin your own toilet (just google "toilet twinning"). Another, more local, way of helping is to support the Stowmarket Foodbank – there are collection points inside St John's and the Co-op. Over the past 2 years at St John's, we have packed over 160 Christmas shoeboxes full of gifts for children abroad and raised money for many charities that seek to tackle poverty and injustice.

The information produced by *Who Cares?* is invaluable to the church in Suffolk as we seek to serve through our ministries of offering hope in Jesus' name and by providing pastoral care, healing and wholeness, counselling and listening services, alongside being able to signpost to other organisations who share our values.

However, you don't need to be a person of faith to get involved. You can still assist the church in this work or maybe support our firemen in the amazing fundraising they do each year. Alternatively, letters to MPs and petitions can prove effective. The point is we can all make a difference – as the advert used to say, "every little helps."

Rev Peter Goodridge
(Rector, St John's Church Elmswell)



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CITIZENS ADVICE

I live in a privately rented two-bedroom house and the damp in the living room is aggravating my three-year-old daughter's asthma. I've told my landlord but she's not taking action. What can I do?

Resolving damp issues can be difficult - especially as the cause of the problem is not always obvious. Also, by raising any disrepair complaint to a private landlord it's important to realise that there is a risk of retaliatory eviction.

First, make sure you're not doing anything that could be contributing to the damp, such as drying clothes indoors or blocking vents. Once that's done, you have two potential routes available.

The first is to report the problem to the Environmental Health department at your local authority. This route is best if you're unsure what's causing the damp, but it's also an option if you think your landlord is responsible.

Tell your council the damp is causing your daughter's asthma to worsen and provide evidence, including letters from your GP, photos of the damp, and a copy of your tenancy agreement.

The local authority can issue an awareness notice, which tells your landlord there's a hazard in the home and what they need to do to fix it, although it does not require them to take action. The authority can also serve the more serious improvement notice, which requires your landlord to carry out the work and also offers you some protection from retaliatory eviction.



Alternatively, you could take them to court. Your landlord may be held responsible for repairing the damp, but this will depend on the cause - such as a broken heater or window - and the terms of your tenancy agreement.

If they are responsible, the court can grant an injunction and possibly award compensation. Seek advice from us before going down this route because the legal process can be complex. You may also be entitled to legal aid.

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk will be running drop in advice session at The Blackbourne Centre, Elmswell on 3rd and 17th April 2018 between 09.30 & 12.30. Please drop in if you have any problems you would like help with- no appointment needed.



Mid Suffolk

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

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



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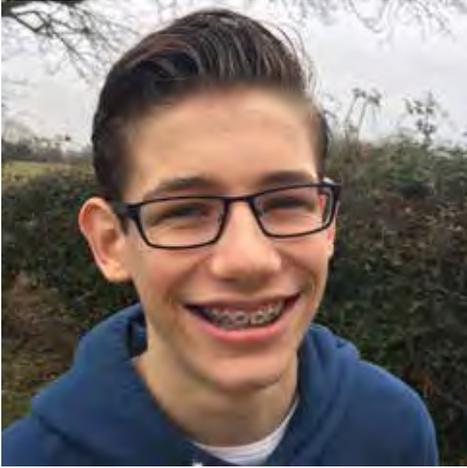
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new cultures and faiths, and learn more about myself as an individual. I will also be telling the world what a great place Suffolk is!

While there, I have the chance to participate in some amazing activities, such as hiking, canoeing, rock-climbing and mountain-biking.

This amazing opportunity costs money. I personally need to raise £4,000 to take up my place, and I'm already working hard towards that total.

I'm writing to ask that if you have any odd jobs or tasks that I could do for a donation to my fund-raising, I would be extremely grateful. For example, I'll happily mow lawns, unblock gutters, clean cars or do baby-sitting.

One of my fund-raising activities is to collect old clothes and fabrics which can be recycled. These can include school uniform, hats, shoes, belts and handbags, as well as household textiles such as sheets, pillow cases, duvet covers, curtains and towels. I'm happy to come and collect these from you.

Please contact me via my dad on richard@richardyarow.co.uk or 07966 507759.

If you'd like to donate directly, please visit www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/connor-yarrow-wsj2019

*Thanks for reading
Connor*

DAVID ROYAL MOTOR ENGINEER

I would like to thank all my customers/friends for all the kind wishes, cards and presents on my recent retirement.

I was totally overwhelmed and quite emotional by your kindness.

Thanks to Jean for the amazing cake! It will be nice to catch up with you in the near future for a chat.

Once again, thank you so much.

David (Bertie) Royal



IF I CAN HELP...

Hello. My name is Connor Yarrow and I am a 15-year-old resident of Elmswell. I have been selected to represent Suffolk at the 24th World Scout Jamboree. It's taking place in summer 2019 in the USA, and I am writing in the hope that you will help me get there.

This once-every-four-years event is the gathering of 50,000 Scouts and Explorers from all over the world. In 2019 it's in the mountains of West Virginia on a purpose-built campsite that is truly enormous – it's bigger than Norwich!

Over a 10-day period I will meet young people from all over the world, explore a wide range of



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GOODBYE TO EMMA YARROW

Every village is defined by its characters and Elmswell is no exception.

The character will know most of the people in the village, know what is going on and will only be too pleased to help.

Emma is one such character. She is a friend to all, "Aunty Emma" to the young children and an agony aunt to some of the more older ones.

She has been with the Library Service since 2009. How did she get the job? Well a friend said "I saw this advert and thought of you" and so began a love affair that lasted for 8 ½ years!

At the time all was well but within a year of joining the Library service, cracks began to appear. It was threatened by cuts to local government and Suffolk Libraries began to look at new ways of working.

It was the first Library service in the country to take itself out from under the county council umbrella and be run independently. All Libraries in Suffolk had to stand on their two feet and this led to the formation of the ELF.

Many people, before my time, did an amazing job to keep the Elmswell Library afloat.

Fast forward to today and we have a fully refurbished Library which is now a community hub. There are lots of activities such as Rock & Tot, Baby Bounce, Ancestry Club, KIT, Dorothys book club and the unofficial Elmswell Wine Tasting Society. Emma has been instrumental in helping the organisers of these clubs to develop and grow them.

Having recently attended a Suffolk Libraries AGM with Emma I know how well she is respected within the Library fraternity. She managed to do the buffet justice, sample all the wines on offer while talking with just about everybody there. Ever the trouper.

Now for pastures new but before we say our final good byes and wish you every success in your new career, the ELF would like to thank all those who kindly donated towards this lovely gift***. We know it will be close to your heart, and hope it will remind you of your days at Elmswell Library.

*** The gift was a life time membership of the Wine Society, a case of starter wines and wine glasses.

Jimmy, Chairman of ELF

Thank you so much to everyone who came along to my leaving party, organised by the wonderful ELF committee members. It was a truly heartwarming night and I was overwhelmed by all your really generous gifts and warm wishes.

So I just wanted to say a big thank you to Jimmy and Sue, June and John, Jim and Yvonne, Carroll and Trevor, Karen, Jean, Rob and Cora, Linda and Trevor, Gary, Sylvia and Ed, Annie and Phil, Amanda, Lynne, Paul and Gill, Joan Davies, Sarah, Mike, Rebecca and Emma, David, Hannah, Lisa, Summer, Sandra, all the book groups and the Community Cafe ladies, Yvonne, Nicky, Mark and Henry, Bob and Marian, Siobhan and Neil, Di, Olly, Woody and Livi, Bob, Carol and anyone else I may have forgotten - I have tried my best to remember all your kindnesses but I was completely stunned by everyone's support. Richard and I will enjoy sampling your gifts for some time to come!

With much love, Emma X



WW2 MEMORIES FROM A LONDON EVACUEE

I want to write a small passage about my dad, Daniel Houghton, who passed away over Christmas 2017, aged 86. He died of a lung disease which left him house-bound and depending on oxygen for the last year of his life. During that year, we did some internet research together of Elmswell, where he was evacuated to during World War 2. We found various pages from the village web archives, which temporarily transported him away from his illness and ignited such vivid memories of his time there.

He was evacuated from Bethnal Green in East London, which had experienced more than its fair share of the tragedies on the Home Front - he specifically recalls the V1 bombs, one in particular landing on Hughes Mansions and obliterating many people he knew.

He was billeted with the Nicholls family in Elmswell [in Hawk End Lane] - Ted was the head of the family, with his wife and two daughters also at home, but their son was away in the Navy. His first recollection was of the peculiar taste of food at the Nicholls' dinner table, taking a few days to find that the "peculiarity" was that the food was fresh, having only previously sampled canned food in the East End!

Ted worked as a blacksmith [and horse farrier] at the Blackbourne Ironworks. We found the picture of Ted at work in the foundry on the Nunns' website which truly astounded my dad. He hadn't seen him in over 70 years, and I recall him staring at that picture over and over every detail, like he had just been given a cheque for a million pounds. [A few more details from Elmswell History Group's website - www.elmswell-history.org.uk - Charles Nunn, although not knowingly related to the Frank Nunn family, joined Nunns in 1947, and remembers that "Ted Nicholls was still there, very skilled he was too - he could do such jobs as the iron rims

of cartwheels, etc. Sometimes Charles helped him: Ted taught him how to use a hammer properly, and swore at him one day for holding the hammer part-way up the handle". Long-time villager, Stan King, also remembers "that the Nicholls had one of the first televisions in the village, so Stan used to visit them to watch."]

Dad attended a separate school for the evacuees in the village, but later 'commuted' to school in Bury St Edmunds towards the end of his stay.

As with all the kids, his fondest memories were the "boys' own" adventures outside of school. He told of his little gang and their one dog, marching behind the Home Guard as they paraded through the village, plus various adventures around the quarry, the bacon factory and, of course, the airfield.

He built a rapport with some of the US airmen, patiently waiting outside The Fox on the garden wall for them to come by, trying to pick up some small errands they may need in return for some chewing gum. He had one specific pilot - a sun-tanned, blond Californian - whom he idolized, and often ran errands for him over the perimeter fence when the airmen were confined to base. Dad inherited the unusual nickname of 'Kid'!! The Californian rewarded 'Kid' with a bomber pilot's badge which made him the envy of the village kids.

One of his favourite things to do was to lay in the grass and count the bombers back in from their overnight raids. He witnessed many aerial dogfights in the area and even one near miss with a Flying Fortress limping home short of the runway right by him.

There was the inevitable return to Bethnal Green, where Dad lived until retirement from his long-term career with the Post Office. He spent his retirement in Sheppey, Kent, never losing that true love of the countryside that Elmswell gave him. He leaves behind a wife, two children, three grandchildren and one great grandchild (and one more on the way).

My parents did briefly pass through Elmswell a few years ago and, whilst some of it was not recognizable, many parts of it were. Dad hesitated in knocking on a few doors at the time and probably regretted it. Judging by the sheer joy on his face when we started to find the images and recollections of the village, I can truly tell how much he must have loved his time there.

I think he would be very honoured for this passage to be added to the village record in some form, as part of his and Elmswell's legacy, and I hope that perhaps this may contribute to igniting similar happy memories in others around at the time.

[Written by Mark Houghton (of Buckhurst Hill, Essex) and sent to Elmswell History Group. Photos of Daniel Houghton kindly provided by Mark, who has given permission for these and his words to be published in the Elmswell newsletter. WW2 aircraft photo from EHG's website.]

[text in square brackets and italics has been added by Stella Chamberlin of Elmswell History Group]



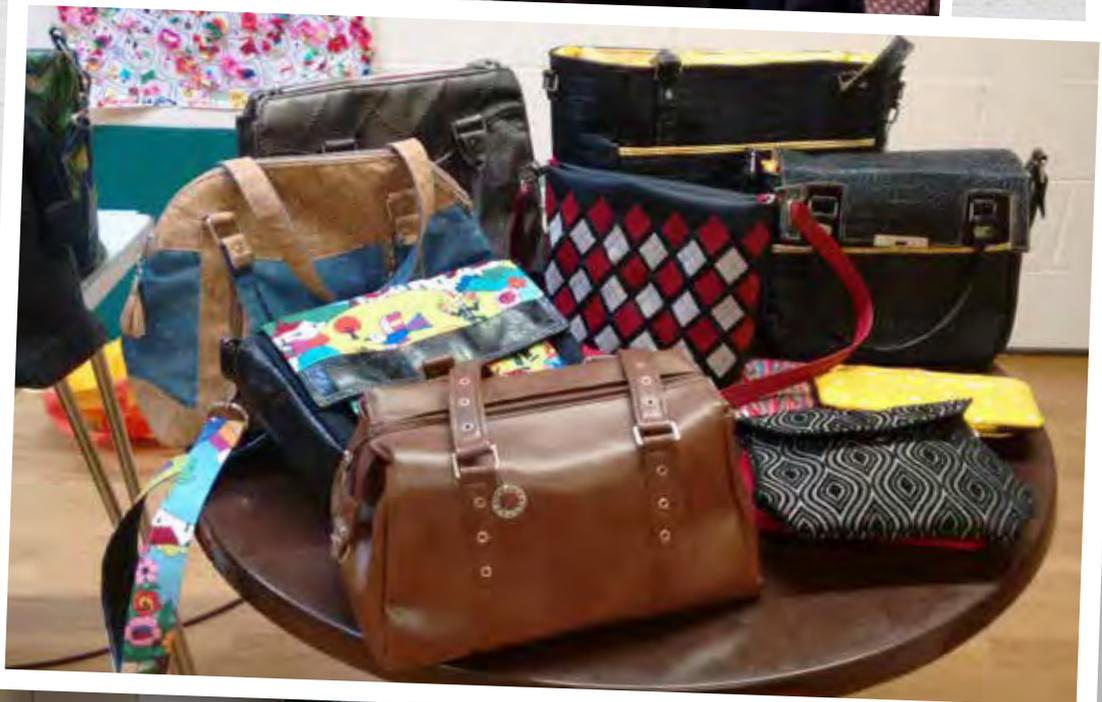


THE SEWING BEE

The Sewing Bee group was very fortunate to have a guest presenter this month. Christine Davis is a very experienced bag maker, and spend the afternoon running the group through lots of really useful information for those who want to get started in bag making. She talked to us about choosing and sourcing materials and hardware, handling faux leather on a sewing machine, and avoiding common pitfalls. She provided us with a thoughtful collection of samples and a practice project to get to grips with it! We had our highest turn out yet, with 20 attendees, and raised £120 for the Down Syndrome Association – Christine’s charity of choice. Fabulous feedback from participants, with one remarking that in all the courses she’s been on, she didn’t think she’d learned as much as she did today!

Next month is a self directed project session, although there will be a small demo on copying ready to wear garments without taking them apart.

If you would like to join us, please contact Zoe on 07580 297 140, or join our facebook group ‘Sewing in the UK- Suffolk’.



FIREMEN'S PRESENTATION



THANK YOU



Early in March we held our annual cheque presentation evening where we donated all the money we've raised over the last year to village/local groups and good causes.

Overall we raised a huge £10,673 through monthly bingo nights, a

car wash, a station open day, Christmas Eve bag pack and collection at the local Co-op and some generous donations. We donated to a variety of local groups and good causes which were: Elmswell Scouts, Over 55s, First Responders, Elmswell Cricket Club, Wetherden and Haughley Explorers, Exchange club, Baby and Toddler Group, Elmswell Library, Connor Yarrow, Beyond The Wall, Elmswell Church, Manns Court, History Group, Little Elms, Citizens Advice Bureau, An in need local resident, SARS, Sunday Suppers, Buxhall & Gt Finborough Over 60s and the Lavenham Ward.

Also, to make this year even more special, since our fundraising efforts began in 2004 we have now reached the unbelievable £100,000 mark for money raised!! A big well done and thank you to past and present Elmswell Firefighters, helpers behind the scene and to everyone who turns out to support us.

Mark Smith, Firefighter, Elmswell Fire Station, School Road, Elmswell IP30 9EE



WESLEY PEWS

Last month Council advertised for sale the pews from the Wesley chapel on School Road. All of the fittings in the Victorian building have to be cleared out in preparation for major renovation of the building for general community use. Offers were invited in excess of £75.00 per pair. All 6 pews were sold at a total cost of £651.01. One pair is retained for incorporation into the refurbished hall.

The following items of interest remain for sale to the highest bidder on or before Friday 20th April:

To arrange to view or to submit a bid, be in touch with the Council via the Clerk's office on 244134 or via clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk

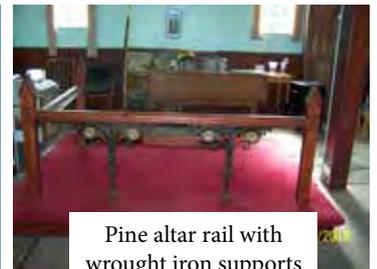
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AROUND & ABOUT



A DAY OF CELEBRATION

Alan and Margaret Hartley have rung with the East Anglian Regional Handbell Team since they moved to Elmswell three years ago. The team has been in existence for more than ten years and on 19th May (the day of the Royal Wedding) they are returning to Needham Market Community Centre for one of their annual concerts. The team was delighted with the reception they received two years ago for their programme of classical, modern and original handbell music and this year they hope that an all new programme will provide something for everyone to enjoy. The team consists of 40 musicians playing 360 instruments and the concert will also include some guest performers. Tickets will be available on the door – Adults £10, Concessions £8, Juniors under 18 free. For further information visit ear.hrgb.org.uk or telephone 01992 584761.

And if you're wondering about the teddy bear, he's one of the bears travelling the UK visiting all the registered members of Handbell Ringers of Great Britain which is celebrating its Golden Jubilee.

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NEWS FROM ELMSWELL COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our children and staff have had a busy and exciting spring term at school not least of which was enjoying some fun in the snow on the school field at the end of February! At the beginning of term we were very pleased to welcome new staff to the school including Mrs Gilson into lower key stage 2 and Mrs Rolfe into key stage 1.

SHARE Sessions and Class Assemblies

SHARE sessions have been held this term for all pupils in their respective key stage groups and we have been pleased to welcome many parents, grandparents and carers to join us for these hands-on sessions. The topics this term were "Geography" and "Space" with many opportunities for the children and their adults to participate in fun activities together, a particular highlight being to watch "spaceship launches" from the playground!

Class assemblies are a regular highlight for pupils and parents as our classes take the opportunity to show some of what they have been learning in class during previous weeks including group presentations, singing, PE demonstrations, displaying their musical skills and sometimes showing their parents how to do complex maths sums on the whiteboard!

Spring Term Highlights

Tuesday 6th February 2018 was global "Safer Internet Day" and our pupils celebrated with a slogan "Create, Connect and Share Respect : A better internet starts with you". Key stage assemblies were held followed by age appropriate activities in class.

BABY & TODDLER GROUP



During March we held our biannual Nearly New Sale and are very pleased to report it was a resounding success despite the snowy weather. We hold these sales to raise money for the Baby & Toddler Group to cover the hall rental, to help subsidise our annual summer trip (we are still asking for people's suggestions on where to go) making it affordable for as many people as possible and buying new equipment. We charge the least of any Toddler Group (£1 for the first child and 50p per child thereafter capped at £2) in the area as we don't want anyone to miss out on our group because of cost; as such we reply heavily on these sales.

We really could not run the Nearly New Sale without the help and support from current members, ex-members who can't stay away, friends and family we rope in and the superb bakers who provide the café with the delightful yummys! This sale was staffed by more people

On Friday 23rd February we hosted a cake sale in the school hall and with support from many parents and carers were very pleased to raise £326 for the charity Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group (CCLG). Thank you to everyone who made, donated and purchased cakes.

We also celebrated World Book Day (despite the snow!) on Thursday 1st March by sharing stories together in class and taking part in other book related activities. Children were given vouchers to take home which can be redeemed on books of their choice in Waterstones.

Science Week was 9th-16th March with a theme of "Exploration and Discovery" and during the week there were practical sessions delivered throughout each key stage and Year 6 attended a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) festival at Thurston Sixth Form on Beyton.

At the time of writing, lower Key Stage 2 is rehearsing for their end of term performance, Cinderella. We are sure this production will be a great success and that the audiences will be impressed with their hard work and efforts to thrill and entertain. Good luck to them all.

Nursery Admissions

If you have a child who was born between 1st September 2014 and 31st August 2015, they are eligible for a place at our school nursery from September 2018. Our Nursery children (Rabbit Class) have opportunities to join in with many parts of school life including assemblies,

school lunches, school performances and trips. They also get to know other children in their age group who will be joining them in full time Reception classes in September 2019. For further details or to apply for a place please ring the school office on 01359 240261.

Governor Vacancy

The school currently has a vacancy for a Governor. This is a voluntary position and if you are interested in supporting your village school in this way, please do contact us to find out more about what is involved.

For any further information about the school and to see what events are coming up next term, including residential trips, sports day and lots more please keep an eye our website at www.elmswell.suffolk.sch.

Jane Ash, Headteacher



than normal and thanks to that and the hard work of everyone involved we set up and packed away quicker than ever before.

Our treasurer Sarah Beales has been busy sorting labels and calculating payments; if you haven't received your payment yet please be patient it will be with you as soon as possible. As you can imagine there are a lot of payments to be made.

If you are a buyer or seller from the sale and have any suggestions as to any improvements we can make please contact a member of the committee and we will pass your ideas onto the co-ordinators of the sale.

If you have been inspired to sell your clothes and make some money leading up to Christmas or wish to buy some early Christmas presents our next sale is 22nd September 2018. If you do not have a seller number yet please e-mail elmswell.nns@gmail.com and you will be sent an information pack. Please allow a few weeks for this to be sent out, as you can imagine we are still busy from this sale.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE SALE AND WE WILL SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!!





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NEWS FROM  **ELMSWILD**

Black poplars in Suffolk

The black poplar is one of our rarest trees. There are thought to be fewer than 8,000 mature specimens in Britain, with about 430 in Suffolk. It has become endangered because its natural habitat of flooded winter meadows has been lost, due to drainage, building and the canalisation of rivers. There are so few wild black poplars left that they cannot pollinate each other. Instead, they are often pollinated by large numbers of cultivated trees, resulting in hybrids, and there are hardly ever any new truly wild black poplars.

A ring of black poplars

At Lukeswood we have a lovely circle of native black poplars, grouped around the pond. Two are leaning, one supporting the other, and there are two more 'phoenix' trees which fell years ago and are now regenerating horizontally. How do we know that our trees are true natives? The only accurate way of identification is by DNA testing. Samples from our trees were sent off for testing and the results prove that they really ARE true natives – a rare and wonderful asset for Lukeswood.

How did our black poplars get here?

The black poplar is associated with wet meadows, river valleys, streams, ditches and farm ponds. For the tree to propagate naturally, male and female trees must grow fairly close together, and the fertilised seed must fall on bare mud or silt which must remain moist until autumn for the seedling to establish. This habitat has become very rare, so natural propagation is

unlikely. However, poplar also readily propagates from detached shoots, and this process occurs both naturally and through human activity (e.g. by planting cuttings). This is known as 'clonal propagation'. It's now known that most of the British population of black poplar is clonal and work is underway to identify the different clones and their geographical distribution. Our trees have been identified as clone 23. There are several other sites through mid Suffolk where this clone has been identified, the nearest being at Needham Market. We also know that our trees are all males. So it is more than likely that they were planted as cuttings many years ago.

They all fall down – eventually

Black poplars often lean and eventually fall, many continuing to flourish from the horizontal. Two of our group are already re-growing from fallen trunks. The other two are leaning, one supporting the other. In addition, the larger of these trees is succumbing to a fungal invasion – the bracket fungus *Rigidoporus Ulmarius* – which is causing significant rot in the trunk. In December 2010 a local tree surgeon carried out an electrical picus test on the affected tree, which scans the inside of the trunk to give an accurate picture of the extent of the damage. The verdict was that the tree could be saved, but both trees needed extensive pollarding to relieve the weight and make them less vulnerable to windblow. The trees have responded well and are re-growing.

What is the future for our black poplars?

We want to conserve our black poplars in as natural a way as possible. However, they are growing in a public space, so we also have to be aware of all the safety issues. For this reason we've installed fencing around the trees to guide visitors away from the immediate area. The

style of fencing allows small mammals such as hedgehogs and voles to get in and out. It also helps to keep young children from straying too close to the pond, especially when water levels are high. The stockade of dead wood behind the fence is a wildlife-friendly feature, providing hiding and hibernating refuges for insects and small mammals. Eventually the leaning trees may fall but with the fencing in place this natural process can occur safely.

Help us preserve our black poplars and keep the area safe for everyone

If you've walked around Lukeswood recently you will have noticed the new fencing and signs indicating the diversion of the permissive path (please note that the public right of way which runs from the entrance to Lukeswood to the cemetery remains unaffected). You can still see the trees and the pond and walkers can still complete the perimeter walk around the site, with a small diversion. Please help us by sticking to the path and please don't try to climb over the fence or gate. But do take a moment to admire our black poplars. We hope to keep these venerable trees at Lukeswood, growing gracefully into old age and enjoyed by all our many visitors, for many years to come.

Our black poplar project was made possible by a generous grant from the Mid Suffolk Locality Budget, so a huge thank you goes to our local councillors John Levantis and Sarah Mansel for supporting us in making this improvement to our community woodland. A big thank you also to Craig Jarvis and his team for carrying out the work so quickly and efficiently.



Mary Feeney
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ELMSWELL CRICKET CLUB

New Season

This year, as ever, we are on the look out for new players to join our friendly and welcoming club. If you are new to the sport we can offer you a wealth of knowledge and experience to get you started. We would also welcome any players who are returning to the sport after a break. Either way, please get in touch via one of the ways below if you are interested.

Club Sponsorship

Elmswell CC would like to thank Elmswell Fire Station for their kind donation to club funds. It is greatly appreciated and is an enormous help to our club.

Thanks are also extended to the East of England Co-op who are one of the clubs official sponsors this season. If you would like to sponsor Elmswell Cricket Club please get in touch via one of the methods below.

2018 Fixtures

This season we begin our fixtures with an away match against Old Newton on Sunday 22nd April. Our first home game is against Nacton on Sunday 29th April. Mid Week League fixtures begin with a home match against Mid Suffolk DC on Wednesday 16th May.

All Sunday matches begin at 1:30pm and Wednesday matches at 6:15pm. All spectators are welcome to come along and enjoy an afternoon of cricket with us.

Our full 2018 fixture list is now available on our website.

Contact Us: Email: elmswellcricketclub@gmail.com Web: www.elmswellcricketclub.co.uk

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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

Thursday
Slimming World 9.30am
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
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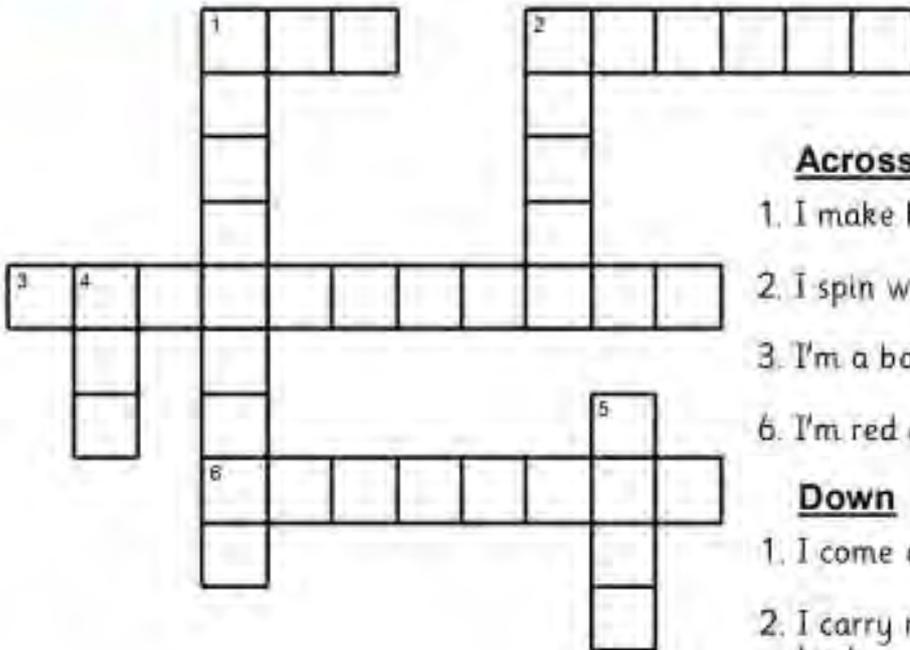
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Minibeasts



Minibeast Crossword



Across

1. I make honey.
2. I spin webs.
3. I'm a baby butterfly.
6. I'm red and spotty.

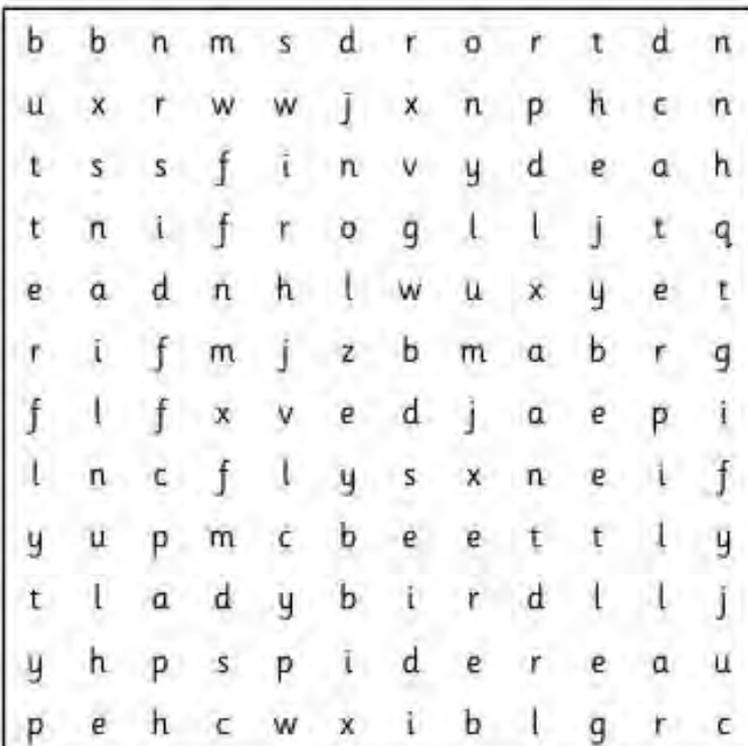
Down

1. I come out of a chrysalis.
2. I carry my home on my back.
4. I live in a hill.
5. A tadpole turns into me.

Paper Plate Mini-beasts

Why not have a go at making a paper plate minibeast. All you will need is a paper plate, pens, paint, glue, googly eyes and glitter.

Minibeast Word search



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| caterpillar | fly | frog | ladybird |
| snail | spider | | |



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ELMSWELL'S BOWLS CLUB

In March of every year for more than a century, Elmswell's bowlers have come together to start the serious business of preparing the green for the season's games. There is science, art, some magic and a lot of hard work involved.

This year the team echo their very early roots...they are playing as the Elmswell Fox Bowls Club, the name chosen by their founding fathers some hundred years ago. The Fox has been at the heart of the village for all of that time, and so has bowls.

The opportunity presented itself this year for adjustments to the way the game is enjoyed in the village after several members of the existing club opted to base themselves away from Elmswell. The Parish Council, which, through the BWMA, owns and administers the top-notch bowls facilities at Blackbourne, has opted to take on responsibility for all of the equipment necessary for both the maintenance of the green and for the playing of the games. The new Club will do all of the maintenance



David Greenbaum and Pauline Collins try out the freshly cut green with first wood of the new season

work and administer the use of the facilities. There is to be closer liaison towards encouraging a wider uptake of the sport, including by younger members of the community.

Our main pictures show the delivery of a new specialist mower, handed over by Paul Wright of Tomlinson Groundcare to Dick Burch, the EFBC Captain, and some of his maintenance team. Dick, with a lifetime of experience of grass and all-things-green behind him, then indicates to his young apprentice, Barry Hayward, the direction in which the machine should be steered.

The next game is a friendly against Old Newton on Tuesday 17th April and the first league game of the season takes place on Thursday 19th versus St Botolph's.

While the team beds into its new responsibilities as custodian of the proud Elmswell bowls tradition there will be more teams and more opportunities for residents to come and try the game for themselves.

**For more details, ring Dick on 241105.
Email: foxybowlers@esidoor.co.uk**



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ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL MARCH MEETING 2018

Full Council is scheduled to meet on the 3rd Monday monthly, excepting August. The March meeting took place on 19th at The Blackbourne with 10 councillors present, along with Mid Suffolk District Council Ward Members Mrs Sarah Mansel & John Levantis and 2 members of the public.

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

The Minutes of recent Parish Council meetings and Committee meetings, together with the agenda for the next meeting, when published, are available on line at www.elmswell.onesuffolk.net, in the Memorial Library and from the Parish Clerk by arrangement. Bound copies of older Minutes are lodged with the Suffolk County Records Office in Bury St. Edmunds. The most recent Minutes, from the Council's February Meeting, as approved at this meeting, are posted in the community notice board at the Co-op.

District Council

Cllr Mrs Sarah Mansel tabled a written report which included confirmation that there is to be another round of consultation on new proposals from the Boundary Commission. This is due to some incorrect figures for growth being used which was pointed out to both MSDC and the Boundary Commission some months ago. The new proposals are due to be published on 6th March and the consultation period will run until 30th April. The final recommendation is due in August 2018. The Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy were agreed at last month's Council meeting. There is to be a 0.5% increase in Council Tax. Council house rents will be decreased by 1% and service charges for Sheltered Housing are rising by about £2 per week. There will be no increases in utility charges in Sheltered Housing or in garage rents. The pooled locality funds of both District Councillors have allocated some money to all the eligible applicants in the ward. The following groups in Elmswell benefitted from the scheme: Elmswell Library Funds, Elmswild, Elmswell Neighbourhood Plan, Elmswell Companions. In the last few months, Mid Suffolk District Council has made several multi-million pound investments in commercial property in central Peterborough (high street coffee shop), Brentwood (retail store) and in Milton Keynes (a car dealership) – to name just three. In 2016 the Council agreed to borrow up to £25 million, set up a company to invest in commercial property outside of the Mid Suffolk area and then, hopefully, invest the profits from this in council services – so called “profit for purpose”.

Several Parish Councillors, responding to this report, expressed serious doubts about the wisdom of this initiative on several counts, including the poor timing for investment in the commercial property market and particularly when related to the motor trade and the failure to invest within the District where the additional premiums by way of business rates and employment possibilities were obvious. The very technical nature of such investment decisions was highlighted and doubts cast on the ability of District Councillors to master the skills required. The Meeting agreed to write to the Leader of MSDC making these points and urging a re-think if this strategy is to continue.

BWMA

The Blackbourne & Wesley Management Association manages these major community resources on Council's behalf. Secretary Peter Edmonds reported that, as a result of advertising in the Newsletter, the sale of the pews has perked up with 3 sold and 3 under offer. One set is retained for installation in the refurbished chapel. The continued problems regarding heating at Wesley and the extremely high moisture content resulting from structural shortcomings were

discussed and it was agreed that the expense of any intermediate solutions is not justified pending the Council's decision on a way forward for the whole facility. Meanwhile, 3 free-standing back-up electric convector heaters are to be transferred from Blackbourne to try to make the hall less aggressively cold and damp.

With a very up-beat and well-considered response to an appeal for thoughts and ideas on the refurbishment of the Wesley facility from the History Group and the Toddler Group the Committee was able to hold a thorough, thoughtful and positive discussion to move the issue forward. It was unanimously agreed the retaining the Chapel was paramount and that it would therefore be the centre-piece of whatever was to follow. There was broad agreement on the essential features required by all users, both current and future, and an acceptance that it could not be tailored to any existing user group's needs at the risk of limiting future use. It was agreed to ask the EPC to seek to select and engage an architect as soon as possible, this process to involve the BWMA in the selection procedure. Architects expressing an interest should be asked to provide a scheme that incorporates the BWMA membership suggestions and be based upon retaining the Chapel.

A structural engineer has been instructed by the insurers to progress the repair of the storm-damaged Jubilee roof. Meanwhile it remains sound and safe having been repaired and strengthened by the local company which dealt with the initial crisis. Parish Councillors delegated to negotiate the Licence terms for use of the village bowls facilities for 2018 have come to an agreement with the Elmswell Fox Bowls Club which brings with it expertise and experience as well as some new ideas towards promoting the game in the village and broadening the appeal with a slightly more relaxed approach. The Elmswell Bowls Club has opted to play their games at Stowupland. The Meeting agreed that Michael Bizley, who had represented the departed Bowls Club, should be asked to remain as a co-opted member given the valuable contribution he has consistently made to meetings. The Council is to take on ownership of all of the equipment necessary for the maintenance and running of a club at the facility.

The Treasurer, Nick Brooks, declared a turnover to-date of £40,568.45 for the Blackbourne and £5,369.50 for the Wesley giving a projected joint turnover for the year of £48,423.23 with only a couple of weeks to go.

New bookings in the month include the expansion of both Circuit Training and Ju-jitsu. Wesley is providing a useful overflow facility for such groups who do not need heat and whose requirements for a comfortable ambience are less demanding.

Bowls facilities

The Clerk reported that, in collaboration with the Chairman, Vice chairman and Cllr Barker, agreement had been reached with the Elmswell Fox Bowls Club for the management of the village bowls green and facilities at Blackbourne for 2018. Council is to have representation on the Club's Committee of Management and is to own all of the capital equipment needed for the maintenance and use of the green which is built to County level playing standard and has its own automatic irrigation system. These adjustments to the letting arrangements are designed to remove any misunderstandings regarding the basis on which the facilities are used. Councillors agreed to purchase a specialist fine turf mower, as previously specified by the Elmswell Bowls Club, which has recently opted to move with some of its members to play its home games at Stowupland.

Planning results

The Meeting noted the following results from Mid Suffolk, the Planning Authority:

DC/18/00199

Erection of single storey side extension at 7 Jubilee Terrace Approved, EPC having made no comment.

DC/18/00255

Erection of a single storey extension to the community centre at Blackbourne Approved, EPC having supported its own Application.

DC/18/00446 Works to Protected trees at 36, Oxer Close, Permission refused, EPC having objected.

DC/17/06073 Demolition of redundant hall to provide 6 No. additional parking spaces at the Exchange Hall, Wesley chapel site, School Road Approved, EPC having supported its own Application.

DC/18/00261 Construction of new vehicular access at Mulberry Farm, Ashfield Road, Approved, EPC having supported the application.

Planning Applications

Council supported a Planning application notified for comment by Mid Suffolk ref DC/18/00930, being the erection of a replacement conservatory roof to an existing conservatory at 26 Eastern Way.

Planning - objections

Council objected to Application ref. DC/18/00730 for the erection of a dwelling following the removal of a caravan and brick building at 1, Royston Park, Kiln Lane for the following reasons: In 1988 this site was granted a Licence, ref 12/79, under the Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act 1960 as a site for 3 caravans. The mobile homes and caravans which have occupied the site since then form part of a linear development of such accommodation largely occupied by members of the Travelling community. Such sites are in shorter supply than demand requires and the stringent constraints upon new mobile site accommodation for Travellers make the existing stock the more valuable. To reduce the facility of



this site to house its full complement of mobile homes runs counter to Core Strategy Policy CS10 which says that *the Council will ensure the delivery of sufficient good quality residential pitches to satisfy the unmet need specified in the Suffolk Cross-Boundary Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment*. Paragraph 3.75 of the same document confirms that, *'...existing sites that meet the criteria for suitable and appropriate locations will be safeguarded.'* Clearly, having served its community for 30 years, this site demonstrates that it meets relevant criteria and should be allowed to continue so to do. There is, furthermore, conflict with Local Plan policy H15 which seeks to have consistency in the pattern and form of development in the neighbouring area.

Further to this, the dominance of the site by the proposed 2 storey dwelling and the subsequent overlooking of the other long-established mobile home on the site propose an entirely unacceptable result contrary to Local Plan policy H13.

Council objected to Application ref. DC/18/00843 for the erection of 5 detached dwellings (re-submission of refused Application DC/17/03895) on land to the rear of Yew Tree House, Grove Lane, for the following reasons:

- 1 The proposal is not sustainable in that it seeks to feed on to Grove Lane the traffic serving 5 substantial dwellings. Grove Lane is a country road which, historically, serves the Grove lane Industrial Estate on the old airfield. The businesses here include Messrs HC Wilson who are specialist heavy haulage contractors needing access day and night for their exceptional loads. There is another sizeable HGV contractor, Hudson Haulage, and several businesses whose fleets includes HGV units, such as Messrs Safety Kleen. The distance from the village facilities means that the motor car will be by far the preferred mode of transport for the proposed new households. These cars will be, inevitably, in conflict with the established business traffic. Furthermore, development north of the railway line is imposing ever greater pressure on the safe negotiation of the railway crossing at Station Road. In coming to this conclusion, Councillors had reference to NPPF paragraphs 32 & 35 which require that, 'safe and suitable access to the site can be achieved for all people' and which seek to minimise traffic conflict. Given the stance of unsustainability, Councillors further feel that Local Plan policy T10 which emphasises that regard be paid to the provision of safe access to and egress from the site.
- 2 The proposal is not sustainable in that it comes soon after Permission was granted for 106 dwellings to the east of Ashfield Road adjacent to White House Farm. This development takes the likely impact on Elmswell School to maximum capacity and further development cannot be countenanced until this crucial pinch-point is addressed. NPPF paragraph 72 stresses that, *'a sufficient choice of school places is available to meet the needs of existing and new communities, 'and requires that developers, 'work with school promoters to identify and resolve key planning issues before applications are submitted.'* This has, clearly, not been done and on this crucial point alone the application should fail.
- 3 The site is, clearly, in the countryside and isolated from the services in Elmswell. Furthermore, it does not reflect or enhance the strongly linear pattern of development

in this part of the village and would impose an urban aspect which is out of context and detrimental to the general street scene. NPPF paragraph 109 requires that developments should, *'contribute to and enhance the...local environment,'* which this proposal signally fails to do. Local Plan policies FC1, H7, CL1, CS5, SB2 & SB3 also count against this application.

Council objected to Application ref. DC/18/00735 for the erection of single storey side and front extensions at 4 Pye's Meadow for the following reasons:

- 1 The proposals seek to remove the parking spaces afforded by 2 garages and the 2 garage forecourt areas. These are to be replaced by a single space which will access directly on to Pye's Meadow at its junction with Borley Crescent. This will require a reverse manoeuvre either into or off the site and poses a hazard to traffic accessing or leaving Pye's Meadow from Borley Crescent. Borley Crescent is the feeder road serving the new housing estate to the east where 60 new dwellings are to be built (3469/16 refers). The considerable increase in traffic flows that this will create poses further risk to road safety should this dangerous manoeuvre be encouraged. The inevitable need for parking on the highway for this substantial dwelling, consequent upon the reduction from 4 parking options to a single space, is a further factor soon to be exacerbated by the considerable increase in through traffic. Local Plan policy GP1 seeks to ensure that proposals should make proper provision for the garaging, parking and turning of motor vehicles; Local Plan policy H13 requires that dwellings should have satisfactory access to the adjacent highway and car parking provision...; Local Plan policy SB2 says that permission will not be given for proposals which adversely affect road safety; Local Plan policy T9 requires development proposals to provide for the parking and manoeuvring of vehicles on the application site Local Plan policy T10 includes the need for the provision of safe access to and egress from the site together with the provision of adequate parking spaces. In all the above, this application fails.
- 2 The solid mass of building proposed by the side extension to replace the 2 garages which are set away from the main house will present an overbearing result in this prominent position, to the detriment of the street scene. The crowded result fails to reflect the layout and design of the neighbourhood, contrary to policy GP1 and runs counter to the 2 core tenets of policy H18, in that the proposal will materially and detrimentally affect the character and appearance of the area and will result in over-development within the curtilage.

Replacement roofing at St John's Church

The Meeting agreed that there was no need to convene an extraordinary meeting to discuss the plans (Ref DC/18/00818) for the replacement of the recently stolen lead roofing with a stainless steel alternative, treated so as to resemble lead. Historic England have expressed support for the scheme which does not disturb the original roof infrastructure and could, in future, be reversed if appropriate. The result will not be seen from ground level.

A1088

The Meeting agreed that formal application should be made to the appropriate Authority towards the de-restriction of the A1088 between Ixworth and its junction with A14 to allow access to HGV traffic over 7.5 tonnes. The anomalous situation whereby HGV traffic is routed through Elmswell's narrow roads and over the railway crossing rather than down the A Class road designed to handle such traffic has maintained for many years after a supposedly temporary arrangement. The pressures thus created have come to prominence as recent Planning permissions mean a dramatic increase in traffic flows throughout the village and at the various pinch points where hazards are posed on a daily basis.

Yellow Lines

The Meeting agreed that Council should make formal application to SCC Highways towards:

- 1 Implementing the relevant Traffic Orders for and subsequent installation of double yellow lines prohibiting parking at the following locations:
 - (a) on the north side of Church Road from its junction with School Road of such length to allow safe visibility for traffic emerging from School Road;
 - (b) on both sides of Cooks Road from its junction with New Road as far as the Little Elms nursery;
- 2 Engineering improvements at the Cooks Road / New Road junction with The Street to address the serious traffic hazard currently presented there.

Mowers

2 new grass cutting machines are to be purchased. A general purpose rotary mower to deal with the grass at Wesley and around the amenity grass at Blackbourne where the tractor mower can't reach and a specialist fine-turf mower for maintenance of the bowls green at Blackbourne. The budgets were set at £500.00 and £5,000.00 respectively.

Wesley

In light of the recommendations from the Wesley user groups and general membership of the Blackbourne & Wesley Management Association, it was agreed that Expressions of Interest from architects should be invited via Press advertising and local recommendation towards appointing a suitably qualified and experienced practice to draw up proposals to Planning application stage for the creation of an efficient modern community facility based on the refurbishment of the Wesley chapel, recently purchased by Council on behalf of the community.

Next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled for Monday 16th April at 7.30pm in the Chamberlayne Hall at 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.



What's On in Elmswell ?



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

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

April 2018

- 4 Elmswell Exchange Afternoon W.I. Lynne Ready & Marilyn Bartrup - The Gap Year Pensioners
- 5 Over 55's club Sing along with Hank
- 6 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 9 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church, Tunnels under Bury St. Edmunds with Martyn Taylor 7.45pm, open to men as well
- 10 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30pm Speaker Daisy Ship, Holistic Therapist
- 12 Elmswell History Group's 18th Anniversary meeting, Wesley Hall 7.30pm, Speaker Nick Amor: "Suffolk Clothier in the age of Henry VII"
- 12 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 13 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 17 Gardening Club 7.30pm. Blackbourne Talk: The Magic and Mystery of Herbs
- 17 Exchange Club meets at 2.30 at Wesley - Speaker Mr Banham; Old Sayings and their Origins & raffle
- 19 Over 55's Club NO MEETING
- 20 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 27 BINGO at Blackbourne Doors open 6.45...Eyes Down 7.30

May 2018

- 2 Elmswell Exchange Afternoon W.I. G.M. and Resolutions
- 3 Over 55's club Outing with Carvery Lunch
- 4 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 8 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30pm AGM Speaker Sue Stubly Hedgehog Rescue Centre
- 10 Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall. 7.30pm, Speaker Joan Munden: "Nadine's Story in WW2's Special Operations Executive (SOE)" *July tickets on sale*
- 10 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 10 St John's Ascension Day Healing Evening Service
- 11 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 13 St John's bring and share lunch after OMF Sunday
- 14 Ladies Friendship Group visit to Fire Station hosted by Brian Hawes 7.45pm
- 15 Exchange Club outing
- 15 Gardening Club 7.30pm. Blackbourne Talk: The 12 month garden - Year Round Colour
- 16 St John's praise evening
- 17 Over 55's Club Entertainment by Jackie Raven
- 18 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 20 Christians Together in Elmswell Family Pentecost Service at St John's - 4:30pm
- 25 BINGO at Blackbourne Doors open 6.45...Eyes Down 7.30
- 31 Over 55's Club Bingo

June 2018

- 1 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 4 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church, Children with needs in Burma with Phil Bevan
- 6 Elmswell Exchange Afternoon W.I. Linda Shorbolt - Tales Of Baby Feeding With Vintage Treasures
- 8 ELF Horse racing at The Maypole Inn, Wetherden commencing 7:00pm. Tickets will be available from the Library.
- 12 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30pm Speaker Linda Scales Name that tune
- 14 Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall. 7pm A.G.M., then Speaker Bob Webb: "History of the East Suffolk Railway" *July tickets on sale*
- 14 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 14 Over 55's Club Return of Gwyn Pritchard
- 15 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 16 St John's summer fair
- 19 Gardening Club 7.30pm. Blackbourne Talk: Garden Thugs
- 19 Exchange Club meets at 2.30 at Wesley - to be arranged plus raffle
- 22 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 28 Over 55's club Entertainment by Dennis Maisey
- 29 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 29 BINGO at Blackbourne Doors open 6.45...Eyes Down 7.30
- 30 St John's summer BBQ

July 2018

- 4 Elmswell Exchange Afternoon W.I. Edward Jackson - The Beauty Of Moths
- 7 10am - SATURDAY - Elmswell History Group's Summer Outing. Guided Tour of Hadleigh Guildhall and St Mary's Church. Details and Tickets available at our meetings in May and June, or from 01359-242601.
- 10 Social evening - Elmswell Evening WI
- 12 Over 55's Club Return of St Edmundsbury Male Voice Choir OPEN EVENING
- 12 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 13 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 17 Gardening Club Outing - Anglesey Abbey
- 17 Exchange Club meets at 2.30 at Wesley - AGM, strawberry tea plus raffle
- 20 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 26 Over 55's Club Strawberry Supper /Bingo
- 27 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 27 BINGO at Blackbourne Doors open 6.45...Eyes Down 7.30
- 30 Over 55's Holiday to Isle of Wight

August 2018

- 1 Elmswell Exchange Afternoon W.I. Members Meeting - To be Confirmed
- 9 Over 55's Club Malcolm Steward entertains
- 10 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 14 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30pm Speaker Brian Thurlow Mr Potter venerable old gardener
- 21 Exchange Club meets at 2.30 at Wesley - shared lunch plus raffle
- 23 Over 55's Club Bingo
- 24 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 31 BINGO at Blackbourne Doors open 6.45...Eyes Down 7.30

September 2018

- 3 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church, Sailing around the world with Bridget Reavie at 7.45pm
- 5 Elmswell Exchange Afternoon W.I. Linda Sexton - Miss Grimwade And The Girls Of Hope House
- 6 Over 55's Club Old Codgers Entertain
- 7 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 11 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30pm Speaker Mandy Wild How to look good in a bin bag
- 13 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 14 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 15 St John's quiz night
- 18 Gardening Club 7.30pm. Blackbourne Talk: Seasonal Interest for autumn garden
- 18 Exchange Club outing
- 20 Over 55's Club Harvest Supper
- 21 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 23 St John's Harvest Festival
- 28 BINGO at Blackbourne Doors open 6.45...Eyes Down 7.30

October 2018

- 1 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church, Fishermen's Mission with Andy Malcolm
- 3 Elmswell Exchange Afternoon W.I. Chris Parfitt An Illustrated Visit to The Isle Of Skye (Highland Games Included)
- 4 Over 55's club Felixstowe "The Hut"
- 5 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 9 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30pm Speaker Jenny Martin British Red Cross
- 12 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 16 Gardening Club 7.30pm. Blackbourne Talk: Therapeutic and Healing Gardens
- 16 Exchange Club To be arranged plus raffle
- 18 Over 55's club Stowmarket Concert Band OPEN EVENING

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

PLUS>>>> regular bookings at Blackbourne & Wesley include, Art Club, Baby & Toddler Group, BATS table tennis & badminton, Bingo, Carpet Bowls, Companions, Exchange Club, Gardening Club, History Group, Ju Jutsu, Karate, Mardle Quilters, Slimming World & WI (afternoon and evening groups), Circuit training, Boot Camp, Sewing Bee.

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

A VILLAGE INDEX



Useful contacts for community groups & others...feedback is essential.

Do be in touch to correct or add details or to suggest someone else deserving of listing.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Amenities Association | Jean Barker | eea@elmswell.org.uk | 241135 |
| Art Club | John Welford | welford955@btinternet.com | 240166 |
| Baby & Toddler Group | Jen Tooke-Marchant | elmswellbtgroup@gmail.com | |
| Baptists | Dave Hollings | davehollings@btinternet.com | |
| Beavers | Ruth Court | ruthcourt4@hotmail.co.uk | |
| BWMA | Peter Edmonds (sec) | peterjedmonds@tiscali.co.uk | 241640 |
| BATS – Badminton at Blackbourne | Peter Edmonds | peterjedmonds@tiscali.co.uk | 241640 |
| Brownies | Gemma Sutton | elmswellbrownies@hotmail.com | |
| CAB | | advice@midsuffolkcab.org.uk | 01449 676060 |
| Carpet Bowls Club | Frank Boxall | jf.boxall@btinternet.com | |
| Christians Together in Elmswell | Jean Folkard | derekf2@gmail.com | |
| Community Speed Watch | Mo Coulling | mocoulling@gmail.com | 0777 4695784 |
| Companions | Linda Waspe | linda@labbott.plus.com | |
| County Councillor | Cllr Jane Storey | Jane.Storey@suffolk.gov.uk | 240555 |
| Cricket Club | Eileen Brooks (Sec.) | Elmswellcricketclub@gmail.com | |
| Cubs | Ben Savill | hovells23@hotmail.co.uk | |
| District Councillor | Sarah Mansell | Sarah.Mansel@midsuffolk.gov.uk | 245247 |
| District Councillor | John Levantis | Johnlevantis@gmail.com | 01284 700925 |
| Elmswheelians | Trevor Sadler | Trevor.sadler@dsl.pipex.com | |
| Elmswild | Mary Feeney | info@elmswild.org.uk | |
| Exchange afternoon WI | Maureen Davis | | |
| Exchange Club | Carol Blissett | carolblissett@hotmail.co.uk | |
| Fire Crew; non-emergencies | Brian Hawes | brian.hawes@suffolccc.gov.uk | 07761 125093 |
| First Responders | Merv | | |
| Football | Shaun Pratt | shaun.pratt@btinternet.com | 07813 302808 |
| Fox Bowls Team | Dick Burch | | 240105 |
| Friends of Elmswell School | | | |
| Friends of St Johns | Jean Folkard | derekf2@gmail.com | |
| Gardening Club | Nick Chamberlin | npch@btinternet.com | |
| Guides | Sue Howard | sueguides2011@talktalk.net | |
| Health Centre - Woolpit | | | 240298 |
| Helping hand | Diann Armstrong | Mayfield, Wetherden Road | |
| History Group | Stella Chamberlin | stellachamberlin@yahoo.co.uk | |
| Ladies Lunch Club | Brenda Begg | davidgbegg@gmail.com | |
| Library | | | 240974 |
| Little Elms | Melanie Garner | info@littleelms.co.uk | 240491 |
| Newsletter | Editorial office | eea@elmswell.org.uk | |
| Oil buying Group | | elmswelloil@gmail.com | 07813829008 |
| Parish Council | Parish Clerk, | clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk | 244134 |
| Photographic Society | Mike Randell | | |
| Police Emergencies | | | |
| Police; non-emergencies | Mid Suffolk South SNT | headquarters@suffolk.pnn.police.uk | 101 |
| Poor's Land Charity | Graham Newman (Sec.) | newmangraham@btinternet.com | |
| Power cuts | | Powwercut105.com | 105 |
| School | Mrs Ash | admin@elmswell.suffolk.sch.uk | 240261 |
| Scouts | Ben Savill | hovells23@hotmail.co.uk | |
| St John's Church | Jean Folkard | derekf2@gmail.com | |
| WI - evening | Margaret Stevens | stevensmarg@tiscali.co.uk | 408452 |
| Youth Football | Julian Tuzinkiewicz | juliantuz@hotmail.co.uk | |

Future Council Meetings

Notice of all meetings and agendas is posted on the Council's notice board at Crown Mill and in the community notice board at the Co-op.

Apr 16th May 21st June 18th July 16th Sept 17th

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

Enquiries on any Parish Council matter are invited to the Clerk, Peter Dow, at The Council Office, Blackbourne, Blackbourne Road, IP30 9UH – right next to the car park and with wheelchair access. Staffed Mondays & Wednesdays 9.00am – 4pm, Tuesday & Thursday 9.00am – 12 noon and at other times by arrangement. clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk Tel. 244134



BULBS - ALTERNATORS - SHOCK ABSORBERS - COIL SPRINGS - WHEEL ALIGNMENT - REPAIRS - MOT PREP - WHEEL BALANCING - PUNCTURE REPAIRS



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KEY BATTERY REPLACEMENT - STARTER MOTORS - SPARK PLUGS - ELECTRICAL FAULTS - AIR BAG FAULTS - ENGINE MANAGEMENT LIGHTS - TPMS RESET