



The Elmswell Newsletter



More than thirty years of Parish Record... all the Community News...

AUGUST 2020

On line at elmswell.suffolk.cloud



... see over page

Published on the first Friday of every month by the Elmswell Amenities Association Reg. Charity No. 304879.
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EDITORIAL



Our editorial is designed to inform and to encourage debate. If you wish to comment, please do so via the office or by email at; eaa.elmswell.org.uk We reserve the right to edit any such contributions that we may use in a subsequent edition.

As our front cover clearly has it, we are a 'Newsletter'.

A good Newsletter is made up of the people it serves talking to themselves, about themselves. Which can become a problem when there's not much to say that hasn't been said elsewhere over and over again. The people we have put in charge and their multiplicity of delegated advisers say it first and we repeat it, hopefully spittle-free, in the limited forums allowed to us.

Hence, we are awash with figures and statistics and graphs, peaks & spikes. We loftily bandy the dreaded, 'R Factor', about and tut-tut over the antics of the Covid deniers and their fake news fantasies. We gasp at the behaviour of others as they give way to their inner lemming and rush to cram on to a packed beach or to frenziedly party in a forest leaving their residues of litter, waste and worse.

We are aware of the adaptations and accommodations forced upon us – the re-publication of the Dumas adventure tale as, 'The Man in the Ironed Mask'; the advertisement for T shirts emblazoned, 'IF YOU CAN READ THIS YOU'RE TOO CLOSE'; the relegation of an epic classic to, 'Dante's In Furlough'; plus games of Scrabble with added crowd noise.

So, none of that here. Leave it to the national news vendors, to the purveyors of on-line fact for the scrollers and swipers to like and share and twitter and tweet.

Not much 'news' left to relay, then. Which, for some publications, has caused problems. But Elmswell comes good yet again. There could be a short, sharp, and possibly improperly vernacular response to our heading on the back page, 'What's on in Elmswell?'. But, despite the absence of physical meetings, many of our regular correspondents continue to keep us informed of their activities beyond getting together. The Art Club unfailingly entertains and informs, ElmsWild keep us aware that nature doesn't stop in lockdown, our faith communities remain active and optimistic whilst various clubs and societies keep interest alive; from bowls to history, through football to gardening, from activities at the Memorial Library to an uplifting thought from the Companions.

But 'news' there is. The dry-as-dust stuff of the Parish Council Report has word of progress towards a Wesley facility promising a new chapter in community provision and facilities at the heart of the village. The positive vision of the Council and of Blackbourne & Wesley Management

Association members looks to be on the way to realisation. Tortuously delayed and still beset by the slowdown in various key agencies, plus the dreaded, 'supply chain problems', but already an impressive statement that Elmswell accepts the challenge of a fast-burgeoning population and seizes the opportunity to bring on board the new energy and outlooks which this will, surely, bring.

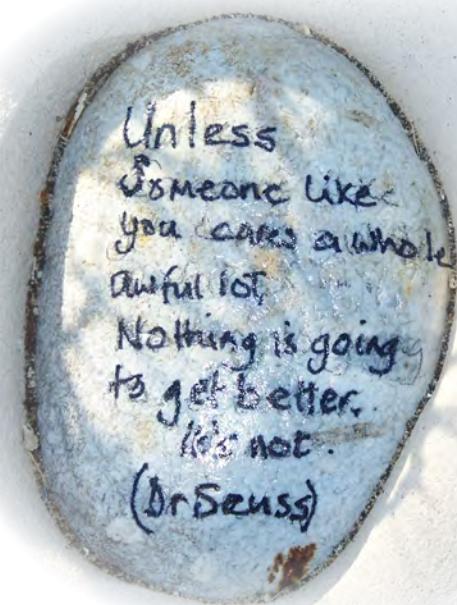
News, too, of the more mundane work at Blackbourne towards improving what is already a top-notch facility. The original master-plan for Blackbourne, 20+ years ago, made the headlines because it was costed at a million pounds - in those days a fanciful sum much derided by those diehards who saw no reason to progress beyond a 'village hall'. The end result was, inevitably, a compromise but one which has served extremely well, and which has spawned additions, expansions, and improvements to produce the very successful multi-faceted facility which we now enjoy. One of the last elements of that 'compromise' is now demolished to be replaced by extensions which include a room to house a new Village Archive – a case of moving forward to allow us to look back.

News of life continuing and reviving...Street Farm Graduation Day happened far more quietly than in recent years, but the occasion will still be memorable for those youngsters involved. Slimming World are right on-message in encouraging the Government's realisation

of what, to them, has always been blindingly obvious – a healthy weight helps in so many ways...even in fighting a virus. And a resident's suggestion that wheelie-bin stickers might help make our roads safer has been taken up by the Parish Council who now just need volunteers to distribute them. Experience suggest that the volunteers will come forward – job done.

And volunteers it was who made our centre-page spread happen. Hundreds of them took up the offer to decorate common or garden stones into a remarkable and colourful celebration of thanks to key workers and of spirit during adversity. Others came forward to give Sid the Snake a permanent home. Languid in the sunshine, Sid now basks in the attention of his many visitors.

And he allows us to finish, as so often we do, with a pithy quotable quote, courtesy of a literary giant...this from the good Dr Seuss...



CLUBS & SOCIETIES



ELMSWELL ART CLUB



The art club was founded some seven years ago by three inspirational and enterprising local women. Since then, we can rightly claim to have become a popular part of the local scene. Our exhibitions and sales are becoming ever more popular with visitor numbers increasing year on year. Our Tuesday morning gatherings are always well supported. The demographic shows we have THREE times more female members than male. Why that should be I have no idea, maybe men spend more time on the golf course or pottering around in the garden!

Looking back over the history of art and artists, it is the men who dominate with far fewer noted and recognised female artists. Go to any art gallery anywhere in the world and you will be hard pressed to find many that have more than a tiny smattering of art and artwork created by women displayed on the walls or available for viewing. Here in England we have artists of renown such as Constable, Gainsborough, Turner, L S Lowry, Hogarth, Reynolds and Munnings to name but a few. Their paintings are prized by museums and galleries and rightly so and are widely on display. How many British women artists, (a) come readily to mind and (b) have reasonable space allocated to their work? Drawn a blank, forgive the pun?! The first that I can think of is Tracey Emin, the enfant terrible of modern British art, whose name

comes to mind probably because of the bed she created in 1998 and displayed at the Tate in London in 1999.

Anybody think of any other? I can't! A couple of foreigners come to mind,

Georgia O'Keefe, the American who specialised in watercolour flowers and Frida Kahlo from Mexico who did vast numbers of self portraits easily recognised by the mono-eyebrow. As for commemorative statues or monuments, men dominate hugely in this respect so the question is are there any bronze females resting happily on plinths? None that I know of! In the so called "good old days" women were very subservient to men and were kept very much in their place. Their biggest and most important role was providing numerous heirs and they were not encouraged to paint. It is little wonder that the ladies don't feature very much historically. The men were having fun and the women were kept in their place. Fortunately things have changed over the years as can be seen

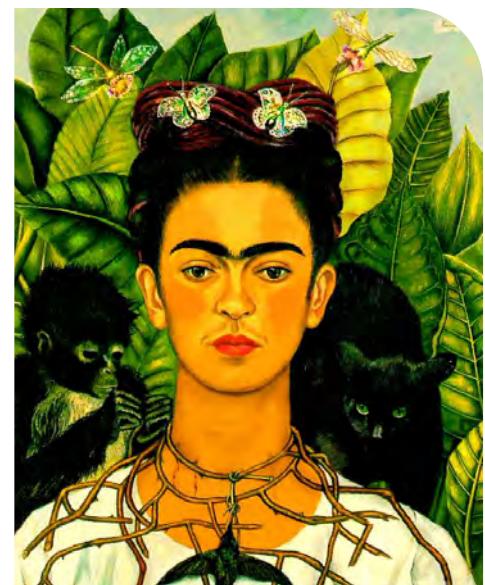


by the fact that it was three women who got the Elmswell Art Club up and running.

This article was inspired by Sandi Toksvig in the pages of her interesting and entertaining book, Between the Stops.

It is only right therefore, that the paintings shown this month are by two of our lady members. Caroline Cooke used mixed media to paint the Dedham Vale and oils were used by Linda Cornish to depict players enjoying a game of boules on the beach.

John Welford 01359 240166



**The most important part of the body is the brain.
Of my face, I like the eyebrows and eyes.**

FRIDA KAHLO



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ELMSWELL OVER 55's CLUB

Following on to our report in the July Newsletter now that the Thursford Xmas Spectacular has been cancelled until 2021 the committee have taken the decision to cancel all club activities for the remainder of 2020.

This decision is based on the fact that our membership is too large to be able

to social distance everybody in the Chamberlain Hall.

We have booked the Blackbourne to resume our meetings on February 25th 2021 when hopefully social distancing will allow us to meet without any problems.

It is hoped that we will be able to roll

over most of our current programme to next year subject to entertainers being able to come along.

In the meantime please take care of each other and look forward to seeing you all in 2021.

*From Dianne and
all the committee (241002).*

ELMSWELL EXCHANGE AFTERNOON WI

Dare I say, the nights are drawing in ! Some of the Acers in the garden are already taking on a certain tinge of gold. Therefore, we thought it was time to tackle the complicated business of getting back together again. Common sense tells us that it would be wise to wait until our completely remodelled old home at the Wesley Centre is ready for use. We are currently looking at September although this is obviously not carved in stone. Nothing is these days. Stephanie Lester who was booked to do a demonstration called "Making the Best of a Supermarket Bunch" has agreed to still do this. We will have our first full committee meeting at the beginning of August when we will make all the arrangements that we

can. These, of course, may change a little nearer the time. Our members have already been contacted to ask if they would be happy to return in September. We still have some members who have not responded but it would be helpful to know their feelings.

There will be restrictions due to the pandemic and we will naturally have to adhere to these for our own safety and the safety of others. I feel sure, as members of the W.I. we will be more than capable of coping. It will certainly be good to see everyone again. Whether we have to wear face coverings is an 'unknown' at present. I tried mine out in the Co-op yesterday and had a few problems. The spectacles steamed up, and the

nose needed attention.

How do you cope with that when you can't get to it ?? Any suggestions will be gratefully received.

We will keep all our members fully informed once decisions have been made in August. In the meantime, keep safe, wear the mask and keep smiling.

Maureen

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



ELMSWELL GARDEN CLUB

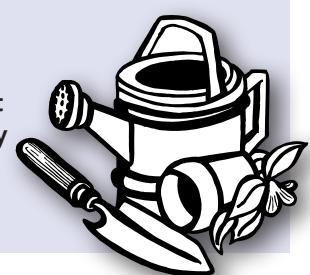
August, one of the hottest months of the year could mean that we need to find water to quench the thirst of hungry plants. The water butts are full after the wet, cooler weather of July so hopefully this will mean we can use saved water resources rather than the outside tap. It will be good to welcome the sun to enjoy the vibrant colour of the garden as the season slowly moves into Autumn. Tomatoes are beginning to ripen; courgettes will need prompt harvesting and fresh beans picked and cooked quickly to provide a vibrant vegetable for our dinner plate. Vibrant flower blooms of orange, yellow and mellow red will be gracing our gardens enticing the butterflies and bees to visit constantly during the day. There is still a lot to look forward to as the summer months slowly move into autumn.

At the beginning of lockdown, readers may recall an invitation to collect seeds to take home to sow in their own garden. Oliver and Jessica picked up some seeds on one of their daily walks with mum. As a home project they planted the seeds, watered regularly and weeded the patch of ground so that the plants did not become congested. Strong sturdy plants have grown from those small seeds to two plus metres tall – the plants are still growing! Flower heads have formed and will soon burst into large sunflower heads to follow the sun's passage through the day. Well done to you both, a magnificent result.

The EGC Committee will meet in early August to discuss the logistics of the Gardening Club returning for their monthly meetings. Official guidelines

will be adhered to and any plans made will ensure the safety of all members. Hopefully, you are beginning to meet to enjoy time with friends and family in small gatherings. If the sun is shining this will make the gathering even more enjoyable.

If you require further information about Elmswell Garden Club (EGC), please contact Catherine, on 01359 242172 or Nick, on 01359 242601. The Club email is elmswellgardenclub@gmail.com and a good way of asking a question that will be swiftly answered.





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Keep your Pets Safe from Theft!

There has been an increase in dog thefts in the local area recently due to the increase in demand for pets especially during the lockdown period and subsequent increase in price of puppies/dogs sold online. This type of theft is very distressing to owners and their pets.

Below is some advice to help keep your pets safe from theft:

- Never leave a dog in the garden unattended.
- Avoid leaving dogs in outside kennels if possible and check boarding kennels have appropriate security measures in place.
- Ensure rear gates are locked at top and bottom with a shoot bolt and padlock. Consider fitting a bell or gate alarm as well.
- Ensure the garden boundary (fence, hedge etc) is secure so that no one can gain entry or pull your dog out or your dog cannot get out on its own.
- Ensure your dog is microchipped (which is a legal requirement) and registered with up to date information and has a collar and dog tag on (don't put your dog's name on the tag use your surname). Take plenty of good, clear photographs of your pet so that it can be easily identified if lost or stolen.
- Consider driveway alarms to alert you of visitors or use monitored CCTV/Alarm/Camera systems to outside areas. These will alert you if anyone is close by.
- Be aware of and report all suspicious vehicles or people to 101. Ask your neighbours to do the same.
- When out always know where your dog is. Be mindful of anyone who may be trying to distract your attention away from your dog or attract your dog's attention away from you. If using a dog walker/dog minder ensure that they are aware of and have taken appropriate security advice to protect your dog
- Report all missing/stolen dogs on 101 so that any found can be reunited with their owners. After reporting a dog stolen to the police consider also reporting the theft to your local authority dog warden (<https://www.gov.uk/find-your-local-council>). Notify the microchip database provider and also consider reporting it to doglost.co.uk or their Facebook page. They coordinate thefts for each county and offer advice and support.
- Never leave dogs unattended outside shops.
- Avoid leaving dogs in cars if possible (never leave a dog in a car on a warm/hot day).
- Don't buy any dogs from social media sites or any person where appropriate documentation (ownership etc, pedigree, vet, microchip papers etc) cannot be provided. And always insist on seeing the dog at the breeder's house with its mother. Never take delivery of a puppy/dog.
- Report all suspicious dog sales to the police on 101 or Trading Standards. Sales of puppies are covered under consumer law including the Sale of Goods Act. If you have bought a sick puppy or have been misled in any way (false documentation/false information about where your puppy was bred), you can report this to Trading Standards
- Don't give details of your or your pet location, or your walking locations on your social media sites.

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CLUBS & SOCIETIES

ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

Depending on Government guidelines, the committee hopes that we will be able to meet again soon (but not until October at the earliest) and in the newly re-built Wesley Hall – members will be advised in the usual way. Meanwhile, we hope that members are enjoying Sarah Doig's online serialisation of her book 'The Little History of Suffolk', with a reminder that any members can borrow our copy of Sarah's book to read at their leisure.

With August being the month of harvest, here's an appropriate BOOK REVIEW –



THEY FOUGHT IN THE FIELDS

The Women's Land Army:
The Story of a Forgotten Victory

NICOLA TYRER

With a foreword by
HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother

"They Fought in the Fields – The Women's Land Army" by Nicola Tyrer

Although the Women's Land Army tends to be remembered mainly for its efforts during the Second World War, it did also exist during the Great War, i.e. between 1917 and 1918, 1.75million acres of grassland were ploughed up to grow wheat. However, during the inter-war years of peace, the hungry lessons of WW1 were quickly forgotten. British agriculture at the end of the 1930s was in a sorry state, with the country importing 70% of its food, in stark contrast to the German Reich which by then was producing 80% of its own food. It was only by the spring of 1939 that the British Government decided that something had to be done. So the 'girls' of the WLA, many of whom were very young, were recruited from the towns and

cities – they were mill girls, machinists, shop assistants, typists, barmaids, milliners and manicurists – and when it came to country life, they were as green as the grass they found there! Their heroic mission was to feed a nation whose menfolk were away fighting for freedom on land, sea and air.

Initially their efforts were met with scorn by a community famed for its conservatism; they were teased and humiliated, locked in with dangerous bulls, and subjected to endless sexual innuendo. However, before long the farmers were having to eat their words, and acknowledge that the WLA was a rip-roaring success, although the recruitment posters showed a somewhat "rose-tinted" version of the reality. Some farmers' wives could prove petty and mean-spirited, sometimes depriving the girls of enough food for their long hours of heavy manual labour - hunger seemed to be a recurring theme for some of the girls, one of whom working in East Anglia recalled that she was not allowed in the farmhouse at all.

The story of the Land Army is inextricably entwined with the disappearance, in little more than a decade, of farming methods which had been in use for thousands of years. Land girls learned to use implements which Victorian, Georgian and perhaps even Tudor farmhands would have recognised – hay knives, billhooks, scythes, the thatcher's jacks and combs, the woodsman's spokeshave (a tool used to shape and smooth wooden rods and shafts), horse-drawn implements like ploughs, hayrakes and harrows, the binder and threshing machine. One girl described "sprout picking all day in a biting north-easter, with intermittent showers of sleety rain; we looked like monks from the Middle Ages, standing there with sacks round our middles, another over our heads like a cowl."

In spite of all that, by the spring of 1940, two million new acres had been broken to the plough. Not content with feeding hens and milking cows, women became ace mechanics; a thousand land girls volunteered as rat catchers; others drove giant excavators in vital land reclamation schemes, felled trees for pit props, ran

mobile threshing gangs (these were the days before combine harvesters), and mastered the ancient art of thatching. In March 1942 the first training camp of what would become the WLA's Timber Corps was set up in Culford, Suffolk. (Another excellent book on this subject is "Lumberjills – Britain's Forgotten Army" by Joanna Foa.)

For many, what began as 'duty' ended as a labour of love – 5,000 women stayed behind to work on the land after the WLA was disbanded in 1950.

The contribution made by these young women to the successful outcome of the war had unforgivably never been adequately acknowledged, even though it was largely due to their efforts that bread had not been rationed. In spite of the Queen's very active encouragement and support of the WLA all through the war years and beyond, Churchill himself vetoed the Land Army receiving the generous demobilisation grants available to other women's services, while 30 years after the war the WLA was refused permission to march in the Remembrance Day procession. However, eventually in 2000, the ladies of the WLA were finally invited to march past the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day, in honour of the work they'd carried out for their >



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country over 50 years before. After much campaigning, it was announced in December 2007 that surviving Land Girls would receive a special Veteran's Badge which were awarded from July 2008 onwards. In October 2014, the Countess of Wessex unveiled the memorial to the Women's Land Army and Women's Timber Corps at the National Memorial Arboretum. This book has made us wonder if there were any

Land Girls in or around Elmswell in the 1940s – if you know, please do be in touch.

The main instigator and organiser of the WLA was Lady Denman, of Women's Institute fame. Therefore, members of both the W.I. and History Group might like to borrow our copy of this insightful book to learn much more about these formidable women, and their rightful place in our country's recent history.

For further information about our History Group, please visit our website

www.elmswell-history.org.uk

or contact our Secretary, Stella Chamberlin on 01359-242601.



With imported cane sugar threatened by U-Boat raids in the Atlantic, the campaign to persuade British farmers to grow sugar beet took off in earnest. Here land girls from London stack sugar beet ready for the lorries that will take the crop to the factory in Lincolnshire.



Mastering the mysteries of the internal combustion engine. Although sceptics foretold disaster, many land girls became skilled mechanics for whom the temperamental iron-wheeled Fordson tractor held no terrors.



Girls at a milk training centre in Suffolk learn the theory of dairy farming, watched by their future victims.

COMPANIONS

We are a friendly independently run Club whose members are on hand to provide refreshments, play various games or just to have a chat with anyone who would like company and make friends.

We will be returning to The Wesley Hall on Friday 4th September at 10am - 12 noon on a fortnightly basis and very much look forward to meeting up with Everyone again.

For further information please contact Linda Waspe on 01359 242224

A Friendship Poem

A friend is like a tower strong;
A friend is like the joyous song
That helps us on our way.
When golden ties of friendship bind
The heart to heart, the mind to mind,
How fortunate are we!

For friendship is a noble thing;
It soars past death on angel's wing into eternity.
God blesses friendship's holy bond
Both here and in the great beyond;
A benefit unprimed.

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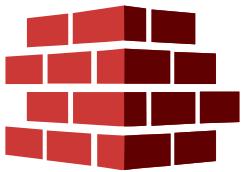
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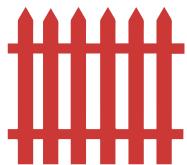
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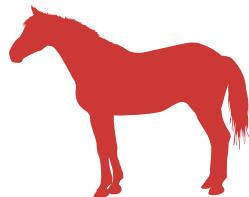
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wade.andrew63@gmail.com



ELMS FEST

It doesn't seem possible that next month would have been the very last ElmsFest...the year seems to be fading away fast, despite all that's been going on in the last few months. The ElmsFest committee had so much

planned to bring you the best fete there has ever been, but clearly it was not meant to be! However, that doesn't mean that it's all over just yet...

We'd love to welcome all Elmswell residents to enjoy a stay-at-home "all eyes to the sky" event on Sunday 6th September - the date ElmsFest would have fallen on. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and next month's newsletter, as we will be able to announce specific times to stand outside your houses to enjoy a final farewell from ElmsFest!

In last month's newsletter, we also mentioned that we would be donating funds to local good causes using the money we have accrued in our account. This month, we are delighted to announce the first donations that

have been confirmed - these being:

1. The cost of materials for a resident to make an outdoor stage on behalf of Elmswell Primary School.
2. Five outdoor activity classes run by Wild Play to allow five local children to participate in sessions that their parents or carers would have struggled to have fund.

We are currently in talks with other possible causes that would benefit from funding, so we will announce more as soon as we can.

Until then, stay safe and thank you once again to all who have supported us over the last few years.

Chris, Brittany, Mike & Sol6

ELMSWELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Hello Elmswell,

It has been good to be open again and hopefully you have enjoyed being able to access books and dvds from the library again.

To allow more people to use the library and to help keep our staff and other customers safe face coverings are now required for customers over 11 years old to wear when coming into the library unless they are part of exempted groups.

At the end of July we started the reservations system again. You can now access books from any library in Suffolk and get it sent to Elmswell Library to be collected. If you have not used it before you can browse and reserve books through the online catalogue at <https://suffolk.spydus.co.uk>.

If you do not have access to the internet you can call the library with the book you would like us to reserve

or come into the library to make reservations.

We are also trialling a new online book group. This book group is based on audiobooks rather than written books although if you want to read the book and join in you can. It will meet at 3pm on the second Monday of the month. The first book is Elizabeth is Missing by Emma Healey and the meeting is on Monday 10th August. If you would like more information or would like to join let us know at the library.

Thursday opening hours are changing too. We are open from 3pm – 6pm on Thursdays.

For the latest updates about which services are available and where they are available check <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/coronavirus/>.

Stay well and I hope to see you soon,

Miles

What's on at Elmswell Library

Baby Bounce

There will be a Baby Bounce post on Elmswell Library Facebook page 11am every Tuesday.

Online Audio Book Club

3pm on Monday 10th August (2nd Monday of the month)

The Keep in Touch Community Café

Cancelled until further notice.

Lego Club

Lego ideas will be posted on Facebook every Sunday.

Elmswell Library Friends Group AGM

Postponed until further notice.



Our village Consumer Champion, Ken Coulling has the following warning and update on Covid 19 test trial:

This morning I received a call that went silent. It had an area code 01732 . I Googled the code which turned out to be Sevenoaks in Kent.

I found a useful website: [who called dot co.uk](http://who-called.co.uk) where you can enter the full phone number and check. It came up as "harassing". There have been 1549 complaints against this number. The website is safe as it has the padlock symbol, it is far better way than 1471 or trying to ring back, which is very unadvisable.

On a more positive note, I received a letter from NHS Imperial College London to take part in a Covid -19 test trial. The letter contained an 8 digit code which I entered on the website. It then checked my credentials, including date of birth, proving it was genuine. I signed up you received a kit by post and a courier was arranged to collect the completed test. In my case the result came back in 72 hours. There was a survey involved, but they asked for no personal financial information and, more importantly, no payment.

PS, my test was negative. Stay safe, Ken



STREET FARM DAY NURSERY



STREET FARM NURSERY GRADUATION DAY

Towards the end of July for the past few years, Street Farm Nursery have taken over the big hall at Blackbourne for their Graduation Ceremony – a grand fun event for those children moving on into ‘big school’. The Jubilee Hall is packed with parents and grandparents, siblings and staff marking an important moment in

growing up, captured for the family album and in the Newsletter.

Lisa and her staff were determined, despite the obvious limitations during a pandemic, not to let this year’s cohort miss out. Consequently, the nursery garden was transformed into a wonderful world of rainbow colours, so

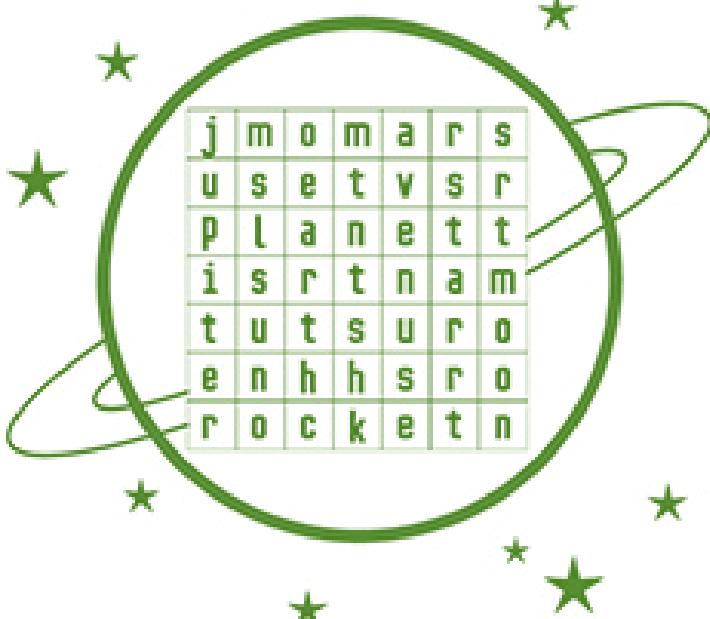
significant at this time. Scaled back, and without the audience, the children were still able to have a day to remember - a record to share and to treasure forever.





Space

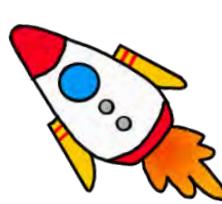
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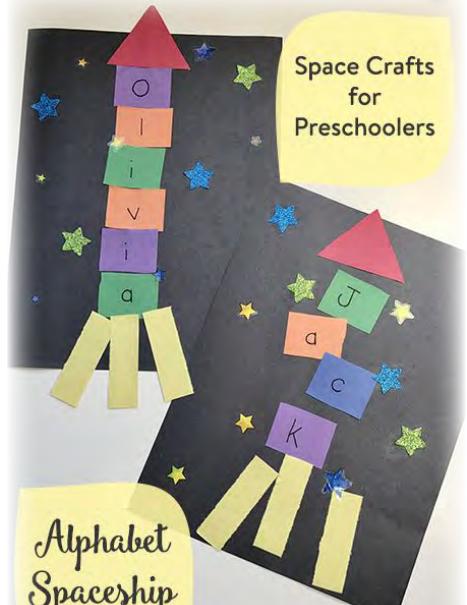


Can you match up
the numbers in the
dot to dot?

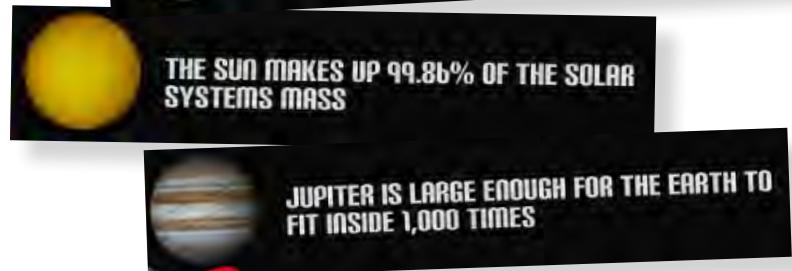


ROCKET NAMES!

YOU WILL NEED:
PENS, CARD, PENS
AND DECORATIONS!



1. FIRST CUT OUT SOME COLOURED SQUARES, A TRIANGLE, AND RECTANGLES FOR YOUR FIRE!
2. WRITE EACH LETTER OF YOUR NAME ON A SQUARE
3. MIX YOUR LETTERS UP, AND THEN SEE IF YOU CAN FORM YOUR NAME STACKING THEM ABOVE EACH OTHER!
4. NOW DECORATE WITH STARS, GLITTER, AND PLANETS!



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ELMSWELL FELLOWSHIP

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Hello friends, we sincerely hope that you are well during this uncertain time. However, if you are struggling, for whatever reason, please contact us. We are offering practical day-to-day support, contact over the phone and, of course, prayer. We are not sure when true "normality" will return at St John's, or what that might look like, but here's the recent news:



This Week

TUESDAY 8:00 PM
Night Prayer (Compline)

THURSDAY 8:00 PM
Night Prayer (Celtic)

SATURDAY 9:00 AM
Prayer Meeting (via Zoom)

SATURDAY 10:30 AM
Coffee and Chat (via Zoom)

SUNDAY 10:30 AM
Sunday Worship with Holy Communion.
Begins with 10 minutes of all age worship.

IN CHURCH & ONLINE

An update from July:

- In July we returned to the church building! Our socially distanced format is currently working really well and the people who returned to the building have really enjoyed the experience.

We are hoping to continue this through August and until the guidance changes, however the online services are not stopping :) We meet together on Sundays at 10:30am. You are welcome to either come to the church building (social distancing measures will be in place) or access the service from home via Facebook/YouTube. The first 40 minutes of the service will be "online church" streamed across the internet and onto the screens in church. After a five minute break, the service continues at 11:15am with intercessions and Holy Communion in church (which is also streamed online). You are welcome to receive the bread. Unfortunately, we cannot sing out loud in the church and, if you do want to attend in person, please contact Mike Brown beforehand on 01359 240738, michaelbrown256@btinternet.com.

- Together with the Elmswell Virus Support group, we are in a position to close our Elmswell Foodbank. The last delivery has been made, however please do get in touch if

you need any assistance as we are still here to support you. Thank you to everyone who made this possible.



- We have been busy distributing the services on DVD to those without internet access (get in touch if you would like one) and we now have a "Questions about Christianity" page on our web site with videos to give you some answers to those questions – please check them out!

Let's talk about prayer...

- We believe that prayer is spiritual communication between people and God, it's a two-way relationship in which we should not only talk to God, but also listen to Him. We believe that prayer can do great things and we have been praying diligently throughout this pandemic and we are encouraged to see real answers to prayer here, in Elmswell, and further afield. If you'd like prayer, for yourself, your loved ones, our world or anything which is close to your heart, please let us know:
- The Prayer Tree is open. Prayer cards for attaching onto the prayer tree are found in the church porch... or you can bring your own from home!
- Private Prayer – you are welcome to use the church for private prayer, but please contact us to make an appointment. We need to follow the proper safety and cleaning guidance we have received.
- Prayer Wall – don't forget our online prayer wall is available at www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk. You can also light a virtual candle.
- Prayer Meeting - The weekly prayer meeting is at 9:00am on Zoom on Saturdays. You don't have to pray out loud, if you would like to come and join in silent prayer, we would

love to have you with us ...virtually!

- Prayer Chain – we have a dedicated team praying and passing on prayers to a network of Christians. There's nearly one hundred members on our Prayer Chain and if you'd like to be included, please email Jane Langston on jane@amatsutrainingschool.com.

Rector: Peter Goodridge

Telephone: 01359 240512

Email: elmswellrector@gmail.com

Web: www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjohnselmswell/

YouTube: accessed via our website home page

Zoom: contact us for the details

Dial-in: sadly, we have suspended this service



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH TOWER FLOODLIGHTING

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

For the summer months the lights will be on between 8.00 p.m. and midnight.

A night's floodlighting costs £5.

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

JULY 2020 SPONSORSHIP NOT PREVIOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED

- 3 remembering Stanley King on his Birthday, from Pam & Eric.



15 in loving memory of Alec William Cook, who passed away on 2nd July 2020. Sorely missed by wife Irene and all the family.

AUGUST 2020 SPONSORSHIPS

- 1 in memory of Andrew Jones. "Always in our thoughts". Mum & Dad.
- 2 cherished memories of Dora Lily Handyside on her Birthday, a very dear Mum, Nan and Gt Nan. "Remembered with love".
- 6 9th Wedding Anniversary - Annette & Stuart Martin.
- 7 in loving memory of Grahame Woods on the anniversary of his passing away, with love from Jane & family.
- 14 in honour of Judy Quinton.
- 16 to remember and thank all those past Elmswell Fire-Fighters who served their village and community so well.
- 18 Dean Goodchild - in loving memory. Love, Colin. xx.
- 22 in loving memory of Betty Margaret Greathead.
- 23 in loving memory of Duncan Wardrop, on the 2nd anniversary of his passing. "Loved and missed each day". Love Alex, Douglas, Amy and Teddy. xxxx.

All bookings and payments please to :-

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



ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

The Prime Minister wants us to be back to normal by Christmas, I suspect we'd all like that, but we'll have to see how things pan out won't we? I trust you are all managing to do a few more things and get out more.

Last year at this time I was saying my wife Margaret and I had been away for a month in our caravan and the garden needed turning back from a jungle to a garden.

This year, we haven't yet been away in our caravan and the garden has had more attention than it ever has in the previous 35 years since we moved here!.

Some of us were hopeful that we might be resuming services this month, but it seems some of our congregation are still hesitant about gathering physically, so our services will continue on Zoom until further notice.

All our midweek activities are also indefinitely suspended except that we

have a Zoom chat each Wednesday in lieu of our usual midweek gathering. This will continue during August unlike our usual physical gatherings.

We are grateful to all those who preach each week. The preachers booked for our 10.30am services in the coming weeks are as follows:-

August 9th Stephen Spurgeon (Sunday Morning Together)

August 16th Eileen Warner

August 23rd Stephen Spurgeon

August 30th Rev. Barbara Challis.

September 6th Rev. Graeme Ross (Regional Minister)

We are hoping that these preachers will join us for our Zoom Services and give their abbreviated message that way!

This means we have also decided to cancel our Harvest Barn Dance booked for October 31st. Social distancing doesn't really go with dancing!

If you'd like to join in a Zoom service or our midweek Zoom chat please email the address below and we will send you an invitation. They only last a maximum of 40 minutes.

Visit our website at [www.elmswellbaptist.org.uk](http://elmswellbaptist.org.uk), email cockant2@btinternet.com or telephone 241541 for further info.

Tony

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Supporting the 2020

Sid the snake has shed his skin and taken on a new form. Courtesy of Mel, who thought him up in the first place, along with Kelly who co-ordinated the transformation, Yvette, Rachael and Jen, Sid has re-emerged at Blackbourne.

The stones were taken along to Colin Gould at Colin Gould Bodyworks on the Station Road Industrial Estate behind the Fox. Colin sprayed

them with clear lacquer to make them resistant to the weather and transported them up to Blackbourne. Here a trench had been prepared by Oliver Noble of Bridge Cottage Garden Services along the front of the play area and Taylor Wimpey, courtesy of Brian and Barry, supplied and laid a mortar bed into which the stone owners were invited to press-in their artworks.

The result is a striking memorial to many strands of the lockdown experience as marked by hundreds of members of the community.

Many thanks, on behalf of the community, to all those involved and to the Parish Council for helping co-ordinate an enjoyable event and a great result!



A collage of images featuring painted rocks. In the top left, a collection of colorful painted eggs and stones is shown. The top right shows a display of painted stones behind a green metal fence. The bottom left features a black plastic tray filled with various painted stones, including one labeled 'YEAR LEAVES 2020'. The bottom center shows a white plastic tray with more painted stones. The bottom right shows a close-up of a large, smooth rock painted with a green base and purple floral patterns. A small circular plaque on the left side depicts a historical scene with figures and a building.





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NEWS FROM ELMSWILD

**We're back! In a socially distanced kind of way**

After a short break during lockdown, ElmsWild volunteers have resumed our work at Lukeswood, Kiln Meadow and the Memorial Garden, whilst being careful to observe all the guidance, of course, such as keeping two metres apart, wearing gloves, not sharing tools, etc. In the photo John, Bob and Keith are demonstrating how it's done. At least we're now able to keep up with all the various tasks needed to make sure our wild spaces are welcoming for both wildlife and human visitors. It's been good to see lots of people taking advantage of the open space at Lukeswood. If you choose a quiet time, such as early in the morning, you may be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of some of our other visitors too, perhaps a deer or muntjac quietly grazing, a fox returning to its den, or a stoat hunting for rabbits. Thank you to all our visitors who are helping to keep our open spaces litter-free and clean by taking rubbish away with them and cleaning up after dogs – it all helps to make our job easier.

Plenty of apples...

Norman's orchard is looking good this summer, with lots of fruit ripening in the summer sun. We've been helped this year by having a reasonable amount of rain – although we could have done with more in the late spring. Our new currant and gooseberry bushes have had mixed fortunes,

however, but we're hoping that they will hang on until next year and produce a better harvest. Our photos show Apples



'Greensleeves' and 'Beauty of Bath'. The latter is bright red on the outside and pinkish when you bite into it – a true beauty. The meadow around the orchard is also looking stunning this year, with a variety of wildflowers and grasses on display. The large area of wild marjoram is particularly colourful, with swathes of pink, cream, white and purple flowers. Insects love it too, as you can see from our photos – a Buff-tail bumblebee and Peacock butterfly both gorging on nectar. This is their reward for all their hard work earlier in the year pollinating our orchard trees.

**...But no Apple Day**

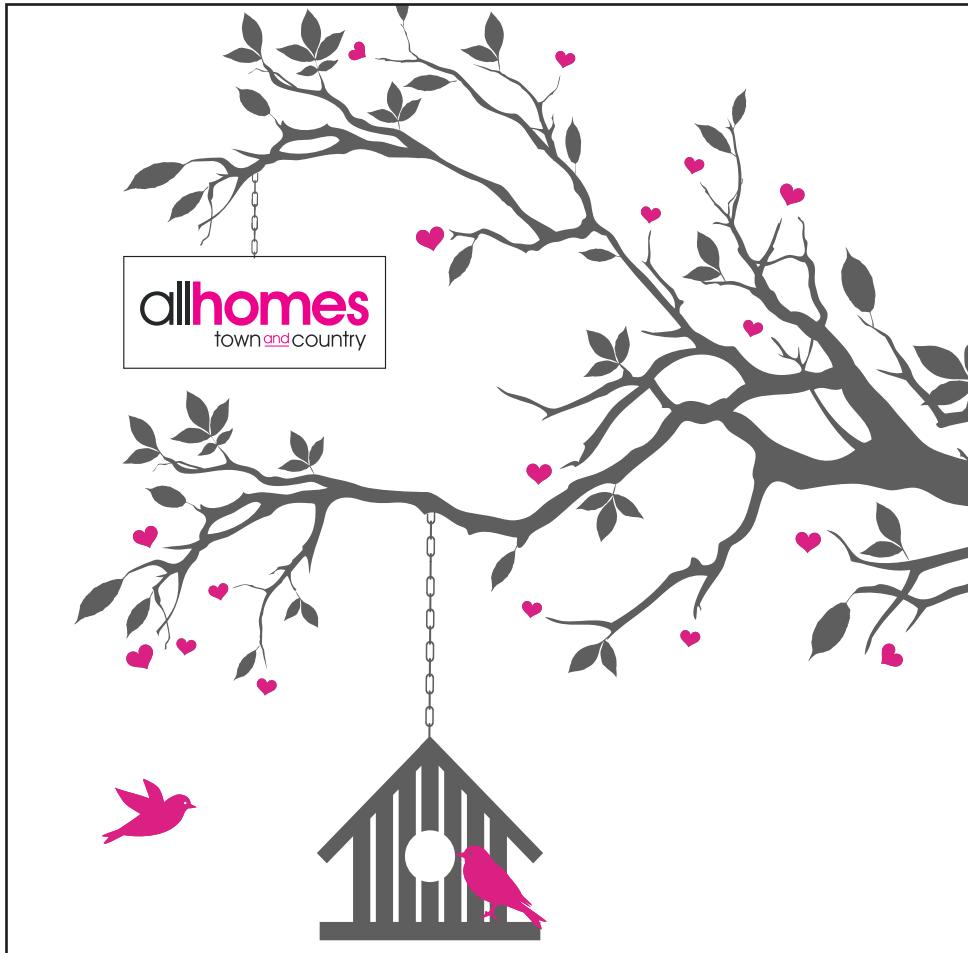
Reluctantly we have decided to cancel Apple Day this year. Everything is just too uncertain at the moment, and we agreed that it would not be possible to run the event while keeping all our visitors and stall-holders safe. Let's hope that we can come back bigger and better next year.

**Green shoots?**

We've been delighted to see that our fallen Black Poplar has started to produce tiny green shoots since its sudden crash to earth. Black Poplars quite often regenerate from a horizontal trunk, turning into 'phoenix' trees – there's already one such tree on the other side of the pond. We didn't think this would happen to our recent casualty, however, because it was suffering from a fungal invasion and because the trunk appeared to have completely snapped at the base. There may be a sliver of root still in the ground, or perhaps it is beginning to strike new roots from the trunk itself. On the other hand, the green shoots may just be feeding on remaining nutrients in the tree and will not survive once these have dried up. Like so much else today, it's very uncertain, but it is an encouraging sign, and we can keep hoping.

Mary Feeney
info@elmswild.org.uk
There's more on our blog!
Go to
<https://elmswild.blogspot.com>





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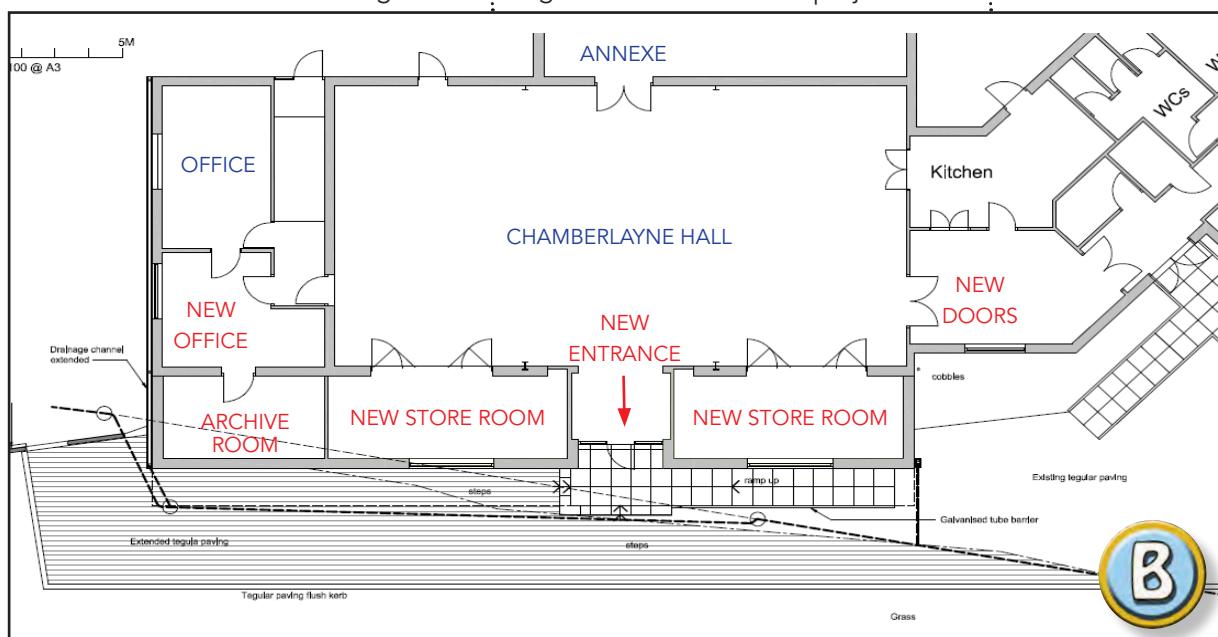




EXTENSION AT BLACKBOURNE

Work moves on apace at Blackbourne where the recent lull in activity has allowed Seamans Builders to press on with the contract to extend the Chamberlayne Hall. This will provide much needed extra storage and office space together with a room to house a Village Archive bringing together material from the History Group, the Village Recorder, Council records and various individuals to be catalogued

and stored safely for reference. Our picture shows Colin, Master Groundworker, on the dumper truck delivering concrete into the oversite which will then allow the main brickwork to go in. The new building replaces a problematic timber structure which was a compromise, 'temporary', solution in 1998 when money ran out on the original Blackbourne Hall project.



The project will also have electronically controlled roof lights into the main hall which, with no opening windows, has often posed an overheating problem in summer months. This facility chimes with the immediate Covid awareness of the need for good natural ventilation and air-change when large groups are gathered indoors.



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AROUND & ABOUT



SLIMMING WORLD

Elmswell Tuesday Morning Group

Recently the Government has highlighted the risk of Covid 19 to overweight people.

As we are coming out of lockdown many people will fall into the overweight category. There were other things to worry about, now, however thoughts turn to weight.

Two members of Elmswell Tuesday morning group have shown that there is no weight which is too great to lose. Lindy was inspired to lose weight after a hospital appointment and joined Slimming World in October 2018. Lindy, like many of us carrying extra weight avoided the camera as she did not want a photo of how she looked. Following the Slimming World eating plan, which gives a huge variety of food options and does not entail calorie counting Lindy set herself a target weight which she achieved in February 2020. By being determined and attending Group Sessions every week Lindy lost 5 stones in weight, this is an average weight loss of just over 4lbs per month. Lindy still has that aversion to having her photo taken but is determined to stay at her target weight, and she achieved this throughout lockdown.

Dot first joined Slimming World in January 2006 as she was a Practice Nurse dealing with overweight patients, she was shocked to realise

that she was heavier than any of them. By her retirement in 2009 she had lost 6 stones. As well as leaving work she left Slimming World and without the support in Group of her consultant and fellow members the weight crept back on. By January 2017 Dot had put on 3 stones in weight and decided enough was enough. She re-joined Slimming World again and is now 4 stones lighter. Dot is still determined to lose more weight as she feels the benefit of carrying less weight, she can be more active enjoying cycling and walking and her knee joints have improved immensely. Not surprising as since Dot first joined Slimming World she has lost 37% of her starting body weight! She still enjoys curries and many other Slimming World meals.

If you would like to lose weight and eat well without feeling hungry then come to one of the Sessions in The Blackbourne Centre on either Tuesday Morning or Tuesday Evening.

Sessions are restarting On Tuesday 11th August

Due to Covid 19 and safety measures in place it is essential to book your place in advance.

For more details ring one of the numbers below:-

Morning Session:-

Ring Jen on 07801 757 237

Evening Session:-

Ring Emma on 07979 151 248



BEFORE

AFTER

PLEASE - KEEP OUR VILLAGE SAFE



ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL



At the suggestion of a resident, Councillors decided to make speed reminder stickers available to all households on the through-routes in the village to go on either side of the 2 wheelie bins - black & green - and on brown bins if requested.

We now need volunteers to batch and distribute the stickers in:

Ashfield Road
Station Road
School Road
Church Road
Wetherden Road
New road
The Street
Cooks Road
Cross Street
Warren Lane

If you can help, or with any queries,
please be in touch with the
Council Office at Blackbourne tel 244134
Email clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk

Fred Pallett, Parish Council Chairman



ELMSWELL FOX BOWLS CLUB

Well, here we are in August and not a wood bowled in anger!

Actually, that's a very inappropriate phrase for a bowls article as it an extremely good-natured game and anger on the bowls green is very rare indeed. It is often quite competitive but rarely taken beyond the limits of sportsmanship although I have heard stories of cheating to an unbelievable level. I have personally only witnessed a couple of incidents which could be classed as 'exaggerated gamesmanship' but even they impacted quite seriously on the general mood of the event. One opponent walked into a fellow Fox's field of vision before he had released his wood, and did this repeatedly until our player pulled out of a shot at the last minute and the villain of the piece found himself halfway down the green all on his own!

You see, there are often ways to demonstrate offences without issuing a direct challenge.

Last season a team captain kept postponing our match until he could assemble the team he wanted to beat us in a match that decided the league championship. I actually think they would probably have beaten us anyhow, but not so decisively and Covid has delayed our chance of a rematch for a whole year. At least, I hope it is only for one year – so don't stop washing your hands, will you? We don't want this coming back although we will keep the quieter roads, more abundant wildlife and reduced pollution, please. And saying 'Hi' to people that you have never seen before, like being in the countryside in the old days. Some of the new habits we have had to learn we should definitely keep.

Although we are only having small roll-ups a couple of times a week, we still need to do quite a lot of work to keep the green playable and the facility tidy. We cut the green late every week so that it's ready for the Saturday session and recently took this quiet time to trim back the hedges.

I just wish that my bank account grew that fast! Anyway, that's never going to happen but the place looks smarter now. The gardens have suffered a little as our head gardener, Pauline, has been keeping an understandably low profile but our famous Hollyhocks are putting on their usual wonderful display with solid support from some more flowers that I don't know the names of. I was off sick that day.

This month's photos show the hedge work being done and team selection for a roll-up and, as you can see, not everybody is taking it seriously!

**Peter Edmonds, E.F.B.C.
t.07860 395720**

The Fox Bowls Club, which maintains the bowls green at Blackbourne has been awarded £508.00 of National Lottery funding from Sport England's Community Emergency Fund towards utilities bills and maintenance during the on-going COVID-19 pandemic.

On March 31 Sport England announced a £195m package to help the sport and physical activity

sector through covid-19. Within the package is a £20m Community Emergency Fund, of National Lottery money to deliver immediate funding to those who have a role in supporting the nation to be active but are experiencing short-term financial hardship or the ceasing of operations due to the impact of coronavirus.

The Club volunteers, although not being able to play for many weeks, have had to keep the green and facilities in good order. This was particularly true during the very dry weeks in June when the irrigation system was in frequent use at considerable cost – but the grass was saved and stood ready for play which is gradually happening again.

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Both teams are enjoying pulling their boots on, pre-season fitness has never been so popular!

Training is 6:30 at Grove Lane in Elmswell every Tuesday, anyone keen to play for the club is welcome to come along. It looks like the world is slowly getting back to the "new normal" & in some capacity matches should start in August.

Both teams have a lot to look forward to next season, so at last it will be great to get things started.

As usual, we are desperately seeking sponsorship to help run the club & Help provide the resources to keep the players kitted out. A new season always requires, footballs, first aid, kit and the list goes on!

If you would like to sponsor any part of the club, it is so very much appreciated & anything from a match ball to a monthly advert on the football pages in the newsletter would be great, promote your business to over 2000 local addresses & help the local sport, a great partnership

Shaun Pratt - 07494 864 231

shaun.pratt@btinternet.com

Elmswell FC Chairman



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The Government having passed emergency legislation to allow Local Government to continue within the law, councils are currently permitted to meet 'virtually' over the internet and to properly make binding decisions.

With the usual venue at Blackbourne recently re-opened, the Parish Council convened there at a suitably-spaced meeting which was made available to councillors and to the public on line using, as per the last 2 'all-virtual' meetings, the Zoom internet video conferencing facility. The meeting was posted in the usual way, including on the Council's website, and details were clearly given as to how public attendance and contributions could be made either with a screen presence or over a telephone link if preferred. Public attendance in person was invited with advance notice and provision of contact details necessary.

7 Councillors attended in person along with 1 member of the public. Suffolk County Council Ward member Cllr Jane Storey, and Mid Suffolk District Council Ward Member Cllr Dr Helen Geake attended on-line along with 1 member of the public.

This report is compiled from that 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 David Barker, 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 elmswell.suffolk.cloud and from the Parish Clerk by arrangement. Bound copies of older Minutes are lodged with the Suffolk County Records Office in Bury St. Edmunds. The most recent Minutes, from the meeting on 15th June, as approved at this meeting, are posted in the community notice board at the Co-op.

Planning results

The Meeting noted the following results of Planning Applications, as determined by Mid Suffolk District Council:

DC/20/01091 Non material amendment to DC/18/01679 – internal layout...

Land to the North and South of Wetherden Road REFUSED

DC/20/02390 Works to tree protected.....Oak Tree House, Spong Lane GRANTED
EPC made no comment

DC/20/01654 Erection of front porch...18 Oxer Close GRANTED
EPC made no formal comment but wrote to recommend Refusal

DC/19/02495 Reserved matters
Planning Permission 0210/17...106 dwellings Land to the East of Ashfield Road APPROVED

DC/20/00863 Discharge of Conditions application 3469/16
Land to the East of Borley Crescent APPROVED

Planning Applications

The Meeting discussed submissions as forwarded for comment by Mid Suffolk District Council, the Planning Authority, and agreed to support the Application ref. Dc/20/02446 for a single storey rear extension at No. 4 Coronation Bungalows in Jubilee Terrace and DC/20/02417, a rear extension, attached garage and other works at Jayance in Hawk End Lane. Objections were raised to the other Applications on the agenda as follows:

DC/20/02513 Application previously varied under DC/20/01575 for variation of conditions 2 (Approved Plans & Documents), 5 (Provision of Access), 6 (Highways: removal Permitted Development Rights), and 7 (Highways: Provision of Parking and Turning) Land at Kiln Farm Cottage, Kiln Lane

Elmswell Parish Council remains convinced that this development, in the countryside, outside of the settlement boundary of the village, represents an unsustainable form of residential development for which there is no justification. It is accepted by the Applicant, and common sense confirms, that the 3 households created under this Proposal would entirely rely on private vehicular transport for access to the amenities at either Elmswell or Woolpit, both in excess of a mile distant via Kiln Lane, an already stretched single track road with no passing places which serves several domestic dwellings as well as a major Anglian Water facility and 3 industrial sites.

In line with its consistent objections to other variations sought for this site, Councillors agree with the Suffolk County Council Highways professionals that this variation should not be permitted.

DC/18/02146 Erection of up to 86 dwellings including car parking, early years provision, open space provision with associated infrastructure and vehicular access. Highways improvements of road widening and cycle/footpath link.

Land to the North and west of School Road

1 The proposal remains unsustainable in terms of highways infrastructure. It is accepted by all parties, including the Applicant, that the School Road / Church Road junction would be over capacity should this development go ahead. Mitigation measures are suggested with no commitment to their execution, including a line on a plan suggesting a cycle route outside of the Application red line area and 'subject to future Planning application'. There is no undertaking to comply with the vaguely outlined initiatives sketched into this application and these shortcomings are bolstered by the overarching threat that, should the junction capacity represent a decisive factor, a scheme for traffic lights outside St John's Church would be imposed.

Elmswell Parish Council's Consultant, Waterman Infrastructure & Environment, summarised in their Report of 13.07.2018 (as lodged with Planning Officer): ...the LinSig model overestimates the proposed junction's capacity...the proposed signal controlled junction layout does not satisfy industry guidance... the proposed junction has not been demonstrated to be satisfactory in terms of layout and capacity.

2 The proposal would effectively sterilise the opportunity for the community to work towards the aspiration of a relief road taking traffic over the railway line and directly to A14. The clearly

JULY2020 MEETING REPORT CONTINUED

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expressed and widely supported community aspiration for a relief road has every chance of being embedded in the emerging Joint Local Plan. This application, if successful, would remove any chance of negotiating the preferred route making the project infeasible. Parish councillors entirely support the SCC view that "it is essential that detailed consideration be given to...the delivery of a relief road, including the identification and protection of a 'corridor' ". Unless and until this matter is addressed, the application is premature.

3 The input from SCC Highways is poorly researched, misleading and posits an unacceptably hopeful solution to the inevitable overloading and subsequent hazard at the School Road / Church Road junction, ie that, 'There are alternative routes from the proposed development and it could be considered that many drivers will choose these routes to avoid queuing on School Road'. The supposed alternative requires vehicles to negotiate the problematic right turn at Shop Corner which is regularly at a standstill when the railway crossing gates are down. It must then take drivers down to another right turn at New Road or at Cooks Road into Church Road and through the same dangerous junction, further impeding those queuing to access Church Hill from School Road. This facile suggestion offers no remediation in real terms of a very hazardous proposal.

DC/20/02823 Erection of self-contained B1 commercial units (4no.) and a proposed A1 commercial unit Land at Stag Café, Old A45

1 The site serves as a lorry and car park for Stag Café customers and is often full. The proposal for 5 new trading units with the Applicant's projection of 14 employees seeks to dramatically reduce the car and lorry parking spaces available forcing the employees and / or the numerous delivery, service and customer vehicles to park on the main highway at a point where traffic comes off at the A14 spur at motorway speed.

2 The vehicles leaving the site and seeking to access A14 Westbound will inevitably do so via Elmswell and the A1088 roundabout. This requires them to travel up Warren Lane, an already busy single-track road with passing spaces and / or Kiln Lane, a single track road without

passing spaces and already carrying the traffic from residential and business sites along its length.

3 The cumulative effect of recent large industrial permission granted adjacent to this site imposes a strain on the immediate highways infrastructure. There should be no further pressures imposed unless and until a strategic traffic management plan identifies the hazards and requires remediation measures.

4 The stand-alone A1 unit has no facilities for autonomous operation. It is suggested that an occupier might be allowed to use the facilities offered by the café. This cannot be Conditioned and presents an unworkable option in practical terms given the statutory constraints on employment and environmental health considerations.

In coming to these conclusions, Councillors had reference to Local Plan Policies E9, E10, E12, T10 & NPPF para.84

Mid Suffolk District Council

Cllrs Sarah Mansel and Helen Geake tabled a joint written report confirming that a recent re-evaluation of the property investment vehicle CIFCO Capital Ltd, set up jointly with Babergh District Council to borrow money and buy commercial property as a source of income from the rents received, shows a loss in the last 12 months of some £3m with fees of £500,000. Recent months have seen just 50% of rents due as being paid. A recent scrutiny of the CIFCO 2020 / 2021 business plan raised many concerns. Elmswell Parish Council has expressed serious reservations regarding the strategies employed by CIFCO thus far and is working with Jo Churchill MP towards a meeting with the Mid Suffolk Chief Executive, Arthur Charvonia, in the hope of diverting some of the many millions of pounds still held towards local investment such as the proposals for affordable housing and a community pub at the village-owned Railway Tavern site in the village.

Cllr Mansel added to the Report to confirm that a new cross-party group has been formed of 17 Members with the aim of having more influence on decisions which, with an equal number of Conservatives as the majority group, currently rely on the Chairman's casting vote.

Suffolk County Council

Cllr Jane Storey tabled a written report and added that she was following up the apparent absence

of the proposed Lawn Farm Quarry extension in the recently published draft of the Suffolk Minerals & Waste Local Plan together with recently highlighted problems of speeding on Ashfield Road and ascertaining responsibility for the land at the Bunkers Hill A1088 access where the road surface is hazardous.

Wesley

The Clerk included, in his Report to the Meeting, an update on the position at the Wesley project site on School Road where the first full site meeting since lockdown took place on 17th June confirming a possible Practical Completion date of 7th August and that there are no significant deviations from or problems with the scheduled programme. Since then the external works have been substantially completed, the underfloor heating and sprung floor fitted in the chapel and the GSHP fully installed and running to ensure that the floor slab in the new build is ready for flooring finishes. With the folding room-divider fitted to the meeting room and the auto-door operational at the main entrance, there remains the kitchen servery and fitting-out as the main outstanding job together with whiteware in the toilets and PA / Video security/ Wi-Fi & alarm hardware, all of which are in hand. The carcassing to take the stainless steel soffit proved to be a complex job, but is now expertly completed and ready to take the cladding which will make a major contribution to the visual effect of what is emerging as an impressive building.

Greene King site

The Clerk's Report included confirmation that remediation and clearance works at the Railway Tavern site are progressing in collaboration with the Landlord so as to integrate the new garden area to the rear of the chapel with the rear pub access which serves as an outside smoking area. All of the residents sharing a boundary with the site have been informed that the works are under way. No mature trees will be felled and work near the boundaries will be undertaken with an awareness of the neighbours. The end result will be a securely-fenced garden area accessed directly from the chapel and the main site cleared of fly-tipped rubbish with well-defined boundaries ready for moving on the proposals for a Community Land Trust scheme for affordable housing. The initiative to establish a Community Interest Company to



undertake the development of the licensed premises is finding new impetus following the lockdown which has slowed down some of the other agencies involved.

Extension to the Chamberlayne Hall at Blackbourne

The Meeting noted the Clerk's reporting that work has begun at Blackbourne on the Chamberlayne extension. The preferred Contractor, Seamans Building, has been able to dovetail works in with the Wesley site to allow savings in both time and cost. Their original quote was by far the lowest of the 3 formal Tenders obtained through the Architect and this price was negotiated down to £108,860.00 as the basis of a 'risk & reward' Contract allowing for shared benefits of any savings and shared costs of any overrun. The Contract also allows Council to prefer local sub-contractors who are already on its retained list which gives worthwhile benefit in terms of future maintenance and follow-up works. The slow resumption of lettings is allowing for a relatively unhindered programme of works. Demolition is complete and footings are in with a possible Practical Completion anticipated in mid-September.

Speed restriction stickers

Wheelie bin stickers showing a 30mph reminder graphic are now to hand for distribution to householders on the through-routes in the village which are often

the subject of speeding traffic. With volunteer help these will be distributed following publicity for the scheme in the August Newsletter.

Play area refurbishment

The proposed refurbishment of the Blackbourne fenced play area, including some new equipment and complete resurfacing, is now the subject of a Contract with Messrs Wicksteed for a cost of £32,999.00, all of which will be covered by CIL grant hypothecated for this purpose. A site meeting is arranged which will fix a start date.

Blackbourne re-opening

The Meeting noted that Blackbourne is gradually opening for business as the various regular hirers are able to re-convene within the constraints of advice specific to their activity. Many of the aborted commercial bookings are bounced forward to later in the year or to next year and the facility is safely ready to accommodate them, always with due regard to prevailing circumstances.

Sid the Snake stones

The Clerk has worked with community volunteers towards a permanent home for the, 'Sid the Snake', installation of painted stones sprayed so as to be weatherproof and set in cement along the front of the fenced play area at Blackbourne. These will be embedded by some of the artists who have created them.

Street lights

A street light unit at Miller Close was recently found to be dangerously corroded and the column is to be replaced, fitted with an LED luminaire, at a cost of £1,599.78 net. Meanwhile, the Clerk is chasing progress on the 4 unit upgrades specified and ordered some months ago together with the installation of a new powered-up feeder pillar at Crown Mill to supply the proposed Christmas tree.

Footpath upgrade

The Meeting agreed that the Clerk be asked to investigate the feasibility of upgrading Elmswell Footpath 9 to serve as a shared-use cycleway from its junction with Blackbourne Road, over Lords Bridge to Eastern Way.

Next Meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 21st September at 7.30pm in the Chamberlayne Hall at Blackbourne or on-line should restrictions continue to so require. 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.suffolk.cloud, on the Council's notice board at Crown Mill and in the community notice board at the Co-op outside the Post Office.

ON-LINE MEETINGS

are currently allowed under Government legislation until June 2021. Elmswell Parish Council will continue to offer attendance in-person in on-line presence as long as circumstances and guidance continue to allow this approach. The formal Notice of Meeting on notice boards and on the Council's website will make the arrangements clear. Meanwhile, the Council office at Blackbourne remains open, as it has throughout the lockdown, for queries on this or any other matter.

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.

Sept Oct Nov Dec Jan
21st 19th 16th 21st 18th

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 –
Thursdays 9.00am – 12.00 noon
and at other times by arrangement**

**clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk
Tel. 244134**



What's On in Elmswell ?



As Lockdown is eased, Blackbourne is gradually available to the many groups, organisations and activities represented here as and when they feel comfortable with a return to meeting and within the rules which will govern how the facility is used in light of Government and other advice.

We copy here the programme of events and bookings as originally planned, but, clearly, it will be down to individual organisers to keep members informed as to when their particular meeting or activity resumes.

All of the established booking slots will be honoured, as long as there is space within the usual venue to follow guidelines. We will help wherever possible by offering a larger space if necessary and available and letting fees will not be increased if this has to be the case.

ORGANISERS – if you have news of when you might consider re-starting, do let the Newsletter know and we can spread the word.

August 2020

- 2 2:30pm - St John's Summer walk (meet at Rectory)
- 5 Elmswell Exchange WI - Members Meeting - Create a Bookmark with Jayne Comp: The best three on the day
- 11 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30pm Social evening
- 18 Elmswell Exchange Social Club Corncraft
- 28 BINGO at Blackbourne
Doors open 6.45...Eyes Down 7.30

September 2020

- 1 Over 55's Club No Meeting
- 2 Elmswell Exchange WI - Making the Best of a Supermarket Bunch - Stephanie Lester Comp: A small arrangement with 3 flowers & greenery. 4 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 4 7:30pm - Nutz and Boltz concert at St John's Church Elmswell
- 7 7.45pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church. An armchair walk of Ipswich waterfront by Ipswich TI.
- 8 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30pm Jane Marshall, craft evening
- 10 Elmswell History Group meeting, 7.30pm; Venue and speaker to be confirmed.
Annual SUBS due
- 15 Elmswell Gardening Club meet at The Blackbourne 7.30pm. Speaker: Chris Bell - 'Weather Forecasting'
- 15 Elmswell Exchange Social Club Outing
- 25 BINGO at Blackbourne
Doors open 6.45...Eyes Down 7.30
- 26 Elmswell Baby and Toddler Nearly New Sale
- 27 10:30am - Harvest Sunday with Tearfund speaker followed by bring & share lunch at St John's Church Elmswell
- 28 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon

October 2020

- 2 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 5 7.45pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church. Janet Brown demonstrating Patchwork.
- 7 Elmswell Exchange WI - Painting on Silk - Eileen Wells (the chance to get involved if you wish) Comp: A personal item of silk
- 8 Elmswell History Group meeting, 7.30pm; Venue and speaker to be confirmed.
December tickets on sale
- 10 7:00pm - Variety and Spice Concert at St John's Church Elmswell
- 13 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30pm Liza Jones, Knickers!
- 15 Elmswell Exchange WI - Group Meeting at Drinkstone Village Hall - 7.30 pm (Transport available if needed)
- 16 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 20 Elmswell Gardening Club meet at The Blackbourne 7.30pm. Speaker: Melanie Collins from Mickfield Hosta's - 'Hosta's'
- 20 Elmswell Exchange Social Club Speaker TBA + Raffle
- 20 BINGO at Blackbourne
Doors open 6.45...Eyes Down 7.30
- 30 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 31 7pm Barn Dance in the Chamberlayne Hall at the Blackbourne. Organised by Elmswell Baptist Church. Dancing to Clutching at Straws. Adults £10 Under 18's £5 including a picnic style supper and free soft drinks. Tickets available from September.

November 2020

- 2 7.45pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church. Pip Wright talking about Lady Alice de Bryene. November 30th NB change from 1st Monday in month. 7pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church. Nosh & Natter, entertainment by John Evans and friends.
- 4 Elmswell Exchange WI - The Ancient Skill of Book Binding with demonstration. Michael Holton Comp: A hard back bound book
- 10 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30pm Vanessa Hale, Wiltshire Farm Foods
- 12 Elmswell History Group meeting, 7.30pm; Venue and speaker to be confirmed.
December tickets on sale
- 13 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 17 Elmswell Gardening Club meet at The Blackbourne 7.30pm. Annual General Meeting followed by Speaker / Club Event
- 17 Elmswell Exchange Social Club Speaker Mr. Parfitt Romania + Raffle
- 27 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 27 BINGO at Blackbourne
Doors open 6.45...Eyes Down 7.30

December 2020

- 1 Elmswell Exchange Social Club Christmas Lunch
- 2 Elmswell Exchange WI - Christmas Celebrations
- 6 Elmswell Baby and Toddler Christmas Party
- 8 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30pm Christmas Party
- 10 Elmswell History Group meeting, 7.30pm; Venue and speaker to be confirmed.
- 11 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 18 BINGO at Blackbourne
Doors open 6.45...Eyes Down 7.30

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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.

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First Responders	Merv	merv.smith@tiscali.co.uk	07909 006 496
Football	Shaun Pratt	shaun.pratt@btinternet.com	07494 864 231
Fox Bowls Team bowls at Blackbourne	Dick Burch	ann.richards47@gmail.com	240105
Friends of St Johns	Jean Folkard	derekrf2@gmail.com	242099
Gardening Club	Nick Chamberlin	npch@btinternet.com	242601
Guides	Sue Howard	sueguides2011@talktalk.net	
Health Centre - Woolpit			240298
History Group	Stella Chamberlin	stellachamberlin@yahoo.co.uk	
Library	Miles Row - Manager	Elmswell.Library@suffolklibraries.co.uk	240974
Little Elms	Melanie Garner	info@littleelms.co.uk	240491
Newsletter	Editorial office	eaa@elmswell.org.uk	244134
Oil buying Group		elmswelloil@gmail.com	07813829008
Over 55's Club	Diann Armstrong	Mayfield, Wetherden Road	241002
Parish Council	Parish Clerk	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
Police Emergencies			999
Police; non-emergencies	Mid Suffolk South SNT	headquarters@suffolk.pnn.police.uk	101
Poor's Land Charity	Peter Goodridge	elmswellrector@gmail.com	240512
Power cuts		Powwercut105.com	105
School	Mrs Ash	admin@elmswell.suffolk.sch.uk	240261
Scouts	Paula Hollings	ddc.paula@stowmarketscouts.org.uk	07828 562485
St John's Church	Peter Goodridge	elmswellrector@gmail.com	240512
Sewing Bee	Isabel Burgess	isabel.burgess@live.com	
Village Tree Warden	John Ibbetson	jayeye130@gmail.com	241086
WI - evening	Margaret Stevens	stevensmarg@tiscali.co.uk	408452
Youth Football	Chris Smyth	smyth98@hotmail.com	07717 841 591

**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**

**IF YOU ARE NOT HAPPY THAT YOUR DETAILS APPEAR HERE,
PLEASE DO BE IN TOUCH VIA eaa @elmswell.org.uk**

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