

'Like a friend  
dropping in'



# The Elmswell Newsletter



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

**DECEMBER 2020**

**On line at [elmswell.suffolk.cloud](http://elmswell.suffolk.cloud)**



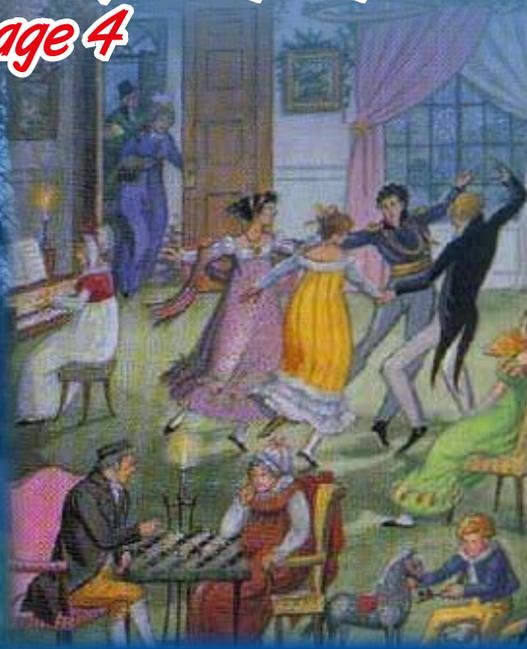
*Christmas tree  
- but for how  
much longer?*

*... see ElmsWild page 19*

*Hokey Cokey*

*... see our*

*Editorial and the  
History Group Report  
page 4*

A colorful illustration of a historical ballroom scene. In the foreground, a man in a dark suit is playing a keyboard instrument. In the background, several couples in period clothing are dancing. The room has large windows with pink curtains and a chandelier.

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1,950 copies delivered free to households and to businesses in the community. A volunteer enterprise entirely supported by advertising.

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**EAA@elmswell.org.uk**



**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.**

**There has never been a better time to be a pessimist and, if you are such a body, it's bound to get worse. Not only is life's glass half empty rather than half full but there seems every chance that, given the slow strangulation of our hospitality businesses, soon there will not even be a glass.**

If the safest District in Suffolk, itself one of the safest counties in England, can be branded a 'high alert area', are we to trust our elders and betters when they, clearly, don't trust us? Hence the fact that the Pessimist People's Party (not to be confused with the People's Party of Pessimists) is attracting new members every tortured pandemic-ridden day, although they are obliged under their constitution to bemoan the fact that their good fortune can't last, for their motto is derived from our old friend Charles Dickens... 'It is the best of times, for it is the worst of times'.

There is, it is rumoured, a sad, friendless individual who keeps back copies of our humble magazine even when the stockpiling of toilet rolls, which presented a brief logic to this singular behaviour, has passed. Flicking through these thrill-packed pages, one of the pearls of wisdom presented some years back posed the possibility that, 'The Hokey Cokey IS what it's all about'. In the current confusion of advice and stricture and legislation it might well seem that, with regard to tiers and lockdowns, we are in and out, and out and in, and in and out again, and that we are simply being asked to shake it all about before turning round and starting afresh. All at the economic cost of an arm and a leg. Those same back Newsletter copies often make reference to other literary efforts, so it would seem appropriate in these strange times to call upon the equally strange poet Edward Lear who wrote terribly lame limericks but brilliantly encapsulated our current plight in his tale of the Jumblies:

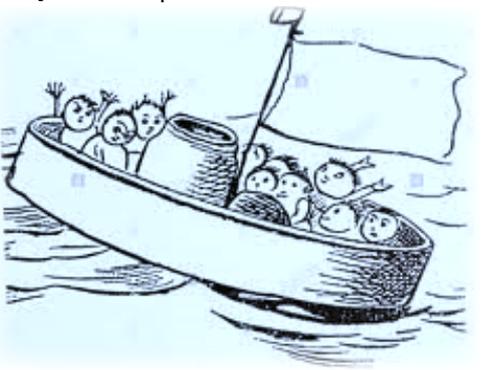
*They went to sea in a Sieve, they did,  
In a Sieve they went to sea:  
In spite of all their friends could say,  
On a winter's morn, on a stormy day,  
In a Sieve they went to sea!  
And when the Sieve turned round and round,  
And every one cried, 'You'll all be drowned!'  
They called aloud, 'Our Sieve ain't big,  
But we don't care a button! we don't care a fig!  
In a Sieve we'll go to sea!'*

The Jumblies' spirit is alive and well in Elmswell where, despite the current all-pervading doom and gloom we are doing our best to care neither a button nor a fig.

Elmswell has often been dealt low cards and yet made the best of them. In 1846 we had a noisy, smelly steam railway thrust upon us because the posh burghers of Woolpit didn't want it. Now the station, give or take a pandemic slow-down or two, is a great asset. Some 30 years ago we lost all claim to a village playing field and somehow managed to end up with 11 acres and the facilities at Blackbourne.

**“ ... let us wish All Good Speed to the bright young brains behind the vaccines, to the industrial chemists who will produce them and to a fast-growing army of inoculators.**

Our pages have detailed very recently the progress made in the face of 2 other potential disasters. When the Methodist church decided to build 3 houses next to the redundant chapel and convert the iconic Victorian building into yet another desirable residence, our Parish Council stepped in and saved the whole as a village asset, with a few little improvements on the way. When Greene King secured Planning permission for 8 large pattern-book houses and put the site, including the Railway Tavern (which would have made another lovely house), on the market, the village rallied round and supported the borrowing needed to secure yet another key community resource at the heart of the village. Less dramatically, the day-to-day fellowship and drive and initiative of



our fast-growing community is evident in our pages in this, as in every, month. We are days away, barring yet another Boris ban, from opening the doors of the coffee shop at Wesley. The new Village Archive and other improvements at Blackbourne will be ready in a very few weeks. Various organisers of classes and groups and activities are champing at the bit to resume normal service as and when the rules allow. Meanwhile, there is progress in the painfully slow process of moving towards establishing the proper framework whereby we can move forwards on the exciting prospects of establishing the Elmswell Community Land Trust to build affordable homes on our own terms and towards setting up the body to take the Tavern forward as a community pub.

To anticipate the desolate view of our professional pessimists, we know it is, at the moment, miserable and that, as things drag on it could get worse. We know it can be downright depressing ticking the apparently 'lost' days off as they turn into weeks and months. We know that human contact is in desperately short supply, that Christmas might not arrive until Easter and that the repayments on the nation's final bill will cast a shadow over generations. The future isn't going to be what it used to be.

But, as one of the top requests to Santa this year is, 'Please may I have a Government contract to supply PPE?', and as we muse over the possibility that we are mis-reading the book of Corinthians in suggesting that, although we now see through a Perspex face-mask darkly we will eventually see face-to-face, let us wish All Good Speed to the bright young brains behind the vaccines, to the industrial chemists who will produce them and to a fast-growing army of inoculators.

And from our own small army of volunteers who have, yet again, brought the magazine to your door, do have as good a Christmas as circumstances allow and do remember Dame Vera Lynne's cheery suggestion:

When you're up to your neck in hot water  
Be like the kettle and sing...





## ELMSWELL ART CLUB

War and art go together. I must emphasise however, at the art club we don't all spend our time fighting and arguing with knives drawn (forgive the pun!). On the contrary, all is peaceful and we get on extremely well in a relaxed, harmonious and friendly way. The club is as much a social club as it is a group of people who enjoy painting, sketching and drawing. Wars might surround us but it doesn't come into our get-togethers. Why is it that man has such an uncontrollable propensity to constantly fight in order to settle differences? There is evidence on cave walls of fighting with two opposing groups armed with bows and arrows having a go at each other. Had the survivors not drawn the fight on the cave wall we would not have known of the aggressive nature of early man. Art therefore, was a means of recording events and history. As men moved out of caves, war materials became more sophisticated as did the means of showing events. This improvement has gone on ever since. From fighting face to face, nowadays you don't even have to live on the same continent as your enemy target. Art materials have also improved fantastically but at nowhere near the pace of improvement in weaponry. Artists painted wars and battles and a particular favourite subject was warlords and leaders. Myths and legends were also painted. During Roman, Greek and earlier civilisations, myths were taken much more seriously than nowadays and provided a wonderful source of inspiration. Throughout history real battles, castles, fighting kings and all the paraphernalia of war have been

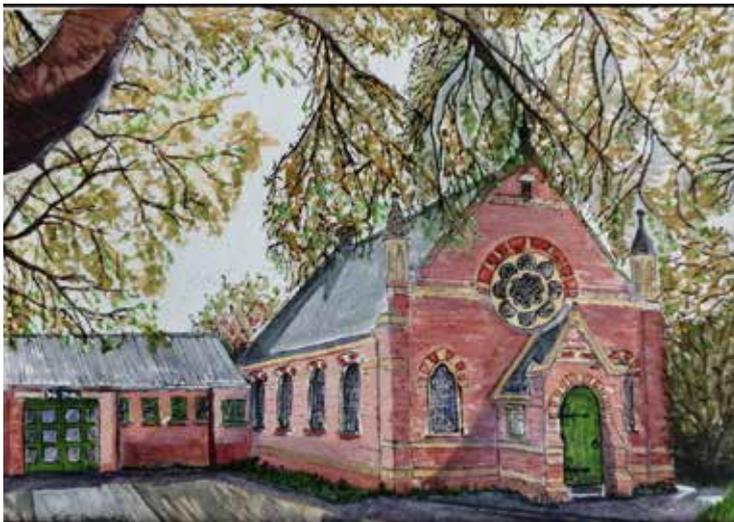


recorded on canvas. Ships have also been an inspiration. HMS Victory, the Fighting Temeraire, Atlantic sea battles, in fact almost every aspect of war has been painted. It is difficult to say whether paintings were created to celebrate war or were anti-war. The most famous and celebrated anti-war painting probably of all time, is Picasso's painting entitled Guernica which he created after the German Kondor wing of Hitler's airforce bombed and virtually destroyed the small town of Guernica in northern Spain during the Spanish civil war. Since the First World War artworks showing war and its effect became less widespread and the use of paintings reduced even more during the Second World War. However, both the British and Americans had artists embedded with the troops during both conflicts to record events. The Imperial War Museum contains many such pictures. The Second World War ended in 1945 and since then we have not had to face such terror again, until

now..... I lived through the war and as a kid I have to say it was terrifying but fortunately something that did not effect me as much as others, but we all sensed it would end eventually. The war we are now facing really is a world war and one that the end seems a distant dream. I am talking of COVID 19, of course. Hidden, silent, unseen, to me it is something very much to be feared. Because of this silent enemy, normal life is impossible and lockdowns become the norm. The Wesley, the art club home is closed and we cannot meet up. Interestingly, the members have done very little arty stuff at home and we are all desperate to get back to our usual Tuesday morning meetings. I am sure the first meeting will be all chat and not a lot of painting but never mind that, we shall be pleased to get into the wonderfully redeveloped building, which I can say having had a short preview, is absolutely first class. The two paintings shown, in water colour, are by Eddie Douglas. Only one of these was done during lockdown and no prizes for guessing which one. These will be framed and hung in the refurbished Wesley.

All members of the art club wish everyone a happy family Christmas and a healthy and trouble free New Year.

*John Welford 01359 240166*



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**At an exhibition of Guernica a German visitor asked PICASSO, "Who did this," to which PICASSO replied, "You did".**

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## ELMSWELL EXCHANGE AFTERNOON W.I.

I know Christmas is not here yet but I thought a beautifully decorated tree in a

true winter setting might lift the spirits a little. I believe that families are putting their decorations up early this year and I am sure all our members will be happy with this. I get a lot of pleasure driving from Wetherden, through Elmswell when all the lights and decorations are displayed in the homes along the main road. Whether

we are able to gather as families or not, I know we will make the best of what is a very different festival.

Plans for us to get together again are finalised and The Wesley Centre booked for our February meeting. Now we have to keep everything crossed. Members will be receiving their 2021 programmes during the month of December. With fortune on our side we will all be getting one of the new vaccines probably in the early part of next year. Who knows, you may even have had this by the time we have our first meeting. I know I won't hesitate to take up the offer when it

comes. It may even mean we can have close contact again, shake someone's hand (remember that) and give the occasional hug when needed.

I wish all our members a Healthy, Joyful and safe Christmas. We can now look forward to 2021. We will, of course, be open for new members too. If you think you might be interested you can give us a try, free of charge. Just contact Mary Chown on 245022 or me on 241033.



Maureen Davis

## ELMSWELL GARDEN CLUB



2020 is almost at an end. What a year it has been! We thought that you would like to celebrate with

EGC members as they look back on personal successes. Yes, it has been a challenge as plants and garden supplies were not always forthcoming. Through it all nature found ways to surprise and delight us. Bees, pollinating buds that go on to produce beautiful flowers and delicious fruit. How would we manage with out them?



Pleasure can come in small packages as this Christmas cactus, nurtured and potted on over the year shows. No doubt it will increase its foliage and flowers even more to produce new plants. This cactus was so small this time last year and has given its gardener a great deal of pleasure.

November would have been Clubs last meeting of the year. We would have celebrated the highs and lows of our

growing plans and so we have shared a small snapshot of members growing success through the year. Our gardens and green spaces have helped many through the tough times of 2020. Old or new gardens have kept giving. We look forward to the time in 2021 when we can safely meet. It will happen but just like all good gardeners we need to exercise patience.

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



You might think that this rose was part of a summer display, but it is not. It made its appearance just two weeks ago at the beginning of November. A perfect bloom waiting for its chance to shine in the late sunshine.





## ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

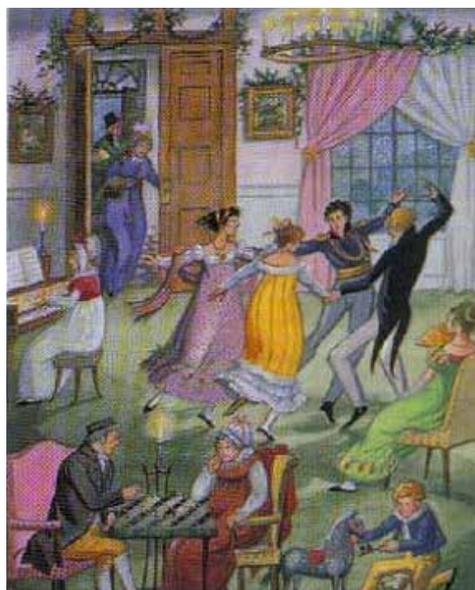
### A Regency Christmas

At this time of year, we have enjoyed a number of talks on how Christmas was celebrated in different eras (Georgian, Victorian, and Tudor), but sadly this year's planned talk on "A Regency Christmas" was not to be. Instead, we have delved into the archives to find out how these winter festivities would have been celebrated in that period.

The English Regency, 1811-1820, was when King George III was deemed unfit to rule due to his illness, and his son (Prince of Wales) ruled as his proxy Prince Regent until the death of his father in 1820, when the Prince became King George IV, 1762-1830.



As Ian Mortimer writes in his *The Time Traveller's Guide to Regency Britain*, it was "a time of thrills, frills and bad behaviour; the Regency era was the last age of freedom before the stifling years of Victorian morality. It was a period of transition with unprecedented social, economic and political change; an age of contradictions in which Beethoven's



thundering *Fifth Symphony* could premier the same year that saw Jane Austen craft the delicate sensibilities of *Persuasion*". The Regency would be a convenient label for a brilliant period in architecture and the arts as witnessed by the opulent Royal Brighton Pavilion [a Grade-1 listed former royal residence, begun in 1787 as a seaside retreat for the Prince of Wales], but the Prince himself was not highly regarded. A heavy drinker and a compulsive gambler, although with charming manners, he sang and played the cello and was an enthusiastic patron of the arts, but often depicted in caricature as 'Prinny' in contemporary publications.

Perhaps Jane Austen is best known as a writer of regency books. In *Persuasion* we are given a picture of one family's Christmas, the main feature of which seems to be the return of schoolboys for the holidays. She writes "Immediately surrounding Mrs. Musgrave were the little Harvilles, whom she was sedulously guarding from the tyranny of the two children from the Cottage, expressly arrived to amuse them. On one side was a table occupied by some chattering girls, cutting up silk and gold paper; and on the other were trestles and trays, bending under the weight of brawn and cold pies, where riotous boys were holding high revel; the whole completed by a roaring Christmas fire, which seemed determined to be heard in spite of the noise of the others." The yule log was brought in on Christmas Eve and was expected to last through the twelve days of Christmas. It was lit from a piece of last year's log and is a clear remnant from the pre-Christian festival of Yule, the midwinter ceremony of fire and light. Although most Regency

fireplaces would not have been big enough for a real yule log, Austen reminds us that the connection of Christmas with a roaring fire was alive and well.

Christmas carols do not seem to have been popular in the Regency. There certainly are ones that predate the period but, if sung at all then, it was in church as hymns. The other sort of singing was the wassail, where groups would go around to houses singing what were usually frank begging songs, hoping for some food, drink, and money.

In Washington Irving's *Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon: Gent*, he also records the return home of the schoolboys as a major feature of Christmas at this time. This was published in 1820 and can be seen as part of a widespread movement to revive traditional Christmas celebrations. His description of Squire Bracebridge's old-fashioned Christmas is placed in pointed contrast to the norm. Frank Bracebridge invites the traveller to spend Christmas at his family home, but says, "My father, you must know, is a bigoted devotee of the old school, and prides himself upon keeping up something of old English hospitality.....he is a strenuous advocate for the revival of the old rural games and holiday observances. As we approached the house, we heard the sound of music, and now and then a burst of laughter from one end of the building; this must proceed from the servants' hall, where a great deal of revelry was permitted, and even encouraged by the Squire throughout the twelve days of Christmas, provided everything was done comfortably to ancient usage. Here were kept up the old games of hoodman blind, shoe the wild mare, hot cockles, steal the white loaf, bob apple and snapdragon: the Yule log and Christmas candle were regularly burnt, and the mistletoe, with its

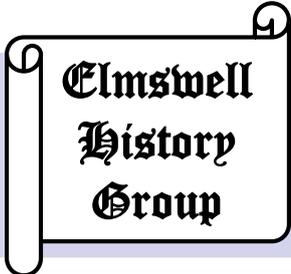




white berries, hung up to the imminent peril of all the pretty housemaids." This is a good summary of the old traditions, dating back to the Middle Ages, but mostly lapsed in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. One of the chief proponents of the Christmas revival was Leigh Hunt (1784-1859), the poet, critic, and journalist. He was what we would call today a left-wing political activist, so his support of a nostalgic Christmas might seem strange but, in fact, this movement had a lot to do with reaching back for a more stable and generous world, which grew because of the suffering and upheaval of the era after the Battle of Waterloo. Leigh Hunt was owner and editor of a publication called *The Examiner*, and it was there he wrote articles, both political and sentimental. In response to one about Christmas, a reader wrote "I cannot refrain from thanking you for your cheering attempts to enforce a due observance of this delightful season. I have been for some days past busily employed in preparing for passing Christmas worthily. My beef and mincemeat are ready (of which, with some warm garments, my poor neighbours will partake), and my holly and mistletoe gathered; for I heartily approve of your article. A wife, mother, and Englishwoman - December 21<sup>st</sup>, 1818" In his *Diary of a Country Parson, 1799-1818*, rural Somerset parson William Holland wrote that, apart from his presiding over two or more Christmas services in his different local parishes, he and his family were woken early in the morning

by musicians (wassailers), then held a kind of open house in their kitchen for various local people who were perhaps charity cases, as well as hosting a meal for friendly neighbours. Christmas Eve was a time for widespread charity to the poor, and this was also an important feature of Christmas Day for Holland. It seems to have been traditional for him to give a gift to each person attending service, and later in the period this gift was wheat, perhaps because of the high price of that cereal then. Going back to the Middle Ages, the traditional greenery of Christmas - rosemary, bay, holly, laurel, and mistletoe - seems to have been retained by many during the Regency. Along with the aspects of fire and light in the darkest days, evergreens were symbols either of fertility or eternal life, or both. It was apparently considered unlucky to bring greenery into the house before Christmas Eve, so this would have been a Christmas Eve or Christmas Day ceremony for those who observed it. Mistletoe was the traditional plant with roots back into the Dark Ages and Druid magic, but perhaps it became 'vulgar' during the Regency and, therefore, confined to servants' hall and cottage. A traditional Christmas pantomime was present at this time, usually opening on Boxing Day. The famous

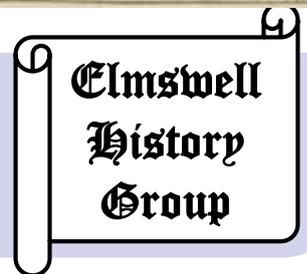
clown, Joseph Grimaldi (1779-1837), regularly performed in one at London's Drury Lane theatre; similarly Astley's Amphitheatre (opened in 1795) usually had a special Christmas spectacular. However it was celebrated, Christmas in the Regency was Christmastide, being the period from Christmas Eve to Twelfth Night, 6th January (Epiphany), which marked the official end of Christmas. Twelfth Night itself seems to have been more celebrated than Christmas, with our now-traditional rich fruit Christmas cake not being served until 6th January. We hope that our members will enjoy Hexachordia's online performance of festive music and verse entitled "In Frost and Snow". It only remains for us to wish everyone a very happy and healthy Christmas, with as many of your family and friends as permitted under current Government guidelines - cheers!



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

[www.elmswell-history.org.uk](http://www.elmswell-history.org.uk)

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



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## COMPANIONS

"A Christmas Blessing"

God bless the Master of the House  
The Mistress also  
And all the little children  
That round the table go;  
And all Kin and Kinsfolk  
I wish you a MERRY CHRISTMAS  
And a HAPPY NEW YEAR

Please keep in contact with one another because that is what COMPANIONS Do. We hope the New Year will bring better news with the virus and we may begin to see one another again.

But, as Vera Lynn sang "We'll meet again", so keep your chin up, keep smiling and don't let it get you down.

I'm at the end of the phone on 242224 if you want to have a chat

*Linda Waspe*

## ELMSWELL EXCHANGE SOCIAL CLUB

By the time you read this hopefully lockdown will be over and we will have some idea who we can mix with in the coming weeks and how it will be possible to celebrate Christmas and the new year.

I have had a tour of the new Wesley facility and I am very impressed. The chapel looks amazing and incorporates some of the original features. It is lovely and light as is the rest of the building and I'm sure it will be warm and the days of wearing our coats in winter hopefully are over! The coffee area will be a useful asset to the village when we are able to use it.

As you will appreciate it is difficult to make future plans at the moment so I'm afraid I can't offer any dates for when we meet again. I think it's a case of watch this space!

I would like to wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a healthy new year and look forward to meeting in 2021!

*Carol*

## ELMSWELL OVER 55'S CLUB

Welcome to the latest news from the Over 55's Club. Hopefully "Lockdown No 2" has passed without too many problems for our members and friends from within the village and the locality.

It now remains to see what regulations are put in place for the remainder of 2020.

You just can't believe that the club last meet in early March so where has the time gone it's a good job that we had a brilliant summer so as to make use of the fresh air in the garden for a bit of exercise.

The wearing of face coverings washing hands and social distancing have now become the norm so please stick to the rules.

The committee have decided to make use of the donation which was kindly received from the local Firemans Charity at the beginning of March 2020 so all our members will receive a gift which will be delivered by the committee prior to Xmas with all our best wishes with the hope that we will see things getting back to normal in 2021.

Hopefully we will be able to meet again at the Blackbourne in February or early March subject to regulations which may be in force.

We very much hope that everybody who has paid to go to the "Tynedale" will be able to join us on March 16th for our delayed visit.

The proposed holiday to Tenby has been re-booked and a deposit paid to the Hotel for a departure from Elmswell on Monday July 12th 4 nights half board so please register your interest/booking by contacting me "241002" as soon as possible so that we can book a suitable coach and secure a good price.

**Diann & the committee wish you all a Happy Xmas and a brighter future for 2021**



## POPPY APPEAL

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's appeal and to all those whose shops and other businesses helped by displaying collecting cans and poppies.

£2,380.74 was raised and has been sent to Appeal headquarters.

When all the problems and the checks that had to be made due to the coronavirus are taken into account, this is a very commendable total. It amounts to about 65% of last year's total!

Special thanks must go to Norman Plumpton for his bucket and table collection in Eastern Way. In spite of the poor weather on some days this collection amounted to over 10% of the total. Thank you, Norman.

As most of you know, the British armed forces are a highly-trained multi-skilled group of people who not only defend us and our colleagues in the free world from tyranny and terrorism but turn their hands to many other things; helping to combat natural disasters, supporting the National Health Service and in many other less well-known roles. On occasions they suffer injuries and worse in the pursuit of their tasks. Poppy Support, funded by the Poppy Appeal, is the welfare organisation which supports both the service personnel and their families when help is required.

Thank you once again for your generous support this year when current circumstances made things more difficult than normal.

*Tony Chaplin*

PS I'm still looking for a volunteer to take over. Please contact me on 01449 257039 if you are interested.

## Christmas bin collections

Go to [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/waste-services](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/waste-services) and click on 'Christmas Collections' to find the Mid Suffolk Christmas and New Year waste collection schedule.



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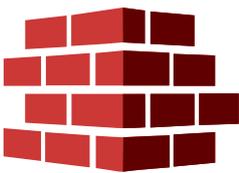
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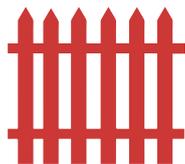
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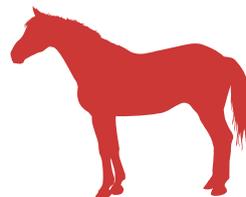
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## ELMSWELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY



Hello Elmswell,

I hope last month's piece did not cause too much confusion. Unfortunately, due to a member of staff shielding we were not able to be open during the lockdown but we will be open once lockdown is lifted. As there is still the need to clean and quarantine we will be opening at the slightly later times of 10.30am on Tuesday mornings, Thursday mornings, Saturdays and Sundays and 2.30pm on Tuesday afternoons, Wednesdays, Thursday afternoons and Fridays.

In preparation for Christmas we have got the Christmas books out. They are on the bookshelf just as you come in where Suffolk Loves and new books usually are for adult books and where the story sacks are in the children's area.

We do not have the mince pie and chat this year but as we are doing the life line service you may have already been getting calls from Lisa. If you would like a call let us know.

This month's audio book group book is *The shadow sister* by Lucinda Riley and read by Jessica Preddy. The Lucinda Riley books have been popular in Suffolk and is book 3 of the Seven sisters series. When their father dies, Star D'Aplière and her six sisters, all adopted by him from the four corners of the world, are left with few clues to their heritage. But Star - the most enigmatic of the sisters - is hesitant to step out of the safety of the close relationship she shares with her sister CeCe. In desperation, she decides to follow her first clue, which leads her to an antiquarian bookshop in London, and the start of a whole new world...

To download go *The shadow sister* go to <https://suffolklibraries.overdrive.com/media/5562261>

We still have our Christmas cards for sale if you have not got any yet or have used all the ones you had. They are £3.99 for 10 and card payments are preferred.

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

Have a good Yule, Merry Christmas and a happy New Year

*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

*The shadow sister* by Lucinda Riley and read by Jessica Preddy

6pm on Monday 14th December (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.

#### Open times

Monday:	Closed
Tuesday:	10.30am – 1pm and 2.30pm – 7pm
Wednesday:	2.30pm – 5pm
Thursday:	10.30am – 1pm and 2.30pm – 7pm
Friday:	2.30pm – 5pm
Saturday:	10.30am – 1pm
Sunday:	10.30am – 3pm

## CITIZENS ADVICE

**I'd like some advice on keeping my energy bills down please. I work in admin for a big corporation. We've been working from home since lockdown, and have been told we'll not be back in the office before January at the earliest. Now the weather has turned, I'm freezing sitting here all day in front of my computer! I'm worried if I turn the heating up my bills are going to go through the roof!**

I'm sorry this is causing you to worry. However, fortunately, there's lots you can do to keep bills down.

Firstly, see if you can get a better deal by changing your energy supplier. However, as well as comparing prices, it's a good idea to check the customer service record of a company before switching. Citizens Advice has a price comparison tool on our website, and our star rating assesses the customer service records of the 40 biggest companies.

There are also little, everyday things that can help, such as making sure televisions and other devices are switched off and not left on standby; washing clothes on

a lower temperature; and only filling the kettle with the water you need.

You're right in another way about bills going through the roof - and the walls. One way of cutting costs in the long term is to invest in good insulation - or ask your landlord to do so.

If your pay is close to the national minimum wage, the extra costs of working from home could be counted as a pay cut and bring you below the legal level. Talk to your manager or HR department, or your union rep if that feels more comfortable.

Finally, your employer should pay for any costs connected to your health and

safety - such as a suitable chair for work at a computer. It's also worth taking a look at your employer's expenses policy, you may be able to claim for a number of other things, such as printer ink or telephone line rental.

**Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide advice on this or any other issue, including debt, housing, benefits and family law. You can contact them on 01449 676060 or go to the Advice Centre on 5 Milton Road South, Stowmarket. For more information and our opening hours go to [midsuffolkcab.org.uk](https://midsuffolkcab.org.uk).**

**citizens  
advice**

Mid Suffolk



## ST JOHN'S CHURCH

### Seasons greetings from St John's.

November was a month of mixed emotions. Early on we found ourselves back in lockdown and unable to gather together in person (even at a social distance). At St John's we had to quickly alter the plans for Remembrance Sunday, converting it from being a service in church to being online only. I hope we did this important occasion justice. We received good feedback as people were still able to join together to remember the sacrifices made by so many for us.

However, November also brought news that there is now light at the end of the tunnel - vaccines may start to be rolled out by the New Year. As we head into the Christmas season, we will all continue to be filled with a cocktail of emotions - anxiety, exhaustion, frustration set against hope and optimism for a better future. As a Christian I find comfort by looking to the light who came into the world at Christmas, knowing that Jesus is the true hope for the world.

Due to the mix of emotions we are experiencing, it is only right that St John's put on a mix of events this Christmas. We will certainly be promoting the good news, joy, optimism and hope that Christ brings in the special Elmswell Village Online Carol service on the 20 December and in our online Nativity on Christmas Eve. But this year we will be balancing these with a more sober service in church on 21 December called "The Longest Night." You see, Christmas always seems to be accompanied by jolly songs, ringing bells, and the expectation that you will have a good time. But that's not how it feels for many people. Maybe you have found the past year hard and Christmas seems to highlight the difficulties. Or maybe, in an over busy life, you just want space to reflect, recall, regroup. Whatever the reason, whatever the need, you are welcome

at this service and we hope that you will find space and hope through it.

Do send the rector any photos of your Christmas trees/decorations (you are welcome to appear in them too) by 16 December and we will include them during the final carol in the Elmswell Village Carol Service on 20 December.

### December Services

Please check our web site nearer the time as these are subject to lockdown restrictions.

#### Sunday 6

10:30am Online Christingle Service (pick up a candle and cocktail sticks from the church porch, but please supply your own oranges, bit of tin foil and fruit/sweets)

#### Sunday 13

9:30am Sunday School via Zoom. Contact us for details.

10:30am Service in church and streamed live on Facebook. View on our web site from noon.

#### Sunday 20

9:30am Sunday School via Zoom. Contact us for details.

10:30am Service in church and streamed live on Facebook. View on our web site from noon.

6:30pm Elmswell Village Carol Service streamed on Facebook, St John's web site and YouTube.

#### Monday 21

3:00pm "The longest Night" in church - reflective carol service with the opportunity to light a candle.

#### Christmas Eve

3:30pm St John's Nativity streamed on Facebook, St John's web site and YouTube.

11:00pm Late Night Communion in church

#### Christmas Day

10:00am Short service using Zoom. Contact us for Zoom details.

#### Sunday 27

10:30am Service in church and streamed live on Facebook. View on our web site from noon.

Tuesdays and Thursdays (up until 17 December):

8:00pm Night Prayer streamed on Facebook. Rector: Peter Goodridge

Email: [elmswellrector@gmail.com](mailto:elmswellrector@gmail.com)  
Tel: 01359 240512

Web site: [www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk](http://www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stjohnselmswell](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnselmswell)

YouTube: accessed via our website home page

Zoom: contact us for the details

## 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. For the Winter Months the lights will be on between 5.30 p.m. and midnight. A night's floodlighting costs £5. Please make cheques payable to "ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, ELMSWELL".

THANK YOU to everyone who has supported the floodlighting this year, and Seasons Greetings to all.

### DECEMBER 2020

- 3 in loving memory of Reginald Bloomfield.
- 10 in memory of Ray Borrett.
- 16 Ken Catchpole. "In the Lord's keeping for twenty six years. In our thoughts and hearts for ever". Love Joan, Stephanie, Ivan, William and Glyn. xxxxx.
- 21 remembering a special day : Mike.
- 22 in loving memory of Tony Sadler on his Birthday, with love from all the family.
- 23 remembering my dear Mum, Ivy Hopper, on the 9th anniversary of her passing. "Sadly missed". Sally, Alan & family.
- 23 Revd. Noel Clarke - remembered with love on his Birthday.
- 24 in memory of Evelyn and Roy Clark.
- 25 in memory of Mark & Andrew Jones. "Always in our thoughts". Mum & Dad.
- 25 Christmas. Ken Catchpole. Dear Husband, Dadda, and Grandad. Also, dear In-Laws, Charles and Ivy. "The special Christmases will not return, when we were all together, but with all the love in our hearts will always stay for ever". Love Joan, Stephanie, Ivan, William and Glyn. xxxxx.



- 25 remembered with love, a dear Nana and Grandad, Rene & George Stiff. "God Bless". Louise and Brian. x.
- 25 cherished memories of a dear Mum and Dad, Rene & George Stiff. Love, Monica, Philip and family. x.
- 25 cherished memories of Evelyn Simpson, much loved and missed by all the family.
- 25 in loving memory of Hugh & Dora Handyside. xx.
- 25 in loving memory of Mary Eveline Skinner. Tony & Margaret. xx.
- 25 loving memories of my dear Mum & Dad at Christmas, Ivy & Dennis Hopper, and my dear twin brother David. "Forever in our thoughts". Sally, Alan & family.
- 26 in loving memory of Hugh & Dora Handyside. xx.
- 26 in loving memory of Mary Eveline Skinner. Tony & Margaret. xx.
- 28 to remember and thank all those past Elmswell Fire-Fighters who served their village and community so well.
- 31 in loving memory of Duncan Wardrop on his Birthday. "Always in our thoughts". Love, Alex, Douglas and Teddy. xxx.

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

## **CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY, STOWMARKET**

Parish Priest: Rev. Simon Leworthy, The Presbytery, 29 Lockington Road, Stowmarket, IP14 1BQ

Tel:01449-612946 E-mail: pp@ourladystowmarket.org.uk

### **MASS TIMES:**

**Saturday (First Mass of Sunday) – 6PM**  
St Mary's C of E Church, Woolpit IP30 9QG

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

**Holy Days – 10am & 7.30pm**  
Our Lady's Strickland Road Stowmarket

Weekday services in the Parish are advertised at the

front of Our Lady's Church, in the weekly Newsletter and on

the Parish Website –  
[www.ourladystowmarket.org.uk](http://www.ourladystowmarket.org.uk)



## **ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH**

Well, our plans to resume services in the chapel in November were frustrated. Sadly Christians Together in Elmswell Carols on the Green at Crown Mill will not take place as depicted in the picture above from a couple of years ago. There may well be something online for you to watch instead. Look in St.John's piece for details.

Also our annual popular Carols by Candlelight in the chapel will not take place either. The absence of singing carols together will be a huge miss.

The hardhearted innkeeper turning Mary and Joseph away often features in Nativity Plays at Christmas. Of course this is very much reading between the lines, the Bible merely says "there was no room in the inn". The actual original Greek text infers they stayed in the guest room of a large family house and that Mary likely moved into the part of the house where the animals were kept (a common feature of houses in Israel at that time) for privacy. So, Mary gave birth in the normal setting of a crowded family home (like we will hope to be in this Christmas!) "with the oxen standing by". Our prayer is that everyone in Elmswell will welcome the new-born Christ into their homes this Christmas and recognise him for

what he is, Son of God, Saviour of the World, Emmanuel (God with Us).

Most of our services in December will be led by members of the congregation. The exception will be December 13th when Rev. Norman Tharby will be leading the service. Norman will be assuming the role of Moderator for the chapel from January 1st. This will mean he will be preaching one or two times a month, chairing our Deacons and Church and Congregation Meetings and generally offering us advice on the way ahead. We hope some may be able to gather in the chapel from December 2nd, numbers will be limited so if you want to come you must book in by phoning 07784095225 or email cockant2@btinternet.com.

If you'd like to join in on Zoom, which will be available whether or not we're in the chapel, please use the email to request an invitation. Once you've got that it is very easy, just click on the link. No keying in of ID's or Passwords should be necessary.

Visit our website at [www.elmswellbaptist.org.uk](http://www.elmswellbaptist.org.uk)

It is our prayer that you come to know Jesus Christ as your Saviour and friend during the festive season and consequently have a REAL Happy Christmas!!

Christmas Blessings.Tony



# ELMSWELL POOR'S LAND CHARITY APPLICATION FOR CHRISTMAS GIFT 2020

The Elmswell Poor's Land Charity is pleased to issue Christmas Vouchers to elderly residents in the village who meet the criteria below. Eligible applicants received £80.00 in 2019.

To be eligible to receive a voucher, any Elmswell resident must

- Be aged 70 or over
- Have lived in Elmswell continuously for the last 10 years
- Be in receipt of Pension Credit or eligible to receive Pension Credit

Please be advised that all applications are treated in confidence

Should anyone require further details regarding their eligibility for Pension Credit, please contact the Citizens' Advice Bureau, 5 Milton Road, Stowmarket on 01449 676060 or visit [midsuffolkcab.org.uk](http://midsuffolkcab.org.uk).

**If you are eligible and wish to apply, please complete the form below and send to Elmswell Poor's Land Charity, c/o 33 Gardeners Walk, Elmswell, IP30 9DY by 20 December 2020**

Name:..... Are you SINGLE / MARRIED / WIDOWED

Address: .....

Age:..... Have you lived in Elmswell continuously for the last 10 years? YES / NO

Are you in receipt of or eligible for Pension Credit? YES / NO

Signed: ..... Date: .....

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**West Suffolk  
Clinical Commissioning Group**



As the NHS is gearing up to deliver the Covid-19 vaccination programme volunteers are wanted to help with its roll-out.

We are seeking volunteers to act as stewards at the local vaccination centres across Suffolk which will be open seven days a week 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

People of all ages 18+ are encouraged to apply and we'll provide all the necessary training and PPE to keep you safe. The hours available are flexible and you don't need to have had any previous experience of working in health care.

This is a genuine opportunity to play a part in protecting the health of the local community.

Additionally, there are a number of paid-for positions which could suit those who have some health care experience – you can read more [www.eput.nhs.uk/about-us/working-at-eput/vaccine-recruitment/](http://www.eput.nhs.uk/about-us/working-at-eput/vaccine-recruitment/)

Anyone interested should email [epunf.recruitment.covid-19@nhs.net](mailto:epunf.recruitment.covid-19@nhs.net)



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# AROUND & ABOUT



## 'TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY.....

Or at least as "jolly" as we can make it in these strange times, so here are two suggestions as to how to access some Christmassy music.



Firstly, Elmswell History Group members will remember visiting The **Mechanical Music Museum** in Cotton back in July 2013 to see its truly amazing collection of 900 exhibits of all things musically mechanical, i.e. fairground, street and

cinema organs as well as a vast array of historic self-playing instruments. All this with more sparkling lights and bright colours than a forest of Christmas trees! That collection has now been re-named The Grange Musical Collection and re-located to Palgrave. Whilst unfortunately closed at present due to the dratted virus, it is offering a festive mix of music for free; just tune into the live digital Mechanical Music Radio station – [mechanicalmusicradio.co.uk](http://mechanicalmusicradio.co.uk); and [thegrangemusicalcollection.com](http://thegrangemusicalcollection.com)

Secondly, **St Edmundsbury Cathedral** is hoping to provide live services including Advent, Christmas and choral evensong, which can be booked online. Otherwise, live streams including daily 'Reflections' with music are published on social media – [facebook.com/stedscathedral](https://www.facebook.com/stedscathedral) and [stedscathedral.org](http://stedscathedral.org)



## THANK YOU

Owing to Covid 19 restrictions, I have been unable to carry out door to door collections in the village, on behalf of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, as I have done for the past 32 years (Gt. Ashfield side of the level crossing)

As face to face contact was not an option, I decided to place the above table on my front garden in Eastern Way, in order that passers-by had the opportunity to make a donation. Due to inclement weather conditions, I was, unfortunately, unable to put the table out every day during Remembrancetide.

I am delighted to say that, thanks to everybody who donated, I managed to collect the magnificent sum of £271.45, which has been forwarded to the Elmswell Poppy Appeal Organiser for inclusion in the village total.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this wonderful amount, your generosity is greatly appreciated.



**Norman Plumpton ( BIFF )**



Sue, Charlotte & Tina working towards opening the coffee shop at Wesley, encouraged by Parish Council Chairman Fred Pallett

# ELMSWELL FOOTBALL CLUB

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### FIRST TEAM EDITORIAL

November has been and gone, with the country on lockdown again Sport has been shelved with hardly a ball being kicked. The first team did have a great win, a real battle against the opposition, the elements & the ref! but a creditable 2-1 victory away against a good BROB team that we well & truly deserved.

All being well, December should allow both EFC teams the chance to play a game or two before Santa arrives, and hopefully the world has started to get a grip with Covid and 2021 will see a lot less disruption to life in general and sport can start up again.

2020, for many reasons, will be a year that everyone will remember. The upheaval, the lockdowns, the furlough, the health issues & the lack of toilet rolls!! - many reasons why the population of the world should learn to appreciate the basic things we all take for granted. Perhaps 2021 will see a new start and everyone will take a different view on life, and a different approach to things we take for granted.

Santa is coming though, Covid can't keep him away!! so lets hope he brings plenty of joy and plenty of happiness to see 2020 off in style. Lets also hope he brings shooting boots for all Elmswell FC players & plenty of points on the board for both our Saturday teams to progress up and through the divisions.

May I wish you all a very merry Christmas, take care and enjoy the festive period.

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### RESERVES EDITORIAL

Just the one Reserves game since our last update. Way back before Lockdown II, on 31st October, we hosted local rivals Old Newton 'A'. We were a couple of regulars short but have great depth this year and a couple of players were able to make the starting eleven for the first time this season. We started really sharply and positively, having most of the possession, and looking dangerous for it. So it was against the run of play when a hopeful ball to the back post was steered into our own net by Kieran Ramsey. This took the wind out of our sails for a while but we were controlling the game again by the end of the first half, though with no equaliser to show for it. It was a close fought second half in the cold, driving rain, but the referee still managed to spot the terrible challenge that earned us a penalty. Harry King confidently converting it, to get us back on level terms. The joy was not long lived before we had given away another trademark soft goal. The boys battled on in the adverse conditions and there were scenes when King scored his second, with a flicked header, only for the referee to disallow it for a foul that not even Old Newton saw or claimed. Paddy Carroll won Man of the Match for another battling midfield performance but it was not enough to get us the draw we deserved.

If the F.A. allow us to get back to organised sports in December we have three away games; Kesgrave Kestrels and Bacton 'A' in the league and Hundon Reserves in the Primary Cup.



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# NEWS FROM ELMSWILD

## Wrap up warm for winter

As autumn gives way to winter, spare a thought for all the birds, animals and insects that are trying to find food and warmth in the cold, dark season. As well as putting out food for the birds, let your garden go a bit wild for the winter months! A pile of leaves will be much appreciated by hedgehogs trying to find somewhere to hibernate. Leaving goldflowerheads and other vegetation to stand will provide all sorts of nooks and crannies for overwintering insects. At Lukeswood, ladybirds have taken shelter in our medlar, crawling into the fruits and even clustering together on the edge of the information board. So this winter don't be too tidy, and give the wildlife a bit of hygge too!

## Oak story

All trees have a narrative if only we have the patience to look and listen, and the imagination to see beyond the superficial picture of leaves, bark, branches and roots. This is a tale of three oaks, each remarkable in its own way and each with a story to tell. The first is tiny, barely a tree at all, a sapling of just a few years' growth. No one planted it, it sowed itself. Every year mature oaks produce thousands of acorns; in a mast year they go into overdrive and there is a super-abundance of acorns, but not many will grow into trees. Some are eaten by animals and birds; some are cached, by the jay for example, hidden away and buried as a winter food store. Some are crunched underfoot as we walk through the woodland. The acorn that produced our little tree had the good fortune to fall in an area of Lukeswood that has been set aside for rewilding. Perhaps it was buried by a jay which forgot to come back and eat it, or perhaps it fell into the leaf litter, sprouted and put down roots. Its first battle has been won! It has avoided being eaten, trodden on, dried out, or carried off in the pocket of a curious passerby. The struggle goes on, however. As it grows, it needs water, sunlight and nutrients from the soil, and it could still be eaten by deer or rabbits. Our little oak has chosen a good place to put down roots, though,

with bramble providing natural protection from predators, so it has a fighting chance of growing to maturity. In its early years it will have to compete for light with taller trees, but many of these, such as birch and willow, will eventually fall by the wayside, allowing the sapling oak to shoot upwards and find its place in the sun.

Our second oak is a magnificent mature tree, 4 metres in circumference, indicating that it is at least 150 years old. It's a maiden, which means that it has never been cut or pollarded. It sits amongst a group of oak trees of varying sizes and ages growing alongside the footpath which runs next to the south side of the railway. Who planted it? Or did it just grow naturally, like our little sapling? In its lifetime our second oak has seen a lot. As a sapling it would have felt the rumble of the first steam trains running through Elmswell. Later, it would have seen village men going off to fight in the first world war and, not long after, witnessed planes heading for the airfield during the second war. During its long life horses have given way to state of the art tractors and combines. For decades it has seen generations of Elmswell villagers tramp up and down the footpath at its feet. And the drama is not only provided by events taking place around it; our oak also plays host to a whole world of creatures that live in and off it. If you look carefully at its trunk you can find rot-holes with the tell-tale staining of bat droppings. Birds nest in its boughs and pick off caterpillars and spiders from its leaves. Fungi, such as the huge dark-red beefsteak fungus, grow at its roots. Tiny wasps form spangle galls on its leaves and turn its acorns into oak-apples and marbles. Today it holds court amongst the oaks of the railway embankment, most of which are likely to be its children and grandchildren, grown from the acorns it has shed over the years. In the great struggle of life, from seed to tree, it is definitely one of the winners. And yet, by oak standards, it is still only a youngster. What will it see in the centuries to come? Something to ponder next time you pick up an acorn and admire its brown shininess.

Our third tree is also a maiden oak, a fraction smaller than the railway oak, but

just as notable for its height, shape and ecological wonders. It is the sole survivor of a number of trees which, according to historic maps, were dotted along School Road from the junction with Parnell Lane up towards the Church. Its height and solitude make it an impressive landmark in the village. All of us will have walked, cycled or driven past it many hundreds of times. It holds sway in one of the most exposed parts of the village, shouldering off wind, rain and snow, untroubled even by the Great Storm of 1987, and still standing straight and strong. A great survivor. Until now, that is. We have recently learnt that it may be under threat from a proposed new development that will entail widening the road. Our third oak - strong survivor, impressive landmark, and vital ecosystem - is in the way. Having overcome so many natural dangers, this tree is now in jeopardy from human activities, and its fate is now to be decided as an administrative exercise. But there is a groundswell of opposition.

Together, our three oaks tell a magical story of survival against the odds. We celebrate their historical, ecological and sentimental significance. They grow alongside us and share our history. But the link that binds us is a fragile one. Centuries of history as well as irreplaceable habitat can be destroyed in moments, severing that connection that takes us back through the generations.

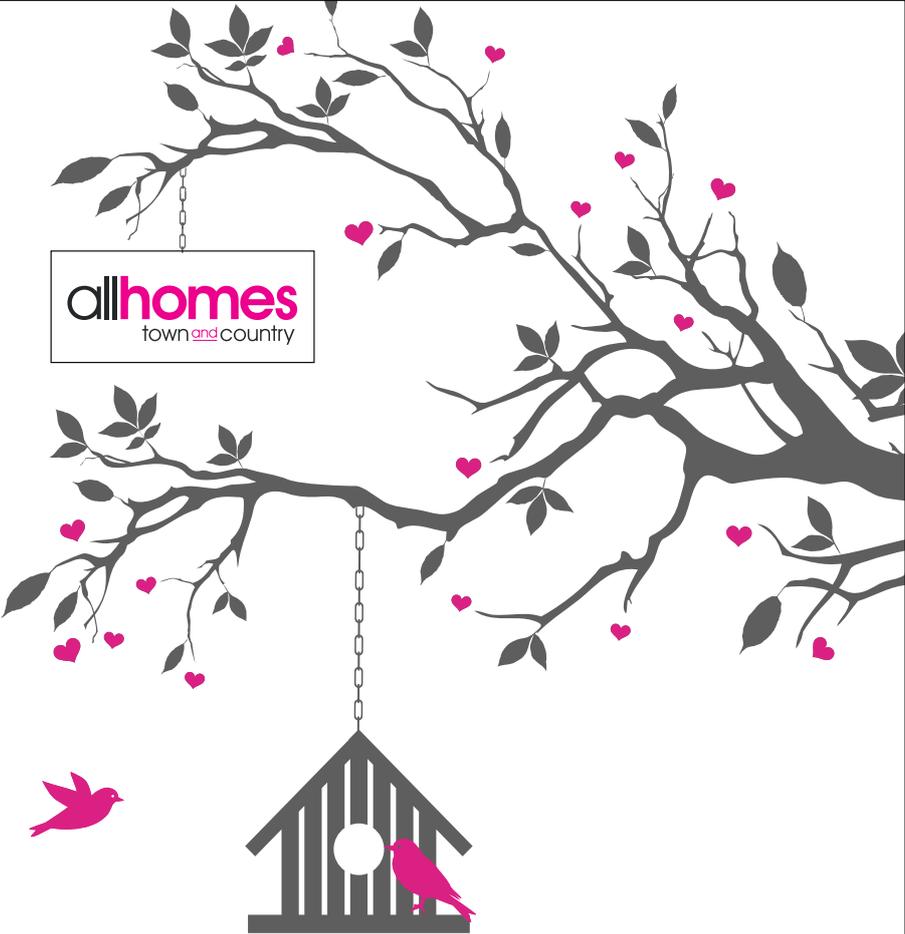
Please add your voice to those who are trying to save the School Road oak: contact the planning department at Mid Suffolk District Council (email [planningyellow@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:planningyellow@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk)) send a message via our district councillors (contact details in the Village Index at the end of the Newsletter) sign our Mid Suffolk e-petition at <https://babberghmidsuffolk.moderngov.co.uk/mgEPetitionListDisplay.aspx?bcr=1>.

Don't let the JCB and the chainsaw be the end of the story!

Wishing everyone a happy and safe Christmas, from all the ElmsWild volunteers.

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



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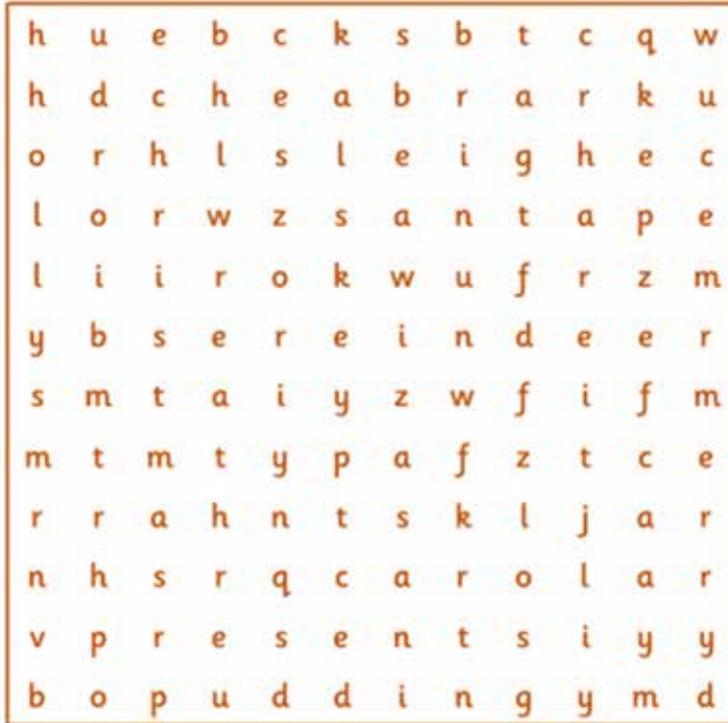




# Christmas Fun



## Christmas Word Search



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- plain gift tags
- Paint
- Pen
- Eyes

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| carol    | christmas | holly    | merry  |
| presents | pudding   | reindeer | santa  |
| sleigh   | star      | tree     | wreath |

### Short Bread Reindeer

*You will need;*

**Ingredients**

- 125g/4oz butter
- 55g/2oz caster sugar, plus extra to finish
- 180g/6oz plain flour

**Preparation method**

1. Heat the oven to 190C/375F/Gas 5.
2. Beat the butter and the sugar together until smooth.
3. Stir in the flour to get a smooth paste. Turn on to a work surface and gently roll out until the paste is 1cm thick.
4. Cut into triangles and place onto a baking tray. Sprinkle with caster sugar and chill in the fridge for 20 minutes.
5. Bake in the oven for 15-20 minutes, or until pale gold-en-brown. Set aside to cool on a wire rack.

**For the gift wrap you will need**

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2. Red ribbon
3. Stick on eyes
4. Red gems/stickers for the nose



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## ELMSWELL FOX BOWLS CLUB



Given Mr Guinness' very worthy Book of Records and TV shows featuring weird and wacky U Tube uploads with crazy guys sliding down a roof on the lid of a biscuit tin, it's pretty clear that there isn't much in this world that hasn't already been done.

With that in mind, I'm not going to say that Elmswell Fox Bowls Club is the only one with a Club Bus but, rather, that it is one of a very few. Actually, we don't really have a bus so much as access to a bus, the vehicle in question belonging to club members the Baker family who loan us their Quality Engineering company bus for away bowls matches. Still pretty impressive, in my book of records.

Another claim to fame, and one that is 100% accurate, is that we have our very own Ukulele Band. Not every Bowls Club can say that. New member, Kevin, aka your friendly Village Warden, is attempting to replicate the successful group he had in Kent before re-locating to Elmswell. We already had two members who owned Ukes and he drafted in three more unsuspecting bowlers to form the nucleus of, well, who knows quite what? A ukulele band is not necessarily unique amongst bowls clubs either, but I would wager that we are the only club to have both a band and a Team Bus! Put that in your Guinness Book of Records and smoke it, Mr McWhirter. We are hampered by Lockdown, just like everyone and everything else, and the new tier system doesn't offer much comfort, but we are looking for new members



*Richard, Peter F and Keith in sunnier times*

even though official induction may be a bit delayed. We also need singers because, Kevin excepted, we are not great vocalists. Our current lead singer, until he launches his solo career or is poached by The Stones to stand in for Mick Jagger, is Rockin' Dickie Burch, who is spending Lockdown perfecting his Marlon Brando 'Wild Ones' look. Mean, moody and magnificent. Can't wait to see that.

At the moment we are all Bowlers but, clearly, if we are to expand we will have to draw from outside the bowls community, so, if you are interested, and maybe not quite ready for the X Factor, chat to Kevin on 01359 240604. You will find him very helpful and I can tell you that, contrary to my expectations, it is really good fun!

The world's first Covid Christmas will soon be upon us and it's certainly going to be very different from what we are used to. I hope that you all

have the Christmas that you wish for and those who have estranged loved ones get to see them. Let us hope that this is the first and the last Christmas of its kind.

*Phil basking in the light he fitted in the equipment shed*



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



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# AROUND & ABOUT



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## ACROSS THE CLERK'S DESK

The Parish Council would normally meet in November. However, the current and long-standing constraints to normal working across the board have slowed down the due process of many of the agencies with which Council has dealings and there was insufficient business brought forward to justify calling a meeting. A meeting is now scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> December and Mid Suffolk officers have extended consultation deadlines, as necessary, on Planning applications in order to accommodate this.

Nevertheless, with appropriate safeguards, the work of the Council continues through individual councillors and the Clerk's office which has remained open as usual to deal with day-to-day issues as well as management of the larger projects in hand.



### **Wesley**

Despite the many frustrations in securing deliveries and services in the shadow of covid, Wesley is, effectively, complete. Building Regulations are satisfied and fixtures, fittings, kit and equipment are in place sufficient to allow the facility to function. Coffee shop staff are appointed and trained with a view to opening every weekday from 8.30am – 4.00pm and Saturdays from 9.00am – 3.00pm as and when it is legal, safe and proper to do so. The general facilities will operate as rules allow, accepting that there can be short-notice variations and restrictions.

### **Blackbourne**

Perversely, the Covid restrictions have worked in favour of the extension works at Blackbourne. With the premises empty, Seamans, the main contractor, have been able to make rapid progress without having to work around hall bookings. The extended storage space allows for a much more efficient use of caretaker time in transporting furniture and means that the annexe is available for use without the need to re-locate the tables & chairs previously housed there. The Art Club are now able to store their display boards which can be available for others to use and the back-up consumables for the Wesley, particularly the coffee shop, are safely stored to be drawn down as required. Meanwhile, the new Village Archive Room will soon be ready to begin to accept historic records and other community heritage material for accessioning, storage and retrieval with help and advice from the Suffolk Records Office in Bury. Final completion is anticipated by mid-December. There is a separate initiative to provide light and ventilation via roof lights in the main Chamberlayne Hall, an idea which has gained extra traction given the ventilation of public spaces recommendations emerging through

the pandemic. Mid Suffolk have been approached for funding of this from the developer contributions made towards the Community Infrastructure Levy.

### **Railway Tavern**

The proposal to develop the main premises as a community pub, as has happened so successfully elsewhere, requires the establishment of a Community Interest Company which, in turn, needs a Steering Group to be formed for formal registration with the Financial Standards Authority. Six individuals, bringing together considerable relevant professional experience, have agreed to take this forward and the process continues at the pace allowed under current circumstances. The next stage will involve widespread community consultation and involvement, again dictated to some degree by the pandemic rules and regulations. Meanwhile, the pub continues as before within Government constrictions.

### **Community Land Trust**

The Tavern land was purchased for the village with the benefit of Planning permission, secured by Greene King for 8 large houses with no, 'affordables'. From the outset, the Parish Council's proposal was to provide locally controlled social housing with rents set by the community and with no Right To Buy, thus ensuring affordable housing for the village in perpetuity. The vehicle to take this forward is a Community Land Trust (CLT), a charitable body comprising as many community members as wish to participate and driven by a Management Committee elected by those members. Elmswell CLT is now legally incorporated and advice is being sought as to how best to undertake the necessary community consultation and involvement under current constraints to properly kick-start the process.

### **Poor's Land Charity**

The Poor's Land Charity is an organisation of very long standing which holds in trust some land in the village the rent from which, together with income generated from investments garnered over the years as other parcels of land have been sold off, goes towards food vouchers at Christmas for villagers on Pension Credit who apply. The last remaining tenancy is soon to become available and the Council is asked to consider backing the ElmsWild group towards taking this on so as to maintain a community interest in the Charity and to further the aims and objectives of this well-proven and very active group, as witness their work over many years at the Kiln Meadow Wildlife Area and at Lukeswood.

### **Development at School Road**

A Mid Suffolk Development Control Committee convened on-line on 11<sup>th</sup> November to discuss Planning application ref DC/18/02146 seeking Permission in outline for up to 86 dwellings on land off School Road between School Avenue and Parnell Lane, immediately adjacent to School Avenue and overlooking the sweeping view of St John's and the almshouses. The principal of developing this site has been mooted for several years against deep-seated opposition from the village. The opposition has grown as, in those intervening years, other sites have come forward and been approved for some 700 new houses to add to the 190 now almost built-out on the Bacon Factory site. The arguments are as presented by neighbouring beleaguered 'A14 corridor' villages at Thurston and Woolpit – that there just isn't the road infrastructure to carry the extra traffic and that the ways proposed around relieving the intolerable extra burden on health and education services are not acceptable. There is the added factor in this case that the proposal



sits across the proposed route for a Relief Road taking traffic over the railway to A14 avoiding the crossing gates. If passed it would put such a road beyond practical reach. The Committee took on board the comments from the Parish Council and from Ward Members Cllrs Sarah Mansel and Helen Geake. The inadequacy of the case put forward by the Developer in terms of highways infrastructure, including the potential loss of the significant old oak tree on School Road, won a reprieve. A decision was deferred to another meeting pending clarification of the highways issues. The Parish Council will seek the

further advice of the road transport consultants who have advised on 2 previous occasions in the face of the case made by Developers that mitigation measures, including the possibility of traffic lights outside the almshouses, would adequately address the problems caused by their extra houses.

**Next meeting**

The September Council meeting is scheduled for Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 in the Chamberlayne Hall at Blackbourne. All necessary precautions are in place to allow the attendance of up to 20 members of the public who will be asked to register to ensure a safe capacity

is not breached. The meeting will be accessible via the Zoom conferencing facility as before with details appearing on the official Notice of Meeting. The public are, as above, welcome and encouraged to attend one way or the other and there are opportunities on the agenda for public input. The agenda is posted on the Council's noticeboard at Crown Mill and in the community notice board at the Co-op adjacent to the Post office. It is also available, with supporting papers, on line at [elmswell.suffolk.cloud](http://elmswell.suffolk.cloud).

**Peter Dow CiLCA**  
Clerk to the Council

**'Real' trees can be left from 7am on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January, until 6.30am on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January.**  
Trees must be less than 7' tall & must have all decorations, stands & pots removed.

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ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL



**Future Council Meetings**

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

Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
21st	18th	17th	25th	19th

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](mailto:clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk)  
Tel. 244134



# What's On in Elmswell ?



Once Lockdown II is eased, hopefully in December, 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.

## 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

## January 2021

- 14 Elmswell History Group meeting, 7.30pm; Venue and speaker to be confirmed.

## February 2021

- 3 Elmswell Exchange Afternoon WI 2 pm  
Back Together Again - Social Afternoon.
- 11 Elmswell History Group meeting, 7.30pm; Venue and speaker to be confirmed.

## March 2021

- 3 Elmswell Exchange Afternoon WI 2 pm  
The Art & Craft of Stained Glass - Michele Russell
- 11 Elmswell History Group meeting, 7.30pm; Venue and speaker to be confirmed.

## April 2021

- 7 Elmswell Exchange Afternoon WI 2 pm  
Making the Best of a Supermarket Bunch  
Stephanie Lester
- 8 Elmswell History Group's 21st Anniversary meeting, 7.30pm; Venue and speaker to be confirmed.

## May 2021

- 5 Elmswell Exchange Afternoon WI 2 pm  
Annual General Meeting
- 13 Elmswell History Group meeting, 7.30pm; Venue and speaker to be confirmed. \*July tickets on sale\*

## June 2021

- 2 Elmswell Exchange Afternoon WI 2 pm  
The Work of a Parish Nurse - Lesley Williams

- 10 Elmswell History Group meeting, 7.30pm; Venue and speaker to be confirmed. \*July tickets on sale\*

## July 2021

- 7 Elmswell Exchange Afternoon WI 2 pm  
How To Look Good in a Bin Bag ! - Mandy Wild
- 8 Elmswell History Group Annual Outing – to be confirmed Details and Tickets from 01359-242601

## August 2021

- 4 Elmswell Exchange Afternoon WI 2 pm  
Edith Cavell - A British Heroine - Richard and Jill Mann

## September 2021

- 1 Elmswell Exchange Afternoon WI 2 pm  
Never Judge a Book by its Cover  
The ancient skill of bookbinding  
Michael Holton

## October 2021

- 6 Elmswell Exchange Afternoon WI 2 pm  
Chile - the long thin country - Chris Parfitt

## ALREADY BACK...

looking forward to being back soon.

### Sarah's classes

- stretch and flex /spin /boxercise /legs bums and tums/ bodyblast...details at sarahjane. fitness@outlook.com

### Karate with Lewis

- find details at info@greatheadma.com

### Slimming World

- Tuesday mornings – Jen.sw19@yahoo.com

### Slimming World

- Tuesday evening – emma.jelley@yahoo.co.uk

**Ju jitsu** – Monday & Wednesday evenings

- tel. Gary on 07711 680262

**Rainbows** - Monday evenings

- elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com



Tim Squirrell of Crude Coffee setting up the new coffee machine at Wesley

## Your Newsletter Fact File

For the next 6 months we need copy by: December 29th, January 27th, February 23rd, March 23rd, April 27th, May 25th

Contact us on **01359 244 134** 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

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

Reg. Charity No. 304879. 1,906 copies delivered free to households and to businesses in the community. A volunteer enterprise entirely supported by advertising.

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS**



# 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 (Sec)	eea@elmswell.org.uk	241135
Art Club	John Welford	welford955@btinternet.com	240166
Baby & Toddler Group	Donna Hughes	elmswellbtgroup@gmail.com	
Baptists	Dave Hollings	davehollings@btinternet.com	241323
Beavers	Ruth Court	ruthcourt4@hotmail.co.uk	
BWMA	Peter Edmonds (Sec)	edmondspeterj@gmail.com	241640
BATS – Badminton at Blackbourne	Peter Edmonds	edmondspeterj@gmail.com	241640
Blackbourne – all enquiries	Parish Council office	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
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	derekrf2@gmail.com	
Community Speed Watch	Marie Spampinato	mariespampinato@hotmail.co.uk	07769 715209
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	07860 829517
District Councillor	Helen Geake	Helen.geake@midsuffolk.gov.uk	
Elmswheelians	Trevor Sadler	trevor.sadler@dsl.pipex.com	240908
Elmswild	Mary Feeney	info@elmswild.org.uk	241901
Exchange afternoon WI	Maureen Davis	modavis6@gmail.com	
Exchange Club	Carol Blissett	carolblissett@hotmail.co.uk	
Fire Crew; non-emergencies	Brian Hawes	brian.hawes@suffolk.gov.uk	07761 125093
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	Gemma Sutton	gem_2910@hotmail.co.uk	
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	eea@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
Rainbows	Marion Abbott	elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com	
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
Wesley – all enquiries	Parish Council office	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
WI - evening	Margaret Stevens	stevensmarg@tiscali.co.uk	408452
Youth Football	Chris Smyth	smyth98@hotmail.com	07717 841 591

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

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

*Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year*

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Find us at: Station Road Industrial Estate, Elmswell, IP30 9HR



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