

'Like a friend dropping in'



# The Elmswell Newsletter



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**JULY 2020**

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**MILO  
SPELLS  
IT OUT -  
see page 21**



**PLUS  
ENTERPRISING  
ELMSWELL**

*see pages  
3 and 7*



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

**The recent pause in pretty-well-everything has encouraged pondering, soul searching and queries upon life, the universe and, well, pretty well everything. Clearly the question most frequently posed is, 'what day is it today?' But a close second is the less easily Googled conundrum: 'who's going to buy all of these new houses?'**

You may have noticed that Elmswell (along with Woolpit and Thurston – the 'A14 corridor settlements') has, in the recent past, been the subject of a tsunami of successful Planning applications presaging massive expansion in the next very few years. This is the unstoppable result of central policies requiring the building of houses and the understandable co-operation of landowners offered a far better cash return than the volatilities of mere cereal growing. Goliath

in his Westminster fortress bats aside the local Davids whose Neighbourhood Plans, introduced in 2011 offering much vaunted local control over local environments, are ignored (see Thurston) or shudderingly halted in their tracks (see Woolpit) because they don't include sufficient allocation of sites for, yes, more houses. The Elmswell Plan, one of the first out of the blocks back in 2014 has staggered from draft to draft weighed down by the admirable aspiration of a relief

road which has dragged it back repeatedly as the rules have slithered and slid inexorably in favour of development. Rules suggesting, for example, that because more houses mean more school pupils, and because there are so many new homes sanctioned and at various stages of being built-out, Elmswell school can be expanded on an already well-filled site from 310 to 420 places. But, because the new houses will produce even more pupils than this, the 'surplus'

must go on a bus every day to a big new school at Woolpit. It is within policy, but it is not what Elmswell parents would choose for their children. Given the choice. Which they weren't. Yet again, we digress. The question put refers to 'all of these new houses'. As at the time of writing – and things do move apace in the world of Housing, particularly if you dine with the Minister, but we digress again...as we write, we are aware of:

Proposal	Location	Size	Detail	Status
190 dwellings	Harris Bacon Factory site	6.64 ha 16.4 acres	Marketed as Kingsbrook Place	Permission granted March 2015 Moving towards completion
60 dwellings	Borley Crescent	1.62 ha 4 acres		Permission granted 22.03.17
240 dwellings	Wetherden Rd	11.56 ha 28.6 acres	Split 2.82 ha north / 8.74 ha south	Permission granted 28.03.2018 Currently building
38 dwellings	Warren Lane	1.89 ha 4.7 acres		Permission granted 21.06.2018 Currently on hold
106 dwellings	White House Farm – land East of Ashfield Road	4.5 ha 11.1 acres	Historic proposal carries the promise of more land at Blackbourne	Permission granted 03.07.2018 Dwellings advertised, no start on site as yet
105 dwellings	School Road	3 ha 7.4 acres	Destroys possible future development of the proposed Relief road route	Application originally registered May 2018. Parish Council objection made 16/06 /2020 Awaiting decision
65 dwellings	Harris Bacon Factory site	3.1 ha 7.7 acres	Accessed through the Kingsbrook Place development Includes land designated for a partial relief road	Parish Council objected & Permission refused 06.02.2020 Appeal lodged 2nd submission April 2020 Parish Council objected Awaiting decision on this and the Appeal

And our question, all the more pertinent given recent turmoil in markets, including for new houses, is, who is going to buy the 804 new houses that might transpire if our chart is an accurate predictor?

The answer is largely answered within the pages of your Newsletter. We know that, in Mid Suffolk, we live in one of the top 10 destinations in the country - with access to the coast, to many other natural attractions, with low crime rates and good schools, with the A14 as a gateway and with fast and improving rail links. Statistics tell us we live longer, happier lives and that, as the pressures

of the big cities and urban conurbations encourage a re-think many people fancy our corner of the world. Recent events have suggested that working from home, away from the big city presents some rather nice benefits. Recent events have, furthermore, accentuated the realisation that quality of life has a strong regional element and Suffolk is a quality region.

And within that region – Elmswell. Flicking through the last few Newsletters reveals our busy, caring community with a wealth of facilities and plans for more. Thumbing through this month our local

shops are appreciated and, far from dying out, we see a new barber setting up. Listed are many community organisations and events waiting for the green light to come back together. We see Sam the Snake and Rainbow Windows in appreciation of our local services in very testing times. Blackbourne prepares to offer a safe venue whilst Wesley is back on track to offer what promises to be an equally excellent experience but with good coffee and more. The school has continued to look after the children of our front-line heroes...the library, the pubs, the nurseries and the churches are stirring.

We live in a great community, well aware of the threats and opportunities that the development pressures inevitably bring. There seems to be, within our community leaders, the confidence to change and adapt and the realisation of the need to be pro-active in welcoming and accommodating new neighbours and the contributions that they, in turn, can make and are already making. And in the time of the 'C' word, Elmswell responds with Caring, Common-sense and Courtesy.

That's why the houses will sell.

# CLUBS & SOCIETIES



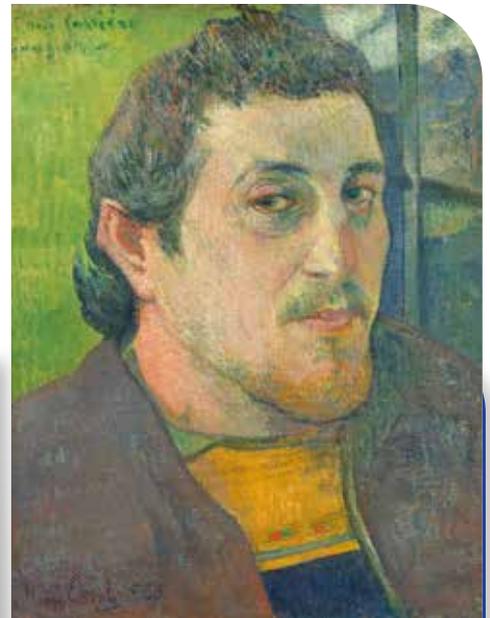
## ELMSWELL ART CLUB

Vincent Van Gogh is probably the most easily recognised name in the history of art and painting. The problem is, how do you correctly pronounce his name? Is it Van Goff, Van Go, Van Hoff, or what? Perhaps the only way to be sure is to ask a Dutchman (in the generic sense that is rather than a Dutch man or Dutch woman). Dutch is a fairly easy language to identify and is spoken by some 24 million people as a first language and a further 5 million as a second language. It is the third most widely spoken of the Germanic languages after English and German. Vincent was a post impressionist artist and one of the most famous and influential artists of all time. In his relatively short life he created about 2,100 artworks including about 860 oil paintings, most of which were done in the last two years of his life. He did not specialise in any particular subject doing landscapes, portraits, still lifes and self portraits, all using bold colours and dramatic brush strokes. His work contributed to the foundation of modern art. Van Gogh was born in 1863 to an upper middle class family. He started life as an art dealer travelling widely, eventually coming to London. Here he, as a shy and reserved young man, found London to be intimidating and overwhelming. He turned to religion and moved to Belgium (where Dutch is one of the three official languages). Ill health and depression dogged him but he was given financial support by his younger brother Theo, who encouraged him to take up painting. Painting and art is a wonderful way of fighting off depression and is very relaxing and it also helps recovery from illness. Moving to Paris brought him into contact with the avant-garde and he became friends with Paul Gauguin. His mental instability meant that he neglected his physical well being, failing to eat properly and drinking too much. Eventually he fell out with Gauguin and after a set-to cut off part of his left ear. He committed suicide at the age of just 37. What a tragedy that such a talent should be cut short, so early in his life. As with so many artists his work only really gained the approval it so richly deserved after his death because during his lifetime he did not enjoy a great deal of recognition. Such is the world of art appreciation and dealers where eye-watering prices are being paid for works of art! I think he would turn in his grave if only he knew!

Our two paintings today are by two of our stalwarts in the art club. Bobbie Fiske did the water colour of the flowers and Maureen Lazarus was inspired by her interpretation of a Venetian scene, also in watercolour.

We are looking forward to getting back to the Wesley once we are given the all clear.

*John Welford 01359 240166*



**Oh yes! He did like yellow  
did good Vincent. When  
we were together at  
Arles, both of us insane  
and constantly at war  
over beautiful colours,  
I adored red...**

*Paul Gauguin*



## THANK YOU...

May I say a million thanks to a gallant young man who, on a hot day in June, rescued my bicycle by the church and saved me struggling back to Pightle Close with a bike whose chain was entangled in the back wheel.

I didn't get his name but he said he lives at the Blackbourne.

His kindness without hesitation in these unprecedented times was outstanding.

Thank you so very much".

*Chris Jackson*

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## ELMSWELL OVER 55'S CLUB

By now along with me I assume that most of the members have had to spend the last thirteen weeks in lockdown but whilst writing this note for the newsletter it has just been confirmed that we may be allowed out by the end of the month to visit the "Coop". I am waiting to hear from Boris on Tuesday 23rd if we can get back to a more normal way of life.

With the club we currently have every thing on hold which is all to do with social distancing. It is impossible to meet as it would be very difficult to set the hall out to allow social distancing be it 1 metre or 2metres.

The trip to the Tynedale is leaving Elmswell on Tuesday March 16th 2021 ,for those of you who checked your next years diary you would have seen that the date was wrong in last months newsletter.

The committee and I would like to congratulate Alan & Sally Goymer on their Golden Wedding which took place on June 28th I had arranged a knees up at the club but it also fell victim of the lockdown.

All of you keep safe keep alert and look after yourselves and your neighbours.

Diann (241002)

## ELMSWELL EXCHANGE AFTERNOON W.I.

We all seem to be well and most of us wondering when we will be able to meet as a group once again. The general consensus is probably next year if we are lucky. It's all questions at present. Will we be back at The Wesley or still at the Blackbourne. How will we social distance? What will happen with refreshments and will we have to bring our own? None have definitive answers at present.

However, some of our members have been regenerating their creative genes to fill the gaps left by absent friends.

Carol has been baking for England and "walking for the W.I." All manner of treats have been coming out of the Blissett kitchen and then delivered to the doors of folk she knows are unable to get out. As for the walking -



the most wonderful knitted hedgehogs. We love these and being an absolute softy for cuddly, furry things these are a winner for me.



The W.I. Hive comes digitally to me fortnightly and is forwarded to members in the same way. However, we have at least a dozen members who do not have internet facilities so these are printed out by me and then delivered by Carol. A fair amount of miles covered I can assure you. That's dedication!

Lesley, our Super Sewer (and knitter) has been producing very colourful face masks and best of all,



Sylvia has retrieved her paints and brushes from the cupboards and is now creating the most beautiful greetings cards. The lucky recipients of these have something to treasure for always.

Me! Well I am spending more time in my much loved garden and have developed an interest in silly games. I have discovered online patience, a quality well worth honing. Also a fascinating time filler called "Stack the Cat."!!!

Keep smiling everyone and keep safe.

Maureen Davis

## MICHELE RUSSELL - ARTIST IN STAINED GLASS

One of the few benefits of the recent lockdown was the revelation that Wetherden Road is home to a studio producing beautiful stained glass art created by Michele Russell whose work with leaded and foiled stained glass pieces benefitted from time spent with Viking Stained Glass in Needham Market. Some 5 years ago Michelle and John moved to Elmswell where the garage became a studio for what was then a hobby but which is now, as Churchhouse Stained Glass, a feature of local craft markets and fairs including Elmswell's own ElmsWild Apple Days, & ElmsFest as well as the Bury Christmas Market.

**Michele can be contacted via Facebook,  
on 07713 445 129 and via johnr1949@gmail.com.**



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### ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

Due to the continuing Covid-19 situation, our July outing has been cancelled, but the committee hopes to be able to convene in August to discuss and decide what our next steps will be. Meanwhile, we hope you will all keep safe and healthy over the summer, and we look forward to meeting again together in the Autumn.

Meanwhile, after seeing David Kerr's request for information in April's newsletter about the Pye family, a lifelong Elmswell resident now living in Miller Close, Annette Finte (née Hassall) has given us a few more details. She was born in Old Bank House in Station Road which was owned at that time by Miss Ruby Pye, the house having been purchased for £700 - certainly not what her parents could have afforded at that time.

Annette writes:-

*"I was born in Old Bank House\*, the Tuesday after the May Bank Holiday in 1940. The Germans had over-run France and Holland, and invasion was imminent.*

*The Pye family lived in Mitford House next door. I think Robert must have moved out and left Ruby in the house. Old Bank House was owned by a Mr Underwood, who offered it to my mother for £700, a fortune in those days. Miss Pye bought Old Bank House because it had a driveway next to her house. She immediately fenced it in so it belonged to her house.*

*I remember going to her office in the Station Yard and paying 7 shillings rent, which could have been for a month! When our home needed repairs for a leaky roof, she did not like having to spend money on it; she made Mr Joe Meakins, the timber lorry driver, do the repairs.*

*Miss Pye had a Downs Syndrome brother called Tommy who lived with her. She smoked and when she ran out of cigarettes in the evening, she sent him round to see if my dad would sell her some. If this was not possible, Tommy would get in such a temper that we were frightened of him.*

*I remember the Timber Yard just beyond the station - we used to play on the logs. I remember the day it caught fire, probably a spark from a steam train.*

*I cannot remember what happened to Ruby and Tommy eventually.*

*(\*Old Bank House was divided into three; we only lived in the middle part.)"*

**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.**

## Old Bank House (The)

House, early C16. 2 storeys with attics. 3-cell cross-entry plan. Timber-framed and plastered: C19 herringbone parquetry. The 1st floor is long-wall jettied along the frontage; most framing concealed but some chamfered brackets and shafts with moulded capitals are visible beneath the jetty, plaited roof: an early C17 axial chimney of red brick with 4 moulded octagonal shafts. A second similar chimney, internal to the left hand gable. Both chimneys have shafts rebuilt in C19. Late C19 small-pane 3-light casements, those at ground storey with transoms. Doorway at cross-entry position: C17 12-panelled oak door, or possibly a C19 copy. Interior not examined: the house probably has good C16 features.



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## CLUBS & SOCIETIES

### ELMSWELL GARDEN CLUB



The summer solstice, longest day of 2020 fell on Saturday, June 20th. The sun rose at 4.43am and set at 9.21pm and we enjoyed 16 hours and 38 minutes of daylight. Maybe you had a chance to sit for longer enjoying the evening sun, planning for summer days in the great outdoors. A study analysing 2 million Twitter users found that positive messages are sent more frequently when days were longer. A combination of good weather, anticipation of good things to come and the ability to get more done does lean toward the conclusion that the levels of happiness are relatively higher during the summer.

Visiting gardens are a source of great pleasure to many at this time of the year. We are however living through times of restrictions, but gardens are beginning to open their gates for people to enjoy the beauty and space within. The National Trust have a car parking booking system in place and other gardens are advertising opening times on the internet. Visitors will need to abide by strict safety rules and booking ahead is advisable to ensure you are able to enjoy your visit. Now more than ever is the time to get outside.

Elmswell Garden Club will be back soon to run our evening sessions. July is the perfect time to sit outside and enjoy the garden in the cool of the evening air with something refreshing to sip as you relax at the end of the day. Enjoy this wonderful time of the year.

**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](mailto:elmswellgardenclub@gmail.com) and a good way of asking a question that will be swiftly answered.**

## AROUND & ABOUT

### ON POINT BARBERS

One of the talking points in among the social chaos of lockdown has been hair.

Without access to a professional trim many familiar heads and faces have slowly gained growth which has sometimes enhanced and sometimes changed dramatically the persona of the individual.

As this era, for the moment ends another begins – and doubly so for Elmswell where 18 year old Oli Norman is set to open On Point Barbers...bookings opened on 4th July.

Oli studied his craft at Suffolk College and hands-on at Mr Barbers in Bury St Edmunds during which time he was successful in barbering competitions and appeared on stage at the prestigious Salon International barbering showcase event at London's ExCeL.

The shop is above Wells Stitched Embroidery at the entrance to the Station Road Industrial Estate behind The Fox. Alan Wells has been instrumental in helping to have the enterprise up and running, as has Steve Norman, Oli's Dad, who trades next door as a furniture restorer. The shop is fully Covid-proofed ...see it on the website (curated by Dan Cole at [dancolemedia.com](http://dancolemedia.com)).

**Oli and his colleague Connor will both be cutting on Mondays, Tuesday & Fridays from 9 – 6, on Thursdays 9 – 8 and on Saturdays 8 – 4. Book via [Opbarbers.com](http://Opbarbers.com) or call Oli on: 07928 599412 - and do try Instagram @opbarbers\_**



In last month's newsletter, we announced the sad news that ElmsFest has been cancelled this year and that there are no plans to bring it back next year, or for the foreseeable future, unless somebody new steps up to the task of organising the fete.

This news has meant that we are left with a surplus of funds in the bank, which the committee feel should be donated to local good causes supporting COVID-19 in our community. We have been talking to various possible sources for the funds behind the scenes, a few of which we are still awaiting a response. But there is still money available for other good causes, so if you or somebody you know is making a difference in our community to support those suffering from the Coronavirus and needs financial help, please be in touch by emailing [bookings@elmsfest.info](mailto:bookings@elmsfest.info) or call/text 07544762448. We will aim to respond to all requests as soon as possible, with final details published in next month's newsletter on all of the causes which we have supported.

**Chris, Brittany, Mike & Sol.**

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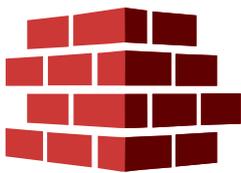
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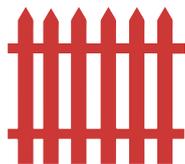
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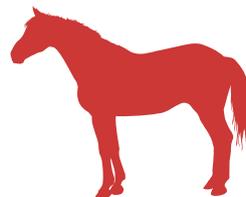
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## COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

Many of our local services stayed open during lockdown and continued to help preserve a little normality while the rest of the country went mad...one such being the Mace shop on Station Road. Regardless of the extra efforts required to stay safe, still open at 5.30 am every day and offering an amazing range of necessities from pinot grigio to paintbrushes. Stephen is seen here receiving a Thank You card from Terry 'Turbo'- one of the without-fail daily regulars who have enjoyed uninterrupted excellent service throughout recent difficult times. Just one of several tokens of customers' appreciation of the Mace team's efforts.



## ELMSWELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Hello Elmswell,

We're opening again!

We look forward to welcoming you back to the library from 7th July albeit with slightly changed opening hours. Our July opening hours will be Tuesday 11am – 1pm and 3pm – 6pm, Wednesday 3pm – 5pm, Thursday 11am – 1pm, Friday 3pm – 5pm, Saturday 11am – 1pm and Sunday 11am – 3pm.

We will not be open in July for browsing or computer services. We will be doing a Select & Collect service. You will need to contact us with what you would like and we will have books ready for you the next day. We will only have the books currently at Elmswell available.

If you would like books or DVDs please call us at between 10am and 11am Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday or Sunday or between 2pm and 3pm on Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday to let us know or email [elmswell.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk](mailto:elmswell.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk).

To help us to put together a selection of books we hope you would enjoy, it is helpful if you have searched online for books that we have in the library and have a list of ones you would like. You can search books at Elmswell at <https://suffolk.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ>

If you do not have access to the internet then let us know a few authors you would like us to look for. We can use authors you like to find other similar authors.

We will try our best to find books for you to meet your needs.

As with other shops, customers will need to queue outside until asked in by the library assistant. In most cases only one adult will be allowed into the library at once. We are happy to welcome children too but please consider if all children from one household need to come in at once. You will be directed where to return books and then where to wait so 2m can be maintained while we get your books.

Something else which has changed this year is The Summer Reading Challenge which has gone online for this year. You can sign up at <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>.

The Reading Agency has put in a lot of effort to make a site where you can find book suggestions with the book sorter, listen to celebrities talking about their favourite children's books, say what you think about the books you are reading, play games and explore a range of activities.

We hope that you enjoy having a physical library book to read again although the eLibrary will still be there if you are unable to make it to the library or enjoy the digital ebooks and audiobooks.

See you soon,

### What's on at Elmswell Library?

#### Baby Bounce

There will be a Baby Bounce post 11am every Tuesday.

#### 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.

### July opening times

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	11am – 1pm, 3pm – 6pm
Wednesday	3pm – 5pm
Thursday	11am – 1pm
Friday	3pm – 5pm
Saturday	11am – 1pm
Sunday	11am – 3pm



*Miles*

# STREET FARM DAY NURSERY



Here at Street Farm, we are pleased to welcome many of our parents and children back into the nursery. Having reopened on Monday 8th June 2020, it was lovely to see the children respond so well to the changes that we introduced in line with the government guidelines.

Whilst the nursery seems very normal to the children, it has given significant challenges to the staff who have risen to this and created bespoke bubbles making returning to nursery fun and exciting.

The staff have all been true professionals and are a credit to the company. Their role has been instrumental in providing a vital service supporting parents and carers in returning to work. We are now in the process of welcoming back our second phase of children and would like to thank our parents for their cooperation and support in allowing us to be flexible with sessions which has enabled more children to access the nursery whilst still maintaining lower occupancy levels.

If you are interested in joining the nursery we are now taking bookings for both funded and non-funded children, places are limited. Please register your

interest as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

If you would like to visit our wonderful setting please contact the nursery on 01359 245999, we are now offering visits in the evenings and weekends to allow for social distancing during these unprecedented times.



*'Encouraging young minds to reach their full potential'*

Now booking funded sessions for September, if your child is 3 or 4 years of age and entitled to 15 or 30 funded hours, please register your interest as soon as possible. Spaces are limited.

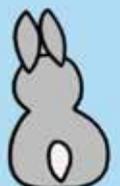
We are now offering personal visits to our award winning nursery in the evenings and weekends.

Tel: 01359 245999

[www.streetfarmdaynursery.co.uk](http://www.streetfarmdaynursery.co.uk)

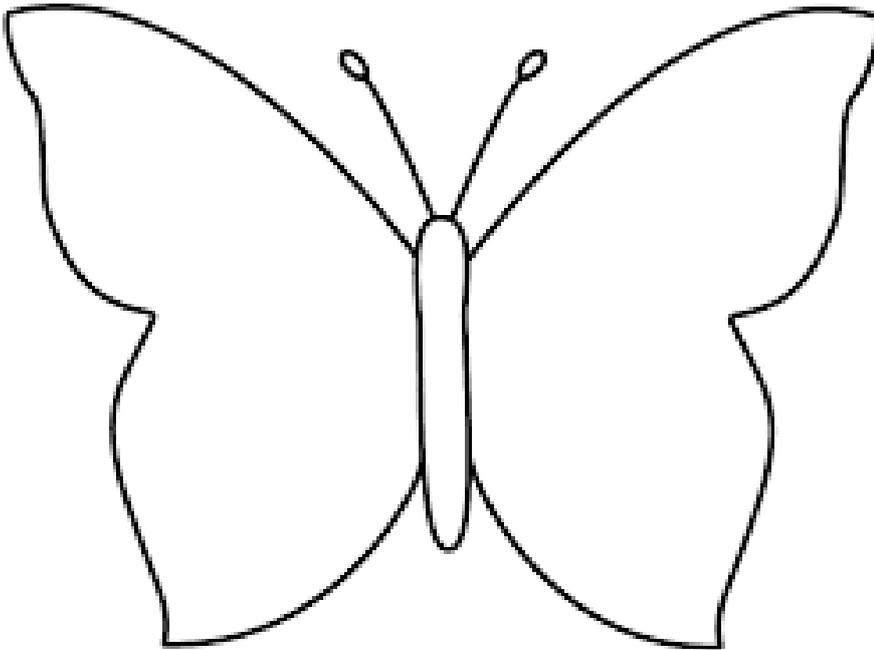
[clarestreetfarm@aol.com](mailto:clarestreetfarm@aol.com)

Street Farm Day Nursery, Station Road, Elmswell, IP309HD





**Can you design me some wings?  
Let's try and use some symmetry!**



# MINIBEAST WORDSEARCH



m	s	b	e	e	t	l	e	i	s	b	f	a	o
i	x	m	d	h	e	s	n	y	d	o	u	s	x
n	m	h	a	n	t	p	b	p	r	d	j	f	c
i	r	e	r	m	v	i	r	s	i	y	e	a	d
b	o	a	d	b	u	d	o	a	b	f	s	b	k
e	w	d	x	e	a	e	b	w	y	g	u	q	a
a	l	b	c	e	t	r	i	n	d	s	o	w	n
s	g	f	l	y	q	e	q	c	a	d	l	t	s
t	a	c	z	m	o	t	h	v	l	y	d	r	x
k	w	l	e	g	s	a	p	j	u	h	o	h	m
w	b	u	t	t	e	r	f	l	y	z	o	s	l
o	l	f	i	n	s	e	c	t	p	k	w	i	j



## DIY Bug Hotel!

**Why not make your very own bug hotel for your garden!**

**You will need:**

- One cardboard box
- Multiple cardboard tubes
- Natural findings e.g. leaves, sticks, stones, mud, sand, flowers.

**How to make it:**

1. Lay your box down, and fill it with all of your cardboard tubes! Squeeze them together so they stay super still!
2. Fill each tube with different natural objects for the insects
3. Place your bug hotel in the garden, and check daily to see what insects have come to stay!



**Here are the words to find:**

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| ant       | minibeast |
| bee       | moth      |
| beetle    | wasp      |
| body      | worm      |
| butterfly | woodlouse |
| fly       | head      |
| insect    | ladybird  |
| legs      | spider    |

**This page sponsored by**





## 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 "normality" will return at St John's, or what that might look like, but here's your update for the immediate future:

### What's Open in July?

- **The Church Porch is open everyday from 10:00am – 4:00pm.** In there you'll find a book/magazine exchange (please come help yourself to some new reading material).
- **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! We have been praying diligently throughout this pandemic and we are encouraged to see real answers to prayer here, in Elmswell, and further afield.
- **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](http://www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk). You can also light a virtual candle.

### What's Online in July?

- **Services!** Our main Sunday service at 10:30am and starts with an "all age" address and song, followed by prayers, a message and songs. Night Prayer is streamed on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:00pm. Services can be accessed via Facebook, YouTube and our dial in (details on our website).
- **Bible study groups** - meet via Zoom on Wednesdays

- **Prayer** - The weekly prayer meeting is at 9:00am on Zoom on Saturday. Our virtual prayer wall - please do take a look and post any prayers online at <http://www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk/PrayerWallDisplay.php>
- **Socials! Coffee and Chat at 10:30am on Zoom** – pop the kettle on and settle down for a catch up.

### What might you have missed?

- **Songs of Praise.** Did you manage to watch our Songs of Praise - Elmswell? Oh it was such a great project to be involved with! If you haven't managed to catch it yet, please look it up "on demand" on Facebook/YouTube (feel free to email us if you need the link!) We had help from a Bafta award winning television engineer, kindly donated drone footage of our church and many many photos and stories from the people of Elmswell! We chose to celebrate the goodness, generosity and compassion of people volunteering and working throughout the lockdown. You'll find interviews, testimonials and, unsurprisingly, songs of praise! Please check it out and try spot anyone or any places you know...
- **Local Food bank.** The St John's / Elmswell Virus Support Group temporary food bank is up and running. This food is to be used - if you or anyone you know needs any assistance with food provision at all, please contact us. We don't want to see this provision go to waste.
- **Questions about Christianity?** Our website now contains some new short videos tackling some common questions people have about Jesus and Christianity. Curious? Please take a look :)

**Rector: Peter Goodridge 01359 240512**

**Email: [elmswellrector@gmail.com](mailto:elmswellrector@gmail.com)**

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

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

**YouTube: (access via our home page)**



## 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 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 SPONSORSHIPS

- 2 in memory of Betty Peachey.
- 5 in loving memory of Ivy Millicent Elliston.
- 20 in memory of Reginald Bloomfield.
- 20 remembering Mum & Dad, Margery and Tony Bendall, on their Birthdays. "Missed so much". Love from all the family.
- 21 in loving memory of my husband William Clark (Bill), on his Birthday.
- 22 in loving memory of Kathleen Holland on the 4th anniversary of her passing. Keith, Jane & Ian.
- 23 in loving memory of Thomas Clover.
- 26 to remember and thank all those past Elmswell Fire- Fighters who served their village and community so well.



27 Kathleen Holland.  
 Treasured memories of our dear Mum on her Birthday.  
 "Always in our thoughts".  
 Love Keith, Jane & Ian.

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

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



## ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

I am writing this newsletter offering on the day that the media is speculating that our Prime Minister is going to announce the lifting of some of the social distancing rules and

the restrictions that have kept the hospitality industry closed I just hope that any decisions made will have a sound scientific basis and not just on purely economic grounds.

I have not watched the daily briefings from Number Ten every day but heard the figures recently on a news broadcast of the number of people who sadly have succumbed to this awful virus over forty two thousand in the UK alone more than one and a halftimes the capacity of Ipswich Town's Portman Road Stadium.

Our thoughts and prayers must go out to all the folk who have lost loved ones to the Covid 19 Pandemic, and give thanks for all the people who have recovered from the illness and are back with their families.

We have been holding a Sunday service on Zoom for those of us with the digital facilities to participate for the last few weeks and Tony our secretary has been sending others in our fellowship a DIY service sheet that they can follow at their leisure, all in an effort to maintain a connection with each other, hopefully we will soon be able to meet at our church for services together.

Our planned services for July were to be led by:

5th July	Carole Almond
12th July	Stephen Spurgeon
19th July	Stephen Horrex
26th July	Rev Rodney Sawtell
2nd August	Ann Rudland

Some of these speakers may possibly contribute to our zoom services.

At present we are hoping that our Ladies Friendship Group and Food & Friends lunches will start again in September and that our planned Harvest Barn Dance in October will happen, but all three events depend on a relaxation of the government's restrictions taking place.

In the mean time on behalf of all in our fellowship at the Baptist Church I would like to wish you all well for the coming weeks stay safe and follow the guidelines.

If you would like to join us in our zoom services contact Tony on 01359241541 for the necessary codes etc. Our website [www.elmswellbaptist.org.uk](http://www.elmswellbaptist.org.uk) has all the information about us.

**Stay safe  
 Dave Hollings**

## SID THE SNAKE IS MOVING...

Over 500 cleverly and carefully decorated stones have been added to Sid on Crown Mill and he is to be found a more permanent location at Blackbourne... see the July magazine for Sid settled in his new home.



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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Great news to start this month's editorial- the SIL have releases the 2020/21 constitution & our first team, on merit, have been promoted to D2 .

Although the season was cut short, sitting in second at the time the football was halted was enough to gain promotion up a division. It's great news for the club , the squad & also the two managers William & Jed who set their stall out pre season, encouraged a few players to join the squad , & indeed gain the promotion we all played for. Well done fellas, perhaps we can do it again .

Secondly, Suffolk FA have announced our 2019/20 junior cup semi final can still proceed as a pre season fixture, although the final may not now be played at Portman Road, it would still be a great achievement should we win through to play in the final.

Our first Sponsor for 2020/21 season, UK POWER have kindly supported the club with a generous donation that will go towards providing the squad with new training tops- it's a massive boost as in these times it is even harder to keep all amateur sports clubs financially stable - thank you

That said, pre season training (respecting social distancing rules) has started - every Tuesday & every Thursday 6:30pm at Grove Lane . All players, old & new are welcome

With pre season upon us, the close season administration has also begun - club AGM will be early July in some format to abide by social distancing & the registration with the league & Suffolk FA has started. We will be running a first & reserve team 2020/21 season, playing Saturday at the Blackbourne sports fields.

It's not cheap running a club on a shoestring, we are always looking and very appreciative to any sponsorship to help support our club - everything from a football , first aid , or even advertising your business / services on our monthly double club page in the Elmswell News Letter , all helps the club survive whilst promoting your business to over 2000 local addresses .

If you would like to discuss sponsorship or indeed, Have questions any part of our club, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Players are always welcome, however new members to our committee are also welcome. We are seeking a NEW TREASURER, if you have a skill set that you feel would enhance our club through the exciting times ahead, please drop me an email so we can discuss in confidence- our AGM will be start of July so please email me ASAP to register your interest

Shaun Pratt - 07494 864 231  
[shaun.pratt@btinternet.com](mailto:shaun.pratt@btinternet.com)  
Elmswell FC Chairman

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# NEWS FROM ELMSWILD



## The 'Drunken Lad' finally falls over

The black poplar is one of our rarest native trees. There are thought to be fewer than 8,000 mature specimens in Britain, with a stronghold of about 430 in Suffolk. It has disappeared from the landscape because its natural habitat of flooded winter meadows has been lost due to drainage, building and the canalisation of rivers.

We are fortunate that Lukeswood is home to a lovely group of these rare trees, set around the pond. Black poplars naturally lean and often fall over, but sometimes grow again from the trunk. In our group two were leaning, one supporting the other, with two more 'phoenix' trees which fell years ago and are now regenerating horizontally. We dubbed them the 'Drunken Lads', as they looked like a group returning from the pub somewhat the worse for wear, hanging onto each other for support (and two already lying down for a snooze).



And they are all lads; female black poplars are even rarer than their male counterparts, and we know that ours are all males.

When we first bought Lukeswood a decade ago and were able to get a good look at the trees, we discovered that the largest tree as well as leaning over itself and supporting its neighbour, was infested with a large fungus, *Rigidoporus*, which had begun to eat into the heartwood. Its days were numbered, but we hoped that by carrying out some drastic pollarding to reduce the weight of the canopy it would last for a few years longer.

Now the Drunken Lad has joined his mates on the ground. One day last month it came crashing down, not in a storm or gale as we had expected, but just by the force of gravity – the canopy in full Maytime leaf outweighed the weakened heartwood of the trunk, and down it came.

It certainly leaves a gap and has altered the landscape of Lukeswood. Fortunately, having anticipated such an event some years ago, we had enclosed the whole poplar area with a fence, and the tree fell (almost!) within the enclosed area. We're very grateful to Wayne and Craig Jarvis for coming to inspect the trees so promptly and

making everything safe. We'll leave the tree where it fell. It might possibly grow again from the trunk, but even if it doesn't it will provide homes for all sorts of wildlife. It may have fallen over, but it's just entering a new and different phase of its life. Our photos show the Drunken Lad at different stages over the last ten years – in full majestic canopy, after pollarding, and now on the ground.





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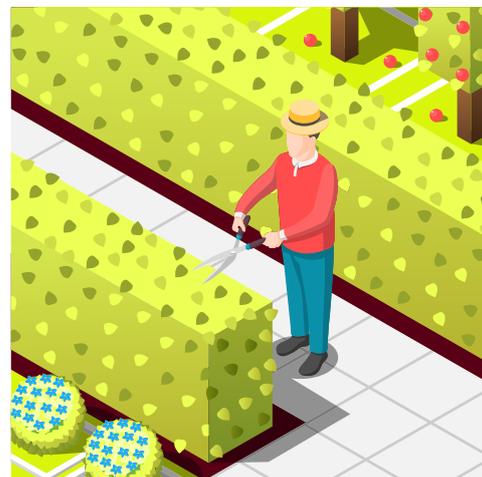


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## THANK YOU

To the households who have kept the pavement outside their property clear of overgrown hedges...

*...the less-nimble elderly, those in wheel chairs and parents with baby buggies appreciate a full width for safe walking.*

## PLEASE

Check that your hedge, if it borders the footway, is trimmed back to allow safe and convenient passage.



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NEWS FROM ELMSWILD continued



Grenville wins the Suffolk Medal



Last month brought the welcome news that our good friend Grenville Clarke has been awarded the Suffolk Medal for 2020. Grenville was one of the founder members of the Green Light Trust (GLT), the Suffolk charity that has done so much to promote and support community woodlands here in the county and beyond. Nearly twenty years ago Grenville came to Elmswell to ask if we would like to have a woodland of our own here in the village. Being such a persuasive and charming presenter, he very quickly convinced us that this would be a very good idea indeed! That

first meeting marked the beginning of many years of help and friendship from Grenville and the GLT as we grew from a small aspiring group to what we are today, with TWO community wildspaces as well as many other projects up and running in the village. Several years ago Grenville was diagnosed with motor neurone disease, but he has continued to work tirelessly to bring people together with nature. Without his help and encouragement we wouldn't have our beautiful Lukeswood, which is proving to be such a wonderful place of recreation and solace to people, especially in the difficult circumstances we face today. Grenville has been a great friend both to ElmsWild and to Elmswell, so I'm sure that Newsletter readers will join us in sending our heartfelt congratulations to him on this very well-deserved award. Our pictures show Grenville on some of his many visits to Elmswell – signing our very first agreement with the GLT in the library, at a GLT community woodland seminar at the Blackbourne,

and demonstrating tree planting to children from Elmswell Primary School. Many children will have learnt that skill from Grenville over the years, and I'm sure that our children (now grown up) will still remember tree planting at Kiln Meadow and Lukeswood. It's a skill that stays with you for life.

Mary Feeney  
info@elmswild.org.uk



New ElmsWild blog

**We've started a new online blog!** You can get all the news about our activities and the latest sightings at Lukeswood and Kiln Meadow by visiting [www.elmswild.blogspot.com](http://www.elmswild.blogspot.com) or just google 'Elmswild blog'. You can also subscribe for email updates to keep bang up to date with all the exciting wildlife here in our local patch. There's also a facility for leaving comments, so please tell us about anything interesting that you've seen and found.

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# Rainbow Windows

In our May magazine, we offered cash prizes to be donated to Coronavirus-related charities chose by the winners of a competition to find the 4 best rainbow decorated windows designed to cheer us up during lockdown and to express support for the NHS and other front-line workers battling on our behalf against the spread of the disease.

Our thanks to all who entered and to everyone who took the time and trouble to brighten up Elmswell over the past few very trying months.

## THE 4 WINNERS ARE:



*Frances Hall*

who asked that her £25.00 prize go to the My WiSH Charity at West Suffolk Hospital



*Milo, aged 4,*

poster is a clear winner with this poster for the window. He has nominated Banham Zoo as his charitable cause as he knows that both the animals and staff there will have had a hard time during lockdown.



From her studio in Wetherden Road, which we feature elsewhere in this month's magazine,

*Michele Russell*

produced this stained glass tribute and has suggested that West Suffolk Hospital should benefit from her prize through My WiSH.



*Matilda and Edward*

worked together on this clever mirror-image for 2 windows...they would like their £25.00 prize to go to Suffolk Age UK who are under pressure to help older people handle the pressures of the pandemic.



## ELMSWELL FOX BOWLS CLUB

We managed to devise a system by which we could play bowls, of a sort, whilst conforming to the Governments slightly eased Lockdown rules. Singles on alternate rinks were the order of the day which meant that our 40 metre-square green could accommodate 6 players only. That's 266.6 recurring square metres per bowler which, by any standard, sounds like a lot of space. Fair enough, we would have taken anything at that stage having been unable to play at all up to that point. The rules have been eased again allowing us to play doubles as we play pairs games with two 'Leads' at one end and 2 'Skips' at the other, doubling our safe capacity up to twelve. Matches are extremely popular but informal 'roll-ups' much less so and, therefore, we have never had to turn anyone away thus far. The polar opposite of going to the Health Centre, straight in and straight on!



The weather has been, shall we say, challenging of late. Such a prolonged spell of dry weather with enough wind to make sure that the green suffered to the greatest possible degree until the rain came to our rescue, but not before we spent a King's Ransom on water to keep it alive. The good weather, by the way, is a direct consequence of the Covid 19 outbreak. You didn't know that? Well, here's why. Without the virus there would have been no Lockdown. Without Lockdown there would be no bowls ban and leagues would have run normally. No bowls season has ever started with anything but cold, wet and windy weather, ever! Find any bowler and ask and if you are still not convinced, just watch next year! Bowlers will be nodding in sad confirmation, I swear.



I believe there will soon be a further relaxing of the rules and our safe capacity will rise again so this might be the time to remind you all that this is your green, not ours, and all Elmswell residents are entitled to use it. We would truly welcome anyone to take up the offer and happily give advice to those who need it. All you need is flat-soled shoes to play in and we will find the rest. Come on, you've been cooped up far too long. Give it a go. Just call the number below to make sure you don't clash with a work party and we will get you sorted.

We have some photos of bowls under Lockdown for you but, honestly, they don't look that much different from normal times because teams are split, with some at each end, anyway. Peter W, Peter F ( yes, we have discussed running a team of Peters this year), Neil and Ray are doing their Covid-compliant best for the camera. Thanks guys.

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

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# PARISH COUNCIL JUNE 2020 MEETING REPORT

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 within those meetings.

With the usual venue at Blackbourne closed, the Parish Council met, for the second time, using the Zoom internet video conferencing facility for its scheduled June meeting. It 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.

9 Councillors attended along with Suffolk County Council Ward member Cllr Jane Storey, Mid Suffolk District Council Ward Member Cllr Dr Helen Geake and 6 members 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](http://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 16<sup>th</sup> May, 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/19/05924](#)

Non material amendment – change roof on extension at Ten-Ten, Kiln Lane  
Approved

[DC/20/01756](#)

Extension...at 27 Orchard Close  
Granted EPC supported

[DC/20/01721](#)

Rear shed/garage... converted to residential at Wistaria, New Road  
Granted EPC supported

## 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/20/019 for the erection of 1 dwelling and associated parking, following demolition of a garage, an amended amended scheme to that approved under DC/19/00322 on land adjacent to Marlborough in Cross Street.

Objections were raised to the other Applications on the agenda as follows:

[DC/20/01999](#) Demolition of existing structures and erection of 1No. single storey dwellinghouse [Land North of Dagwood Farm, Ashfield Road](#)

Councillors objected to this application for the following reasons:

The Settlement Boundary, as defined in the Local Plan, now has behind it the empowering factor of an accepted 5 year housing land supply. The site is in the countryside outside of the Settlement Boundary within which new development will properly take place. Further, the site is not identified in the emerging joint Local Plan as suitable

for development.

With regard to the strong policy imperatives aimed at protecting the existing character and appearance of the countryside, this proposal offers no justification for exceptional treatment and does not present a case for special consideration under categories identified and defined in the Local Plan, the Core Strategy or the National Planning Policy Framework. The current burden of development with extant Permission amounts to a 37% uplift in housing stock imposed on a community already suffering from poor infrastructure provision, in particular regarding education and highways. There are not sufficient material benefits to justify the extra dwelling as proposed.

Furthermore, the emerging Joint Local Plan has it, at LP24, that development should 'Respond and safeguard the existing character and context', and that, 'Development that fails to improve the quality and character of the area will not be supported.' This ad hoc, opportunistic off-Plan proposal clearly fails on both of these counts. If granted, it would erode the rural and historical setting and breach the current building line boundary presented by the existing farm track and represents an incursion into an adjacent holding which would make further creep of development difficult to resist.

The buildings to be demolished have a close functional relationship to the original farm, of which Grade II Listed Building, Dagwood Farmhouse remains. As vernacular features they are part of the farming context which would be lost should this Application succeed. Their replacement with yet another pastiche rural dwelling would be to deny the village an element of

its heritage and clearly detract from the setting of the farmhouse from which upper storeys it would be clearly visible. Further, the result would be detrimental to the wider setting of the medieval Bottenhaugh Green edge development dwellings at Oak Farmhouse, Mulberry Farmhouse & Willow Farmhouse.

In reaching these conclusions, Councillors had reference to Local Plan policies SB1 & H7, Core Strategy Policies CS1 & CS2, National Planning Policy Framework para.55 and to the emerging BMSDC Joint Local Plan.

[DC/20/02014](#) Application for Outline Planning Permission (some matters reserved, access to be considered). Erection of 1No. single storey dwelling using existing access and creation of new access to existing dwelling. [Amberlea, Warren Lane](#)  
Councillors objected to this application for the following reasons:

- 1 The introduction of a new access on to Warren Lane at this point poses a significant additional hazard. The highway narrows and bends so as to limit visibility and presents problems when 2 vehicles pass. There is no justification for making a less than satisfactory situation worse.
- 2 The proposed access passes close to and parallel with the north elevation of the host dwelling in which there are 6 windows and a half-glazed door. Traffic using this access would pass close to and be very visible from Amberlea to the serious detriment of the amenity of that dwelling.
- 3 The result of this proposal would be cramped and would present a contrived relationship to the surroundings. It would patently fail the test of maintaining or enhancing the character of the surroundings.



4 In the current context of development in Elmswell, there is no social or economic benefit to be derived from yet another dwelling and, given the clear drawbacks as outlined, no reason to grant Permission for this Proposal.

DC/18/02146 Erection of up to 86 dwellings including car parking, early years provision, open space provision with associated infrastructure and vehicular access Land to the North and West of School Road

Councillors' objections were summarised and detailed as follows:

- 1 The proposal is unsustainable in terms of highways infrastructure.
- 2 The proposal is unsustainable in terms of education provision.
- 3 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.
- 4 The proposal is for a housing density which is out of keeping with the local norm.
- 5 The proposal should, properly, be subject to a Strategic Planning assessment and time allowed for the emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan to be brought forward.

**1 Highways provision**

1.1 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 adding to the impact of the recent permissions in the village for 60 dwellings at Borley Crescent, 240 dwellings at Wetherden Road, and 106 dwellings at Ashfield Road and as the 190 dwellings at the Bacon Factory site are built-out. The mitigation suggested by the Applicant comprises:

- (a) The removal of the built-out traffic calming sweep into School Road from Church Hill. This safety measure was installed, after much public pressure, to slow traffic on this bend. It also affords some protection in terms of noise, vibration, air quality and visual intrusion to the adjacent Grade II Listed almshouses. The inevitable speed increase encouraged by the removal of this reverse curve traffic calming feature creates further dangers for vehicles attending at the almshouses or at St John's Church;
- (b) A mention of the widening of School Road with no dimensions shown and no suggestion as to how to maintain any wider carriageway through the pinch point where the abutment accommodates the

curtilages of Church Mount & St Lucy; (c) An apparent pedestrian crossing over School Road where users approaching St John's Church have no sightline to the traffic approaching the junction.

1.2 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.

1.3 6 months' data from the Elmswell Community Speed Watch Group, as lodged with Suffolk Police, shows 4,000 vehicles per day travelling into the village up Church Hill. Over half (51.8%) are exceeding the speed limit. Half of these vehicles, 26.78% of the total, are travelling above 40mph at this point. There is a clear risk to road safety in removing the speed constraint at the junction

1.4 No account is taken of the daily access requirements, both in and out of the village, of the extraordinarily large rear-steer HGV trailers operated from Grove Lane and having no alternative route to A14. The current voluntary one-way HGV routing goes some way to addressing the inevitable problems presented which are exacerbated by the through-routing of HGV traffic consequent upon the weight restriction on A1088. This Proposal can only make a stressed situation worse.

1.5 The Parish Council's own commissioned traffic surveys, conducted by Waterman Infrastructure & Environment Ltd as recently as July 2018 and lodged with the Planning Authority, demonstrates an overestimation on the part of the Applicant with regard to the Church Road / School Road junction capacity resulting from their reliance on LinSig modelling rather than the more realistic assessments derived from the TRL approved PICADY software.

1.6 The single access point into the estate in the proximity of the sharp

bend and almost opposite the access to the Old Schools Court development poses a significant traffic hazard.

**2 Education provision**

The proposal would, as confirmed by the SCC Strategic Development submission, produce demand for primary school places in excess of the capacity of Elmswell Primary School, even allowing that the school is expanded in the meantime to a 420-place site. Similarly, the existing deficit in pre-school places in the Elmswell / Norton Ward has not been addressed. Recent Planning decisions at Woolpit, as yet not signed off, suggest that the pupils from this and other ad hoc developments in Elmswell will be expected to add further to the traffic problems by travelling to a new primary school in Woolpit. This is not how the residents of Elmswell would wish to see their children's education provided. Secondary schooling provision along the A14 corridor is, a rapidly emerging quandary that has not been addressed

**3 Relief Road**

The clearly 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.

**4 Density**

There are 85 dwellings proposed at a density of 32 per hectare. The village's emerging Neighbourhood Plan is seeking to require an upper limit of 25dph. The recently granted development at Wetherden Road allowed 240 dwellings at under 21 dph. Similarly the sites at Warren Lane and White House Farm are set at 20 and 26 dph respectively. This proposal would result in an uncharacteristically crowded site in a prominent location, as a 'gateway to the village', clearly at odds with the housing density across the village street scene.

**5 Strategic Planning**

Councillors did not have the benefit of a Design & Access Statement on this Proposal. The lack of any information regarding the site context and / or the Planning context as seen by the Developer makes a proper assessment of the proposals impossible. In the

absence of the perspective that might thus be offered, Councillors are at one with the County Council view that a development such as this should be part of a plan-led approach identifying the infrastructure requirements based on cumulative growth. There is no pressing need for the houses proposed here. Some 648 dwellings have recently been granted Planning Permission or are in the latter stages of that process in the village of Elmswell. Of these, some 100+ are already built-out on the redundant Grampian Harris site and are occupied with 5 more added each month. There is time to stop and consider the wider picture, and in particular the proposed Relief Road which is deliverable and which would remove the overriding problem of traffic which is blighting the community and which decisively counts against this particular proposal. Contrary to the Developer's contention that the Relief Road is not being progressed, the access to the Grampian Harris estate which is currently under construction was required, under Planning permission ref. 0846/13 – plan ref 947-02, to be designed and built to a specification which would satisfy the requirements of the future Relief Road.

The dominant and central theme to the NPPF is sustainability. Piecemeal proposals such as this which seek to ameliorate the serious problems, stresses and strains that they create by patching in unrealistic infrastructure solutions – such as suggesting that traffic find alternative routes – should be refused pending the imminent delivery of an Elmswell Neighbourhood Plan which will provide a community-led overview of reasonable and sustainable development to 2033.

In reaching these conclusions, Councillors had reference to; NPPF paragraphs 109, 110, 132, 134 Local Plan policies GP1, H13, H15, T1 & Core Strategy policy CS5

Mid Suffolk District Council Cllrs Sarah Mansel and Helen Geake tabled a joint written report confirming that:

- The 'Tree for Life' scheme has been relaunched. Parents of children born or adopted during 2020 can apply for a free tree to plant in their own garden or other suitable location. It is open to all families in Mid Suffolk who welcome a new arrival between 1 January and 31 December 2020, in addition to parents who may have lost a child during the same period to apply for a remembrance tree. The closing date for applications is 17 January 2021.
- MSDC has funds to support

organisations providing help to vulnerable residents. A Covid-19 Emerging Needs Grant was set up last month, ensuring much-needed funding could be provided to new and existing groups within communities and parish councils. Grants of up to £2,500 can be applied for to cover increased costs incurred as a result of the Coronavirus. There are details on line, or contact one of us.

- A new Discretionary Grant is now open for businesses based in shared offices or other flexible workspaces, market traders, bed and breakfasts and small charity properties. The value of the grants range between £2,500 - £5,000 and can only be claimed by businesses who have been unable to access any other grants. Details are on the MSDC website.
- Help is available from many different schemes so if you run a business or know someone who does and may not have applied, please get in touch with us or go to the MSDC website where there are details and an on-line application form.
- A new £300,000 funding programme for small businesses across Babergh and Mid Suffolk has been agreed - with funds to be allocated over the next three years. The aim is to help sustain and create jobs, provide opportunities to grow and innovate as well as react to the changing business landscape.

### Wesley

The Clerk included, in his Report to the Meeting, an update on the position at the Wesley project site on School Road where work continues with limitations as to the number of trades operating at any one time. Liaison with the contractor has allowed good progress in terms of the detailed external works and some internal fitting-out. The original pavements have all been sold within the village. There is still no firm date for completion as certain supply-chain issues remain. The outstanding major works are the installation of underfloor heating and over-screed to the chapel and the bespoke metal soffit to the front elevation. The extra work to provide an external door to the garden area currently shared with the Tavern is in hand and discussions have begun with the pub Landlord as to how this space can best be shared. The imminent resumption of monthly site meetings will soon allow an informed estimate towards a

practical completion date.

### Greene King site

The Clerk's Report included confirmation that Wayne Jarvis, retained as Council's preferred contractor for tree works, is to carry out the clearance works to the rear of the pub and to the site boundaries in liaison with the Tenant. The work includes the removal of the very overgrown leylandii to the rear of the proposed Wesley chapel garden area. Once cleared it is proposed that the main site will be fenced to prevent general access but with an area adjacent to the existing car park temporarily surfaced and retained to allow more parking which can service Wesley as and when needed and which might allow flexibility for accommodating more outdoor pub service as regulations allow.

### Extension to the Chamberlayne Hall at Blackbourne

The Meeting noted that discussions continue with the preferred contractor and the Council's retained architect towards agreeing a Contract for the expansion of storage and office space together with the provision of a Village Archive room at Blackbourne.

### Blackbourne closure

As a District Registered, 'Rest Centre', Blackbourne remains closed but kept ready for emergency community use at short notice. The Clerk confirmed that re-opened the youth shelter which it was proving difficult to keep closed, with suitable warning notices re distance, based on Government advice and best practice elsewhere. The bowls green is, as elsewhere, now accessible to members and I am working with them towards a safe modus operandi. The Caretaker remains furloughed, but the village warden is back at work covering some Blackbourne janitorial duties and having resumed weekly litter-pick walks around the village.

The office remains open all weekday mornings and afternoons as necessary. Otherwise full computer and telephone access is maintained by staff at home. An increasing number of requests are being received for notification of any staged re-opening after the current, tentatively proffered, relaxation date of 4<sup>th</sup> July.

### Speed restriction stickers

At the suggestion of a resident, the Clerk was asked to look into the cost and practicality of providing '30mph' restriction wheelie-bin stickers to be made available to households on the main routes through the village where speeding traffic is a constant hazard. The Meeting agreed to order 2,000



such stickers carrying the Council's name and village sign logo at a cost of £1,120.00 and that liaison be sought with the Elmswell Amenities Association towards the possibility of using their Newsletter delivery infrastructure and volunteers for distribution.

**Play area refurbishment**

Cllrs Mike Schofield and Sue Roots have worked with the Clerk to identify 3 suitable contractors for the removal of redundant equipment at the Blackbourne children's fenced play facility, its replacement with suitable new alternative installations and the resurfacing of the whole area. The Meeting agreed that delegated power be granted to this working group, plus

the Council Chairman, to choose the most suitable contractor and instruct the works for a price within the level of the funds currently available in the hypothecated s106 funds levied on development in the village.

**Maze seat**

The seat outside Hanover Court facing the maze site at Church Road has served well for many years but corrosion in the metal legs had rendered it unsafe. The Meeting agreed to the purchase of a new bench with arms, as requested by residents. The replacement is made from heavyweight recycled plastic, which has proved to be extremely durable in other locations about the village, sourced from the Community Interest

disability services and support group Realise Futures based in Ipswich at a cost of £472.74.

**Next Meeting**

The next Ordinary Meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 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](http://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**

If the July meeting is advertised as being held on line, the notice of that meeting which is published on the Council's website and notice boards on Wednesday 15th, will invite members of the public to be in touch with the Clerk's office and ask to be 'invited' by email. This invitation includes the necessary details for joining the meeting. During the meeting, as is the usual case, there are 2 occasions when public input is invited.



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We've had reports of calls being made from individuals claiming your Amazon Prime subscription is due to expire, and will be automatically taken from your account. The recorded message asks you to press 1 to cancel or to speak to customer services. The call then goes through to an individual who "requires" your personal details. Another scam call claims that your Amazon Prime account is being cancelled and that bank details are required to refund this.

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**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.

July	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
20th	21st	19th	16th	21st

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.

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# 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.

## July 2020

- 1 Elmswell Exchange WI - The Work of a Parish Nurse - Lesley Williams Comp: A single flower in a container of your choice
- 9 Over 55's Club Strawberry Supper
- 9 Elmswell History Group- 6.45pm. Annual Outing - Bury Cathedral  
Details and Tickets from 01359-242601
- 10 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am – 12 noon
- 14 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30pm Summer outing
- 21 Elmswell Exchange Social Club A.G.M. + Strawberry Tea
- 21 Elmswell Gardening Club Summer Outing to Helmingham Hall.  
Coach will leave the Blackbourne car park at 1.00pm
- 23 Over 55's Club Bury Male Voice Choir in Jubilee Hall Visitors welcome
- 24 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am – 12 noon
- 31 BINGO at Blackbourne  
Doors open 6.45...Eyes Down 7.30

## 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
- 6 Over 55's Club Outing
- 7 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am – 12 noon
- 11 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30pm Social evening
- 18 Elmswell Exchange Social Club Corncraft
- 21 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am – 12 noon
- 28 BINGO at Blackbourne  
Doors open 6.45...Eyes Down 7.30
- 31 Over 55's Club Holiday

## 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
- 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
- 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
- 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

## Your Newsletter Fact File

For the next 6 months we need copy by: July 28th, August 25th, September 22nd, October 27th, November 24th

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

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

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

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