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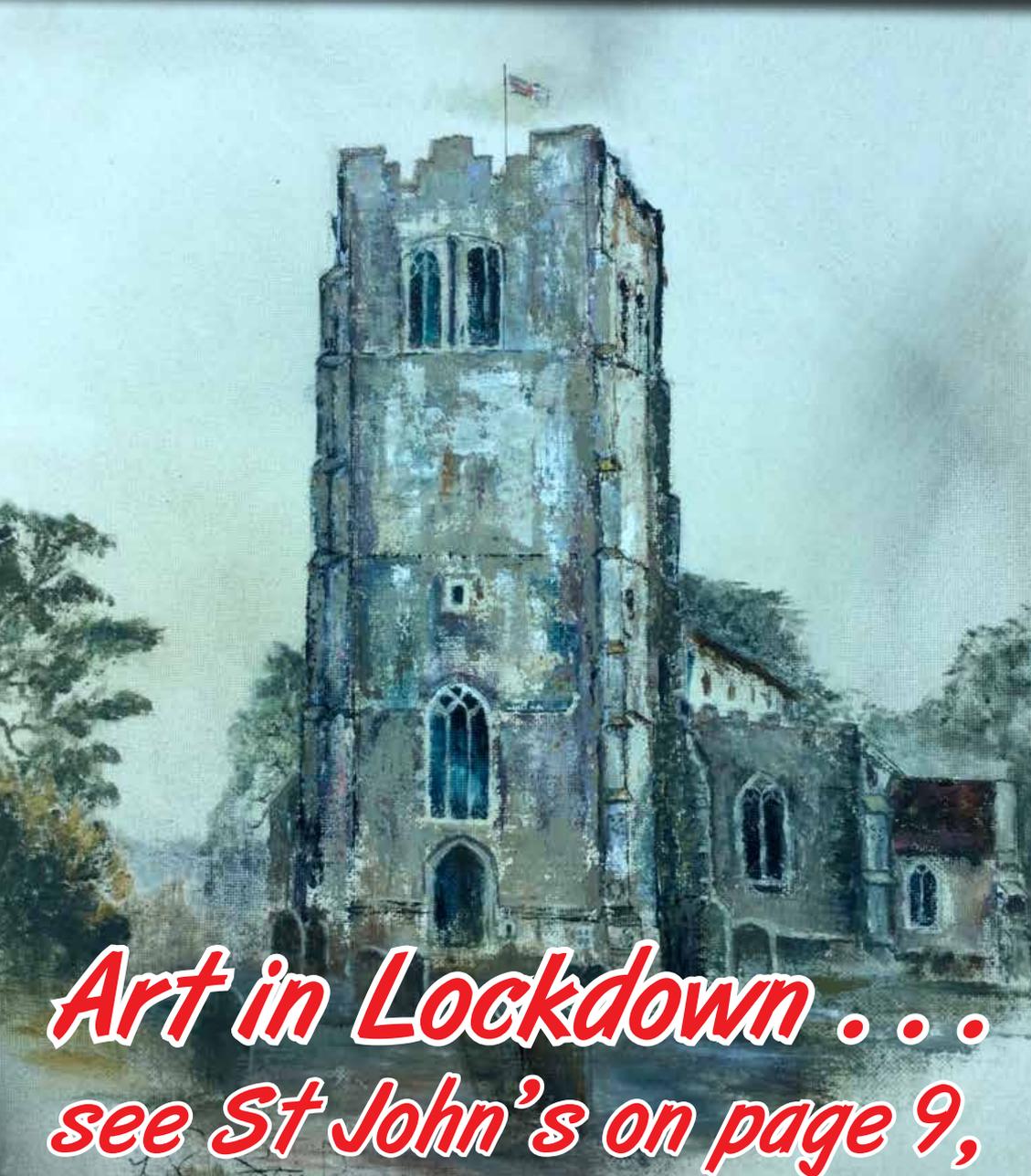
The Elmswell Newsletter



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JUNE 2020

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***Art in Lockdown . . .
see St John's on page 9,
and see about the village these and many
more stones painted to lift the spirits***



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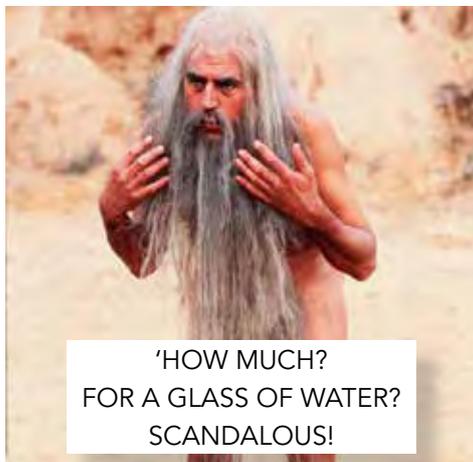
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Our editorial is designed to inform and to encourage debate. If you wish to comment, please do so via the office or by email at; eaa.elmswell.org.uk We reserve the right to edit any such contributions that we may use in a subsequent edition.

It was, as all good Zoom quizzers know, Lord Darlington in Oscar Wilde's play, 'Lady Windermere's fan', who defined a cynic as, 'A man who knows the price of everything, and the value of nothing.' The riposte from fellow socialite Cecil Graham suggested that, "a sentimentalist, my dear Darlington, is a man who sees an absurd value in everything and doesn't know the market price of any single thing."

The argument about, 'cost', and 'value', used to centre on a glass of water. Forgetting the silliness of buying water in plastic bottles, water from the tap costs so little that it is often thought of as free. However, fill a glass with it and take it into the desert and you have a saleable commodity.



**'HOW MUCH?
FOR A GLASS OF WATER?
SCANDALOUS!**

Today this example is redundant. Today, if we think, 'cost', if we think, 'value', we think toilet rolls.

In more ordinary, pre Virus times, the marketing of what is now taken as a basic necessity could arouse bemusement. Your Newsletter is not the place to delve into the finer historical detail of hygiene in The Olden Days when the Groom of the King's Close Stool was the most intimate of an English monarch's courtiers, responsible for assisting the king in excretion and ablution. Moving swiftly on...the fairly recent availability of cheap paper led, via squares of torn-up newsprint hanging by a nail conveniently close to the user, through to San Izal, 'toilet tissue', clearly misnamed as it was more in the nature of baking parchment, well-suited to producing a tune when breathed through against a plastic comb, but less user-friendly when used as intended. From thence, but a small step to a cuddly puppy playfully pulling at a supposedly endless roll of prettily patterned and padded product with little hint of purpose.

Thus a market was created. From, literally, rags to riches. From rags until Joseph Gayetty's flat sheets of Medicated Paper were first introduced in 1857 and ever-upward to a multi-million pound industry today. A market means a balance of buyer and seller, of demand and price, of profit and loss. The, 'toilet tissue', market is complex given that concepts of comfort and effectiveness must be couched in socially acceptable terms and dressed-up so as not to offend – hence the cuddly puppy. A market sets a price, the agreement between the buyer and the seller where both parties are happy. Occasionally, the market breaks down when there are too many buyers wanting the same thing or when there is a surplus of product and no-one wants it. It happens every Christmas when some quirk of media manipulation projects a cheap plastic children's toy into the limelight and doting parents / grandparents fight over a limited supply pushing the price sky high and making a few lucky wholesalers rich and happy. The joy of the recipient child is often, however, short lived, for the worth was not in the product, it was in the scarcity – think glass of water in the desert. Think panic buying. Think toilet rolls.

During Covid's early feverish days we experienced a feverish daze, born of indecision, misinformation and the unknown. Noting Woody Allen's suggestion that, 'If you want to God laugh, tell him about your plans,' many decided not to plan but to panic. To panic buy...flour, pasta, sanitiser and, famously, toilet rolls. The market reacted and the prices rose. More people wanted to own things than there were things to own, so prices rose. As did eyebrows, the type-size of headlines and levels of self-righteous indignation. 'Profiteering', 'daylight robbery', 'bare-faced cheek', were the nation's watchwords as trolley-loads of perfumed perforated paper were pictured against a backdrop of bleakly bereft supermarket shelves and forlorn folk bearing, sadly, shopping lists.

Back to normal now. Sales of toilet rolls have slumped as people just use up their stockpile and gradually bring the spare room back to use given that the flour and pasta can fit under the sofa bed. The equation remains the same – supply and demand sets a price. The price is an indication of worth and has reference to need and priorities. However, there is a suggestion that normal isn't normal any more. That the scale and nature of these strange times will not leave societies unscarred. That different ways of behaviour are glimpsed and may be grasped when the virus is vanquished. We may well actually cling with relief to the lower hug-quotient, and relish no longer having to make the split-second decisions as to whether it's one or two 'mwah-mwah' cheek brushings when meeting supposed nearest and dearest. We might agree that, the environment having been given a bit of a break - quite literally some breathing space – it deserve to retain some of the new dignity and status recently afforded. Industries might work harder towards the Henry Ford ideal based on his question – 'Why do I have to employ people when all I need is their hands', and robotics be assimilated in areas as disparate as cleaning hospitals and serving food in restaurants. Having been made aware of the concept of the, 'supply chain', we might give serious thought to, 'on-shoring', to producing more of what we need here where it is needed.

All of this and much more could flow from our recent few months of modified reality, when we look down on the lockdown. In every case, however, the financial cost will rise. Have we learned enough to reconsider the balance between price and value? Or do we resort to the absurd values that left us unready to face the challenge of some very strange days indeed?



ELMSWELL ART CLUB



Unusually we are showing two pictures of the same place this month. Both feature, using different materials, the Mathematical Bridge in Cambridge. The bridge, officially called the Wooden Bridge, originally built by James Essex in 1749 to a very clever design by William Etheridge, is now a Grade 2 listed building. It has been rebuilt on two occasions, once in 1866 and again in 1905/6. The popular name of the Mathematical Bridge came about because of the very unusual and sophisticated design. This type of construction making an arch but using only straight timbers is for the purists called "tangent and radial trussing". Nowadays, it is purely a pedestrian bridge which crosses the Cam connecting two parts of Queen's College. It must have been a wonderful sight seeing students in their top hats and dons in their gowns crossing the bridge on horseback way back when! In a city with so many historical and interesting buildings, the bridge is one of the top visitor attractions and no doubt has been photographed millions of times, and painted, sketched and drawn by innumerable artists from all over the world. We are making a break from tradition and instead of showing the work of two of our members, this month's pictures have been done by just one of us - Eddie Thomas, Club Chairman. Both works started off as a pen and ink drawing but Eddie added a colour wash to one of the pictures to assess the result.

Eddie was born in Liverpool so is in fact a Scouser and is a lifetime supporter of the team in blue, Everton. As with so many of us, work commitments took him away from his town of birth and he moved south in 2000 with his wife Pauline and two children. Prior to retirement Eddie spent his last working years employed by Britvic as a Procurement Manager for all juice products. If you have ever had a J20, Fruit Shoot or Robinson's squash you could well have drunk one of the Passionfruit, Mango, Peach or Orange juices Eddie sourced from around the world! Joining Elmswell Art Club in 2017 was one the best things he did on retirement. Previously he had dabbled in drawing and painting but he values the excellent guidance and support plus constructive criticism and advice offered by knowledgeable and friendly members so readily and happily given. As a result Eddie has added pastels, charcoal, inks and acrylic to the types of medium he uses. Not only that but Eddie now exhibits his works and has managed to make some sales which is a bit of a bonus. "I really enjoy our Tuesday morning sessions among like minded people in such a relaxing and friendly atmosphere. It is a lovely sociable occasion which I recommend".

John Welford 01359 240166



**Art does not reproduce
what we see.**

It makes us see.

Paul Klee

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ELMSWELL OVER 55'S CLUB

By now most residents will have spent their time in Lockdown with the tv and radio reminding you to stay safe at home with little chance of getting the bus or train without social distancing to town for a wander around the shops if and when they open. At present it is a walk to the local shops as part of your daily exercise if you are able, many thanks to the local group who have been delivering bags of fruit and veg

Never mind we have been told that shops will shortly be opening subject to social distancing when measures have been put in place.



The only good thing this month has been numerous properties around the village decorated to celebrate V E Day as can be seen by some of the decorations in Wetherden Road with a tea party on the lawns with social distancing in place.

It is regretted that the planed holiday to Tenby at the end of August has been cancelled for obvious reasons.



The return to The Tynedale has now been rearrange to Tuesday March 20th 2021 when it will be a "Mock Cruise" themed break.

We can not give any firm dates for any club activities at present so watch this space next month. Grant 240943

ELMSWELL EXCHANGE AFTERNOON W.I.

For the **May edition of our Parish Newsletter** I thought it would be appropriate to concentrate on VE Day celebrations. I know many of our members did manage to do this even though in isolation. It brought back many memories for some so I wondered what they had been doing on VE Day 1945. I never thought that I would spend so much time on the telephone !! I have been surprised at the variations, where people actually were at the time and the background stories. All of this most interesting but sadly not the space in our Newsletter to recount all of them. It seemed that the closer to London you lived, the crazier the celebration. No doubt other big cities that were hit badly were the same.



The best story of all came from Rene. She lived with her family in East London and I am going to let you all read her story as she has written it. It reflects the joy felt by families who had endured so much.

"VE Day was such a happy day, everyone very excited so my memories are hard to sort out. It was a day we thought might never come although with Hitler committing suicide some days earlier we all began to hope. People started to plan street parties, trying to get enough food together to feed the children. When we knew that May the 8th was going to be the day, people started to go mad. Blackout curtains were torn down, streets were lined with tables of all sorts ready for the parties. People flocked into London to sing and dance in the streets, climbing over bomb damage which was everywhere. At 15 years old I wanted to go but wasn't allowed to. Nevertheless, we had a good time at home. In the afternoon all the children in New Road where we lived joined with the children from Upminster Rd. for a very lively party. We devoured whatever food the mums could provide. I remember there was lots of jelly, some with carefully hoarded tinned fruit. I think mainly there was lots of fish paste sandwiches and Wartime cake made with dried eggs etc. In the evening the neighbours gathered in our garden for a very rowdy party. We had a marvellous time singing and dancing. Our Dad even allowed his very precious piano to be brought out of the house and be put on the lawn. Everyone gathered round and sang patriotic songs which had to include Vera Lynn's We'll Meet Again ! I particularly remember one elderly neighbour with a lovely voice singing a solo called Just a Song At Twilight, and she had everyone in tears. Such an emotional day ! I can't even remember going to bed that night, I think we just went on and on.

Unfortunately, the war against the Japanese in the Far East didn't finish until August. On VJ Day in the August I was allowed to go up to London to celebrate and what a marvellous time we had."

I think Rene's story says it all, really. Most of us had street parties, all of us ate fish paste sandwiches, lots of jelly and Wartime cake. The East End of London deserved all the fun they had on VE Day 1945.

Stay safe ladies. Maureen Davis

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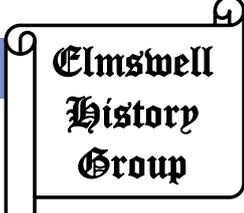
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ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

Due to the current and continuing health emergency, our committee has decided that we cannot meet as a group until September, at the earliest. [Ex-Elmswellian, Pearl Rose (née Howlett, now living in Stanton) notes that "Our ancestors dealt with plague and pestilence with limited medical help. Whilst growing up in Elmswell, the story I was told was that the village was built away from the church because of the Black Death. Wonder if that is possibly true?"]

Anyway, having cancelled our April and May meetings, we must unfortunately do likewise for our 11th June meeting (with A.G.M.) and 9th July outing, but the committee hopes to be able to meet in August to discuss and decide what our next steps will be. Meanwhile, we hope you will all keep healthy and safe in these challenging times and, if at all possible, we look forward to meeting again together in the Autumn which, with any luck, will be in our newly re-built Wesley Hall.

Until then and in a small effort to give our members their regular History Group "fix", we have acquired an online serialisation (with words and images) of a recent publication "The Little History of Suffolk" by well-regarded local author Sarah Doig, which is available for our members to access online. We also have a copy of the book itself for those members without online facilities to read at their leisure in these lock-down days, so that they won't feel left out, or for those members who prefer a proper book rather than viewing and listening on the screen.

Still on the subject of books, we have recently been given a number of very interesting ones on all things historical in East Anglia, so do ring our secretary for further details and, if wanted, to have any of these books delivered to you.

For further information about our History Group, please visit our website – www.elmswell-history.org.uk – or contact our Secretary, Stella Chamberlin on 01359-242601.

ELMSWELL GARDEN CLUB

The station flower tubs are now in the process of being replanted, although social distancing measures has meant that Nick Chamberlain took on the task to restock the planters on his own. Members will be watering the tubs on a weekly basis to ensure visitors to Elmswell are given a genuine welcome as they arrive at the station.



Gardening has become immensely popular in the last two months as garden space around the village has shown. People with more time on their hands are finding gardening enjoyable. The One Show ran a competition to award Chelsea Gold Medals to the best gardens of the nation. The event took place when Chelsea Flower Show should have taken place. Instead of Chelsea Show Gardens, it was a pure delight to witness the inspiration and passion of amateur gardeners though the UK. Each category was carefully thought out from an amazing indoor garden to a beautiful front garden where you felt as though you were in the middle of the country. For me it was the garden of a young boy, just 7 years old who had used his plot to encourage wildlife to find a home. He knew the name of every plant and why it was planted where it was. A true gardener in every sense of the word.



It is good news that small family garden centres have found innovative ways to continue trading. Woolpit Nurseries are open with appointment slots available to book. It is so good that we can begin to gather resources to continue gardening as the new season gets underway.

Elmswell Garden Club will be back as soon as possible to run our evening sessions of talks. In the words of Audrey Hepburn - 'To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow'. As we move into June summer flowers can be enjoyed and plans for the season to come anticipated, so please 'KEEP GARDENING'.

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

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ELMSWELL EXCHANGE SOCIAL CLUB

Although there has been a slight relaxation to rules since last month we, like all other organisations are still not meeting.

Since then we have celebrated VE Day although in a different way than we all thought. I had a socially distanced cup of tea and piece of cake with my neighbours and it was lovely to see so many houses decorated for the occasion.

The weather has been very kind to us and two Bank holiday weekends which have been glorious.

Hopefully the number of cases will continue to decline and little by little life will get back to normal.

Those of us with gardens are fortunate to enjoy our outside space and the many places to walk in and around Elmswell.

We all appreciate keeping in touch with our friends and family whether it by phone or online. It makes such a difference.

Enjoy the good weather.

Carol - t. 242 884

MANY THANKS

Many thanks to those kind villagers who came to my rescue after I fell off my bike near the Warren Lane crossroads - your help was much appreciated. The accident was entirely my own fault, happening all too easily even at a slow speed - oh dear! Anyway, am pleased to report that there's been no lasting damage except for a gloriously multi-coloured black eye with a few grazes and bruises elsewhere which are healing up nicely. However, wearing my helmet definitely saved me from what could easily have been much more serious injuries, so to all those newer cyclists we've seen in recent days, I'd say "protect the NHS (and YOURSELF) by wearing a bike helmet - you know it makes sense!"



TREFOIL GUILD - SCRUBS FOR THE NHS



A few weeks ago three members of the Trefoil Guild, an organisation for adults who were previously involved in helping with Guiding, and still help when we are needed, were discussing our frustration at being unable to help in the current crisis, due to our age. We had noticed that there was a pattern on line to download, which was for making scrubs for the NHS. As we all had sewing machines, and, in some cases fairly rusty, sewing skills, we thought we would have a go. Dot printed the pattern and as it was on A4 paper it took lots of ink and over 40 sheets of paper. Lesley, who is an expert needle woman and supervised the whole project, cut out and put the patterns together. No mean task as the pieces were so small. She also did all the cutting out of the material. This we got from searching through our own, and family and friends, sheets and duvet covers that were no longer being used. We also bought 10 metres of vibrant purple material on line.

Over the next two or three weeks we all sewed frantically, it was very time consuming, and housework was neglected and meals were always late, and sometimes contain pieces of purple thread!! We managed to make fifteen sets in all and learned some new sewing skills, and, on the whole, we enjoyed it. The scrubs pictured, that were made from pink spotty sheets, were the favourite with the

staff of the surgery we made for. Closely followed by the purple ones. We now have one or two requests from our families for pyjamas, because they say that's what our scrubs look like. What a cheek, they are right though I think.



Ann

Anyone for more JIGSAWS?

I'm very pleased to report that lots of you responded to my offer of jigsaw puzzles in last month's newsletter, as a result of which I've so far distributed about 30 around the village. Many thanks to those people who did 'swaps' with me so that I had a good mixed selection to hand round. I still have a few more to offer which are mostly of 500 and 1,000 pieces. However, I do also have one of 3,000 pieces which, needless to say, is BIG, measuring 120.4 x 86 cms (just under 4ft x 3ft) - a gorgeous photo of a tiled cottage and rose garden, which would keep anyone occupied for quite a while and ideal if you are still having to self-isolate, providing you have the table room to accommodate it! Do give me a ring if you'd like any of these jigsaws.

Stella - 01359-242601

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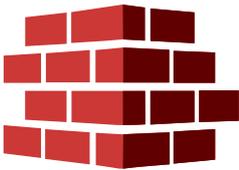
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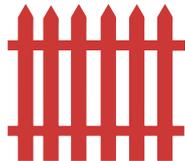
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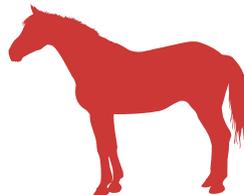
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It goes without saying that 2020 will be remembered for many years to come, for all the wrong reasons...and we, the ElmsFest committee, were gearing up for the best year yet – however, this is the announcement that we had hoped not to make. We are sure it will come as no surprise to you that we have made the incredibly difficult, but unanimous decision to cancel this year's ElmsFest. At this point, we would have loved to confirm that ElmsFest will get back on its feet again in 2021, but that will sadly not be the case. For a few months now, we have been advertising for one or two more willing volunteers to join the committee to keep the fete alive, but unfortunately nobody stepped forward. So as four become two, that makes it impossible for a large event of this scale to continue.

Mike, Sol, Brittany and I (Chris), would like to thank everybody for their continued support over the last four years, whether that be with advice, running a stall, volunteering, sponsorship or even if you just turned up for a fun day out – you've all played a huge part in the success of ElmsFest, and for that we are extremely grateful. The fete has gone from strength to strength, supporting so many local good causes and businesses, that it is with deep sadness that we are forced to give up something that we've all loved so much. It hasn't come without its challenges of course, but the satisfaction of seeing smiles on so many faces each year makes it all worthwhile!

So, although this is really disappointing for all of us, we know that it is the right thing to do in light of the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19. The restrictions on large gatherings look likely to be in place throughout the summer and it's clear that we'll have to continue social distancing in one form or another for the foreseeable future. The health and safety of everyone involved has to take precedence over anything else.

We've been busy making every person that was booked in for ElmsFest aware of the news in advance of this announcement, and everyone has been in complete agreement and we would like to express our thanks to everyone involved for their understanding and continued support.

We have, however, accrued sufficient funds in our pot of reserves, so the committee have agreed that we will be donating all of the money to local charities who are making a big difference for others in our community that are struggling due to the Coronavirus. More news about the total funding available and donations that we make will follow in next month's Newsletter. For now, though, we hope you all stay safe, and by working together we will fight this horrible virus.

Chris, Brittany, Mike & Sol

OUR COVER PICTURE COMES COURTESY OF A FLEXIBLE FRIEND...

We are living through unprecedented times. Governments across the world have been and continue to make difficult decisions, some good, some bad, which they and the general populace did not expect them to have to make. COVID 19 has forced us to change our lives in ways none of us could have anticipated. We are all basically creatures of habit and changing those habits and the regularity and predictability of what we have become accustomed to is not easy. Many are finding those changes very difficult to cope with and the pressures created for some seem insurmountable. The fear of the disease, the doubts about the future, the inability to visit friends and relatives, being cooped up at home and having to take on the role of educators, the struggles to get in food and supplies, all add to the levels of stress and uncertainty. All we can do is sit it out and wait, then maybe start to be concerned about the second phase of the disease! For many, coping with sizeable amounts of time on our hands and being isolated is really difficult. Plenty of ideas have been banded around by journalists, gurus and "experts" as to how to fill the time. One idea which has gained traction is painting and drawing. It is easy to start and relatively inexpensive. Give it a try, it is relaxing and enjoyable and can be done without too much effort. What a brilliant way of filling out the day. It is a wonderful way of de-stressing and very satisfying. Elmswell Art Club is currently unable to meet so come and join us when we are back up and running. No matter your ability or standard you will be given a warm welcome.



Linda Stephenson, our club secretary, hasn't wasted her time on lockdown. The painting of St John the Divine which she did at home, so impressed the editors of the Newsletter, that they have chosen to put it on the front cover. Linda's very distinctive style is created using the edge of a credit card to apply the paint. Now that's something different!

We should not overlook those dedicated souls in our health and care sectors who have remained hard at work and also the other key workers. Thank you all.

*John Welford
Elmswell Art Club*

VE DAY CELEBRATIONS



75TH ANNIVERSARY OF V.E. DAY, 8TH MAY

Like everywhere else, our village celebrations of this important and historic anniversary were somewhat muted over the weekend, but there were plenty of flags and bunting flying at village houses, and small gatherings in a number of streets that afternoon, with 1940s music heard wafting through the warm air. At least the weather remained kind, which we believe was similar to the actual day all those years ago.

We have included some photos of the festivities in Pightle Close where they had a super socially-distanced 'street party' in the glorious sunshine. Fifteen households participated, with almost 40 individuals thoroughly enjoying themselves, and even had a mention on Radio Suffolk! They toasted the War Veterans and 75 years of peace, celebrated with music from Radio Suffolk as well as music from Glen Miller, Vera Lynn and others played on a retro record player. The afternoon lasted until almost 7pm, culminating with a rendition of the classic "We'll Meet Again" – oh so apt for us all in the current situation.





Meanwhile, Elmswell History Group asked their members for their memories of that day in 1945, and received the following.

- **Ian remembered that** "during the Blitz, a bomb landed dead centre of the road where I lived [in London], about 80 yards from the flat that we lived in. These flats were ground floor and first floor, not big blocks of flats, and the bulk of damage was to the front of the flats, leaving the rear almost intact. To the best of my knowledge, the residents all survived, as they would have been in their Anderson shelter at the rear of the premises.

When V.E. Day was announced, the men who were available, including my father who had been invalided out of the RAF in early 1945, went into the bombed building to pull out any materials that would burn on the bonfire. This was lit during the evening, and I think somebody brought out a gramophone, and the adults commenced to dance in the street. During the course of the evening what I thought were firework rockets were fired, but it later transpired that these were maroons, the type used to alert life-boatmen to report for duty.

I think from memory there was a party later and I was dressed up as a Desert Rat, but could not attend the festivities as I had yellow jaundice and I looked more Japanese(!!) so, as a result, had to watch proceedings from the front window."

- **Dorothy wrote** "I was 15 years old at the time, and I was in a dance troupe in which there were about 20 dancers and singers, all aged under 18. We did various shows to different audiences – our group did song and dance routines. It was either on V.E. Day or the day after that we did an open-air show on a stage at Victoria Park in Hackney, and in the audience were a large group of American G.I's. One routine that I remember went down very well – it was the can-can, which was very fast and exhausting, but the audience loved it, with lots of encouragement from the G.I's! We were, of course, amateurs, and we were chaperoned!!"

- **Pearl's mum, Joy Wade, was living in Haughley New Street in 1945 and working in Stowmarket as an apprentice dressmaker at the draper's shop, William Turners, which was on the site of the present-day Argos store. Joy and family lived in Elmswell for about 40 years, mid-1950 to 1990s, and this is her first-hand account of V.E.Day.**

"By January of 1945 we knew the war in Europe wouldn't last much longer, and we looked forward to this. In the meantime, the news on the radio got better. The Russians were advancing into Germany from the East and we were advancing from the West. In early May 1945 we no longer had to black out our homes. Russia got to Berlin first, and our ears were tuned into the radio at work. The boss would go downstairs to listen and come back up to us in the workroom with the latest. On May 7th we couldn't settle at work, and then the boss came through and said "Germany is going to surrender!" Well, we went wild! We went down to the showroom and bought red, white and blue ribbon (ribbon was not on coupons), and decorated our bikes. We cycled home cheering and laughing. Mum hung all the flags out of the windows, everyone did. On May 8th we went down to Wetherden and had a huge bonfire on the Green behind the church. The King came on the radio and asked that, everyone that was able to go, [should] go to church and give thanks that freedom had been won against evil. So we went to the service at Wetherden church, and we had two days' holiday from work."

- **Tony wrote** – "I was 7½ years old at V.E.Day. My father was serving in the R.A.F., while mother, my younger brother and I lived in part of a farmhouse at Laxfield [between Framlingham and Halesworth, north-east Suffolk]. My memories are rather limited because I do not think there were many celebrations, but I do remember the flags and bunting being out and, perhaps most of all, not being allowed to stay up to see the village bonfire! It was in a field at the bottom of my grandparents' garden, and I was allowed to see it with the effigy of Hitler on top, but to see it burn – no, it was after my bedtime! We lived about midway between Horham and Metfield Aerodromes and so saw many American bombers and service personnel before V.E.Day, but these stopped after it, so maybe one of my abiding memories is one of omission – no more aircraft to watch. Another memory was Dad coming home for good – discipline appeared on the scene."



STREET FARM DAY NURSERY



After 11 weeks of closure we are so pleased to announce that the nursery will be opening on the 8th June 2020. To ensure the safety of all staff, children, and their families we have carried out a comprehensive risk assessment and adapted our practice to reflect this.

We understand that many parents and children may feel anxious about returning to nursery and we want to reassure our families that we will do all we can to support them during this challenging time.

To allow more free space and to accommodate safety measures we have reduced our occupancy levels and will be adopting the practice of creating small groups of children 'Bubbles' each bubble of children will be looked after by a key practitioner, they will stay within their bubbles for the duration of their session to ensure we minimise their interactions. We will continue to use a holistic approach, providing a curriculum of rich and varied imaginative activities catering to each child's individual needs through the use of bespoke planning embracing each child's individual interests and abilities.

Whilst closed we have taken the opportunity to carry out some maintenance work, and the rooms and garden are looking refreshed and ready for the children to return. We are working hard to ensure that the environment remains a fun and exciting place to play whilst taking the current safety measures into consideration. Staff have completed Covid-19 specific training and will return to nursery prior to opening to further their training in our new procedures.

If you would like more information regarding our policy and procedures during these unprecedented times, please feel free to contact us on 01359 245999

We are so grateful for the support we have received from our families during this challenging time and are very much looking forward to welcoming them back soon.



CUT-BACKS WELCOMED

The Parish Council receives complaints every year at about this time regarding hedges overgrowing across pavements. This one was notified to the householder concerned and it was immediately cut back:

I regularly go out for an early morning walk around our lovely village for my daily exercise. And as a disabled person my walking and balance are not as good as it used to be and I am forced when walking past to step into the road as the path is impeded by a hedge.

Can you please therefore write to the occupants and ask them to cut it back in line with their boundary?

Clearly just an oversight, and thanks were received for very quick action.

If you have a hedge next to the pavement, please take a look and check that it isn't in the way for pedestrians – remembering that less-able walkers, wheelchairs and baby buggies do need a little more room.





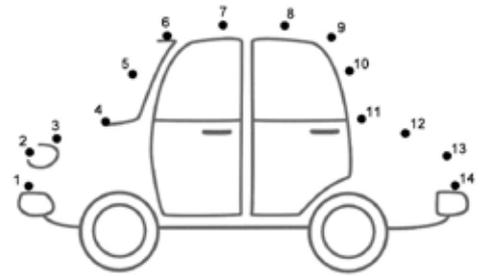
Maths Fun!

Number Wordsearch

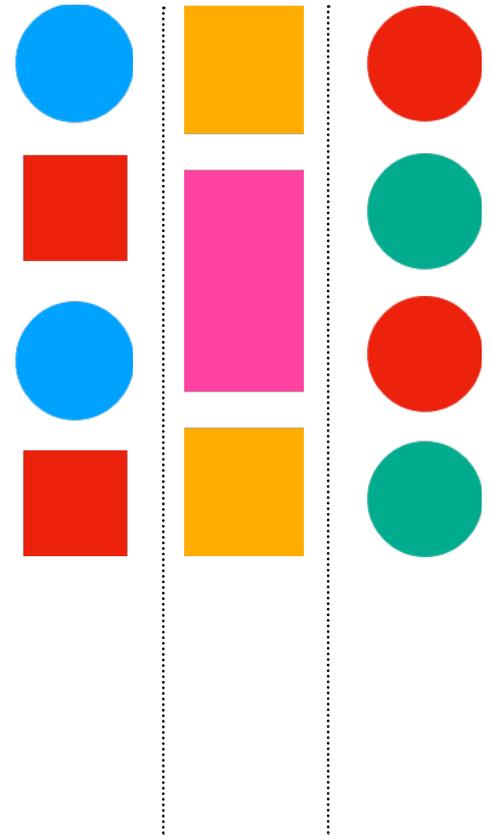
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ONE
TWO
THREE
FOUR
FIVE
SIX
SEVEN
EIGHT
NINE
TEN

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



Can you finish the patterns?



Maths at Home!



Why not create your very own number tray.

Make some number cards, and hunt around your garden for some natural objects. See if you can match the correct numbers and quantities.

E.g. Can you find 1 stone, 2 twigs, and 3 flowers?

This page sponsored by



COVID19 COMMUNITY SPIRIT



Our village community spirit seems to be flourishing in the face of COVID 19. The group now has over 600 members and provides a good snapshot of what is going on in the village.

Highlights include:

- Over 100 facemasks made by a volunteer,
- A donation of ironing services for keyworkers,
- Painting stones to decorate the village, making walking a little more entertaining especially for children.
- Gardens and walls often have free for the taking; plants, books, items no longer needed but suitable for passing on, available as people share what they have.
- New 'stone animal residents' in the form of bees and ladybirds that have been rehomed over the weekend, the bees as a tribute to the 22 people that lost their lives in the Manchester bombing 3 years ago.
- Sid the Snake has appeared, and we hope he makes progress around the village as a trail of decorated stones, latest count was over 100.

- Children sent messages to their teachers to say hi and let them know what they have been doing whilst not at school.
- Thanks to people buying organic fruit and veg boxes from TheHappyFoodCoop and paying it forward, some extra boxes were made available this week, which were distributed to people in need of a little extra.

The group and St Johns have joined forces to set up a temporary food bank to provide for those people that just need a little bit of extra help at this time. IF YOU OR ANYONE YOU KNOW needs assistance with food, please c

all the HOME NOT ALONE scheme (0800 876 6926, 0900-1700, 7 days), this will create a referral from which

we will arrange for a food parcel to be made available or delivered by one of our volunteers.

Volunteers continue to do shopping and prescription collections and deliveries, so if you do need anything please phone a volunteer or the admin team on 0333 335 5349.

If you don't need help, but would like to help others by donating to a cause that is helping our village please consider donating to the following: The HappyFoodCoop, Stowmarket Foodbank and Gatehouse Foodbank

The word cloud is a pictogram based on words that members felt described this experience, it's an encouraging and inspiring collection of words that reflect the positivity in this community, which is really rising to the challenges of these times.

It's a great place to live and be part of, thank you all.

Take care, Yvette, Kelly, Jen and Rachael

[#proudtoliveinElmswell](https://www.facebook.com/proudtoliveinElmswell)

 Elmswell virus support group





Rainbow Windows

We invited pictures of window displays around the village which were supporting the NHS and generally trying to cheer us all up in difficult times.

The 4 which stand out and earn their originators the right to nominate an NHS supporting charity to receive a £25.00 nb cheque are;



From Mylo, aged 4,



From Frances Hall



*A collaboration between
Matilda, aged 7
and Edward, aged 3*



*Created from stained glass
by Michele Russel*

We shall publish next month the names of the NHS supporting charities that our 4 winners have nominated. Thank you to everyone who has made the effort to brighten up the neighbourhood.

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Hi ya - there's not a lot to report as nothing's changed from last month - but please put the following editorial in & ive asked Ed's to send me loads of pictures that I can forward you to put a montage together

"Another month into lockdown & the whole world is still full of uncertainty, most importantly- I hope you are all safe and well.

Nothing has really changed from last months report, we still hope our first team will grace division 2 when the season starts & the biggest pre season warm up of all time with a Suffolk FA Primary cup semi final to be played

The usual pre season formalities off the field will now start , in preparation for the first ball to be kicked

For amateur sports clubs, the preseason preparation are vastly important, it costs a small fortune for the joys of Saturday afternoon local football

As a club, we are fortunate & very grateful for all our current club sponsors, without their financial support the club would not survive , thank you all.

We still seek further sponsorship from match balls & equipment through to kit sponsorship at all levels - & in return we promise to promote your business upon our club pages in the ELMSWELL Newsletter that reaches over 2000 local addresses every month - great exposure whilst supporting your local football team

If you have any questions regards our club, please do not hesitate to contact me - please stay safe & well

Kind regards

Shaun Pratt

07494 864 231

shaun.pratt@btinternet.com

Elmswell FC Chairman

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 Tuesday - 11:30am - 9pm
 Wednesday - 11:30am - 9pm
 Thursday - 11:30am - 9pm
 Friday - 11:30am - 9:30pm
 Saturday - 11:30am - 9:30pm
 Sunday - Closed



ELMSWELL FELLOWSHIP



ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Hello friends, we sincerely hope that you are well during this uncertain time. However, if you are struggling, for whatever reason, please contact us. We are offering practical day-to-day support, contact over the phone and, of course, prayer.

Services and Events	
Tue 8:00 pm	Night Prayer (Compline)
Wed	Home Groups
Thu 8:05 pm	Night Prayer (Celtic) <i>after cheering keyworkers at 8pm</i>
Sat 9:00 am	Prayer Meeting - via Zoom
Sat 10:30 am	Coffee and Chat - via Zoom
Sun 10:30 am	Sunday service <i>starts with 10 minutes of all age worship</i>

We remain active and virtually connected and we invite you to join us! Everything can be found on our website, facebook page, youtube channel, telephone dial-in or zoom meetings.

The week looks like this:

Sunday – our main service at 10:30am and starts with an “all age” address and song, followed by notices, prayers, a message and songs. Encouragingly, we’re seeing people joining us more regularly on Sundays during lockdown from their homes. Why not tune in next week?

Tuesday – Night Prayer (Compline) at 8:00pm

Wednesday – Home groups meet via Zoom

Thursday – Night Prayer (Celtic) at 8:05pm (after the clap!)

Saturday – Prayer meeting at 9:00am. Then: Coffee and Chat at 10:30am on zoom – pop the kettle on and settle down for a catch up!

Obviously, we are not physically meeting in the church, but the 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) and prayer cards for attaching onto the prayer tree. We have been praying diligently throughout this pandemic and we are

encouraged to see real answers to prayer here, in Elmswell, and further afield.



If you cannot get to the prayer tree in the churchyard, we also have an online virtual Prayer Wall - please do take a look and post any prayers online at <http://www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk/PrayerWallDisplay.php>

In mid-May we held our Songs of Praise event (virtually, of course). If you haven't managed to catch it yet, please look it up “on demand” on Facebook/YouTube. 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...



Finally, 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.

Rector: Peter Goodridge
Telephone: 01359 240512
Email: elmswellrector@gmail.com
Web: www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjohnselmswell/
YouTube: (access via our home page)



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH TOWER FLOODLIGHTING

Everyone is welcome to sponsor the floodlighting of St. John's, which helps to pay 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. Cheques payable to “ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, ELMSWELL”.

Please note as well, for the foreseeable future, the church tower will be illuminated on all evenings when there are no personal sponsorships, this to support and remember those affected in whatever way by the Coronavirus pandemic. And for this can I say another huge THANKYOU to all those who have so brilliantly helped support this gesture financially.

MAY 2020 SPONSORSHIP NOT PREVIOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED

- 18 for Tony Sadler who passed away at home on Saturday 18 April. “Much loved by all his family”.

JUNE 2020 SPONSORSHIPS

- 1 remembering Amy Pleasance, a dear Mum, Grandma and Great Grandma, on her Birthday.
- 6 in memory of Enid Chaplin, a much loved and missed Wife, Mother, Grandmother and Great-Grandmother.
- 8 Lesley Manning. Remembering you on your Birthday. Love Colin. XX.
- 14 to remember and thank all those past Elmswell Fire-Fighters who served their village and community so well.



- 19 in memory of Dorothy May Bloomfield.
- 28 remembering our dear Mum & Nan, Zena Booth. "Always in our hearts".

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



ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

Well, these extraordinary times continue and it seems are likely to for some time to come. We won't be able to invite you to physically come and join us on a Sunday morning at 10.30am for quite a while yet I guess. However, we have started "broadcasting" a short service at that time every Sunday in using Zoom. This is informal and with several people contributing each time. If you have internet access it's easy to log in. If you would like to join us please email the address at the bottom so that we can invite you to join the meeting.

Sadly, having completely re-landscaped our chapel garden, planted a number of shrubs etc, including some ElmsWild wild flowers, and purchased some benches, we can't use it! I did want to include a picture but for some reason the image keeps rotating so you'd have to turn the page upside down to look at it! Shows my lack of IT expertise I'm afraid.

Our activities are of course all suspended, if we are able to resume by September the following are planned:-

The Ladies Friendship Group are on their summer break anyway and if possible will resume meetings on September 7th at 7.45pm when an Ipswich Tourist Information Guide is booked to take the ladies on An Armchair Walk around Ipswich Waterfront.

Phone Margaret on 241541 for more information. ALL ladies are welcome.

Food & Friends is booked for Thursday September 10th at midday – for the older folk – a chance to meet other people and enjoy a nutritious meal for a modest donation. This is run in conjunction with Age UK. New diners are always welcome. Phone Jackie on 245918 to book your place. Sadly I suspect this could be amongst the last activities we are able to resume.

We have booked the Chamberlayne Hall at the Blackbourne for another

Family Harvest Barn Dance on Saturday October 31st with dancing to "Clutching at Straws" and a picnic style supper. This isn't actually our Harvest weekend but it was a date when both the band and the hall were available! Put it on your calendar/ in your diaries now and watch out for when tickets go on sale (dependant on government advice it maybe not too long in advance!). Our Harvest Service is planned for October 11th.

We are grateful to all those who were booked to come to lead our worship in the coming weeks. They are listed below.

- June 7th Rev. Barbara Challis (Communion)
- June 14th Stephen Spurgeon (Sunday Morning Together)
- June 21st Paul Kemp
- June 28th Stephen Spurgeon
- July 5th Carole Almond (Communion)

A warm welcome is extended to all who wish to attend any of the above events, either in person or virtually!

Visit our website at www.elmswellbaptist.org.uk, email cockant2@btinternet.com or telephone any of the numbers in this text for further info.

Keep safe. Every blessing.

Tony

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NEWS FROM ELMSWILD

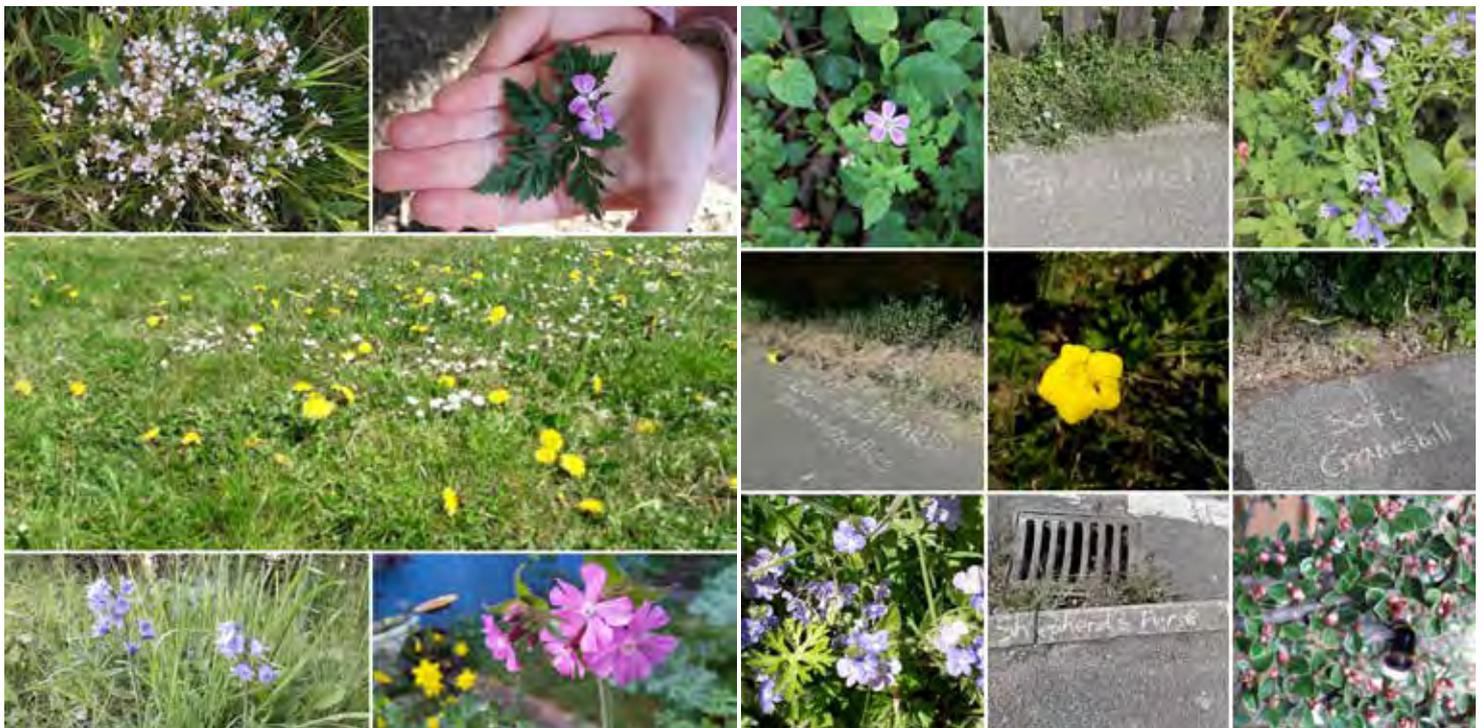
As lockdown continues, the world around us is bursting into colour and the wildlife is actually benefiting from the quiet roads, clean air and reduced mowing schedules, although in our area, work to cut grass verges seems to have continued throughout. It seems a pity, because in other parts of the country, these areas are starting to be converted into wildflower zones by forward thinking councils and highways authorities, allowing native wildflowers and mini-beasts to flourish.

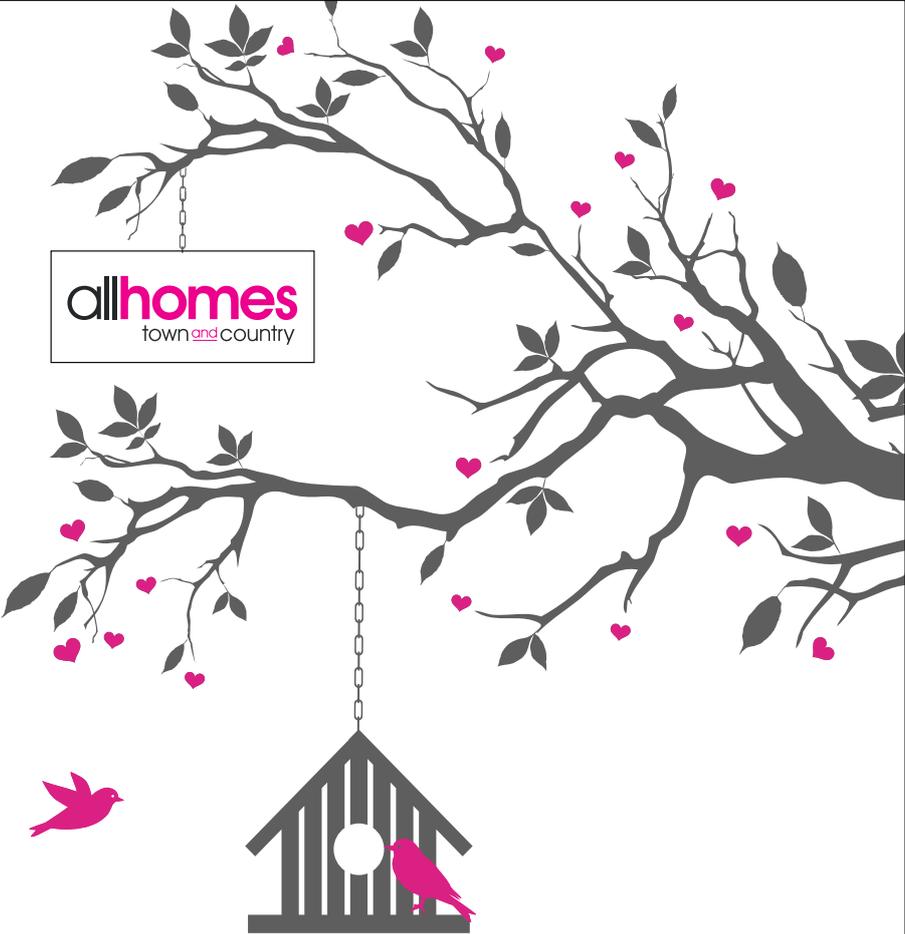
The apple, pear and plum trees at the Maze and Library scattered orchard sites have settled in well, and I've seen bees visiting their blossoms to take advantage of the pollen and nectar. Maybe we'll even have some fruit from them this year? The Maze is proving a popular place for families to visit on their daily exercise; some even timing how quickly they can race along the brick path all the way to the centre (1 minute 19 is the current fastest time). Already, the grass is starting to grow over the tops of the bricks, so if you live close enough, maybe you could take a spade or edging tool on your next trip there and trim those edges. We don't want to lose the maze so soon after re-discovering it!



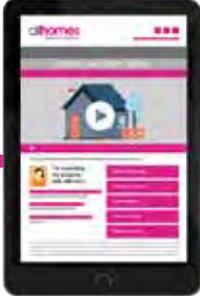
Over the last month, many families followed the chalk signs leading to Whatley Close, to collect some free wildflower and sunflower seeds. We'd love to see updates on our Facebook Group (search for Elmswild Flowers) as your seeds germinate and grow. Perhaps your roads could hold a sunflower growing competition, as Whatley Close does most years? If you have space, you could plant your sunflower seedlings in your front gardens or in a communal space on your road so you can enjoy seeing them all growing. If not, grow them in your back gardens and share photos and measurements with your neighbours.

We're loving seeing updates of wildlife around the village on our Facebook Group; we've seen jays, hedgehogs, several clutches of ducklings and squirrels, as well as lots of beautiful wildflowers growing in fields, kerbsides and meadows. Keep on sharing guys, it's wonderful for everyone, but particularly for those people who can't get out and enjoy the Spring this year.



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LOCK-DOWN PICK UP

The view from School Road looking towards the church is far reaching, with open fields and wooded areas, a lovely rural scene one of the best in Elmswell especially the sunsets. The footpath in School Road is not to bad for litter, but when I walked to Bunkers Hill the other day things changed so my wife and I decided to do something about the litter. From the church we walked towards the beck with a carrier bag and a picker, we picked up crushed beer cans, sweet wrappers, paper, cardboard from sandwich boxes, tin foil, plastic drinks bottles from shops in Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket and pieces of material, by the time we had reached the Norton Road our bag was nearly full. We retraced our steps but had filled the bag by the time we got back to the beck, so will go back another day. We often take walks in the village and could we encourage you to collect litter in a bag if you come across any. Not only is it unsightly and a sad reflection on our attitudes, that someone else will take responsibility for our litter. Litter can also be a problem for small animals, insects and birds and should be taken home and disposed of properly.



Take a bag and picker or disposable gloves and wash your hands when you have finished litter picking. Your walk will make you feel even better, having done your bit for the countryside.

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ELMSWILD FLOWERS

Lawns...

I'd like to take this month to talk about them. Most gardens include a lawn of some size and shape. Some might be tiny and modest, others much bigger, covering huge areas, with mature trees dotted about.

The thing is, lawns kept clipped short and weed-free, have almost no value to nature. They're what's called a "monoculture". One type of plant (grass) covers the whole area, providing shelter and food for only a very select group of mini-beasts. They're almost barren, especially if they're mowed regularly and treated with chemicals to kill weeds. We've been programmed to see them as beautiful (think highly manicured public gardens, university frontages etc.), but they actually became fashionable as a way for the aristocracy to show off their wealth. If you had a lawn, it meant you were rich enough not to have to use all your land to cultivate crops. A lawn was a status symbol, telling others that the owner was richer and better than anyone else. Bit spiteful, really!

But these barren monocultures have the POTENTIAL to be an amazing, bio-diverse and BEAUTIFUL asset to our countryside. By stopping using chemical weed-killers and mowing no more regularly than every 2-3 weeks, daisies, dandelions, speedwell and creeping buttercups can flourish, providing a beautiful scattering of yellow and white blooms, and providing food for MANY more mini-beasts. Just look at the low-growing area in Crown Mill, or the grass verges



on Cooks Road, or many other patches of gently cared for lawn around Elmswell. They're alive with a variety of wildflowers and creatures.

If you have one of those larger lawns, you have to opportunity to go one step further and leave a section completely un-mown during the summer months. In the first year the grass will grow longer (obviously), low-growing wildflowers will have ample opportunity to flower and re-seed the area and taller wildflowers might start to emerge, where you never realised they were waiting for their chance. Each year, the range of wildflowers will diversify, as more native blooms are able to germinate and grow. Some truly magnificent gardens have been created by gardeners who decided where to mow, and where to leave nature to do its own glorious thing.

The garden in Haughley featured in the collage, had been unoccupied for a few years, so hadn't been mowed or sprayed with herbicide. The huge range of wildflowers (including native orchids) that have taken over so quickly are exquisite in the height of summer. Luckily, I persuaded my Mum to learn to love them, rather than lay fresh turf. We have fun counting literally dozens of bees and butterflies in warm weather.

Just imagine what it would be like to live in an Elmswell with dozens of lawns like THAT. Imagine how gloriously colourful and vibrant it would be, with bees, butterflies and other insects flitting everywhere. That would really be quite something.





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During this difficult time, OneLife Suffolk are here to support you by offering our FREE services in the safety of your own home. Our dedicated teams can help you stop smoking, offer advice and support with managing your weight along with how to get active safely during this time. Our Children's team are also running a fun, informative programme for all children in Suffolk to participate in, which includes free webinars accessible from our website.

Please see our website, www.onelifesuffolk.co.uk for more information about how we can support you and your family, alternatively speak to a member of our Client Services Team on 01473 718193.



In line with Government guidelines and support of our NHS colleagues we are using our resources such as PPE and medical supplies very carefully and limiting routine operations (such as neutering) to those that are considered essential after veterinary evaluation.

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Our NHS colleagues, carers and many others are fighting a difficult battle at this time and we are committed to supporting them in reducing the risks of COVID-19 spread.

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ELMSWELL CRICKET CLUB



LOSS OF AN ALL-ROUNDER: TONY SADLER

Another chapter in the history of the Cricket Club has come to an end with the sad and surprising news that Tony Sadler died suddenly but peacefully at home on 18 April. He was 82 yet seemed nothing like that. He was a much-loved dad to Chris and Debbie, father-in-law to Janice and Nick, dear grandad to Alice, Liam, Thomas, Caitlin, Angus and Fraser and brother to Trevor.

He was one of best all-rounders the Club has had. Statistics can sometimes lie but a playing career which encompassed 4,522 runs, 439 wickets and 105 catches does not and is beyond the wildest dreams of most cricketers at our level. Not only did he achieve a highest score of 101 not out but also he took five wickets or more in a match on no less than 15 occasions.

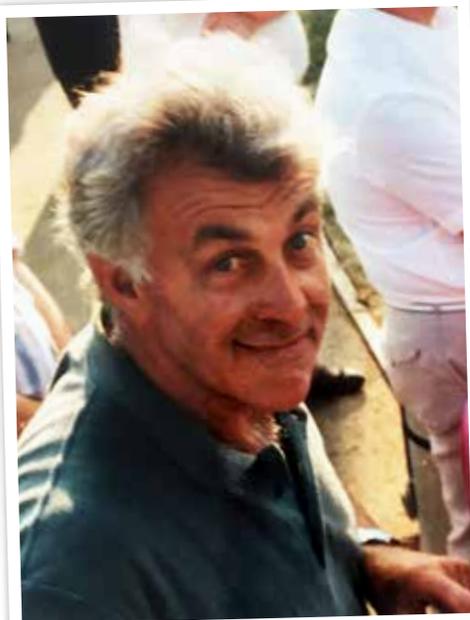
He holds a unique record in the all-time Club records - at 409, the fourth highest number of appearances by anyone; fourth highest number of runs by anyone for Elmswell; fourth highest number of wickets taken by anyone; and, yes, fourth highest number of catches. He played his last game for the Club in 1996 so the aforementioned records have already stood for almost 25 years. They will not be broken any time soon.

Unlike Tony, the Club can be traced back to the 19th century but it went into abeyance for some while in the last century and was re-formed in 1974. At that time, Tony was very much to the fore and duly elected to the first Committee the Club had in its new guise. He did his time in that capacity - serving for some 20 years (not so much man and boy as man and man!). His commitment was reflected in his always being willing to 'go the extra mile' - helping out with the pitch and supporting Club functions. He could even justifiably claim to have laid, over the years, no less than four concrete pads for practice nets but a request for a fifth was a concrete pad too far. We've all been there!??

After his playing days ceased his enthusiasm and support for the Club was undiminished as he watched son Chris then grandson Liam follow in his cricketing boots. Tony could regularly be seen at home matches especially where his once on-field competitiveness was matched by his off-field competitiveness to secure free sandwiches and cakes at the tea interval! Not that Tony was mean but anyone who got him to part with money could be seen doing a lap of honour around the Blackbourne field. Rumour has it that he once offered grandson Liam £5.00 for every boundary he scored...Liam's money-box is still waiting!

Tony (back row, third in from the right) in the heady days of 1978 - with some other familiar local faces!

Tony's innings may have ceased but everyone associated with the Club (and beyond) was and is privileged to have known him. He made his mark - one that the Club will never forget.



Tony Sadler was not only extremely personable – and good at cricket. He was a top bricklayer who started as an apprentice brickie with Mulleys Builders in Elmswell and became the go-to man for quality brickwork in the area.

Hence, when the new village sign needed a plinth, it was Tony that the Parish Council turned to as seen here in the year of the 50th anniversary of VE day, 1995, with the tools of his trade and the job nearly done.

The sign was unveiled as part of the community production of a masque – a courtly entertainment involving dozens of villagers as characters depicted on the sign. Tony was in the audience and clearly appreciative.

His work will last for many years to come, a testament to a craftsman, village character and a really nice man.





ELMSWELL FOX BOWLS CLUB



At Last! After months of trying desperately to put a positive spin on a very dire situation, I finally have a little good news to impart. It is only a little 'good news' but it is 'good news' all the same so I am duty-bound to make the absolute most of it.

The recent slight easing in the Lockdown Restrictions means that, if we tick lots of boxes, we can play bowls, after a fashion. We can only play singles i.e. one v one, unless we have co-habitees but they may well prefer to have a break from one another, thinking about it, but if not, then we could play in pairs.

Bowls matches begin with everybody introducing themselves to everybody else on the rink. That is usually, but not always, 6 people. So that is a no-no for starters. Bowls is a very tactile game in other ways, too, because we are constantly picking things up and moving them about. In most sports you usually hit a ball, or such, with an implement or a body part or something whereas in bowls you have to position a mat, not once but every time, and place the cot, not once but...get the idea? So there is a lot of picking up and putting down again. For the Virologists out there – you know who you are -that means lots of opportunities to cross-contaminate. Rather makes you think what an unhealthy sport it is at the best of times and maybe this hand-sanitising ought to be carried on when the Covid 19 is long forgotten but, if you remember pre-virus life, we were touching communal things all the time. It was second nature to us.

So here we are, on the brink of opening our doors and just need to devise a safe system to do so. The League has been extremely helpful in passing on information and advice and that its what we will be guided by. Work has continued on the green and Greenkeeper Dick Burch is determined to have a green in top notch condition although it might not be cut as often as it would have been in a normal season. The decision has been made to scrap all roll-up fees during this make-shift period but match-fees will apply should the wondrous day come when we play our first friendly of the season. Now there's something to look forward to!

Maintenance photos this time, but new ones at least. I am featuring one 'oldie' though. Phil Stabler



joined the work party but his dog, Rocky, is infinitely better-looking than Phil, being a German Shepherd. Rocky, of course, is an Alsatian.



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PARISH COUNCIL MAY 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.

Elmswell did not have to have recourse to this concession in April as the business coming forward from other bodies and from various stalled initiatives had, in the prevailing circumstances, slowed to the extent that no meeting was necessary.

However, there was business to be addressed at the May meeting, scheduled and held on 18th, by virtue of the Zoom internet video conferencing facility. The meeting in May is the Annual Council Meeting which is, effectively, the AGM and serves to review a wide range of procedural matters of finance and governance. 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 Members Cllr Sarah Mansell & Cllr Dr Helen Geake and one member of the public.

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

The Minutes of recent Parish Council meetings and Committee meetings, together with the agenda for the next meeting, when published, are available on line at elmswell.suffolk.cloud and from the Parish Clerk by arrangement. Bound copies of older Minutes are lodged with the Suffolk County Records Office in Bury St. Edmunds. The most recent Minutes, from the meeting on 16th March, as approved at this meeting, are posted in the community notice board at the Co-op.

Chairman and officers

Cllr Fred Pallett was re-elected unopposed as Chairman of Council with Cllr David Barker as Vice chairman. All other Officers and Representatives, having agreed to continue to serve were approved.

Governance & Accountability

5 separate Proposals were tabled and unanimously supported relating to the annual External Audit which includes the findings of the Council's Independent Internal Audit, full detailed accounts for the year, Risk Assessments and confirmation of compliance with the requirements as to governance and to the strictures of the JPAG Practitioners' Guide to proper Practices. None of the examinations of the Council's procedures & practices had thrown up any cause for concern or matters arising requiring action.

Casual vacancy

The recent resignation of Cllr Derek Osborne for personal reasons has been notified to the Returning Officer at Mid Suffolk District Council and statutory notices duly posted. The Meeting agreed unanimously that a letter of appreciation and thanks should go to Mr Osborne for his service in office.

Planning results

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

Reference DC/20/00864
Discharge of Conditions for Application 3469/16 – Condition 16

Land to the East of Borley Crescent
APPROVED

Reference DC/20/00901
Erection of single storey rear extension...32 Miller Close
GRANTED EPC supported

Reference DC/20/00931
Erection of single storey rear extension 5 Gardeners Walk
GRANTED EPC supported

Reference DC/20/00717
Erection of 2 no. first floor and single storey side extensions... 22 Pightle Close
GRANTED EPC supported

Reference DC/19/05878
Erection of 1no dwelling... Land North of Dagwood Farm, Ashfield Road
REFUSED EPC objected

Reference DC/20/00503
Discharge of Conditions Application for 3469/16 – Condition 10
Land to the East of Borley Crescent
APPROVED

Reference DC/20/00344
Erection of single storey front and side extension
Sycamore View, Church Road
GRANTED EPC no comment

Reference DC/20/01384
Discharge of Conditions for DC/19/02897 groundworks... Crossways Farm, Kiln Lane
APPROVED

Planning Applications
The Meeting discussed submissions as forwarded for comment by Mid

Suffolk District Council, the Planning Authority, and agreed to support the following:

DC/20/01721
Conversion and refurbishment of attached rear shed/garage to additional living Accommodation at Wistaria, New Road

DC/ 20/01756
Erection of first-floor extension over existing garage and two-storey extension to rear of garage at 27 Orchard Close

The following applications were recommended for Refusal for the reasons as detailed:

DC/20/01575
Application under S73 for removal or variation of a condition following grant of

DC/19/05810 decided 06/02/20.
Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 – Condition 2 (Approved Plans & Documents), Condition 5 (Provision of Access), Condition 6 (Highways: Removal Permitted Development Rights), Condition 7 (Highways: Provision of Parking and Turning)
Land at Kiln Farm Cottage, Kiln Lane

Councillors objected to this application for the following reasons;

1 It is accepted by the Applicant, and common sense confirms, that the 3 households created under this Proposal would entirely rely on private vehicular transport for

access to the amenities at either Elmswell or Woolpit, both in excess of a mile distant.

2 Kiln Lane is a single-track road with no passing places which serves several domestic dwellings as well as a major Anglian Water facility and 3 industrial sites. It is already subject to heavy use and constant degradation of both its verges and its running surface. There is no footway or pavement along any of its length. Any further traffic poses further hazard, contrary to Local Plan Policy T10.

3 Kiln Lane feeds on to Warren Lane for traffic East to Stowmarket or seeking the shortest route into Elmswell. Warren Lane itself is a single-track road with passing places. It must serve as the feeder road to the recently permitted development of up to 38 dwellings at its Northern end. There is no footway along its length until Warren Close at the village boundary. Any additional traffic in this context is clearly adding to the existing hazard for pedestrians and cyclists and for all traffic at the Church Road / Warren Lane / New Road staggered junction, a situation soon to be exacerbated by the traffic from this new estate of houses and by the additional load from 240 dwellings currently being built-out at Wetherden Road. When traffic is frequently diverted from A14 or otherwise through the village, as is proposed for some 3 months during the development of the Wetherden Road housing estate, Warren Lane and Kiln Lane are overwhelmed.

Given that this Proposal continues to threaten the safety and amenity of all forms of road use in the vicinity, Elmswell parish council urges rejection of this Application.

DC/20/01677 Outline Planning Application (access to be considered, all other matters reserved) Site remediation works (Phase 1) and the erection of up to 65 dwellings with the safeguarding of land for the potential future delivery of a relief road, public open space and associated landscaping (Phase 2)
Land to the West of the Former Bacon Factory

Councillors objected to this application for the following reasons;

The decision ref DC/19/03924 to refuse Permission for the original

iteration of this Application was well-founded and sat well with the core objections of Elmswell Parish Council, viz:

- 1 The site is outside of the Settlement Boundary and is not a Preferred Option in the emerging BMSDC Joint Local Plan. It represents ad hoc development without the safeguards of any strategic planning and, as such, is an unsustainable location on which development should not be approved.
- 2 The proposal found no support during the pre-application consultation process from either Elmswell Parish Council or the public. It imposes further strain on the infrastructure provision which is already stretched to accommodate 634 houses in Elmswell with Planning permission currently being built-out or soon to commence construction. Of specific concern are:
 - 2.1 Highways infrastructure which, at the School Road / Church Road junction, is already over the safe operating capacity, as confirmed by SCC Highways, and where no mitigation is suggested or offered.
 - 2.2 Highways infrastructure where the clear guidance enshrined in the Suffolk Design Guide is for 150 dwellings served by a single access road, this stricture already breached by the host development here on the Bacon Factory site and now further to be ignored in a proposal which seeks to allow 265 dwellings to be accessed from the increasingly busy single junction at Ashfield Road, a 56% uplift on the accepted safe limit.
 - 2.3 Educational provision which is already stretched by extant proposals requiring the expansion of Elmswell Primary School on its constricted site to accommodate 420 pupils and which, by Suffolk County Council admission, still leaves a residue of Elmswell children required to be bussed elsewhere when all current housing development is realised. All of the primary schoolchildren from the new housing proposed here would have to travel by bus to receive their primary education.
- 3 The addition of the public

green space to the north of the site, which was not originally mooted at the consultation stage, inevitably means that the land reserved for the Relief Road separates the residents from their recreation area posing a hazardous prospect as any such road would, by definition, carry considerable volumes and weight of traffic. There having been no further evidence presented to counter these arguments, the strong objection of Elmswell Parish Council remains.

The Refusal should be tested under the Appeal process towards helping to bring some common sense and reason into the future assessment of ad hoc impositions on the already stretched infrastructure of the unwilling host communities.

Mid Suffolk District Council

Cllrs Sarah Mansel and Helen Geake tabled a joint written report confirming that 'lockdown' grants of £32M have gone to small businesses from both Mid Suffolk and Babergh working together and that a further £81k has been distributed to community groups working to help vulnerable people during the pandemic. Meanwhile, 2 hotels have been rented to accommodate rough sleepers and, 'sofa surfers' across the Districts. The Locality Budget scheme, which awarded several grants to Elmswell causes last year, is launched again and applications are invited to either Councillor. The Council helpline is still operating on 0800 876 6926

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 resumed on 11th May following the enforced shutdown during which communication with the Contractor and Architect had allowed some progress on specific issues in advance of the re-start. Supply chain problems make the determination of a completion date problematic at this stage.

Greene King site

The Clerk's Report included confirmation that the damaging overgrowth of ivy from the main Railway Tavern building has been removed and quotations sought for the clearance of debris and scrub from the site proper towards a detailed assessment of the area's potential.

Extension to the Chamberlayne Hall at Blackbourne The Meeting noted that discussions

continue 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 the Council Office there has remained open for at least a morning session each weekday during the lockdown with some work possible from home. Non-office-based Staff are furloughed although the Village Caretaker has undertaken weekly litter picking on a voluntary basis. The MUGA, the fenced-in ball games court, is just re-opened but other fenced play areas remain closed, as does the youth shelter. Increased informal recreational use has given no cause for concern other than when dog owners ignore the notices requiring that their animals should be on leads and that they should clean up after them in the interests of the health of children sharing the space.

Volunteer support

Through the Clerk's office, Council continue to support the volunteers helping to sort out individual problems arising during lock-down.

Grant aid is secured to allow the payment of purchases of essential items where personal circumstances mean that funds are temporarily unavailable. There have been 4 referrals from Mid Suffolk to the volunteers group and Government-backed food parcels have been provided as appropriate.

BWMA inspection

The Council's Internal Auditor was asked to inspect the structure and processes of the BWMA as a separate exercise when attending to carry out this year's audit. Some minor recommendations regarding the Constitution document ensued and these will go forward to the Association's AGM. A random inspection of various random letting transactions through the whole process from a booking in the diary to payment validated by Bank Statement threw up no anomalies.

Blackbourne Maintenance

The Meeting noted that various cyclical maintenance tasks at Blackbourne have been telescoped into a couple of weeks' work rather than spread over the summer as the dovetailing-in with bookings would normally allow. The recent attempted break-in to the Scouts' storage units in the grounds maintenance equipment compound next to the bowls green caused some £400.00 worth of damage. All repairs are now effected. The

2 youths apprehended at the scene have been invited to write a letter of apology, but no prosecution is proposed. Councillors asked that the Clerk enquire of the Police as to why the community would have no other recompense from the perpetrators through the criminal justice system.

Speed restriction stickers

At the suggestion of a resident, the Clerk is 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.

Next Meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 15th June at 7.30pm in the Chamberlayne Hall at Blackbourne or on-line should restrictions so require. The public are, as ever, welcome to attend all Council and Council Committee meetings and the agenda will always offer opportunities for questions and comment. Agendas are published on line at www.elmswell.suffolk.cloud, on the Council's notice board at Crown Mill and in the community notice board at the Co-op outside the Post Office.

ON-LINE MEETINGS

If the June 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 10th, 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.

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.

June 25th July 20th Sept 21st Oct 19th Nov 16th

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

elmswell.suffolk.cloud ...

...gives access to Parish Council agendas, Minutes and documents relating to the Council's finance and governance.



Enquiries on any Parish Council matter are invited to the Clerk, Peter Dow, at The Council Office, Blackbourne, Blackbourne Road, IP30 9UH – right next to the car park and with wheelchair access.

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

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



What's On in Elmswell ?



Clearly, with a lockdown across the board, these events will be cancelled until further notice - but we leave them listed so that, whenever we get the OK to start up again, we're ready to go! (And as a reminder that we will be back to normal, hopefully in the not too distant future.)

June 2020

- 3 Elmswell Exchange WI - Edith Cavell - A British Heroine - Richard Mann
Comp: Any memorabilia from World War 1
- 6 7:00pm - Quiz Night at St John's Church Elmswell
- 9 Elmswell WI at The Blackbourne at 7.30pm
Judith Muncila, A look at the lighter side of life
- 11 Elmswell History Group meeting, Chamberlayne Hall, The Blackbourne - 7pm
A.G.M., the Speaker Anthony Cobbold: "The Cobbold Family" *July tickets on sale*
- 11 Over 55's Club Bingo
- 12 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 16 Elmswell Gardening Club meet at The Blackbourne 7.30pm Speaker: Dr Ian Bedford - 'The trouble without wasps'
- 16 Elmswell Exchange Social Club
Talk Our Special Friends + Raffle
- 25 Over 55's Club
Music with "Times Past" open evening
- 26 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 26 BINGO at Blackbourne
Doors open 6.45...Eyes Down 7.30
- 28 12:30pm - St John's Church BBQ at the Rectory

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

Your Newsletter Fact File

For the next 6 months we need copy by: May 26th, June 23rd, July 28th, August 25th, September 22nd

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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Police; non-emergencies	Mid Suffolk South SNT	headquarters@suffolk.pnn.police.uk	101
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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 Tel. 244134

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