

'Like a friend dropping in'



# The Elmswell Newsletter



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

**JANUARY 2021**

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



## *New Year daze...*



**More than 20 years of New Year's Day community walks celebrated here – along with the wish that we can resume in 2021 following a HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

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

We've just been through a funny old year. When we look back with what must, surely, be called 20/20 vision, we might struggle to take much that's positive from the many months of purgatorial limbo, from the bewildering week-by-week changes in the rules and regulations, from the daily effort to identify what day we are actually in without the little social hooks of routine and the comfortable patterns and rhythms that frame our normality. Inescapable is the wise old adage when contemplating future unknowns – 'It will all end in tiers'.

Plus there's the day-to-day weirdness of masking, sanitising and distancing introducing a whole social pantomime of muffled conversations and hand-wringing plus a frenetic semaphore of polite gestures made with a smile that no-one can see. All this as, yearning for the sunlit uplands promised by the vaccines, we survey the unlit suplands of our pub and hospitality venues.

Daring to take some heart and courage from the scientific boffins who have joined our essential workers as part of the Super Hero fraternity, we may, tentatively, begin to allow ourselves a stock-take of what has been happening, what might yet happen and what we may have learned from it all.

### The story so far...

'Formal', village society is in tatters. The sturdy framework of clubs and societies within which we weave our endlessly intricate patterns of interaction, the groups that bring us together, is shattered. Paying dutiful regard to the strictures doled out on the 6 o'clock News we can only cherish the brief opportunities for human contact, a wave and a shout across the street, a nod and occasional wink whilst queuing for an, 'essential service. Or engage in an electronic chat that seems somehow to emphasise the distance between us.

### The next chapter...

The story will change, but it is written and re-written almost daily as new characters and plots emerge. All of a sudden we face the unknown terrors of, 'the variant' and have to learn the intricacies of, 'transmissibility'. The race is on, it would seem, between these baddies and the good guys and gals riding to the rescue with their hypodermics drawn, determined to drive the virus varmints out of town.

### And the next...

The Goodies will win. We will triumph at a terrible cost, but the menace will be suppressed, after which it seems as though the Covid years will colour our outlook and our behaviour for years and

for generations to come. Pandemics in the past have left ripples, both social and economic, for many decades. The last repayment of loans to America for money borrowed to help us with the costs of World War II was dated 31st December 2006...a 61 year ripple. Current Government borrowing in the Corona wars is of a similar order.

### And the postscript...

As we have learned to our cost since March last year, there are no certainties in this process. Every day a new graph, the next slide and a new threat. Well informed, and often very ill-informed, debates occupy our thinking – currently, how many variants might be waiting in the wings and what is the long-term effectiveness of the various antidotes we are consuming by the arm-full. We know there will be more, we don't know what challenges they will bring. Looking back

**“ We will triumph at a terrible cost, but the menace will be suppressed, after which it seems as though the Covid years will colour our outlook and our behaviour for years and for generations to come.**

at history to see forward to the future we hark back to the chronicles of pestilence past, of previous plague years – many had more horrific and deadly effects, but none were as well-reported in worldwide gory detail with statistical analysis charting the prevalence and deaths but not able to touch upon the less easily quantified fear and the difficult-to-measure misery. They suggest that this perfectly natural process whereby populations are thinned and weeded is an inevitable cyclical option. Whisper it quietly...it happens.

### Which leaves us where, exactly?

It leaves us in Jabnuary, within sniffing distance, assuming no loss of taste and smell, of more normal times. Shaken and stirred but unbowed. Our community is standing its ground. Within the ever-changing rules our shops have continued to serve, Blackbourne has hosted several of the regular groups as and when permitted, all suitably spaced and sanitised. Wesley quietly opened its doors for a couple of weeks and was well supported and roundly congratulated for doing so. And we rallied round, both formally and informally, to support those less robust, those more at risk and those with few social contacts, often unnoticed in the hurly-burly of a busier normality. Your Newsletter continues to chronicle our doings. Read this month - there has been a rash of communal ukulele playing at Wesley; Stella's jigsaws are still available on request and delivered free of charge to your door; Eric Cowle spearheads the vaccination programme at the Health Centre; Linda reminds us that she always available on the phone to Companions members, and the Over 55's are recognised by Radio Suffolk for 'Making a Difference' by keeping so many of us in touch in difficult times. Locked down, but by no means locked out.

### Q.E.D.

We aim to leave our reader with a thought vaguely related to our text, which is designed, as it says on the tin, 'to inform and encourage debate'. Drawing inspiration from Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, who died in November, it seems appropriate to suggest that there is a true value to the meaning of a life that involves itself in the lives of others, in realising that one act of genuine human kindness is more valuable than a thousand Tweets.

Echoing another recently departed, the slightly more effervescent Miss Barbara Windsor, who, always abreast of current affairs, might well encourage us with a resounding, 'Carry On Elmswell!'





## ELMSWELL ART CLUB

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



inspiration. Throughout history real battles, castles, fighting kings and all the paraphernalia of war have been recorded on canvas. Ships have also been an inspiration. HMS Victory, the Fighting Temeraire, Atlantic sea battles, in fact almost every aspect of war has been painted. It is difficult to say whether paintings were created to celebrate war or were anti-war. The most famous and celebrated anti-war painting probably of all time, is Picasso's painting entitled Guernica which he created after the German Kondor wing of Hitler's airforce bombed and virtually destroyed the small town of Guernica in northern Spain during the Spanish civil war. Since the First World War artworks showing war and it's effect became less widespread and the use of paintings reduced even more during the Second World War. However, both the British and Americans had artists embedded with the troops during both conflicts to record events. The Imperial War Museum contains many such pictures. The Second World War ended in 1945 and since then we have not had to face such terror again, until now..... I lived through the war and as a kid I have to say it was terrifying but fortunately something that did not effect me as much as others, but we all sensed it would end eventually. The war we are now facing really is a world war and one that the end seems a distant dream. I am

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

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

*John Welford 01359 240166*



**Art is not some  
add-on to life.**

*Grayson Perry*

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## ELMSWELL OVER 55's

Reflecting on our last report in the newsletter when we said that lockdown no 2 was over little did we know that the dreaded virus was raising its ugly head with a tired system being introduced throughout the UK with Suffolk being placed in tier 2 which gave us a bit of relief as it meant most shops etc would be open again especially when we would be allowed to meet for 5 days over Christmas only for "Boris" to announce that Xmas would be curtailed into 1 day as infection rates were rising through out the country so lockdown came in on Boxing Day with most of the east moving into tier 4 for several weeks when it will be reviewed.

The thought of being able to meet as a group is a still a long way forward at this present time.

I hope all the members enjoyed their Xmas Gift which was paid for with the contribution from the local Firemen,s charity ,once again many thanks to Brian and the crew.

Many thanks must go to Barry Hazel Herbert Joyce and Grant for delivering the gifts to every member.

I had a surprise telephone call from James Hazel of " Radio Suffolk" just before Christmas enquiring if I would be at home later in the day to talk to Leslie Dolphin on her afternoon show about the gifts that had been delivered to all the members, as a result a Thank you for making a difference certificate arrived in the post a few days later and may appear in the newsletter ,many thanks to the person who contacted "Radio Suffolk".

We had an e-mail from the "Tynedale Hotel" in Llandudno wishing all the group a Peaceful Christmas and 2021. They will be in touch early in the new year to discuss their program as a rethink may be necessary due to the likely restrictions that will be forced upon them but rest assured they will do their very best possible to open in 2021. They are looking forward to getting the wheels back on our coach and bums back on their beds asap.

I would like to thank everybody who sent me cards or left me messages over Xmas wishing you all a safe 2021

**Diann (241002)**

## ODE to 2020-21

by Anon

Twenty-twenty go away, you've really over-done your stay  
Roll on twenty-twenty-one, let's hope it's full of joy and fun.

Be off now you nasty bug, leave us be to kiss and hug.

Clear off you grumpy Trump, go and take a running jump!

Now then, listen – here's our hope – no more washing hands with soap;

This time next year we'll simply say, we've sent the evil bug away.

## COMPANIONS

A HAPPY NEW YEAR to all who go to "Companions" and hope you are safe and well after the Christmas Festivities.

It still is not possible for us to meet up safely in the New Wesley but we live in the hope that it will not be too long.

However, in case you haven't heard, the Wesley Coffee Shop is Open weekdays from 9.30am - 1.30pm as a place to meet, have a coffee and a chat.

Don't forget I am always at the end of the 'phone for you.

**Linda Waspe Tel: 01359 242224**



## JIGSAWS GALORE

### - to save your Sanity!

If you're having to remain self-isolated and/or not going out very much, I still have a number of lovely good-quality jigsaws (of 1,000 and 500 pieces) which I'm happy to deliver (while socially-distanced, of course!) to any part of the village. So do give me a ring if these will help you while away the long dark afternoons and evenings until the Springtime. Alternatively, Stowmarket Library has a good and ever-changing selection too – mine and theirs are all free of charge.

**Stella – 01359.242601**



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## ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

Due to the continuing uncertainties around Covid, the committee has reluctantly decided that we cannot re-start our monthly talks until Spring at the very earliest. However, the better news is that we should be able to return to the new Wesley Hall, which has been fully rebuilt and the chapel sensitively refurbished to an excellent standard.

We were very sorry to learn of the passing away in November of Steve "Mr Stowmarket" Williams. He was born and bred in the town which gave him a passionate interest and detailed knowledge of its history, leading him to found Stowmarket History Group. He wrote several authoritative books on the town and, together with his wife Sue, gave some interesting talks on all aspects of the town's history, including several to EHG. One particularly memorable talk was on the Gun Cotton Explosion of 1871, for which he campaigned and eventually arranged that a memorial plaque be placed in Stowmarket's cemetery for the 28 people killed on that day. He and Sue received the well-deserved Town Council's Award for Environment & Heritage in 2018.

As 2020 was the 1000th anniversary of the founding of the Abbey at Bury St Edmunds, four commemorative lectures, entitled **From Rise to Ruins**, have been arranged by the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology & History and the St Edmunds Heritage Partnership. These will be live-streamed and easy to access (with full instructions!) via St Edmundsbury Cathedral broadcasting, and are **free of charge**. More information can be found online at :

<https://www.suffolk-institute.org.uk/suffolk-institute-news/four-abbey-millennium-talks> and also from the cathedral, <https://stedscathedral.org/events/from-rise-to-ruins/>

The first excellent and very comprehensive lecture was in November, and the next three (all at 2pm) are on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 27<sup>th</sup> February, and 27<sup>th</sup> March. If you missed any of them, they remain available on the

Cathedral's Facebook page.



Maybe one of your New Year's resolutions might be to broaden your general knowledge: in which case why not try some of the many online talks and courses available. Here are a few you may like to investigate.



### THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST

**1. Churches Conservation Trust** - every Thursday at 1pm, the CCT host a talk, usually connected with church history. There's a wide variety of talks - some light-hearted, others more academic - which can be accessed on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ChurchesConservationTrust>.

If you miss the talk, they are available permanently on YouTube. They are free of charge, but donations to CCT are always welcome.

**2. Suffolk Institute for Archaeology and History** - usually hold a series of monthly talks in Elmswell throughout



the winter, but these will be on Zoom this year. For further details of how to join the talk, e.mail [chairman@suffolk-institute-news/winter-lecture-series-2020-21](mailto:chairman@suffolk-institute-news/winter-lecture-series-2020-21)

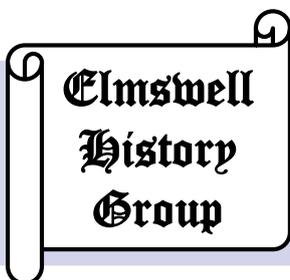


**3. Workers' Educational Association** - have been providing local courses for many years, but are online via Zoom at present. There are a vast number of courses available, many with a history theme, but not exclusively so; some are just one lecture, others over several weeks. They generally cost a few pounds each, but some are free of charge. Search for a course at [www.wea.org.uk/courses](http://www.wea.org.uk/courses)



**Your Covid Experiences** - Our parent body, Suffolk Local History Council, would like to create "an historical record for future historians" of your experiences during this Covid year. It would be lovely to hear from any of you on this topic or, alternatively, you can submit directly to SLHC's newsletter editor, Sue Michell, at [newsletter@slhc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@slhc.org.uk).

Deadline 15<sup>th</sup> January. Thank you.



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

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

or contact our Secretary, Stella Chamberlin on 01359-242601

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## ELMSWHEELIANS 2021

In normal times I would now be summarizing the highlights of the past year, but sadly because of the restrictions placed upon group cycling by the pandemic, our activities in 2020 amounted to a blank canvass. I certainly hope the new year will bring better times, and we will be able to get ourselves back into the saddle. To remind everyone, we are an informal group of like-minded individuals who enjoy cycling, at a normal pace, and not for long distances. Typically our rides vary between 12 and 20 miles depending upon whether we are doing an evening ride or day-time ride.

Ride details are always published in advance in the Monthly Newsletter. If you are new in the village, or indeed, have lived here for a while, we always welcome new faces. There is no membership and nothing to pay. Just turn up, and join a group that will make you "feel at home". We do ask, however, that you are aged 16+. All our rides start from Abbots Warren in Church Road, and invariably finish at "The Fox" for well-earned refreshment!!



I just look forward to being able to bring you all a plan of action. Happy New Year and do stay safe.

**Contact : Trevor Sadler,  
Abbots Warren, Church Road,  
Elmswell.**

**Tel : 01359 240908**



Our picture shows Steve Norman at Wesley, coffee in hand and seated on the Victorian pine pew which he created from 2 of the original pews removed from the chapel prior to refurbishment. The pews were carefully salvaged and, when offered for sale, were snapped up by residents with their own plans for re-use. As the photo of the chapel interior shows, the pews were single-ended, with one end let into

the wall, meaning that 2 were needed to create a free-standing seat such as Steve has created, having skilfully stripped off layers of stain and varnish. The triumphant result now serves as seating in the coffee shop. Steve plies his trade as a furniture restorer from the Station Road Industrial Estate behind the Fox – telephone 244036 or email [restorerstevenorman@gmail.com](mailto:restorerstevenorman@gmail.com)

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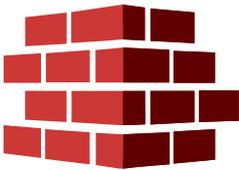
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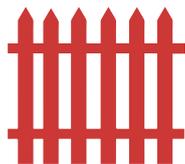
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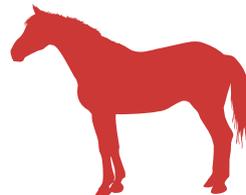
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## ELMSWELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Hello Elmswell,

Happy new year. I hope you all had a good Christmas.

We had a bit of excitement just after Christmas with some accidental damage to the pillar by the door. Thankfully nobody was hurt but it does mean that the drop box for returning books while we are closed is not be available until the porch has been made safe again. For the most up to date information check the Elmswell Library page on Suffolk Libraries website. <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/visit/locations-and-times/elmswell-library>

Also given the new strain and rising cases Elmswell Library is closed at the beginning of January. We will reopen once it has been decided it is safe to do so. When we reopen it will most likely be with the same services that we offered in December, so Select and Collect service and reservations but no browsing.

You do not need to worry about books being overdue as all items due to be returned after Christmas have had their return dates extended to Monday 1st March 2021.

We still have plenty for you while we are closed as there is still Wi-Fi available around the library and our elibrary services.

The elibrary includes ebooks available through Overdrive / Libby, audiobooks available through Overdrive / Libby and BorrowBox, magazines and newspapers through PressReader, music from Sony through Freegal and access to The Great Courses, documentaries and films through Kanopy.

Suffolk Libraries are also running Jumpstart January again this year with free online health and fitness activities, provided by professional instructors. For all fitness levels — everyone

welcome and completely free! For more information go to <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/whats-on/annual-events/jumpstart-january-2021>

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

See you all soon,

*Miles*

### What's on at Elmswell Library?

#### Baby Bounce

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

#### The Keep in Touch Community Café

Cancelled until further notice.

#### Lego Club

Lego ideas will be posted on Facebook every Sunday.

#### Elmswell Library Friends Group AGM

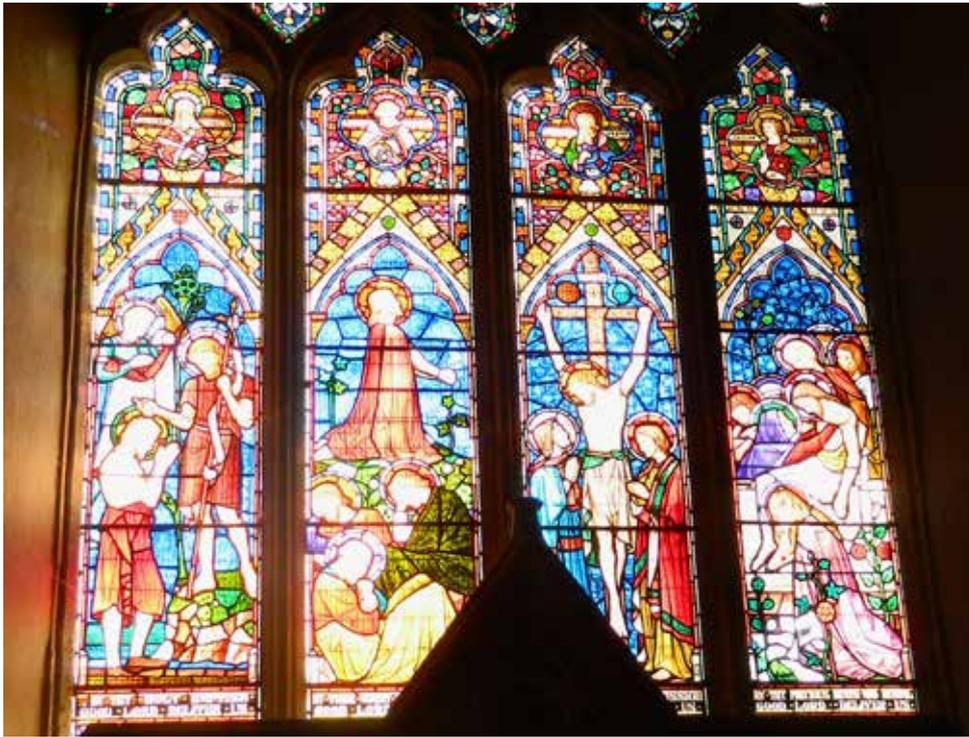
Postponed until further notice.

#### Open times (once we are open again)

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



*Eric Cowle, one of Elmswell oldest residents, I presume, at the age of 96, having his first dose of the covid vaccine at the Woolpit Heath Centre.*



## ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Hello and Happy New Year from St John's Church.

Following a challenging 2020, we can only hope that 2021 will see things get a little closer to normal. The most popular verse on the YouVersion Bible app for 2020 was Isaiah 41:10, hardly surprising as we struggled to cope with months of uncertainty, fear, loss and loneliness. However, it is such a lovely verse, with a message we will still need to constantly remind ourselves of as we look ahead. For this reason, we are using it as the St John's verse for 2021:

So do not fear, for I am with you;  
do not be dismayed,  
for I am your God.  
I will strengthen you and help you;  
I will uphold you with my righteous  
right hand.

*Isaiah 41:10*

It was a peculiar Christmas season, especially not having the Little Elms nursery and the primary school visit. However, we made the best of it with a number of socially distanced services inside St John's Church and we streamed an awesome online Village Carol Service. Christmas Eve was also celebrated with an online nativity that was lots of fun. However, despite it being an unusual Christmas, the focus of our celebrations remained unchanged: the birth of the Son of God, our Saviour.



## CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED

Did Christmas raise any questions about Jesus, Christianity or other spiritual matters? If so, then this is for you! Christianity Explored is a relaxed and informal way of giving you time and space to consider the big questions of life and to explore the life of Jesus, who lies at the heart of the Christian faith. It kicks off on Sunday 3 January at 7:00pm over Zoom and you are warmly invited to join - please book a place by emailing [elmswellrector@gmail.com](mailto:elmswellrector@gmail.com).

The assumption for January is that we will continue to meet in the church each Sunday at 10:30am, with the service simultaneously streamed on our Facebook page and available on our main website and YouTube from noon. We will likewise continue with our 2 services midweek online prayer (Facebook) and other activities, such as the prayer meeting, home groups and "Coffee and Chat" over Zoom.

Also in January, our Variety and Spice evening is back, albeit again online. We will have sketches, songs, jokes, poetry and more! We're asking for a donation of just £6 per person (under 16s free). The fun starts at 7:00pm. Please do join us on Facebook or [www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk](http://www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk) and invite your

friends, neighbours, family, etc! It's always an excellent evening with lots of laughs.



### Proposed Weekly Diary for January:

#### Sunday:

- 9:30am Sunday School via Zoom (not January 3). Contact us for details.
- 10:30am Service in church and streamed on Facebook. Available on YouTube from noon.

#### Tuesday and Thursday:

- 8:00pm Night Prayer streamed on Facebook

#### Saturday:

- 9:00am Weekly prayer meeting via Zoom.
- 10:30am Coffee and Chat via Zoom



- Rector: Peter Goodridge
- Email: [elmswellrector@gmail.com](mailto:elmswellrector@gmail.com)
- Tel: 01359 240512
- Web site: [www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk](http://www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stjohnselmswell](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnselmswell)
- YouTube: accessed via our website home page
- Zoom: contact us for the details



## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH TOWER FLOODLIGHTING

You are invited to sponsor the floodlighting of St. John's to help with the day-to-day running expenses of our parish church. You can choose to commemorate a personal event, an anniversary, or any other special occasion. Alternatively you can simply make a donation. For the winter months the lights will be on between 5.30 p.m. and midnight. A night's floodlighting costs £5.

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

Thank You, and a Happy New Year to all.

### JANUARY 2021 SPONSORSHIPS

1 to remember and thank all those past Elmswell Fire-Fighters who served their village and community so well.

6 remembering Evelyn Simpson with love. "Always in our thoughts". From all the family.

13 in loving memory of my mother Eileen Fraser on her Birthday.

15 in memory of Geoffrey Dalton on his Birthday.

15 in loving memory of Allison Schofield, devoted wife and mum. "She brightened all our lives and we miss you more every day". All our love, Michael, Christopher and Jonathan.

19 in loving memory of Natasha Smith.

22 remembering Rob Dalby on your Birthday. As always, love from all the family.

23 in loving memory of Ricky Woolnough's Birthday.

**All bookings and payments please to :-**

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### MASS TIMES:

Saturday (First Mass of Sunday) – 6PM

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

Sundays – 8.30am & 10.15am

Our Lady's, Stricklands Road,  
Stowmarket IP14 1AW

Holy Days – 10am & 7.30pm

Our Lady's Strickland Road Stowmarket

Weekday services in the Parish are advertised at the

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

the Parish Website –

www.ourladystowmarket.org.uk

## ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

"We're open" Sunday 6th December saw the first service held at our church since we closed in March it was led by our deacons and broadcast on zoom to those unable to attend, the service centred around the old testament story of Ruth and Naomi and their return to Judah.

As Tony mentioned in November we lost our pastoral overseer Stephen after 18 years of dedicated leadership but the Lord has seen fit to introduce us to the Rev Norman Tharby a retired Baptist Minister who has agreed to act as our moderator he will be leading services probably twice a month for the immediate future.

We are not yet able to restart any other activities for the time being hopefully when the vaccination programme gets underway normal services will resume until then social distance services will continue at the church as well being available on zoom. Its great news that Woolpit Health centre has started vaccinating the over eighties of the area so the light is at the end of the tunnel for the new normal to begin.

January services will be led by:-

3rd January Rev Norman Tharby

10th January Eddie Kerridge

17th January Eileen Warner

24th January Rev Norman Tharby

31st January Rev Barbara Challis

We will continue to remember in our prayers all those who have been directly affected by the pandemic families who have lost loved ones, NHS staff, healthcare workers, business owners who have been forced to close down, so if you pray please remember

all of these folk in your prayers.

For any more information about us / for zoom codes/contact Tony on 01359 241541 or go to our website www. elmswellbaptist.org.uk

From all of us at Elmswell Baptist Church we wish you all a Happy New Year.

**Dave Hollings**



## MYSTERIOUS METAL MONOLITH APPEARS AT CROWN MILL

As scientists, UFO enthusiasts and the art world ponder over strange metal structures appearing randomly world-wide including in the Utah desert, in a Romanian forest and in a field in Christchurch New Zealand, this relatively undramatic example materialised at Crown Mill some weeks back. Tests suggest that it is made from galvanized mild steel and that, although there seems to be an access door, no way of opening this has yet been found. A local technician, who did not wish to be named, suggested, when questioned, that it, 'needs a key'.

Keen observers of such phenomena have noted the recent presence of several safety-clad individuals with the symbol, 'SCC', evident on their clothing. When questioned they claimed to be simply, 'obeying orders', and, possibly by way of a smoke-screen, implied that the fact that the pillar was equipped to allow access to mains electricity gave some credence to the theory that it is designed to supply power to a Christmas tree that might, in future years, be sited next to the village sign.

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## STAY LOCAL AND KEEP ACTIVE IN 2021 WITH MAPRUNF

There are now a number of Maprun Courses within both Elmswell and Woolpit. MaprunF is a GPS based App on your phone and the courses are a bit like a treasure hunt. You need to navigate to the right place for your phone to 'pick-up' the GPS coordinates of the checkpoints marked on a simple map and your time will be recorded.

Before you begin you need to download the free App from the Google Play store or the Apple store. When the App starts on your phone, click on the 'Events near Me' button. Alternatively, you can find all the courses available in Suffolk via the UK folder in the App.

The map will be visible on your phone and printable maps of each course are available freely from the website listed below. The Woolpit ones start and finish close to the Church or Village Hall; the Elmswell ones start and finish close to the Blackbourne Community Centre.

*The following courses are available in the Elmswell and Woolpit area:*

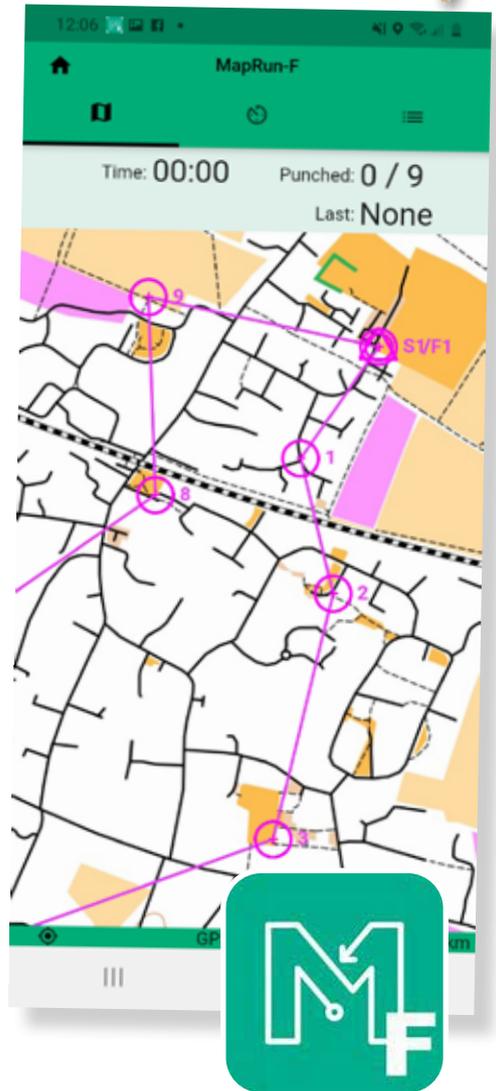
- Woolpit 5km Run – a timed circular route along footpaths and roads.
- Elmswell 5km Run – a timed circular route along public footpaths – which could be muddy.

- Woolpit Score – visit as many checkpoints in any order (max 15) as you can in 40 minutes.
- Elmswell Score – visit as many checkpoints in any order (max 20) as you can in 60 minutes.
- Elmswell Central Scatter – visit all 15 controls in any order with no time limit.
- Elmswell Long – a point to point course - approx 7-8 km depending on route.
- Elmswell Short – a point to point course – approx 5-6 km depending on route.

Participants do so at their own risk and as all courses use or cross public roads so under-16s should be accompanied by an adult.

It is a great way to explore your local area, and once you get the hang of it, there are plenty more all over the county and beyond. More and more Maprun courses are being created by volunteers all the time.

**For more details about how it works go to [www.suffoc.co.uk/content/maprun-orienteeing](http://www.suffoc.co.uk/content/maprun-orienteeing) or contact Sarah at [maprun@suffoc.co.uk](mailto:maprun@suffoc.co.uk).**



# census 2021

Census 2021 will provide a snapshot of modern society

Households across Elmswell will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021.

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

It will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.

“A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed,” Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics, said.

“This could mean things like doctors’ surgeries, schools and new transport routes. That’s why it is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them.”

Census day will be on March 21, but households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March.

The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

**For more information, visit [census.gov.uk](http://census.gov.uk).**



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# Knock & Check on a neighbour

## Small actions can make a big difference

If you know someone who is vulnerable, give a knock, and say hello. Something as simple as offering to pick up shopping can be a lifeline for those in need.

We need your help to ensure that no one is left feeling isolated or in need this winter.

## Help us spread the word about support services on offer in our district

The Home, But Not Alone service provides urgent assistance with getting food or medication for those classed as extremely clinically vulnerable. Call freephone **0800 876 6926**, Monday to Friday, from 9am to 5pm.

Help is at hand from the Suffolk Support and Advice Service for anyone facing financial difficulties. The service provides free confidential advice on a range of issues, from Covid concerns to rent arrears or credit card debt. Call freephone **0800 068 3131**.

The Rural Coffee Caravan's Warm Homes Scheme offers free and friendly energy advice.

Visit: [www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk/warm-homes](http://www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk/warm-homes) or call Diana on **07494 572153** or Annette on **07957 779623**.

If you are concerned about the mental health or wellbeing of a young person, aged 25 and under, contact the Children & Young People's Emotional Wellbeing Hub on **0345 600 2090**, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 7:30pm.

Visit: [www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/)

First Responders **0808 196 3646** (8am to 8pm, 7 days a week).

Kooth also offers free and anonymous online support and counselling, including a web chat service, for young people.

Visit: [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com) for more information.

If you are struggling to cope and need immediate help, The Samaritans is a 24/7 text service, free on all major mobile networks, for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. **Text 116 123**.

## What else can I do to help?

- Volunteer for one of the many fantastic voluntary organisations in Suffolk
- Pop a note through your neighbour's door with your contact details in case of an emergency
- Bake a cake or make up an extra plate of food for your neighbour
- Pass on magazines or books
- Knock on the door to show a familiar face
- Find your good neighbour network at: [SuffolkGoodNeighbours.co.uk](http://SuffolkGoodNeighbours.co.uk).



Knock  
Knock

Stay well,  
stay warm,  
stay connected this winter

Twoo's  
There?



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### FIRST TEAM EDITORIAL

Originally it looked like no football would be played in December 2020, however we eventually fulfilled three league games. Great wins against Saxmundham & Stonham gave us six points & even more confidence leading in to our last fixture for 2020. So on 19th December we all headed down the road for an eagerly anticipated local derby against our nearest rivals at Thurston.

A typical local derby was played out, although I may be biased we triumphed to a 3-1 victory claiming a maximum 9 points from three games. The first team sit in second with games in hand and apart from one blemish we are happy with the team, the football & most of all the atmosphere around the camp.

Hopefully you all had a great Christmas & New Year, we all hope 2021 brings a change of fortune to everything but our first teams results, as they are doing very well. If you have a spare Saturday afternoon, pop to Blackburn around two pm where you should see our first team, or our reserves gracing the hallowed turf!.

Shaun Pratt 07494 864 231



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## RESERVES EDITORIAL

December always brings its footballing trials and tribulations, even in a normal year, so we were expecting no less for 2020. Our first game, away to Kesgrave Kestrels Reserves, had two venues rained off before it was finally scheduled for Whitton Sports Centre. The pitch was decent considering and we even had some sun to match our bright start to the game. In a very seasonal fashion, we gifted Kesgrave the lead midway through the first half and our faith took a little knock. At half-time a wise man spotted a potential star and made a tactical switch which turned out to be our saviour. Man of the Match, Aidan Ashton, having been moved into midfield, started pulling the strings and stretching the opposition. He played a large part in each of our goals, with King, Cable and Carroll (x2) finishing off the chances. We missed several opportunities to make it more but after a very late Kestrels rally the game ended 2-4 to Elmswell. We were glad to see our silver foxes, Steven Reid and Chris Edmonds, back in the squad after being out injured for a couple of months.

Our next game away to Hundon Reserves in the Primary Cup was rained-off. This has now been rescheduled for the 9th of January with the winner drawn to play Brantham Athletic 'A' at home.

Our last game of the year was against a very strong Bourne Vale Reserves side who are one of the favourites for promotion. We had a couple of key players missing and then a couple more had to pull out on the morning of the game, leaving us with 3 subs and Rad Lington. We started really well and new signing Ed Hodgson scored as we controlled the early stages of the game. Bourne Vale's quality began to show more and more as their ex senior players raked cross-field balls and pinged top-bins for fun. As is their way the boys, kept their heads up and kept ploughing away, and although we created some half chances we couldn't stem the Bourne Vale tide. The game ended 1-6 and Ed Hodgson got MOTM.

We end the year, after 7 games, in fifth place, and looking forward to the next two thirds of the season and hopefully a bit of a cup run. Our next home game is against Bacton 'A' on Saturday 30th Jan.

*Ed - Reserve Team Manager*



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# NEWS FROM ELMSWILD



## A reprieve for our oak tree?

A huge thank you to the many people who lent their support to our efforts in saving the School Road Oak. As a result of your wonderful response we have reason to hope that a Tree Protection Order may now be placed on the tree, making its future much more secure. It certainly shows that we in Elmswell really appreciate our trees, especially those growing within the village, and sends a powerful message to the decision-makers out there about the value we place on nature. Message received, loud and clear!

Our photo was taken by John Pursglove on one of his early morning walks around the village, and shows the oak coated with hoar frost, captured in a shaft of early morning sunlight.

A real picture of hope to welcome in the New Year



## Willow galore

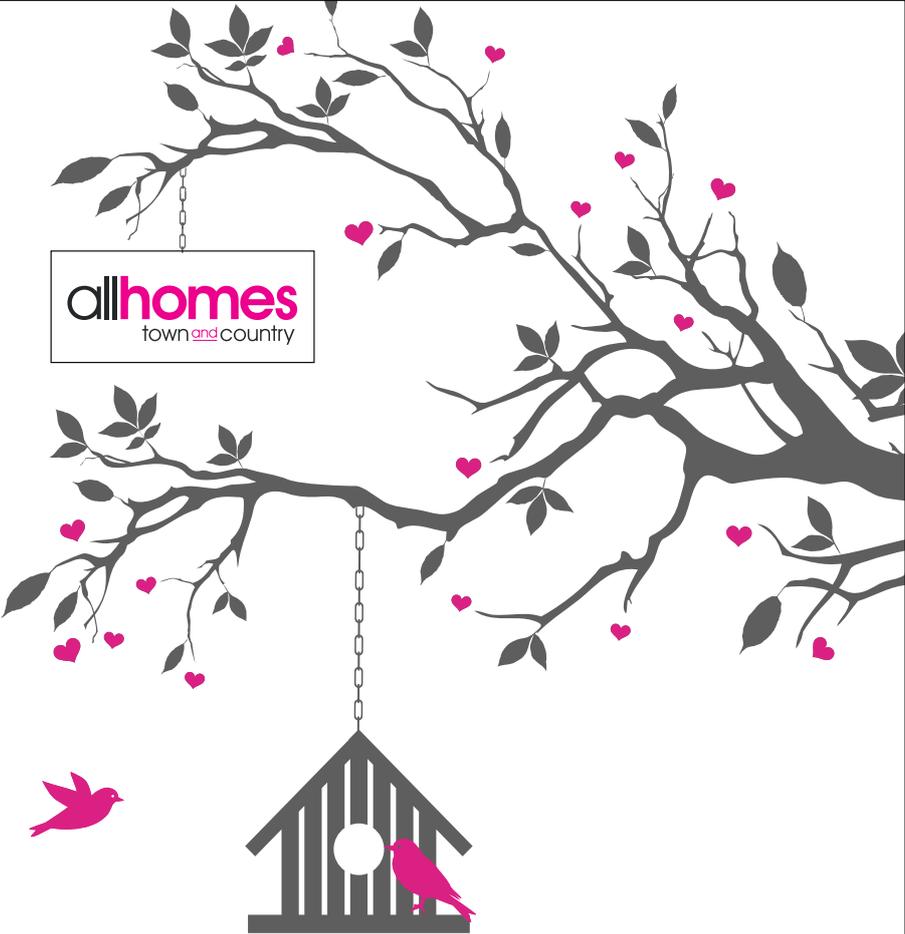
Just before Christmas we undertook our annual task of cutting the willow at Lukeswood. Our willow bed is very well established now, with all of the trees producing many new shoots. Some of the wands are over 3 metres long! We pollard them every year in order to take the crop and to keep them producing more (if we didn't, they would grow into trees, and would no longer produce workable willow). We have lots of bundles available if anyone is interested in taking them for a craft project. The larger ones are great for living structures, such as garden bowers, children's dens, or a living hedge, while the smaller ones can be used for weaving, wreath making and other craft activities. Once dried they can be useful in the garden as bean poles, pergolas and supports for climbing plants.

Please get in touch if you are interested in having some locally grown willow.



***Wishing everyone a very happy, safe and healthy New Year from all of us at ElmsWild***

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

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## Weather

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 X Q A Z B O M J Y H G S F R E  
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 F M T X W S L P D X Z E R T L  
 Q D M X T H I T W T R D W V P  
 Z V N J R D Q S G K J O B G F  
 C M I S T P U O F C N E S X Z  
 B G T R F C D R W S X Z A Q W  
 M L P I U G F F W S A H A I L

Sunshine  
 Clouds  
 Drizzle

Fog  
 Snow  
 Mist

Hail  
 Thunder  
 Wind

Lightning  
 Frost  
 Storm



### You will need:

- A clear glass or similar see-through container
- Warm water
- Ice
- Metal or foil dish

### Instructions:

1. Place the ice into the metal dish.
2. Pour a small amount of warm water into the bottom of the glass.
3. Wait until the dish is really cold. Then place it on top of the glass.
4. Watch the inside carefully. You should see a 'cloud' form near the top of the glass.

**What kind of shorts do clouds wear?  
 Thunderwear!**

**What bow can't be tied?  
 A rainbow!**

**What falls but never hits the ground?  
 The temperature!**

**When rain gathers on the ground sometimes it can form a puddle, the puddle can change size during the day which you can measure.**

### What you will need:

- A puddle
- A piece of chalk



### Instructions:

1. Choose a day when there has been rain overnight and the rest of the day is expected to be dry, warm and sunny.
2. Choose a puddle and first thing in the morning use a piece of chalk to draw around the puddle.
3. A few hours later go back and draw around your puddle again. Repeat this several times during the day.

This page sponsored by





## ELMSWELL FOX BOWLS CLUB

### Welcome to the first bulletin of 2021!

By the time this issue hits the streets Covid Christmas and Covid New Year will be done and dusted. Good riddance, many of you will say. I hope the on-off-on and off again Christmas was the best it could be for you and, if it wasn't, then at least it is all over now. I was looking forward to a new bowls season to provide fuel of these columns but with this crafty mutation popping up it looks as if we are back to square one again. But we are battle-hardened troops now and not the pushovers we were back in March last year and we know what we are up against this time.

The one bright spot these days, and the only source of material for me, is Kevin's Ukulele Band.

We have met 3 times at the new Wesley coffee shop, which we can highly recommend, and actually practiced and played in front of real, live people! And not one of them has been rude to our face. Mind you, I have heard there are lots of rumours going about!

We would like to make the Wesley our home, because the coffee is so good, and are in negotiations with the management. We would like to make Thursdays our regular day and

to be known, initially, as the 'Wesley Wayfarers' and, as I may have said last month, are looking for new members. So do come and check us out, the cakes are delicious, too. Kevin has a spare uke and several other strange instruments including a kazoo so several people could join in.

Not surprisingly, this month's photos are of the band at the Wesley and feature Kevin leading the class, myself and Kevin's buddy, Steve, and sprightly young David keeping time for us on his syncopated suitcase.

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# PARISH COUNCIL MEETING REPORT - December 2020

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

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

9 Councillors attended, 3 of them on-line. 2 members of the public attended in person and 1 attended on-line.

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 19<sup>th</sup> October, as approved at this meeting, are posted on the Council notice board at the Co-op.

## Planning results

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

DC/20/03845 Discharge of Conditions Application 0210/17 – Condition 16 (loading/unloading) Land to the East of Ashfield Road APPROVED

DC/20/03848 Discharge of Conditions Application 0210/17 – Condition 8(Archaeological), 12 (Arboricultural), 19 (Contamination), and 20 (Contamination report) Land to the East of Ashfield Road APPROVED

DC/20/03849 Discharge of Conditions Application DC/19/02495 – Condition 6(Trees), 8 (Phasing of development), 9 (Access), and 10 (Biodiversity) Land to the East of Ashfield Road APPROVED

DC/20/03848 Discharge of Conditions Application 0210/17 – Condition 5 (Levels), 14 (Roads/footpaths) and 18 (Construction methodology) Land to the East of Ashfield Road APPROVED

DC/20/03026 Variation of the Approval of Reserved Matters Crest Nicholson Site, Land adjacent Wetherden Road APPROVED

DC/20/03953 Discharge of Conditions Application DC/20/01922 – Condition 4 (refuse bins/collection areas) Land adjacent to Marlborough, Cross Street APPROVED

DC/20/03846 Discharge of Conditions Application 0210/17 – Condition 6 (Surface & foul water drainage), 7 (SUDS) Land to the East of Ashfield Road APPROVED

DC/20/04285 Erection of 2 storey rear extension The Links, Church Road GRANTED

DC/20/04326 Erection of a 2 storey rear extension... Ten - Ten Kiln Lane GRANTED

## Planning Applications

The Meeting discussed submissions as forwarded for comment by Mid Suffolk District

Council, the Planning Authority, and agreed to support applications ref. DC/20/05166 for a single-storey rear

extension and other works at Spinnakers, Ashfield Road and ref. DC/20/05089 for the retention of change of use of

land for highway access and installation of an electric charging unit at 6 eastern Way.

Objections were made to other applications as follows:

**DC/20/04972 Change of use of land for the creation of an additional 2 Gypsy/Traveller pitches comprising the siting of 2 mobile homes, 2 touring caravans and the erection of 1 dayroom at 1 Broadgrass Green**

This site is to the rear of a substantial building immediately on its Western boundary as shown in

Drawings DD-01 and DD03. As such it presents a smaller area than is being retained in the original larger holding which represents the typical size of the original plots.

This reduced area is too small to accommodate 2 mobile homes, 2 touring caravans plus day rooms together with access and parking space. It is entirely out of keeping with the neighbouring plots which are spacious and satisfy the Local Plan

requirement for adequate parking and turning area including for commercial vehicles. Given the prominence of the proposal site, at the entrance to Broadgrass Green, the effect will be to erode the character established by the pattern and form of the existing development.

**DC/20/05052 Submission of details for Outline Permission DC/18/02553 – Appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for the erection of 2No. detached bungalows and vehicular access at Hedgerows, Grove Lane**

The creation of an artificial building line between Half Acre and Hedgerows on either boundary of the site regularises the build pattern in a way more reflective of an urban environment creating a built mass to the detriment of this very rural setting. This urbanisation is exacerbated by the grey cladding which finds no resonance and no contextual reference in a neighbourhood that deserves a better design standard than is here presented. Further, the piecemeal

approach of seeking permission on half of the site pending a submission of a Details Application for the 2 plots to the rear denies the opportunity for a cohesive result which takes into account the spacing of all 4 dwellings in a masterplan. As proposed, these bungalows are squeezed into the front of the larger site representing a poor use of land which will reflect adversely on the 2 dwellings which follow. For these reasons, Elmswell Parish Council urges rejection of this application until a properly considered scheme for the whole site is brought forward. In coming to this conclusion, Councillors had reference to Local Plan policies GP1, H13, H15, NPPF paras. 124, 127, 128 & 130 and emerging JLP policies LP01 & LP04.

**DC/20/05053 Outline Planning Application – erection of up to 9 dwellings on Land to the East of Oak Lane**

This application presents a significantly smaller site than that on which it is based, ref. DC/19/02909. By changing the scale of the site plan from 1:2500 to 1:1250, the applicant has effectively masked the difference in the size of the plot. The original proposal posited 9 dwellings on a hectare of land. The revised site area is approximately 0.54 of a hectare, a reduction of some 46%, which must inevitably present an overcrowded result when the same number of dwellings are served by the same area of access and circulation roadway. In the context of the 14 individual plots which form the distinctive neighbourhood of Oak Lane, this proposal seeks to present an entirely inappropriately urban incursion entirely at odds with the current semi-rural context. Councillors maintain reservations regarding highway access which they consider to be poorly addressed by the remediation measures proposed. In reaching these conclusions, reference was made to Local Plan policies GP1, H13, H15 & T10 together with NPPF Para. 127 and the emerging JLP at LP01.

**DC/20/04540 Creation of new vehicular access to The Orchard and creation of additional parking area at Dagwood Farm, Ashfield Road**  
There is no justification for this

incursion into the rural character of Buttenhaugh Green or for the detrimental effect on the setting of the adjacent Listed farmhouses, most significantly, Dagwood Farmhouse. This last vestige of the Green fronting the farmhouses must be protected from a poorly defined surfaced area which would be prone to ad hoc expansion.

The objection to this application is made with reference to NPPF paras.189 & 190.

**DC/20/05069 Application under S73a to vary or remove a condition relating to DC/19/00550 dated 21/03/2019. To facilitate building to be split into two class E units, as no longer to be used in association with Suffolk Lowland Search and Rescue as a new base at the Stag café Site, A14 Slip Road, Woolpit**

In its original iteration as a site ostensibly for accommodation for a social service enterprise, Elmswell Parish Council objected on the following grounds:

*It is clear that the end-user of the proposed buildings cannot be constrained by a Planning Condition and that the suggestion of a likely occupier should not be relied upon. In effect, the application is for 2 substantial industrial warehouse buildings in the countryside. These are factory units of some 256 sq. metres without any of the support infrastructure necessary for their safe operation by way of access and parking. As such the proposal is unsustainable when measured against NPPF paragraph 17 requiring a good standard of amenity for future occupants and against paragraph 14 which seeks to ban such development where impacts outweigh the benefits.*

*Relying, therefore, upon Local Plan policies, Councillors had reference to E3 & E9 requiring a workable relationship with the primary road network, ie A14. This site can be reached from A14 in both directions, but access back on to the major road would require either the use of Warren Lane, which is weight limited, or rat running via the totally unacceptable lanes through Woolpit. Any requirement to use the roundabout at Tothill would, in practice, be unenforceable.*

*Further, the constraints conditioned upon Permission ref. 0668/10 do not allow for parking other than that*

*related to the use of the café. This makes the siting of 2 industrial units unfeasible and raises the prospect of roadside parking which is clearly unacceptable and runs counter to Local Plan policies T9 & T10. Unresolved enforcement issues related to 0668/10 are themselves sufficient to require refusal of this application.*

This proposal can only exacerbate the problems cited above. Rather than the light and spasmodic traffic serving the original units, the full-blown Class E use will generate far greater traffic movements both in terms of frequency and size.

These objections, therefore, stand and Elmswell Parish Council urges rejection of this application.

**DC/19/02656 Outline Planning Application. (All matters reserved) Provision of land for the extension of Woolpit Primary Academy School. Erection of up to 40 dwellings, associated works and infrastructure. Land South of Old Stowmarket Road, Woolpit**

This application serves to compound the problems presented by the failure to properly rationalise the provision of primary education in the area.

The pressing need is for Elmswell children of primary school age to go to school in Elmswell.

The stresses of bussing young children over A14 twice daily for 200 days each year and the imposition of the extra traffic management burden from this and from the private car traffic inevitably generated is unsustainable and should not be countenanced.

A new strategic overview of primary education in the area is much needed. Meanwhile, the implications behind this application are such that, on behalf of Elmswell's children, both present and future, it cannot be supported.

**DC/20/05389 Application for the Modification of a Planning Obligation under Section 106A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 relating to Planning permission 0846/13. Land at St Edmunds Drive**

As no detail was available, despite requests to Planning Officers, as to the nature of the proposed

modifications, the Meeting agreed that it must register a holding objection given the importance of the s106 conditions in

compensating the community for the stress on infrastructure stemming from extra development.

**Application SCC/0098/20MS/ SCREEN Request for a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 15 of the Town and Country Planning Regulations 2017 in respect of: EIA Screening and Scoping request within an area identified as the northern extension for the extraction, processing, sale and distribution of sand and gravel with subsequent restoration using inert materials Lawn Farm Quarry, Wetherden**

The Chairman and Clerk were delegated to respond to this request which seeks to consult on the nature and range of issues which should be addressed in further consideration of the approach for the expansion of the works at Lawn Farm Quarry. It was agreed that, having reference to the history of this site, the headings under which regulation is addressed should include, noise, dust, operating hours, light pollution and dangerous mud and gravel deposits on the adjacent highway.

**Mid Suffolk District Council**

Cllrs Sarah Mansel and Helen Geake tabled a joint written report confirming that Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils have been awarded a grant of £100,000 to help cover the cost of temporary accommodation for homeless people over the winter. In Mid Suffolk there are currently only a couple of people sleeping rough. Many others became officially homeless at the start of lockdown and have been accommodated in hotels. This will need to continue for some months at least. Meanwhile, CIFCO, the commercial property investment company formed by Mid Suffolk in partnership with Babergh, has added three further properties to its portfolio. These new acquisitions are two warehouse buildings in Luton and an office building in Epsom. This now takes the total investment to about £70M out of the total figure of £100M which was agreed by both Councils last year. The Green and Liberal Democrat group at Mid Suffolk continue to

question the Administration about the continuation of this investment programme, especially in light of the recent Government decisions about the use of funds from its Public Works Loan Board which was set up to provide backing for community development projects rather than for speculative investment.

A Biodiversity Action Plan, produced by a cross-party task force, was adopted by MSDC Cabinet on 9 November. The aim is to improve biodiversity in the way that the Council operate, through specific initiatives and partnership working. One such initiative is to plant 500 trees and a kilometre of hedging during 2021/22. The task force will monitor the Action Plan and look for initiatives for increasing biodiversity

Electronic voting was used for the first time at Mid Suffolk's Council meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> November. A motion to publish how all councillors voted was passed in order to keep decisions as open and transparent as possible. A record of each vote at all Council and Committee meetings will be published with the minutes on the website.

**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 is effectively finished with minor snagging issues in hand and the first regular booking taking place on 7<sup>th</sup> December. Wi-fi is finally up and running and the electricity supply issue resolved, both after many months of time-consuming and frustrating pursuit, a sadly widespread malaise in dealing with cartel / near monopoly companies or, in the case of BT, a sole provider. It has been suggested that the Council office might soon need a music licence to cover the frequent long sessions of call-centre 'on hold' music.

The coffee shop will be open from 4<sup>th</sup> December without fuss or fanfare which will give staff the opportunity to gain experience of the processes in place without the full-force of public demand which is eventually anticipated.

**Railway Tavern site**

The Clerk's Report included confirmation that The Tavern remains closed under Government restrictions. Meanwhile the due

processes continue towards widening the Community Land Trust membership and thus taking forward a sustainable social housing initiative, as it does with the Community benefit Society to take on the proposed community pub project. Extensive and exhaustive community involvement is key to both these initiatives and current constraints represent a significant factor in the slow progress.

**Extension to the Chamberlayne Hall at Blackbourne**

The Meeting noted that the Chamberlayne extension is largely complete other than external works to provide handrails and the making good of some car park surface. The ancillary works to rationalise the wi-fi cabling across the two office rooms is in hand. The application in with Mid Suffolk for CIL / s106 funding towards the improved ventilation in the hall awaits a response. The opportunity afforded by the closure / partial closure at Blackbourne has been taken to catch up with certain maintenance and improvement tasks, including the tidying up of the 'Sid The Snake' installation along the fence at the play area. The stones are now coated to preserve them, and the neatened edging sets off the newly refurbished facility which, other than during the first lockdown, has been open and well used. The hooped barriers around the car park are also being repainted and new stickers affixed asking drivers to reverse into the parking spaces and to turn their car engines off when parked.

**Speed Indicator Devices**

The Council's 2 'SID' traffic speed indicators at Church Hill and on Ashfield Road have been upgraded to allow wireless data access and enquiries continue towards permission for the siting of a third unit on Wetherden Road.

**Streetlights**

The Parish Council owns some 112 streetlights, technically, 'footway lighting', in the village and is gradually upgrading the old units to modern LED luminaires which use far less power and direct a brighter light on to the footway with little spillage. This can be a complicated process when the lights are mounted on wooden electricity supply poles as work close to transmission cabling requires specialist engineers and,

often, the installation of a new metal pole. This was the case for one of 4 recent conversions, outside St Nicholas on Church Road. The other 3 more straightforward conversions were opposite St John's House on Church Road, at Jubilee Terrace where the original concrete column was unsafe and was also replaced, and in Thedwastre Close. The works included the installation of an electricity supply pillar adjacent to the village sign at Crown Mill. This will allow the illumination of a Christmas tree which allows the Elmswell Gardening Club to take further their proposal to arrange for the siting and decoration of a tree here in future years.

### Neighbourhood Plan

The Meeting noted that the document which was compiled by Cllr Philip Shaw from some 7 years of work and research by the village's Neighbourhood Plan volunteers is now with Mid Suffolk District Council officers for an assessment prior to formal submission as a draft to go forward through the due process towards referendum and inspection. The Clerk was asked to seek clarification on progress from the relevant Officers.

### Precept

Councillors had looked at historic and projected Council income and expenditure figures and at a recent training session on the budgeting and precepting process had explored the options in light of very provisional figures from Mid Suffolk regarding the Council Tax Base. The Meeting agreed that there should be no increase in the Parish Council element of the Council Tax for 2021 / 2022 and that the Clerk and Chairman should

have delegated powers to set the Precept at a level which, when the final Tax Base figure is available and is applied, results in Elmswell households paying no more than last year towards the parish element of the total precept which include payments set by Mid Suffolk, Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Police.

### Poor's Land Charity

The Poor's Land Charity has a parcel of land remaining from the original holdings which have been sold off over many years, the income thus derived having been invested to produce an annual sum for distribution within its charitable objects. The tenant on this last field having quit, Council agreed to back the proposal that ElmsWild might take the tenancy, thus retaining the village's last tangible link with the original land holdings and allowing the group to mirror the success of their work at Kiln Meadow and at Lukeswood.

### Next Meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm in the Chamberlayne Hall at Blackbourne or on-line should prevailing restrictions so require. If held live, the proceedings will also be open, through Zoom on-line conferencing, to all who notify the Clerk of their wish to be included. The notice of meeting on notice boards and on the Council's website, will include full details as to how to register to join.

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), and on the Council's notice board at Crown Mill.



'Real' trees can be left from 7am on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>

January, until 6.30am on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January.

Trees must be less than 7' tall & must have all decorations, stands & pots removed.

Enquiries to 01359 244134 [clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk)



ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL



### Future Council Meetings

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
18th	15th	15th	19th	17th

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

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

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

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



# What's On in Elmswell ?



As soon as tier 4 or any other restrictions allow, Blackbourne will be 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.

## January 2021

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

## February 2021

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

## March 2021

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

## April 2021

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

## May 2021

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

## June 2021

- 2 Elmswell Exchange Afternoon WI 2 pm  
The Work of a Parish Nurse - Lesley Williams
- 10 Elmswell History Group meeting, 7.30pm;  
Venue and speaker to be confirmed. \*July  
tickets on sale\*

## July 2021

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

## August 2021

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

## September 2021

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

## October 2021

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

## November 2021

- 3 Elmswell Exchange Afternoon WI 2 pm  
Create your own special bookmark for  
Christmas  
Materials provided - Jane Knights

## December 2021

- 1 Elmswell Exchange Afternoon WI 2 pm  
It's Christmas - Let's Celebrate !

## STOP PRESS

**Blackbourne and Wesley have bounced back before and will do so again - these are the activities that have told us they are ready to be up and running as soon as they are permitted to operate:**

**Sarah's classes** - stretch and flex /spin /boxercise  
/legs bums and tums/ bodyblast...

details at [sarahjane\\_fitness@outlook.com](mailto:sarahjane_fitness@outlook.com)

**Karate with Lewis**

– find details at [info@greathedma.com](mailto:info@greathedma.com)

**Slimming World** – Tuesday mornings –

[Jen.sw19@yahoo.com](mailto:Jen.sw19@yahoo.com)

**Slimming World** – Tuesday evening

**Ju jitsu** – Monday & Wednesday evenings –

tel. Gary on **07711 680262**

**Rainbows** - Monday evenings –

[elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com](mailto:elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com)



Photo: Lapwing Drone Photography

## Your Newsletter Fact File

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

Contact us on **01359 244 134** for all Amenities Association business, Newsletter and adverts.

Our new email address is [EAA@elmswell.org.uk](mailto:EAA@elmswell.org.uk) Your editors: Jean Barker, Maggie Bushell, Peter Dow

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# VILLAGE INDEX



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

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

Amenities Association	Jean Barker (Sec)	eea@elmswell.org.uk	241135
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BWMA	Peter Edmonds (Sec)	edmondspeterj@gmail.com	241640
BATS – Badminton at Blackbourne	Peter Edmonds	edmondspeterj@gmail.com	241640
Blackbourne – all enquiries	Parish Council office	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
Brownies	Gemma Sutton	elmswellbrownies@hotmail.com	
CAB		advice@midsuffolkcab.org.uk	01449 676060
Carpet Bowls Club	Frank Boxall	jf.boxall@btinternet.com	
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Companions	Linda Waspe	linda@labbott.plus.com	
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Elmswild	Mary Feeney	info@elmswild.org.uk	241901
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Exchange Club	Carol Blissett	carolblissett@hotmail.co.uk	
Fire Crew; non-emergencies	Brian Hawes	brian.hawes@suffolk.gov.uk	07761 125093
First Responders	Merv	merv.smith@tiscali.co.uk	07909 006 496
Football	Shaun Pratt	shaun.pratt@btinternet.com	07494 864 231
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Guides	Gemma Sutton	gem_2910@hotmail.co.uk	
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Oil buying Group		elmswelloil@gmail.com	07813829008
Over 55's Club	Diann Armstrong	Mayfield, Wetherden Road	241002
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Police Emergencies			999
Police; non-emergencies	Mid Suffolk South SNT	headquarters@suffolk.pnn.police.uk	101
Poor's Land Charity	Peter Goodridge	elmswellrector@gmail.com	240512
Power cuts		Powwercut105.com	105
Rainbows	Marion Abbott	elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com	
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Scouts	Paula Hollings	ddc.paula@stowmarketscouts.org.uk	07828 562485
St John's Church	Peter Goodridge	elmswellrector@gmail.com	240512
Sewing Bee	Isabel Burgess	isabel.burgess@live.com	
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Youth Football	Chris Smyth	smyth98@hotmail.com	07717 841 591

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

**IF YOU ARE NOT HAPPY THAT YOUR DETAILS APPEAR HERE,  
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