

'Like a friend dropping in'



The Elmswell Newsletter



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

AUGUST 2021

On line at elmswell.suffolk.cloud



... see editorial

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; eea.elmswell.org.uk We reserve the right to edit any such contributions that we may use in a subsequent edition.

'Pre-pandemic' has become an historical trigger point, like, 'pre-war,' or, 'before the Romans came'. That was then, this is now. New normal. Those were the days. Remember when. We have developed a sense of regret for those good old days when you could sneeze without guilt and chat in the queue at the Co-op. Before the fashion-conscious mask wearer was constantly posing the mumbled question, 'does my nose look big in this?'

But why regret? Surely there is a just a hint of a silver lining to the clouds of anti-bac spray and the fog of sanitiser? Was there not just a scintilla of comfort in Covid? Consider the removal of the need to hug the funny uncle you haven't seen since his court case? Think-on about the freedom from the tedium of face-to-face meetings with nowhere to hide and the new-found codes which allow chatting to the top half of other people without them realising that you still have pyjama bottoms on. Some of our brave new lockdown world is, surely, what we might have wished for?

But, as we so often urge our reader, slow you down. We would be wise to consider the hoary old aphorism, 'be careful what you wish for'. It is recently top of the wise-saying charts in places as disparate as Venice, Dorset's Durdle Door and our very own Southwold. Where the longed-for tourists have arrived...by mega cruise ships, by car, by camper van and charabanc...in some numbers. In some very considerable numbers. In need of space and parking and sustenance and toilets. To the extent that there is no more space, there is no appropriate parking, the cafes are packed out and the world's your lavatory. Silver lining? Great if you're an ice cream seller or tea-room proprietor, as long as you can still find ice cream via a fast-dwindling supply chain and staff to wait tables given that there aren't many locals living nearby because the houses are second homes or Airbnb cash generators. And so, thank goodness, to good old Elmswell. Where common sense reigns, where the Co-op and the Mace have a stunning range of ice cream and where Wesley has endless tea and terrific toilets. What more could we wish for? Well, the indications were that we wished for a community pub. Our seemingly omniscient parish council sensed, whilst still riding high on the undoubted triumph of Wesley, that Greene King's decision to sell off their site at School Road might just offer a dramatic chance to nail down social provision in the village for generations to come. Along with the chance for truly affordable housing on the site, village-specified, and village controlled in perpetuity, there was the opportunity to secure success in another vital aspect of community cohesion – a community pub. There was proven support for funding the acquisition, there was a bit of a dog-fight with developers who know a good

opportunity when they see it, and the rest is very recent, very fast-moving, history. History that results in the flyer which we are pleased to carry with your Newsletter this month, offering the opportunity to help create the future and to mould Elmswell for us both now and when we are, in a very few years' time, a community of some 5,000 souls – some 40% more friends and neighbours. History that now records a phenomenal 10 day transformation. The pub was sad. There are those who suggest that the owners wanted it so. They had Planning Permission for 8 substantial houses, below the threshold requiring 'affordables', therefore all profit. Their plans left the pub standing, but with only 13 parking spaces. In a very few months it might have been expected that there would have been a further application – pub not viable / rather run-down / not enough parking – let's convert the building into another house and add 2 or three more. Result, a dozen houses to add to the 800 already coming our way and, because they are delivered in 2 tranches, no requirement to provide any affordable homes. At some stage the proposal would have been supported, as they all are, with the rather quease-creating reasoning that it 'added to the vitality of the community'.

The community sought to differ. The parish council once again led the charge by persuading Mid Suffolk to list the building as a Community Asset. Followed up by a community consultation giving the green light to a hard-nosed bidding process and eventual purchase. Lock stock and barrel as a going concern with Graham at the helm as the tenant, although warning that he was on the verge of retirement and, true to his word, he departed on 20th July. By 30th July, just 10 hectic days later, volunteer labour and some extremely generous support from local businesses

had dramatically transformed what is now Elmswell Tavern into a clean, pleasant environment with outside seating for 200, an experienced new Tenant, Chris Mapey and bright young things behind the bar, Pixie and Dave. From a standing start, Chris had masterminded an opening night with live music and the chance of a first sight of the plans for the new building and details of how we can all help make this happen.

But, remember, 'be careful what you wish for'. The organisers wished for a lively show of community support. The 'spruce-up' weekend had attracted up to 50 volunteers at a time over 3 days, cutting and carting and scraping and painting and cleaning and generally pointing what had been something of a sow's ear of a venue towards silk purse standards. Over 1,000 hours of volunteer labour. With unbelievable success. Of course, they all turned up for the re-opening. But so did many more...the 200 seats were soon filled and at least another hundred souls patiently waited as the bar team toiled to keep the refreshments flowing. Overwhelmed... victims of their own success, and an event that sends a clear message back to the organisers now seeking support for the next stage of funding.



That support is, clearly, there. The team that's driving the project is, clearly, experienced and capable and gets results.

What else could we wish for... Careful now!



ELMSWELL ART CLUB

Matchstalk men and Matchstalk cats and dogs.

So goes the line in a popular song of a few years back. In fact most people say **Matchstick** men, etc. L.S. Lowry, born in Manchester in 1887, was one of the most famous and popular British artists of the 20th century. And rightly so. He studied art in Manchester colleges, as well as having private tuition and developed his own very unique and distinguished style, instantly recognised everywhere. A single child born into a middle class family, which sadly fell on hard times, forcing a move to a house in Pendlebury, surrounded by dark factory mills with smoking chimneys and poor working class neighbours. He realised these were the images he wanted to portray. He had a full time job as a rent collector and only painted at weekends and evenings. At the time, few people knew he worked full time until he took retirement at 65. A lifetime fan of Manchester City, "Going to the match" became one of his most notable works. He occasionally holidayed in Rhyl, North Wales and did various seascapes, interestingly enough with no people shown. His fame is based entirely on his industrial scenes full of people and you notice all of the men are wearing hats

as was the norm in those days. Another aspect of his paintings is that he felt skies detracted from the pictures, so very little detail of skies are shown. All of this with just five colours in his palette! Fame came to him in later life and he was offered and refused five National prestigious awards including a knighthood.

That makes him the person who refused the highest number of awards! Incidentally, Lowry name is often used in pub quizzes. What does the L.S. stand for in his name?

Answer – Laurence Stephen. He died aged 88 in 1975. A large number of his works can be seen in the Lowry Art Gallery in Salford Quays. Our paintings this week are of cats and dogs, far removed from those painted by Lowry. The two cats looking across to the Eiffel Tower were painted in oils by Tatianna Creed and the pencil drawing of the dog was by Maureen Lazarus. Now that the government has eliminated virtually all restrictions for meetings and close contact indoors, the club is going to re-start it's regular weekly sessions at the wonderfully refurbished Wesley on Tuesday mornings from 9 until 12. New members are welcome, so whatever your



standard of painting or whatever your style or experience, come along and enjoy a few hours in very pleasant surroundings among a group of relaxed and friendly people. We look forward to meeting new members.

John Welford
01359 240166



**I am not an artist.
I am just someone
who paints.**

L.S. Lowry

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ELMSWELL EXCHANGE AFTERNOON WI



At last we will be up and running on Wednesday 4th August. 2 pm in The Wesley Centre, Chapel Hall. All our old members, and quite a few new ones, can get

together, enjoy each others company and share the experiences of the last 18 months. Sadly, one of our members has broken her femur in what was her good leg. Currently in hospital following surgery she will obviously not be joining us for this first meeting. She will be disappointed I know. We have sent her our best wishes for a speedy recovery. With another isolating before an eye procedure this means that there will only be three committee members. Please bear with us as there will be a lot to do.



We can enjoy a flower demonstration by Stephanie **"How to make the best of a supermarket bunch"**.

There will be sanitiser at the entrance to the hall and we will ask that you stick to sensible social distancing. In other words you won't need a tape measure

just common sense. Wearing masks is discretionary. We will be wearing them when in contact with members. We want everyone to enjoy themselves but also remain safe.

Unfortunately, because there are only three of us on the Committee we will not be able to offer people lifts. You will need to find an alternative way of getting to us

All are welcome to our meetings. We are a friendly, informal group so just pop along on the day or contact me on 01359 241033 or Mary on 01359 245022.

Maureen Davis



ELMSWELL WI

Well, here we are again, advertising our first meeting of 2021! We will finally get to meet with members old and new on August 10th in the Wesley Hall, at 7.30pm. I'm sure many of you will have already had the opportunity to enjoy a visit to the coffee shop, and familiarize yourselves with the new



venue and we look forward to holding our future meetings there.

As previously mentioned, during our first meeting we will have our AGM with the election of officers and committee. Although this should be fairly swift in view of the lack of activity over the last 12 months, it is an important formality nonetheless. A perfect opportunity time for you to become more involved should you wish!

Our guest speaker will be Charles Garland who will relay tales of a time when he was working as assistant to the writers of Dad's Army. I expect he will have plenty of stories to tell.

Please feel free to come along and see what we are about and enjoy a cup of tea and some cake, or perhaps a welcome glass of bubbles to celebrate our return to the WI! We've waited quite a while to return to "normal" and it will be a fun busy evening, so we look forward to seeing you.

Val Rogerson, President

As you know we re-started our regular meetings yesterday for the first time following a very extended break caused by some sort of virus you may have heard of. We had a good attendance and everyone who had not seen the refurbishment were amazed and delighted and very pleased with the new design, so Brownie points to all concerned. You could not have found a better, friendlier and more helpful person in charge of the cafe. Nothing was too much for her and I think she is a great asset to the village.



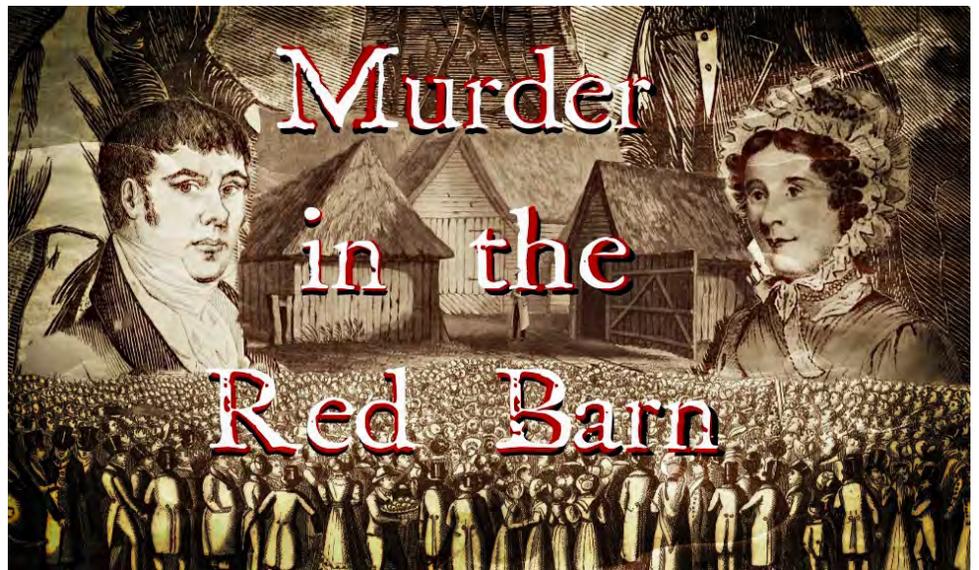
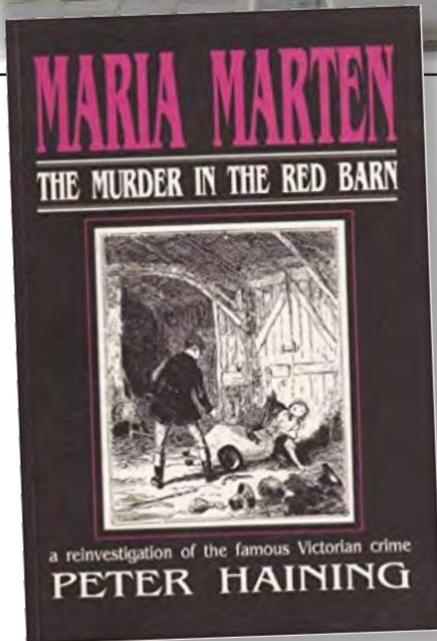
WESLEY Coffee Shop... We are open!



Bury's Guildhall

If you missed Terry O'Donoghue's excellent talk to us on this subject back in February 2020, you can access a virtual tour of this historic building by clicking onto this link - <https://burystedmundsguildhall.org.uk/guildhall-tours/>

Last month, they were hoping to give a talk on "Captain Bright & The Guildhall Ops Room" but, unfortunately, that has had to be postponed until a later date, as have so many things lately! Briefly, Capt Frank Bright DSO OBE had an extraordinary life in the service of Bury St Edmunds and his country. Decorated whilst serving in the Royal Flying Corps in WW1, Capt Bright commanded the 14 Group Observer Corps based in Bury's Guildhall, defending East Anglia and beyond from air attack during WW2. The talk will cover his contribution to Bury and his role during the Battle of Britain and, following the talk, there will be a tour of the country's last surviving Royal Observer Corps Ops room (at The Guildhall), to discover how this vital defence system worked. So, do look out for this re-scheduled talk and tour when it becomes available again.



The "Red Barn Murder" at Polstead (south Suffolk) in the summer of 1827

Suffolk folk legend, Maria Marten, is getting to tell her own story with an Eastern Angles production coming to Bury's Theatre Royal, 16-18th September. The production will tell the thrilling story of Suffolk's real-life murder mystery from Maria's perspective, rather than that of her killer, William Corder. Maria awaited her lover in the now-infamous red barn in Polstead (between Sudbury and Hadleigh) where, a year later, her body was found under the floor in a grain sack. Her story sent shock waves throughout the country, in a classic crime drama of a gruesome tale involving a missing body, a country location, a disreputable squire and a village stuck in its age-old traditions. More info and tickets at 01284-769505 or booking@theatreroyal.org





More on Elmswell's 1863 Railway Carriage

Further to our article in February's newsletter, with the expert help of one of our members, we now have several DVD copies of the original tape recording showing the removal of this carriage from Hawk End Lane back in 1995. If anyone would like to borrow one of these, please let us know. Meanwhile, having read the article, villager Anne Dyball commented as follows. "I can add a little more to your History Group's very interesting article on the 1863 railway carriage. Joyce and Charlie Capon were family friends from when I first met Joyce in 1958, until her death last year. Originally the railway carriage stood in an orchard in Hawk End Lane which belonged to Daisy Hurst, Joyce Capon's mother, who lived in a small bungalow opposite. She gave the land to the



Photo: Gill Terry



Capons to enable them to build 'Jayance', their home, in 1960, when they moved from Ashfield Road. And therefore, Joyce 'inherited' the carriage which they used as a garden shed (and playground for my children!) for many years. I remember Charlie's excitement when the MSLR showed interest in the carriage and, of course, it's subsequent removal. Having spoken to the Capon's only living relatives, their niece Linda Hancock and her brother, Linda could only add that she thought that Daisy Hurst was given the land, plus carriage, by an old gentleman(?) who lived at the top of the lane, but I believe that the Hurst family had lived in Hawk End Lane for many years previously. I'm sure we, the Dyball family, will be going to see the carriage in all its renewed splendour, when we are allowed to visit again." Do check MSLR's website for details of their re-opening - <https://www.mslr.org.uk/pre-visit-information/>

There was a very similar railway carriage discovery reported recently - it was a Great Western Railway's First Class carriage, dated 1855, which went for auction for £100,000. After many years of being towed behind a family's traction engine for use as their living quarters in the early 20th century, it was left abandoned in a New Forest field, and covered up in a makeshift shed in around 1930. It was finally unearthed some 90 years later by a family member who decided to clear the land. Another historic find, saved for posterity!



We very much hope to re-start our monthly talks on 9th September in the splendidly-refurbished Wesley Hall Chapel – see the "What's On" section at the back of this newsletter.

**Elmswell
History
Group**

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

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ELMSWELL GARDEN CLUB

This is often a very hot month and gardens tend to look parched with browning lawns. But we can rely on the rose family to provide some much needed colour. There are so many varied forms from miniature and bush roses to the standard, rambler and climber. Not only are they beautiful visually, but their scent can be quite delightful.

If you've been growing fruit and vegetables you may well be enjoying raspberries, plums and cherries as well as runner beans, courgettes and tomatoes. Often gardeners declare that the flavour is so much better than anything you can buy in a supermarket. Certainly aromas are a great deal more pronounced and perhaps this is what enhances the flavour.

It really is time to add a date to your diary as we anticipate the re-launch of EGC on the **21st September at 7.30pm.**

We will be meeting at the Wesley Hall in School Road and look forward to greeting new and returning members. Our first meeting will welcome Dr Ian Bedford who will give a talk entitled

' **The Trouble Without Wasps**'. Mention wasps and most of us think of an annoying, angry yellow and black striped flying insect that delivers a painful sting when confronted. However, there are around 9000 different wasp species in Britain and their value to us is immense. We'd certainly have a lot of problems without them. This fascinating and entertaining talk explains why.

Anyone with an interest in gardening or not is welcome to join us. After such a long time of being unable to meet it will be such a joy to safely be together.

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.



ELMSWELL WHEN OVER 55'S CLUB

It is hoped that we will be able to resume Meetings at the BLACKBOURNE on Thursday September 9th at 7 00pm for 7 30pm when We welcome BOB WHITING as our guest Entertainer for the evening (this is a change to the previous person advertised)

Singing and Dancing will hopefully be in full Swing so all you locals who fancy a night away from the T V come along and join us.

There will be a small admission charge of £1 which includes Tea/Coffee and Biscuits.

Diann 241002

Lockdown licked!
Next step?
A dance step...

Couples keen to socialise again are invited to contact David Hannah by emailing dh1426@btinternet.com with a view to starting up ballroom / Latin dance sessions in the village... just basic dancing ability needed.



ELMSWELL FELLOWSHIP

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Rector:
Peter Goodridge

Email:
elmswellrector@gmail.com

Tel:
01359 240512

Web site:
www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/stjohnselmswell

YouTube:
accessed via our website home page

Hello from St John's Church.

New beginnings:

We hope you are enjoying the summer. Although we still have to be cautious, our prayer is that this really is the end of lockdown and a new beginning.

In the Christian faith, Baptism (or Christening) is the outward sign of a new beginning. My favourite story of baptism in the Bible can be found in the Acts of the Apostles chapter 8. An important official from Ethiopia is heading home after conducting some business in Jerusalem. As he travels along in his chariot, his Bible is open before him. However, he is struggling to understand what he is reading – specifically a prediction made hundreds of years earlier about Jesus coming to die.

A follower of Jesus, called Philip, is led by God to head over to the chariot and speak to the Ethiopian. The Ethiopian asks, "Who is being spoken about in these words?" Philip responds by telling the official all about Jesus and how he came to die so that all who put their trust in him can be put right with God and receive life in all its fullness.

The Ethiopian gladly accepts the good news and so, when they find some water a little bit further down the road, Philip baptises him.

Baptism is all about a new beginning with Jesus. The water in baptism is a symbol of being washed clean. All our guilt and shame is washed away when a person turn to Jesus. They become a child of God and join the family of Christ.

Now that things are much more back to normal, it is exciting to restart



Baptisms at St John's Church in our morning services. We have several baptisms coming up in the coming weeks - they will be occasions of great joy and celebration. If you would like to know more about Jesus and what Baptism (Christening) is all about, please do get in touch.

Our main services in St John's Church are currently held at 10:30am each Sunday. There is also a shorter service of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month at 9am. Please do join us. We are a friendly group of people and you can be assured of a warm welcome.

Diary for July:

Sunday 1 August:

9:00am Lord's Supper
(spoken service)
10:30am All Age Service

Sunday 8, 15, 22, 29 August:

10:30am Sunday Worship
We hope to also live stream most of the 10:30am service on our Facebook page (also available on our main web site later that day).

Every Saturday:

9:00am Weekly prayer meeting
online (see website for details)



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH TOWER FLOODLIGHTING

Everyone is welcome to sponsor the floodlighting of St. John's, a lovely way to commemorate a personal event, an anniversary, or any other occasion special to you. Alternatively, you can simply make

a donation. And it all helps to pay the day-to-day running expenses of our parish church.

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

A night's floodlighting costs £5.

Cheques payable please to "ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, ELMSWELL".

All bookings / payments to :-

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

Thank you.

AUGUST 2021 SPONSORSHIPS

- 1 in memory of Andrew Jones. "Always in our thoughts". Mum & Dad.
- 2 cherished memories of Dora Lily Handyside, a dear Mum, Nan and Gt Nan. on her Birthday. "Remembered with love".
- 6 10th Wedding Anniversary - Annette & Stuart Martin.
- 7 in loving memory of Grahame Woods on the anniversary of his passing away, with love from Jane & family.
- 7 in memory of our Mum & Dad, Margery & Tony Bendall, on their Wedding Anniversary. Love from all the family.
- 11 Mum. xxxx.
- 15 to remember and thank all those past Elmswell Fire-Fighters who served their village and community so well.
- 18 in loving memory of Dean Goodchild. Love, Colin. xx.
- 22 in loving memory of Betty Margaret Greathead.
- 23 in loving memory of Duncan Wardrop, on the 3rd anniversary of his passing. "Loved and missed every day". Love Alex, Doug & Teddy. xxx.

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Sundays – 8.30am & 10.15am
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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 back being able to sing in church! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! We still have the chairs socially distanced and are having the doors and windows open to get maximum ventilation, mask wearing is optional.

However there's still much to be concerned about isn't there? Floods

in Germany, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg and India. Excessive heat in the USA and Canada and lightening strikes in Hampshire. High Covid rates here and in many countries around the world. We purchased a rose this year named after Captain Tom Moore, his phrase was "tomorrow will be a better day". As Christians we believe that ultimately God is in control and all will be well, if we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord we know that we can look forward to an eternity in his presence and that in this live he will take care of us, although that doesn't mean life will always be a bed of roses.

If you'd like to explore this further or if you're new to the village and haven't settled in a church yet, do come and join us on a Sunday morning at 10.30am, you are assured of a warm welcome.

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

- August 1st
Rev. Norman Tharby (inc Communion)
- August 8th
Christine Myers
- August 15th
Rev. Rodney Sawtell

August 22nd
Songs of Praise (missed singing? Come and join us)

August 29th
Rev. Richard Edwards

September 5th
Rev. Norman Tharby (inc Communion)

Our midweek gatherings are not taking place in August, we anticipate resuming on September 15th.

All being well. the Ladies Friendship Group will meet on September 6th with An Armchair Walk around Ipswich Waterfront with a guide from the Ipswich Tourist Office. Time to be confirmed, telephone Margaret on 01359 241541 for more details.

All ladies are welcome.

Again, all being well, Food 'n' Friends will resume on September 9th at Midday. A home (more accurately, a church) cooked meal and plenty of time to chat. Telephone Jackie on 01359 245918 to book your place. All Senior Citizens are welcome.

Visit our website at www.elmswellbaptist.org.uk, email cockant2@btinternet.com or telephone 241541 for further info.

Stay safe.

Tony

"Had coffee at the new Wesley Centre yesterday and was so impressed I took husband there today. He was also impressed. It is definitely a "go to" venue and was packed yesterday. Today we were nearer lunchtime so not so many. The coffee is first class, the service friendly and efficient. What more could you ask for. I think the centre is a real bonus to the village and well done to all those involved in its conception, and construction. We will be regular visitors."

WESLEY Coffee Shop...
We are open!



TESTIMONIAL - WESLEY COFFEE SHOP

After visiting the Wesley Coffee Shop three times since it's opening, earlier this year, I felt I had to write and commend all concerned with this establishment for the outstanding quality of this local facility.

A simple coffee shop this may be but it provides first class service in spotlessly clean surroundings. The staff are smartly attired, cheerful and friendly. The coffee and teas served are of excellent quality and the home-made cake selections offered are delicious. I believe the cakes are made locally by a long-time inhabitant of the village. My only plea, and this a personal one, is that a gluten free cake option is always available.

It is great to see a small enterprise which adds great value to village life.

Geoff Acott

G Acott MBE GCFA(CG)

Vice President

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KH

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NEWS FROM ELMSWILD

THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

The Great Big Green Week 18-26 September

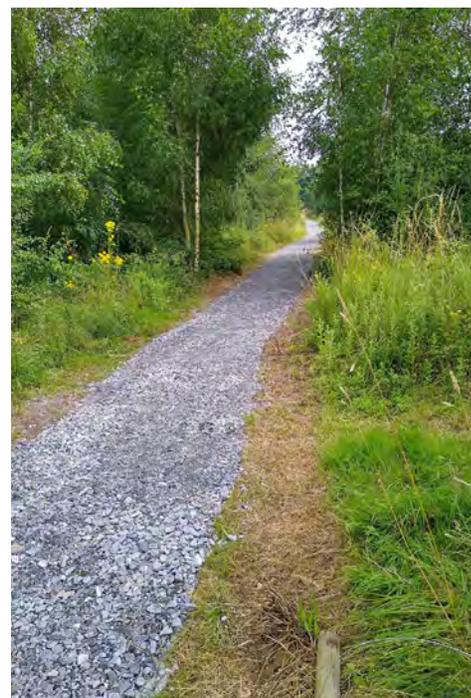
We won't be having an Apple Day this year, but instead we're joining lots of other organisations nationwide in **The Great Big Green Week**. Later this year, in November, the UK is hosting Cop26, a major UN summit when leaders and politicians will be coming to Glasgow to hammer out an agreement to tackle the climate crisis. To celebrate this event a number of organisations, including the Climate Coalition, the Woodland Trust, the National Trust, RSPB, WI and WWF, are encouraging communities across the country to highlight local action and send a strong message to our leaders about climate change and biodiversity loss. Here in Elmswell we're already doing a lot: we have Kiln Meadow and Lukeswood, where wildlife habitats are being improved, and our mini wildflower meadows are in their third year of blooming. During this week we're planning a number of events to celebrate the work we're doing now and what we hope to do in the future. We're planning a big Village Litter Pick and various displays – full details in next month's Newsletter! In the meantime, if other village clubs and organisations are interested in taking part, do get in touch with us. Perhaps you could introduce a green theme to your normal meeting?

Blue Hearts blooming in Elmswell

Gardens are a largely overlooked national asset. It's estimated that the total area of land occupied by gardens in the UK is about 433,000 hectares, or 4,330 square kilometres, that's about a fifth the size of Wales. This is an amazing resource for the wildlife that can live and often thrive in our gardens. We just have to make some space and adjust our gardening habits a little, and nature will come to us. The Blue Heart campaign's motto is "Rewilding Britain, garden by garden", and they are encouraging us to rewild our gardens to help restore biodiversity

in our towns and villages. There's lots of information on their website – www.bluecampaignhub.com – with advice about what to do to make your garden more wildlife-friendly. This actually involves less, rather than more work, for example letting some of the grass grow long to see what comes up. You may be surprised at the wildflowers that appear when you stop mowing – a boon for pollinators and other insects. Not being too tidy is great, too – leaves, old flower heads and logpiles make perfect habitats for beetles, toads and hedgehogs. It's good news for the gardeners – less time spent with the lawnmower or bagging up garden 'waste' means more free time to enjoy the wildlife!

Gardeners who may be a little anxious about what the neighbours will think of their newly rewilded patch can put out a blue heart in the garden (as seen in our photo). This shows that you're not being lazy, but your new-look garden is in fact intentional and wildlife is thriving there – a good conversation opener! A few blue hearts have already popped up in the village. These, along with our established wildflower mini-meadows, are already making a difference. You can buy a blue heart from the Blue Campaign, or make your own. Or get in touch with us at ElmsWild – we have a few spare to give out for a small donation. Ours have an added QR code attached, so curious passers-by can use their phones to find out what it's all about.



The long and winding road....

Last winter and spring were very wet and the footpaths around Elmswell became extremely muddy. This, combined with many more people whiling away the lockdown hours by walking and running, resulted in considerable erosion of our paths. To avoid the muddiest bits, people walked further to the side – and further again – until the paths ended up twice as wide as they originally were. This happened particularly on the public footpath that runs through Lukeswood and the Green cemetery. We don't want this to become a regular occurrence, especially as climate change means wetter winters more often. The southern end of Lukeswood is naturally quite wet, so it was difficult to know how to solve this problem. Many thanks to the Parish Council who came to the rescue and funded the installation of a hard surface along the path. This should make it much easier to walk on during the winter months or whenever there is heavy rain. If you are heading this way, please walk on the new path rather than the sides. This will allow the vegetation to gradually recover – many wildflowers, including Bee Orchids, grow close to the path, so we're hoping that they will come up again next year.

Mary Feeney
info@elmswild.org.uk
 Tel: 01359 241901

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TONY CHAPLIN - ELMSWELL POPPY APPEAL ORGANISER RETIRED THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL - ELMSWELL



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
Patron Her Majesty The Queen



Tony Chaplin, pictured, has organised the Poppy Appeal in Elmswell, on behalf of the Royal British Legion, for many years now. Having known Tony for quite a long time, I can vouch for his selflessness and determination in carrying out his responsibilities, raising the village total donations year on year.

Tony has, after careful consideration, decided to hang up his Poppy tin and opt for a more relaxing way of life and, I hope he will enjoy every minute of it. On behalf of the village and the Poppy Appeal, I would like to thank Tony very much indeed for his total commitment over the years.



Somehow or other, I found myself volunteering to take over the reins from Tony, as the Elmswell Poppy Appeal Organiser and, I am pleased to say that Tony has agreed to help me in my quest. Having collected donations door to door for the past thirty years, last year was so disappointing, as we were all greatly affected by Covid 19 restrictions.

Needless to say, the Poppy Appeal must continue raising much needed donations to fund the vital work carried out by the charity and helping current Service and Ex Service personnel and their dependants – www.rbl.org.uk

2021 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the British Legion and it would be amazing if, collectively, we could reflect this milestone with a successful Poppy Appeal in the village.

Unfortunately, Tony and I cannot achieve this on our own and I would be more than pleased to hear from ANYBODY who could spare a few hours over Remembrancetide, 28th

October – 14th November 2021, to help with our collections. Unless we have sufficient volunteers, we may have seen the end of door to door collections in Elmswell.

Consideration is also being given to the possibility of having a Poppy table at some convenient location in the village. Would you be available to help with a table collection?

If you are willing to help, please do not hesitate to contact me by any of the below means. I would be more than pleased to hear from you.



Kindest regards
BIFF.

Norman Plumpton, (BIFF)
Tel. 01359 241159
Mobile 07707 524722
e-mail nplumpton@aol.com
Royal British Legion – Poppy Appeal
Organiser: Elmswell EJD24

CITIZENS ADVICE

I've been living in my privately rented flat for years. I generally have a good relationship with my landlord but I just can't get them to carry out various repairs that have built up. How can I get them to act - and what exactly do they have to do?

This must be a very frustrating situation. The law states that your landlord must provide accommodation that is safe, healthy and free from things that could cause serious harm.

You don't say exactly what repairs are needed. If you have problems such as electrical wiring that you think might be faulty, or there's damp, or an infestation by pests, the landlord has a legal obligation to put things right.

Landlords are also responsible for the maintenance of the general structure, and fittings such as boilers and radiators; basins, baths and toilets; and the drains.

The first step is to contact your landlord again, in writing. Include photographs of the problems. Keep a record of all communications and evidence relating to the disrepair.

If that doesn't prompt any action, the housing advisors at Citizens Advice can help with next steps. These could include contacting your local council (who will have dedicated officers for dealing with disrepair in private rented properties) or asking for a visit by the environmental health team.

Tenants can take their landlords to court to force them to carry out repairs. However, it's worth getting some advice and thinking carefully before embarking on this route.

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide advice on this or any other issue, including debt, employment, benefits and family law. You can contact them on 01449 676060 or use the contact form at midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us.

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CIRCLE DANCING

With the new easing of some lockdown restrictions, we have started circle dancing again at Elmswell, in the lovely new venue of the Wesley. Socially distanced still (and will be, till mid August at least), but no masks needed for actual dancing.

Dancing in a circle is an ancient tradition common to many cultures for marking special occasions, strengthening community and encouraging togetherness.

Modern circle dance draws on the rich and diverse traditional dances of many countries, including the Balkans, Greece, Israel, Russia, and western Europe. There is also a growing repertoire of new dances to classical music and contemporary songs.

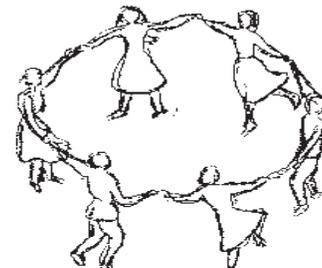
Circle dances can be energetic and lively or gentle and reflective. The style and mood reflects the abilities of the group and the interests of the teacher. The aim always is to experience the joy of dancing with others and to create a sense of well-being and community through enjoyable gentle exercise to lovely world music!

Anyone of any age or ability can circle dance. Each dance is taught, there is no audience and everyone is welcome. So come on your own or with a friend (you do not need a partner) and give it a try!

Where?

Thursday : The Wesley, Elmswell, 2-3 pm. £6 payable each session – no termly or upfront fee. No special clothing or shoes required, just what you are comfortable in! Tea in cafe afterwards for those able to stay.

I'd like to know more information from Jen Larner on 01284 705548/07896 495574 /jenlarner@gmail.com.



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ELMSWELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Hello Elmswell,

It has been wonderful to see so many children taking part in the reading challenge.

Volunteers have kindly donated their time to listen to children talk about the books they have read and distribute the rewards. If you are signed up to the reading challenge the times for the reading challenge is in the window and the times will also be posted weekly on the Elmswell Library Facebook page.

With the easing of restrictions, we are asking people who would previously have worn a mask to please consider continuing to do so while in the library. We are still wiping down returned items and giving people a chance to finish browsing if they feel uncomfortable with others browsing close by.

We also now have the East Anglian Daily Times back in the library for people to sit and read as well.

Our Baby Bounce sessions are continuing at 9.10am on dry Tuesday mornings throughout the summer holidays outside on the grass.

We are preparing for a Greek themed author event with Francesca Catlow 3pm of Saturday 4th September, tickets are £5 for adults and children come free. Keep an eye out for more details. Francesca Catlow is a local author who has released a new book called The Little Blue Door. It is a holiday read based in Corfu in Greece and is available to borrow through the library <https://suffolk.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/BIBENQ?SETLVL=&BRN=2968590>

August's display theme is myths. We have books such as Circe by Madeline Miller, which was shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction in 2019, Neil Gaiman's book of Norse Myths and Fabulous by Lucy Hughes-Hallett.

We regularly restock our supply of covid tests so if you need to pick 1 or 2 packs up, just pop in and get them. We have plenty to give out.

Keep up to date with what services are available through <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/coronavirus>.

See you in the library soon,

Miles

What's on at Elmswell Library?

Summer Reading Challenge

Saturday 17th July to
Sunday 5th September

Baby Bounce

9.10am every dry Tuesday on the grass outside the library. Cushions provided.

The Keep in Touch Community Café

Starting again 10.30am on 21st July and then on 3rd Wednesday of every month at the Fox. (subject to easing of restrictions)

Lego Club

Lego ideas will be posted on Facebook every Sunday.

Elmswell Library Friends Group AGM

Updated 5.30pm on Wednesday
28th July

Opening times

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 7pm

Wednesday: 2pm – 5pm

Thursday: 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 7pm

Friday: 2pm – 5pm

Saturday: 10am – 1pm

Sunday: 10am – 3pm

MY MUM - JACQUI STANNERS

At 11.00 pm on June 30th 2021 my dear mum passed away peacefully at Allonsfield Care Home where she spent the last 28 months of her life.

She was a wonderful mother and the best friend I could have wished for, who supported me through every walk of life.

As a teacher and Deputy Head at Elmswell primary school for over 30 years, she was loved and respected by so many people including her former students and their parents.

She was enthusiastic and conscientious in everything she did and was always happiest organising events such as folk dancing at the village fete or being the director/ producer of the local gaiety group E.G.G.S. which many adults and children took part in. Her passion for music and singing stayed with her throughout her struggle with Alzheimer's and gave joy to everyone she came into contact with.

Her main love was for her children and those she taught, giving up her spare time to run out of school clubs such as gymnastics, dancing, netball, rounders etc.

As a mother and wife she was extremely busy, ensuring we felt loved and secure, and she continuously encouraged our love for books, reading and physical exercise.

I loved nothing better than baking with her in the kitchen and learning all those domestic skills that I would need as an adult.

Mum loved the outdoors and could always be seen out walking, or in her garden where she loved to tend her roses. She built wonderful relationships with her grandchildren and enjoyed having them to stay at the family home. I have fond memories of family holidays in Lyme Regis with my parents, husband, daughter and niece. As a child we enjoyed camping holidays all over the UK and Europe ensuring we learnt about other languages, food and their way of life.

Mum lived her life to the full and her love for singing, dancing and her infectious, beautiful smile will stay with me forever and gives me comfort now she has gone.

I would like to thank everyone in the village who attended her funeral and all who supported her throughout her life, particularly during her latter years while she still lived at Sunnyside.

I know I can speak from my heart and say that she will be missed by so many people and will stay in our hearts forever.

Linzi



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FIRST TEAM REPORT

After the departure of the last management team and a few players moving on elsewhere the first team have been looking to rebuild for the season ahead. A lot of new faces have taken part in training sessions and matches over the past few weeks with a lot of good signs for the future.

After an intense first training session with the help of a local personal trainer, Sean Handleigh, blowing away the lock down cob webs, the first team were thrown into their first friendly the following week. They came up against an experienced Old Newton reserves side. Elmswell, made up mostly from new faces playing together for the first time, took the lead thanks to a first half strike from William Gudgeon. The second half, you could tell that fitness levels were low due to lack of playing time, Old Newton came into the match and were overall winners on the day 4-1. A lot of positives to take out of this game with players still to come back.

We then took on a Thetford Rovers side, who have just recently had large investment into their club and are looking to rise to the levels of Thetford Town in the near future. We knew this game would be a challenge in the heat, but put in a great performance for 70 minutes and matched their players in all aspects. Losing the game 6-3 wasn't really a true reflection on the game nor the amount of effort the lads put in, but again a lot of positives to take, with still a lot of players yet to come back.

The most recent friendly saw us take on a higher league Stanton team that were scattered with previous Elmswell players, so this match was always about more than just the fitness. Despite missing a few players and making an early substitution early on due to injury, Elmswell were on top for the majority of the game and comfortably won 2-0. Goals from Matt McComb and William Gudgeon early on proved to be the difference. Huge thanks to Josh Curtis for going in goal and helping Elmswell to their first clean sheet. A huge improvement from the previous games shows how hard the lads have worked and shows great promise going into the first league match in a few weeks' time, the managers couldn't be any more pleased.

Tom Fisher, First Team Management



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RESERVES REPORT

Just the one friendly so far for the Reserves. After Stow Falcons Reserves called off last minute with too many of their players playing cricket, we managed to get a game against Redgrave Reserves (at least, they said they were bringing their Reserves). We had a depleted squad with players still on holiday, working, self-isolating and a couple having made the step up to the first team. Local legend and AFC Elmswell Sunday player Dean Farmer and former first team captain Jordan Seward were both kind enough to come and boost numbers. We started ok but it didn't take very long for the Redgrave First Team players to show their quality. We gave them some soft goals and a penalty which made the end score-line sound much worse than the game actually was. On the bright side Ash Farmer scored a thunder bolt free kick and Sean Chilton made his first appearance in a couple of years. All said and done it was a good work out and important minutes under the belt (1-9 in case you're wondering).

Needham Phoenix have just pulled out of Saturday's game so hopefully we can find a more suited match as replacements this week.

Our August Fixtures are currently:

31st July
Needham Phoenix (H) 2pm ko Grove Lane

WEDS 4th AUG
Bacton Res (H) 6:30 ko Grove Lane

7th Aug
Laxfield (H) 2.30pm Grove Lane

WEDS 11th
August Bacton A (A) 6:30 ko

14th Aug
Stow Falcons 'A' 2.30pm (H) Grove Lane

21st Aug
Int C League starts Somersham Res (H) 2.30pm Blackbourne



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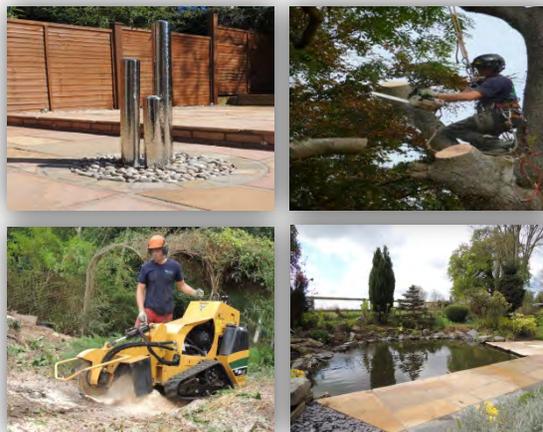
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ELMSWELL FOX BOWLS CLUB

This was always going to be an odd season given the restrictions that were in place when it started and the measures introduced by the league in order to comply with them, but it has turns even odder in an unexpected, and unwelcome way. The banning of post-match hospitality made a huge difference but a more worrying change has been the number of teams dropping out of various leagues. The Monday League lost Tuddenham early doors, and more recently Brandon Blue, whilst Thursdays lost St Botolph's. The clubs concerned are still fielding their other teams but it does indicate a possible shortage of players and these are large, well established clubs. And this after Mildenhall ceased altogether before the season started. Elmswell is suffering no such problems, however, although we do have a long injury list which makes

team selection a bit tricky sometimes. On the green, fortunes are still a little mixed with the Monday team picking up 4 very welcome points from the visit of Stanton, including Elmswell's favourite son, Bert (David) Royal. Prior to that, only a point at West Row and half a point at St Edmundsbury, where we drew one rink, were are only reward. The Thursday team has risen one place to 4th in the league following 5:2 victories vs G.W, Staniforth (Thetford) and Hopton sandwiching a 7:0 defeat at Hengrave. The Area D Tuesday league is a little harder to keep track off and, as I don't studiously note all results, even harder for me to report on. We snatched an overall win against Bacton as we managed to beat them by more at home than we lost to them away and thereby held our place in the top half of the league.

The Wesley Wayfarers have decided to change their name as it seemed a little too cumbersome and have become the Wesley Ukes. Carol Pybus has taken on the task of organising Polo Shirts for the band and has devised a logo for them. Everybody is very taken by the logo, which plainly would not have worked with 'Wayfarers' and husband, Keith, modelled a polo shirt for us at last week's meeting. Great work, Carol, and the catwalk beckons, Keith.

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PARISH COUNCIL MEETING REPORT - July 2021



The July meeting of the Parish Council took place in the Chamberlayne Hall at Blackbourne on Monday 19th with 8 councillors present, together with the Parish Clerk and 4 members of the public.

This report is compiled from that meeting by the Parish Clerk and edited by the Council's Editorial Board which is made up of the Council Chairman, the Council Vice-chairman and Cllr Sue Roots, elected by her 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 meeting by external bodies such as the County and District Council 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 various Annual Reports as tabled at the meeting are printed elsewhere in this Newsletter.

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 in the Village Archive at Blackbourne and with the Suffolk County Records Office in Bury St. Edmunds. The most recent Minutes, from the 21st June Ordinary Council meeting, as approved at this meeting, are posted in the Council's notice board at Crown Mill.

Mid Suffolk District Council

Cllrs Sarah Mansel & Helen Geake tabled a written report on the past month's BMSDC activities which confirmed that MSDC has launched this year's locality grant scheme. Each district councillor has over £7k to award to community groups within their area. Although the deadline is not until 25th February 2022, it is helpful if any group wishing to apply for funding gets in touch with their district councillor as soon as possible. The minimum application is for £250, and all applicants should meet at least one of Mid Suffolk's priorities for Grant Funding and more details on these are available at : <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/communities/grants-and-funding/locality-awards-2021-22/>

The Report also highlighted that:

- Following a review of the sports and leisure provision across the district a refreshed Sports and Leisure Strategy is to be approved by Cabinet. The next step in the process is for the officers to develop a detailed action plan for the next 3 years.
- In June Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre opened the doors to its new £2.2m upgrade and extension. The work, funded by Mid Suffolk District Council included a range of state-of-the-art fitness equipment as well as further improvements made throughout the leisure centre. The number of stations in the gym has been increased from 50 to 100.
- CIFCO's annual business report was on the agenda for last month's Overview and Scrutiny committee. The portfolio now consists of 21 acquisitions and does bring in funds. Last year CIFCO brought in just over £2m to be ploughed back into providing services across both districts. However, the CIFCO accounts for the last year, 2021 show a paper loss of £4.4m made up of expected one-off acquisition costs of around £2m (including stamp duty and fees) as well as a re-adjustment on the value of the portfolio as a whole. The rental income the properties deliver is not affected by these fluctuations in their value. The business plan will be discussed at the next full council

meeting at the end of July.

- Work has now begun on the construction of a new visitor centre and café at Needham Lake
- Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils are to fund biodiversity projects costing over £90k. These include mapping wildlife corridors, council owned public space as well as county wildlife sites and local nature reserves. There will also be a tree canopy survey. These projects are based on the proposals from the Biodiversity Working group.

Suffolk County Council

Ward Member Cllr Andy Mellen tabled a written report confirming that, Suffolk County Council has commissioned an immediate independent review into Special Educational Needs and Disability provision. There has been a lot of concern expressed by parents and carers about this area of service, with high levels of dissatisfaction being publicised, particularly through the group Campaign for Change (SEND Suffolk).

A multi-agency team from Lincolnshire will carry out an independent review into the way parents and carers are communicated with and kept informed of their child's SEND provision in Suffolk.

The review will focus on the processes, communication protocols and family-facing elements of SEND services within Suffolk County Council. It will not look at specific cases or the provision given to specific children. The review started in June and will be completed within six weeks. The report, with any recommendations, will be published on Suffolk County Council's website, shared with those who contributed to it and also scrutinised, in public, by the council's Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee. The Report went on to confirm that, after extra rainfall, the last month or so has seen exuberant growth of foliage alongside roads and paths. Staff and contractors are out and about cutting footpaths and verges but are playing catch-up. If there are particular problems these can be reported through the online highways reporting tool: <https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/> or contact Cllr Mellen directly.

A number of significant road repairs have been done recently but potholes continue to be reported. This is an area where SCC has significant budget constraints and often does not have the funds to do the repairs that residents would like to see. The Council is seeking a better highways funding settlement from central government, as well as reviewing its contract with Kier which expires September 2023.

The Report included details of the Boundary Commission Review of parliamentary constituencies. This review seeks to regularise the size of constituencies across the country, the proposals are for a significant re-shaping of the current Suffolk constituencies. The boundary commission are consulting on their initial proposals for an eight-week period, from 8 June 2021 to 2 August 2021. The encourage everyone to use this opportunity to help shape the new constituencies – the more responses received, the more informed their decisions will be when considering whether to revise our proposals. The consultation portal at www.bcereviews.org.uk has more information about their proposals and how to give your views on them.

New land at Blackbourne

The Clerk reported to the Meeting that a revised scheme has been presented by the developer for a less intrusive incursion onto the Council's land at Blackbourne which will provide an adequate drainage route from the detention basin serving their 106 house development off Ashfield Road. Negotiations continue through respective lawyers towards the reasonable outcome required by the Land Transfer agreement.

Elmswell Tavern

The monthly report from the Clerk included confirmation that the tenant of the Railway Tavern who had helped with the transition following Council's acquisition of the site as a going concern from Greene King has, as anticipated from the outset, decided to retire. Through the good offices of the Chairman of Elmswell Community Enterprise, himself a licensed trade professional, an

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING REPORT - July 2021 continued

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excellent new tenant has been found and the appointment of Chris Mapey was confirmed. This is, again, just a temporary arrangement on the assumption that designs, funding and contracts will be in place early next year when the pub is expected to close for refurbishment / new-build towards a possible re-opening in September 2023 as a community pub, the Elmswell Tavern under a more permanent management arrangement. Meanwhile, the 'community pub' element of the exercise was scheduled to begin on Sunday 25th July with a work party to spruce up the premises inside and out towards a re-opening under new management on Friday 30th with live music. The latest iteration of draft plans from the architect for the refurbishment / new-build show remarkable progress and promise and it is hoped that these will be worked-up to draft consultation stage ready for the re-opening at the end of the month.

Development at School Road

The Chairman, Clerk and Ward Member Sarah Mansell met with representatives of Bloor Homes on 15th July to discuss the substantive issues to be detailed as Reserved Matters re their possible development of 86 houses plus a site for pre-school facilities at School Road. The immediate and obvious concerns related to the engineering of the School Road / Church Road junction together with the adequate widening of School Road and the siting of the preschool facility immediately adjacent to School Road with no dedicated parking which would lead, inevitably, to serious problems as cars delivering children to the school parked on School Road for dropping-off and collection were highlighted. The problems already evident at the junction and at the pre-school facility on Station Road were noted and it was confirmed that the feedback from residents thus far reinforced those concerns. These concerns were noted.

Ventilation for Chamberlayne Hall

The Clerk confirmed that, subject to final approval, central CIL funding of £19,593.31, has been secured, being 75% of the cost of installing electrically controlled skylights in the Chamberlayne Hall, which

project has gained added impetus as a Covid precautionary initiative. It is suggested that it would be appropriate to take the opportunity this affords, as previously mooted, to replace the original steel profile roofing sheets which have reached the end of their safe serviceable life. The original quotes for this work have been dramatically superseded in the current very febrile building materials market, notably for the steel sheeting and a Proposal including the new costings would be brought forward.

Covid measures

The Clerk confirmed that a grant of £750.00 had been secured from the Community Restart scheme towards providing mobile room dividers which will help instil confidence, post covid, in certain configurations of meetings in the village's larger letting venues at Wesley and at Blackbourne. The screens will remain very useful for some larger conference lettings in the normal course of business.

Biodiversity

The Meeting noted a copy of the detailed response from ElmsWild to the recent MSDC survey regarding wildflowers within District Council amenity areas in which they make some suggestions for environmentally friendly projects in Elmswell. This will be kept on file pending an application for grant aid towards hedging the new Blackbourne field boundary.

Planning results

The Meeting noted the following results of Planning applications made to Mid Suffolk, the Planning authority:

DC/21/02602

Erection of single storey rear extension at 6 Eastern Way - GRANTED

DC/21/02551

Prior approval sought for a proposed: Change of use of Agricultural to domestic building at Willow Farm, Ashfield Road - APPROVAL GIVEN

DC/21/02390

Installation of outdoor swimming pool at Luke's View, St Johns Close GRANTED

DC/21/03283

Discharge of Conditions Application 3469/16 Condition 20... Land to the East of Borley Crescent APPROVED

DC/21/02992

Erection of hazel hurdle fencing...The Cow Shed, Ashfield Road - GRANTED

Planning Applications

The Meeting considered the 4 applications forwarded for comment from MSDC. It was agreed to support the application ref. DC/21/03604 for the erection of ground and first floor extensions at 38, Oxe Close and to make no comment on the Application ref. DC/21/02616 for extensions and works to 5, prescott Drive as there was insufficient information in the plans submitted for an informed assessment to be made. An application for a dropped kerb at Magnolias, Church Road, was left for the professional decision of SCC Highways.

Boundary Commission

The Meeting agreed that a response should be made to the Boundary Commission Review suggestion of a North Suffolk constituency with a revised draft proposal taking account of the very unbalanced suggestion presented for discussion for a constituency lacking any integral key infrastructure in key areas such as general Hospital and Further Education, cutting Elmswell and its, 'A14 corridor', neighbours off from either Stowmarket or Bury St Edmunds and leaving no allegiance to the remaining larger settlements such as Bungay and Halesworth. The Clerk undertook to produce a map which reflected Councillors' views and to make a formal submission to the Commission.

Next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday 20th September at 7.30pm in The Blackbourne. The public are, as ever, welcome to attend all Council and Council Committee meetings and the agendas will always offer opportunities for questions and comment. Agendas are published on line at elmswell.suffolk.cloud and on the Council's notice board at Crown Mill.

Future Council Meetings

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

July	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
19th	20th	18th	15th	20th

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

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Primary School

A Proposal from Suffolk County Council for the Extension and alteration of existing school buildings to provide 3 additional classrooms and associated car parking and external works was fully discussed and was informed by comment made by submissions from the public. It was agreed that objections should be made as strongly as possible, but always with an eye to the fact that they must be couched in Planning terms with reference wherever possible to statute, Plans and formal guidance. The following text ensued:

Councillors object to this application for the following reasons;

1. NPPF Paragraph 8 b) The goal of achieving sustainable development, 'meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs,' is to be achieved by supporting vibrant and healthy communities and by fostering a well-designed built environment with open spaces that support health together with social and cultural well-being.
 - 1.1 The proposals include, as examples of the inevitable site overdevelopment which is justified as, 'site constraints restrict the area available for expansion', the fact that circulation space is proposed to be utilised to form a larger studio space. Councillors translate this as teaching in the corridors. Councillors, as some-time parents, staff and volunteers at the school, know these corridors to be extremely narrow.
 - 1.2 Further cramming is to be made possible by the 'remodelling' of the changing rooms and it is, therefore, 'expected that pupils can change in their classrooms'. This is retrograde in itself, but compounded by the fact that the capacity increase which required the 2013 new-build raised the upper age limit to 11. Mixed groups of 11 year-old pubescent children are ill-served if required to undress without consideration of appropriate allowances for decency and individuals clearly stand in danger of receiving body shaming and possible physical abuse clearly at odds with their social and cultural well-being.
 - 1.3 The design takes no account of the lack of staff resource / working area, again, as a clear consequence of having to design to unrealistically constrained parameters.
 - 1.4 The extremely desirable facility to be able to offer an area large enough to accommodate a whole-school assembly, already denied under previous intake expansions, is the more marked given the increase in pupil population. This is doubly problematic as it requires an unrealistically quick turnaround of the school dinner process which can only increase the worrying prevalence of eating disorders in young people.
- 2 NPPF Paragraph 20 c) requires an overall strategy for the quality of community facilities such as education. This proposal is for a make-do-and mend solution to a capacity

problem which has been flagged up in recent years as development pressures have emerged and increased. It should fall, and the subsequent shortfall in accommodation be used as a trigger for consideration of a strategic, joined-up approach which would properly serve the children of Elmswell into the future.

- 3 NPPF Paragraph 91 requiring Planning decisions which achieve healthy and safe places. The Exterior Areas Analysis confirms that all of the proposed PE areas are below recommended guidelines as the scarcity of space on the site will not allow for the extension to the building footprint. Again, it is confirmed that the proposals would produce a result significantly below recommendations in this regard to the extent that Sport England are likely to raise objection.
 - 3.1 The very tight site presented for informal outdoor recreation presents real hazards when the age mix of 4 – 11 year olds is taken into account.
 - 3.2 There is no space for the essential designated safe areas to cater for pupils with special needs whose condition can often be best addressed via a safe-place policy both indoors and out where trained staff can exert a calming influence and prevent the escalation of challenging behaviour.
- 4 NPPF paragraph 94 b) encourages meeting the needs of communities in terms of education with one of the imperatives being the widening of choice on the understanding that key planning issues are identified and resolved before applications are submitted. Key issues here, not least highway safety and parking constraints which are chaotic even under current numbers, have not been addressed prior to this submission.
- 5 NPPF paragraph 97 states that existing open space, sports and recreation land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless an assessment clearly shows them to be surplus to requirements or the benefits of alternative provision outweigh the loss. This proposal squarely flies in the face of this crucial proviso and seeks to reduce sport and recreation spaces to the clear detriment of the pupils who are denied the alternative of indoor provision given the cramped nature of the existing hall and the lack of any consideration of this factor in the plans presented. The new-build takes up some 50% of the playground space which also serves as the muster point for safe arrival and dispatch of pupils at the beginning and end of the day.
- 6 NPPF paragraph 102 d) has it that development proposals should identify, assess and take into account the environmental impacts of traffic. The current dangerous situation presented at this site when cars deliver and collect pupils will worsen when a 33% uplift in pupil numbers is factored in. The constrained nature of the site will not allow remediation of this crucially important aspect.

- 7 Local Plan Policy T10 requires that regard be paid to the suitability of existing roads giving access to the development and to the acceptable level of traffic generated in relation to the capacity of the road network. The existing situation in this regard is extremely bad because Oxer Close is configured too tightly to accommodate the free flow of traffic and the prevalent on-street parking. The site is being asked to take twice the traffic that its original designers intended and this is ill-considered and dangerous.
 - 8 Local Plan Policy RT3 confirms that the District Council will safeguard recreational open space, making specific mention of school playing fields. These proposal fall foul of this measure.
 - 9 Local Plan Policy SC8 again emphasises that the development of land currently used as school playing fields will not be permitted. The proposed loss of such facilities here should not, therefore, succeed.
 - 10 Local Plan Policy RT7 requires that attention be paid to the proximity of existing settlements when noisy sports are sited. In this case, the very close domestic boundary to the proposed MUGA high-impact steel fencing will create considerable noise nuisance, as previously experienced at the Blackbourne facility in the village. The MSDC guideline for distance between games activity equipment and domestic dwellings is 35m which cannot be met here.
 - 11 The emerging BMSDC JLP lists in, 'Visions and Objectives', that it seeks to enable communities to be healthy and active. The constraints which would result from these proposals in terms of physical exercise at this early years of children's development and well-being run directly counter to this essential policy aim. Further, the constrained nature of space provision renders the facility unsuitable for the out-of-hours activities by way of teams and clubs that should form a valuable extra-curricular adjunct to the school's life in the community.
 - 12 The emerging BMSDC JLP Policy LP32 confirms that sites in current educational use will be protected from development in excess of the Government guidelines for play provision. SCC's own analysis identifies this problem.
 - 13 Local Plan Policy GP1 has an overall constraint against poor design and layout, as has to be the case with regard to this proposal as it seeks to cram the site to the detriment of the natural tree belt creating a scale and density ill-suited to the wider semi-rural setting.
- Councillors would add that they are aware of 2 new possible school sites within Elmswell with realistic potential. They repeat their suggestion that a more strategic overview is necessary to consider the underlying factors behind this application, one of which is the lack of an alternative. This can be addressed and the current initiative held in limbo during that process.

VILLAGE INDEX

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

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

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

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

What's On in Elmswell ?



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

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

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

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

August 2021

- 4 Elmswell Exchange Afternoon W.I @ Wesley Centre 2pm. Edith Cavell - A British Heroine - Richard and Jill Mann
- 10 Charles Garland from Dad's Army. Elmswell Evening WI Meeting starts at 7.30pm at The Wesley.
- 19 Choose Refill – mobile refill shop at Wesley

September 2021

- 1 Elmswell Exchange Afternoon W.I @ Wesley Centre 2pm. Never Judge a Book by its Cover. Michael Holton - Booksurgeon. Followed by our AGM
- 6 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - Armchair Walk of Ipswich Waterfront with an Ipswich Tourist Guide 7.45pm
- 9 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP 2020-21 AGM at 7pm, in Wesley's Chapel - immediately followed at 7.30pm by Speaker George Agnew: History of Rougham Hall
- 14 Sian Fox, It shouldn't happen to a home economist. Elmswell Evening WI Meeting starts at 7.30pm at The Wesley.
- 16 Choose Refill – mobile refill shop at Wesley

- 21 Elmswell Garden Club, Wesley Centre 7.30pm Dr Ian Bedford 'The trouble with wasps'

October 2021

- 4 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - Patchwork with Janet Brown 7.45pm
- 6 Elmswell Exchange Afternoon W.I @ Wesley Centre 2pm. The Art of Stained Glass - Michele Russell
- 12 Margaret Blanchard on her life as a film extra. Elmswell Evening WI Meeting starts at 7.30pm at The Wesley.
- 14 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley's Chapel. Speaker Douglas Bourne: Railways of East Anglia
- 19 Elmswell Garden Club - Wesley Centre 7.30pm- Pat Hodgkins NT 'Constable the Man an his Landscapes
- 21 Choose Refill – mobile refill shop at Wesley

November 2021

- 1 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - Lady Alice de Bryene with Pip Wright 7.45pm

- 3 Elmswell Exchange Afternoon W.I @ Wesley Centre 2pm. Create a Seasonal Book Mark with Jayne. All materials supplied Materials provided - Jane Knights
- 9 Vanessa Hale from Wiltshire Farm Foods. Elmswell Evening WI Meeting starts at 7.30pm at The Wesley
- 11 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; * in Blackbourne's Chamberlayne Hall * Speaker Charlie Haylock: Charlie and "The Dig"
- 16 Elmswell Garden Club - Wesley Centre 7.30pm AGM followed by Club Event
- 18 Choose Refill – mobile refill shop at Wesley
- 29 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - Nosh and Natter - Entertainment by John Evans and friends - men welcome as well 7.45pm

December 2021

- 1 Elmswell Exchange Afternoon W.I @ Wesley Centre 2pm. Special Christmas Celebrations To make up for the dreadful year of 2020/21 (Wear something sparkly)
- 9 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley's Chapel. Speaker Piers Hart: Suffolk Building Preservation Trust
- 14 Christmas party. Elmswell Evening WI Meeting starts at 7.30pm at The Wesley
- 16 Choose Refill – mobile refill shop at Wesley

STOP PRESS

Back in action at both Blackbourne & Wesley and hoping to stay that way, we have:

FITNESS - Sarah Evans' classes include stretch-and-flex, spin, boxercise, legs bums & tums, bodyblast....throughout the week and at weekends contact sarahjane.fitness@outlook.com

KARATE with Lewis - Tuesday 4.30 – 5.45 / Friday 5.00 – 7.00 info@greatheadma.com

JAPANESE JUJUTSU / SELF DEFENCE – Monday & Wednesday 6.30 – 8.30 gary@chapeldevelopments.co.uk tel. 07711 680262

BABY & TODDLER GROUP - Monday mornings elmswellbtgroup@gmail.com

BOWLS - ann.richards47@gmail.com

GUIDES - Monday evenings 5.00 – 8.30 gem_2910@hotmail.co.uk

FOOTBALL - shaun.pratt@btinternet.com 07494 864231

RAINBOWS - elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com

JUNIOR FOOTBALL - smyth98@hotmail.com 07717 841591

BEAVERS /SCOUTS - Wednesday 5.45 – 9.15 ddc.paula@stowmarketscouts.org.uk

OVER 55'S - every other Thursday 6.30 – 10.30 Diann Armstrong tel. 241002

CIRCLE DANCING - Thursdays 1.45 – 3.15 jenlerner@gmail.com

TREFOIL GUILD - 1ST Tuesday monthly lesley.grout@btinternet.com

MARDLE QUILTERS - last Friday monthly carpajak@aol.com

MOO MUSIC - Fridays 12.45 – 3.15 bury@moo-music.co.uk

If we've missed you out, do let us know...all enquiries to Ann at the Council Office Tel. 244134 Email clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk



Circle Dancing

Your Newsletter Fact File

For the next 6 months we need copy by: August 24th, September 21st, October 26th, November 23rd, December 21st, January 25th

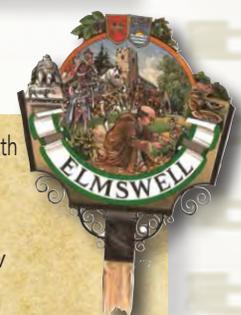
Contact us on 01359 244 134 for all Amenities Association business, Newsletter and adverts.

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

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

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Most manufacturers recommend you service your car's air-con every two years, but many people wait until it's not blowing cold air. **Have you??**

Poor working air con will work the engine harder, thus using more fuel. It's not worth putting off a system check. **Call and book yours today.....**

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"Lovely friendly garage, honest and decently priced. Will use for many years to come and always recommend. Fab job guys"



"Excellent service! courtesy car available, clean and tidy garage with plenty of parking. would definitely recommend"



"Fantastic service, really friendly and helpful. Highly Recommend as they make you feel comfortable as soon as you walk through the door, thank you"



"Prompt attention, honest and thorough work. they care!"



"Great service - Excellent Price! Will definitely be back"



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