

'Like a friend dropping in'



# The Elmswell Newsletter



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

**DECEMBER 2021**

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



*Christmas music  
... see our Editorial*



*Thank you Mr Dickens  
... see page 4*

*Our  
community  
Christmas  
captured ...*



*Christmas magic  
at Crown Mill*

*... see page 9*



*Sustainable  
Christmas transport*

*... see page 13*

*New Year's Day Footpath Walk ... see page 21*

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**EAA@elmswell.org.uk**



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

Despite rumours to the contrary, 'tis the season to be jolly. Possibly a difficult ask under what our thoughtful old friend Eeyore would call, 'current circumstances,' when, he might go on to explain, "I never get my hopes up, so I never get let down...could be worse...not sure how, but it could be."

Nevertheless, the season is celebrated in our Christmas songs, including, as above, the tuneful suggestion that we deck our halls with boughs of holly, going on to urge that we sing joyous all together, heedless of the wind and weather, before, and let's assume that this is all optional, encouraging, "Don we now our gay apparel".



Changes in musical taste and format do not impinge too heavily on our traditional Christmas fare. For generations, despite the best efforts of mischievous younger choristers to suggest that angels appeared, 'While shepherds washed their socks by night,' or when those same young minds battled to get their innocent young heads around, 'Lo, he abhors not...' before stifling the giggles at the rude words that followed, our canon of good old Christmas carols has anchored the season. The insertion of new, 'adventurous and innovative', elements to the timeless King's College Cambridge radio broadcast merely presents a chance to carry on decorating the tree until they get back to proper singing, building up to 'Oh Come all Ye...' with full treble descant.

Of course, there will be digressions. When Christmas wrapping becomes Christmas rapping there are brief painful moments when it may seem that the tune is dead, when aggression is the Christmas theme and wise men are a thing of the past. But it doesn't last. In an age when much wealth is to be had by simply selling a fad, these brief aberrations fade, and we welcome King Wenceslas back with his timeless ability to warm snow just by walking on it.

There has, seemingly, always been certainty to Christmas. It is, of course, a relatively recent construct, much encouraged by Charles Dickens some 170 years ago when he suggested it was always snowy and when he actually invented the phrase, 'Merry Christmas'. But this is pre-dated by a timeless and primaeval urge to mark the depth of winter in the hope of a gradual re-emergence of the longer days into spring and summer.

That certainty was Covid-challenged last year and might be again. The whole vast construct of commerce and convention requires supply chains and limitless travel and 24hour access to excesses of all kinds. There is, consequently, panic at the prospect of not enough turkeys to

go round, of the Prosecco drying up or of the kids being denied the 3 minutes of pleasure to be afforded by this year's must-have battery-hungry electronically controlled plastic gee-gaw, as seen on TV. It perhaps points up the threadbare nature of some aspects of the first world in the 21st century that a couple of days' blockage to a container ship's passage through the Suez canal on 24th March can threaten the Christmas party and lead to scant reward in the Christmas stocking.

Which might suggest that we look beyond the flim-flam, the layers of belief and tradition and what may be generally accepted as essential requisites for a Happy Christmas and revert to the original imperative which was to put behind us the dark days of winter and consider the possibility of brighter times ahead.

Brighter times as predicted here in extracts from this year's Olde Elmswelle Almanac



The new signalling system recently introduced on the Ipswich – Cambridge line means that trains trigger the crossing gates when they are a safe distance away rather than just as they leave Stowmarket of Bury...downtime reduced to some 2 minutes, driver frustration dramatically reduced as is pollution from standing vehicles.



Drivers waiting at the Elmswell crossing gates now so well disposed to the new system that they all turn off their engines while they wait the 2 minutes... this habit observed to be gradually spreading to the Co-op car park etc



Wesley starts doing bacon butties (vegan option available).



The Elmswell Tavern share issue is successful enough for the scheme to go out to local builders for tender, just as the price of building materials begins to fall again.



Elmswell is chosen from dozens of applicants as a 'Suffolk Highways Showcase'...all potholes to be repaired, white lining restored, road signs updated (including those warning of flying pigs) and the A1088 weight limit removed so that HGV's don't have to come through the village.



There is, finally, an acceptance that the 'official' figures do not reflect the reality of housing growth and serious efforts are made to consider a new school in the village capable of taking all of our kids rather than sending them to Woolpit on the bus.



In light of the revelations in October of real future growth pressures, the Planners decide that enough really is enough and stop all new building in Elmswell, other than housing controlled by the Elmswell Community Land Trust.



We ponder on the possibility of yet another lockdown but are, in no way, downhearted as it's Christmas and we can, once again, lose ourselves in jolly singing.

**...and on that high note, we wish you the Compliments of the Season from all of the Newsletter volunteers.**





## ELMSWELL ART CLUB

In early November we enjoyed our first demonstration by a visiting artist since lockdown. Hashim Akib gave us all a wonderful demonstration of his iconic style of acrylic painting. We had an excellent turn out of members to witness an expert doing his stuff! For the first time, we invited non-members to attend and again we were very pleased with the numbers coming along and the interest shown. A fascinating and enjoyable time was had by all. The usual format for these demos is to have a short refreshment break in the middle of the demo and Hash's demo followed the same pattern. We were spoilt insofar as we had not just the one painting done but two and the second painting, done in slightly less than an hour, we reproduce here. Hash's delivery and commentary is so interesting and entertaining, we were all enthralled. At the start, he said he thought because of constraints of time, he would not be able to get the bicycle in but as you can see he managed it! Hashim gives demos and workshops throughout the country and he was so impressed with

the Wesley that he intends to add Elmswell to his itinerary. His next visit will likely be early spring with a workshop which lasts 4 hours and is limited to 15 attendees only. The second painting of frosty reeds and a windmill in watercolour was done by Henry Gow. Henry is a long standing member of the club, much respected for his quiet manner and supreme skill in whatever he paints. Now into his mid-nineties he has decided to give up his membership and continue spending time at home on his painting work. He will be sadly missed and we wish him well. The Elmswell library is allowing us space



to display a number of paintings. The space allocated will increase in time to permit us to have even more paintings shown. Most of these will be available for purchase.

Last but by no means least, may we wish everyone a happy Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year. We are all hoping for an end of the Covid crisis.

*John Welford 01359240166*

*John Welford  
01359 240166*



**Art is coming face to face with yourself**

*Jackson Pollock*

## ELMSWELL OVER 55'S CLUB

Its time again for an update of the clubs activities until the end of December 2021.



The meeting on Thursday November 18<sup>th</sup> welcomed Alan Mann and Friends for a thoroughly enjoyable evening

of music & song it is surprising how time flies when everybody is hand clapping and foot tapping to the music and joining in with the songs. Last months picture featured the Old Codgers from an earlier meeting.



Thursday November 25<sup>th</sup> saw a coach load go to thursford for the Xmas Spectacular which was rolled over from 2020. Our next meeting on December 2<sup>nd</sup> featured Gwyn Pritchard On Thursday December 16<sup>th</sup> we will be playing Bingo, regrettably the Salvation Army are unable to come along so it means more Hot Sausage Rolls and Mince Pies for those present.

Finally Saturday December 18<sup>th</sup> is our Xmas Party with catering by Amy Cross followed by Brotherhood to keep us entertained till late.

Now I would like to wish you all (Members and Friends) a very Happy Xmas and a prosperous New Year.

*Diann (241002)*



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### ELMSWELL EXCHANGE AFTERNOON WI

**At our November meeting** we enjoyed a craft afternoon organised by Jayne Knights (pictured), one of our members, who was aided by



Yvonne. Everyone was shown how to make a seasonal bookmark. All the materials were provided. We took turns at the tables so that we could keep a reasonable amount of social distance in place. The same materials were provided for everyone but it was surprising to see how very different the bookmarks were when completed. A



laminating machine was in place and Yvonne added the finishing touch with this. Thanks go to Jayne and Yvonne for a most entertaining afternoon. After a break for refreshments we discussed business matters. Mary announced our new Committee and confirmed that Stephanie would be our

new Minutes Secretary. Arrangements for our trip to Scotsdales on the 17<sup>th</sup> November were finalised. The Federation Carol Service at St. Mary's Church in Bury St. Edmunds was of interest to many and a mini bus would be booked for this. Last December it would have been the Federation Centenary Carol Service but, of course, like everything else this had to be cancelled.

**Next month is our Christmas Celebrations.** We are hoping to find some musical entertainment for this. We will be having food provided by the Committee and no doubt ending with some Christmas Carols. If you have any queries contact Mary on 01359 245022 or Maureen on 01359 241033.

*Maureen Davis*



### ELMSWELL GARDEN CLUB

Our last meeting of the year welcomed Pat Hodgkins to talk about John Constable – 'The man and his landscapes'. Pat is a National Trust speaker and volunteer guide at Flatford Mill. She contrasted the iconic paintings of Constable against photographs of the area taken today. Although the vegetation has matured, it was possible to see why the painters eye captured the iconic scenes of social history he depicted so well. It was incredible that the natural features of the 18<sup>th</sup> century were very much in evidence. It was an evening for artists, historians and gardeners alike to enjoy. We welcomed friends whose interests are not predominately for gardening, evidence that village clubs support each other when a subject stirs interest. At the end of the evening Pat accepted a donation to the National Trust as a thank you. It was good to



know that our contribution will help to ensure restoration work continues to keep valuable estates in good order.

It has been good to meet at the new Wesley Hall since September. We must now wait until February to begin again for what is hoped to be an unbroken year of meetings and visits. As the winter begins to bite, it is time plan for what we shall plant and maybe dream of an even bigger and better garden for 2022.

Thinking of Christmas gives an opportunity to gather foliage and berries from our gardens to create attractive wreaths to hang on doors and walls. As individual creation begin to appear throughout the village it really will begin to feel a 'lot like Christmas'.

We return to the Wesley on the 15<sup>th</sup> February when Matthew Long will share a talk entitled 'Spring bulbs for Summer Colour'. February is just the right time to know the best way to tackle the summer. Roll on the sun!!

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



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## ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

November was a busier-than-usual month for us. On the 11<sup>th</sup>, a truly bumper audience (of over 100!!) was thoroughly entertained by well-known raconteur and Suffolk dialect coach, Charlie Haylock, in his fascinating talk on "The Dig", a film about the 1939 discovery of Sutton Hoo's Anglo-Saxon ship burial and treasure, near Woodbridge. Charlie is not just a master of dialects, he has the ability to speak in a variety of English dialects, as he has studied how each sound is pronounced and spoken. In this capacity, he was chosen to teach the Suffolk dialect to Ralph Fiennes (and other cast members) when Ralph played the part of amateur archaeologist, Basil Brown, in this film. Subsequently, he and Charlie have become firm friends, and this talk gave us all a new appreciation of the hard work and expertise that goes into making such a superb film of great East Anglian historical interest and national importance. Towards the end of his talk, Charlie entertained us with anecdotes about places he has visited and people he has met.



Two days later, we were delighted to welcome many villagers and folks from a wide area at the launch of our **WW1 book "Forgotten Sentinel"** and related exhibition about **Elmswell's Aerodrome and the Royal Flying Corps** stationed there just over 100 years ago. Initial sales were most encouraging but, if you missed this event, the book will be available for sale at our monthly meetings or from our Treasurer, Graham Newman (01359-240846). Alternatively, copies are also for sale at Bury's Apex Tourist Information Centre, Stowmarket's Museum of East Anglian Life (opposite Asda), and much nearer to home at Elmswell's Wesley Coffee Shop/Café (9am-4pm, Mon-Sat), where an excellent range of refreshing coffee/tea and delicious home-made cakes can be enjoyed. Considering the huge amount of detailed information contained in it, the book is competitively priced at £11.99 for personal



collection, or by mail order at £15.49 (inc. p+p), and would make a superb gift for anyone interested in local history and/or the pioneering forerunners of aviation history.

**Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> December; 7.30pm – Suffolk Building Preservation Trust at The BLACKBOURNE's Chamberlayne Hall, Blackbourne Rd, E'well IP30 9UH**



SBPT's Chairman, Piers Hart, will tell us about their current projects of Welnetham Windmill, Lavenham's Little Hall (in the Market Square) and Pakenham Water Mill, as well as about some of their past successes such as saving the historic brick-and-flint Brandon Railway Station from being knocked down. Do join us for what should be an interesting talk.

**Suffolk connections to Edward VIII's abdication, Oct-Dec 1936**

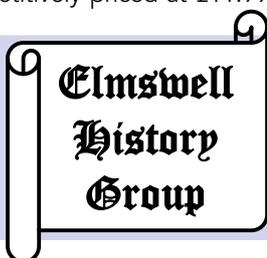


This year is the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of King Edward VIII's abdication. In the autumn of 1936, Wallis Simpson spent six weeks living in Felixstowe in order to gain residential qualifications to have her divorce hearing held in Ipswich. Unfortunately for Mrs Simpson, this was not to be a low-key affair

because Associated Press of America was informed of the pending case, and the world's press promptly arrived in Ipswich for the hearing that was to take place on 27<sup>th</sup> October. The hearing itself lasted only 25 minutes when the judge seems to have been fairly unhappy about permitting Mrs Simpson her divorce but, in the end, after hearing evidence from members of staff from a Berks hotel (who told of Mr Simpson sleeping with another unnamed woman), he relented and reluctantly said 'Very well, decree nisi.' The hearing in Ipswich led to a crisis that was only resolved just before Christmas 1936 when the King announced his abdication, so that he could marry the twice-divorced Mrs Simpson. Having waited the required six months, they were married in June 1937 in France. Some say that it was always Hitler's plan to make Edward his puppet king in England after an invasion of Britain, and so presumably with the strongly-suspected Nazi-sympathising Wallis as Queen. As Edward VIII only abdicated due to his wish to marry Mrs Simpson, if she had not gained her divorce, he would have remained King with her as his mistress leading into WW2. Thank goodness history took the turn it did during that Ipswich day in October 1936 and subsequently December in London.



And Finally ..... May we take this opportunity of wishing all our readers the compliments of the Festive Season, with good health and happiness.



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



## ELMSWELL LIBRARY



Hello Elmswell,

As we are getting closer to Christmas we are going to change the main display to a display of Christmas books this month. To help with the festive mood we are also going to have free mince pies / satsumas to enjoy while you sit and read the news paper, take part in the crafts or have a natter. This is kindly supported by Elmswell Co-op.

We also have packs of Christmas cards for sale at the library. They are packs of 10 for £3.99.

Newly up in the library is the gallery space, with a white background going up in December. The first pictures to be exhibited are some from the Elmswell Art Club. Currently there is artwork by Henry Gow, Pat Quick, L. J. Stephenson and John Welford. For each piece sold there will be an amount that goes to supporting Suffolk Libraries.

We are stopping the Baby Bounce sessions but the good news is we are going to start doing a Storytime sessions instead. These will be later in the day. Between 1.10pm and 1.30pm on Tuesdays. Each story time there will be picture books read for the children to listen to and look at the pictures.

Looking a bit further ahead a date for the diary is Friday 25th February, Elmswell Library Friends are putting on a South African Wines evening. Come along and find out about the wines from local wine expert Bob Stopp. Tickets will be on sale soon, costing £15 per person.

We still have the home test kits. At the time of going to print they are still available to anyone who visits the library for free without a need to pre-order or give personal details. You can just come in and pick them up.

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?

#### Story Time

1.10pm – 1.30pm  
every Tuesday

**The Keep in Touch Community Café**  
Suspended until the 2022.

**Adult Reading Practice**  
Wednesdays and Thursdays.  
Please book in advance.

#### Sunday Crafts

1pm – 2pm  
every Sunday

#### Lego Club

Every Sunday  
11am – 12noon

#### South African Wine evening

Friday 25th February 2022

### 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



## CITIZENS ADVICE

**It feels like everything is getting more and more expensive and with Christmas coming up, I'm really worried about how I'll manage. My partner and I would love to treat our kids but we're keen to avoid huge debts. Do you have any advice?**

Christmas can be costly for many of us and we know lots of people are struggling already this year. There can be a lot of pressure to spend more than you can afford, so here are a few key things to remember as we head into 2022.

### Be realistic and budget accordingly

Work out how much you can afford to spend – and stick to it. There's nothing wrong with managing expectations, and suggesting things such as spending limits, secret Santas or maybe even that you don't need to swap gifts.

### Get help if you're struggling

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](https://midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us).

**For more information and our opening hours go to [midsuffolkcab.org.uk](https://midsuffolkcab.org.uk)**

### Don't forget the everyday bills

Remember that the rent or mortgage, utility bills, food bills and other existing debts still have to be paid – the consequences can be severe if they're not. Even though it's Christmas, it's not worth starting the New Year being behind on your bills

### Tempted by Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL)?

While it can be tempting to split payments, make sure you have a plan for how to pay the money back - particularly if your circumstances or income were to change. If you're using BNPL repeatedly or using multiple BNPL options, make sure you know how much you owe in total. Make sure you understand what you're signing up for, how you'll make the repayments and what will happen if you can't pay on time.

### Buy safe to be safe

Whatever the deal, whatever the temptation, don't buy from unauthorised traders and don't borrow from unauthorised lenders. These could put you at risk of unscrupulous collection methods – including threats and harm, unsafe products and unexpectedly high interest rates. You may also not be protected by Financial Conduct Authority rules

### Shop around

Try as many different places as possible to find the best price. Buy what you want and not what other people say you need. Be wary of extended warranties; the cost of a repair could be less than the cost of the warranty.

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## THANK YOU



Thank you so much to everyone in the village who donated to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2021.

Your efforts and generosity raised the staggering total amount of £7,389.52, which has been passed to the Poppy Appeal and, will certainly help the charity to carry on providing vital assistance and welfare to our serving and ex serving military personnel and their dependants, whose needs and requirements are as vital today as they were back in 1921 when the British Legion was formed.

There are so many people I would like to thank whose efforts and assistance greatly contributed to achieving this amazing amount.

To the volunteers some old troupers and some new recruits.

To Ryan at the Co-op store who generously allowed us to have a table top in the foyer and, to all of his staff who were very helpful and looked after the volunteers so well.

To Elmswell Primary School, who happily promoted our cause.

To the numerous businesses and organisations who helped with static boxes.

To Elmswell Amenities Association and Parish Council, who offered us their support.

The assistance of everybody concerned and the generosity of everybody who donated is greatly appreciated and I thank you all so much.

THANK YOU

*Norman Plumpton ( BIFF ), Branch Secretary, Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal*

## ELMSWELL GARDEN CLUB

You might imagine that when the cold weather arrives, gardeners stay indoors, like most other people, and find pursuits more suited to the inclement weather. However, there is a surprising amount that can be achieved in the garden by those hardy folks who are willing to brave the elements. There's also a surprising number of flowers that thrive in the cooler months; primulas, pansies, violas, nerines - to name a few, all add colour and interest to the autumn garden.

November is an excellent month for planting shrubs and if you like the idea of a planting a tree or two choose a bare root tree and plant it now. Good preparation cannot be over-emphasised. There's lots of information on the internet these days explaining the requirements of a young tree and how to give it the very best start. The joy of seeing your tree flourish in succeeding years cannot be under estimated. Fruit trees especially not only produce wonderful blossom, but provide a delicious harvest – just don't let fruit develop during it's first year - it needs time to really settle in.

Our AGM was efficiently dispatched by Catherine last month and was followed by an informative talk, given by Nick Chamberlin, our treasurer. Nick has been an allotment holder for many years and is a fount of knowledge, not least when it comes to tackling allotment 'pests' using natural methods. Different grades of netting are available to protect crops and choosing the right grade at the right time can make a real difference.

Our talk this month is entitled '**John Constable –The man and his landscape'**.

The speaker, Pat Hodgkins is from the National Trust. It promises to be a really interesting evening with lots of fabulous photographs and illustrations. It's sure to fascinate gardeners and also those interested in history and art too.

Why not join us for the evening? Only £2.00 admittance fee. We've been delighted by the number of new members and visitors to the club. You'll be sure of a warm welcome.

**If you require further information about**

**Elmswell Garden Club (EGC), please contact Catherine, on 01359 242172 or Nick, on 01359 242601.**

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



*John Constable's garden was the Suffolk countryside*



## ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Season's greetings from St John's :)

Maybe it's still slightly early to say Merry Christmas. The actual season we are in as you receive this month's magazine is called **Advent**. Many of us have Advent calendars, some filled with chocolate whilst more traditional ones include pictures of the Christmas story. An Advent calendar is, essentially, a countdown to Christmas, the celebration of Jesus Christ's birth into the world.

Advent is a season which is all about getting ready. Unfortunately, today, this often means a mad scramble to make sure all the presents are purchased, all the decorations put up and all the food (way too much, usually) is rammed into the fridge and freezer. Advent is better

spent getting our hearts ready as we look forward to, not only celebrating Christ's first coming into the world, but also to meeting him at his second coming. It will be important to be ready to meet him when he returns!

*Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all peoples on earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.*  
Revelation 1:7

Looking back to November, it was good to feel things were more normal again. It was lovely to see good turnouts to our Time to Remember and our Remembrance Sunday services – especially great to see so many young people at the latter, remembering those who gave so much for us in times of conflict.

For children, our Sunday School continues to be on Zoom, each Sunday at 9:30am. All are welcome – just drop us a line of you would like your children to be part of this and we will deliver the craft in advance. However, the first Sunday of the month is our Family Service in the church, which is always a great time of worship for young and old alike.

In December, we are looking forward to welcoming children from Year 5 and 6 to Discover Advent, a creative way of retelling the events of the first Christmas in an engaging, reflective way. Our Carols by Candlelight service takes place on Sunday 19 December at 6:30pm. Then, on Christmas Eve, our popular 3:30pm Nativity is back.

Please note - our Christmas Eve Night Communion service is now at the earlier time of 8:30pm. We shall be celebrating Midnight in Bethlehem rather than Midnight in Elmswell, which is a relief to those of us who do not have insomnia. Also, our main Christmas Day celebration is at 10:00am, not 10:30am.

Looking forward to the month ahead – Happy Advent to everybody.

God bless and stay safe!

### Diary for December:

**Sun 5 Dec** 9:00am  
Lord's Supper (spoken service)

**Sun 5 Dec** 10:30am  
All Age Service

**Sun 12 Dec** 10:30am  
Worship and Communion

**Sun 19 Dec** 10:30am  
Sunday Worship

**Sun 19 Dec** 6:30pm  
Carols By Candlelight

**Fri 24 Dec** 3:30pm  
Christmas Eve Nativity

**Fri 24 Dec** 8:30pm  
Midnight In Bethlehem Communion

**Sat 25 Dec** 10:00am  
Christmas Day Celebration

**Sun 26 Dec** 10:30am  
Reflective Communion & Carols

We hope to also live stream most of the services 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)

You are very welcome to join us for

## Christmas at St John's Church

Sun 19 Dec 6:30pm - Carols By Candlelight  
 Fri 24 Dec 3:30pm - Christmas Eve Nativity  
 Fri 24 Dec 8:30pm - Midnight in Bethlehem Communion  
 Sat 25 Dec 10:00am - Christmas Day Celebration  
 Sun 26 Dec 10:30am - Reflective Communion & Carols

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

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accessed via our website home page



## 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 special occasion. 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 winter months the lights will be on between 5.30 p.m. and midnight.

A night's floodlighting costs £5.

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

All bookings and payments please to :-

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

Your support is much appreciated.

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

### DECEMBER 2021

- 3 in loving memory of Reginald Bloomfield.
- 10 in memory of Ray Borrett.
- 16 Ken Catchpole. "In the Lord's keeping for twenty seven years. In our thoughts and hearts for ever".  
Love Joan, Stephanie, Ivan, William and Glyn. xxxxx.
- 23 Revd. Noel Clarke - remembered with love on his Birthday.

- 23 loving memories of my dear Mum, Ivy Hopper, who left us 10 years ago today. "So missed". Sally & Alan. xx.
- 24 in memory of Evelyn and Roy Clark.
- 25 Merry Christmas Mum (xx) & Dad (xx).
- 25 in memory of Mark & Andrew Jones. "Always in our thoughts". Mum & Dad.
- 25 Christmas. Ken Catchpole. Dear Husband, Dadda, and Grandad. Also, dear In-Laws and Grandparents, Charles and Ivy Catchpole. "The special Christmases will not return, when we were all together,  
but with all the love in our hearts will always stay for ever". Love Joan, Stephanie, Ivan, William and Glyn. xxxxx.
- 25 cherished memories of Evelyn Simpson, much loved and missed by all the family.
- 25 remembering my dear Mum & Dad, and twin brother, at Christmas, Ivy & Dennis, and David Hopper.  
"Sadly missed". Sally & Alan.
- 28 to remember and thank all those past Elmswell Fire-Fighters who served their village and community so well.
- 31 in loving memory of Duncan Wardrop on his Birthday. "Love always".  
Alex, Douglas and Teddy. xxx.

## CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY, STOWMARKET

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

Tel: 01449-612946 E-mail: [pp@ourladystowmarket.org.uk](mailto:pp@ourladystowmarket.org.uk)

### MASS TIMES:

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

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

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

Weekday services in the Parish are advertised at the

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

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



## ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

All being well, Carols on the Green at Crown Mill will take place this year. 7pm start, coffee and mince pies at our chapel in Ashfield Road afterwards, ALL are welcome.

One of the most popular carols is While shepherds watched their flock by night Or maybe you remember it from your school days as Whilst shepherds washed their socks by night! In this country it is usually sung to the tune Winchester Old, another tune is used by the Americans. In Yorkshire especially it might be sung to the tune Cranbrook which is better known as On Ikley Moor baht 'at' which certainly is more

upbeat! This reminds us that we might have different ways of expressing our praise to God along with the angels. The vehicle of our praise is less important than true belief. It also reminds us that God chose to reveal the Christmas story first of all to a much despised group of people in Israel and then to wise men who were foreigners and in all likelihood not believers in the one true God. A reminder that the gospel of Jesus Christ is for all, regardless of our financial standing or our background.

Our prayer is that everyone in Elmswell will welcome the new-born Christ into their homes this Christmas and recognise him for what he is, Son of God, Saviour of the World, Emmanuel (God with Us).

The Food 'n' Friends Christmas Special will take place on Thursday December 9<sup>th</sup> at Midday. Phone Jackie on 245918 to book your place for Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings.

2022 will see the Ladies Friendship Group continue with their meetings at 2pm on the first Monday of each month except when that is a Bank Holiday. Food 'n' Friends also will continue on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at Midday. → →

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To apply please contact  
**01473 603876**  
and quote **SILREF4567**



## ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

Ashfield Road, Elmswell IP30 9HG

Come and join our Christmas Celebrations

### Wednesday December 15<sup>th</sup> 7pm Carols on the Green

(at Crown Mill by the level crossing)  
organised by Christians Together in Elmswell  
accompanied by the Norton Salvation Army Band  
mince pies afterwards

### Sunday December 19<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Carols by Daylight

for those who prefer not going out in the dark

### Friday December 24<sup>th</sup> 5.00pm Carols by Candlelight

Enjoy the unique atmosphere created by 80 candles lighting the chapel  
Restricted numbers, please call 01359 241541, call or text 07784 0955225 or  
email [cockant2@btinternet.com](mailto:cockant2@btinternet.com) to book your place  
Coffee, mince pies and shortbread after the service



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





We are grateful to those who come and lead our worship each week. Our preachers for the next few weeks are:-

**December**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Rev. Barbara Challis - inc Communion
- 12<sup>th</sup> Rev. Norman Tharby
- 19<sup>th</sup> The Congregation – Carols in the Morning

- 24<sup>th</sup> Rev. Norman Tharby – Carols by Candlelight
- 26<sup>th</sup> The Congregation – A family Christmas celebration
- 2022
- January
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Rev. Norman Tharby – inc Communion

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

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

*Christmas Blessings.*  
Tony

## ELMSWELL *Tavern*

### THE SHARE ISSUE STOP PRESS

The founding members of Elmswell Community Enterprise Limited have worked hard with the Parish Council, the appointed architect, Mid Suffolk Planners, the Plunkett Foundation and others to put together a scheme for the refurbishment of the Tavern on School Road as a community pub, integrated with the provision of affordable homes on the land to the rear in liaison with the Elmswell Community Land Trust.

In all of their consultations with village groups, in their reports to the Newsletter and on the displays about the village, they have envisaged being in a position to offer shares in the venture for sale before Christmas.

Sadly, this ideal stocking-filler is not to be.

The pandemic continues to have an effect on some of the agencies involved and the group is keen to launch a Share Issue that ticks all of the boxes – including having achieved the prestigious Standard Mark which, in itself, opens the door to considerable funding possibilities.

Long story short – there is to be no corner-cutting and the shares will not be on sale before the New Year.

**Queries are welcome to [elmswelltavernshares@gmail.com](mailto:elmswelltavernshares@gmail.com) Telephone 244134 or visit the website at [www.elmswelltavern.co.uk](http://www.elmswelltavern.co.uk)**

## ELMSWELL POOR'S LAND CHARITY APPLICATION FOR CHRISTMAS GIFT 2021

The Elmswell Poor's Land Charity is pleased to issue Christmas Vouchers, redeemable at Co-op, Mace and the butchers to elderly residents in the village who meet the criteria below.

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

- Be in receipt of Pension Credit or eligible to receive Pension Credit

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

There is a maximum of 1 application per household

All applications are handled in strictest confidence

**If you are eligible and wish to apply, please complete the form below and send to Elmswell Poor's Land Charity, c/o 33 Gardeners Walk, Elmswell, IP30 9ET by 23 December 2021**

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

Address:.....

.....

Age: .....

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

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

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**Equity Release**

We have advisers able to assist you with this area of advice.

Equity Release will reduce the value of your estate and can affect your eligibility for means tested benefits.

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Bury St Edmunds,  
Suffolk IP30 9DB.  
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"Your knowledge of the local property market proved invaluable and your attention to potential purchasers, a great time saving asset."

"I have used Coakley & Theaker Estate Agents to sell three properties, all of which they handled extremely professionally."

"We can only praise Simon for the solid, professional and enthusiastic work that went into the sale."

"Your patience and liaising went a long way to bringing everything to the right conclusion. You gave it the personal touch which goes a long way."

"The professionalism and 'go the extra mile' attitude, which you do not seem to get from the big corporate agents, will be the reason we shall be returning in future."

"Your experience and calm and collected manner really showed through."

"We were grateful for your sound advice, help, willingness to be flexible and of course for quickly finding us a buyer."

"Your diligence, patience and constant shepherding of the multiple parties involved has seen the matter through to its positive conclusion."

"From start to finish you kept us informed on everything, making the whole experience stress-free."

"I recommend their services as you are treated more as an individual human being and not a number."

"Dealing with Simon was a comfort during what was a daunting process."

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\*If you have instructed another agent on a sole agency basis, then the terms of those instructions should be considered to avoid a possible liability to pay two fees.



# NEWS FROM ELMSWILD



## Wonderful willow

We've been growing willow at Lukeswood for nearly ten years and we now have two established beds. Every year, usually in January, we cut the previous year's growth, leaving just the main trunk, and we're always amazed at how quickly the new willow wands grow, some reaching eight or nine feet. It's a long-established, traditional way of harvesting from the tree without sacrificing the tree itself. The wands have many uses, both as green and brown willow. Green willow can be planted to grow new trees or make living structures such as shelters, bowers, seats, or a "fedge" – a cross between a fence and a hedge. Just stick it in the ground and, miraculously, it will strike roots and grow. Brown willow can be made into hurdles, fences, tepees or as supports for climbing plants. The smaller ends of the wands – the tips – can also be used in basketry or to make other decorative pieces, including fantastic willow sculptures. So much from one humble plant!

Last year, during lockdown when everyone was looking for interesting new hobbies to do at home, we gave out lots of bundles of willow in return for a donation and many people discovered the joys of willow weaving for the first time. We'll be doing the same again with this year's harvest – why not have a go? You might get bitten by the willow bug!

## Willow cutting at Lukeswood – January 22nd

We'll be cutting the willow at Lukeswood on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January from 9.30 to 12.30**. This year we're asking people to come and help us with the cutting – in return you can take away a few bundles for free. Please bring secateurs, or preferably loppers if you have them, and stout gardening gloves. There is parking on site so you can take your bundles away with you. Dress warmly, as it's bound to be cold then. There will be hot drinks and refreshments on hand to warm everyone up. Everyone welcome!



## Crafty Trefoil ladies

The talented ladies of the Trefoil Guild certainly caught the willow bug at our recent willow weaving workshop. We had a fun evening weaving a tree which can hang on the wall all year round, or be dressed up as a lovely Christmas decoration. A couple of hours just flew by as we grappled with pieces of willow, secateurs and bradawl – the tools of the willow weaver's trade! And the best bit? All of the willow we used was grown at Lukeswood – local, sustainable, and extremely environmentally-friendly!

## Season's Greetings to everyone

Lukeswood and Kiln Meadow will be open as usual all through the Christmas holidays – a great place for a brisk walk to blow away the cobwebs or walk off the Christmas dinner. We leave you with a picture of Rudolph, the Lukeswood Reindeer (also made from our own woodland materials!), and wish everyone a very happy and safe Christmas.





## East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH) are looking for volunteers

Could you spend a couple of hours a week or even a hour a month helping a family with a child who accesses our hospices in their own home?

Caring for a seriously ill child or young person can put a lot of extra demand on a family. The aim of the Help at Home service is to put a caring individual into a family's home to provide everyday practical support such a cooking, sibling support, cleaning and gardening. We provide you with the necessary support and training, all you need to do is provide some of your precious time.

**If you would like any more information or to apply then please contact Hugh at [hugh.mcelhinney@each.org.uk](mailto:hugh.mcelhinney@each.org.uk) or call 07714 737139. Thank You.**

ROYAL PATRON: HRH The Duchess of Cambridge

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# WESLEY WORKSHOPS



**AT CLAIRE'S HOUSE...** came to Wesley this month for a Christmas workshop where all of the participants made an array of beautiful decorations that will now be kiln-fired in time to be hung on the tree or to adorn a freshly wrapped gift!

The session was run by Claire Douglas, a long time Elmswell resident who lives down Ashfield Road. Where she has a pottery studio – literally, 'At Claire's House'. Claire makes and sells small batches of functional pottery and has now begun branching out and merging the 'day job' - teaching at a local High School - to teach pottery classes and workshops. This was her workshop at Wesley and with the Christmas music playing, hot coffee and cakes nearby, it was a great start to the festive season!

Claire is looking forward to branching out and doing more pottery within the community of Elmswell and is already booked to visit the WI in 2022...another exciting chance to share and teach playing with clay to others

**If you would be interested in attending any future workshops or classes please email [hello@atclaireshouse.com](mailto:hello@atclaireshouse.com)**



*The new facilities at Wesley are attracting a range of activities...*

## SOUND JOURNEY AT WESLEY

**SOUND JOURNEYS**  
and Guided Meditations

**Wesley Chapel**  
**ELMSWELL**

7.30-9.00pm

Abundance Souls

thursdays  
nov 11 dec 9 jan 13 feb 3  
nov 18 dec 16 jan 20 feb 17

£12

space held by Michèle Francis  
booking via FB Abundance Souls  
[abundancesoulstories@gmail.com](mailto:abundancesoulstories@gmail.com)

guided meditations where she shares relaxation methods and visualisations to help explore inner landscapes and connect more deeply with nature. Michèle has trained in sound healing and has been offering 'journeying' for some ten years, reflecting her deep interest in nature which inspires her conservation activism and practical work as well as an Earth-centred spirituality, with an interest in ancient sacred sites, springs and earth energy 'work'. She also offers courses in dowsing, spirituality of place, and tracking Earth energies (dragon lines, chi and ley lines).

The style of evenings such as at Wesley includes practices to open to the flow of universal energy and re-balance energy centres to explore and navigate personal inner spiritual landscapes using visualisations and improvised, intuitive, sounds to facilitate integration and transformation. The very least those attending can expect is to feel deeply relaxed both during and afterwards.

Forthcoming dates in the chapel at Wesley are December 9th and 16th, January 13th and 20th.

You can connect via the **Abundance Souls** Face Book page to check what's on offer, and message a booking or email - [abundancesoulstories@gmail.com](mailto:abundancesoulstories@gmail.com)



Michèle Francis is running her 'Sound Journey' evenings at Wesley over the next couple of months. These are

IT'S TIME



2022

*New Year Party*

WITH BEAT 101

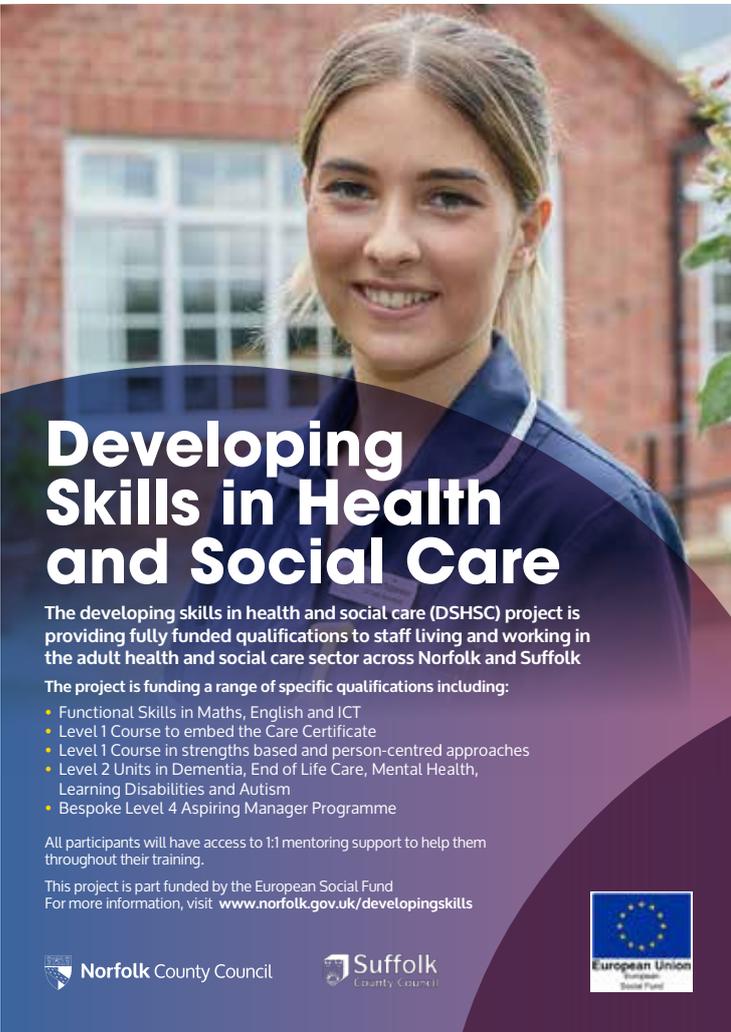
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# Developing Skills in Health and Social Care

The developing skills in health and social care (DSHSC) project is providing fully funded qualifications to staff living and working in the adult health and social care sector across Norfolk and Suffolk

The project is funding a range of specific qualifications including:

- Functional Skills in Maths, English and ICT
- Level 1 Course to embed the Care Certificate
- Level 1 Course in strengths based and person-centred approaches
- Level 2 Units in Dementia, End of Life Care, Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Autism
- Bespoke Level 4 Aspiring Manager Programme

All participants will have access to 1:1 mentoring support to help them throughout their training.

This project is part funded by the European Social Fund  
For more information, visit [www.norfolk.gov.uk/developingskills](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/developingskills)






## Mid Suffolk District Council

### Christmas & New Year Waste Collection Schedule 2021/22

	Usual Collection Date	Revised Collection Date	Change
Refuse	Monday 27th December 2021	Wednesday 29th December 2021	2 days later
	Tuesday 28th December 2021	Thursday 30th December 2021	2 days later
	Wednesday 29th December 2021	Friday 31st December 2021	2 days later
	Thursday 30th December 2021	Tuesday 4th January 2022	5 days later
	Friday 31st December 2021	Wednesday 5th January 2022	5 days later
Recycling	Monday 3rd January 2022	Thursday 6th January 2022	3 days later
	Tuesday 4th January 2022	Friday 7th January 2022	3 days later
	Wednesday 5th January 2022	Saturday 8th January 2022	3 days later
	Thursday 6th January 2022	Monday 10th January 2022	4 days later
	Friday 7th January 2022	Tuesday 11th January 2022	4 days later
Refuse	Monday 10th January 2022	Wednesday 12th January 2022	2 days later
	Tuesday 11th January 2022	Thursday 13th January 2022	2 days later
	Wednesday 12th January 2022	Friday 14th January 2022	2 days later
	Thursday 13th January 2022	Saturday 15th January 2022	2 days later
	Friday 14th January 2022	Monday 17th January 2022	3 days later
Recycling	Monday 17th January 2022	Tuesday 18th January 2022	1 day later
	Tuesday 18th January 2022	Wednesday 19th January 2022	1 day later
	Wednesday 19th January 2022	Thursday 20th January 2022	1 day later
	Thursday 20th January 2022	Friday 21st January 2022	1 day later
	Friday 21st January 2022	Saturday 22nd January 2022	1 day later

From Monday 24th January 2022 refuse and recycling collections return to the normal schedule.

**Please note:** There will be no garden waste (brown bin) collections during the weeks commencing 27th December 2021 and 3rd January 2022. Please refer to the garden waste collection schedule, which is available at: [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/waste-services](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/waste-services)

**Please make sure your bin is out by 6.30am on collection day**

**Waste Services**  
 Web: [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/waste-services](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/waste-services)  
 Email: [recycling@babergmidsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@babergmidsuffolk.gov.uk)  
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# ELMSWELL FOOTBALL CLUB



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### FIRST TEAM REPORT

The first team finished off October with a hammering of bottom side Stonham Aspal. Playing some great football throughout, Elmswell dominated and really took the game to the opposition. Missing a hat full of chances, Elmswell came out winners 11-1 on the day. A great day for some players to grab their first goals of the season. Goals from: Ben Humphreys x3, Matt Last x2, Tom Fisher x2, Joshua Curtis x1, Matt McKeys x1, Malin Davis x1 and a penalty for captain Charlie Potter sealed a good day at the office.

We then moved on to a more challenging game in the 2nd round of the junior cup against Spexhall Huntsman & Hounds who hired out a 30 seater for their big trip to the mighty Elm. Spexhall compete in division 1 of the Lowestoft league so we didn't know what to expect. Elmswell look steady throughout and again played some good football undoing the opposition backline. Elmswell were eventual winners 4-1 on the day with goals coming from man of the match Matt Last x3 and Ben Humphreys x1. Let's just say I wouldn't have liked to have been on that coach home. Elmswell through to the next round, potential of a final to be played under the lights at Portman Road.

After a run of good games we faced an in form Somersham side away at their pitch/hill, hoping to get our own back for the 4-4 draw earlier in the season. Having lost two defenders early on to injury we faced a real battle as our hand was forced when it came to making tactical subs. A fairly one sided game led to an eventual loss 2-1. Jake Hayhoe keeping us in the game, making some excellent saves throughout and saving a penalty. Goal scorer – Ben Humphreys.

Saxmundham were our next opponents, sitting 5th and 6th in the league, a real mid table clash. Going a



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goal behind to some good work from their striker Elmswell managed to grab two goals before half time from a couple of keeper errors. Having come out strong in the second half and playing some excellent football in phases of the match, Saxmundham leveled through a goal keeping error of our own. Elmswell pushed for the win throwing players forward, but it was Saxmundham who came out on top, catching Elmswell out with a long ball late on, making the final score 3-2 to Saxmundham. The boys put in a good shift and should feel very hard done for it to end that way. Goals from Ben Humphreys x2.

We now look back to the cup facing a Cavendish side in the 3rd round of the Junior Cup on Saturday 27th November at home.

November/December Fixtures

27/11/2021 – Cavendish (Home) 2pm KO

04/12/2021 – Woolverstone (Away) 1:45pm KO

11/12/2021 – Thurston (Away) 1:45pm KO

18/12/2021 – Leiston St Margarets (Home - 2nd round of the league cup)

**RESERVES REPORT**

Just after the village magazine deadline last month we played bottom placed Saxmundham Reserves at The Blackbourne. We didn't play particularly well if we're completely honest but still comfortably won 6-1. Man of the Match Jake Fisher was largely to thank, wading in with five (5) goals. Aidan Ashton scored the other from the spot. That was our long awaited first win of the season and marked the halfway point as we've now played everyone in our division once.



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## ELMSWELL FOX BOWLS CLUB

Christmas will soon be upon us and we haven't held our AGM yet! It is scheduled for December 1st so it will have happened by the time you read this. It wouldn't normally matter but this time we are going to discuss changes to our Subscription and Roll-up fees, which we will add to our Signing -on forms so it is holding up that process until we have had the debate. Yes I know, democracy gone mad, right? We are a pretty easy-going bunch so I think I know what the outcome will be but we have to do things in the correct order or where would we be? In France, some might reply.

Once the forms are ready and distributed we will be a step nearer knowing how many of the expected new members will actually sign on the dotted line and we can turn our attention to next season. Whether we run the same three teams or add in an extra one remains to be seen. To have a good number of players to choose from is good and makes life a lot easier as long as everyone gets

enough games to maintain their interest, so it is a bit of a balancing act. Worst case scenario – we get several but not enough for a full team but we'll worry about that when and if, it happens.

The nearest I can get to festive photos will be these from our Presentation Night at the Fox. Glynn Baker is seen receiving his Pairs runner's up trophy from Nan with Barry and David also in shot and club founder, Dick Burch, who seems extremely happy to be in hostess Nan's company. Who wouldn't be?

A very Merry Christmas to you all and let us hope that we get the 2022 we are all wish for. At the moment, it's anyone's guess but we will make the best of it because that's what we do.

Happy New Year.

Peter Edmonds  
07860 395720  
edmondspeterj@gmail.com



## **NEW YEAR'S DAY FOOTPATH WALK**

**The traditional social gathering leaves from the village sign on Crown Mill at 11.00am – easy walking for 3-4 miles, dogs on leads welcome.**

**Meet your neighbours, walk-off the night before and step into 2022.**

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Elmswell's monthly footpath walks take in footpaths around and about the village...4 miles maximum – easy walking, everyone welcome, dogs on leads please .

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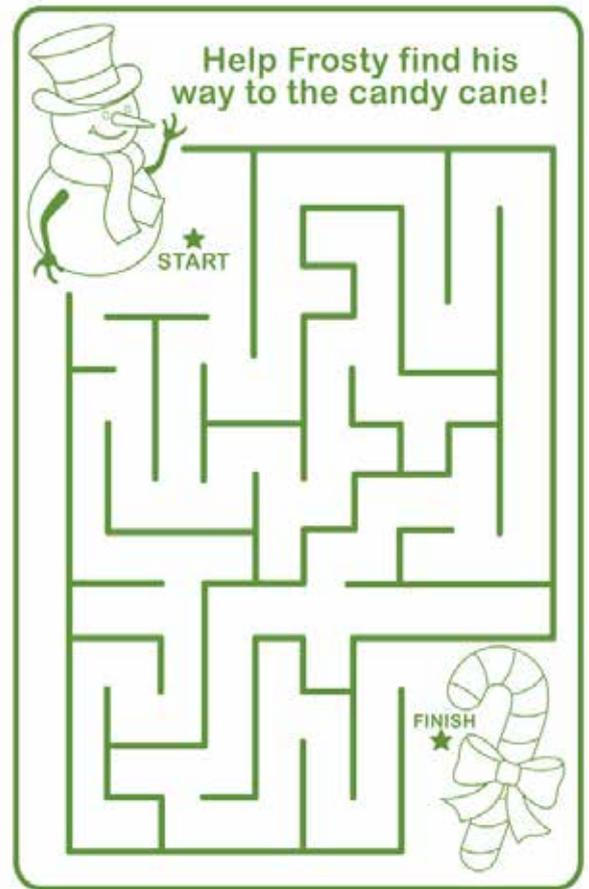


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| presents | pudding   | reindeer | santa  |
| sleigh   | star      | tree     | wreath |

### Let's make Rudolph cupcakes!

- You will need -  
Plain cupcakes, Chocolate Icing, Raisins, Cherry's and Curly Wurlys!
1. Start by carefully spreading your icing onto your cupcake.
  2. Carefully add the raisins as eyes and a cherry as Rudolph's nose!
  3. Now break your curly wurly in pieces and use two each side of the cupcake as antlers!
  4. Enjoy!



### Snowman Tree Decoration!

1. First get an adult to help you cut and drill holes into your three log slices!
2. Use string to thread through the log slices and attach them together.
3. Using pens or paints add on the snowman's face and buttons! Here you could also use real buttons, fabric and googly eyes!
4. Hang on your tree, around your home or even outside for Father Christmas to see on Christmas eve!



 Merry Christmas!

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# PARISH COUNCIL MEETING REPORT - November 2021



The November meeting of the Parish Council convened in the Chamberlayne Hall at Blackbourne on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> with 9 councillors present, together with the Parish Clerk and Ward Members Cllrs Helen Geake and Andy Mellen.

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 [elsmswell.suffolk.cloud](https://www.elsmswell.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 18<sup>th</sup> October Ordinary 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 BMSDC activities which confirmed, amongst other things, that: An extraordinary council meeting was held on Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> of October to discuss two motions proposed by the Green and Liberal Democrat group carried over from the previous meeting. Firstly, a motion to reduce light pollution by putting policies in place to control new street lighting was passed with only one vote against. Secondly a motion to object to the Government's proposal to introduce voter photo ID requirements at polling stations, was also passed but only by a very narrow margin. The report also confirmed that A CIL bid for over £1.5M to expand Elmswell Primary School was agreed by MSDC Cabinet on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November. The rest of the costs (approximately £700k will come from S106 contributions from earlier developments. This bid was not supported by the parish council, nor the district and county councillors, who would all think that this would produce a very crowded school for 420 pupils. Meanwhile, The tree for life scheme for new parents has been launched. Applications for 2021 are now open having been delayed because of Covid. Applications can be made on the council's website before 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The report included the fact that some of the tenants of Thedwastre Close were evicted last week, following several incidents of criminal and other anti-social behaviour. Currently some of the units have been boarded up whilst housing officers decide on a more appropriate course of action for the future of these units. As Ward members, the councillors expressed the hope that they can set an open discussion involving officers, members and parish representatives before any new tenants are housed there. They also invited further applications for funding from the annual locality awards. Amounts of £250 or more are

available to local community groups and organisations. Recently Elmswell Football Club received funding for the purchase of a new white lining machine.

## Suffolk County Council

Ward Member Cllr Andy Mellen tabled a written report confirming that, at the full Council meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021, his Group tabled a motion to support the Local Electricity Bill, a proposed change in the law which would allow small-scale electricity producers to sell their electricity at proportionate cost, potentially making local electricity cheaper and more reliable. The motion was passed unanimously. Details of the motion can be found here: <https://powerforpeople.org.uk/local-electricity-bill-briefing-for-councillors> Cllr Mellen also reported that, on the 15<sup>th</sup> October, Suffolk County Council announced their support for Sizewell C, and that they are taking up 'important concerns' with the Secretary of State. The Opposition Group on the Council remains firmly against the project, believing there has been a political underestimation, and that the people of Suffolk are being sold short by the Administration's inability to face the reality of the situation. The project so far has been heavily contentious, suffering from delays and planning concerns, as well as rising costs. Meanwhile, The Government has announced a Regulated Asset Base funding plan – a strategy that aims to retain investors by shifting the costs of the project onto the consumer. In the form of a taxpayer subsidy, the Government would pay the costs of the project to the developers that investors deem too risky to commit further. The Group rejects this strategy and recommends that the Government reconsiders before it puts the burden of cost onto our local communities, and instead looks at investing in cleaner, cheaper, and quicker forms of renewable energy.

The Council's Cabinet has approved

the new Bus Service Improvement Plan as part of their new £50m Bus Back Better strategy – aimed at rejuvenating Suffolk's bus service, in particular isolated areas of rural Suffolk

by making bus services cheaper, more reliable, and carbon efficient. The proposals can be viewed at: [https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.spx?MeetingTitle=\(12-10-2021\),%20The%20Cabinet](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.spx?MeetingTitle=(12-10-2021),%20The%20Cabinet)

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Manns Court / Thedwastre Close

The Clerk was asked to continue to press for a meeting with appropriate agencies including MSDC Housing Officers, towards clarifying and ratifying the allocations policy in this neighbourhood of bungalows and sheltered units originally designated for older local residents and forming a tight and supportive community where specific needs could be met and services provided in a safe environment. Recent inappropriate tenancies have encouraged antisocial behaviour with multiple visits from Police and Fire services culminating in the boarding up of some of the units pending repairs.

## Elmswell Tavern

The Clerk reported that the Elmswell Community Enterprise Limited Group, ECE, continues to liaise with their adviser from the Plunkett Foundation and with the Assessor allocated by the UK Co-op Community Shares Unit towards refining the Share Prospectus which will go to all households, to local businesses and elsewhere inviting investment in the Elmswell Tavern community pub project. Once certified under the Standard Mark Assessment Scheme, the scheme becomes eligible for substantial matched funding through the Community Shares Booster Programme. In parallel, the exercise to produce an informed build-budget based on the concept plans is working towards producing a cost projection for

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# PARISH COUNCIL MEETING REPORT - November 2021

the full scheme and a much lower cost for the minimum scheme that would produce a viable refurbishment.

## The Elmswell Community Land Trust

The Clerk reported that the ECLT, through the Parish Council, is seeking quotes for the first step in the process of providing locally controlled affordable housing on the back-land of the Tavern site as purchased from Greene King. This is the undertaking of a Housing Needs Survey and a first enquiry has been made of AECOM who carry out such exercises related to strategic and neighbourhood planning and with whom EPC has worked successfully in the past. Grant funding is available for this first step in defining the need towards developing an appropriate scheme and finding partnerships for delivery.

## Rooflights at Blackbourne

In November 2020 the Blackbourne and Wesley Management Association mooted the idea of installing 6 electrically controlled roof lights, with automatic rain-check and blackout blinds in the roof of the Chamberlayne Hall at Blackbourne with a view to the project being able to lean upon the on-going extension works for some elements of the cost (eg scaffolding already in place). This addressed the lack of natural light in the venue and, critically, the lack of ventilation which the extension had unsuccessfully sought to address. This latter aspect became and remains very significant addressing a post-Covid world. In surveying the job it was apparent that the 25 year life-span of the original roof (installed 1998) was almost elapsed and that it might be appropriate to replace the steel sheets as part of a larger job. An application for CIL funding could not be made for the re-roofing element (maintenance) but was made for the skylights (improvements). Covid featured again in that this application took a long time to be processed. During that time, the well-documented dramatic inflation in the cost of building materials has changed perspectives. The relevant figures for consideration were before the meeting for discussion and the matter will be on the agenda for the December meeting towards a spending decision.

## Crossing closure

The Clerk has been engaged in discussions with Network Rail towards possible mitigation of what would be a seriously disruptive imposition on road users resulting from the proposed daytime railway crossing 24 hr. closures at Elmswell scheduled for 6 weekends

beginning on November 13<sup>th</sup>. The result is that most closures will be avoided and traffic lights will be operational instead. It has been suggested that, for future reference, merely liaising with SCC Highways is not adequate and that EPC remains open to consultation on behalf of the community

## Planning results

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

DC/21/05172 Side link extension at 51, Blackbourne Road, GRANTED.

DC/21/05414 Extension at Stanbury, Warren Lane GRANTED

**Planning applications** The Meeting agreed to support applications for extensions at 7, Mill Gardens and at 5, Lyle Close..

Objections were made to 3 other Applications, being:

## DC/21/01132

**Reserved Matters- Submission of details under Reserved Matters following Outline Approval DC/18/04247 dated 21/08/2020 Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and scale for – Erection of up to 300 dwellings, construction of a new spine road, land for a new primary school, burial ground extension, village car park and associated infrastructure Land off Bury Road, Woolpit**

*Demographics suggest that a sizeable proportion of the proposed new school intake will have to travel from Elmswell over A14. The site plan makes no recognition of this in terms of parking close to or on the site. There is, furthermore, the overriding lack of practical planning in that the spine road requires traffic to wind through the residential development in order to reach the school. This is an additional deterrent when non-vehicular travel is considered and counts against the essential consideration of sustainable travel. The layout should take account of the imperative that vehicular, pedestrian and cycle access should be provided directly into the school site at the earliest opportunity after leaving the proposed new roundabout. An overriding concern is the proximity of the school site to the increasingly busy A14 which represents a major pollutant source, a factor very recently reinforced when a Coroner's published finding was that air pollution from traffic made a material contribution to the death of a child. The emerging BMSDC Joint Local Plan, at LP16 recognises this. The layout should take account of the very real and*

*increasing hazard represented in this proposal and the school site moved to the southern extremity of the site to mitigate the clear and unacceptable risk to our children's health.*

## DC/21/05976

**Erection of 3 No single storey dwellings, garages and new vehicular access Hedgerows, Grove Lane**

The site is in the countryside outside of the Settlement Boundary within which new development will properly take place.

With regard to the strong policy imperatives aimed at protecting the existing character and appearance of the countryside, this proposal offers no justification for exceptional treatment and does not present a case for special consideration under categories identified and defined in the Local Plan, the Core Strategy or the National Planning Policy Framework. This Application seeks to add an inappropriate extension to that development to the rear of Hedgerows and well beyond the building line of both Hedgerows and of Half Acre, adjacent, presenting a clear and unwelcome incursion into the immediate rural setting.

The use of the existing access, now seeking to serve 6 dwellings, proposes an unsafe result, and Councillors have sympathy with the existing heavy haulage operators using Grove Lane as their sole access that it is a single-track country lane unsuited to the extra traffic loading resulting from this proposal.

As with previous applications on this site, the applicant suggests that the sustainability of the site is enhanced by a short, 800m stroll to the shops. The walk to the centre of Elmswell along Ashfield Road which does not have pavement along its whole length, is actually 1.6km, just short of a mile. Pedestrians are not frequently seen along this fast, busy highway. In reaching these conclusions, Councillors had reference to Local Plan policies SB1, H7 & T10, Core Strategy Policies CS1 & CS2 and National Planning Policy Framework para.55.

## DC/21/05727

**Application for approval of reserved matters following grant of planning permission DC/18/04264 Town and Country Planning – Submission of details for Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale for erection of up to 6 No dwellings and new vehicular access including Conditions, 7**

(Assess Surface Water Treatment), 8 (Access – Surface Water Discharge Prevention), 9 (Refuse Collection), 10 (Highways Parking & Turning), 11 (Archaeological Evaluation).

**Land South of Field View**

The site is too cramped to allow safe off-road parking for 6 effectively 4-bedroomed dwellings. The proposal seeks to address this by way of triple parking which, in practice, encourages ad hoc parking which might well extend on to the very fast stretch of Ashfield Road and present a very real hazard.

The orientation of the proposed dwellings is such as to deny the possibility of solar capture using roof-mounted panels. A

turn of 90 degrees should be required so as to allow the valuable possibility of fitting such units, in accordance with NPPF paragraphs 154(b) & 155(c).

**SCC Lorry route plan**

The Clerk was asked to respond to a consultation invitation from Suffolk County Council regarding the routing of lorries as they affect Elmswell. The existing map shows Warren Lane as a suitable access road which dangerous mistake will be disabused. The review offers the opportunity to, once again, have the weight restriction on A1088 removed and a suitable height restriction in place so as to encourage HGV's away from Elmswell as a through-route to A14.

**Next meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled for Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December beginning at 7.30pm at 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](http://elmswell.suffolk.cloud) and on the Council's notice board at Crown Mill.



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# recycle

## Your Christmas Tree at Blackbourne

**'Real' trees can be left from 7am on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January until 6.30am on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January.**

Trees must be less than 7feet tall & must have all decorations, stands & pots removed.  
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ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL

**Working Together**

**Future Council Meetings**

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

Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
20th	22nd	21st	21st	19th

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

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

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

[clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk)  
 Tel. 244134 [www.elmswell.suffolk.cloud](http://www.elmswell.suffolk.cloud)

# VILLAGE INDEX

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

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

Amenities Association	Jean Barker (Sec)	eea@elmswell.org.uk	241135
Art Club	John Welford	welford955@btinternet.com	240166
Baby & Toddler Group	Donna Hughes	elmswellbtgroup@gmail.com	
Baptists	Dave Hollings	davehollings@btinternet.com	241323
Beavers	Ruth Salmon	ruthcourt4@hotmail.co.uk	
BWMA	Peter Edmonds (Sec)	edmondspeterj@gmail.com	241640
Blackbourne – all enquiries	Parish Council office	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
Brownies	Gemma Sutton	elmswellbrownies@hotmail.com	
CAB		advice@midsuffolkcab.org.uk	01449 676060
Carpet Bowls Club	Frank Boxall	jf.boxall@btinternet.com	
Christians Together in Elmswell	Jean Folkard	derekrf2@gmail.com	
Community Speed Watch	Marie Spampinato	mariespampinato@hotmail.co.uk	07769 715209
Companions	Linda Waspe	linda@labbot.plus.com	
County Councillor	Cllr Andy Mellen	Andy.Mellen@suffolk.gov.uk	
Cricket Club	Eileen Brooks (Sec.)	elmswellcricketclub@gmail.com	
Cubs	Ben Savill	hovells23@hotmail.co.uk	
District Councillor	Sarah Mansell	Sarah.Mansell@midsuffolk.gov.uk	07860 829517
District Councillor	Helen Geake	Helen.geake@midsuffolk.gov.uk	
Elmswheelians	Trevor Sadler	trevor.sadler@dsl.pipex.com	240908
Elmswild	Mary Feeney	info@elmswild.org.uk	241901
Exchange afternoon WI	Maureen Davis	modavis6@gmail.com	
Exchange Club	Carol Blissett	carolblissett@hotmail.co.uk	
First Responders	Merv	merv.smith@tiscali.co.uk	07909 006 496
Football	Shaun Pratt	shaun.pratt@btinternet.com	07494 864 231
Fox Bowls Team bowls at Blackbourne	Barry Hayward	barryhayward1902@gmail.com	240951
Friends of St Johns	Jean Folkard	derekrf2@gmail.com	242099
Gardening Club	Nick Chamberlin	npch@btinternet.com	242601
Guides	Gemma Sutton	gem_2910@hotmail.co.uk	
Health Centre - Woolpit			240298
History Group	Stella Chamberlin	stellachamberlin@yahoo.co.uk	
Library	Miles Row - Manager	Elmswell.Library@suffolklibraries.co.uk	240974
Little Elms	Melanie Garner	info@littleelms.co.uk	240491
Newsletter	Editorial office	eea@elmswell.org.uk	244134
Oil buying Group		elmswelloil@gmail.com	07813829008
Over 55's Club	Diann Armstrong	Mayfield, Wetherden Road	241002
Parish Council	Parish Clerk	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
Police Emergencies			999
Police; non-emergencies	Mid Suffolk South SNT	headquarters@suffolk.pnn.police.uk	101
Poor's Land Charity	Peter Goodridge	elmswellrector@gmail.com	240512
Power cuts		Powwercut105.com	105
Rainbows	Marion Abbott	elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com	
School	Mrs Ash	admin@elmswell.suffolk.sch.uk	240261
Scouts	Paula Hollings	ddc.paula@stowmarketscouts.org.uk	07828 562485
St John's Church	Peter Goodridge	elmswellrector@gmail.com	240512
Sewing Bee	Isabel Burgess	isabel.burgess@live.com	
Village Tree Warden	c/o Parish Clerk	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
Wesley – all enquiries	Parish Council office	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
WI - evening	Margaret Stevens	stevensmarg@tiscali.co.uk	408452
Youth Football	Chris Smyth	smyth98@hotmail.com	07717 841 591

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 ?



To be included in our events diary make sure you send separate notification of your announcement.

For a full year's calendar of what's booked at Blackbourne, please go to the Parish Council website at [www.elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk) - it might help you in planning dates for your events.

## 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)
- 2 Over 55's Club Gwyn Pritchard Entertains
- 9 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 9 Elmswell History Group, 7.30 at Blackbourne. Speaker Piers Hart: Suffolk Building Preservation Trust
- 14 Elmswell Evening W.I Christmas party. Meeting starts at 7.30pm at The Wesley
- 16 Choose Refill – mobile refill shop at Wesley
- 16 Over 55's Club Bingo Or Salvation Army Concert
- 17 Bingo at Blackbourne, Doors open 6.30, Eyes down 7.30. Bar & Refreshments

- 18 Over 55's Club Xmas Party Home Farm Catering And Brotherhood

## January 2022

- 13 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 13 Elmswell History Group, 7.30 at Blackbourne. Speaker Simon Millyard: Trinity House Lighthouses

## February 2022

- 10 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 10 Elmswell History Group, 7.30 at Blackbourne. Speaker Andrew Peachey: Archaeology on Anglia One's Cable Route
- 25 ELF wine tasting of South African wines with refreshments. Tickets £15 each available from Elmswell Library Commencing 7:30pm

## March 2022

- 10 Elmswell History Group, 7.30 at Blackbourne. Speaker Jenny Seggar: Burial Practices from Anglo-Saxon to Victorian

## April 2022

- 14 Elmswell History Group 22nd Anniversary meeting, 7.30 at Blackbourne. Speaker Clare Gapper: Decorative Plasterwork in Elizabethan & Jacobean Suffolk

## May 2022

- 12 Elmswell History Group, 7.30pm; 7.30 at Blackbourne. Speaker Christopher Parkinson: History of East Anglia's Stained Glass Windows

## 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](mailto:sarahjane.fitness@outlook.com)

**KARATE** with Lewis - Tuesday 4.30 – 5.45 / Friday 5.00 – 7.00 [info@greathadma.com](mailto:info@greathadma.com)

**JAPANESE JUJUTSU / SELF DEFENCE** – Monday & Wednesday 6.30 – 8.30 [gary@chapeldevelopments.co.uk](mailto:gary@chapeldevelopments.co.uk) tel. 07711 680262

**BABY & TODDLER GROUP** - Monday mornings [elmswellbtgroup@gmail.com](mailto:elmswellbtgroup@gmail.com)

**BOWLS** - [ann.richards47@gmail.com](mailto:ann.richards47@gmail.com)

**GUIDES** - Monday evenings 5.00 – 8.30 [gem\\_2910@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gem_2910@hotmail.co.uk)

**FOOTBALL** - [shaun.pratt@btinternet.com](mailto:shaun.pratt@btinternet.com) 07494 864231

**RAINBOWS** - [elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com](mailto:elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com)

**JUNIOR FOOTBALL** - [smyth98@hotmail.com](mailto:smyth98@hotmail.com) 07717 841591

**CUBS** Tuesdays 6.15 – 7.30 - [claremariekeefe@gmail.com](mailto:claremariekeefe@gmail.com)

**BEAVERS /SCOUTS** - Wednesday 5.45 – 9.15 [ddc.paula@stowmarketscouts.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:jenlerner@gmail.com)

**TREFOIL GUILD** - 1st Tuesday monthly [lesley.grout@btinternet.com](mailto:lesley.grout@btinternet.com)

**MARDLE QUILTERS** - last Friday monthly [carpajak@aol.com](mailto:carpajak@aol.com)

**MOO MUSIC** - Fridays 12.45 – 3.15 [bury@moo-music.co.uk](mailto:bury@moo-music.co.uk)

**WI** – evening at Wesley 2nd Tuesday monthly 7.30pm Terry Byford [bbazby@aol.com](mailto:bbazby@aol.com)

**WI** – afternoon at Wesley 1st Wednesday monthly Carol Blissett [carolblissett@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carolblissett@hotmail.co.uk)

**ART CLUB** at Wesley every Tuesday 9.30 – 12,00 John Welford [welford955@btinternet.com](mailto:welford955@btinternet.com)

**HISTORY GROUP** at Wesley 2nd Thursday monthly 7.30 [stellachamberlin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stellachamberlin@yahoo.co.uk)

**GARDEN CLUB** at Wesley 3rd Tuesday monthly 7.30 [elmswellgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:elmswellgardenclub@gmail.com)

**BATS** – badminton, table tennis, pool at Blackbourne Fridays from 7.30 - [edmondspeterj@gmail.com](mailto:edmondspeterj@gmail.com)

**CARPET BOWLS** – Wednesday 7.pm at Wesley – [jf.boxall@btinternet.com](mailto:jf.boxall@btinternet.com)

**COMPANIONS** – every other Friday 10 – 12 at Wesley - [linda@abbott.plus.com](mailto:linda@abbott.plus.com)

**PILATES** – Monday & Friday mornings – [suzanne@triformpilates.co.uk](mailto:suzanne@triformpilates.co.uk)

**BINGO** – Blackbourne, last Friday monthly doors open 6.30...eyes-down 7.30

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

## Your Newsletter Fact File

For the next 6 months we need copy by: December 21st, January 25th, February 26th, March 22nd

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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