

'Like a friend
dropping in'



The Elmswell Newsletter



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

JUNE 2022

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*Supporting
village crafts*

...see page 3



Let the sun shine in ... see page 15

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

There are certain themes which emerge, as if on a timeless loop of chat, to feed and lubricate our social intercourse. After the immediate issues of the day, be it the cost of living, the lack of rain, or that nasty Mr Putin, have been exhausted we fall back on those evergreen topics which have engaged the human condition since Adam and Eve discussed whether or not all fruit should be washed before eating.

One such touches on the recent experience of the previously little-known Mr & Mrs Thwaite who, all of a sudden, are extremely well known, much liked admired and lauded and have many, many new friends. Joe and Jess, as we now call them, have just trousered £184,262,899 on a Lottery Lucky Dip. To help our reader who might have been away from school on the day they did Hundreds, Tens and Units at school, this is some one-hundred and eighty four and a quarter million pounds plus loose change.

Hence the inevitable emergence of the conversational opener, 'Do you know what I'd do if I won a hundred and eighty million quid?'. It is a topic of endless interest – but only to the instigator, because everyone else has already considered the conundrum and has their own solution.

To assess the scale of the buying power thus unleashed, consider the following shopping potential:



You could buy just over 3 years of Lionel Messi's time as a footballer at his current weekly rate. This would generally raise the performance of our EFC first team but could make for strained relations in the league and create awkward moments in the pub afterwards if people took advantage when it was his round?



You could buy 591 houses in Elmswell at today's average-price.

30% of the village would be yours to mould and shape towards addressing the problems created by history, the Planning system or both

How about...

- Demolish one side of New Road (that would make for an interesting discussion) so that it can be widened to allow 2 vehicles to pass...
- Forget the new development at School Road that effectively removes any chance of a Relief Road avoiding the level crossing – buy the site, build the road...
- Buy the old school site at School Road to add to Old Schools Court (demolished, sorry folks but we'd pay top valuation) to build the new primary school and health centre...
- Purchase strategic properties at Shop Corner to make way for a village-centre car park serving a bigger Co-op, relocated pharmacy etc to remove the traffic hazard at the crossing; think trees / solar roofs on sheltered parking bays and a full-time Post Office....



You could, rumour has it, purchase a seat in the House of Lords with some handy residual funds towards keeping new-found colleagues on side. Using the subsequent power and friendships you could begin to persuade their Lordships to, in turn, have words with their elected colleagues in Another Place and suggest that there is quite a bit of our sceptred isle beyond M25 needing a little more attention, money and consideration.



You could employ 3 private police-persons to staff the new Police House (you have 591 to choose from) and require them to walk about the place, speed gun perpetually at the ready, quietly ensuring that the pavement-parkers, litter droppers and dog walkers are aware of acceptable behaviours.



Of course, towards the end of these conversations, there is the inevitable further head-scratcher.

'Would you carry on buying a Lottery ticket?'

ELMSWELL ART CLUB

Elmswell Art Club is delighted to send our warmest congratulations to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second on the occasion of reaching the seventieth anniversary of her reign. A platinum jubilee is a wonderful achievement. Such a dedicated monarch is an example to everyone in the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and to all peoples throughout the world. We salute you ma'am.

Christie's, the fine art auction house in New York, recently sold a painting at the world record price of 195,000,000 US dollars (approximately £160,000,000 sterling). The painting entitled, Shot Sage Blue Marilyn was the work of Andy Warhol, who died in 1987. How much the seller received from this I do not know, nor do I know how much the buyer finally had to pay for such a prestigious piece of work. Most big auction houses demand a premium from both the buyer and seller, so the figure of 195,000,000 dollars would not be the final cost and how much the seller received would almost certainly be less than the hammer price. When you are dealing in these high figures what's a few extra dollars more!

Andy Warhol was born in 1928 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the rust belt area of north eastern USA, so named because of the heavy industrialisation in the region. Warhol's parents originated in the Lemkos area of the Carpathian Mountains in what is now part of Slovakia. His father emigrated to the US in 1914 followed by his mother in 1921, who had remained in Europe until after the death of his grandparents. Warhol was

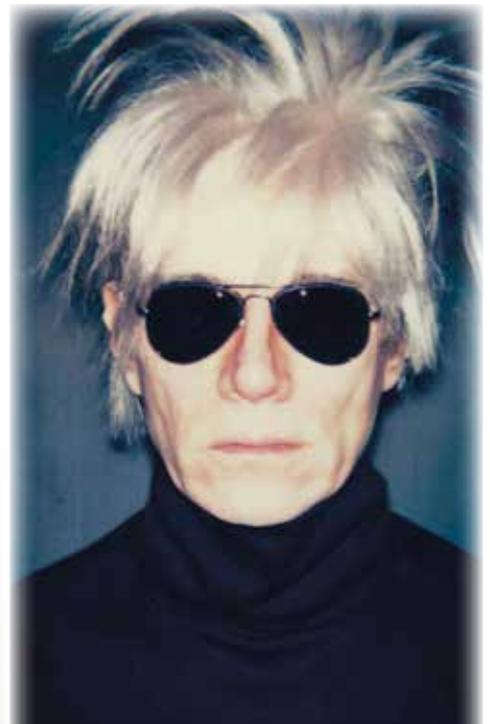
educated at the Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh. He had a wide range of artistic and creative interests in which he thrived and excelled, his painting, silk screen work, music, film making, commercial illustration, in fact almost every activity within the visual art movement. He started life as a commercial illustrator but became a household name within the visual art movement exploring the relationship between artistic expression, advertising and celebrity culture. He was openly gay even before the gay liberation movement. Warhol's New York studio became a magnet for distinguished intellectuals, writers, Bohemian street people, Hollywood celebs, drag queens and wealthy patrons. Some he promoted and these became known as Warhol Superstars and is thought to have inspired the expression "fifteen minutes of fame"! Not only did he paint (he often traced photographs of his subjects to ensure a proper likeness) he also produced films, wrote several books, designed album covers and even ran a band. A prodigious talent.



With the best will in the world I don't think the two paintings we show this month are going to end up with a price tag of 195,000,000 dollars and neither do the artists involved think that either!

The cat with the staring green eyes is a creation in watercolour by Anne Mawson. The chickens, also in watercolour, was done by Greta Davies who enjoys painting chickens. Personally I prefer eating them!

John Welford - 01359 240166



The idea is not to live forever; it is to create something that will.

Andy Warhol

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1st - Lesley Clarke



2nd Sylvia Walton



3rd Maureen Lazarus

ELMSWELL EXCHANGE AFTERNOON WI

Our meeting on 4th May was our AGM. At last we are back to the normal pattern of things. **We were delighted to welcome The Haughley Choir who led us in Jerusalem and then entertained us with a few pieces.** It was really enjoyable and nice to hear a choir with some male voices. After refreshments we held our AGM. We are in a good situation at present with a very healthy membership. However, it is obvious that we will have to fund raise during this coming year as our costs have increased quite a lot. The hire of the Chapel Hall is now more expensive and speakers' costs have also increased mainly due to the

cost of fuel. We do need more members on our committee who are able to take on some jobs but none were forthcoming. We are hoping to coax some helpers over the next few months.

Next month on Wednesday 1st June we welcome Jill and Richard Mann once again. They are going to tell us all about Edith Cavell, a British Heroine. Quite appropriate really, as we will also be celebrating Queen Elizabeth's 70th Jubilee with some special refreshments. We hope members will come with some red, white and blue somewhere on their outfits.

The competition was a flower arrangement in a tea cup. First was Margaret Hitchins, second Stephanie Lester and third Jane Woods. They were all very beautiful. **Our competition next month is in keeping with the occasion. A Queen Elizabeth 11 Souvenir.**

So that everyone can see how gifted our ladies are **I am including photos of the winners from our Burlesque afternoon in April. A decorated Bra** was intended to be a bit of fun, and turned into some creative genius.

What an amazing group of ladies we have.

ELMSWELL WI



Instead of our usual monthly meeting at the Wesley, we were treated to a behind the scenes tour of Woolpit Nursery. What a

fascinating place. Andrew told us that they grow 125,00 plants from plugs and 50,00 from seeds every spring. The numbers are just amazing. The greenhouse is kept at a constant 60 degrees, day and night so their heating bills are a big part of their costs.

They also plant hundreds of hanging baskets every year, 1500 for Bury, Stowmarket and Sudbury plus another 1500 for the public to buy. Andrew took us to the 'growing on' greenhouse which looked like the size of a football pitch! This is where the plants and shrubs grow to their full size

before being sold to the public. They do all this with only 6 permanent staff!

They don't even get a break in the winter, when they are closed, as they are planting all the really

small plants and sowing seeds ready for the spring.

At the end of the tour Andrew showed us how to plant up a hanging basket and

a planter. Both of which took him about 10 minutes where we would take ages. I suppose after you have planted 3000 hanging baskets you are a bit of an expert.

The ladies (there were about 30 of us) were really inspired and many cars went off into the night laden with beautiful plants and hanging baskets.

It was a really enjoyable evening. We are lucky to have such a wonderful resource on our doorstep.

Our next meeting will be back at the Wesley on 14th June when Lindsay Barrell will tell us how she became a burlesque dancer.

Margaret Stevens
01359 408452





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ELMSWELL GARDEN CLUB



Our speaker for May was Melanie from Mickfield Hostas. It's a family run business and almost started by accident. Melanie's mother was given a Hosta plant, by a friend, which she soon grew to love. She quickly became 'hooked' and began to buy almost every Hosta plant she saw. Before long she was corresponding with other Hosta admirers and gradually her collection grew. After a few years it became apparent that her hobby could become a business opportunity and in time each member of the family became involved. It was a really

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 to ask any questions you might have.

heart-warming story. Mickfield Hostas are now widely recognised for their amazing collection. They have taken part in many shows over the last twenty six years and have won numerous awards.

We were given advice about how to deal with snails, widely regarded as the main culprits for devouring Hostas. Simply a saucer of water under the pot will suffice as snails can't swim, but in addition a garden that welcomes birds will naturally reduce snail numbers, other suggestions included using coffee grounds around the roots or planting wild garlic or Astrantia.

To get the best out of the plants it's important to know that they are naturally found in partial shade and wooded areas in Japan and China. They prefer to be kept moist, but not water-logged.

The variety of Hosts is stunning. The nursery has over 2000 different varieties. Some are quite tiny and are best viewed when placed in a hanging basket or in a rockery, others have huge exotic-looking leaves, some are

white or cream around the edges, others have a distinctly blue hue. 'The Empress' is the largest Hosta and the smallest is named 'Tears of Joy'. They can also have elegant flowers, sometimes fragrant and usually formed around a spire bursting from the centre of the plant.

The nursery has open days and welcomes gardening club visits. The website has a monthly newsletter, videos, talks and presentations. The website has been created to interest and inform the general public. Full of information -it's well worth a look!

www.mickfieldhostas.co.uk

On Tuesday June 21st at 7.30 pm our speaker will be giving a talk on Monkey Puzzle trees. This is a change from the published speaker who is currently unable to attend.

Our meetings are always held at the Wesley Hall and we are very keen to welcome new members.



ELMSWELL OVER 55'S CLUB

Our AGM was held on May 5th 2022 when the Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting March 2019 were read and on a proposal and a seconder they were signed as a true record.

The chairman then gave her report which outlined everything from lockdown in March 2020 through to the end of 2021 with thanks to Diann for her detailed statement.

The financial report was then received from the treasurer which showed a slight drop in funds due to the lack of fund raising during 2020/2021 he was thanked for his report.

Election of Chairman by a massive show of hands Diann was re elected for a further year,

The election of the committee saw the resignation of Sally Goymer and a proposal that Jean Williamson should be elected in her place this was agreed and on proposal from Herbert Mulley Jean was asked to take on the roll of Vice Chairman with Herbert remaining as a committee member, the evening concluded with cash bingo.



Betty Philips with 4 members of Fever Pitch close harmony group at Blackbourne.

The first meeting in May saw the return of "Fever Pitch" for another brilliant evening which was once again enjoyed by all.

The outing on June 16th has been well supported so we can only hope for the weather will be kind to us.

Our first meeting in July will be our Strawberry Supper

Grant (240943)





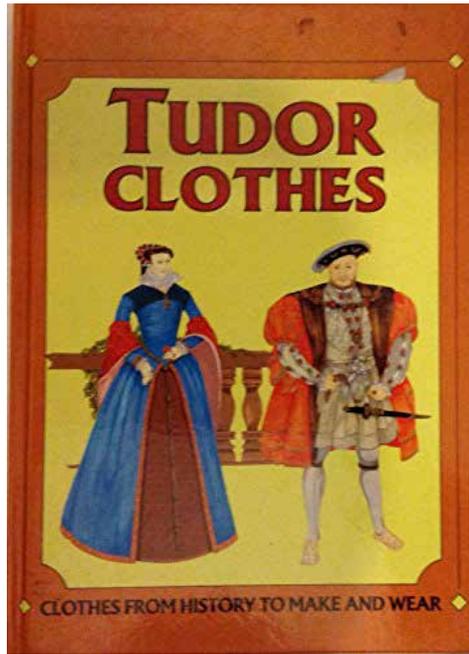
ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

May's talk by the very knowledgeable Christopher Parkinson on "East Anglia's Stained Glass Windows" was extremely informative, with many gorgeous coloured images of stained glass from the 13th century right up to the present day. Since his retirement from teaching, he has become an enthusiastic authority on stained glass in churches, and he explained the various methods of how these were made from the earliest times, which is largely how they're still made today.

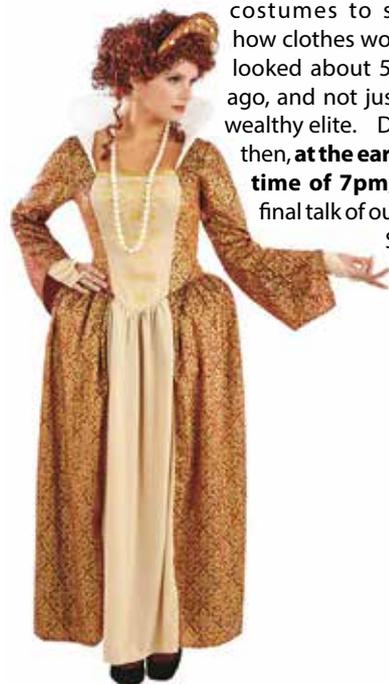
One of the churches in Suffolk to which he referred was St Ethelbert, at Herringswell, near Newmarket. Little remains of the early Norman Church, rebuilt in the 14th century but then a disastrous fire occurred in 1869, after which a further rebuilding took place and all the windows were designed by members of the Arts & Crafts Movement; each window told a different story, some biblical and others about current events, animals, birds, flowers, trees, etc. Long Melford Church was also mentioned in great detail - the glass here is from the 15th century and, in the 1960s, it was completely rearranged to display portraits, saints and martyrs. Elmswell's own St John's Church has a south window (1860) depicting the three Marys at Jesus' tomb, and the east window in the tower is a memorial to a soldier of an Elmswell family, showing pressed glass by Lavers & Baurrauds.

Although many churches' oldest stained glass windows were destroyed following Henry VIII's breach with Rome, thankfully some could not be reached by the state-sponsored looters or "iconoclasts". Not all of the windows were of religious subjects, so we were shown items of heraldry, windmills, floral motifs, Brownies, and even a computer and car! Some of the artists were well-known names such as William Morris, Edward Burne-Jones, and Alexander Gibbs who worked for various companies and in different styles. As Christopher did not wish to take a fee for his talk, a donation was made to Ely Cathedral's Stained Glass Museum on his behalf.

John Tapper – we were very sad to learn of the recent death of this long-time History Group member who was also a regular volunteer at Duxford Air Museum for many years. Because of his aircraft knowledge, he kindly contributed much valuable information and assistance to our researchers into Elmswell's WW1 Aerodrome, leading to the recent publication of our book "Forgotten Sentinel" on that subject. Our sympathy and condolences have been passed to his widow, Connie.



Thursday 9th June, 7pm – our A.G.M., when we will have a brief review of our past year, and look forward to welcoming many members to enjoy our monthly talks from September. Immediately after the AGM will be Jacquie Norman's talk on "Tudor Costume" when, as an accomplished seamstress and knowledgeable historian on Tudor costumes, she will have the usual slide presentation but also some impressive replica



costumes to show us how clothes would have looked about 500 years ago, and not just for the wealthy elite. Do join us then, **at the earlier start time of 7pm**, for this final talk of our current Season.

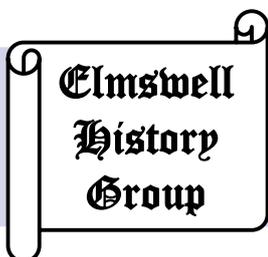
FREE OPEN DAY, 10am-4pm, **Sun 12th June at Bury Guildhall's WW2 Ops Room**. Explore the little-known connection between the Royal Observer Corps and the D-Day landings - observers weren't just needed on land, but on the ocean as well.



FATHER'S DAY treat – OPEN DAY, 11am-4pm, **Sun 19th June at Thelnetham Windmill**, Mill Rd, IP22 1JU (near Diss); Tel. 01379-898081. Following our recent talk by the Suffolk Building Preservation Trust, do visit one of their projects at Thelnetham. This is the oldest surviving tower windmill in Suffolk, which has been on this site since 1778 although the "new" mill was constructed in 1819 and fully restored in 1987. Entry £5 for adults, but FREE for under-18's, and you can enjoy a traditional afternoon tea there too!

SUMMER OUTING – Due to the continuing uncertainties of life in general, we have been unable to organize our usual group summer outing in July, but are hoping to arrange occasional "mini" outings. More details will be at our June meeting.

2022-23 Programme of Talks – for our new season starting in September, our programme is now complete, copies of which will be available at our June meeting. However, if you cannot attend then, rest assured that members and all recent attendees will be sent a new programme by the end of August, and details will be on our website as well as in the monthly village newsletter.



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



ELMSWELL LIBRARY

Hello Elmswell,

This month's display theme is Queens. There will be a mix of books for you to choose from that connect to the theme in the widest sense. Some will be historical fiction, some will be non-fiction about current day and some will have titles linked to queens.

We start June with the One World artwork still on display. This textile map of the world has been made by learning disabled artists on the Brave Art art course. Brave Art is an arts course for adults with learning disabilities led by professional artists and ran by Suffolk Artlink.

Later on in June the artwork will change to an exhibition by Grace Ridge. They will have their artwork on display and for sale in the library until the end of July and part of the money from each sale goes to Suffolk Libraries.

We are selling tickets to the next Elmswell Library Friends group event which is Greek Wine, Food and Book Signing 7.30pm on Friday 8th July. Come along and hear author Francesca Catlow talk about her new book,

Behind the Olive Trees and hear Bob Stopp give some insight into Greek wines. Tickets are £10 which includes tasters of wine.

We are preparing for the Summer Reading Challenge and will be looking for volunteers again this year. Each year volunteers talk to the children taking part about each book they have read and then give out the rewards for each book. There is a commitment of 1 hour per week throughout the summer holidays. Pop in and let us know if you would be interested in volunteering.

The Knit and Natter time is changing to 2pm – 3pm every 2nd Tuesday of the month.

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

10.30am on Wednesday 15th June at the Wesley Café (every 3rd Wednesday)

Knit and Natter

2pm – 3pm Tuesday 14th June (every 2nd Tuesday)

Adult Reading Practice

Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please book in advance.

Sunday Crafts

1pm – 2pm every Sunday

Lego Club

Every Sunday 11am – 12noon

Greek wine food and book signing

7.30pm Wednesday 8th July. Tickets £10

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

I am a single parent, with two young children. I am already struggling to stay on top of my household bills; my weekly food shop isn't stretching as far anymore and now my energy bill is going up too. I don't know how I'm going to afford all of these price rises. What can I do to stop my finances spiralling out of control?

First of all, you are not alone in this and there's support to help you.

It's always worth checking if there are benefits you don't know about that you're eligible for, including support with your energy costs and living costs. On the Citizens Advice website - citizensadvice.org.uk - there's a benefits calculator, advice on how to reduce living costs and information on other ways to increase your income.

There's also emergency support that you may have access to, such as food bank vouchers or fuel vouchers.

If you're struggling to stay on top of bills, it's really important to understand what money you have coming in and going out each month. Citizens Advice also has a budgeting tool on its website that can help with this.

If you're already behind on bills, prioritise paying your rent or mortgage, plus energy bills and Council Tax first. Not paying these bills has the most serious consequences. You should speak to the person or company you owe money to, to see if they can help you repay your bills sustainably.

We know that times are incredibly tough but please remember, you don't have to face this alone, so do contact Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk to help you find a way forward.

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 midsuffolcab.org.uk/contact-us. For more information and our opening hours go to midsuffolcab.org.uk.



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SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES AT CHURCH HILL, WETHERDEN ROAD AND ASHFIELD ROAD

The purpose of these is to inform drivers of their speed and encourage speed reduction by way of this interaction. It also provides data to support our case for various road safety improvements.

In the event of a road traffic collision the severity of the impact is directly related to the vehicle speed. If something unexpected happens on the road ahead – such as a child stepping out from between parked cars – it is a driver's speed that will determine whether they can stop in time and, if they can't stop, how hard they will hit.

A vehicle travelling at 20mph would stop in time to avoid a child running out three car-lengths in front. The same vehicle travelling at 25mph would not be able to stop in time, and would hit the child at 18mph. This is roughly the same impact as a child falling from an upstairs window.

The greater the impact speed, the greater the chance of death. A pedestrian hit at 30mph has a very significant (one in

five) chance of being killed. This rises significantly to a one in three chance if they are hit at 35mph.

The other factors worth noting are collisions on various types of road.

Rural roads carry 40% of traffic but account 62% of fatalities.

Urban roads carry 40% of traffic but account for 32% of fatalities

Motorways carry 20% of traffic but only account for 6% of fatalities.

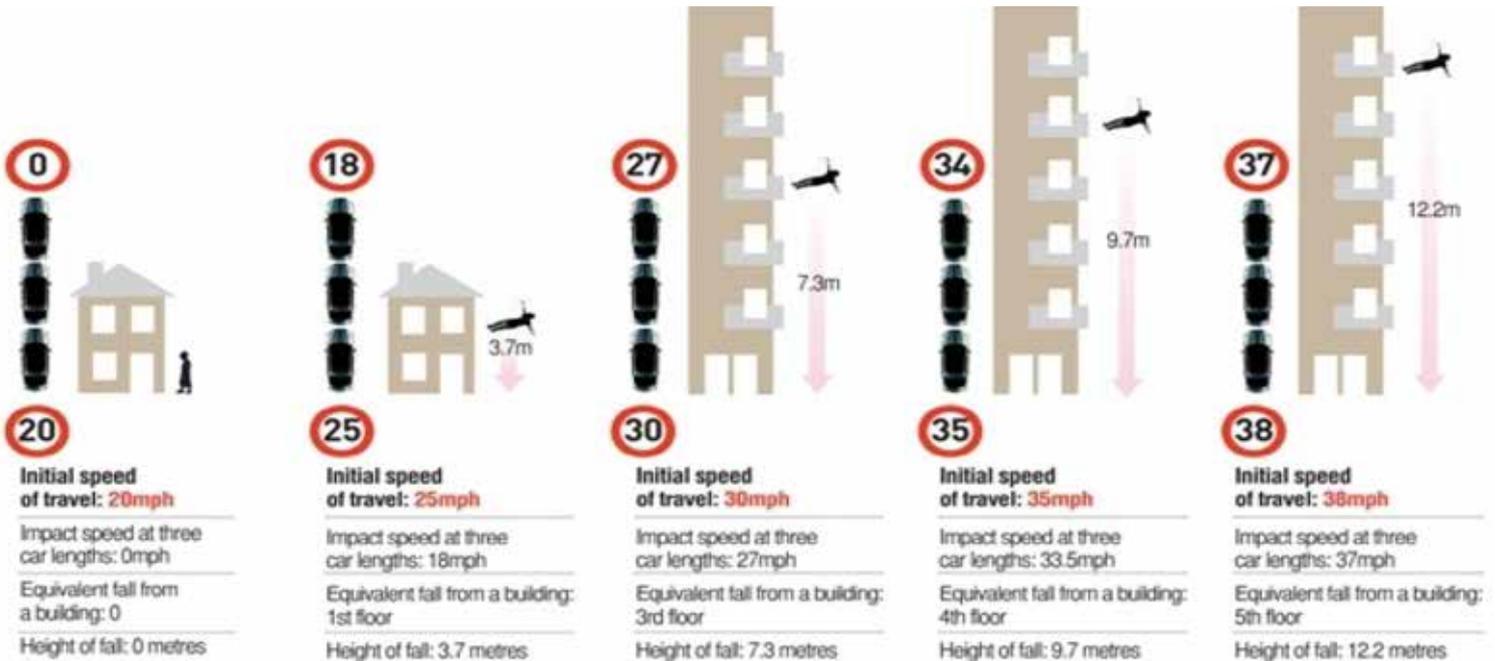
The AADT is 2186 vehicles per day.

The average speed is 29.83 and the percentage of vehicles exceeding the limit is 48.10%.

The average speed of those exceeding the limit is 34.11 mph.

The maximum recorded speed is 80 mph at 21:55.

Why anyone needs to travel at 3 times the speed limit on the approach to a populated area beggars belief.



This chart is based on stopping distances as published by the Department for Transport.

ELMSWELL
Tavern

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to keep updated

Friday 3rd June -

FFOTM Fellas/First Friday of the month - Come with mates or to meet new people

Wednesday 8th June - Bingo - 7pm - £8 for 3 games - prizes to be won

Saturday 11th June - Wesley Ukes - 7pm

Sunday 12th June - Children's picture Bingo - 4pm - £1 a sheet

Friday 17th June - Open Mic Night - 7pm

Saturday 18th - Family Fun afternoon - 3-6pm

Friday 24th - LFOTM Ladies/last Friday of the Month -
Come with some friends or to meet new people





ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Warm greetings from St John the Divine, your local parish church :)

The local Beavers visit to St John's

It was lovely to welcome the local Beavers group into church on 18 May. These wonderful children worked hard in an act of community service (dusting the banisters and pews, vacuuming and washing some of our chairs), before experiencing and learning about an act of all age Christian worship. We look forward to welcoming them again.

On 26 May, we celebrated Ascension Day. This event takes place forty days after Easter Sunday (the day Jesus rose from the dead). On Ascension Day, we remember how Jesus led his friends outside Jerusalem and then was lifted up to Heaven. As he departed, he left his followers instructions to share the good news of his love across the world and promised that one day he would return to put everything in the world right.

But Jesus doesn't leave us alone in this present age. Ten days following his ascension, he sent his Holy Spirit to be with his followers forever. The day the Spirit came is called Pentecost and we will be celebrating it, alongside the Queen's Jubilee, at a special Songs of Praise service outside at the Blackbourne with our Baptist friends. It will last about 30 minutes and you are very welcome to join us. Do make a note of the time - 5 June at 2pm.

What else is coming up in June? **Our Sunday School** group meets on Zoom at 9:30am each Sunday morning (except for the first Sunday in each month, when we have a family service in church). Please get in touch for details. Also, on 26 June, we have a guest speaker, Tom Fifield, who will be telling us about his life and work in Ethiopia.

Our annual church barbecue is also back this year. We will be enjoying this after the service with Tom on 26 June.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Christian faith, in having your child christened, or maybe you wish to get married at St John's, please do get in touch. You can be assured of a friendly welcome. You are also very welcome to come along on a Sunday morning at 10:30am, to join in our worship and to get to know friendly people over tea and coffee afterwards.

Upcoming Dates:

Sun 5 June 9:00am	Lord's Supper (spoken service)
Sun 5 June 10:30am	All Age Service
Sun 5 June 2:00pm	Pentecost Jubilee Celebration (Blackbourne)
Sun 12 June 10:30am	Worship and Communion
Sun 19 June 10:30am	Sunday Worship
Sun 26 June 10:30am	Worship and Communion
Sun 3 July 9:00am	Lord's Supper (spoken service)
Sun 3 July 10:30am	All Age Service

Every Saturday:

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

We hope to also live stream most of the Sunday services on our Facebook page (also available on our main web site later that day).

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



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.

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JUNE 2022 SPONSORSHIPS

- 1 remembering Amy Pleasance, a dear Mum, Grandma and Great Grandma, on her Birthday.
- 8 Lesley Manning. Remembering you with love on your Birthday. Love Colin. XX.
- 12 to remember and thank all those past Elmswell Fire-Fighters who served their village and community so well.
- 19 in loving memory of Dorothy May Bloomfield.
- 28 in loving memory of our dear Mum, Zena Booth.

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 Sundays – 8.30am & 10.15am
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Holy Days – 10am & 7.30pm
 Our Lady's Strickland Road Stowmarket
 Weekday services in the Parish are advertised at the front of Our Lady's Church, in the weekly Newsletter and on the Parish Website – www.ourladystowmarket.org.uk

ELMSWELL
BAPTIST CHURCH

Many will soon be getting away on their holidays after perhaps missing out over the last two years. Our prayer is that any time you are able to get away as a family will be truly a time of refreshing; physically, mentally and spiritually ie proper Holydays.

Covid hasn't gone away, we're learning to live with it here in the UK but many less well off countries are still in the thick of it with very few having being vaccinated. We need to pray that we in the affluent West will ensure that poorer nations have full access to vaccines.

As part of the village celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Christians Together in Elmswell will be holding a service at The Blackbourne at 2pm on June 5th. As we give thanks for the Queen's 70 years of service to our nation and the Commonwealth it will be pertinent to remember that she has a strong Christian faith which has been at the very heart of her life of duty and service. We're not sure exactly where we shall be, do come and find us for a short time of praise and worship.

The Ladies Friendship Group finish their meetings for the summer with a visit to the cathedral in Bury on June 6th. Meet at the chapel at 2pm. Meetings will resume on September 12th (note not the 1st Monday in the month) with a day at The Hut in Felixstowe, arrive from 10.30am. Let Margaret know if you're coming or you'll get no fish & chips!! Both these trips will cost around £10. Men are welcome on both occasions. Phone Margaret on 241541 for more information.

Food & Friends continue on Thursday June 9th at midday – for the older folk – a chance to meet other people and enjoy a nutritious meal for a modest donation. New diners are always welcome subject to space. Phone Jackie on 245918 to book your place. (Jackie is recovering from a hip operation which seems to have gone well, don't know whether she'll be up and going for the July meal or not).

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

- June 5th Rev. Norman Tharby (Communion)
- June 12th Mark Partridge – All-Age Service
- June 19th Christine Myers
- June 26th Rev. Norman Tharby
- July 3rd Mike Forrester (Communion)

A warm welcome is extended to all who wish to attend any of the above events.

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

May God bless you. Tony

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NEWS FROM ELMSWILD



Have a picnic on us!

Did you know that there is an international picnic week? Well, there seems to be a day or week for practically everything nowadays, so why not one for picnics! This year the week falls on 18-26 June. It's a great excuse to get outside in the fresh air and enjoy some al fresco goodies with friends and family. And we have just the place for it – close at hand, surrounded by nature, and now with a fantastic new picnic table.....! Thanks to a very generous donation we've been able to install a lovely picnic table at Lukeswood, very sturdy, seats six and made out of recycled plastic. We hope lots of people will make use of it over the summer months (not just during Picnic Week), so why not prepare some delicious summer food and enjoy an afternoon out in the woodland. Just a reminder to tidy up afterwards, please, and leave our new table clean and shiny for the next picnickers.



How does your garden grow?

Last September during the Great Big Green Week we gave away dozens of packets of wildflower seeds – they disappeared like hot cakes! And in January this year lots of people came to help cut our willow beds in Lukeswood and took away bundles for projects in their gardens. How did it go? By now the mini meadows should be coming into flower and those willow structures should be up and sprouting. We'd love to see what you did – please send us a photo or two for our Facebook page. We went to have a look around Clare's garden recently to see what she's been up to. Lots of people visited Clare's open garden during the Green Week when she had just started an ambitious project to turn over a large part of her garden to wildflowers. We were delighted to see that everything is now blooming and buzzing with bees. The wildflowers are coming into flower at different times so there will be colour all through the summer months. It's a real magnet for wildlife, especially pollinators. She has also made a huge willow dome – a sanctuary where you can sit back and enjoy the sights and sounds of the meadow. It would be great to see what everyone else has done too!



Lukeswood Safari – Saturday 11th June

Our next Saturday meeting will be on 11th June, 1.30-4.30 at Lukeswood. After all the hard work that everyone did at our last Saturday meet – removing plastic tree guards – this month will be something of a treat, and certainly less strenuous. We will be getting out all the survey equipment and guidebooks and having a good look round Lukeswood to see what discoveries we can find – wildflowers, bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, insects, and anything else that

pops up or catches the eye. Everyone is welcome to come and join in. You don't need any special knowledge or equipment, just an enquiring mind. Please wear suitable clothing (there are thistles and nettles) and bring gloves and a hot or cold drink. We look forward to seeing you!

Mary Feeney
info@elmswild.org.uk

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SUFFOLK ARTLINK



Recently, the One World textile artwork, made by our Brave Art participants, went on public display at the Elmswell Library. It is an exciting and eye-catching piece depicting the world in which we live.

If you happen to find yourself in the area, please do go see the exhibition, as it is a beautiful piece demonstrating the endless creativity of our Brave Artists!

The artwork is being displayed at Elmswell Library, Cooks Road, Bury St Edmunds, Elmswell, IP30 9BX.



SKYLIGHTS AT BLACKBOURNE



The Chamberlayne Hall was the original meeting space at Blackbourne, designed on a shoestring and opened in 1998 as the beginning of the Blackbourne project. It replaced the old Memorial Hall which had served the village since the 1950's standing, with a small bowls green attached, on Cooks Road where the Memorial Library is now sited.

Blackbourne has been much expanded and improved over the intervening 24 years, but the Chamberlayne remained poorly served both in terms of natural light and air circulation – the latter shortcoming made prominent over the past couple of years for obvious reasons. Six skylights are now fitted, to be electronically controlled. The opportunity was presented to strip any corrosion from the old steel roof and re-coat it with a specialist spray coating which gives a warranted further 25 years of life.



WESLEY UKULELE BAND

We have a weekly practice session every Thursday morning at the Wesley and we have decided make one of them a Wesley Ukes Open Day, when anyone can come along and try their hand at strumming a Uke. That day will be June 23rd from 10.30 until 1.0pm when we will have spare ukuleles for anyone to try and Kevin promises to teach anyone 3 simple chords and have them playing along with us within 1 hour. It is truly amazing how simple most songs are and many have as few as 2 chords only and many of us will gladly vouch for Kevin's patience, it is legendary.

We are starting monthly appearances at the Tavern on June 11th and will continue on the 2nd Saturday of every month and, as you can imagine, these are the most enjoyable gigs of all. We have a busy Jubilee Sunday lined up with performances in Finningham and Combs Ford and, I believe, we may also get to play in Elmswell!



While all this is going on we are quietly going about our business and slowly building our membership. Bandmembers are introducing friends to the group and people just turn up on a whim, sit in with us and Hey Presto, we have a couple more members. It was just so with Penny and Eric

who are featured in the shot below. Eric is still feeling the temperature of the water whilst Penny has dived in off the top board. They are nearest the camera

For information please call Kevin on 01359 240604 Or email: Kevin.Knock99@gmail.com

ELMSWELL FOOTBALL CLUB



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FIRST TEAM REPORT

We started April with our first win as managers seeing us beat Ufford 5-0. Playing some of the best football we've played all season and with some of the reserve team stepping-in to help fulfil the fixture. We also welcomed back Dylan Peskett, 'on loan' from Stanton. 2 goals a-piece for Matt Last and Will Hayden and a goal for Andy Brookin but MOTM was Kieran Ramsey for a solid performance at the back. The next week saw us come up against a team in the top 3 in Melton. We continued playing some good football but were on the wrong side of a 2-0 loss. There were plenty of positives to take from the performance and again much of the squad was made up of reserves. MOTM was Matt Last. We went into the last game of the season wanting to finish on a high but once again struggled to get a side together with the reserve team being called on to help with numbers. We played a Kirton side that were mid-table like ourselves. Once again we played some good football and created opportunities but failed to take our chances. The game ended 2-0 to the visitors. MOTM was Sam Bassett for a strong performance at the back. We now go into the off season having finished the season strongly albeit the results not going our way and into planning for next season. One thing for sure is we need more players! If you're interested then please get in contact and come along to pre-season. More info on that next month!

Top scorers this season were Ben Humphrey and Matt Last, who were joined in the most capped list by Malin Davies, Romaine Scott, Liam Trickey, Will Gudgeon and Charlie Potter. Up the Elm

Liam Trickey – First Management Team



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RESERVES REPORT

2022 has been a strange year for the Reserves, and that's saying something given the last two we've just all had. Having played so well and yet not won a game in the first half of the season, we started the year with two wins in January and then another in February. The last one being the 4-1 beating of Bacton 'A' at The Blackbourne. In March our cup semi-final was cancelled as we were required to help the Firsts fulfil their fixture away to Div.2 champions, Woolverstone. So, it had been well over a month with no reserve football when we faced Ipswich Vale Exiles Reserves. They finished the league in second position and their chances of winning depended on beating us and Kesgrave Kestrels losing their last game. We had also sent several players with our first team so we were well up against it. We did well to limit them early on and half time came with a fairly respectable 0-2 scoreline. Thankfully the league now has rolling subs so we were able to keep subbing off our most injured player (although we then had to bring back on the second most injured player in his place). This happened a several times during the second half until we were all hobbling around like a scene from The Walking Dead. We lost the game 8-1, Will Hayden getting our goal and Chris Edmonds getting MOTM. Jake Fisher (pictured) finished top-scorer for us and also for our division. Kieran Ramsey was the most capped player followed by Will Hayden, Jake Fisher and Kurt Bevan.

The league have decided, with the backing of all the clubs that attended the pre-AGM meeting, that the intermediate divisions will be amalgamated to make Senior Div and Divs 1-6 with 14 teams in each. Keep an eye out for updates as to where we end up in the reshuffling!



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ELMSWELL FOX BOWLS CLUB

Following the suggestion from the Bowls League, we held an Open Day on Sunday, May 1st and, contrary to our expectations, it proved extremely successful. We had a good number of Members turn up all throughout the day and, gratifyingly, eight prospective new members came along to register their interest in joining. All bar one of them, thus far, duly has and among them are a few potentially very good bowlers. Next season we will have to run another team! Having hummed and haaed (not sure of my spelling, but you get the gist) about it pre-season, we will now have no choice. In spite of the Open

Day success, we are always open to new members so, if you missed it, it is never too late to give us a call.

We have begun our league season with results much as expected except for Dick Burch's Thursday team which has picked up two away wins at Hopton and Haughley. Dick should stop grinning any day now. The Monday team, predictably, have started as they left off and are second from bottom with a single point. The three teams that we have played are first, second and third in the table, probably because they played us and

not because of merit. We will see how things stand when everyone has played us! The Tuesday team is doing reasonably well considering we have moved up into Division One this year.

Our photos this month show Neil, Jenny and Keith preparing to take on Old Newton and Eddie 'The Demon' Barber in the match against Wortham.

Peter Edmonds

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ELMSWELL AUTUMN FAYRE GOLF DAY FRIDAY 19TH AUGUST

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The golf day is back to normal this year after two years of covid restriction.

We are having a Texas Scramble in the morning and a full 18 holes game in the afternoon.

If you want to be a part of the day, please make contact with me.

You will need a handicap be able to play.

This will be a bit too much for some, so if you only want to play part of the day, I should be able to sort it for you.

The day starts from 9am onwards for bacon rolls and coffee.

After you have played the Texas Scramble in the morning, we stop for lunch and then we are off again for the 18 holes.

We are having a 3 course meal after this.

Directly after this there will be the winner's presentation.

Cost for all the food will be in the region of £40, less if you do not want all of the food.

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NO WALK IN JUNE - WATCH THIS SPACE FOR THE JULY DATE

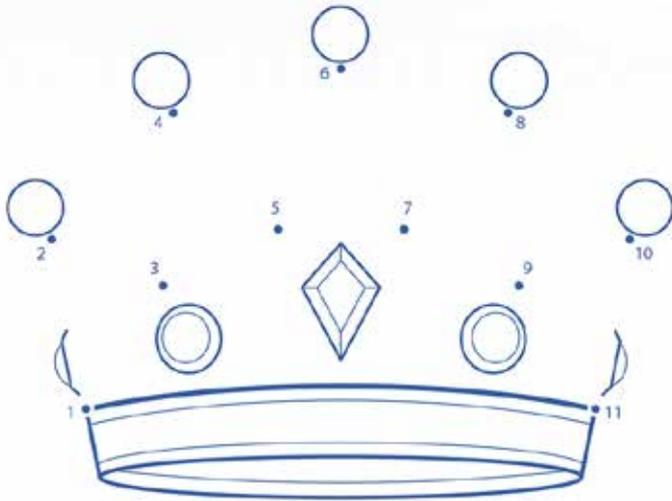
Way to go...

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

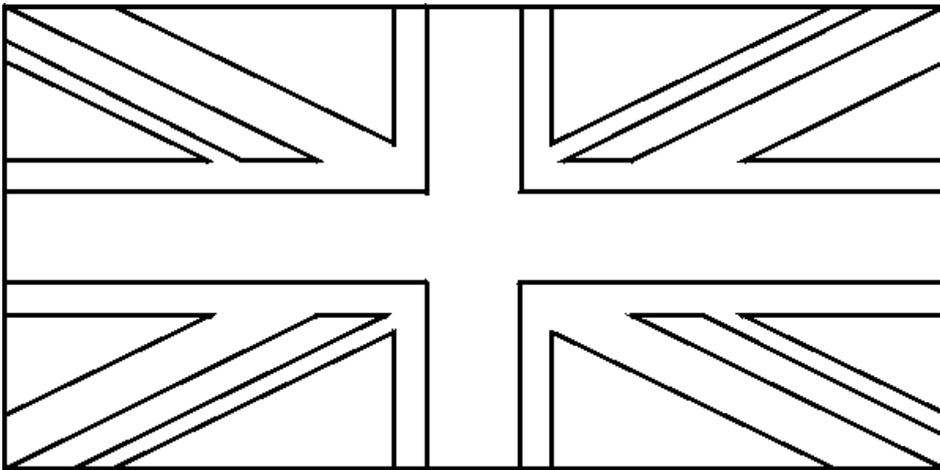
All walks start from the village sign on Crown Mill.

QUEEN'S JUBILEE

Can you match the lines to create a crown?



Can you colour in the flag?



Make your very own yummy fruit platter!

Can you use blueberries, raspberries, strawberries and cream to design the Great British flag?



Did you know ...

A platinum jubilee celebrates 70 years of an event!

Did you know ...

To celebrate the Queens birthday a parade is held with horses, musicians and soldiers!

Did you know ...

Special stamps and coins are created especially for the Queens Jubilee!



Make your very own Jubilee wreath for your door!

All you need is card, scissors, ribbon and red, white and blue paint!

Stamp your hand prints, cut them out and stick them in a wreath design!

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The May meeting of the Parish Council is the Annual Meeting – a sort of AGM, including the election of officers and representatives, with the usual monthly business attached. It was held in the Chamberlayne Hall at Blackbourne on Monday 16th with all 11 councillors present, along with the Parish Clerk, District Councillor Ward members Sarah Mansel and Helen Geake, SCC Ward Member Andy Mellen together with 1 member 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 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 19th April Ordinary Council meeting, as approved at this meeting, are posted in the Council's notice board at Crown Mill.

Election of Officers and post holders

Cllr Fred Pallett was elected Chairman of Council for the coming year and Cllr David Barker was elected to the post of Vice chairman. Cllr Hancock agreed to continue in the role of Footpath Officer and as the Council's representative on the Elmswell Amenities Association. The 4 appointees to the Poor's Land Charity were confirmed as Mrs Linda Waspe, Cllrs Burch and Pallett and the Parish Clerk, Peter Dow. The BWMA representatives, Cllrs Burch, Hancock and Shaw, continue to serve. Ms Ann Richards remains the liaison with the NHS West Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group and Cllr Shaw sits with Cllr Schofield on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Cllr Sue Roots was confirmed as the third member of the Council's Newsletter Report Editorial Board joining the ex officio representatives, being the Chairman and Vice chairman of Council.

Annual Reports Written reports were received from the Council Chairman for the year 2020/2021 together with reports on the year's activities from District Council Ward Members. These are published elsewhere in this Newsletter. It was noted that, as neither the Planning Committee nor the standing Complaints Committee had met during the year, reports from those bodies were not presented.

Accounts The Clerk's office prepares an annual Statement of the Accounts for the year ended 31st March. These include the Balance Sheet, the Assets Register, which lists everything that the Council owns on behalf of the village and notes disposals and acquisitions together with the original costs and current values, a fully itemised report on income and expenditure over the year and a Supporting Statement which outlines the current financial commitments. Approval of this Statement forms a key element of the Governance Statement made to the external auditor for approval. The Statement of Accounts was unanimously approved.

Annual Return The Council's external auditor is appointed by the Government and requires an annual statement confirming that Councillors, aware of the financial and governance processes and procedure which are in place and having had free access to all accounting and other relevant documentation over the year, confirm their approval of the Clerk's Accounting Statement and Annual Governance Statement. Approval was formally given and minuted and the Chairman and Clerk were authorised to sign the relevant documents which now go to the External Auditor, Messrs PKF Littlejohn. All of the documents are available for public inspection at any time by arrangement with the Clerk. A formal period for inspection will be advertised between 13th June and 22nd July. They are also published on the Council's website.

Risk Assessments A schedule of Risk Assessments covering all aspects of the Council's responsibilities, including Financial Risk, was published and the Meeting approved these documents as representing a proper assessment of the risks and as demonstrating their appropriate management.

Internal Audit The Council annually appoints an independent professional internal auditor to examine and report on the finances, processes and procedures which have maintained for the previous financial year. The 2020/2021 audit was carried out by Dave Crimmin, as formally authorised by Resolution, and his Report was received by Council. It was formally noted and minuted that the accounts and other documentation were well presented for audit purposes with no comments or recommendations made which required other than minor procedural actions, since implemented.

Committee memberships The Council has 2 standing committees. The Planning Committee exists to allow for the consideration of Planning applications when the timetable required by Mid Suffolk, the Planning Authority, cannot

be met within the framework of Council meetings. The Committee did not have to meet last year as all of the consultation deadlines were managed within the monthly Council meeting timetable. The Complaints Committee meets when required to deal with complaints about the Council from members of the public. This Committee has not met since 2008. Consequently, no reports from these bodies was forthcoming.

Confirming documents The Meeting formally noted that Council remains eligible to act under the General Power of Competence and adopted both the new LGA Model Councillor Code of Conduct and the Standing Orders incorporating Financial Regulations as tabled. These documents are published on the Council's website.

Mid Suffolk District Council Cllrs Sarah Mansel & Helen Geake tabled a written report on the past month's BMSDC activities which included confirmation that;

- Both Mid Suffolk and Babergh are members of the county-wide scheme to support Ukrainian refugees. Housing officers are responsible for carrying out property inspections, once sponsors are matched up with Ukrainian families.
- Households in Council Tax bands A to D will receive a one-off £150 rebate. For residents who pay by direct-debit, this rebate should be processed automatically. Those households who do not pay by direct-debit will be contacted in the next few weeks but do need to be aware of potential scammers. Details can be found on the website <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/council-tax/council-tax-and-parish-charges/council-tax-online-bill/>



- The annual report on climate change and biodiversity was published in April. This summarised progress during the last year as well as indicated the next steps. These include the completion of the solar car port at Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre, increasing the number of EV charging points in car parks with the help of Government grants, publishing the tree canopy survey and considering the implications of the Government's Recycling and Waste Strategy.
- Regarding Planning matters in Elmswell, there was a recent Planning Control Committee site visit for the Warren Lane Planning application for 44 dwellings. This is now likely to return to Committee in June. The reserved matters application for 86 homes on School Road is pending consideration, and there have been some discussions over the road junction improvements relating to the outline permission
- The next round of Locality Grants is now open. Although the deadline is not until March 2023, Ward Members welcome applications from community groups in Woolpit and Elmswell. Details are available on the website <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/communities/grants-and-funding/locality-awards-guidance/>. First contact should be with one of the Ward Members.

New land at Blackbourne The Clerk reported that negotiations towards remediation of the damage caused by the developer who carried out extensive, inappropriate and damaging drainage infrastructure works on the village's newly acquired land at Blackbourne are moving towards agreement on a programme of works. The eventual use of the much-needed extra space, which offers the opportunity for re-shaping the formal and informal recreation greenspace on Blackbourne Meadow, will be the subject of advice to the Parish Council from the Blackbourne & Wesley Management Association.

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

DC/22/01705 Discharge of Conditions re DC/20/05053 re land to the east of Oak Lane...Approved

DC/22/01671 Discharge of Conditions ref DC/18/02146 re land to the north and west of School Road... Approved

Planning Applications The Meeting considered the 3 applications forwarded for comment from MSDC. It was agreed to support an application ref. DC/22/02412 for an extension at The Barn, Grove Lane and an application ref DC/22/01114 for works at Botany Bay Farm in Grove Lane with a Condition restricting the use of the domestic accommodation in the latter to the enjoyment of the host dwelling. Objections were raised to other applications as follows:
DC/22/01224 Hybrid application... Outline for 1 detached dwelling, Full re 1 detached dwelling replacing O/L for 3 detached dwellings DC/19/04317 at Holly Lodge, Cross Street

- The proposed dwelling on Plot 1 has a ridge height at 9150 some 2m above that of any neighbouring property. It offers more than 4.000 sq. ft. of floorspace. The mass that this presents on an infill site is entirely disproportionate to the neighbouring dwellings at Warren Lane and at Warren Gate. It threatens an intrusive, alien and overbearing result detrimental to these well-established neighbouring properties which currently enjoy a cohesion of size, design and style.
- Similarly, the scale of the 2-storey cart lodge exacerbates the effect of overdevelopment of the site and clearly offers the opportunity for the creation of further living accommodation which is not appropriate given the constraints on vehicular access on to Cross Street.
- The Outline nature of the permission sought for Plot 2 leaves open the possibility of the imposition of another inappropriately large proposal when details are presented. This whole site should be subject to a requirement for a cohesive master plan in detail so that the end result is known. A rolling programme of increasingly inappropriate proposals for individual plots is unacceptable.
- Councillors' original reservations regarding the access from this multi-plot site remain. There is the likelihood of dwellings totalling some 15 bedrooms seeking to use Cross Street just a very few metres from the dangerous staggered crossroads with Warren Lane / New Road / Church Road.

DC/22/02447 Application for severance of garden and erection of 1 No 2storey detached dwelling at Folly Cottage, Rose Lane, Elmswell

This application seeks to shoehorn in a detached dwelling on a very constrained site.

The proposed dwelling has 3 bedrooms inviting occupancy and car use beyond what the site can safely or comfortably accommodate. It has a roofline orientation diametrically at odds with the adjacent cottage dwellings presenting the gable end to the access roadway which destroys the cohesion of the existing street scene. The cramped nature of the proposal extends to the host dwelling as neither would be able to enter and leave their respective parking areas in forward gear resulting in hazardous and disruptive manoeuvring on to Rose Lane itself. The Rose Lane / School Road / Hawk End Lane crossroads junction is already problematic and increasingly so as Elmswell housing stock is rapidly expanding. There should be no more residential development along the lane which is a single track unadopted way already serving 11 dwellings.

Community transport The Chairman confirmed that he had been able to assist with lifts to and from the Woolpit Health Centre for a resident and is, subsequently, looking into regularising the provision of a community transport facility, possibly in conjunction with SCC's Connecting Communities network.

Health Centre outreach The possibility that Woolpit Health Centre might agree to establishing an outreach clinic to deal with matters at a Practice Nurse level in one of the Council's community facilities was discussed. It was accepted that this is a recurring suggestion which seems to run counter to the current NHS orthodoxy favouring centralisation. Nevertheless, the Clerk agreed to confirm the situation and report back.

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





CLT

I attended with Cllrs Pallett and Shaw on 27th April a meeting with Greg Dodds of Orwell Housing as part of the joint initiative with Elmswell Community Land Trust to find an appropriate Registered Provider to work with the community to build and manage the proposed properties using the capital funding that they can attract from the government body, Homes England.

We have worked well with Gregg and with Orwell in the past on the exemplar scheme at Clay Field as well as at Laurel Court.

We identified clear advantages in working closely with ECE on the pub redevelopment.

Orwell are now looking at the concept plans for the site as previously worked up by BCR Infinity Architects, as published in the village consultation documents and discussed at public meetings.

As a tentative framework suggestion it was agreed that a long-term lease on the land might be a way forward in satisfying Orwell's funding providers as well as providing a return to EPC covering, at least, the cost of borrowing the site purchase sum.

We have made Orwell very aware of the immutable condition that there should never be a Right to Buy (RTB) or Right to Acquire. They can work with this, but, again we have voiced reservations regarding recent central Government hints that RTB could be encouraged in new statute.

At this very early stage all concerned agreed that there are firm possibilities in terms of moving forward with Orwell but, clearly, no commitment on either side has been made and there is a considerable amount of work to be done towards establishing any firm proposal towards a first-stage feasibility study.

DOING THINGS GREENER

I attended an on-line seminar hosted by Community Action Suffolk on 28th April entitled, 'Village Halls Doing Things Greener'. Although Elmswell clearly ticks many of the 'green' boxes in terms of heat pumps, solar PV, EV charging etc, there are areas of interest as yet untried. I made contact with an interesting and experienced architect regarding the possibility of community heating shared by the proposed affordable houses on the Tavern site and the refurbished pub itself and now have some lines of enquiry regarding the possibility of wind turbine power generation at Blackbourne and the chance of local investors in any such scheme enjoying subsidised electricity over a 25 year contract period.

ELMSWELL – WOOLPIT COMMUNITY PATH

I attended with Ward Members and officers from BMSDC & SCC a walk-through of the route of the proposed Elmswell – Woolpit community path. We were able to identify the serious engineering pinch-points at the almshouses, A1088 and the A14 bridge which inform a detailed proposal based on SCC's earlier assessment which puts a total build-cost at some £740k. Delivery is difficult given the need for developer input under s106 and the lack of any central funding pot. The scheme is now more clearly identified and defined. Discussion will move on to specific areas of difficulty / concern when various options, including alternative routing, may be considered.

BORLEY CRESCENT DEVELOPMENT SITE BOUNDARY ISSUES

I attended on 11th May with Cllr Brown at the new Borley Crescent development site with the Orbit site manager and their Senior Constructions Manager to address the concerns expressed by residents of Blackbourne Road regarding potential overlooking at the estate boundary. It was agreed that any mitigation measures might best be talked-through individually with households concerned and that I should put them in touch directly with Orbit to that end and I have done so.

SCHOOL ROAD / CHURCH ROAD JUNCTION

I was invited to discuss on-line on Friday 13th May with the Philip Isbell, BMSDC Chief Planning Officer and Cllr Mansel as Ward Member the reasoning behind and consequences of the lack of conformity between the Minuted Committee decision and the subsequent Decision Notice re Condition 10, highways mitigation of Reserved Matters ref DC/18/01246, Land East at School Road.

Mr Isbell confirmed without equivocation that the process had failed and that the outcome was wrong but binding. He has begun an initiative to change the due process so as to avoid such errors in the future.

Meanwhile, I had spoken with the Regional MD of Bloor Homes who assured me that their interest does not lie in delaying delivery of the junction mitigation scheme and that this work will be agreed and begun as soon as the various processes relating to the Safety Audit and Highways conditions are agreed and when a timetable for booking the road space is fixed with the various statutory undertakers who need to complete trenching and other works in a co-ordinated programme.

Mr Isbell agree that this does seem to be the case and that there is no financial incentive on the developer's part to delay the s278 agreement and subsequent works.

Nevertheless, the danger in the interim of the first wave of heavy construction traffic having to traverse the junction as it now is was stressed and a meetings will be co-ordinated by BMSDC with SCC Highways regarding the final design of the safety works and with Bloor Homes regarding the programming of those works once agreed.

POTENTIAL NEW SCHOOL SITE

I sought a meeting with the relevant BMSDC officer regarding the status of their land at School Road which EPC has suggested might be aggregated with other adjacent parcels to create a site for a second primary school in the village incorporating community leisure facilities and green space. Preliminary design work has been produced suggesting that the site might be used for an exemplar housing development. The land is currently ring-fenced in the Housing Revenue Account

AUDIT

I was pleased to have once again been given a clean bill of health following the Annual Internal Audit carried out for the first time by Dave Crimmin, as previously agreed by Council. The 2 points raised have been or are being addressed and do not impinge on the positive findings in all relevant areas.

As with previous auditors, Dave Crimmin carried out, free of charge, an examination of the paper trail linking bookings made for facilities at Wesley & Blackbourne and eventual banking of the correct fees with BWMA together with the operation of BWMA under its Constitution and the Association's Heads of Agreement with EPC. All was found to be in order.

We are now, effectively, running an SME with 3 key cost centres and some 20 employees.

The healthy and business-like picture which the audit reflects is a credit to my assistant, Ann Brett, who juggles bookkeeping with HR, purchasing and line-management duties whilst always presenting a personable face to staff and to the many public and business enquirers we have to the office day-to-day.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The new LGA Code of Conduct replaces the Suffolk Code which Council adopted in 2012. It has been adopted by all of the principal authorities in Suffolk and is widely considered to be a much improved framework of governance and I recommend adoption for Elmswell PC.

It builds on the Seven Principles of Public Life (Nolan) and establishes a set of general principles specifically designed for the role of Councillor.

In general, it provides more explanation of what the rules mean, with further detail still contained in the guidance notes.

It specifies that a member is acting in that capacity when they misuse their position, or if their actions would give the impression that they are acting as a councillor. The code applies to all forms of communication and interaction, including:

- face-to-face meetings, online or telephone meetings
- written, verbal and non-verbal communication
- electronic and social media communication, posts, statements and comments

The rules on declaring and accepting gifts and hospitality are much clearer. The biggest change for Suffolk councillors relates to interests.

The Suffolk Code was largely silent on those interests that are neither disclosable pecuniary interests (DPI), nor so called 'local non-pecuniary' interests (LNPI).

It does not, for example, cater effectively with the councillor at a meeting considering a proposed development which would spoil the view from their house. It is clearly not the councillor's DPI and the Suffolk Code leaves only the Nolan Principles as a generic consideration as to whether they need to restrict their involvement at the meeting.

The completely new category of 'non-registerable interests' would address this, requiring declaration and withdrawal if it directly relates to the financial interest or well-being of the member (or a close relative or associate). Furthermore, if a matter affects the member's financial interest or well-being more than the majority of parishioners, then this has to be declared also. An application (in writing) can be made to the Council for a dispensation to take part for each of the three categories. Dispensations can only be granted in specific circumstances.

COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT



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Despite the continuing and fluctuating difficulties presented by the pandemic constraints, Council business has been properly and thoroughly conducted. Day-to-day problems have generally been the result of other agencies experiencing problems in adapting to new ways of working. The Clerk's office has remained open throughout and service to the public regarding the frequent and all-important issues raised by residents of speeding traffic, dog fouling, fly tipping, potholes etc has continued with no drop in efficiency or effectiveness.

The success of Wesley and the decision to manage the Elmswell Tavern directly as a true community pub until refurbishment has imposed much greater pressure on the Clerk's office and this has been addressed by extending the hours available and, rather belatedly, recognising the key role played by Ann Brett as Assistant to the Clerk following a detailed appraisal of the workload and responsibilities conducted by the Suffolk Association of Local Councils. Beyond the day-to-day, the key issues addressed over the year have included, in no particular order:

The possibility from either developer site allocation or the Council's own efforts to find a way to build extra primary school capacity within the village and thus avoid the massively unpopular and extremely short-sighted way forward as currently proposed to have our children bussed daily to Woolpit or beyond.

- o The continuing frustration at the delay in restoring the Council's new-found amenity land at Blackbourne following the improper depredations on the part of the adjacency developer by way of monstrous and unnecessary drainage excavations. This sorry saga continues despite Council pressure for remedial action.
- o The eventual formal opening of Wesley by Jo Churchill MP confirming the success of the enterprise as a genuine game-changer in what Council is able to offer to residents by way of social and community resources right across a range of uses and activities. It is not fanciful to say that Wesley has offered many of our residents a real uplift and created opportunities for social networking and cohesion - as well as excellent coffee and cake.
- o Council has continued to work with Elmswell Community Enterprise and the Elmswell community Land Trust towards a cohesive development concept for the Greene King site which the community agreed to purchase for the development of community affordable houses and a community pub. The complexity of legislation surrounding Registered Housing providers make the process of determining a way forward for the housing without falling foul of the Right to Buy legislation which has caused serious distortion of the social housing and rented sector. Meanwhile, the transfer of the management of the pub to the ECE group, including 1,000 hours of volunteer clean-up over a preparatory weekend, has dramatically improved the community contribution that the pub can and will make and clearly shows the way forward.
- o Following the very successful extension works at Blackbourne's Chamberlayne Hall we are, as I write, seeing the insertion of the promised rooflights which will provide the ventilation improvements that Covid highlighted as well as a much brighter room. I was pleased to be able to draw upon my professional experience towards the concurrent exercise to coat the time-expired old metal profile roof with a proprietary spray treatment offering a further 25 years' life. Council's eye to constant renovation, refurbishment and improvement serves the community well, and I thank fellow councillors for their support in this sometimes mundane but important process.
- o Council has tried to have some constructive input to the long-anticipated SCC HGV lorry management plan but it is unsure as to how this is being processed. Meanwhile, in true EPC fashion, we are drawing up our own recommendations for discussion with SCC Highways officers for initiatives and action towards addressing the increased road safety hazard as our community grows rapidly and traffic noticeably increases. Furthermore, the upgrading of our SID units does seem to be paying off.
- o Council's pragmatic approach to trimming its brief regarding the production of a Neighbourhood Development Plan has, after 7 tortuous years, allowed for the first formal Public Consultation. The constantly changing background to the due process including the shortcomings on the part of others with regard to the lack of a 5 year housing supply and the traumatic delivery of the ever-emerging Joint Local Plan have compounded our own local difficulties including the deliberations over a Relief Road and the constant cascade of large housing development schemes. The decision to go for the most basic feasible Plan framework should allow for a conclusion to the current procedure and the consequent benefit in terms of enhanced Community Infrastructure Levy payments whilst leaving the Plan wide open to immediate review and modification in a considered and deliberate rolling process.
- o The very recent inception of EV charging points at both Wesley and Blackbourne points up once again EPC's continued drive and ambition on behalf of the community. We remain, I suggest, a good example of what local councillors can achieve at the most local level and I see no indications of flagging ambition, drive, energy and vision looking forward.

My thanks are clearly due and accorded for the help and support of Councillors during the year and for the ever-present Clerk's office helping guide Council through what has been another successful, albeit challenging, 12 months. *Cllr Fred Pallett*

Future Council Meetings

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

June 20th	July 18th	Sept 19th	Oct 17th	Nov 21st
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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
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MID SUFFOLK WARD MEMBERS' ANNUAL REPORT



Governance The Green party had a very successful result a by-election in the Thurston Ward, so the Council remains hung. Many decisions are being decided on the Chairman's vote and there has been little collaborative working between the administration group and the Green and Liberal Democrat group.

Council meetings are now being held in person, but virtual platforms continue to be used for briefings and internal meetings. It is hoped that the Council will in future be able to hold 'hybrid' meetings where voting Council members need to be physically present at meetings, but some officers and members of the public will be able to make presentations and representations online.

Budget and investments Mid Suffolk's general fund budget continues to be in a healthy condition, and next year's council tax will be frozen. The council agreed the proposal from the Green and Liberal Democrat group to spend some of the Growth and Efficiency Fund to provide 2 electric bus services to help residents get into Stowmarket for a 2 year period. The Council's investment in CIFCO continues to provide revenue despite the value of the assets deteriorating.

Climate Change and Biodiversity The Council has recently adopted the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure plan to encourage more residents to travel sustainably in the district.

As part of the Tree and Hedgerow planting scheme over 200 trees and c2,500 hedgerow plants have been delivered to parishes. Over 250 trees were given to celebrate births during 2021 as part of the 'Tree for Life' scheme. The construction of a solar carport is well underway at Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre and the new visitor centre at Needham Lake will be opened this summer. The waste tankers are now all operating on hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) which should cut carbon emissions by 90%. MSDC adopted a Net Zero Carbon Toolkit as technical guidance for both developers and homeowners to help reduce the carbon footprint in new and existing buildings.

Housing The Housing Revenue budget was agreed by full Council, and as the Government have now lifted the rent cap, Council tenants will see a 4.1% increase in their rent. The HRA business plan is to be developed and hopes to include a programme of improvements to existing Council stock as well as building and acquiring dwellings. Part of the housing development on the old HQ site in Needham Market has been completed and this included 3 new council homes, and a further 15 affordable homes were acquired across the district in 2021. Over 100 residents were prevented from becoming homeless and the Council provided 16 dedicated beds for Rough Sleepers courtesy of grant funding. After some difficulties at Thedwastre Close in Elmswell, the units there are now being used for temporary accommodation to help people move on to taking on tenancies. As part of the response to the Ukraine crisis, MSDC officers will be carrying out housing checks on the properties which will be offered to Ukrainian refugees, once the applications have been processed by the Home Office.

Planning Following the inspector's report on the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local plan, the Councils have decided to proceed with a 2-part local plan. This will enable the important social, economic and environmental objectives to be published in a Part 1 Joint Local Plan which will be adopted first, whilst the remaining work on spatial strategy matters and housing allocations will be addressed in a Part 2 Joint Local Plan. MSDC currently has over 9 years housing land supply. Locally the reserved matters planning applications for small developments on Ashfield Road and Grove Lane have been granted, along with many householder applications for extensions and garages etc. Outline permission for 86 dwellings on School Road was granted along with conditions relating to highway improvements on School Road and at the junction with Church Road. This site has now been transferred to Bloor Homes who have now submitted a reserved matters application and there are ongoing discussions about the highway improvements. We are still awaiting decisions on the applications for 19 houses on the corner of Ashfield Road and Grove Lane and the fuel station and drive-thru restaurants on the A1088 roundabout. Slightly further afield the reserved matters application for 300 homes north of Bury Road in Woolpit was granted in January, but we still await any decision on whether the County Council will be building a new school there.

Wellbeing The council adopted its first Wellbeing Strategy this year. A number of initiatives across the district took place during the year including Family Park Cooking session in Stowmarket, free Christmas Holiday activity session, Our Parks (free outdoor fitness sessions) in Stowmarket and the Active Schools programme. Mid Suffolk District Council together with Suffolk County Council and Stowmarket Town Council supported the launch in July of the Chilton Fields parkrun held every Saturday morning.

Economy The Council continues to support the development of Gateway 14 which is now part of Freeport East. The business case has now been agreed by Cabinet. Almost 200 young people attended the Careeriosity event focussing on STEM and cultural industries. The Council held it's first Local Energy Showcase which attracted over 200 visitors and several local businesses. BMSDC's Virtual High Street project won a Gold IESE award.

Communities Almost £400,00 worth of grants were distributed to support the communities across the district.

MSDC acquired the land for the new Woolpit Health Centre car park ahead of planned schedule.

We were pleased to be able to allocate all of our locality budget to community groups in both villages.

The Elmswell based projects included:

- Elmswell Football Club for white lining equipment
- Wesley Ukelele Group for some PA equipment
- Elmswell Library Friends for a digital projector
- Elmswell PC for COVID safe improvements to both Wesley and Blackbourne meeting rooms.

The next tranche of locality funding will be starting in the next couple of weeks and we welcome applications from any community group, in particular any who have not benefitted previously.

Mid Suffolk District Council information is available via www.midsuffolk.gov.uk or by phone 0300 123 4000

We would like to thank the Parish Council for all their work done throughout the year.

Sarah Mansel Mid Suffolk District Councillor – Elmswell and Woolpit Ward

Email: sarah.mansel@midsuffolk.gov.uk

Phone: 07860 829517

Helen Geake Mid Suffolk District Councillor – Elmswell and Woolpit Ward

Email: helen.geake@midsuffolk.gov.uk

Phone: 07548 154300



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VILLAGE INDEX

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

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

Amenities Association	Jean Barker (Sec)	eea@elmswell.org.uk	241135
Art Club	John Welford	welford955@btinternet.com	240166
Baby & Toddler Group	Donna Hughes	elmswellbtgroup@gmail.com	
Baptists	Dave Hollings	davehollings@btinternet.com	241323
BATS (Badminton & Table Tennis)	Simon Theaker	simon@coakleyandtheaker.co.uk	
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 & Rainbows	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@labbott.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.Mansel@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	Tammy	elmswellguides@outlook.com	
Health Centre - Woolpit			240298
History Group	Stella Chamberlin	stellachamberlin@yahoo.co.uk	
Ladies Voices (Choir)	Anna Wilton Mills	annawm63@gmail.com	
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
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	Jen & Lizzie	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 - it might help you in planning dates for your events.

June 2022

- 2 Over 55's club Platinum Celebrations
- 6 2pm Ladies Friendship Group - Tour of St. Edmundsbury Cathedral - men welcome as well
- 9 Elmswell History Group 2021-22 AGM at 7pm, at Wesley. - immediately followed at 7.30pm by Speaker Jacquie Norman: Tudor Costume in the time of Henry VIII
- 9 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 14 Elmswell WI, 7.30 at The Wesley, Burlesque, Me and the WI, Lindsay Barrel
- 16 Over 55's club Outing 12 Lost Churches & Aldeburgh
- 21 Elmswell Garden Club 7.30pm at the Wesley Hall Chris Dale - Sweet Peas

July 2022

- 7 Over 55's club Strawberry Supper
- 12 Elmswell WI, 7.30pm at the Wesley. Social evening, outside if possible.
- 14 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 14 Elmswell History Group Annual Outing - to be confirmed. Details and Tickets from 01359-242601
- 21 Over 55's club Jonny Rondo Country Music

August 2022

- 4 Over 55's club Bingo
- 9 Elmswell WI, 7.30pm at the Wesley. Elmswell in the past, Paul Peachey.
- 18 Over 55's club Sing along with Hank

September 2022

- 12 10.30am Ladies Friendship Group - A visit to The Hut at Felixstowe inc Fish & Chip lunch - men welcome as well
- 13 Elmswell WI, 7.30pm at the Wesley. Secrets of stained glass, Michelle Russell.

October 2022

- 3 2pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - Floristry demonstration by Tracey Ball
- 11 Elmswell WI, 7.30pm at the Wesley. B&B to B and bondage, Sue Dawson

November 2022

- 7 2pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - Candle Arrangements and Table Decorations

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 ryoishintowaryuheiho@gmail.com tel. 07711 680262

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

BATS- badminton / table tennis / pool at Blackbourne Friday nights 7 - 9.30 simon@coakleyandtheaker.co.uk

BOWLS - barryhayward1902@gmail.com tel. 240951

GUIDES - Monday evenings 5.00 - 8.30 elmswellguides@outlook.com

FOOTBALL - shaun.pratt@btinternet.com 07494 864231

RAINBOWS - elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com

JUNIOR FOOTBALL - smyth98@hotmail.com 07717 841591

CUBS Tuesdays 6.15 - 7.30 - claremariekeefe@gmail.com

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

WI - evening at Wesley 2nd Tuesday monthly 7.30pm Terry Byford bbazby@aol.com

WI - afternoon at Wesley 1st Wednesday monthly Carol Blissett carolblissett@hotmail.co.uk

ART CLUB at Wesley every Tuesday 9.00 - 12.00 John Welford welford955@btinternet.com

HISTORY GROUP at Wesley 2nd Thursday monthly 7.30 stellachamberlin@yahoo.co.uk

GARDEN CLUB at Wesley 3rd Tuesday monthly 7.30 elmswellgardenclub@gmail.com

CARPET BOWLS - Wednesday 7.00pm at Wesley - jf.boxall@btinternet.com

COMPANIONS - every other Friday 10 - 12 at Wesley - linda@abbott.plus.com

PILATES - Monday & Friday mornings - 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

Your Newsletter Fact File

For the next 3 months we need copy by: June 21st, July 26th

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

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

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