

'Like a friend
dropping in'



The Elmswell Newsletter



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

SEPTEMBER 2023

On line at elmswell.suffolk.cloud

Elmswell Blooms thanks to our community champions

... see editorial and page 29



Have your Say

... see page 6

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

Everyone leaves their mark

Some leave quite an impression, others tread more lightly on history.

Elmswell's history throws up few remarkable individuals. King Eadwig must feature. He kick-started the whole thing in 956 by defining, 'the important estates of Elmswell and Beccles,' when he gave them away as bribes to the monastery at Bury to keep them on side as his kingdom gradually fell apart. This put us on the map.

We then wait a couple of hundred years for Abbot Samson to take in hand some of Bury Abbey's mismanaged affairs and to develop Elmswell as a feature worthy of showing off to visitors based on the moated Manor House, where Elmswell Hall Farm now stands, and its surrounding farming and hunting land.

The Manor was bought by Robert Gardener who rebuilt the house and, as an all-round doer of good works, established our almshouses in 1614. Having served as a judge and Viceroy he warranted a memorial – hence his tomb in St John's, 'signifyinge his happye immortalitie'. Probably as solid an impression as one could hope to leave.

Flicking quickly through the next 250 years we have to mention Rev. Luke who became Rector of Elmswell in 1863, serving a population then of some 759 souls. Within 2 years, Luke had laid the foundation stone of the village's first school, having raised the £600 build-cost by public subscription as Downing Street had refused state funding on grounds that almost a quarter of Elmswell's children were, 'dissenters', ie not C of E. Luke also built the Reading Room next to the station, where the vet is now based, and The Rectory opposite the church, currently Knight's Manor.

We have Gardener's Walk, Lukeswood and Monk's Path to hint at the heritage these luminaries gifted, but they can only represent a tiny proportion of those who have shaped, and continue to shape, our community.

One such, is Mike Friend who is celebrated in our pages today, having recently passed away. In 15 or so years as a resident, Mike was wholeheartedly involved in a broad range of organisations and activities, many of them below the radar. Elmsfest was a headliner, but Mike, with Sol, also pulled together the Golden Jubilee celebrations in 2002, replete with headscarves and a 1950's picnic. He took on the redundant post of Station Responder and negotiated the purchase by Greater Anglia of many hundreds of pounds worth of plants for the Garden Club volunteers (of which he was one such) to plant at the station - as witness this month's cover photo. He 'nearly started' several other initiatives...a Men's Sheds Group, a village information board at Crown Mill, a proper village map showing footpaths...all foundered as the world failed to keep up with Mike's energy, drive and imagination.

No mention in the history books for such as Mike. However contradictory it may seem, given his ebullient and very physical presence, Mike was a



Mike, as Station Responder, hoping for an opportunity to have a word with whoever dropped the litter...

fine example of those whose historic footprint is faint, but whose legacy and example help to inspire others into working to build community.

ElmsFest is back. For that and for much more we should take a moment to thank those whose back-room efforts in organising and innovating and working to keep our little community alive and kicking.

The hope must be that, as the old hands fade, a new generation looks, and learns, and has a go.



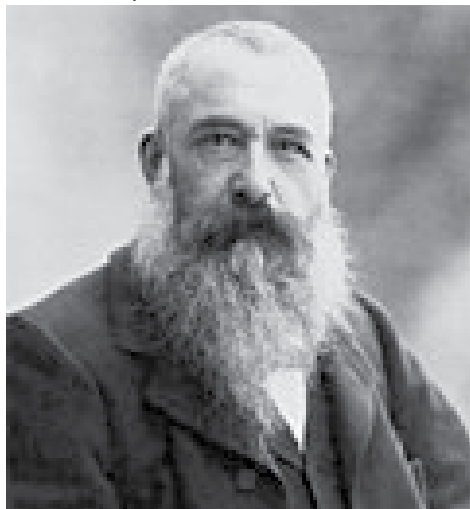
A reminder for future generations of the result of community activity – including, very notably, from Mike.

CLUBS & SOCIETIES



ELMSWELL ART CLUB

This month we would like to look at seascape paintings and to profile one of the world's finest seascape artists - Claude Monet.



Oscar-Claude Monet (14 November 1840 – 5 December 1926) was a French painter and founder of impressionist painting who is seen as a key precursor to modernism, especially in his attempts to paint nature as he perceived it.

Monet was raised in Le Havre, Normandy, and became interested in the outdoors and drawing from an early age; his ambition to document the French countryside led to a method of painting the same scene many times so as to capture the changing of light and the passing of the seasons. Apart from his seascapes, the best-known examples of his paintings are his series of Haystacks (1890–91), Rouen Cathedral (1894), and the collection of water lilies in his garden in Giverny that occupied him continuously for the last 20 years of his life.

Frequently exhibited and successful during his

lifetime, Monet's fame and popularity soared in the second half of the 20th century when he became one of the world's most famous painters and a source of inspiration for a burgeoning group of artists.

Colour and light are the first things that come to mind when one thinks of Monet; he spent his life exploring their often subtle relationships, as if painting was merely a vehicle for him to do this.

Monet's understanding of colour and light is even more impressive in his seascapes, an example of which, "The Manneport Reflections of Water" 1885, is shown below;



This month's featured paintings from our club members are two watercolours of seascapes, produced by Lilian Gama



2023 Art Exhibition

Our Exhibition of Art will be held on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th October at Wesley Hall. Artwork produced exclusively by members of the Elmswell Art Club will be displayed, many of which will be available for sale. Both days will begin at 10am and end at 4pm; entry is free and refreshments will be available to purchase from the Wesley Coffee shop.

ELMSWELL ART CLUB

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&

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& SUNDAY 8TH OCTOBER

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Come along and meet our members, they will be pleased to chat about our club and their artwork.

ELMSWELL ART CLUB MEETS EVERY TUESDAY FROM 09:00 TO 12:00 AT THE WESLEY AND NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

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CLUBS & SOCIETIES

ELMSWELL WI

Brenda welcomed us all, especially our four new members. Our meeting had a historical theme: Who was Robin Hood?

We have all heard of him but a lot of our knowledge has been gleaned from films and books. Much of the information is fictional. Graham Higgins, our speaker for the evening, is extremely knowledgeable about this subject. There are many legends about Robin Hood which grew as the years passed and involved as many as thirteen individuals. Consequently, no one knows who he really was.

William the Conqueror's brother was called Odo and he was made Bishop of St Albans. However, he became too powerful and William sent an army to overcome him, when he caused a revolt and committed robbery at Canterbury. Perhaps his name became "Hood".

On the way back from the Crusades, in 1192, Richard 1 was captured by the king of France. One third of the huge ransom was paid by the Bishop of St Edmundsbury. On his return, Richard travelled to Nottingham, where there was lots of trouble between two sheriffs. On the way, he stayed in Bury St Edmunds for two days. Also, a group of rich clerics was robbed on the main London road by a nobleman called Falk. Perhaps he distributed some of the wealth to poorer people.

Maid Marion never existed. She was invented when films and television series were created.

Whoever he was, Robin Hood would have been a Norman. However, in the late 1930's, a film of his life was made, which starred Errol Flynn. Robin was described as a Saxon to gain more support for our side in World War II.

We shall never know who Robin Hood really was but everyone loves the stories which have developed about this legendary figure.

Rosie Collins. 01359 241652

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ELMSWELL OVER 55'S CLUB

We have rounded off our meetings with the exception of the meeting on August 31st when we welcome Tyler Kemp music to provide some entertainment come along and join us from 7 00pm.

We will however be taking names for our Harvest supper on Thursday September 14th.

It is regretted the trip to the Cromer Show on Thursday September 28th has been cancelled due to lack of support. It is hoped that we may be able to book a few tickets to go to Thursford watch is space sadly the price has gone up since last year.

Grant 240943



ELMSWELL EXCHANGE W.L.

Mary, our President welcomed everyone, and introduced the speaker, Catherine Buchanan. She gave us an interesting talk on 20th century woman of Bury St. Edmunds. It included Rose Mead an artist, and Eleanor Wandsworth who was one of the few women who delivered aircraft for the airforce in the Second World War.

Ella Cockram was the first female Doctor in 1927, and Eva Wollaston Green who was the first woman councillor in the country. Who new that Bury had all these women in their past.

Then we discussed the Thredwestre Group meeting that had be organised by our club at the end of July. Our speaker for the evening was Lindsey Farrell aka Cherry Bombe who spoke about her becoming a W.I. member and her Burlesque experiences. She was enjoyed by everyone and altogether it was a very good evening.

Our raffle took place and three birthday gifts were given out.

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 2pm in the Wesley Hall.

Mary
t. 01359 245022



CITIZENS ADVICE

September brings a new school year, one of my children is in primary school and the other secondary. Between uniforms, PE kit and knowing they'll need to catch the bus each day the costs are adding up. I'm already pretty stretched, so I'm not sure how to cover these extra outgoings. Is there any help I can get?

A new school year can put pressure on lots of people's budgets, so you're not alone in your worries.

But there is help available. If you are online, a good place to start is the Citizens Advice website at citizensadvice.org.uk/family/education/help-with-school-costs where you'll find lots of information on the support you might be entitled to for school-related costs. The help you can get to cover school lunches will vary depending on how old your children are and if you claim benefits. Children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 automatically get free school meals. You

can apply for free school meals for older children if you claim certain types of benefits, including Universal Credit, Child Tax Credit and Income Support.

You mentioned concerns about travel costs. If your child can't walk to school because of special educational needs or disabilities they should get free school transport. You may be able to get help with transport costs from Suffolk County Council if your children can't walk because it's dangerous or too far.

If you're on a low income, Suffolk County Council may also be able to help you with

activity and school uniform costs. You're likely to be considered to be on a low income if you get means-tested benefits like Universal Credit or Housing Benefit. In some places there are also local charitable schemes that can help. A good place to find out about these is the school itself or Parent Teacher Association (PTA), as both will usually know if these kinds of schemes exist. A lot of people are feeling the squeeze at the moment, but it's important to remember that help is available with school costs and you're not alone.

If you need more information on getting help with school costs, the advisers at Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk will be happy to help.

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide advice on issues including debt, finances, employment, benefits, family/relationships and more. You can contact them by phone on 01449 676060, visit in person at Milton House, 5 Milton Road South, Stowmarket IP14 1EZ or use the contact form at midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us. Our opening hours are Monday-Thursday 9.30am – 3.30pm and Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm. For more information go to midsuffolkcab.org.uk.





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CLUBS & SOCIETIES



ELMSWELL GARDEN CLUB

Elmswell Garden Club does not meet in August but does have an important role in looking after the station flowers. Once again this area, masterminded by Nick Chamberlin, has looked fabulous throughout the summer. An army of volunteers, dead-head the plants and water the planters as necessary. Many people compliment the Club upon keeping the station in such good order. It makes a difference to arrive in Elmswell by train to be met by a stunning display of flowers and foliage. Not many stations along the Cambridge to Ipswich line look as stunning as our village station. At this time of the year the flowers are rich in colour, spilling over each other and jostling for space alongside their neighbours. Thank you to all who or make this area of our village so vibrant and interesting.

Last year the Canna lilies were the centre piece of the display. In the autumn, they were dug up, separated and distributed to members. Denise Lawrence was one member who stored her piece in the garage. In the Spring she planted it out and is thrilled to report that it is seven feet tall. It is a magnificent plant and it looks as though it will be able to be broken into three new plants in 2024. Well done Denise and thank you for sharing your success. It would be good to know if other members have been as successful.

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 19th September, 7.30pm at the Wesley. We welcome Bill Gardiner and Andy Gissing from the Suffolk Orchid Society** to share their expertise and knowledge as to **'How to care for Orchids'**. Bill has asked that members bring orchids they would like some advice on. Bill and Andy will then do their best to provide help and advice.

Should you need further information about Elmswell Garden Club do not hesitate to contact -

Catherine, on 01359 242172, Nick on 01359 242601, or email elmswellgardenclub@gmail.com, a good way of asking a question that will be swiftly answered. If you are new to the village or have more time to pursue your interest in gardening, do come and join us.



EXTRA BUS SERVICE DETAILS

We have reminded Suffolkonboard that 'Elmswell Memorial Hall' has been gone these 20 years or so and they have agreed to re-name the stop 'Elmswell Library'.

Rattlesden - Woolpit - Elmswell - Wetherden - Haughley - Old Newton - Stowmarket 390			
Monday to Friday (Except Bank Holidays)			
Operator	DNCT	DNCT	
Service Restrictions	M	Th	
Rattlesden, Windyridge Road (opp)	1042	1112	
Rattlesden, Brewers Arms (opp)	1044	1114	
Woolpit, Garage (o/s)	1052	1122	
Woolpit, Briar Hill (adj)	1053	1123	
Elmswell, Shop Corner (adj)	1058	1128	
Elmswell, Memorial Hall (opp)	1059	1129	
Elmswell, Mill Gardens (opp)	1101	1131	
Wetherden, Maypole (opp)	1104	1134	
Haughley New Street, The Close (opp)	1106	1136	
Haughley, Post Office (opp)	1109	1139	
Haughley, Station Road (adj)	1111	1141	
Old Newton, Shoulder of Mutton (adj)	1117	1147	
Cedars Park, Redwing Drive (adj)	1124	1154	
Stowmarket, Station Road West (adj)	1129	1159	
	Saturday	Sunday	Spring Bank Holiday
	no service	no service	no service
	Summer Bank Holiday		
	no service		

The 390 service starts from Rattlesden, Poy Street at 10.40am on Mondays, and 11.10am on Thursdays.
NOTES
 M Operates on Mondays
 Th Operates on Thursdays
OPERATORS
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 Suffolk 04/09/2023

Stowmarket - Old Newton - Haughley - Wetherden - Elmswell - Woolpit - Rattlesden 390			
Monday to Friday (Except Bank Holidays)			
Operator	DNCT	DNCT	
Service Restrictions	M	Th	
Stowmarket, Station Road West (adj)	1330	1430	
Cedars Park, Redwing Drive (opp)	1335	1435	
Old Newton, Shoulder of Mutton (opp)	1342	1442	
Haughley, Station Road (opp)	1348	1448	
Haughley, Post Office (adj)	1350	1450	
Haughley New Street, The Close (adj)	1353	1453	
Wetherden, Maypole (adj)	1355	1455	
Elmswell, Mill Gardens (adj)	1358	1458	
Elmswell, Memorial Hall (adj)	1400	1500	
Elmswell, Shop Corner (opp)	1401	1501	
Woolpit, Briar Hill (opp)	1406	1506	
Woolpit, Garage (opp)	1407	1507	
Rattlesden, Brewers Arms (o/s)	£1415	£1515	
Rattlesden, Windyridge Road (adj)	£1417	£1517	
	Saturday	Sunday	Spring Bank Holiday
	no service	no service	no service
	Summer Bank Holiday		
	no service		

On the 390 service return journey, Woolpit Green and Rattlesden (ending at Rattlesden, Poy Street) will stop by request only.
NOTES
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 Th Operates on Thursdays
 s sets down only
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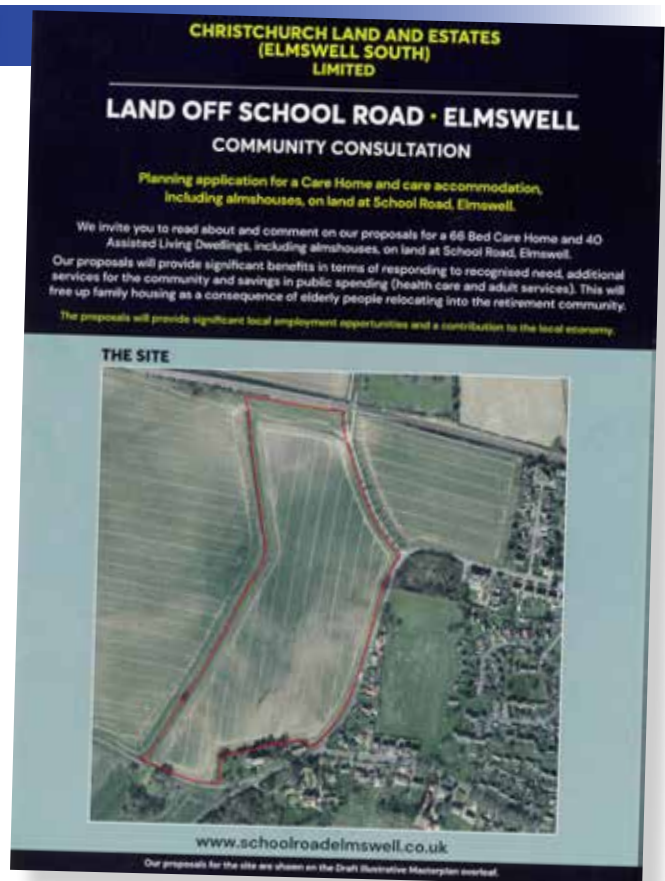


MORE BUILDING IN ELMSWELL – HAVE YOUR SAY

All households in the village should have received this consultation leaflet seeking the community's view on developing the land below St John's and back to the emerging new build houses on School Road.

The Parish Council has already commented, as reported in last month's Newsletter, making detailed objection to the idea arguing:

- There have been several attempts to build on this iconic piece of land and never has there been an effective way of lessening the dramatic visual impact on the rolling landscape setting for St John's Church
- If there is a need for this type of facility, Mid Suffolk should 'call for sites' to be considered across the District – not just be lead by the landowner's whim.
- Without a detailed financial model there can be little faith in the viability of such a scheme...and if it fails, what follows - quite likely just another housing estate?



It is not often that we are asked to comment before the Planning process begins...please return the slip on the leaflet or respond on the website by 18th September if you have a view.

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SEPTEMBER UPDATE...



SUPPORT

Bloor Homes, who are building the new houses on School Road, are clear that the prospect of a community pub in the village encourages sales. Research by the Plunkett Foundation and Northumbria University demonstrates a positive effect on house values when a community pub opens.

As a company keen on community support, Bloor have donated £500 to the Tavern project. Bloor Sales Adviser Paul Myers, who lives in Elmswell, is seen here outside the pub with shareholders Olly Jackson and Lucy Holt together with young Ted who came prepared for a family fun day with footballing possibilities.



PLANS

Mid Suffolk Planning Officers are now looking at the principle of developing the pub along the lines suggested by the various consultations as tested by the experience gained in the volunteers having run it for 9 months in 2022. Costing of the proposed works is being tackled by the professionals on the group producing and evaluating what is, in effect, 2 jobs - refurbishing the heritage building and adding the new-build. This reflects the approach used so successfully at Wesley next door. Meanwhile, one of the local building merchants is using its bespoke software to produce estimates for comparison. The raw all-in figure that emerges will begin a process of matching a realistic target to available funding.



FUNDING

One of the shareholders who emerged to be elected to the Board at the recent AGM offers considerable experience of charitable structures and financing to augment his professional background in technical and commercial management as well as being a provider of business advice, consultancy and services to SME's and social enterprises. He has taken on the regularisation of the Group's structure as it works towards assuming full responsibility of the village asset which a community pub will represent. He is also looking at the co-ordination of funding beyond share income but this, clearly, cannot be fully engaged until a target project cost is set.

WHAT PUB?

It is clear that the success of last year, when the ECE Group managed the premises as a community pub and broke-even financially, owed much to the extraordinarily fine weather. It allowed long weekends of outside trade as well as several very successful Family Fun Days. This year's drab and soggy summer would have cost the community dear. There are some 21 pubs within a 10 minute drive time of Elmswell. They largely prosper on their food trade which offers better margins and greater yield-per-customer than pubs offering only drinks...the 2 examples of 'wet only' houses in our area are either very well established with a customer base built up over many years or are cross-subsidised by other pubs in the same ownership that do offer food. The balance between the restaurant / gastro / 'destination' establishments and the pub / community space examples is key. The direction indicated thus far is for a community pub offering good pub food and a safe, attractive outside space. Once the shape of the building emerges there will be much community-wide discussion as to how the spaces are filled and what they offer.



SHARES...

A Board meeting early in September will be asked to officially confirm the re-opening of a Share Offer to take advantage of the continued interest from the community in having a stake in our pub. The Offer will be widely advertised.

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ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP



From the ARCHIVE

Thinking of all the recent worldwide fires, history tell us that in Sept 1534 the Tudor fire service in Ipswich was enhanced when the town authorities ordered that every free man in Ipswich must bring a leather bucket of two gallons' capacity to the Moot Hall. These leather buckets, known as bobbets (as found on the *Mary Rose* ship), were used for fighting fires in the crowded wooden buildings lining the town centre's streets. The Town Treasurer also supplied each parish with ladders and long rakes for pulling burning thatch off buildings. (Nathaniell Bacon, *Annalls of Ipswich*; Ipswich Transport Museum)



Suffolk's SENSE OF HUMOUR

On 30th August 1905, a total eclipse of the sun across Western Europe was expected to be visible in Ipswich, turning midday into twilight. Street vendors were planning to do a good trade in smoked glass but, in the event, they were not needed. A strong northerly wind prevailed in Ipswich, blowing dense masses of cloud before it. Then it rained and there was nothing much to be seen, except at 1pm when the moon could just about be seen in front of the sun. It never got appreciably darker and some people in Ipswich were heard to say that "it should have been postponed until the weather was better"! (*The Eastern Counties' Chronology or Book of Days*, 1906; *Suffolk Chronicle*, 1905)

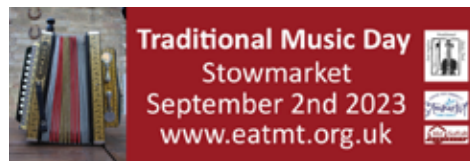
Suffolk Archive's John Blatchly LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARY.

Some of you will remember our recent Book Sale which raised £110 towards this library, the official opening of which was on 27th July in Ipswich at The Hold, in Fore Street (just off the Waterfront and opposite the University building). Together with some members of Wetherden History Society, our Chairman Roger and Secretary Stella attended this opening

when they were also treated to a fascinating lecture entitled "*One Tudor Statesman Trains Another: Thomas Wolsey & Thomas Cromwell*" by renowned Oxford historian, Rev.Prof. Sir Diarmaid MacCulloch, in the superb new and comfortable on-site Lecture Theatre. There was also the opportunity to look round the Wolsey Exhibition which remains there until 29th October and is free entry – well worth a visit.

DIGGING FOR BRITAIN

If you missed this archaeological history programme the first time round, it's being repeated on BBC4 (Freeview Channel 9) at 8pm on Mondays, so look out for the one specifically about finds in Eastern England.



East Anglian TRADITIONAL MUSIC DAYS, Sat 2nd Sept

various central Stowmarket venues, offering a choice of 18 exciting and interesting ticketed events. Also, several FREE events throughout the day giving opportunities to sing, play in music sessions, or just listen to local musicians. You may also wish to have-a-go at step dancing, working jig dolls, maybe even join in with the odd Morris dance, or take the chance to relax and enjoy watching and soaking up the atmosphere. A full programme, more details and tickets are at www.eatmt.org.uk, or 07495-054669.



heritage open days

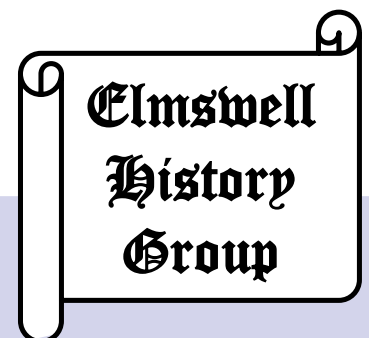
HERITAGE OPEN DAYS, 8-17th Sept

This is your chance to celebrate our fantastic culture and to explore historic sites and hidden locations, many of which are not normally open to the public – for FREE! Check out www.heritageopendays.org.uk or local details from What's On W.Suffolk 01284-758000, Tourist Info Centres at Bury 01284-764667 (Apex + Cathedral), or Ipswich 01473-258070.

We're looking forward to welcoming you back for the **start of our new season** of talks, the first on **14th September** being by Suffolk architectural historian, Timothy Easton, "*Magic Circles & Protective Symbols in East Anglia's Historic Buildings*". Protective symbols have been used for centuries to ward off evil and enhance good fortune. Timothy has been responsible for decoding scribed symbols applied to interiors that helped past occupants gain protection against the fear of malevolent

activities, and is a specialist on the painted surfaces of buildings of the 16th and 17th centuries.

As this will be the start of our 2023-24 season, **annual subs will be due for payment** in September, which remain at £10pp (Sept-Aug) plus £3pp at each attendance, i.e. £13 payable on your first visit. Alternatively, if you don't wish to join us as an annual member, you can still attend any of our talks as a Visitor and pay just £5.

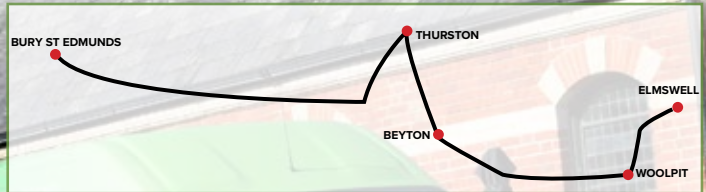


For further information about our History Group, please visit our website –

www.elmswell-history.org.uk

or contact our Secretary, on 01359-242601

TAXI-BUS SERVICE TO BURY



Trial now extended to the end of the year!

The Parish Councils of Beyton, Elmswell, Thurston & Woolpit have come together to try to address the problems caused by the loss of our bus service.

The trial run throughout July & August is now extended until 31st December offering a return trip into Bury (Angel Hill) every Wednesday and Saturday

- ✓ The return fare from Elmswell is £6.00
- ✓ Booking essential 2 days in advance
- ✓ Leaving Wesley car park in Elmswell between 9.30 & 9.45 am – gets to Bury about 10.30 having called at Woolpit, Beyton & Thurston
- ✓ Return from Bury at 1.30

To book ring 01359 244134 weekdays between 8.00am and 4.00pm or call in or email the office

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01359 244134
clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

The patient participation group (PPG) was set up in 2012 to represent the patients of Woolpit Health Centre. The aim of the PPG is to work with the practice to improve services to patients at both the Health Centre and other providers. The PPG meets every two months for one hour. If you are interested in joining the group please contact the Health Centre via email at wscg.woolpit@nhs.net.

You can also join the facebook group on <https://www.facebook.com/woolpithealth/>.

At the last meeting, the following matters arose: Parent & child parking spaces The disabled spaces are allowed to be used as parent and child spaces with immediate effect. Signage is in the pipeline.

E-consultation This is the preferred, but not the only way, to contact the health centre for an appointment. It is more efficient and allows

the health centre to contact patients in order of priority. Targets for response on the same day etc are being met. A callback system is being looked at for the phone line should people not want to hold.

More doctors 2 new GP's are starting in August together with new junior doctors, which will give us a total of eight junior doctors.

Staffing Cheryl, the new social prescriber has increased her days. New care navigators on you (receptionists) are about to or have already started. Two full time physiotherapists have been employed across the Blackbourn Primary Care Network – the 4 practices of Woolpit, Botesdale, Ixworth and Stanton. As we are the largest practice, it is expected that we will have a physio at Woolpit every day. Appointments for first contact with the physio, the social prescriber and the mental health practitioner



can be made via the WHC website.

Prescriptions robot The new prescriptions robot has had 2000 patients sign up to collect prescriptions. There have been teething problems and technical issues, but these have been resolved quickly, mostly by the next day. It cannot take payments yet, but it will do so in the future. If you get free prescriptions, it's your answer to the queuing at the pharmacy. The other answer to queuing at the pharmacy is to use Elmswell or Thurston pharmacies. The pharmacy manager has enlightened us as to the abuse suffered by the staff there. This ranges from items being thrown at staff swearing, racist comments and even people trying to prise the doors open after closing.



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ELMSWELL LIBRARY

Hello Elmswell,

Well done to everyone who took part in the Summer Reading Challenge. We had over 80 children sign up to it this year. We are looking forward to the celebration event where those who finished come and get their medal and certificate. This year the medals and certificates will be presented by Ben Smith, the head coach at Stowmarket Lawn Tennis Club.

This month's exhibition is artworks by members of Stowmarket Art Club.

We will still have 'Recycled Hound' by Zoe Rubens, the PAWS-itivity sculpture, in the library for you to see. There are different sculptures across the libraries and you can pick up a souvenir guide in the library for £3 where you can find out about each one.

The Community Café is back this month. It is a social group for anyone to go along to that meets at the Wesley Café every 3rd

Wednesday of the month at 10.30am. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 20th September.

The display theme this month is Empires. It will include fantasy, historical fiction and science fiction books set in empires around the world and beyond. Among the books in the display will be Death of Kings by Conn Iggulden, Thorn by Intisar Khanani, Star Wars Heir to the empire by Timothy Zahn, Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi, Conquerors: how Portugal forged the first global empire by Roger Crowley, The low road by Katharine Quarmby.

We are able to offer the range of books, activities, newspapers, computer access, in part to donations to Suffolk Libraries. If you are able to, please consider donating to Suffolk Libraries. You can donate via <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/sup-port-us>

See you in the library soon,

Miles

What's on at Elmswell Library?

Story Time

1.10pm – 1.30pm every Tuesday

Chess Club

No Chess Club in August or September

The Keep in Touch Community Café

10.30am on Wednesday 20th September at the Wesley Café (every 3rd Wednesday)

Sunday Crafts

1pm – 2pm every Sunday

Lego Club

Every Sunday 11am – 12noon

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

FOOTPATH WALK 13 AUGUST

On a fine late summer Sunday morning a party of five parishioners and three dogs met up at the village sign with high expectations of a pleasant amble around the village footpaths. It was good to see the return of one of the stalwarts of the footpath walks returning following an absence due to health matters.

A smart right and right again took the group along FP10 parallel to the railway line which, reacting to public comment, Elmswell Parish Council had cleared in the absence of action by Suffolk County Council. A left took us past the Orbit Homes Spring Grove development which appears to be in the final phase of construction. A right on to FP9 sent us eastwards through cereal fields awaiting harvest and thence, with the aid of the Footpath Officer's key, through the gate on to Mutton Hall.



Across the open fields, through the sheep and a gate or two the group continued eastish, turning right and left under the railway bridge and finally left on to Ashfield Road having crossed into the Parish of Wetherden some while since.

The day was warming up and Ashfield Road then, turning left, Drove Lane gave a degree of welcome shade. Now heading northish, past the chicken houses, the path crossed open fields then on to a shady tunnel finally meeting up with Grove Lane at Botany Bay Bungalow.

A left here took the group towards, then past, the industrial estate turning left on to FP6 on the final leg of the walk. Retracing our steps on FP9 and then FP10 the party returned to the starting point at Crown Mill following a very pleasant social amble.

A walk of approximately 3.88 miles in 1 hour 41 minutes (an average speed of 2.3 miles per hour).

Peter Hancock, EPC Footpath Officer

PLEASE NOTE THAT DUE TO HOLIDAY COMMITMENTS THE NEXT ELMSWELL FOOTPATH WALK WILL BE ON SUNDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER



ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Greetings from St John's Church

All are welcome at St John's, your friendly local parish church. We meet weekly at 10:30am each Sunday. On the first Sunday in each month, we enjoy an informal family service for all ages. On other Sundays, there is a Sunday School and a talk from the Bible for adults. Twice a month we share the Lord's Supper (also known as Holy Communion). Afterwards there is tea and coffee and a time to chat.

Perhaps you used to go to church, but have got out of the habit, or perhaps it is all new to you. Why not come and check us out on 10th September, **Back to Church Sunday**? We would love to see you. Also in September, we are welcoming a guest speaker from the Tearfund charity on the 17th, thinking about why Christians should care for the environment on the 24th and then celebrating Harvest on 1st October (followed by lunch in the church).

You can also check out our services online on our web site, YouTube or Facebook (links are below). Maybe listen to one of our talks on the amazing women of faith we have been hearing about over the summer. In August, we heard about Esther and the unnamed woman who met Jesus at a well (both recorded in the Bible) and about 2 awesome missionaries – Gladys Aylward who rescued 100 children from the Japanese army in China in the late 1930s and Helen Roseveare who worked as a doctor in Congo in the 1950s and 1960s.

Finally, many thanks to Mike Schofield and Suffolk Historic Churches Trust for organising and funding the installation of a beautiful bench in the churchyard (pictured), which commemorates the late Queen Elizabeth II.

Upcoming Dates:

Sun 3 Sep 9:00am Holy Communion
 Sun 3 Sep 10:30am Family Service
 Sun 10 Sep 10:30am Back to Church Sunday

Sun 17 Sep 10:30am Tearfund Sunday
 Sun 24 Sep 10:30am Eco Sunday
 Sun 1 Oct 9:00am Holy Communion
 Sun 1 Oct 10:30am Harvest Family Festival

Every Saturday:

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

We live stream most of the 10:30am 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: www.youtube.com/@stjohnselmswell

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 September the lights will be on between 8.00 p.m. and midnight.

A night's floodlighting costs £5.

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

All bookings / payments to :-

Trevor Sadler, Abbots Warren, Church Road, Elmswell, IP30 9DU (Tel: 240908).

Thank You.

SEPTEMBER 2023 SPONSORSHIPS

- 2 to remember and thank all those past Elmswell Fire-Fighters who served their village and community so well.
- 8 cherished memories of Dora Lily Handyside. "Remembered with love". xx.
- 8 in loving memory of Pat Burch on her Birthday, 8th August. Love always, and cherished memories from all the family. xx.
- 10 in loving memory of Gary Ferguson. "Always in our thoughts". Remembered with great affection by all of the family.
- 13 in loving memory of my dear Mum, Olive Rose Dalton.
- 13 Joan Catchpole, Birthday, 82 years. Here we go again, a little Ditty to remember – "Lose your temper and you lose a friend, lie and you lose yourself". Happy Birthday to me from Me. " J .
- 16 in loving memory of William Victor Manning.
- 17 in memory of dear Tess. Margaret & Ron.
- 23 for Ricky Woolnough - 35 years ago you left us Rick. We love and miss you every day, for ever in our hearts to stay. "God Bless".
- 28 Margaret and Noel Clarke, on their Wedding Anniversary. "Remembered with great affection by all their family".
- 28 remembering our dearest Mum, Nan & Wife, Pat Burch, who passed away on 28.07.2019. "Forever living on within us". xx.
- 29 in memory of Betty Peachey who passed away 34 years ago..





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

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 Mass is usually 10am, see the weekly Newsletter or the Parish Website – www.ourladystowmarket.org.uk

All are welcome to "Coffee and Chat", 2 – 4pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. This is held in the Parish Hall above the Church – a lift is available.



ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

On Saturday September 2nd we will be joining fellow Christians at the return of Elmfest to be held at the Blackbourne, we will be with our friends from St John's Parish Church on the Christians Together in Elmswell tent we look forward to seeing you there.

On Monday 4th September our Ladies Friendship Group meet at 2.00 pm to hear a talk by Tony Diamond about "The Astonishing Life of Queen Victoria contact Margaret on 01359 241541 if you would like to join our ladies, there is no charge or commitment to attend our services.

Unfortunately we the deacons of the church have decided to cancel our Food & Friends lunch due to take place on Thursday 14th September, our Jackie who is the main

organiser of the lunches has had an accident whilst on holiday and broken her leg in three places, and Ann her number two in the team will be on holiday on that week and we feel that is unfair to ask non church member volunteers to take over we will do our best to keep all our guests aware of developments. We are very sorry to have to cancel but we feel that under the circumstances we have no option. Please remember our Jackie in your prayers as it looks like her recovery will take some time.

Our services for September will be led by:

3rd September

Rev Norman Tharby / Gabriel Olayiwola (inc. Communion)

10th September

Kevin Moore

17th September

TBA

24th September

TBA

1st October

Rev Norman Tharby (inc. Communion)

For any more information that you might need about us as a church contact Tony on 01359 241541 or go to our website www.elmswellbaptist.org or email Tony on cockant2@btinternet.com



WESLEY UKULELE BAND

WESLEY UKULELE BAND

On the 12th of August we were invited to play at the South Woodham Ferrers Ukulele Festival in their village hall. South Woodham Ferrers, previously unknown to us, is now best known for being nowhere near as posh as it sounds. Nevertheless, we were pleased to be invited and, the arduous journey aside, thoroughly enjoyed the event. There was a kitchen dispensing sandwiches and cakes and also a bar so everyone was reasonably catered for. And it gave us a chance to compare ourselves

with several other bands for the very first time. Up to this point, we could only compare ourselves with how we used to be and not with another group on the same journey. The difference that struck me was that most other groups had one outstanding uke player while the others just strummed rather glumly away, while we all have a great time and our ladies could sing all the rest under the table! Yes, I am a bit biased, obviously, but it was quite plain to hear.

We are now planning our gig at the Bury Beer Festival, which is only a few days away now. We are on at 3pm for 25 minutes, which will give us time to do 8 songs. The unfortunate thing about this and the South Woodham Ferrers event, is that we are limited to about 12 players and we have a group of about 30. This

is why, when circumstances allow, everyone is invited to play. It becomes a potential problem when expenses are incurred for the 12 which are paid for from funds to which 30 contribute. I think because Kevin is perfectly open with issues such as this and presents them directly to the group that it prevents them becoming a problem. That, plus the fact that we all get along so very well together!

Pictured above: Our view from the stage a Woodham Ferrers and the audience view of the stage. Rather like the Westhorpe gig we did, the audience consists mostly of the other performers

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

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MICHAEL (MICK) FRIEND, 1949-2023



It is with great sadness that I must announce that Michael (Mick) Friend passed away at West Suffolk Hospital in the early hours of the 5th of August due to complications from chemotherapy after battling advanced prostate cancer for the past few years. Mike is survived by his wife Sol Indurain, 3 children Christopher, Abi and Starbuck and a stepson, Iñigo Stanners.

Mike was born in 1949 in Bushey, Hertfordshire, the eldest of three siblings. After leaving school he started an electrical engineering apprenticeship but found it dull so, in 1968, he joined the London Fire Brigade and spent 26 years, mostly in West London, as a Sub Officer and then as a Fire Investigator; during this time he was awarded a medal for long service.

After medical retirement he trained as a locksmith, almost entirely self-taught, joined the Master Locksmith Association (MLA), passed the exams and, eventually,

rose to become both head examiner and chairman, helped organise some of their exhibitions as well as being a lead trainer of those new to the industry. He was also the first chairman of Sold Secure and, in 2004, published 'The Encyclopaedia for Locksmiths', marking "the first time since 1958 an English writer had produced a book for the UK security market." During his time as a locksmith, he regularly worked at Windsor castle for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Mike again retired and moved to a village near Benidorm in Spain with his then family in 2002 but, after his marriage broke down, he met my Spanish mother, who ironically lived in England, and moved to Elmswell, Suffolk, in 2007 where he gained a stepson, me, a dog Muddy and a cat Tarka. Mika and Sol were married in 2010.

As a man who always needed to do something, he established and run LockExpo, the only annual, and for certain the most dog friendly, locksmith exhibition in the UK and, every other year, the Auto Locksmiths Expo (ALEX), as well as launching and editing the Locks and Security Magazine and running various industry forums. And in his 'spare' time, and until recently, he was also a director for Easidoor, a local company that specialises in fitting automatic door controls to aid disabled people in their day to day life.

In addition, Mike was a dedicated member of the village community: he was elected to the Parish Council in 2011 and served until 2021; by then he was based in a village in the Norfolk coast where he and my mum stayed during lockdown enjoying the sea that he loved so much. Amongst other things, he was instrumental in reviving ElmsFest in 2017

and helped organise it until 2020; he was a founding member of the Community Speed Watch and loaned the money for the group to buy their first camera as well as donating money to the Blackbourne Community Centre for the purchase of a new drinking fountain.

The best way to sum Mike up would be, as one of his friends put it, the original grumpy old man; however, those of us who knew him were fully aware that this was nothing more than a façade that hid one of the kindest and most generous people you would ever meet. To me he has been a leading role model and has taught me the value of having good work ethics, how to be generous and, especially, how to care for those around me.

Iñigo Stanners, 22 Mill Gardens, Elmswell

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MICHAEL (MICK) FRIEND

There will be a memorial service at the Blackbourne Community Centre on Sunday 17th of September at 12pm. There is a dedicated webpage where family and friends can leave messages, anecdotes and any photos you would like to share with his family. <https://lockexpo.co.uk/mick-friend>

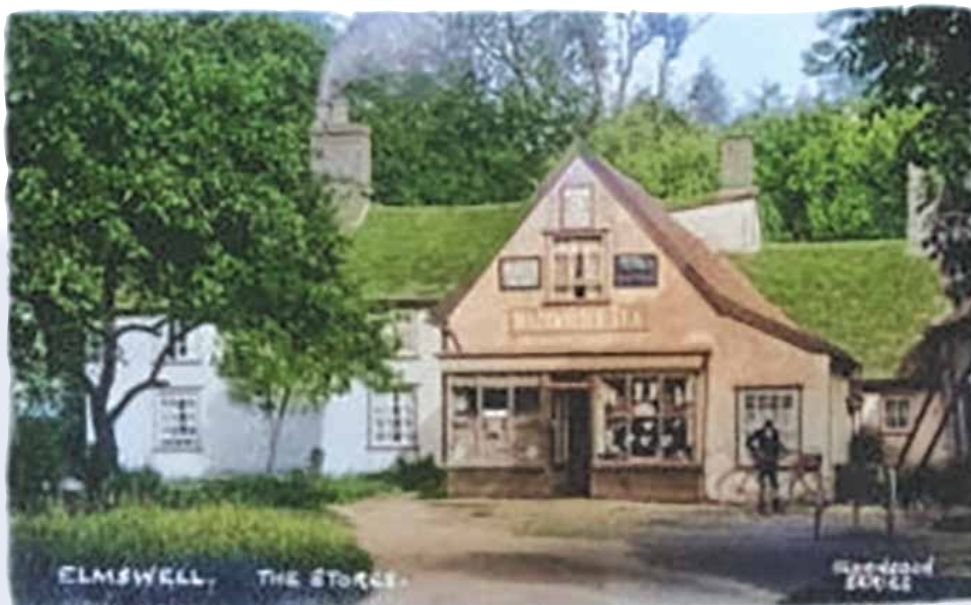
If you would like to attend the memorial, please let us know through the same page so we have an idea of numbers for catering.

Please do not bring or send flowers but, if you would like to make a donation on his behalf, links for his chosen charities are also included in the webpage.

THANK YOU

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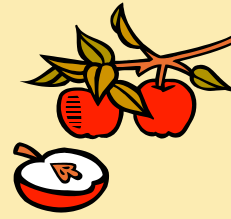
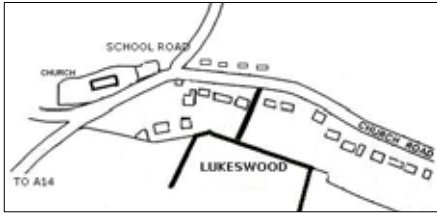
The annual ElmsWild
APPLE DAY will take place
at Lukeswood, Elmswell, on
Saturday
23 September, 2.00-5.00.

There will be activities for all
ages, along with Craft stalls,
food and produce, music,
dance, and Apple
information/display.

**Why not have a stall to raise funds for your
organisation, or sell your Crafts?
It's a great afternoon out, too!**

If you would like a stall, please get in touch,
Email: info@elmswild.org.uk

Please note that this is an outdoor event! If you need cover please bring a
gazebo. We would also ask you to bring all your own equipment including
tables. All pitches are FREE, although we would welcome donations on the
day. The entrance to Lukeswood is on Church Road, Elmswell. Parking
available on site for stall-holders. Our Eco Loo is available for visitors! Set
up from MIDDAY on Saturday.



APPLE DAY at Lukeswood

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Wesley Ukulele Band
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NEWS FROM ELMSWILD



What is Apple Day?

Apple Day is an annual nationwide celebration of apples and orchards. Apple Day events were started in 1990 by Common Ground, an organisation which aims to revive local customs and traditions, especially those that link communities to nature. It traditionally falls on October 21st, but nowadays events are held any time from mid September through to late October. There are now many Apple Days held at various places around Suffolk, and we have held an Apple Day celebration at Lukeswood since 2010.

Apple Day celebrations can take a whole variety of forms. Apple games often feature – who can cut the longest strip of peel from an apple, making pictures from cut apples dipped in paint, or apple ducking. There are sometimes cookery demonstrations, apple identification, juicing, cider making, and lots of other customs.

At Lukeswood we take a fairly eclectic view of Apple Day celebrations – anything goes, as long as people are having fun! We especially welcome local craft makers and food producers, along with games and activities of all sorts. A recent addition to our attractions is Bodgers' Corner, where local wood workers can show off their skills with knife, axe and pole lathe. We will also be welcoming back to Lukeswood, for the second time, the fabulous Wesley Ukulele Band!



When we held our first Apple Day 13 years ago our orchard was an aspiration rather than reality. We had just bought

the four acres of land that form part of our community woodland and we were hoping to add a further 2.5 acres, some of which we planned to be a community orchard. Thanks to a very generous donation from Norman Kenyon (sadly, no longer with us) and some determined fund-raising, we succeeded in buying the extra plot, one acre of which now forms our orchard. We have planted more than 60 varieties of fruit tree, including some unusual fruits such as medlar, mulberry and quince, and many traditional Suffolk varieties that you are unlikely to find on offer in the supermarket.

A few years ago we carried out a survey in the village and discovered that there were once more than 30 old orchards in Elmswell, some quite big, others no more than a group of five trees. So, if you have

an old fruit tree in your garden, it might once have been part of a much bigger orchard. Older residents may remember some of the old orchards in the village – perhaps you went scrumping for apples years ago? We'd love to hear about any old apple trees in the village, whether they're still with us or just a memory – why not come along to Apple Day and tell us your stories!

Lukeswood Apple Day is on Saturday 23rd September, 2.00-5.00. Admission is free and everyone is welcome!

Mary Feeny
info@elmswild.org.uk
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Walk to school scavenger hunt

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a bird tweeting		<input type="checkbox"/>	park		<input type="checkbox"/>
flowers		<input type="checkbox"/>	pedestrian crossing		<input type="checkbox"/>
a red car		<input type="checkbox"/>	street light		<input type="checkbox"/>

Jokes for the playground...

Q: What do you call a fly with no wings?

A: A walk

Q: What do you call a snail on a ship?

A: A snailor

Back to school wordsearch



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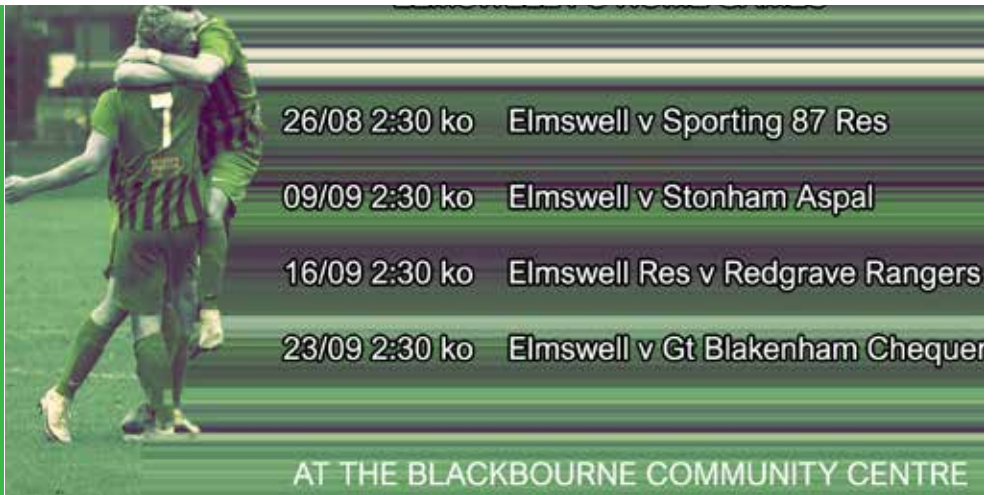
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09/09 2:30 ko Elmswell v Stonham Aspal
16/09 2:30 ko Elmswell Res v Redgrave Rangers
23/09 2:30 ko Elmswell v Gt Blakenham Chequer

AT THE BLACKBOURNE COMMUNITY CENTRE

FIRST TEAM REPORT

We hope you've a nice summer?! We certainly did. We've been busy making some great signings. Jordan Sylvester from Walsham, Damian Fisk from Old Newton, then Ed Spampanato from Walsham and Tom Emerick from Sporting should go through this week. Hopefully another to add before you read this too. Good times for the Elm!

We've had some good times on the pitch in preseason too. Decent turnouts for training and some new lads getting involved. The friendlies have been very positive too. The first was against Walsham Reserves at The Blackbourne. We won an eleven goal thriller 8-3. Elmswell goals from Hayden (2), Emerick (2), Scotty, Harris, Webby and Gunter. Then, on that really miserable weekend at the beginning of August, we beat Occold at home. The game finished 3-1 with a goal from Spampanato and a brace from Gunter. Div.1 Stanton were the next test. We managed a 3-1 win with goals from Emerick (2) and Spampanato. Our last Friendly was against Kesgrave Kestrels. We were a bit short this week and then also had an injury in the warm up. We ended up losing 4-1 (our goal from Hayden) but gave a good account of ourselves and played some decent football.

Next week (last week when you read this) we have our first league game at home to Sporting 87 Reserves. We will also be wearing the new kit, kindly sponsored by Matthew Homes.

Fixtures

26/08 Elmswell v Sporting 87
02/09 Ipswich Wanderers v Elmswell
09/09 Elmswell v Stonham Aspal
16/09 Copelstonians v Elmswell
23/09 Elmswell v Gt Blakenham Chequers
30/09 Capel Plough v Elmswell (CUP)s



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RESERVES REPORT

Firstly, thanks to everyone that came to support our games recently. We appreciate the effort and hope you saw some decent football, even if they were just preseason friendlies.

Our first friendly was at the end of July against Ransomes Reserves who are three divisions above us. The boys did superbly well and gave them a good game. We even managed to score two goals (Paul Cable getting both). Unfortunately, they had one of those days and found the top bins six times, leaving our keeper no chance. Another day it could have been 2-3 or 2-4 and that's more how the game felt.

The following week we hosted a depleted Mendlesham side and smashed them 7-1. Four goals for Frosty and one each for Jolly, Cable and Catchpole.

Our only away game was at Kesgrave Kestrels. We made a great start as Cam Harrington seemingly burst past his marker and finished sublimely from long range. He thought he'd scored the goal of the game (and possibly his career) until Kurt Bevan out did him from even further out. Bevan, more known for an annual goal from a corner, then out did himself. A cute dragback left two midfielders stranded and buoyed by his previous goal, he let rip again finding the net once more from even further out. Ben Jolly steamed through their back line and thrashed a ball down the middle for our fourth. Sadly, we conceded five quite poor goals; but there you are.

Midweek we managed a 1-1 draw with Stow Falcons Reserves. Damian Fisk getting his first goal back at the club with a back post header from an Edmonds assist.

Our last friendly was against Thurston Reserves. We gave them a good game for 60 minutes but as the match stretched on they took control. They won 4-1. Ramsey scoring from a long-range free kick for Elmswell.

We don't start our league until 9th September when we're away to Ipswich Vale Exiles.

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ELMSWELL FOX BOWLS CLUB

Well, here we are, all of a sudden it seems, with very few matches left. Monday's League finished last week and Tuesdays have two more to go although we have a Bye in the last round so it is just one more for us. The Thursday League has no game this week and the week after we have a 'crunch' match at St Botolph's. If we can get a win there we can do a last-minute leapfrog over them and go up into Division One with Coney Weston. We managed to beat Coney Weston last week so our final games against the top and seconded placed teams turned out to be not as daunting as we feared. Probably shouldn't have said that until we have played St Bots, don't want to tempt Providence! Writing in advance of events brings out my reckless streak, it seems.

We spoiled our Monday run with an unexpected home loss to Wortham, who we beat at their green, in a game I had down for another dead cert 5 points. Doesn't affect our final League position, though, and we are exactly mid table being both 4th from the top and 4th bottom. Fans of symmetry, have this one on me! Haven't got the Tuesday League to hand just now and there are games to be played yet so I will bore you with those next time.

On Saturday 19th we had a fund-raising barbeque hosted by Glynn Baker, who does a lot for local charities by offering his extensive and exquisite gardens to generate much-needed income. He had arranged a number of games for people to play much as, many years ago, Bob

Dow used to do for St John's at Rose Acre. That probably won't mean a thing to half of you but we bowled for a pig and shied at coconuts, that kind of thing. The Ukulele Band, with whom we have a very close relationship, played a couple of sessions and a great time was had by all, and we bolstered our coffers into the bargain. Many thanks to Glyn and his family for their generosity.

Our Photos from the barbeque show Jess Hudson with baby Eva and Dick Burch 'hitting the Baileys' (other equally nauseous cream-based beverages are available)

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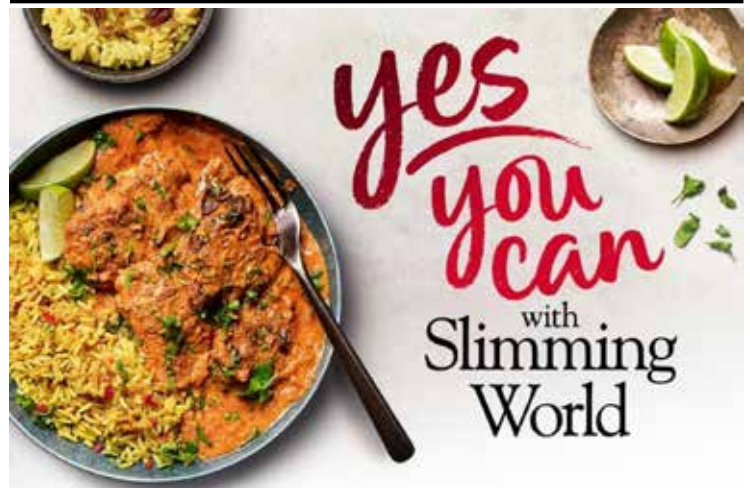
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AROUND & ABOUT

THE BIG HEDGE PROJECT UPDATE

Please mark the date...25th November; it's a Saturday and it's a chance to come together and make a difference.

No hard digging and lots of help & guidance towards planting hundreds of hedge plants along the boundary of the new community land at Blackbourne, just as we did 25 years ago round the original Blackbourne Meadow – now an invaluable windbreak and wildlife habitat.

All of our community groups from the Baby & Toddlers to the Over 55's will be encouraged to join in and make history...all helped and encouraged by Donimo the Clown and sustained by refreshments in the hall.

The hedge plants will include those in the ElmsWild Tree Nursery at the Memorial Library – they're doing really well in the current rainy weather!

Janet Spencer, Tree Warden



SATURDAY 25th NOVEMBER

9.00am - 4.00pm



Never too young to plant a tree... the 2009 Breathing Spaces event



Never too many planting....



My WiSH Charity are your local NHS charity, supporting the West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust. This includes West Suffolk Hospital, Newmarket Community Hospital and the community services provided in both health centres and peoples homes across the county.

We enhance care for all areas and aspects of healthcare including the neonatal unit which was recently supported by the Wesley Ukulele Band.

Our fundraising manager, Sally Daniels, popped along to the Wesley Coffee Shop to meet the band and to thank Phil and Cathy Stabler who were behind the fundraising.



Huge thanks to the Wesley Ukulele Band for supporting Phil and Cathy and raising a fantastic £571.81. This money will make a big difference to so many families. You can read the full story here Ukelele band concerts help to raise money for neonatal unit - My WiSH Charity

To find out more about My WiSH Charity go to www.mywishcharity.co.uk. You can also find us social media, @mywishcharity.



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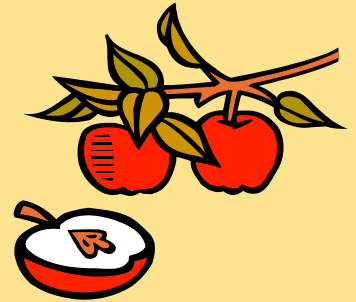
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AROUND & ABOUT

There are more than 20 active clubs and societies active in Elmswell. They quietly gather and do their thing, week after week or month after month...many, as we write, about to re-emerge after a summer break.

We are lucky to have some whose particular thing is providing and managing the facilities in which we can come together – the Parish Council, Amenities Association and BWMA who have established Blackbourne, Wesley the Library etc where community can be found.

The railway station was saved from demolition by the Parish Council some 25 years ago and a Lease secured to allow community use – hence Travel Stop being able to offer its invaluable service. This allowed us to consider making our station a bit more than just another stop on the Cambridge-Ipswich line.

Step forward Elmswell Gardening Club whose patient efforts produce an annual colour-fest.

Not content with this much valued asset to our built environment, the Club decided that their displays would benefit from a seat opposite at Crown Mill affording a view of their efforts.

Some of them are pictured having handed the seat over to Fred Pallett, Chairman of the Parish Council in February 2019.



ACROSS THE CLERK'S DESK



The Parish Council schedules a meeting for 11 months of the year omitting August unless business comes forward which requires Councillors' input.

This year there was no need to convene an August meeting although the work of the Council continues through individual councillors and the Clerk's office which remains open every weekday as usual to deal with day-to-day issues related to running Blackbourne and Wesley, the Taxi-Bus scheme, etc as well as management of the larger projects in hand.

Meanwhile, councillors and staff have recently been involved with other tasks and initiatives, including the following:

Road safety Traffic through the village is a major concern for many residents as the village grows and the through-route roads cannot be widened or adapted to suit. It is a major factor in the comments made by Councillors during the Planning process, but the traffic management professionals at SCC Highways are the agency which, effectively, decides whether or not proposals which increase traffic flows are acceptable within the limits of local and national guidelines. The Parish Council maintains a healthy dialogue with the Highways Department, most recently by funding traffic counters towards assessing the possibility of a 20mph zone through the village centre. Cllrs Fred Pallett and David Brown have worked with SCC Highways liaison officers on this exercise. These are the results:

New Road

Northbound into the village centre from the Warren Lane / Church Road junction: 1568 vehicles per day...average speed 26mph...49 vehicles at over 35mph.

Southbound away from village centre 1475 vehicles per day...average speed 25mph...15 vehicles at over 35mph.

This road would not meet the SCC criteria for a 20mph speed limit.

Station Road

Northbound towards level crossing: 2829 vehicles per day...average speed 20mph...10 vehicles at over 35mph.

Southbound towards village centre: 2927 vehicles per day...average speed 21mph...3 vehicles at over 35mph.

This road may meet the criteria for a 20mph speed limit – although this is marginal.

Cooks Road:

Northbound towards the village centre: 835 vehicles per day...average speed 24mph...7 vehicles at over 35mph.

Southbound away from village centre: 931 vehicles per day...average speed 23mph...3 vehicles at over 35mph.

This road may meet the criteria for a 20mph speed limit – but like Station Road, this is marginal.

School Road.

Eastbound into village centre: 1697 vehicles per day...average speed 27mph...38 vehicles at over 35mph.

Westbound away from village centre: 1601 vehicles per day...average speed 28mph...69 vehicles at over 35mph.

This road would not meet the criteria for a 20mph speed limit.

Warren Lane:

Here the surveys were undertaken over two weeks, rather than one and included vehicle weight) surveys, as well as speed.

Northbound into the village:

WEEK 1.

975 vehicles per day...average speed 25mph...25 vehicles at over 35mph...33 vehicles per day 7.5t or over.

WEEK 2.

888 vehicles per day...average speed 25mph...32 vehicles at over 35mph...31 vehicles per day 7.5t or over.

Southbound away from village:

WEEK 1.

679 vehicles per day...average speed 26mph...55 vehicles at over 35mph...22 vehicles per day 7.5t or over.

WEEK 2

557 vehicles per day...average speed 27mph...47 vehicles travelling over 35mph...17 vehicles 7.5t or over.

The speeding data here shows there are no grounds to consider traffic calming or speed limit reduction.

The number of overweight vehicles is very low – SCC would only recommend frequent monitoring and possibly engaging the community in a Lorry Watch scheme.

In summary.

The Highways officer liaising with Councillors suggests that the speed survey results are extremely encouraging. There is no trend to suggest there is a particular problem with speeding within the village. With a few exceptions, the vast majority of drivers in the village are obeying both speed and weight restrictions.

The worst data in any specific location was on Station Road heading out of the village on 4th July when there were 2905 vehicles in total. 2891 (99.5%) were travelling at under 35mph and 12 were travelling 35-60mph with 2 vehicles clocked in excess of 60mph.

Overall, the results are not sufficient to warrant any additional traffic calming or speed limit changes at this time with the exception of Cooks Road and Station Road that, possibly, might meet the SCC Highways criteria for a 20mph limit.

The main criteria is that existing average speeds must be 24mph or less. Both these sites meet this – however, as the average speeds recorded are 20/21mph for Station Road and 23/24mph for Cooks Road, there is likely be a question as to whether this reduction is actually needed – given that so many vehicles are already travelling so slowly.

To push for 20mph limits would cost in the region of £5,000 per road. This would cover the necessary surveys and the making of a Traffic Regulation Order plus signage etc. The Parish Council has agreed to investigate further the feasibility of taking the proposal further when there is clearly the possibility of spending more money only for the scheme not to be supported by the County's Safety and Speed Team

Other Works.

Liaison continues towards other road safety works as already agreed with SCC Highways including centre lining, the 'slow' markings and the ½ of the zebra crossing that require refreshing. There is likely to be some further delay given the long-awaited change in the contractors who carry out such works for the County Council.

Taxi-Bus The experimental service offering mini-bus transport from Elmswell, Woolpit, Thurston and Beyton into Bury and back every Wednesday and Saturday has proved to be so successful that it is to be continued through to the end of the year. Booking and administration have been handled by the Clerk's office at Elmswell through Lucy and Ann and figures for the first 2 months show that each village has underwritten the scheme at £5.07 per trip. It is now agreed that Elmswell will charge the scheme £25.00 per week to cover the administration cost, again, split 4 ways. All of the representative Ward Members at both District and County level have agreed to look at support funding through their Locality Budgets.

There are several variations / extensions suggested and under discussion, from offering a Thursday run into Stowmarket to possibly extending the scheme to other villages and other days. The scheme currently uses Vertas mini buses which would otherwise be standing idle having done the school run.

Meanwhile, Elmswell's original aspiration to be able to offer such a service using an electric mini bus remains as a discussion point.

Next meeting The September Council meeting is scheduled for Monday 18th at 7.30 in the Chamberlayne Hall at Blackbourne. The public are, as ever, welcome to attend and there are opportunities on the agenda for public input. The agenda is posted on the Council's noticeboard at Crown Mill and is available, with supporting papers, on line at elmswell.suffolk.cloud.

Peter Dow, Clerk to the Council



Your Councillors are

David Barker Linden Croft Hawk End Lane ELMSWELL IP30 9ED	01359 241135	david@linden-croft.co.uk	Vice chairman of Council Planning Committee Complaints Committee
David Brown 16 Whatley Close ELMSWELL IP30 9GJ	07803 263454	davidedward.brown@outlook.com	Planning Committee Complaints Committee
Dick Burch 14 Wetherden Road ELMSWELL IP30 9DF	01359 240105	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	Poor's Land Charity Blackbourne & Wesley Management Association Planning Committee Complaints Committee
Peter Edmonds Little Acre Ashfield Road ELMSWELL IP30 9HJ	01359 241640 07860 395720	edmondspeterj@gmail.com	Planning Committee Complaints Committee
Peter Hancock Jubilee End 17A Jubilee Terrace ELMSWELL IP30 9 DH	07483 850965	prjhancock24@btinternet.com	Footpath Officer Blackbourne & Wesley Management Association Elmswell Amenities Association Planning Committee Complaints Committee
David Hawes Dunelm Cooks Road ELMSWELL IP30 9BX	01359 240249	davidandanna70@yahoo.co.uk	Planning Committee Complaints Committee
Sarah Mansel Ashcroft House Ashfield Road ELMSWELL IP30 9HJ	07860 829517	sarah.mansel@midsuffolk.gov.uk	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Planning Committee Complaints Committee <i>Also serves as Ward Member on Mid Suffolk District Council</i>
Fred Pallett Maple Cottage Warren lane ELMSWELL IP30 9DT	01359 408232 07771 962441	fjp@oilgasassociates.com	Chairman of Council Poor's Land Charity Planning Committee Complaints Committee
Sue Roots 7 Warren Close ELMSWELL IP30 9DS	01359 240164	sue2955@hotmail.co.uk	Planning Committee Newsletter Report Editorial Board
Mike Schofield Minerva Fairmead ELMSWELL IP30 9HT	01359 241430	m_a_sch@hotmail.com	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Philip Shaw East View Ashfield Road ELMSWELL IP30 9HG	01359 241192 07710 578212	philipshaw@btinternet.com	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Safeguarding Lead Blackbourne & Wesley Management Association Planning Committee Complaints Committee

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 Monday – Friday 9.00am – 4.00pm
and other times by arrangement

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



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.

Oct 16th	Nov 20th	Dec 18th	Jan 15th	Feb 19th
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Meetings are held at Blackbourne, beginning at 7.30 unless otherwise notified

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	Eddie Douglas	edward.douglas2@gmail.com	
Baby & Toddler Group		elmswellbtgroup@gmail.com	
Baptists	Dave Hollings	davehollings@btinternet.com	241323
BATS (Badminton & Table Tennis)	Mike Burgess Wilson	burgesswilsonmike@gmail.com	
Beavers	Ruth Salmon	ruthcourt4@hotmail.co.uk	
Bingo at Blackbourne	Brian Hawes		07761 125093
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@midsuffolcab.org.uk	01449 676060
Carpet Bowls Club	Frank Boxall	jf.boxall@btinternet.com	
Christians Together in Elmswell			
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	Ben Whatling (Captain)	benwhatling@mail.com	07760 174811
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	Chris Edmonds	edddd101@gmail.com	
Fox Bowls Team bowls at Blackbourne	Barry Hayward	barryhayward1902@gmail.com	240951
Gardening Club	Nick Chamberlin	npch@btinternet.com	242601
Guides	Viv	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	
Royal British Legion	Norman Plumpton (Biff)	nplumpton@aol.com	07707 524722
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	Tricia McNeeney	triciamcneeney@gmail.com	241197
Youth Football	Wayne	wsast@hotmail.co.uk	

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.

September 2023

- 4 2pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church when Tony Diamond will be speaking on The Astonishing Life of Queen Victoria
- 6 Elmswell Afternoon WI at the Wesley 2.00pm Speaker T.V./Film Re-enactment with costume demo. Kelly Charlesworth
- 14 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 14 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. *Annual Subs Due* Speaker Timothy Easton: Magic Circles & Protective Symbols in E.Anglia's Historic Buildings
- 14 Over 55's Club Harvest Supper followed by Bingo
- 17 WI - Lindsey Farrell - British Sign Language
- 19 ELMSWELL GARDEN CLUB, 7.30pm in Wesley Chapel. Speaker - Suffolk Orchid Society 'How to care for Orchids'
- 22 Bingo at Blackbourne doors open 6.30 eyes down 7.30
- 28 Over 55's Club Cromer Seaside Special Show

October 2023

- 2 2pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist church when Stephanie Hemphill will be speaking on Half a pound of tuppenny rice - A History of Cooking
- 4 Elmswell Afternoon WI at the Wesley 2.00pm Bring and Buy Produce Sale Tea/ Cake/Posh biscuits
- 10 Elmswell WI Karen Luke Heart of Suffolk Gin Distillery
- 12 Over 55's Club Music in the Company of Brian Mann
- 12 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Ivan Bunn, Port of Lowestoft: The Prunier Trophy, 1936-66, awarded for the best herring catch
- 12 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 17 ELMSWELL GARDEN CLUB, 7.30pm in Wesley Chapel. Speaker - Ian Bedford 'Humble Bumble'
- 26 Over 55's Club - An evening with Charlie Haylock - Visitors welcome
- 27 Bingo at Blackbourne doors open 6.30 eyes down 7.30

November 2023

- 1 Elmswell Afternoon WI at the Wesley 2.00pm Speaker The history of Dunwich Heath (Turbulence to Tranquillity) Richard Symes
- 6 2pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church when Catherine Buchannan will be speaking on A History of Table Manners
- 9 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 9 Over 55's Club Hot Dogs followed by Bingo
- 9 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Gerry Barnes: History of Orchards in Eastern England
- 14 Elmswell WI Mandy Cox-Osborne The British Legion
- 21 ELMSWELL GARDEN CLUB, 7.30pm in Wesley Chapel. EGC - AGM followed by a presentation from Elmswell
- 23 Over 55's Club Concert by Norton Salvation Army all are welcome
- 24 Bingo at Blackbourne doors open 6.30 eyes down 7.30

STOP PRESS

Regular sessions at Blackbourne & Wesley include:

- KARATE** with Lewis - Friday 5.00 - 7.00 info@gretheadma.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** - 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
 - ARTS SOCIETY OF WEST SUFFOLK** first Tuesday monthly, October-June. Diana Hollins 01449 736930 theartsociety-westsuffolk.org.uk
- If we've missed you out, do let us know...all enquiries to Ann at the Council Office Tel. 244134 Email clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk

Your Newsletter Fact File

For the next 3 months we need copy by: September 26, October 24, November 21.

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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