

'Like a friend dropping in'



The Elmswell Newsletter



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

FEBRUARY 2023

On line at elmswell.suffolk.cloud



PATHFINDERS - 2023 version

... see page 11

ELMSWELL TAVERN



THE LATEST...

... see page 27

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.

There is much talk of Artificial Intelligence, the cosy sounding, 'chat bot', being able to take over some of life's more tedious writing tasks...such as penning school essays, love letters and job applications, producing a politically-correct Best Man's speech or as the basis of the inevitable on-line 'chat' with the bank / building society / customer relations desk who repeatedly maintain that our call is important to them.



Ever aware of the need to keep Elmswell up-to-date with such trends, your Newsletter commissioned a trawl of the topics that currently engage us so that we might ask our very own chat bot to produce a question-and-answer piece dealing with the hottest topic – whatever it assesses that to be. Our digital digging took in the past month's postings on the village's social media, tapped into Alexa queries as they buzzed backwards and forwards through the ether from our living rooms and listened to the conversations near the Co-op self-service tills (who knew?) and within the range of the listening ears of the real time information display screens on the station.

There was no disputing the hot topic of the moment.

Roadworks.

Here are the questions generated by the chat bot from our community conversations in recent days and the answers which, in its artificial wisdom, it offers.

- Q *Why do we have to put up with the considerable danger and massive disruption of works such as closing School Road just to allow landowners and developers to build houses we don't want and don't need, producing profit for them and misery for us?*
- A The government wants more houses to be built. It produces rules and guidance as to how and where this should happen. The Planners have to follow those rules and, if they don't, they can end up paying a lot of our money in legal fees and we still get the houses.
- Q *OK, but why us? Why has Elmswell become the largest village in Mid Suffolk yet with a school now expanded to the absolute maximum, a GP surgery a mile away over the A14 and a road system that can't be widened or expanded to cope?*
- A The rules and guidance trickling down from Westminster identify Elmswell as a 'sustainable' location. At least we do have a school. We have good shops, 2 active churches and a railway station. We have, off our own bat, developed (and continue to do so) excellent community facilities at the Memorial Library, Blackbourne, Wesley and, soon, the Elmswell Tavern. We like it. Others will too. Elmswell is a good place to sell houses.
- Q *Why are the traffic arrangements during these works so badly thought out and poorly managed?*
- A As part of the Planning permission there is a Traffic Management Plan which sets out what the highways officers at Suffolk County Council consider to be a safe and effective way of handling the problems of contractors' lorries etc being able to travel through the village to the construction sites. This is communicated to the contractor who passes it to an agency to make the necessary arrangements. They, in turn appoint separate contractors for the actual job of managing the traffic flows – signs, cones, barriers. There are many opportunities for the original scheme not to be properly administered and mistakes are not quickly rectified.
- Q *Why is there often a long road closure when no-one is doing any work?*
- A Again, the job is not the responsibility of one company or agency. Gang 'A' digs the hole. Gang 'B' removes the arisings. Someone comes along and does the work in the hole. Gang, 'A' comes back and fills the hole in. Gang 'C' tops it off with tarmac. There is no penalty for having the roads closed, so there is no incentive to try to have these jobs better co-ordinated. Attempts to have a charge levied for 'taking possession of the highway', as happens in London Boroughs, fail in the face of strong lobbying from the contractors' bodies involved. The cost to businesses and to individuals for the time lost is not accounted for.
- Q *Why are the diversion / closure signs so often left in place after the event, leading to confusion – and sometimes just left, effectively fly tipped?*
- A Blame Gang 'D'.
- Q *Who programmes the work so that there are not multiple road closures one after the other?*
- A Apparently, no-one. There are sometimes emergency closures which cannot be anticipated, but it is often the case that the same road is dug up more than once in a short period of time by different agencies – gas, electric, sewage work, BT, broadband etc. Attempts to have this controlled locally, as in France where the local Mayor is in control of such things, fail because our system of government is very centralised and the genuine devolution of power to local decision-makers is much talked about but never, in reality, happens.
- Q *How can we have ended up with having to ask questions of our MP as to how we have reached what is widely thought to be the least-best and very dangerous option of New Road being used for 2-way HGV traffic for the 3 months of the current closure of School Road?*
- A Please see above.





ELMSWELL ART CLUB

This month, we focus on one of our members, Lilian Gama, who has recently joined the Club's Committee as our Trips and Demonstrations Organiser.

Lilian's background has nothing to do with art; at university, in Brazil, she did a course called "International Business with Emphases in Imports and Exports" and, later got a job working on the process of importing cars from England (Rolls Royce), Italy (Ferrari) and Germany (BMW). Lilian soon realised that she needed to improve her skills further, so she came to England to learn English. This presented her with many great opportunities, including travelling, which she loved. Her travels have taken her to many parts of Europe, as well as some parts of Africa and Asia, during which she met some fantastic people. Lilian believes that travelling helps one to open one's mind and to learn so much about human nature.

When she was ready to go back to Brazil, having completed her mission to become proficient in the English language, Lilian met her husband, who is British. This year they will have been married for 24 years; they have 2 teenage children, 2 very cute cats and a lovely house; in addition they used to keep Runner Ducks (yummy eggs!)

Lilian got into art as she decided to "reinvent" herself, starting with drawing and then painting in watercolours; from there she discovered various art groups around the area where she lives - one of them being Elmswell Art Club which, according to Lilian, "has a lovely atmosphere with a great group of people, so I go to them and draw, paint, learn, drink coffee, eat biscuits and talk a lot, it is great!"

She is always trying to improve her art and never gets bored with it as she finds it very challenging - "a voyage of discovery; basically, I love it!"

Lilian's wonderful painting of her niece and her daughter means a lot to her. It took her a great deal of time, especially because it is so close to her heart. Lilian's niece, her husband and their daughter

have lived in Dublin since the beginning of last year and they spent Christmas 2022 with Lilian's family, when Lilian gave her the picture - she loved it.

The painting is in watercolours, it took a lot of thinking to come up with a colour Lilian was happy with; in the end she decided on a warm monochromatic one, like Sepia. Using the "grid" method, Lilian drew it from a photograph.



Our other paintings this month are both animal related. The first is Caroline Cooke's "The Hare" - this was an idea from an old menu at The Leaping Hare Restaurant at Wyken. Caroline used a pigment liner for the drawing and indigo blue watercolour for the background.



Our second picture is Carol Taylor's watercolour painting featuring a cute dog wearing his winter scarf!



**ELMSWELL ART CLUB
MEETS EVERY TUESDAY
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ELMSWELL WI

On a rainy evening in January we were fortunate to have a good turnout for our meeting.

After Brenda had welcomed everyone we sang Jerusalem then handed over to our speaker, Gary from the British Red Cross who gave us a window on their work entitled 'The Power of Kindness'.



Gary lives in Elmswell and worked for the ambulance service for 28 years. He now works for the Red Cross and is a first responder.

He told us that the British Red Cross was founded by Colonel Robert Lindsay in 1870 after seeing the horrific injuries sustained by soldiers in battle on both sides. Thirty five years later it was renamed The British Red Cross Society and hospitals for wounded servicemen were setup, usually in Town Halls or large houses. During WW2 The Red Cross Ambulance Service was set up and carried over a million casualties. They also set up first aid posts, family rest centres and provided food parcels for prisoners of war.

The Red Cross has seven fundamental principles: Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Services, Unity and Universality. We all know the Red Cross flag but in some countries they fly the Red Crescent or the Red Crystal for religious reasons.

They have a presence in 192 countries with 17 million volunteers. At this point we were all thinking 'is there anything they don't do?'

Well it turns out there is more. Unknown to most of us, The Red Cross started working with the NHS in 1948 and provided transport on discharge from hospital, help and support at home

including shopping, welfare checks and emotional support. Also in the UK they provide crisis support, for example fire, flood, gas leaks etc. Support is provided for Ukrainian refugees from the minute they get off the plane including welfare packs, phones, food, water and cash.

They also provide medical equipment for example walking aids and wheelchairs. We had no idea they were so active in the UK. We usually equate the Red Cross with disasters abroad.

As if this wasn't enough, they also provide first aid training for individuals and organisations.

We were all totally amazed at the scope of their work and enjoyed a most enlightening talk.

After refreshments one birthday plant was given out and the raffle was held.

Our next meeting will be on 14th February when Norma Howell will tell us about the work of Medical Detection Dogs. Please note the meeting starts at 7pm and not our usual 7.30.

Margaret 408452



OVER 55's CLUB

Welcome to our latest report, Xmas and New Year have both come and gone and hopefully the winter weather which we are currently experiencing whilst I am writing this and trying to keep warm.

The club will resume meetings on Thursday February 16th at 7 00pm at the Blackbourne when we welcome back Johnny Rondo to entertain us so if you have thought about coming along it would be an idea evening to join us.

Our next meeting will then be on Thursday March 2nd when it will be Fish & Chip night orders will be taken at the first meeting on Thursday February 16th.

All our dates and information are listed in the What's on Section at the rear of the newsletter up until the end of May 2023

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ELMSWELL GARDEN CLUB

Elmswell Garden Club will recommence on **Tuesday February 21st**. The speaker for the first meeting of the year is Tim Fuller. The title of his talk is 'Expectantly Hardy'. It should be a fascinating talk, considering the changes in climate we are experiencing and the choice of plants we make for our gardens.



Although the cold weather might persuade few of us to work in our gardens, we can still enjoy a number of plants which are happy to thrive in the colder conditions. Snowdrops are appearing and are especially prolific in Nowton park and Anglesey Abbey - a National Trust property. Hellebores and crocus flowers are also peeping through and the first of the daffodils are making an appearance.

In addition there are numerous trees and shrubs which flower during winter. Examples include witch hazels, winter-flowering honeysuckle, Japanese quince and heathers. Pyracantha is smothered in berries as is holly and ivy, all offering much needed food for birds and insects.

Another pleasure for many gardeners is trawling through the numerous seed catalogues and websites available, making lists of seeds to order and plants to purchase. It's a time of expectation - imagining how our plots will look in later months.

No doubt a number of enthusiasts will have already begun sowing tomato, chilli pepper and other seeds. It's not too late to get going!



If you'd like to know more about the club please email elmswellgardenclub@gmail.com or phone 01359 242172 to speak to Catherine

WOOLPIT PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG)

Dear fellow patients,

I write to introduce you to the Woolpit PPG, which although formed over 12 years ago, many of you may be unaware of.

Aim of the PPG

To represent the patients of Woolpit Health Centre and work with partnerships and practice staff to improve services to patients at the health centre

We aim to meet every 2 months as a voluntary group, including representation from WHC staff.

A good informal description of a PPG is a 'critical friend' as our role is one of both challenge and support.

Some examples of where we have had influence are:

- Engagement with patients to complete questionnaires on enhanced access services.
- Lobbying for resurfacing and remarking of the car park, with increased disabled spaces by the main entrance - work soon to be completed.

Contacting the PPG

Historically the agenda items at our meetings have been driven by our own experiences and those of family, friends and acquaintances.

In an effort to broaden feedback, we are raising awareness of our existence through village newsletters, starting with Elmswell. The most common topics will then be added to the agenda of our next meeting.

I should however emphasise that this is NOT a personal complaints, these should be made directly to WHC via the specific process described on "contacts" page of their website (<http://woolpithealthcentre.co.uk>).

All of the latest information from WHC is communicated through their website and Facebook.

Our email address is ppgwoolpit@gmail.com

Finally, we wish everyone all the best for 2023

*Ian Shipley
Chair and on behalf of Woolpit PPG*



DICKIE'S DANCE

Dick Burch recently celebrated 50 years and more of contribution to village life with a Country and Western dance at Blackbourne attended by over 200 of his friends and colleagues from far and wide representing his interests in country sports, farming, sporting activity and energetic involvement in the fabric of the Elmswell village community.

He extended his thanks to Alan Wells Stitched Embroidery and to Suffolk Events Catering for their sponsorship and support and to Elmswell Bingo for a contribution which helped towards a donation of £606 to the Suffolk Air Ambulance charity.

Dick is seen here in his C&W gear with granddaughters Dianne on the left and Paula on the right.



This is a service for all those people who would love to be there for all their parent's needs, but find it increasingly difficult with work/life commitments. I have an elderly parent and understand the pressure this can bring. I am hoping you will allow me to help care for your loved ones. This may include taking and staying for appointments, enabling them to do their own shopping, visiting friends and loved ones or simply companionship. I can assist with meals, shopping brought in, light chores or walking pets. I will provide transport where necessary with the relevant insurance. Booking is flexible whether that be on a regular, occasional or one off basis.

I am starting this service on the 1st March.

I will be happy to discuss your personal requirements and exact costs.

Basic rate: £20 per hour, £12.50 half an hour.


These rates will depend on location. DBS checked

Please email kerryd2dd@aol.com for more information or to discuss your personal requirements and exact costs




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JOIN US FOR A
TUESDAY AFTERNOON TREAT
Tuesday 14th February 1.30pm - 3.30pm

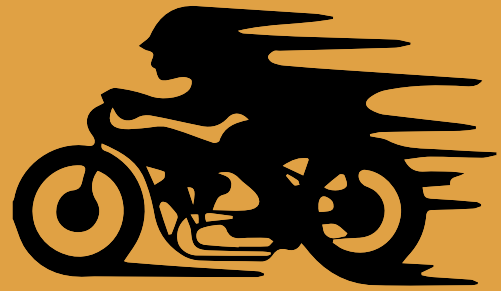


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AROUND & ABOUT

ELMSWELL FIRE STATION NEWS

Hello from all the crew at Elmswell Fire Station and a belated Happy New Year, a little update from us all;

Just before Christmas we were able to move back into our station after building works to replace our roof. A massive thank you to Goldstar Transport for accommodating us at their site in Woolpit.

In 2022 we were called out 198 times to various incidents, including a very busy summer period! A big thank you to our partners, families and employers for being so supportive and letting us go at a moments notice.



On Sunday February 26th we are hosting a 'Brew with a Crew' event in aid of The Firefighters Charity, come along for a cup of tea, some cake and meet the crew that are helping to protect your community, we can show you around our fire engine, station and answer any questions you like! Any money we raise will help the charity fund the mental, physical and social support we provide to our fire family across the UK.

At this moment in time we are currently recruiting! So if you would like to join our team and help protect your community, now is your chance!

Firefighting is not like any other job. It can be unpredictable, exciting and rewarding, coupled with the satisfaction and respect that comes with providing a crucial service to the local community.

As well as learning firefighting techniques, you would learn other skills such as, how to wear breathing apparatus, road traffic collision procedures, fire prevention and protection, first aid, team management skills and there is the opportunity to learn how to drive a fire engine.

You would receive an annual salary, plus an hourly rate, for the hours out, when you attend an incident or a drill night. There is also a disturbance fee which is paid.

For more information, search 'Suffolk Fire and Rescue on call or copy the website: <https://suffolk-firefighters.co.uk/>

Any questions feel free to contact me



Join us for a brew in support of The Fire Fighters Charity

Date: **Sunday, 26th February 2023**

Time: **10am - 2pm**

Location: **Elmswell Fire Station**



To donate, scan the QR code with your smartphone camera or QR code reader app

www.firefighterscharity.org.uk/crewdonate



Wesley's Valentines kids craft morning!

Come and join us on Saturday
11th February 10am-12pm
£3 per child. ♥

Join us in decorating salt dough hearts, making handprint bouquets, valentines cards aswell as special valentines wreaths!

FF Mark Proctor, Elmswell Fire Station, mark.proctor@suffolk.gov.uk

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

If you wish to become a member of Elmswell Community Enterprise Limited ('ECE') by buying shares and thus investing in a Community Benefit Society, please complete the form below and return it to the following address:

Elmswell Community Enterprise Limited, Blackbourne, Blackbourne Road, Elmswell, IP30 9UH

Name(s): PLEASE PRINT

Address:

.....

Email address:

Phone number(s):

For corporate bodies, provide details of a nominee*:

Company registered address*:

.....

Company registration number*:

.....

In the event of my death I wish my shares, or the value thereof, to be transferred to:

(optional)

Number of shares I/we wish to purchase

Value of shares you wish to purchase (shares cost £50 each): £

.....

Payment should be made either:

- by cheque drawn on a UK bank regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority payable to Elmswell Community Enterprise Limited. Please enclose your cheque with this application; or

- by direct transfer from a UK bank regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority to ECE's bank account, as follows:

Account Name: ELMSWELL COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE LIMITED

Sort Code: 08-92-99

Account Number: 67224900

Reference: Your Surname and initials plus postcode - e.g. Smith AB IP30 9EE

Please tick the box if you are a UK taxpayer and you wish to claim tax relief on your investment under the EIS scheme (see FAQ's)

By requesting to purchase shares, I/we understand that this information will be used for the purpose of maintaining a register of members as required by the rules of ECE and for posting of notices regarding the activities of ECE.

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I confirm I am 18 years of age or older:

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ELMSWELL LIBRARY

Hello Elmswell,

If you are new to the village it is quick and easy to join the library. We can set you up with a card in a few minutes with ID and proof of address. You can browse what we have in the library or order books in from other libraries for you to pick up. Every member of your household, whatever their age, can have their own library card.

The exhibition changes at the beginning of this month and it is the turn of Elmswell Art Club to display a selection of their artworks. The art club meets every Tuesday from 9am – 12noon and we are pleased to be able to offer them a space to exhibit some of their wonderful pictures.

Our book display this month is inspired by LGBTQIA+ history month. The books include: Young Mungo by Booker Prize winning author Douglas Stuart set in 1990s Glasgow, Believe me which is Eddie Izzard's memoir, Pulp by Robin Talley which is partly set in 1950s America, The

perfume thief by Timothy Schaffert which is set in WW2 Paris and Spirited by Julie Cohen which is set in Victorian England.

These books are from our LGBTQIA+ collection which can be found on the advanced search page on our catalogue website. Other useful collections for browsing are Adult Spoken Word CD collection to see our selection of physical audiobooks, Adult fiction large print collection, Community Languages collection, Playset collection to see our selection of plays for groups to readthrough and our Story Sack collection with books and toys as props which are great for small children.

Suffolk Libraries have announced our PAWS-itivity campaign. You may have seen the sculpture trails of pigs, wolves, cows and elephants in towns and this summer Suffolk Libraries are going to have a Library Labradors outside every library and we are looking for local businesses to sponsor a sculpture. For more information visit <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/whats-on/annual-events/paws-itivity/sponsorship-pack>

We are able to offer the range of books, activities, computer access, printer facilities and warm space 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/support-us>

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 February at the Wesley Café (every 3rd Wednesday)

Knit and Natter

2pm – 3pm Tuesday 14th February (every 2nd Tuesday of the month)

Adult Reading Practice

Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please book in advance.

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



ELMSWELL FOOD BANK REVIEW

The bank started operating on 30th September, opening every Monday and Friday morning at the Elmswell Tavern in School Road. To date there have been 31 sessions with a break over the Christmas period.

We supply a range of food, toiletries and cleaning materials including tinned foods, dried foods, such as pasta, sauces, tea, some fresh vegetables and fruit, bleach, soap, toilet rolls, shower gel, etc. Additional items outside this range may also be donated to us but we do not accept fresh items which would require refrigeration.

Funding has come from a combination of a grant from our Suffolk County Councillor, personal donations of both cash and goods and donations from groups within the village such as Elmswell

Bingo club, Woolpit Steam Fair, our Parish Council and the Elmswell Tavern team .

We have at least 20 regular client households, 60% of which are families with young children. The number fluctuates as does the frequency of visits. There is no limit on the number of visits that can be made, nor do we require a referral from any agency. Some clients only require temporary support due to a temporary change in circumstances or are waiting for final decisions on benefit awards without which they can't access other food banks.

The bank is run and staffed by a small number of volunteer helpers who also purchase the majority of the items made available and manage its affairs.



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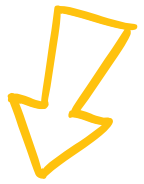
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ELMSWELL TAVERN



THE STORY SO FAR...

- ★ In 2018 Elmswell Parish Council saved the Victorian Methodist chapel on School Road at the heart of the village by purchasing the site which would otherwise have gone for development as housing. The facility which has emerged – the Wesley coffee shop and the refurbished chapel as a meeting room, have proved to be extraordinarily successful. This mirrored the history of community provision over recent years in Elmswell where The Blackbourne has grown into a much admired and well used venue as the village has expanded to become the largest in Mid Suffolk.
- ★ Meanwhile, Greene King, having secured Planning permission for 8 executive houses on their Tavern site in Elmswell, decided to sell it, including the pub. The Parish Council sought the go-ahead from the village through a formal consultation to increase their Council Tax in order to buy it. The proposal was widely supported and the purchase completed in 2020.
- ★ The large development site to the rear of the pub will be dedicated to community affordable housing. The Elmswell Community Land Trust has been established to take this forward. The pub was bought as a going concern and, for the last 9 months, run as a successful community enterprise managed by the Community Interest Company set up to take the scheme forward, Elmswell Community Enterprise Limited (ECE).
- ★ With trading forecasts looking very bleak for the next few months across the hospitality and licensed trades, particularly when food could not be on offer, the decision was taken to close the premises on 1st January and begin stripping out ready for refurbishment.

MOVING ON...

Having produced a prospectus and business plan, ECE has successfully launched a share issue realising, to date, some £170,500.00 from over 200 subscribers. The offer now runs until May and, having reached its minimum threshold of £100,000, is now in a position to be augmented by income from grants and other sources. The maximum published target of £500,000 would allow the creation of another community facility to sit immediately next to Wesley but offering food as well as the expanded range of options that community pubs have demonstrated across Suffolk and beyond that they can make available.

Key principles in working-up the refurbishment plan include,

- Kitchen facilities to serve at least 45 covers indoors and the same number outdoors when seasons allow
- Good separation of bar areas to retain the 'pub' element of what is on offer
- Sticking with the existing building footprint and structure as far as possible, recognising the heritage of the site
- Keen attention to the 'services' – toilets, car parking, easy-access arrangements etc
- Close management of the project so that, as with Wesley and Blackbourne, it comes in on time and on budget.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Elmswell Tavern relies on public support.

It seeks to provide an important extra element of community provision in our fast-expanding village.

It relies upon this community's track record of innovative, well designed and managed facilities which do not need to rely on public support to keep key services going.

It looks to be part of a heritage which will be passed on as a continuing, self-sufficient, vital element of the success of Elmswell for future generations.

At the physical heart of our village, within walking distance for our 4,500 inhabitants, it offers the opportunity to broaden an already considerable range of community provision and thus to maintain a service at the tavern site which goes back some 150 years.

Please consider supporting the project... remember...

- Shares can be bought until May 15th
- Existing shareholders can double-dip and buy again
- Shares can be bought for others – gifts, family...even Valentines' day
- Your investment is in a broad-based community facility which extends what is already so successfully on offer at Blackbourne and at Wesley

**The more we raise,
the better the pub!**

Shares Application Form overleaf...

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

If you wish to become a member of Elmswell Community Enterprise Limited ('ECE') by buying shares and thus investing in a Community Benefit Society, please complete the form below and return it to the following address:

Elmswell Community Enterprise Limited, Blackbourne, Blackbourne Road, Elmswell, IP30 9UH

Name(s): *PLEASE PRINT*

Address:
.....
.....

Email address:

Phone number(s):

For corporate bodies, provide details of a nominee:*
Company registered address:*
.....
Company registration number:*

In the event of my death I wish my shares, or the value thereof, to be transferred to:
(optional)
.....

Number of shares I/we wish to purchase

Value of shares you wish to purchase (shares cost £50 each): £

Payment should be made either:

- *by cheque drawn on a UK bank regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority payable to Elmswell Community Enterprise Limited. **Please enclose your cheque with this application;** or*
- *by direct transfer from a UK bank regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority to ECE's bank account, as follows:*

Account Name: ELMSWELL COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE LIMITED
Sort Code: 08-92-99
Account Number: 67224900
Reference: **Your Surname and initials plus postcode – e.g. Smith AB IP30 9EE**

Please tick the box to confirm payment has been made directly to our account

Tick this box if you are a UK taxpayer and you wish to claim tax relief on your investment under the EIS scheme (see FAQ's)

By requesting to purchase shares, I agree to my name, address, phone number(s), email address (where applicable) and the number of shares I wish to purchase being held on a computer database. I understand that this information will be used for the purpose of maintaining a register of members as required by the rules of ECE and for posting of notices regarding the activities of ECE.

This information will not be passed to third parties. ECE reserves the right to require verification of the identity of any person wishing to invest, in compliance with UK Money Laundering Regulations.

I confirm I am 18 years of age or older:

Signed: Date:

*Please note: a Share Certificate will be issued after the share offer is closed. *If applicable*



ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

January's fascinating and well-attended talk by Simon Millyard was on "Trinity House Lighthouses". Having worked for this charity for 15 years, Simon was well qualified to give us a full history of the organization since King Henry VIII signed their Royal Charter in 1514. Its jurisdiction covers England, Wales, the Channel Islands and Gibraltar, and its official name is "The Masters, Wardens & Assistants of the Guild, Fraternity or Brotherhood of the most glorious and undivided Trinity and of St Clement in the parish of Deptford, Strood in the county of Kent" - a wonderfully medieval-sounding name that is still used in official documentation!

Originally Trinity House was simply a building which housed the people who were responsible for ensuring that vessels about to leave the Thames left safely and with a sufficient amount of ballast. Nowadays the organization is responsible for many things including the navigation of our rivers, ports and seaways. In its charitable role, it supports both mercantile officer training and almshouses for destitute seamen.

Being relatively uncluttered by political interference, it is an organization that has kept many of its ancient procedures and practices, and it is still governed by a committee of 'Elder Brethren', who work under their 'Master' (!) HRH Princess Anne who took over this role from her father, the Duke of Edinburgh.

Our next talk on **Thursday 9th February, 7.30pm at the Wesley Chapel** will be by local author, Elspeth Rushbrook, on "**A Local Survivor of the Titanic**". **The subject of this talk, Violet Jessop (1887-1971)** (pictured right), was an Argentine woman of Irish heritage who worked as an ocean liner stewardess and nurse in the early 20th century. Our speaker has researched this subject extensively and was inspired by this triple survivor of shipwrecks when writing her own novel



about the Titanic. Violet retired to a quiet cottage in Great Ashfield, a strange contrast with the rest of her life of travel and adventure. Elspeth will look at the accounts we have of Violet and compare it to her own of this world-famous ship and her sisters. Copies of Elspeth's novel will be available to purchase, so do join us then for this talk of national interest with a slice of truly local history.



Trinity House built their first lighthouse in Lowestoft in 1609, and its 19th Century replacement still functions and can easily be visited today. Perhaps the organization's most technically difficult project, and certainly its most famous, was the construction of the first lighthouse on Eddystone Rock, south west of Plymouth. In 1696 and 1709, two ultimately unsuccessful attempts were made to build a lighthouse there but in 1759, John Smeaton came up with a much improved lighthouse which was constructed from pre-cut interlocking blocks of Cornish granite, and this survived well. Even though it has since been replaced by a more modern version, the original still exists but has been relocated to Plymouth Hoe, where it is now a popular tourist attraction. Eddystone Rock still accommodates a functioning lighthouse, but today it is not crewed as it is entirely automatic and powered by solar panels. Perhaps sadly, many of the amazing optics of traditional lighthouses have been replaced with a modern and more efficient, but less beautiful, LED light source which is amazingly no bigger than a thumbnail as its main light.

Experiments with using electricity at lighthouses began in 1858, and now most of the lighthouses, light buoys and radar-



The LV 18 is an example of a fully restored lightship. Now moored by the quayside in Harwich, it is open to the public from April to September.

based navigational systems are owned and maintained by Trinity House.

For many years Trinity House enhanced the safety of all users of our coastal waters by the deployment of lightships, the world's first being on the Thames in 1732. They were particularly useful in shallow waters and places where mariners needed to plot their way between banks of sand. To the residents of Suffolk, the Cork Lightship was a feature of the Felixstowe coast for many decades. Anchored three miles offshore, this lightship prevented vessels running aground on the barely submerged Cork Sand, but by 1975 lightships were becoming unnecessary as new technologies emerged, so the Cork was decommissioned.

Although manned lightships have now been replaced by buoys of various kinds, a fine example of a typical late-20th century lightship is now regularly moored by the quayside in Harwich, where it can be viewed, inside and out, from April to September.

Elmswell
History
Group

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



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH TOWER FLOODLIGHTING

Everyone is welcome to sponsor the floodlighting of St. John's, a lovely way to commemorate a personal event, an anniversary, or any other special occasion. Alternatively, you can simply make a donation. And it all helps to pay the day-to-day running expenses of our parish church.

For the winter months the lights will be on between 5.30 p.m. and midnight.

A night's floodlighting costs £5.

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

Your support is much appreciated.

Thank You.

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

FEBRUARY 2023 SPONSORSHIPS

- 4 in loving memory of my dear Dad, Geoffrey Dalton.
- 5 to remember and thank all those past Elmswell Fire-Fighters who served their village and community so well.
- 6 Geoffrey Sturgeon. "Remembering the best Grandad". Love from Shaun & Shelly. xxx.
- 10 in loving memory of Craig Paul Stammers. "Fell asleep too soon". Love, Mum & Peter. xx.
- 10 in loving memory of a dear Grandad, George Stiff. "God Bless". Louise & Brian. x.
- 11 in loving memory of my brother. Louise. x.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Greetings from St John's Church

January at St John's Church was a quieter month, following the busy Christmas season. However, we were thrilled to welcome the local Ukulele band to perform a concert on 21 January. It was a fun evening, with a break for some Prosecco and nibbles. Thank you so much for coming and raising several hundred pounds for us.

Each year at St John's we have a Bible verse for the year. This year's verse comes from 2 Corinthians 5:17: "If anyone is in Christ, that person is a new creation; the old has gone, the new is here!" As a result, in our Sunday services, we have been focussing on the change that having God in your life can make. He promises eternal life to all who come to him, but in many ways that eternal life starts now, as we encounter the power Jesus brings. One particularly moving story we heard was how a person, who was addicted to hard drugs in the Manchester area, was transformed one morning at a local church as he encountered the power of God. He is now drug-free and loves to relate what God has done for him.

It has been lovely to have a few new regulars join us recently. We are a warm and welcoming church and enjoy sharing the good news of Jesus and worshipping him. Why not pop along on a Sunday at

10:30am and discover more about the God who made us and loves us and can do amazing things for us? Tea and coffee are available afterwards.

Upcoming Dates:

Sun 5 Feb 9:00am	Holy Communion
Sun 5 Feb 10:30am	Family Service
Sun 12 Feb 10:30am	Sunday Worship with Holy Communion
Sun 19 Feb 10:30am	Sunday Worship
Sun 26 Feb 10:30am	Sunday Worship with Holy Communion

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: accessed via our website home page



- 12 Ted Rookard. Treasured "Happy Birthday" memories, for a dear Husband, Dad & Grandad. Lots of love from all his family. xxxx.
- 13 in loving memory of Marjorie Ellen Manning.
- 13 remembering Fred Rush, a dear Dad, Grandad, and Great Grandad, on his Birthday.
- 16 anon.
- 18 remembering Anne Dyball on her Birthday.
- 20 in loving memory of Wally Fraser on his Birthday.
- 27 "Happy Birthday" Louise. Lots of love from Mum, Bibs, Poppy and Lola. xxxx.

**All bookings and payments please to :-
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ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

We're living in troublesome times aren't we? Wars in several parts of the world including Ukraine, famine in parts of Africa and Afghanistan, natural and man-made disasters around the world, the continuing impact of Covid and a squeeze on living standards around the world (which inevitably affects those least able to cope with it the most) leading to industrial unrest on a massive scale which in turn has an impact on all of us to a greater or lesser extent.

We will all have a range of views of what should be done to address these problems which I won't get into here! What is unchallengeable is that we all need someone we can rely on. Our view as Christians is that we have that someone in the person of Jesus Christ. We believe that, if we invite him to, he will be along side us to help, in whatever circumstances we find ourselves. This doesn't mean we won't encounter difficulties, some of which could be quite nasty, whilst we're here on earth and we have to do our bit to address those challenges, but if we trust in him, he will be with us through them and he promises us a time when all will be well, and God can't break his promises. Please do come along on a Sunday morning at 10.30am if you'd like to explore this further.

The Ladies Friendship Group meet on Monday February 6th at 2pm when Rachel Andrews will be coming to talk about "An eye nurse abroad". ALL ladies are welcome. There are an increasing number of ladies attending these meetings, why not join them, not just for the interesting talks and friendly chat afterwards, but also to enjoy our warm chapel!! Phone Margaret on 01359 241541 for more details.

Food 'n' Friends meet at Midday on February 9th for a hot meal for a donation of whatever you can afford, and plenty of time to chat. ALL Senior Citizens are welcome, contact Jackie on 01359 245918 for more info. Again, it's not just the good food and friendly chatter but a warm building as well!

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

- February 5th Rev. Norman Tharby (inc Communion)
- February 12th Rev. Barbara Challis – 136th Church Anniversary
- February 19th Stephen Horrex
- February 26th Rev. Norman Tharby
- March 5th Rev. Norman Tharby (inc Communion)

A warm welcome (in all senses of the words) is extended to all who wish to participate in any of the above events.

Please visit our website for further info or email cockant2@btinternet.com or telephone 01359 241541 to get in touch.

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

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

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

“ Dealing with Simon was a comfort during what was a daunting process. ”

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Where do ladybirds go in winter?

Ladybirds hibernate through the winter as adult insects in a process known as 'diapause' and it's not unusual to find them huddled together in large groups. During the summer ladybirds give off a faint scent which, along with their distinctive coloration, is thought to deter predators. In the winter they use this ladybird 'perfume' to find out where others are hunkering down so that they can join in the communal sleep-over. Different species choose different places to pass the colder months; some shelter under tree bark or in crevices while others find a nook under leaf litter. Some even find their way into our homes, often clustering along the edges of windows. That's not a good place for these colourful insects as central heating will wake them prematurely when there are no aphids for them to eat so they will probably starve. If you find them in your house move them gently into an outdoor habitat – an unheated shed or garage is perfect – where they can continue their hibernation undisturbed until the spring, when they will emerge to mate and start the next generation. Our photo shows a more intimate group of hibernating ladybirds – a cosy twosome, snuggled down together at the back of the plaque next to our Medlar in the orchard at Lukeswood.

Brrrr – it's been frosty!

Let's hope our ladybirds have chosen a good place to hibernate as it has certainly been challengingly cold at times this winter. Meteorologists distinguish a whole range of different types of frost – grass, ground, air, glaze, rime, hoar – and keen observers of the weather will have been able to identify all of them recently! Hoar frost is certainly the prettiest and can look quite magical when it covers trees, shrubs and other vegetation. This type of frost forms when water vapour in the air comes into contact with surfaces that are already below freezing point. Ice crystals start to form and can grow into wonderful feathery, hair-like or spiky shapes. It takes its name from the Old English word 'hor' or 'har', meaning grey or white in appearance, often used to describe the white hair or beard of old age. Lukeswood looks as though it has gone old and white-haired overnight! Hoar frosts don't damage the trees, although a sudden dip in temperatures causing frost in spring can nip newly emerging leaves and buds.

Willow harvest

All of our willow has been safely gathered in and is now bundled and neatly stacked. Many hands made light work at our Saturday work party in January – thank you to everyone who came on a particularly cold and wet morning to help! Several bundles were taken away for a variety of garden projects. It's great to know that willow grown in Lukeswood will be springing up in new formations all over Elmswell and beyond! If you missed the work party but would still like to collect some willow, please get in touch. We don't make any charge but a donation towards our expenses would be very welcome.

Mary Feeney
info@elmswild.org.uk



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CITIZENS ADVICE

As the weather has turned colder, I've noticed mould and damp in our flat. It's mainly in our bedroom, including some black mould on the carpet. I've been chasing our letting agency, who say they'll speak to our landlord. I'm really worried about how this might affect our health. Our tenancy agreement isn't up for eight months, what can I do?

It's good that you've already raised the issue with your letting agency. Unfortunately, it isn't always easy to work out the cause of mould or damp. This can make it difficult to work out if your landlord is responsible, unless there's an obvious cause, like a leaking roof.

There are many causes of damp that properties can get. The most common are rising, penetrating, construction and condensation damp. On our website there is information that may help you work out what type of damp you have, who is responsible and what you can do. Check your tenancy agreement too for mentions of repairs and damp, and reach out to Citizens Advice on anything you're unsure about.

A landlord will have to act in relation to damp if it makes the property unsafe for someone to live in. This could be for

example, if it is making the tenant or a member of their family ill. The landlord will also be responsible if the damp is related to repairs they should have carried out, like if heaters are broken. If the damp has damaged items that the landlord is responsible for, such as carpets and window frames, they'll likely have to cover the cost of repairs.

One of the most common causes of damp is condensation. To prevent this, it's important to keep homes well-heated and well-ventilated, but for a lot of people this will be trickier to do given the colder weather and higher heating costs. You may be eligible for help to insulate and heat your home, and should visit our website to find out more.

On our website we also have advice on things that can make damp worse and may impact the landlord taking responsibility

for repairs. These include drying clothes on heaters or blocking air vents.

If your landlord is responsible for the damp in your property but doesn't act, there are steps you can take, such as reporting them to the local authority. If you're in social housing you might also be able to use the landlord's formal complaints procedure. There is more information about this on our website. If it reaches the point where you want to get out of a fixed term tenancy agreement early, speak to Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk first, as there might be better ways to approach the issue. You may also find helpful information on <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/housing/renting-privately/during-your-tenancy/dealing-with-repairs/>

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide advice on this and other issues, including debt, employment, benefits and family law. You can contact them on 01449 676060 or use the contact form at midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us. More information and our opening hours can also be found at midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us.



Mid Suffolk

WESLEY UKULELE BAND

January has been a quiet month with only a gig at St John's church on the 21st to give us our adrenaline fix. In the seriously frosty spell, now, hopefully, a distant memory, several regular members of the congregation couldn't be tempted out in the cold, but we had a decent audience all the same. The performance started with songs from Bob Goodall and our Kevin but, sadly, Paddy Butcher was poorly and couldn't attend. Get well soon, Paddy, we need your critique on Thursday, no rush! We then had a break for prosecco, orange juice and lemonade and fulsome array of nibbles. When everyone was fully refreshed the Ukuleles filled the second half with a selection of their current songbook. It went down well and Kevin distributed a drum and a tamborine which the audience put to full use!

February is looking a bit quiet although Kevin has some irons in the fire, as it were, which may well come to fruition, if irons can bear fruit, of course. We will have our regular Thursdays, of course, and they are great fun but not like the real thing. I think several of us could well be seriously addicted!

Regular readers of this column, should there be any, may notice several new members in our group. No? Well take my word for it. John, Rosie, Roger, Irene and Margaret, are conveniently congregated on the front left, I think they haven't been featured before and probably haven't become addicted yet. They are doing well, though - just give them time!

Finally, my monthly plug for the Folk Club which has switched to the third Thursday each month at the Wesley. This month, however, it will take place on the 23rd! Thereafter, it will revert back and, if it doesn't, I will tell you.

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



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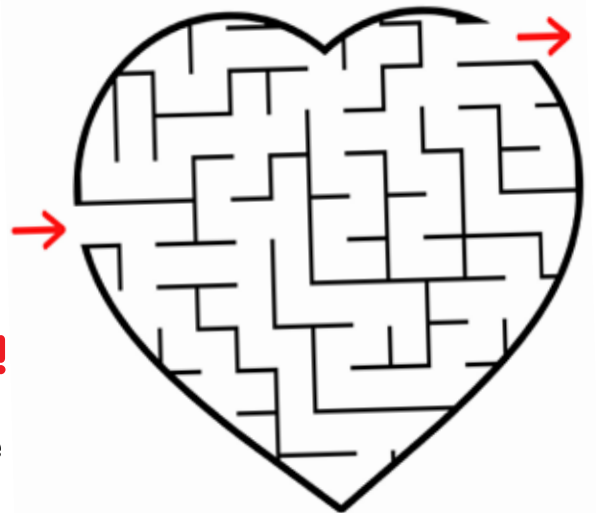
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FIRST TEAM REPORT

The last game we had to report on was way back in early December when we beat Kirton Athletic at The Blackbourne. Since then, the weather has postponed a number of games, so we were looking forward to getting back at it against Ipswich Athletic on the 21st of January. There was another frost but with sunshine forecast we held our nerve and the pitch was fine by the two o'clock kick off. Despite making the brighter start we found ourselves 2-0 down to a pair of preventable goals. The lads fought back into the game and equalised through the much sort after, Will Hayden. Athletic missed a couple of good chances keeping the score 1-2 at the break. There was definitely something in this game for us, but the next goal was always going to be vital. Sadly, Athletic got it in a rather scrappy fashion and then compounded the damage with a soft penalty. Substitute, Paul Cable, pulled one back at the end but it wasn't to be our day. Final score 2-4 to the visitors. MOTM Dylan Palfreyman.

This leaves us in 8th position at the halfway point of the season, out of the 13 teams in Div.2, with 13 points from 12 games. We'll be looking to get a better return in 2023, starting with our next game against tenth placed Bramford Utd on the 4th of February.

FEBRUARY ELMSWELL HOME GAMES - at The Blackbourne Community Centre.

04/02 ELMSWELL v BRAMFORD UTD
 DIV.2 - 14:00 ko



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RESERVES REPORT

In case you've missed it, our Reserves are on a bit of a cup run. Being in the bottom division of the SIL we've had to play higher placed teams through-out. Our latest 'cupset' was away to local Div.3 side, Bacton Reserves. Our First Team game got called-off so we were able to boost the squad a bit with Gunter, Palfreyman and Trickey. We made a great start with Paul Cable scoring early on via a deflection from a superb Luke Catchpole cross. Not long after, Cable doubled our lead, taking a pass in his stride and finishing with aplomb. We took our foot off the pedal a little allowing Bacton back into the game with two headed goals in quick succession, but Cable completed his first half hat-trick with a header to edge us in front again. The second half started with another Bacton headed goal which spurred them on as they started to control the game. Our lads battled our way back into it as the game began to stretch on the heavy pitch. Jason Brown made a great save when one on one to keep us in the match. Shortly after Liam Trickey strode forward with the ball, from left back, and went on a mazy run to set up Eliot Gunter on the edge of the box, who found the bottom left hand corner with a great strike. Captain, Jon Macro made some vital headers in the dying minutes as we held on for the win. Joint MOTM went to Paul Cable and Dylan Palfreyman. The next round is the quarter finals where we have been drawn at home to Trimley Red Devils Reserves on the 18th of Feb.

FEBRUARY ELMSWELL RESERVES HOME GAMES -
at The Blackbourne Community Centre.

- 11/02 ELMSWELL RES v MENDLESHAM DIV.6 - 14:00 ko
- 18/02 ELMSWELL RES v TRIMLEY RED DEVIL RES
Reserve CUP 13:30 ko



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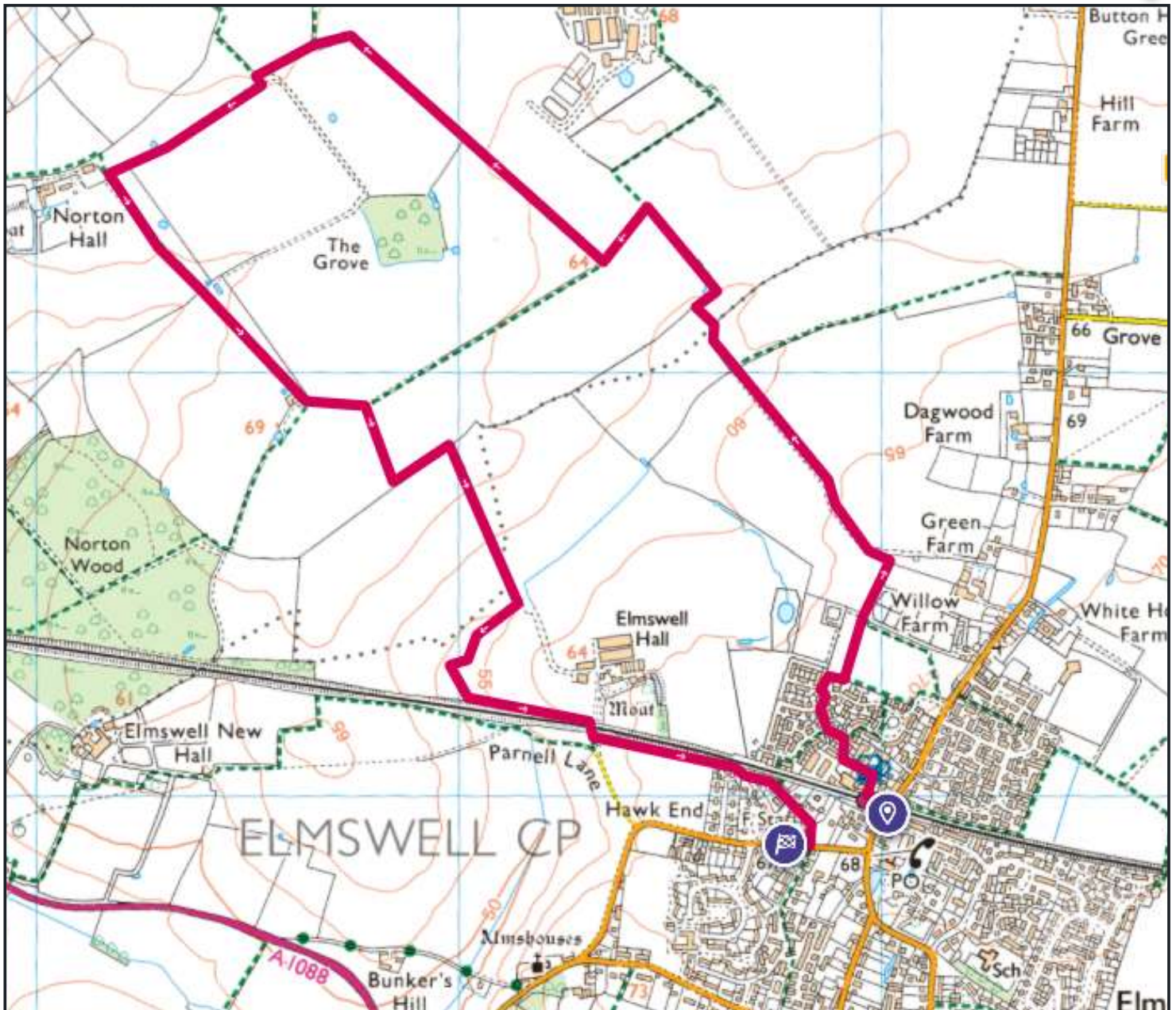


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NEW YEAR'S DAY FOOTPATH WALK SUNDAY 1ST JANUARY 2023

Following the excesses of Christmas and New Year's Eve celebrations 28 enthused parishioners met at the village sign for the customary photograph for the front page of the February edition of the Elmswell Newsletter.

On a pleasant New Year's Day the group set off through Elmtree Business Park, along Hall Lane and out into the open countryside of FP1.

Within minutes of the start of the walk we were able to enjoy one of the big sky walks that Elmswell is blessed with.

The well walked route took us in a north westerly direction past the pond on the right hand side which has now thankfully recovered from being completely devoid of water following the previous year's drought. Crossing into the neighbouring parish of Norton we meandered along FP32 turning

left on to FP31 and then right at the junction with the Green Lane with the Grove on the left hand side.

Now we were certainly in the open Suffolk countryside with panoramic views all round.

Turning left on to FP20 with Oaktree Farm ahead Norton Hall came into view and we progressed in a south westerly direction up to the Hall.

A left on to FP7 marked a little over half way mark of the walk and we were soon upon the well known local landmark of the isolated barn that stands at the junction of FP7 and FP23.

FP7 continues south easterly and zigzags across open fields before transposing into FP13 as it enters the bounds of Elmswell with a fine view of Elmswell from the footbridge that spans the ditch.

After crossing the footbridge the footpath

became rather claggy on the approach to Elmswell Hall testing the resilience of the group but the promise of impending refreshment spurred them on.

Under the railway bridge, on to Hawk End Lane and the Tavern was beckoning.

A big thank you to Alan and Linda Wells of Wells Stitched Embroidery who kindly provided delicious and well earned refreshment at the end of a very enjoyable well supported walk.

Those requiring additional refreshment were welcomed by a roaring fire and an amiable host in the Tavern,

A seasonal walk of approximately 4 miles in 1 hour 40 minutes (an average speed of 2.4 miles per hour).

Peter Hancock, EPC Footpath Officer



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ELMSWELL FOX BOWLS CLUB

Here we are, one month in to the New Year and only a couple of months until the start of the season. Most of our signing-on forms have been returned with only a few outstanding and we are looking at a membership in the low 40s. We have a lot of interest in Monday afternoons but, sadly, not enough to run 2 teams, as playing for two teams in the same league is not allowed under league rules whereas the Tuesday Area D teams will struggle unless a few members can be appealed to.

There will be some significant changes this year and mostly due to Jenny Murray, who has just one season with us under her belt. Jenny has taken on the task of Competitions Secretary, so the dates for

various competitions will be set at the beginning of the season, as they should be, of course. Previously, it was a last-minute thing, hurriedly put together at the end of the season and catching many by surprise. We have a number of trophies including the splendid Singles cup donated by Elmswell's best friend, Alan Wells.

Jenny, along with Secretary, Rob Dann, has arranged club shirts for the coming season, having conducted a survey of members' preferences. There were some problems to overcome, I won't deny, mostly to do with the colour scheme as we have several fans of local football teams. Enough said on that matter, I think.

Dick Burch will doubtless be calling his ground maintenance crew together soon to whip the green into shape for the new season, all this frosty weather has prevented pretty much everything thus far.

With all this new development in the village we have a steady trickle of newcomers moving into the village. Elmswell has many clubs that would welcome fresh blood and if bowls should be your 'thing' then call the number below or look out for our Open Day which I will announce soon.

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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The Parish Council meets at least once each month, excluding August, although extraordinary meetings can be called as required at any time. The January meeting, with all 11 councillors present, together with Parish Tree Warden Janet Spencer, 5 members of the public and the Parish Clerk, Peter Dow, took place at Blackbourne on Monday 16th.

This report is compiled from that meeting by the Parish Clerk and edited by the Council's Editorial Board which comprises 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 ratified, are available online 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 December 2022 meeting, as approved at this meeting, are posted in the Council's notice board at Crown Mill.

Mid Suffolk District Council

Cllrs Sarah Mansel & Helen Geake tabled a written report on BMSDC activities which confirmed that the new fleet of 22 waste tankers are now in service. There were over 400 names submitted in the competition to name the waste tankers. Details of the winning names can be found on the website here <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/news/revealed-winning-names-for-babergh-and-mid-suffolks-new-environmentally-friendly-bin-lorries/>. The new tankers are fuelled by hydrogenated vegetable oil which is produced from waste cooking oil.

70 solar carport spaces are now up and running, producing almost a quarter of Stowmarket Leisure Centre's annual electricity demand. The system also includes battery storage so excess energy produced during sunnier periods can be saved for later.

Mid Suffolk Cabinet discussed and agreed a new tenancy policy. The policy sets out a clear explanation of the range of tenancies that the councils offer and how they are managed. The policy reinforces the councils' recognition of and the importance of all residents having a safe and sustainable place to call home, alongside the need for high-quality social and affordable housing.

Cabinet also discussed future fees and charges for council services. Fees and charges are a vital revenue stream for the Council, but they pledge to keep any increases fair and will continue to support families in need. Some of the increases in charges are statutory – such as building control and licencing. An increase in charges for garden waste collection will be proposed.

It is likely that there will be up to 100% Council Tax reduction for those families with the lowest income, and some form of transitional protection scheme to ensure that no-one will be worse off under any of the proposed changes.

With regard to the Locality Budget, there are still funds available and applications are welcomed from any local club or organisation in need of funding towards the cost of a local project.

Suffolk County Council

Ward Member Cllr Andy Mellen tabled a written report confirming that the first proposals for the 2023/24 budget have

been released. SCC plan an increase of 3.99% (1.99% increase in Council Tax, 2% increase in Social Care Precept).

Meanwhile, national government recently met with Suffolk County Council to sign a provisional County Deal to devolve additional powers and funding to the County, including housing, transport and adult education.

The headline '£480m' is in fact over 30 years – equating to only around £16m a year. Just under £6m has been agreed for new housing, this equates to around 30 homes.

There is a promise that we will not have a Mayor. However, the deal agrees to create a Mayoral Development Corporation creating a real risk of stagnation – with the elected Mayor potentially from one party and the majority of Councillors from another.

Suffolk County Council have launched their new website. The new site is aimed to be easier and simpler. This platform is often the first point of contact for residents and so it is important the website continues to engage and adapt to the needs of the Suffolk communities. To see the new site, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/>

As the Council's modern slavery annual statement was voted through cabinet, SCC have released an information bulletin to report any possible signs of modern slavery within your local communities.

General signs of modern slavery can include: Isolation, restricted movement, poor living conditions, unusual travel arrangements, and physical appearance of abuse.

If you suspect a modern slavery crime is being committed, but there is no immediate risk of harm, you can report it to the Police on 101, or the Modern Slavery and Exploitation Helpline on 0800 121 700 – if there is immediate danger, phone 999.

For further contact, email: community.safety@suffolk.gov.uk

For more information, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/community-safety/modern-slavery>

Suffolk is looking for new hosts to help support refugees. Accommodation must be available to guests for a minimum of 6

months. Hosts will be eligible to receive the £350 thank you payment for up to 6 months or more, depending on the date your guests arrived in the UK (12 months starting from the date your guests first arrived in the UK).

If you know anyone that might be interested, please encourage them sign up via the Suffolk County Council website, or by emailing refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was tabled as follows.

- Cllr Hancock has agreed to help pursue the possibilities of a wind turbine at Blackbourne at the far boundary of the new 6 acres of community land. The idea was mooted some time ago but central government legislation via NPPF has effectively barred any onshore provision until recently when a technical consultation on changes in this regard was launched to be concluded by 8th April. It seems likely that any proposal would be required to prove community support but that such schemes might include the possibility of financial benefits through local billing. The next step would be a feasibility study for which grant aid may be available via the new MSDC Climate Change Manager. Any such initiative would come before Council once firmed up.
- The Elmswell Tavern is now closed for trading pending the refurbishment scheme. Without the facilities to offer food it is clear, in current trading conditions, that there was little likelihood of avoiding financial loss. Trading over the 10 months of community management produced a small surplus of income over expenditure. The extension of the share offer deadline to May allows for continued progress towards realising funding to a level that will underwrite the re-launch as a successful community-led business.
- On 10th November last year Cllr Pallet and I met on site with Bloor Homes representatives and their agents to discuss the forthcoming closure of School Road. We were able to convince them of the folly of suggesting that New Road could handle two-way HGV traffic and they agreed to seek SCC Highways



agreement to a one-way system using Cooks Road. This arrangement was duly published in the Newsletter and through other appropriate outlets. There has recently been the suggestion from Highways that this does not have their agreement and the insistence that we revert to all traffic using New Road. I have been involved in considerable correspondence including with Ward Members and HGV operators in trying to have SCC resile from their position. The SCC position was confirmed at a meeting with the Developer on 13th January. Cooks Road is deemed to be unsuitable by officers for one-way routing and all traffic will be signed down New Road. I had previously confirmed to the Developer prior to that meeting the points which had been raised to me by concerned councillors and residents alike. For the avoidance of doubt that EPC tried its best to represent the community view that was presented to us, I copy those points below.

- 2 HGV's cannot cross in New Road. It is not wide enough. If 2-way working were to be countenanced there would have to be traffic control at either end to ensure no such conflict.
- Any such traffic control would have to work on a possibly lengthy one-way constraint whilst the unit traversed the road to past the Co-op which would then result in backing up beyond the Co-op. Backing-up at the Co-op has serious implications for the safety of the crossing gates given the very common abuse of the box junction.
- Many of the perceived problems relating to the school parking are due to clear abuses of the existing constraints. These can be managed out by enforcement.
- The perceived problems at the school maintain, as elsewhere, for just 2 brief chaotic windows each weekday.
- For 3 weeks, ie 25% of the proposed closure period, the school is closed.
- Resident & casual kerbside parking will have to be curtailed in any case which immediately reduces the school parking problem.
- A crossing patrol should, in any case, be in place at the Cooks Road / New Road / The Street junction which will, in any circumstance, have to handle at least twice the normal throughput of HGV traffic.
- On 13th January I attended a meeting at Wesley with MSDC & SCC officers together with all Ward members to discuss the recent presentation made in November of last year by Mid Suffolk of plans approved by Cabinet for 50 houses on their site at School Road. The resulting uproar from residents before, during and after the consultation event, and the attempts by

EPC and Ward members to encourage a reasoned review of the proposals are well documented.

Community aspirations for the site towards encouraging a serious re-think of primary school provision in the village have been the subject of meetings since January 2022 with SCC Education Planning officers and MSDC.

The village's commitment to an affordable homes project at the Tavern site and the possibilities that this presents for an exemplary community scheme formed part of the discussion. The original proposition is now on hold having been called in for review by the MSDC Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committee. This acknowledges the fact that the Cabinet members who promoted the 50 house plan were not in possession of the full facts of the situation with regard to other options regarding the site.

I have undertaken to inform the process with details of Elmswell's proposals and the educational projections are to be firmed-up by SCC towards a re-appraisal, hopefully supported by the O&S findings.

Planning Applications:

The Meeting agreed to support or make no comment on the following as forwarded by Mid Suffolk, the Planning Authority:

DC/22/05915 Erection of single storey side and rear extension 3 Cooks Road

DC/22/06217 Retention of existing residential annexe, conversion of part of existing garaging to extend annexe, replacement of existing roof, including addition of solar panels, adjustments to existing fenestration and application of external cladding, and associated works Mulberry Farm Ashfield Road

DC/22/04767 Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/20/01677 – Condition 4 (Construction Method Statement)

Land to the West of the Former Bacon Factory

DC/22/05756 Erection of two-storey rear extension; first-floor side extension above garage, 2no. dormer windows to front elevation; re-tiling of roof and cladding of existing building with stock brick slips. Robins Nest, New Road

DC/22/06410 Change of use of 2no former aircraft hangars and existing airfield building to commercial storage (Use Class B8), and siting of 6no storage containers with associated vehicular access and parking Great Ashfield Airfield, Haugh Lane, Great Ashfield

Objections were raised, as follows, on two further applications:

DC/22/06230 Erection of 1no. dwelling and alterations to vehicular access Land North of Dagwood Farm, Ashfield Road

Elmswell Parish Council objects to this application and urges refusal on the

following grounds:

The Settlement Boundary, as defined in the Local Plan, now has behind it the empowering factor of a housing land supply figure well in excess of the 5 year minimum. This site is in the countryside outside of the Settlement Boundary within which new development will properly take place. Further, the site is not identified in the emerging joint Local Plan as suitable for development.

With regard to the strong policy imperatives aimed at protecting the existing character and appearance of the countryside, this proposal offers no justification for exceptional treatment and does not present a case for special consideration under categories identified and defined in the Local Plan, the Core Strategy or the National Planning Policy Framework. The current burden of development with extant Permission amounts to a 37% uplift in housing stock imposed on a community already suffering from poor infrastructure provision, in particular regarding education and highways. There is no need for the extra dwelling proposed.

Furthermore, the emerging Joint Local Plan has it, at LP24, that development should 'Respond and safeguard the existing character and context', and that, 'Development that fails to improve the quality and character of the area will not be supported.' As an ad hoc off-Plan proposal this application clearly fails on both of these counts.

The size and scale of this doubling-up of the handed dwelling which this proposal seeks to mirror is out of keeping in terms of size and scale and therefore harmful to the historic setting of the listed Dagwood Farm House.

In reaching these conclusions, Councillors had reference to Local Plan policies SB1 & H7, Core Strategy Policies CS1 & CS2, National Planning Policy Framework para.55 and to the emerging BMSDC Joint Local Plan.

DC/22/06232 Erection of garage with annexed accommodation over to the existing approved barn conversion approved under DC/22/02641 The Old Granary, Kiln Lane

Councillors urge rejection of this application for the following reasons.

Mid Suffolk District Council has a 9.5 year housing supply and therefore does not need to look beyond existing policies and settled development boundaries to fulfil Government targets in this regard.

This site is in the countryside clearly outside of the Development Envelope of Elmswell. To permit further encroachment of development into Kiln Lane would run counter to Local Plan Policy SB1 and there is no mitigating factor presented to support an intrusion which is, clearly, against the overriding principal of protecting the countryside for its own sake.





PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The proposal is promoted as a new dwelling to serve whilst the larger house is created on the site of the granary building.. The need for temporary accommodation during building works is commonly met by the provision of a mobile home for the duration of the works. The personal circumstance cited in support of this application cannot colour the proper process of assessment of a proposed new dwelling in the countryside.

This is a proposal for a further dwelling accessed via a narrow country road situated almost a mile from the village facilities. In NPPF terms it is unsustainable.

Planning appeal

The Meeting noted the Appeal Inspector's dismissal of an appeal against refusal for Planning permission on land at the corner of Grove Lane and Ashfield road for 19 houses. The decision supported the Parish Council's view that the proposals did not accord with the development plan, as the estate would be outside of the settlement boundary and that it was not a sustainable development.

Precept

Councillors agreed that the 2023 / 2024 precept should be set so as to represent a 0% rise in terms of the Parish Council share of the Council Tax. The other three elements of the charge, levied by Mid Suffolk Council, Suffolk County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner are all set to increase, but the amount paid by each household to support the Parish Council's work in the village will be the same as last year.

Trees at Clay Field

Three trees on the village's land at Clay Field are having to be removed for safety reasons. They will be replaced by a more appropriate group of 9 mixed-species trees specified by the Village Tree Warden, Janet Spencer and planted as a community project. The Meeting agreed a budget of £250.00 for the purchase of the trees, support stakes and guards.

School Parking

Clr Sue Roots reported back on a meeting with the headteacher at Elmswell School to discuss problems of road safety caused by inappropriate parking at the beginning and end of the school day. The issue is common to many schools and, in Elmswell's case, might best be addressed by including the matter in the on-going Road Safety Initiative whereby Councillors are working with SCC Highways to address specific issues as the village roads become busier.

Next meeting

It was noted that the next Ordinary Meeting was scheduled for Monday 20th February beginning at 7.30pm at Blackbourne. The public are, as ever, welcome to attend all Council and Council Committee meetings and the agendas will always offer opportunities for questions and comment. Agendas are published online at elmswell.suffolk.cloud and on the Council's notice board at Crown Mill.

Your Councillors are

David Barker Linden Croft Hawk End Lane ELMSWELL IP30 9ED	01359 241135	david@linden-croft.co.uk
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Dick Burch 14 Wetherden Road ELMSWELL IP30 9DF	01359 240105	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk
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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.

Feb 20th	Mar 20th	Apr 17th	May 15th	June 19th
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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 Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 9.00am-4.00pm

Thursday & Friday 9.00am – 12.00noon

And other times by arrangement

clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk

Tel. 244134 www.elmswell.suffolk.cloud



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.

February 2023

- 1 Exchange WI Jonathan Houseago Hedgehogs & Hedgehog Preservation 2.00pm at Wesley
- 6 2pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church. Rachel Andrews on "An Eye Nurse Abroad"
- 9 Elmswell History Group, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Elspeth Rushbrook: Local Survivor of "The Titanic", Violet Jessop
- 9 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 14 Evening WI - Norma Howell on Medical Detection Dogs. Please note, start time is 7pm not the usual 7.30pm.
- 16 Over 55's Club Jonny Rondo entertains (open night)
- 21 ELMSWELL GARDEN CLUB, 7.30pm in Wesley Chapel. Speaker - Tim Fuller - 'Expectantly Hardy'

March 2023

- 1 Exchange WI Charlotte Morgan Dolls Houses & Miniatures 2.00pm at Wesley
- 2 Over 55's Club Fish & Chip supper + Bingo
- 6 2pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church. Lesley Williams talking about Parish Nursing.
- 9 Elmswell History Group, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Geoff Robinson: 18th Century Commerce in Worlingworth
- 9 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 16 Over 55's Club AGM
- 21 ELMSWELL GARDEN CLUB, 7.30pm in Wesley Chapel. Speaker - Ruth Goudy 'The Language of Flowers'
- 30 Over 55's Club Entertainment by Susan Jayne (join us please)

April 2023

- 3 2pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church. Lisa Jones on "Savvy Shopping".
- 5 Exchange WI Claire's House - finger pottery craft afternoon 2.00pm at Wesley
- 13 Elmswell History Group 23rd Anniversary meeting, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Miriam Stead: Halesworth's 17th Century 'Walpole Old Chapel'
- 13 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 13 Over 55's Club Bingo
- 18 ELMSWELL GARDEN CLUB, 7.30pm in Wesley Chapel. Speaker - Saffron Summerfield 'When Birds Sing
- 27 Over 55's Club Wesley Ukulele Band (visitors welcome)

STOP PRESS

Regular sessions at Blackbourne & Wesley include:

- 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** - 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. pm 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 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: February 21st, March 28th, April 25th

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

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