



'Like a friend dropping in'

The Elmswell Newsletter



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

MAY 2023

On line at elmswell.suffolk.cloud

Out with the old...



Elmswell Parish Councillors retiring May 2023

In with the new



... see Editorial & page 8

Published on the first Friday of every month by the Elmswell Amenities Association Reg. Charity No. 304879.
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Our editorial is designed to inform and to encourage debate. If you wish to comment, please do so via the office or by email at; eaa.elmswell.org.uk We reserve the right to edit any such contributions that we may use in a subsequent edition.

Typical!

You hang around in a rather drab world of the ordinary and the unremarkable, with just an odd glimmer of excitement when it looks as if it might snow or the railway gates are stuck closed and lots of orange-clad chaps lean on them waiting for the one with the screwdriver to turn up....and then, as if someone has wagged the wand of wonder, we get

X 2 elections  A coronation  ...and our very own (shared) taxi-bus to Bury.

The stuff of breathless joy. A catch in the throat. A sense of living through the birth of a new era. An air of irrepressible hope and a future of bejewelled promise... Sunny Uplands, as if breathlessly described by Mr Attenborough, replace the boggy wetlands through which we have trudged post-covid wearing sub-standard PPE and leaky wellies.

Towards discouraging such euphoria as we ride the roller coaster of events, we suggest the following analysis of what this torrent of happenstance might mean here in our humble hamlet.



As far as the elections go we know, at the time of going to press, nothing. Except, of course, what we knew already.

At the Mid Suffolk District Council level we have had 4 years of hard-working conscientious representation from Sarah Mansel and Helen Geake and we know that this can't have continued because Helen didn't stand. However, there was a much wider picture. The council had run for 4 years on a democratic knife-edge with an equality of factions meaning that the Chairman's casting vote was the only way to split opinions and make decisions. This distorted much Council business, often at the cost of local input (50 more houses, anyone?) Coupled with the inevitable effect that the national political scene has on local affairs, it was thought likely that there could be a seismic shift of power.

This might have happened before you are reading this. If so, it could signal real change which would filter back even to our oft-ignored corner of the world.

Meanwhile, our Parish Council was one of the few who, locally, had more candidates than seats and, therefore, a contested election. Again, we don't know, but by now you might, whether either of the 2 new faces nominated for our attention earned support enough to represent us, or whether the old guard, as rather decorously pictured on our cover, whose record by many accounts is not at all bad, are back to continue serving the village.

Whatever the outcome, we shall reap what is sown. Anyone who could do better might consider standing next time. Anyone who didn't vote has little basis for complaint.



As you read this, the Coronation is either due, is past, or has completely taken over the tele. You may be either feeling proud to be British, feeling fed up with trumpets, coaches and children waving flags or just happy to have the extra holiday with pay.

In tune, apparently, with many communities, the event is a pale shadow of 1953 when the smell of egg and cress butties filled the air, hand-made crepe paper streamers bedecked every lamp post without a single Risk Assessment or Health & Safety Appraisal having been generated and posh people showed off their television in its wooden cabinet with sliding doors pretending to be furniture.

Elmswell, it seems, has caught the mood of the Nation and is doing very little.

Books will be written about the post-covid slump in communal activity. Lectures from sociologists will unpick the national psyche of an empire in decline. Eventually it will be agreed that life is now best enjoyed through the medium of the smart phone and that the exertion of standing whilst the National Anthem is played is, really, a bit silly. Influencers will confirm this and rappers will doggerel-ise tunelessly in dismal accord.



Back in the real world we have shouted long and hard about the 'rural

desert' that we live in – ignored by the Municipal Mafia that control our lives from Westminster and the snowflake-shrouded North London suburbs. We are last in the queue for grant aid and other key social initiatives leaving us with a trek to the

doctor, no hope of a dentist – and without a bus service that comes anywhere near to serving our needs.

With thanks for small mercies, we can now hop on a school bus into Bury and back again. This gives us just one bus each way on 200 weekdays in a year less added 'PD' holiday days and strikes. There is no chance, given the current thinking of our elders and betters, of going back to Olden Times - of several buses a day arranged to suit markets and shopping and hospital appointments.

An opportunity, therefore, to practice what we in Elmswell often preach. We have to put our actions where our mouth is and 'fight our own corner'.

For some time our Parish Council has been in discussion with Mid Suffolk, BSEVC's 'Connecting Communities', and others towards a local initiative to provide a min-bus / taxi service into Bury. This included the possibility of our own electric vehicle, sharing with other villages and working through the Uber-style apps now available for booking. We had decided that we need to break away from the long-established service model of an enormous 97 horsepower diesel bus thundering along country lanes on a set route at set times. We have to grasp the changing demands and the new possibilities that are now available.

Clearly, therefore, when there was the hint of an opportunity to cut our teeth on using the spare capacity of the Vertas (aka Suffolk County Council) school mini-bus fleet which stands idle for most of the day, Elmswell dived in.

Result? See page 8. A trial run. A chance to assess demand and consider offering more.

Always providing – see our first paragraph, that our new Parish Council remains as active and forward-thinking as did the last one.

As advised by Messrs Flanders & Swann, 'Hold very tight please'.



CLUBS & SOCIETIES



ELMSWELL ART CLUB

The photograph below shows our group of Art Club members and guests who enjoyed a club outing to Christchurch Mansion, situated in the grounds of the beautiful Christchurch Park in Ipswich. We went along to see their "Landscape Rebels" exhibition, which included many exhibits from around the world highlighting human engagement with nature, art and the landscape. It was a very interesting and enjoyable visit, with paintings by many famous international painters, as well as local artists. In addition, the weather was very kind to us, allowing some to enjoy a stroll in the lovely surroundings.



One of the artists' paintings on display was Thomas Gainsborough, born in Sudbury, who was famous for his portraits of prominent "mercantile and upper classes" of the late 18th century.

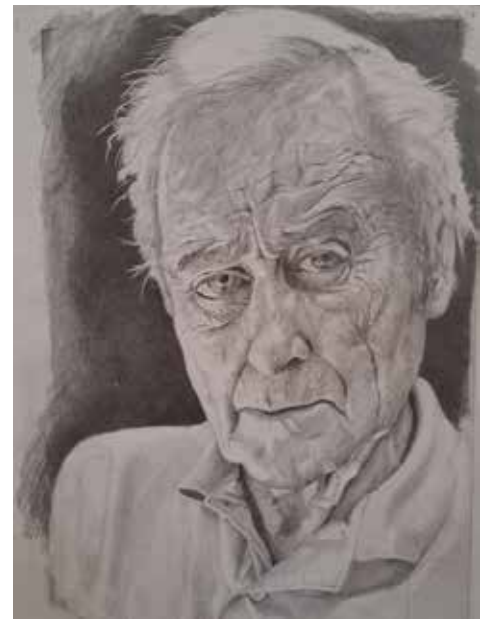
This month, our featured member's pictures are also excellent examples of portraiture.

The first one is by Jo Hale and is a portrait of Jo's brother-in-law, Robert. It was done to celebrate his 60th birthday but, admits Jo, it was a "tad late arriving"! The medium Jo used is acrylic paint on canvas board and took many weeks of Tuesday mornings (at Art Club meetings) plus "a lot of chatting and an occasional wet day spent on it at home".



The other 2 pictures were produced by Keith Ball; firstly, his portrait of a man is a graphite drawing

Keith's second portrait was produced using pastels.



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

Eddie Douglas



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ELMSWELL WI

At the beginning of the meeting, there was a discussion about whether we should continue to sing Jerusalem. A vote revealed that half of us would like to continue, and half of us would not. We are continuing to collect items for the food bank.

Brenda introduced our speaker for the evening: Martyn Roper. His talk for the evening was titled: "History and the Printed Cartoon". He began with some very early examples, eg. "Gin Lane", 1571 by William Hogarth, a famous artist of the time. This cartoon revealed the devastating effect of the prevalence of gin, which was very cheap. It alleviated the awful lives and living conditions of the poor, who consequently became addicted. Drunken people were shown in the streets, carousing or senseless. People bought gin instead of food and were in poor health. One woman is shown dropping her baby. By creating a shocking cartoon about what was happening, Hogarth influenced the "Powers that be" to do something about it. The printed word and picture were the only means of communication in these days, and most people could not read.

Martin showed us many cartoons, often created during times of crisis. Some were extremely funny. In the Napoleonic wars, a cartoon showing Suffolk Rats protecting their cheese, which was known as Suffolk Bang or Thump, because it was so hard! In 1875, sewers were completed in London by Bazalgette. Before this all sewage and industrial effluent was dumped in the River Thames. Night soil was collected every morning. As you can imagine there was a permanent stench in the air and many illnesses developed from the insanitary conditions. This was an intolerable situation, and called The Great Stink. It was illustrated by a cartoon called "Dirty Father Thames", which influenced authorities to provide money to solve the problem.

Martyn also showed us some cartoons which resulted in history being changed. He was a fascinating speaker and had us in fits of laughter. What an entertaining evening!

During our May meeting, we shall hold our A.G.M. and have a quiz.

Rosie Collins. 01359 241652.



ELMSWELL EXCHANGE AFTERNOON W.I.

At our April meeting we welcomed some visitors and also our W.I.

Advisors, Janet Brown and Jill Newell. We all sang Happy Birthday to Lesley Clarke as it was her actual day. Our speaker for the afternoon was Fay Jones, a local woodcarver. Pictures were shown of how woods were collected and made ready for carving. On the table were the various tools used to carve different items, many expensive and some quite old and well used. Faye then set up her bench and proceeded to carve a spoon sending wood shavings everywhere. Members took a keen interest in her work and asked several questions as she worked and soon her spoon was completed.

At a later stage she would smooth and refine it before being ready for use. After tea the W.I. meeting proceeded with details of finance, minutes and the

many diverse activities available from Federation including Craft, Soup and Natter, Workshops and outings. The Competition for a wooden item was won by Margaret, 2nd Jane and 3rd Lesley, an Easter Themed Raffle followed. The next meeting on 3rd May is our A.G.M. which will have taken place by the time you receive this. If you are interested in joining the W.I. we are always looking for new members and people to join the committee, we meet on the first Wednesday in the month at the Wesley Hall at 2 p.m. if you would like further details please contact Mary Chown on 245022. A warm welcome awaits.

Stephanie Lester



OVER 55's CLUB

By the time you all read this month's newsletter you will have decided to vote or not to vote for our Parish Councillors and District Councillors. Good luck to all who have been elected to serve the village.

Now on a more serious note since our last report we have welcomed the Elmswell Ukulele Band to the Blackbourne as our entertainers for April in return a collection was taken and given to them to donate to a charity of their choice.

Moving on to May 11th just after the Coronation of King Charles 111 we have a return visit of Bob Whiting. Please join us for a couple of hours to listen to his music who I am sure will do us proud as a very talented entertainer a small admission charge will apply to visitors but it includes a cuppa and if you are lucky a biscuit.

We are all geared up for our first outing of the year with a Visit to Oulton Broad for a Carvery followed by a 90 minute river cruise on the River Waveney.

Into June we have Bingo and a visit by Richard Whymark and his Puppet friends for an evening of laughter

Our featured photos include Susan Jayne from March 30th and more recently our own Sylvia Walton celebrating her 95th birthday in style with a Party for her many friends Cheers to you

Further dates are in the What's on section

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Enjoy a Warm Welcome at WESLEY

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ELMSWELL GARDEN CLUB

The sun is beginning to warm the soil and slowly we can plant the seedlings nurtured on our windowsills and in our glass houses since the beginning of spring. This is the time of the year when there seem so much to do to make sure we have tomatoes, beans, and courgettes well into the summer months. However, keep abreast of the weather forecast as frost could still deliver a sharp shock to your precious crops. Fleece protection will need to be ready for a little longer.

Our April speaker, Saffron Summerfield presented quite different evening delving into 'Why, How and When Birds Sing.' Saffron gave us the opportunity to understand the complexity of sounds that birds make. She explained that when a bird breathes it takes air through its bill, draws it in past its throat and into the syrinx which is like a human's larynx but split into two separate pipes allowing a bird to sing two notes at once. Through Saffron presentation we were able to appreciate the complexity of the smallest wren singing twenty-five notes a second

and appreciate that bird's song has inspired composers, poets, writers, and artists for thousands of years. We also found out that through their song, birds sing protect their territory, find a mate, and keep their 'family' together. When you go out into the countryside around our village listen out for the myriad of birdsong that is around and marvel at the beautiful sounds that they make.

Next month EGC will welcome Nigel Start to the Wesley Centre on the 16th May to present a talk, tailored to the specific need of gardening in East Anglia. His talk entitled 'Climate Change – a survival for guide for gardens in East Anglia.' Nigel will focus on how - *'Climate change affects us all with the extremes it brings. My talk discusses ways of adapting our gardening techniques to create more resilient gardens that we can still enjoy. I look at potential winners and losers in the range of plants that we grow. There will be plenty of time for your questions at the end of the evening.'*



If you ever get the opportunity to visit Weir Wood Reservoir in Ashdown Forest, East Sussex. Walk to the western end of the reservoir and sit a while on a 'sound bench.' Saffron worked for a year at the reserve collecting recordings from the birds that nest, rest, and live around the reservoir. The benches are a legacy to her dedicated work with birds.

The committee look forward to meeting you on Tuesday, 16th May at 7.30pm in the Wesley Hall, School Road. We welcome members old and new and look forward to sharing gardening skills with as many people as we can. The club is a terrific way to learn from like-minded gardeners.

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.



THANK YOU

Dear friends,

My family and I wanted to express our grateful thanks for all the help and kindness shown to us while my husband, Gren, was terminally ill in hospital and since he died. We have been so well supported and wish to let you know how much you have helped. It has been such a sad time in our lives, but made so much more bearable by your generosity - words, gifts, and deeds.

The advice and assistance of staff at The Blackbourne was so helpful and Val Burch provided delicious refreshments after the celebration of Gren's life. Everything was exactly as we would have wished and more.

Our sincere thanks to you all.

Hilary Foster and family



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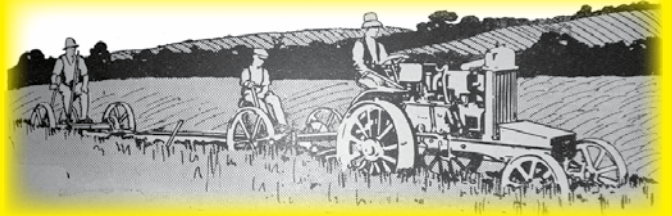


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The 2023 Annual Parish Meeting for Elmswell is called for THURSDAY 11th MAY beginning at 7.30 pm at BLACKBOURNE

This is an opportunity for the community to meet and discuss any matters of interest or concern regarding Elmswell.

Invitations have gone to:

- ❖ Our newly elected Parish Councillors
- ❖ Our newly elected District Councillors
- ❖ Our County Councillor
- ❖ SCC Highways
- ❖ Suffolk Police
- ❖ Mid Suffolk Planning

All residents of Elmswell are invited to attend.

Questions are also invited in advance through the Parish Council office at;
Blackbourne, Blackbourne Road IP30 9UH

01359 244134

clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk



AN UPDATE





With the final few arrows thrown, our share issue closed on 21st April... and the score?

£185,000.00 from 279 subscribers - that's 279 votes of confidence, backed by hard cash at a time when there's not a lot of it about.




Which immediately poses the question - what's next?

Which prompts the next question - what are we looking to build, and how much do we still need to find to build it?

What we know is:

-  Plans based on the historic footprint of the pub with extensions to allow for a full pub catering operation are being developed by an architectural technician
-  These plans will go forward to begin the pre-Planning consultation / Planning & Building Regs. applications
-  Once approved the construction will be project managed by the experienced in house team using local sub contractors
-  There are multiple bids and applications in for grant funding, including to the Government's Community Ownership Fund, part of the 'Levelling Up' agenda - personally backed and supported by Jo Churchill, our MP, and through donations invited from other sources

What we don't know is:

-  What the total build cost will be
-  When we will re-open
-  But answers will emerge as each stage is achieved.

MEANWHILE...

- ✓ the pub is closed and stripped of much of its kit to allow preliminary works
- ✓ the kit is in storage and is being added to, particularly in terms of catering equipment
- ✓ the shareholders are soon to meet for the first time and their AGM will elect the Managing Board towards signing the lease which will give Elmswell Community Enterprise control of the building towards appointing management.
- ✓ As a marker for the future, and true to the long-held determination to be 'Not Just A Pub', the Elmswell Food Bank continues to operate from the back bar every Monday and Friday morning

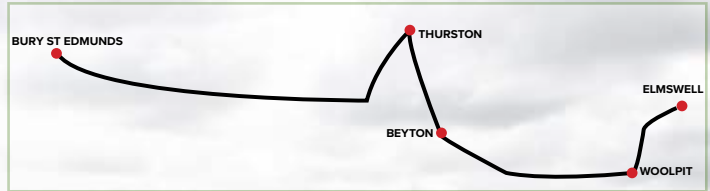
For all queries contact ECE at the Parish Council Office at Blackbourne - email elmswelltavern@gmail.com telephone 01359 244134

DONATIONS are welcome by cheque or cash c/o the Parish Council Office at Blackbourne or directly via BACS: Elmswell Community Enterprise Limited 08-92-99 67224900

All comment, feedback, advice and offers of other support are very welcome.



NEW



TAXI-BUS SERVICE TO BURY

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. There is to be a 4 week trial of 8 seater taxi buses offering a return trip to Bury on Wednesdays and Saturdays beginning Saturday 3rd June.

- ✓ The return fare from Elmswell will be £6.00
- ✓ Booking essential 2 days in advance
- ✓ Leaving Wesley car park in Elmswell at 9.30 am – gets to Bury about 10.15 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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THE LION RIDE - 11TH JUNE 2023

It's 4am on a Summer Sunday morning, and the only things awake are me and a few pheasants. This is how I check the signage for the Lion Ride. I travel the blue route to make sure everything is in place, and also cover the majority of the red route as I go. We put out a-boards on the day to help inform traffic about the event. For the period of about one week before the event, we are out every day putting up signs for each route. Three different colours correspond to the three different routes, Blue, Red and Green. Stowmarket Lions have been running this event for over 10 years, and so we are quite proud of how well it is organised. We know that a lot of riders have bike computers, so we provide a download-able map for those riders. We check for road works in preparation to make diversions if we need

to. Last year there were three road works, but luckily we did not need to change any of the routes.

The Lions Charity is a volunteering organisation with over one million members around the world. We run a number of events including the Lion Ride in June. Over the years the Stowmarket Lions Clubs have raised over one million pounds since our inception in 1980. We try to focus that aid locally, but we also help national charities.

The bike ride event called the Lion Ride, starts and ends at the Blackbourne Centre in Elmswell. This event is a cycle ride around the villages and towns of Suffolk. There are three routes; the blue route is approximately 100km, the red is about 50km and the final route is more family

oriented at 25km. This year we have been researching new routes and have managed to find a new route for both the Red and Blue rides. The system we wrote to help with registrations allows us to track each rider, so that we know when everyone has started and finished. Anyone who doesn't finish on the system we contact to make sure they are safe. After the ride there is drinks and cake!

It is a fantastic opportunity to see the Suffolk countryside, complete a personal challenge and also raise money for charity.



Please see www.stow-lions.org.uk/lion-ride for more information. We are also looking for additional Lions members, so that if you feel you want to give back to the community where you live, and have fun doing it then please email our president president@stowlions.org.uk



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ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP



In the remote countryside of north Suffolk there is a building of great significance – Halesworth's Walpole Old Chapel, being possibly the oldest independent place of worship in England, and a monument to pioneers. At our April meeting, we learnt more from Miriam Stead about the earliest days of non-conformism in England. She explained how, in 1649, a group of very brave and determined non-conformists established their own place of worship in a converted farmhouse near Walpole. This was at a time when almost everyone was supposed to be Christian and a Church of England member. Struggling against all sorts of practical, legal and social difficulties, the non-conformists and their chapel survived to spawn many other similar establishments throughout our country. This lovely old chapel can be visited on summer Saturdays, 2-4.30pm – www.walpoleoldchapel.org.

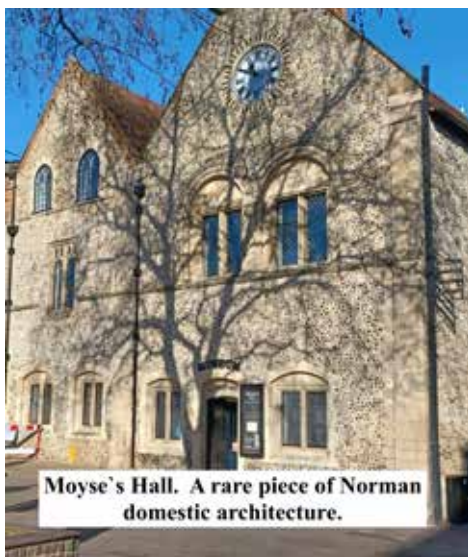
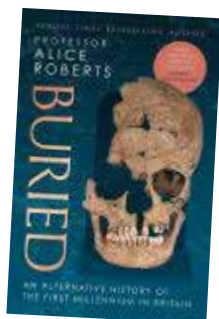
Book

Recommendation –

“Buried – an Alternative History of the First Millennium in Britain” by Prof Alice Roberts.

Why are there so many headless skeletons in Bury St Edmunds? The TV

archaeologist examines eight case studies of unusual burials, asking what they tell us about murky medieval beliefs. If you missed our intriguing Burial Practices talk recently, this is the book for you. Publisher Simon & Schuster, £9.99 – or from the library.



designed for the use of a rich merchant or money lender. Although Bury's Guildhall in Guildhall Street is of a similar age, it has not survived the centuries as unmolested by modernisation as Moyses Hall has - open to the public seven days a week as it also houses a local museum – IP33 1DX, 01284-757160

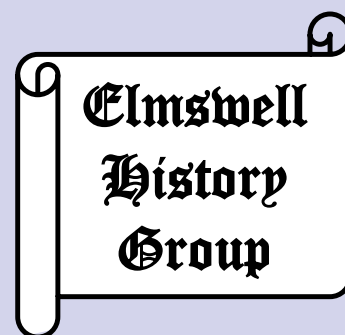
Our next meeting on **11th May – 7.30pm at the Wesley** - will be a screening of Holly Brega's film *“The Land Girls and Horses of Suffolk”*, after which we will be making a donation to Little Finborough's Women's



Land Army memorial at the recently-opened Oaks Meadow Project (near Combs). Do join us then.

Reuniting a 1923 Steam Traction Engine to Elmswell

– The restorer of a 100-year old Wallis & Stevens traction engine will be returning it to Elmswell on Friday 2nd June (parked at the Tavern) and then will be on display at the Woolpit Steam Fair that weekend, Sat 3rd & Sun 4th June. We hope to put on a small associated exhibition at the Steam Fair to coincide with this “homecoming”. See you there - Warren Farm, on the old A45, Wetherden, IP14 3JX (www.woolpit-steam.org.uk).



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

Greetings from St John's Church

As a child, I remember learning how Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday. At the time, I naturally assumed that he went on to die again at a later date. This is, of course, not the case. During the month of May we celebrate the Ascension – Jesus did not go on to die a second time, but instead ascended alive into heaven, where he remains alive, reigning with his Father, forevermore.

The miracle of the resurrection is that Jesus rose from the dead never to die again. The resurrection body of Jesus is eternal. The good news for followers of Jesus is that we are promised the same. This is in, in fact, excellent news, as many of us see our current bodies falling into disrepair as we get older. Something far better is to come.

May is a busy month, with a third bank holiday thrown in as we celebrate the coronation of King Charles. At St John's we are also looking forward to Mission Sunday on 21 May, when we will be welcoming visitors from Indonesia and enjoying lunch together afterwards. Pentecost Sunday is on the 28 May and we will be marking it in unity with other *Christians Together In Elmswell* at the Baptist Church (4:30pm for a light tea and 5:00pm for worship). You can find more details of our services and who we are on our web site.

St John's is always ready to welcome you as we worship the Lord Jesus and learn what it means to follow him. We meet weekly at 10:30am and have groups for children, which include a story from the Bible and a craft. Tea and coffee are available afterwards.

Upcoming Dates:

Sun 7 May 9:00am Holy Communion

Sun 7 May 10:30am Family Service
 Sun 14 May 10:30am Sunday Worship with Holy Communion
 Sun 21 May 10:30am Mission Sunday followed by bring & share lunch
 Sun 28 May 10:30am Sunday Worship with Holy Communion
 Sun 28 May 4:30pm Light tea & Pentecost Celebration (Baptist Church)

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

30th April 2023 marked the end of the 29th year of floodlighting St. John's Tower, a year in which we raised £675, which brings the sum accumulated since we started to a magnificent £23,375.

Over the years floodlighting the tower has become an integral part of village life. As well as raising funds for St. John's, it has become a very popular way of enhancing the profile of the church itself. As "taker of the money" I would like to say, once again, a huge public THANK YOU to all those people who have sponsored the

lights during 2022/23, and before. Your support is hugely appreciated. St. John's really does benefit from your generosity; and parishioners repeatedly tell me how much they enjoy seeing our beacon on the hill as they make their way home along the A14 late at night. Thank you all.

Everyone is welcome to sponsor the floodlighting of St. John's, a lovely way to commemorate a personal event, an anniversary, or any other occasion special to you. Alternatively, you can simply make a donation. And it all helps to pay the day-to-day running expenses of our parish church. For the summer months the lights will be on between 8.00 p.m. and midnight. A night's floodlighting costs £5. Cheques payable to "ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, ELMSWELL".

All bookings / payments please to :- Trevor Sadler, Abbots Warren, Church Road, Elmswell (Tel: 240908)

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- 1 in memory of John Ray.
- 2 in memory of John Ray.
- 3 in memory of John Ray.
- 4 in memory of John Ray.
- 5 in memory of John Ray.
- 5 remembering Jane Goodchild on her Birthday. Love Colin. xx.
- 6 Coronation Day
- 6 in memory of John Ray.
- 7 Coronation Weekend
- 7 in memory of John Ray.
- 7 in loving memory of Rose Emma Manning.



- 8 Coronation Weekend
- 9 remembering Rachel Louise Finch on her Birthday.
- 9 in loving memory of Catherine Rafferty and May Giblin.
- 14 remembering Percy Pleasance, a dear Dad, Grandad and Great-Grandad, on his Birthday.
- 20 to remember and thank all the Elmswell Fire-Fighters who have served their village and community so well.
- 24 treasured Birthday memories Mum, of such happy times. Lots of love from All of your family. xxxx.
- 25 treasured happy memories of Ted Rookard. Lots of love from All of your family. xxxx.
- 28 remembering Dean Goodchild on his Birthday. Love Colin. xx.
- 30 in memory of Mark Jones. "Always in our thoughts".

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 Good Friday we joined with fellow Christians to remember Christ's death on the cross at Calvary, the open air service organised by Christians Together in Elmswell, took place on the green at Crown Mill by the village sign was led by Norman Tharby our moderator and the address was given by Peter Goodrich the Rector of St Johns, close on a hundred folk of all ages attended this up lifting service which rounded off with hot cross buns for all. Sadly we said goodbye at Easter to Norman as he steps down as our moderator to enjoy more of his

retirement thanks to him and Debbie for their support over the last couple of years and wish him well for the future. May 6th sees the coronation of King Charles 3rd it feels strange to me referring to him as king having known him as Prince Charles for over seventy years, it's been long training course for him. Already he is making his mark and showing the same strength of character that his late parents demonstrated not least in his insistence of a shortened coronation service, and not the three- hour ordeal his late mother went through at her coronation.

Because of all the Bank holidays in May our Ladies Friendship Group will not be meeting in May their next meeting is planned for the 5th June.

On 11th May our Food and Friends lunch takes place at midday on 11th May contact Jackie on 01359 245918 if you haven't been before and would like to join us

Our preachers for May will be

Sunday May 7	Stephen Spurgeon (inc Communion)
Sunday May 14 th	Rev Robert Green
Sunday May 21 st	Eileen Warner
Sunday May 28 th	Christine Myers

However you are celebrating the coronation be it at a community event or a family get together we at the Baptist Church trust that you have an enjoyable time.

For any information about our services or other activities contact Tony on 01359 241541 or go to our website www.elmswellbaptists.org.uk



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

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

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

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

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Spoon Club at Lukeswood

The last Saturday in April saw the inaugural meeting of ElmsWild Spoon Club. Following our successful courses last year with Fay Jones, expert spoon carver, we thought that there might be enough people interested in taking their new hobby further, so after a few discussions we decided to go ahead and set up a regular group, meeting at Lukeswood. We now have some basic equipment, and we also have plenty of wood! This is principally birch, which provides good carving material, not too hard for beginners. We usually take a single branch from one of our many multi-stemmed trees, so this actually benefits the tree as well as giving us plenty of timber. Despite the name of our new club, other things can be carved and whittled – spatulas are also popular as well as useful in the kitchen – but spoons are particularly satisfying to shape! Our photo shows everyone hard at work, each busy with their own particular piece of cutlery. If you would like to know more about our Spoon Club or are interested in joining in, please do get in touch for a chat. Please bear in mind that because of the nature of the tools we're using participants must be eighteen plus.



Willow weaving courses in May

While we're on the subject of crafts, don't forget our fantastic willow weaving courses on Saturday 27th May at Lukeswood. Learning to weave willow is very interesting, and people who start with a single piece often get hooked and go on to learn how to make a whole variety of willow objects, from sculpture to baskets. We're lucky to have expert basket weaver Jo Hammond leading both courses. In the morning course (9.30-12.30) you can learn how to make a willow dragonfly, and in the afternoon (1.30-4.30) a plant support. Cost is just £25 per session. If you want to give it a go, please get in touch for more information or to book your place.

Spring comes to the Memorial Garden

Every other Tuesday ElmsWild volunteers make a beeline for the Memorial Garden next to the library. We spend some time there tidying and generally giving it some TLC. Every spring we're reminded how pretty it looks at this time of year! We thought that we would share some photos with readers, featuring some of the spring flowers now blossoming. Better still, when you next call in to the library to change your books, go into the garden and have a look round for yourself!



Seed scattering

There are four areas in the village where we have established small patches of wildflowers – around the village sign, around the maze on Church Road, next to the library, and outside the station. These have been going for several years now and each year they look different, with a variety of blooms showing through the season. They do occasionally need some maintenance, and this year we also decided to scatter some new seed to give them a boost after the winter. We're looking forward to seeing the colourful results in the summer!

Mary Feeney
info@elmswild.org.uk



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ELMSWELL LIBRARY

Hello Elmswell,

The Summer Reading Challenge is getting closer so we are starting to sign up volunteers for it. Each year children under 12 take part in the challenge and we need volunteers to help. The children read 6 books over the summer holidays, come into the library and tell volunteers about the books they have read. For each book they tell volunteers about, they get given a reward of things like a pencil, a book mark or a fridge magnet. If they get through 6 books they get a medal and a certificate.

Our next exhibition is a photography exhibition by Jordan Gardiner. Jordan is a young artist from Stowmarket and has recently started having his work on display. Jordan's photography is of landscapes including urban, rural and coastal scenes.

The theme for the book display this month is short stories. We have collections of stories by a single author and collections where each story is by someone different. The single author books include ones by Lee Child, Val McDermid, Jeffrey Archer, Danielle Evans, Irvine Welsh, C. J. Tudor, Bolu Babalola,

Colin Barrett and Margery Allingham. If you like having a taster of different authors we have a crime collection edited by Martin Edwards, a speculative fiction selection edited by Leone Ross and a fantasy collection edited by Jonathan Strahan.

If you are looking for something a bit longer we have a permanent shelf of books under 150 pages which includes classic authors such as Agatha Christie and F. Scott Fitzgerald to modern day writers including Coleen Hoover and Mick Herron.

We have a new printer at Elmswell Library so we can now print double sided A4 for 30p per black and white sheet and 80p per double sided colour sheet.

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

Knit and Natter

2pm – 3pm Tuesday 9th May (every 2nd Tuesday of the month)

Chess Club

Starting 4.30pm Thursday 11th May (every 2nd Thursday of the month)

The Keep in Touch Community Café

10.30am on Wednesday 17th May at the Wesley Café (every 3rd Wednesday)

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



MARKING A MILESTONE MOMENT...

Our picture shows village stalwart, Sylvia Walton, who recently hosted a packed Chamberlayne Hall at Blackbourne to celebrate her 95th birthday.

More than 70 of Sylvia's wide network of friends gathered to hear some of her stories from a rich and varied life.

Calvin Goymer was at the keyboard to help the mood and Jess, Sylvia's Goddaughter, created a thoroughly appropriate cake decorated with a bottle of champagne.

Cheers, Sylvia, and Happy Birthday!



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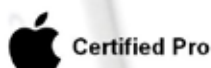
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Way to go...

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

All walks start from the village sign on Crown Mill.



Get Creative this spring with some of these lovely craft ideas

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Fruit Kebabs

Choose from a selection of fruit, cut into cubes if required and thread onto a skewer.



This page sponsored by



ELMSWELL FOOTBALL CLUB



FIRST TEAM REPORT

We took a trip to Saxmundham who are flying in the league. With suspensions and injuries, we only had 12 but our game plan was to battle and give a good account of ourselves. We had some chances but found ourselves 2-0 down and the better team went on and won 4-0 and will be promoted this season.

Up next was a midweek affair with Sporting 87 at the Blackbourne We started the better side and felt this game was ours for the taking, having lost 3-2 a few weeks ago while playing the majority of that game with 10 men. This game turned out to be a battle and ended 1-1 with Will Hayden adding to his goal tally for the season. The game was ours to win but we couldn't quite find the winner. A shout out to 16 year old Harry Newman who made his debut in men's football, making some Important tackles at the end of the game and never looked out of place.

We then travelled to Great Blakenham with another depleted squad. We started very well and had plenty of the ball before going a goal down against the run of play but our heads didn't drop and if anything made us play better. Goals from Will Hayden, Andy Brookin and Jack MacDonald had us 3-1 up at halftime before going out second half and putting the game to bed with a great goal. Final score 4-1.

Our final 3 games are all away from home (at Bardwell, Stonham and Copelstonians) and we're aiming to carry on the good performances from the last 2 weeks and finish the season strongly. We're currently in 9th place but with a couple of wins we could hit 7th place.



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RESERVES REPORT

April has been a jam-packed month. We started with a 7-1 demolition of Stow Falcons 'A' with goals from Matty Last x2, Jack Webb x 2, Luke Catchpole, Liam Trickey and Aidan Ashton. MOTM Jack Webb on his debut. Next, we played Capel Plough 'A' needing a point to go above them on goal difference. Better than that we won 2-0 with goals from MOTM Andy Brookin and Will Hayden.

The Tuesday after Easter we hosted high flying Bacton 'A'. It was a close game, but the visitors just edged it. As the light was pettinger out we found ourselves 2-1 down and as we pushed for the equaliser Bacton broke on us, Ally Clarke sliding in to make a last ditch tackle and inadvertently poking it past the on rushing keeper and into his own net. It was very unlucky on the lad who had been class throughout and still won MOTM. Final score 1-3. Elmswell goal scorer Ash Farmer.

Kesgrave Kestrels away on a sunny afternoon on their 4G pitch followed. It was hot and hard work on the unforgiving surface. We also only had one sub to their 5 but the work rate and communication were great. It was an exciting game with lots of twists and turns. Luke Catchpole scored a hattrick and got MOTM as we drew 3-3 to leapfrog Kestrels in the table.

The next game was against league winners, Samuels. We'd lost narrowly away to them earlier in the season and wanted to ruin their party as they were to be present with the trophy after the game at The Blackbourne CC. They won 1-0 with an unstoppable bullet shot in the second half but it was an eventful game. MOTM Aaron Farmer.

The last game in April was away to Somersham Reserves who we'd yet to play. It's never fun playing on their sloping pitch and this game was a real slog. We were a bit off the pace in the first half with stray passes all over their bobby pitch. We went ahead before half time. Our best move of the half with some nice passing through the lines before Romaine Scott was put in to finish clinically. MOTM Dylan Palfreyman.

With only two games left of the season, we are in 8th position with the chance to grab 7th spot if we win both our games.



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CITIZENS ADVICE

I recently started a new job where my boss has told me I'll have to work on bank holidays. This was never the case in my old job. Can my employer make me work on a public holiday, and should I get paid extra if I do?

When it comes to bank holidays, whether or not staff have to work is up to their employer, and you don't have to be paid more if you do. Unless your contract says you'll be paid extra for working bank holidays, you will just be paid your normal amount.

The situation will vary from job to job and may depend on a number of factors such as whether your place of work is open on bank holidays, your hours of work and crucially, what your contract says.

Take a look at your contract, if you have one, to find out what your personal situation is. Your contract might say you will always get bank holidays off but it could say you are sometimes required to work or will always be required to work. If

your place of work is normally open on a bank holiday you'll probably be asked to work at least some.

Your contract might say something like: "In addition to bank and public holidays, your annual entitlement to holidays is X days". This means you get public holidays off in addition to your annual leave entitlement but it might not mean you're entitled to take the specific days off. You may be required to work a bank holiday, in which case you should get another day off instead.

Alternatively, it might say something like: "Your annual holiday entitlement (inclusive of bank and public holidays) is X days" - this means you have to take bank holidays off as part of your annual

leave entitlement. Bank holidays will either be deducted from your annual leave allowance (so you'll have to book all bank holidays as paid time off) or counted as additional holiday days.

If you don't have a contract, the legal default position is that your employer can tell you when you can or can't take time off.

If you find you need to resolve an issue with your employer, first ask for an informal chat, where you can raise your concerns. If this doesn't get you anywhere, you may need to raise a formal grievance. If you need advice on this, Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can help.

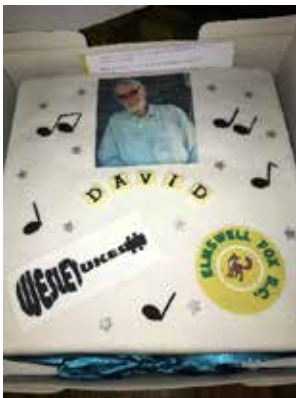
Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide advice on this and other issues, including debt, employment, benefits and family law. You can contact them on 01449 676060 or use the contact form at midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us. More information and our opening hours can also be found at midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us.



Mid Suffolk

WESLEY UKULELE BAND

April began with David Gruenbaum's birthday party which, very sadly, turned out to be a wake in his memory as he passed a couple of weeks before the event. It



went very well and David had lots of family from extraordinary distances away with relatives from York and Sheffield and the south coast coming down just for the party and driving back afterwards. There was a slide showing depicting various stages of David's life, which was both interesting and informative, a splendid Jean Barker cake and a rather busy bar. The Ukes were sadly rather under-represented due to a bug that was going round and a few people were on holiday, but the old boy had quite a send-off.

I mentioned a 're-branding' of the Folk Club last month and I have more details for you now. It will still be on the third Wednesday each month but will switch to afternoons in the Wesley Coffee Shop. Here's the best

bit, though, there will be a deal available – coffee and cake for a fiver! How about that? Bigger news still is that Kevin is planning a Ukulele Festival for the Blackbourne on Saturday, July 1st, and has eight bands lined up from all over the region. Entry will be free, as will the stalls, if you would like one, and there will be a bar with real ale and numerous food outlets. Unless you are very new to the village, you will probably remember the recent 'Elmfest' events and

maybe even the older Autumn Fayres and this will, hopefully, take over where they left off in providing an event on your doorstep which won't cost the earth and which you can walk to. We have missed that for too long, in my opinion.

For information, or to book a Ukulele Festival stall, please call Kevin on 01359 240604

Or email: Kevin.Knock99@gmail.com



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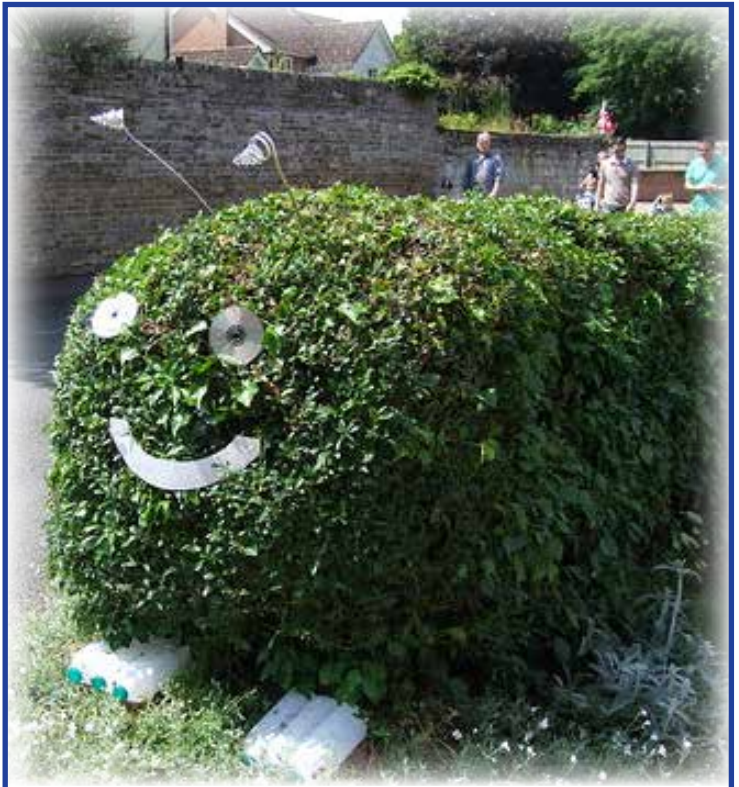
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ELMSWELL FOOTPATH WALK



FOOTPATH WALK 16TH APRIL 2023

A clear, bright spring Sunday morning attracted 8 ramblers to the next thrilling instalment of the monthly series of the Elmswell footpath walks.

Saturday's overnight rain required that a drier route be found so as not to detract from the pleasure of the walk.

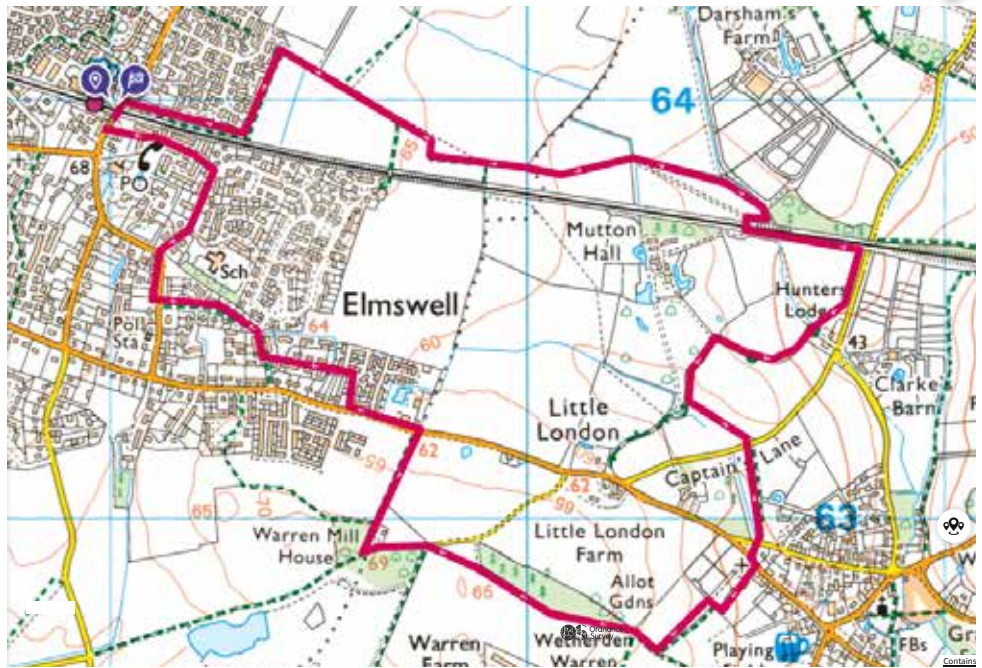
The party took FP10 adjacent to the Pharmacy progressing east adjacent to the railway line with a left turn taking them past the Orbit Homes development off Borley Crescent which appears to be entering its final phase.

We turned right on to FP9 and continued east doglegging right and left until FP9 ended at the gate into Mutton Hill through which we passed and on towards Wetherden.

Keeping to the left hand edge of the field we passed to the rear of Darsham's Farm eventually passing under the railway bridge, continuing east then turning right and walking adjacent to Ashfield Road and past Hunters Lodge.

The copse here always lifts the spirit and it was good to see the pond by the gate has been fully replenished by the plentiful recent rainfall.

Joining RB46 we walked south turning on to FP33, across Captains Lane and thence on to FP32 joining up with Kate's Lane nearing the centre of Wetherden.



On to the Elmswell Road we took a quick left then right next to the Baptist Chapel on to FP51, climbed up the slope past the geese, a right then left this time and carried on past the plantation on our right and finally meeting the junction of FP23 and FP25A at the summit,

Turning right here on to FP25A we strolled north west across the top of Wetherden Warren with views to the south towards Haughley Park and then straight on to the track leading to Warren Mill House.

A right turn after the house brings us back into the Parish of Elmswell via FP21 and back down to where the footpath meets the Wetherden Road replete with a new dog waste bin affixed to the footpath finger post.

We now travel back to the start of the walk via Selion Way, Jubilee Terrace, Thedwastre Close, Cooks Road, Bennett Avenue and finally Crown Mill.

A walk of approximately 3.9 miles in 1 hour 39 minutes (an average speed of 2.35 miles per hour).

Peter Hancock, EPC Footpath Officer

ROAD SAFETY

As part of their continuing and active commitment to making Elmswell's roads safer, there are 3 Speed Indicator Devices – 'SIDs' installed by the Parish Council after community consultation regarding inappropriate traffic speeds through the village.

The latest monitoring report, based on readings on 25th April, suggests that the average data have not changed much over the last few months, with the headline numbers being:

Ashfield Road

Data collected 25th October 2021 to 25th April 2023

Total vehicles in that period 582,934

Average speed 30.12 mph

Annual average daily traffic approximately 1,065 vehicles

Approximately 55% of drivers over the speed limit

Average excess speed 36.5 mph

Maximum speed 100mph on Sunday 2nd April 2023 22:25

Church Hill

Data collected 23rd February 2022 to 25th April 2023

Total vehicles in that period 1,154,487

Average speed 29.14

Annual Average Daily Traffic approximately 2,709 vehicles

Approximately 40% of drivers over the speed limit

Average excess speed 34.5

Maximum speed 70 mph on Monday 24th April 2022 at 16:05

Wetherden Road

Data collected 1st March 2022 to 25th April 2023

Total vehicles in monitoring period 822,482

Average speed 28.93

Annual Average Daily Traffic approximately 1,959

Approximately 44% of drivers over the speed limit

Average excess speed 34.1 mph

Maximum speed 90 mph on Saturday 19th November 2022 at 22:05

Once the School Road development is complete it is likely that the Church Hill traffic will increase yet again.

The Message from Suffolk Police is that, those drivers who think it clever to travel at ridiculous excess speeds, just think themselves lucky that they have, up to now, avoided causing death or serious injury to themselves or others.





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ELMSWELL SPORT



ELMSWELL FOX BOWLS CLUB

Change of format this month as I am showing you the photos first. They are from our Opening Day and, as you can see, we are gathered in our brand new, Quality Equipment sponsored club shirts. Quality Equipment is a family run business from Woolpit that makes sophisticated pig farming equipment which they export all over the world. It is run by founder Glyn Baker and his sons Graham and Jamie, who are all playing members of the club. The shirts were researched, sourced and distributed by Jenny Murray, who has undertaken to make the Foxes a more professional club and has made a very significant start! Jenny has also taken on the role of Competitions Secretary, which

we have never had before, so trophies will have much more significance this year.

On the green, the 2023 season has started with a win for the Tuesday side at home against Hengrave, and a Thursday win away at Walsham. Things went a bit sideways, however, for the Monday team when Brandon came to visit and gave us a bit of a hiding. We are hoping that they are the most likely team to gain promotion this year and not typical of Division Two or else we are in for a difficult season! It is a couple years since we were in Div 2 as relegation was suspended because of the pandemic. I am sure we will adjust quickly and settle down but this was not the start I expected.

Now that we are up and running, roll-up days are Saturdays and Wednesdays at 2pm so do pop along and give us a look if you are minded. You will always be warmly welcomed, even if you only need the loo!

And a note to all footballers who play near the green. If you put your telephone number on your footballs, we will know who to return them to when we find them on the green. They do no harm but we do have quite a collection!

Peter Edmonds,
E.F.B.C.
07860 395720
edmondspeterj@gmail.com



Another New Beginning...

In 2021 we celebrated the wedding of Lewis and Holly whose karate classes at Blackbourne have been a great favourite with Elmswell youngsters for several years.

Here we suggest another celebration is due as Oscar, born on 3rd December last year, was baptised at St John's on Palm Sunday - with a get-together afterwards, where else but at Blackbourne!

Hello Oscar.



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The Parish Council meets at least once each month, excluding August, although extraordinary meetings can be called as required at any time. The April meeting with all 11 councillors present, together with 2 members of the public, SCC Ward Member Andy Mellen and the Parish Clerk, Peter Dow, took place at Blackbourne on Monday 17th.

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 March 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, following the Planning Inspectorate feedback, the Councils are inviting responses to the proposed modifications to the part 1 of the new Joint Local Plan. The consultation period runs from 16th March to 3rd May. This is a technical consultation about the validity of the plan with no scope for any major amendments at this stage.

Other points included:

- A full planning application for the proposed development of Chilton Fields and Stowmarket High School has now been submitted. The site is designed to be flexible so it can accommodate a range of sports including football, basketball, badminton, cricket, rugby and volleyball. There will also be an all-weather running track and a new multi-sports pavilion.
- Following the proposals of a working group, the new Joint Local Planning Enforcement plan was agreed by Council last week. The new plan aims to make the process of enforcement clearer and to keep all interested parties better informed about the process and outcomes of any enforcement case.
- A working group recently undertook the 5th review of the CIL expenditure framework and the proposals were agreed by both Councils. The main changes included the use of ringfenced funds from catchment areas for major projects, enabling CIL funds to be used for some highway works provided they were related to active travel and were included in the Local cycling Walking Infrastructure Plan. Also, the limit for parish projects was increased to £100,000 and up to 75% of the total costs, and there will be more flexibility due to quotes becoming out of date sooner.
- Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils have put together a programme of free Easter Holiday activities for eligible families.

Suffolk County Council Cllr Andy Mellen tabled a written report which included the following:

- The Opposition Group recently

proposed a motion for SCC to recommit to its climate emergency declaration and the intention to achieve Net Zero by 2030 (ie where emissions of carbon dioxide from the council's activities are reduced, and any remaining are balanced by actions which draw carbon from the atmosphere). The original 2019 Declaration was made by an earlier group of councillors. Since then, the intervening election means that 31 new councillors had not yet had the opportunity to formally commit themselves to Net Zero by 2030. In January, it was announced in the Carbon Budget that SCC is not on track to achieve Net Zero by 2030. There was agreement across the chamber to a Motion ensuring that the Council would prioritise building a clearer roadmap to protecting our environment.

- Women's History Month was celebrated throughout March, with International Women's Day being on 8th March. Last year, the Opposition Group Spokesperson for Women, Cllr Caroline Page, wrote to Suffolk County Council, asking that them to purchase a Suffragette Flag celebrating a women's story and a flag flew throughout the month. It has also been confirmed that this will now be best practice moving forward. This comes as news in March shows Suffolk County Council's mean and median gender pay gaps have reduced in the last year, by 0.5% and 1.0%, respectively.
- A recent Cabinet Meeting agreed an additional £32m investment to increase school provision in the county. With the new funding, 11 new schools will be built, (including in Woolpit) as well as maintenance and expansion of current schools. In addition, £10.8m was agreed to help deliver new walking and cycling bridges in Ipswich, as well as providing financial support to the recommendations outlined by the Ipswich Policy Development Panel. Projects include boosting employment opportunities for young people and sustainable travel. The Opposition Group highlighted the fact that there are infrastructure projects throughout the county that need investment urgently and that the administration needs a more coherent delivery plan to address

shortages outside of Ipswich.

- The Government's assessment of the SEND services progress in Suffolk has been described as 'reassuring' after SCC adopted all the recommendations given in the Council's report back in 2021. In November 2021, a report into SCC's SEND services found failings and inadequacies linked to a lack of engagement with parents/guardians, a failure to meet targets, and a lack of effective training in staff. This comes as recent news from SCC said they have hired a Special Advisor for SEND Services to support existing improvements.
- Suffolk County Council has announced additional financial support for households homing Ukrainian refugees. Those who have homed a Ukrainian refugee for a minimum of 6 months will receive an additional £150 per month (in addition to the £350 monthly payment, which will rise to £500 after guests have stayed 12 months). However, once the £500 monthly payment has been received, the council will stop its additional funding. More information is available at www.suffolk.gov.uk/ukraine.

School Road

The works to install utilities services to the 86 house development at School Road, including the installation of the shared footway and cycle path as part of the community path to Woolpit, were designed and specified by Suffolk County Council. Strong representations were made from the Parish Council regarding the uniform widening of the road given that the same landowner controlled the full length and that the developer was to commission and fund the works. Highways officers did not agree with the community view and the result has proved to be widely disappointing. There are clear points of traffic conflict which suggest an identifiable risk to highway safety and the Clerk was asked to register Elmswell Parish Council's serious concerns and to invite SCC's justification for what would seem to be both a poor and dangerous outcome representing an opportunity lost to ease the ever-increasing traffic burden in Elmswell. The result runs directly counter to the Parish Council's current and productive liaison with SCC towards a coherent road

safety policy throughout the village.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk's Report to the Meeting was as follows:

- 1 I have met with Cllrs Brown, Hancock and Pallett together with our Architectural Technician, David Magnani, towards refining the sketch plans for the proposed Tavern footprint and beginning the process of working these up to formal Pre-Planning Consultation application level. Meanwhile, Cllr Brown has advised on the choice of suitable Design & Construct Programme software which is now installed and will allow, when populated with appropriate key stages and the relevant estimated timings, some predictions as to the main progress points.
- 2 I joined an on-line briefing on 23rd March to begin engagement with the initiative, supported by Suffolk's Local Authorities and by Community Energy South, to encourage communities to benefit from locally owned renewable energy such as is proposed at Blackbourne by way of a wind turbine and at the Greene King site which offers community heating possibilities to benefit both the affordable homes and the pub. A formal Expression of Interest has secured Elmswell a place at the table as such proposals are developed county-wide.
- 3 Having registered an Elmswell interest in the proposals to allow use of Vertas electric mini buses to serve for community use when not on school runs, I joined a meeting of interested parties on 24th March towards devising a basis for a trial run. There is a proposal for a return service on Wednesdays from Elmswell / Woolpit / Thurston into Bury and back.. I seek Councillors' thinking on whether this might justify an underwriting exercise to ensure that the cost of each trip is covered regardless of how many fare-paying passengers use the service. The return trip cost is £45.00. If this is guaranteed by the 3 Parish Councils concerned it will allow a fixed fare. The fares thus gathered would defray the total cost for a trial period of, say, 6 weeks.
- 4 I met on 3rd April with the Chairman and Vice-chairman at the offices of Greene & Greene towards outlining the Heads of Terms of a Lease between the Council and ECE for the eventual handover of the pub to the village through their Community Benefit Society. The process which is now begun will be open to full Council scrutiny before ratification.
- 5 The Chairman has called the Annual Parish Meeting for Thursday 11th May. This is a community meeting and presents an opportunity for the village to meet its new councillors following the election on 4th May. Widening the

scope for questions to be raised on matters of community interest, the Police have also agreed to attend, along with our sitting County Councillor, Andy Mellen. We are awaiting a response from SCC Highways who have been invited.

- 6 Following the election on 4th May, all councillors, if re-elected, cease to hold office on 9th May other than the Chairman and Vice chairman who remain in post until their respective successors are elected. Newly elected councillors cannot act unless and until they have made their Declaration of Acceptance of Office which must be signed at or before the first meeting of the new council unless that meeting determines otherwise.
- 7 The Chairman and I met at Wesley with Jo Churchill MP on Friday 14th April as she had sought an update on the situation regarding the site for a new primary school and was keen to help facilitate Government funding towards realising the aspirations for developing the Ex Greene King site, including the community pub. It was agreed that the affordable housing element of the site is in limbo unless and until MSDC Cabinet have met to reconsider their council's stance on the 5 acre holding at School Road where they had proposed a development of 50 houses which would, effectively, alter the Housing Need dynamic in respect of affordable homes.

Planning results

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

DC/23/00540 Demolition of fire damaged two storey cottage; Erection of replacement two storey dwelling with associated utility store, pergola, terrace and landscaping to front and alterations to existing vehicular access and driveway...Caravan at site of former Half Acre Grove Lane APPROVED EPC made no comment.

DC/23/00401 Erection of rear garden room at 15 Jubilee Terrace, Elmswell APPROVED EPC Objected

DC/23/00360 Variation of conditions...Holly Lodge, Cross Street APPROVED EPC made no comment

Planning Applications

The Meeting supported the following:

DC/23/01582 Erection of first floor extension over existing garage with front & rear dormers.

56 Eastern Way
DC/23/01454 Erection of single storey rear/side extension (following the removal of existing extension).

20 Oxe Close.
DC/23/01302 Erection of single storey rear extension and two storey side extension (following

demolition of outbuildings) Linden Cottage, Hawk End Lane.
DC23/01407 Application for permission without compliance of conditions...Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) re DC/20/01999 dated 21.07.2020 – demolition of existing structures and erection of 1 No. single storey dwellinghouse.
Dagwood Farm, Ashfield Road.
DC/23/01172 Erection of two storey rear extension. Insertion of two new dormer windows to the front of the property. Rebuilding of a single-storey rear extension to garage.
Robins Nest, (formally Sterndale). New Road.

The Meeting raised objections to 2 other Applications as detailed:

DC/23/01326 Application for approval of Reserved Matters pursuant to Hybrid Planning Permission
DC/22/01224 dated 31/05/2022 - Access, Appearance, Landscaping, layout and Scale of Erection of no1 detached dwelling. Holly Lodge, Cross Street.
 Elmswell Parish Council objects to this application which seeks to place the largest dwelling of the original concept on the smallest plot. A 4 bedroomed house of some 3,500 sq. ft presents an unacceptably imposing mass to the neighbouring properties in Warren Lane. It would be out of proportion in the context of the immediate neighbourhood and the traffic generated poses a hazard given that the access would be serving 4 large households. Councillors had regard to Local Plan policies GP1, H15, H16, H13 & T10 as well as the Well-Designed Places paragraphs of NPPF.

DC/23/01358 Construction of 4 No. dormer windows and 4 No. roof-lights in conjunction of loft conversion. Hawk Green.

Elmswell Parish Council objects to this application which seeks to facilitate a considerable expansion of the accommodation up to what could be, effectively, 7 bedrooms. The Application suggests that the proposal would produce either 5 or 6 bedrooms. Whatever is the case, given the constraint of the site shared with 2 other dwellings and designed as a piece there is not the flexibility to accommodate a 50% increase in potential occupancy of the proposal site. Councillors had regard to Local Plan policy H18 in considering this proposal.

Road naming

The Meeting agreed 8 generic terms to be submitted to Mid Suffolk towards street naming on the new extension to the Bacon Factory estate at Ashfield Road. The names have been researched by the erstwhile Village Recorder to reflect the history of the site by way of local reference or the wider

agricultural context in vernacular Suffolk terms. They are: Andreasen, Denmark, Denn, Fare, Gambrel, Gavel, Harris, Pinman.

Thanks

A member of the public spoke, as a regular attendee at the Council's meetings, to express appreciation on this last occasion for the existing administration for the calm and efficient execution of business over the past 4 years.

Next meeting

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting, the first of a newly elected Council, is the Annual Meeting on Monday 15th May beginning at 7.00pm at Blackbourne. The public are, as ever, welcome to attend all Council 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 and hard copies can be collected from the Council Office at Blackbourne.

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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.

May	June	July	Sept	Oct
15th	19th	17th	18th	16th

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



Wesley

ELMSWELL

Coffee, Cake & Clarinets

Sunday 4th June in the chapel

1.00pm - 4.00pm

Tickets from the Coffee Shop or Blackbourne £5.00

includes tea or coffee and a choice from Casper's Cake Trolley

Featuring the celebrated BLACKWOOD CLARINETS

(listen on YouTube)

Enquiries from the Council office at Blackbourne

01359 244134 clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk



VILLAGE INDEX

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

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

Amenities Association	Jean Barker (Sec)	eea@elmswell.org.uk	241135
Art Club	John Welford	welford955@btinternet.com	240166
Baby & Toddler Group		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@midsuffolkcab.org.uk	01449 676060
Carpet Bowls Club	Frank Boxall	jf.boxall@btinternet.com	
Christians Together in Elmswell	Jean Folkard	derekrf2@gmail.com	
Community Speed Watch	Marie Spampinato	mariespampinato@hotmail.co.uk	07769 715209
Companions	Linda Waspe	linda@labbott.plus.com	
County Councillor	Cllr Andy Mellen	Andy.Mellen@ suffolk.gov.uk	
Cricket Club	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
Friends of St Johns	Jean Folkard	derekrf2@gmail.com	242099
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@littleeelms.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	Margaret Stevens	stevensmarg@tiscali.co.uk	408452
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.

May 2023

- 4 Election day. Polling at Wesley and Blackbourne 7am - 10.00pm - photo ID required
- 9 WI at Wesley 7.30 Annual Meeting
- 11 Over 55's Club music by Bob Whiting (open evening)
- 11 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 11 Elmswell History Group, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Movie Screening of Holly Brega's film "Land Girls & Horses of Suffolk"
- 16 ELMSWELL GARDEN CLUB, 7.30pm in Wesley Chapel. Speaker - Nigel Start 'Climate Change - a survival guide for gardens in East Anglia'
- 25 Over 55's Club Outing Carvery + Boat Trip TBA
- 26 Bingo at Blackbourne doors open 6.30 eyes down 7.30

June 2023

- 8 Elmswell History Group AGM at 7pm, in Wesley Chapel - immediately followed at 7.30pm by Speaker Andrew Peachey: Pre-historic, Roman & Saxon Archaeology on Anglia One's Cable Route
 - 8 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
 - 8 Over 55's Club Bingo
 - 13 WI at Wesley 7.30 Lewis Turner - A Year in Beekeeping
 - 20 Evening visit to Mickfield Nursery
NB: No meeting in the Wesley chapel
 - 22 Over 55's Club An evening with Richard Whymark and Friends for a Fun Evening all are welcome no need to book
- ## July 2023
- 6 Over 55's Club Strawberry Supper followed by entertainment by Gwyn Pritchard

- 11 Elmswell WI Fish & Chip Supper
- 13 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 13 Elmswell History Group Annual Outing - to be confirmed. Details and Tickets from 01359-242601
- 18 ELMSWELL GARDEN CLUB, Outing - TBA
- 20 Over 55's Club Cash Bingo
- 28 Bingo at Blackbourne doors open 6.30 eyes down 7.30

August 2023

- 3 Over 55's Club Felixstowe "The Hut" for Fish & Chips
- 8 WI - Graham Higgins - The Real Robin Hood
- 17 Over 55's Club Details to follow
- 25 Bingo at Blackbourne doors open 6.30 eyes down 7.30
- 31 Over 55's Club Tyler Kemp Music OPEN EVENING

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 7pm 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 theartssociety-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: May 23rd, June 27th, July 25th

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