

'Like a friend dropping in'

The Elmswell Newsletter



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DECEMBER 2024

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Wesley warm with wine and welcome

Tuneful Tavern



Christmas Carols at Wesley / Tavern

see page 20



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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.

HANDS UP ALL THOSE IN FAVOUR OF DEMOCRACY

The frequent remonstrance from Teacher, *'Let's not always see the same hands'* would not be appropriate here. For one's view of democracy is often coloured by what that democracy may have recently delivered. The hands change with the result...the winners, having won the day, proclaim the process to be a flawless mechanism for giving the people a voice. Those on the losing side deride the unfairness, the failings, the steamroller of the party system, social media distortions, mysterious meddling by foreign powers...

Look no further than the, 'Leavers,' v 'Remainers,' shouting match that broke out on 23rd June 2016. And this, of course, a mere pimple on the much-blemished face of democratic government when compared with the breathtaking scenes over the water on Capitol Hill 5 years later when, on January 6th 2021, mobs descended to make sure that America does grate again. Democracy severely tested, an abuse of a perceived greatness when it disjoins remorse from power. Yet, still, Winston Churchill's observation bears examination; *'Many forms of Government have been tried, and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time....'*



'Other forms', remain widely available. Witness the beaming benevolence of Kim Jong Un, the current Supreme Leader of North Korea. He heads all major governing structures: he is the general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs. He owes his (absolute) power to the fact that his dad passed it on to him. Or cast an eye to Switzerland where, under, 'votation', the people are regularly asked to pass judgement over and above their usual voting rights on specific issues via a referendum. Recently they have given themselves an extra month's pension each year - in a nationwide people's vote focusing on living standards for the elderly. The government had warned that the increased payments would be too expensive to afford, but almost 60% of voters said 'yes' and 75% rejected raising the pension age from 65 to 66. The Swiss are on a roll - chew on that that, Westminster! The recent vote on assisted dying, tabled in



Parliament as the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, serves to back up Churchill's view. A rare outburst of thoughtfulness swept the proceedings as our elected representatives, our own Peter Prinsley MP foremost among them, put the yah-boo aside and gave heartfelt and considered thought to a vote which was predicated upon nothing less than the sanctity of human life.

The result is, clearly, material. However, although there are many more stages involved in filtering the raw declaration of intent into law, the process has been reassuring. The direction of travel seems to have taken account of public mood and opinion. Rather than being buffeted by the mysteriously effective pressure groups which seem to be able to steer governance away from the people's common sense towards niche weirdness and woke-ism, it appears that we may have been listened to. Could it work again? Could we genuinely debate capital punishment, restricting our kids' access to the mind-sapping on-line quagmire, processed foods...over to you, dear reader.

Which, as many will have eagerly anticipated, leads us to Devolution. Since the Local Government Act of 1972, when we lost the deliciously named Thedwastre Rural District Council, we have enjoyed the joint guiding wisdom of Suffolk County Council and Mid Suffolk District Council. Under the pressures of such as the 2011 Localism Act there have been moves to not only reverse this arrangement but to follow the successful pattern of largely urban areas into Unitary Authorities. It is contended that bigger is better, and super-star Mayors such as Sadiq Khan and Andy Burnham would seem to make the case - they have the political heft to speak power unto power and to secure a genuine voice for their people. But we're an awkward lot we East Anglians. Once Boudicca had showed us how to stand up for ourselves we have been difficult to govern. Attempts to combine Norfolk and Suffolk have generate much heat, but little light and no progress. Suggestions of tagging on bits of Essex and Cambridgeshire have been floated but briefly. However, we are still finding our feet as a new Parliamentary constituency, and who knows who-does-what at St Edmund's



House in Ipswich where our District Council is now based when it is not, 'working from home'?

A Christmas Quiz – hands up:

1

Q: *Who is responsible for our footpaths?*

A: *It depends whether you are talking creation, diversion or maintenance...*

2

Q: *Will the people that just cleared the A1088 roundabout also do the other smaller islands / general overgrowth form the verges?*

A: *No. The traffic island is a County Council responsibility. The 'splitter islands' etc come under District Council, 'Public Realm', jurisdiction.*

3

Q: *Why did the Planning Department seem unaware that the Lawn Farm Quarry expansion takes it worryingly close to the new houses on Wetherden Road?*

A: *Perhaps because the planning of quarries is a County Council matter and the planning of houses lies with the District... same building...*

All of which throws a new light on our next chance to choose one tranche of our local leaders. There are County Council elections due in May of next year. Mid Suffolk made national headlines recently when the long-embedded majority party was ousted. It has continued to receive a good Press as the cheeky newcomers have proved themselves both capable and worthy and as real change is creeping in to what is generally perceived to be the Common Good. If the wind of change continues and buffets our County Council, we might well rejoice in a similarly seismic democratic shift - but it could be short lived as the whole local government structure is tossed into the Westminster blender, as in 1972

Hands up all those who will bother to vote...





ELMSWELL ART CLUB

We held a "Watercolour Workshop" for our members on 25th November led by Ian Michael McManus. Born just outside Cambridge and now based in Newmarket, Ian is a professional artist specialising in watercolour and he is a full member of the IEA (Institute of East Anglian Artists).

His atmospheric paintings capture a moment in time from everyday life and typically include street scenes bustling with figures as well as coastal, pastoral, landscape scenes and more.

For our workshop, Ian took us through the steps to produce this atmospheric Venetian canal image.



Whilst we found it stretching, everybody enjoyed the process and many admitted that they had learned some new artistic skills. Ian was very engaging and he took a lot of trouble to ensure that we were all coping well with the subject. As you can see from the below photographs, we were all fully engaged!!



So, a great day was had by all and our sincere thanks go to Ian and his partner Nicky, as well as to our own Lilian Gama who organised the day.



Now, on to this month's selection of paintings by some of our members. Our first picture is this wonderful sunset produced in soft pastels by Ken Smith



The second painting is Karen Nicholl's charming image of a Highland Cow in watercolour



Finally, our members would like to wish all Elmswell Newsletter readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Eddie Douglas



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

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Jean Folkard*

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ELMSWELL W.I.

Trish stood in for Terry, and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Julie Ashdown, one of our committee members very kindly, offered to give us a talk, after one of our planned speakers cancelled. She told us about Emery Walker's house in Hammersmith, London, where she had been a guide for several years.

Most of us had never heard of it, which is a pity, as we found out that it is one of the most perfectly preserved Arts and Craft's houses in the country.

The interiors are untouched with original wallpaper, furniture etc. still in place.

The Arts and Crafts Movements began in the British Isles, the most industrialised

country in the world, and eventually spread to other countries. Members wanted to revive the Gothic style and were against industrialisation and mass production by machines. They were socialists who believed in a good quality of life for all. They valued craftsmanship inspired by nature and the inherent beauty of the materials used to make things. At the same time, they believed in simplicity and practicality.

Emery Walker had a passion for books, photography and printing and met William Morris, a leading exponent of the Arts and Crafts Movement during socialist meetings and lectures. Emery's magic lantern slides greatly influenced Williams and eventually,

the two men founded the Kelmscott Press in 1891, which set out to revive the characteristics of Medieval book production - a backlash to the mass production of books.

Both men influenced, and were influenced by, many of the leading artists and writers of the time including George Bernard Shaw, Edward Byrne Jones and May Morris. Some of them lived in the same street as Emery Walker. His house is a treasure trove of the aesthetics of that time, which still inspire artists and craftsmen today.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Party in December!

Rosie Collins 01359 241652

ELMSWELL EXCHANGE W.I

Mary welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Mandi Cox-Osborne. Mandi is the Poppy appeal manager for Suffolk and told us about the work of the British Legion. It has been supporting ex service personnel and reservists since 1921. There are six care homes across the U.K. including one in Norfolk.

Mandi explained that casualties are sent back to the U.K. without anything. The British Legion provides a phone so the casualty can contact their family and provide them with a welfare bag with all the essentials to tide them over until family are able to help. The British Legion will also provide extra equipment or other needs not provided by the NHS.

There are various types of support provided by the British Legion including financial support, help with benefit

appeals, debt, housing advice, pensions and inquest advice. When service personnel have to leave their military accommodation they are only given ninety three days to find somewhere else. The British Legion help them to find somewhere else to live. Although ex military do become homeless this maybe because they find it hard to accept help.

The British Legion also support Admiral nurses with funding who work with dementia patients and their carers.

Mandi also explained that the families are also helped not just those who have served. The men who were called up for National Service and the Merchant Navy are also covered.

Suffolk raised £800467.52 last year and nationally £51 was raised. The Poppy appeal is the main source of income but fundraising takes place all year.

The poppies are made in a factory in Aylesford in Kent. The new ones are recyclable but the old ones will be used up to avoid waste. There is also a factory in Richmond which produces the wreaths. This factory employs veterans and their name is on the wreath.

Mandi gave an interesting talk which was relevant for the time of year.

The competition was a poppy in any medium. First was Lesley, second Maureen and third was Kathy.

Next month will be our Christmas celebration.

New members and visitors are welcome.

*Carol Blissett
242 884*



ELMSWELL OVER 55'S CLUB

Our meetings in November finished with an evening with Brian Mann who was in fine form to keep a large audience entertained.

By the time you read this report we will have had our regular visit from the members of Norton Salvation Army for a concert which hopefully was well received with a collection for their local funds thanks for those who attended and gave to this good cause.

Our party on December 14th hopefully will be well attended we will give a full report next month.

I would like to say a big thank you to all the committee and members for supporting me and the club over the last twelve months. I will not be sending Christmas cards instead a donation will be sent to "The Brain Tumour Charity" which is close to my heart.

We will be having a short break to recharge the batteries and giving a bit of time to look at next years programme which hopefully will commence in February further details will be found in the next newsletter.

Diann 241002





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ELMSWELL FOOTPATH WALK Sunday 10th November 2024

At 11.00am on Remembrance Sunday the group of 7 ramblers bowed their heads and stood in silence at the village sign to pay their respects to the British and Commonwealth military and civilian service men and women involved in the two world wars and later conflicts prior to setting off on the monthly walk on the footpaths of Elmswell.

With the weather set fair we struck east along School Road, turned right into Hawk End Lane, now on FP13, and hence on to Parnell Lane following the railway.



The view south from here towards the Church of St John's is arguably one of the best in the village and which has, hopefully, been secured by the refusal of an opportunistic planning application which would have blighted the vista. A right took us under the railway bridge and then a left kept us on FP13. FP13 follows a pleasant circular route around Elmswell Hall then, turning north, slowly climbs up to the footbridge and becomes FP7 on the way on crossing into the parish of Norton .

Looking back from the footbridge the big sky view to St John's is joyous. With a left, a right and a further left FP7 took us on to the familiar sight of the barn at the junction of FP23 which we duly took.

Across the open field we reached the corner of Norton Woods, turned right then left and plunged into the body of the woods following FP23.

The colour of the foliage and the dappled light made for a seasonal scene.

We turned right at the junction with FP25 continuing under the canopy, eventually turning left and then through the yard at Crawley Hall Farm with its splendid chimney.

A right on to FP24 then had us heading north and hence on to The Street where we turned right for 100m of road walking.

Turning right on to the other end of FP7 we skirted round the yard of Norton Hall and followed FP7 south east back to the barn we had passed earlier.

From here it was a simple matter of retracing our steps back past Elmswell Hall and hence to the start of the walk.

A longer but very rewarding walk of 6.05 miles in 2 hours and 26 minutes (an average speed of 2.45 miles per hour)

Peter Hancock, EPC Footpath Officer

**DECEMBER'S FOOTPATH WALK WILL BE ON SUNDAY 15th DECEMBER.
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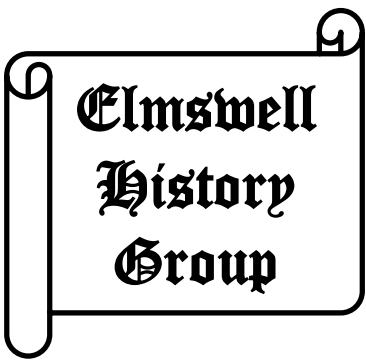
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ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

Andy Peachey's November talk, "Archaeology on Anglia One's Cable Route", told us that up to 100 archaeologists from all over Europe at a site near Woodbridge carefully unearthed a 30-metre-long Neolithic wooden trackway and platform, along with numerous other features. Natural water springs, which are still evident in the area, created conditions that led to the incredible preservation of organic materials such as bone and wood. Initial theories suggest the springs could also have been the reason the area was chosen as a special place, over 4,000 years ago. The skull of an Auroch, an extinct species of large wild cattle, was discovered beside the platform, and this has been carbon-dated to circa 4,300 BC. This is significant because, at the time the trackway was built, the skull was already 2,000 years old, suggesting it was an item of great importance. Substantial numbers of white pebbles, not common in the area, together with a series of white jawbones were also found beside the track, and the positions in which these items were found suggest they were deliberately deposited in a way that had significance to the people at the time. Along the proposed cable route, several more sites were explored where finds included an antler headdress, evidence of different buildings, pieces of pottery (some with trade stamps), and coins.



The archaeologists were in attendance for about one year, and all their finds are now held in the council's archive stores, with the hope that they will be on display for everyone to view at some time in the not-too-distant future.

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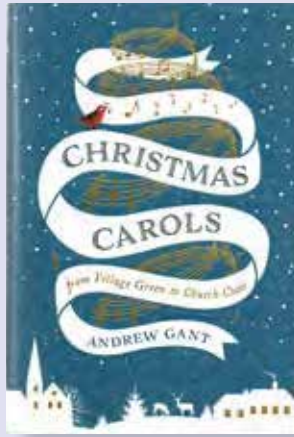
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Book Review

**“Christmas Carols,
from Village Green to Church Choir”**

by Andrew Gant

Everyone loves a carol – in the end, even Scrooge! As carols accompany us through the Christmas season, they summon up a special kind of mid-winter mood, mingled with the aroma of mince pies, mulled wine and the twinkle of lights on a tree. They have a very particular sort of magic, but how did they get this? This book tells the story of 21 carols, revealing a series of captivating, and often surprising, tales of great musicians and thinkers, saints and pagans, shepherd boys, choirboys, monks and ministers, and accompanies each with its words and music. We discover the carols' hugely varied origins; how few were directly composed as Christmas carols; why 'Hark, How All the Welkin Rings' became 'Hark, the Herald Angels Sing'; how Ralph Vaughan Williams bolted the tune of an English lament for a dead ox to a poem by an American pilgrim to make 'O Little Town of Bethlehem'; and the mysterious link between Middle Earth and 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel'. Author Andrew Gant is a composer, choirmaster, church musician, and university teacher, hence his book (with the optional companion CD) brims with expert knowledge, fascinating and often amusing anecdotes, and Christmas spirit. It's a joyous account of one of our best-loved traditions, so do enjoy exploring this unique and special part of our heritage (book available from the Library). **Happy Christmas!**



Our **next meeting** at the Wesley Hall, 7.30pm on **12th December**, will be an entertaining evening of live music by talented professional musicians, "Chanters Jigge". A 90-minute festive hotpot of carols and seasonal music from across the centuries, sung and played on ancient, traditional and modern instruments. Stamp, clap and sing along to familiar favourites (carol sheets provided), add some atmospheric, contemporary and humorous readings, and enjoy seasonal refreshments – this will be an excellent way to start Christmas! No advance tickets will be issued this year, so our usual amounts (£4 for members or £6 for visitors) to be paid on the door on a first-come-first-served basis. Doors open at 6.45pm – see you there then, in our warm and welcoming Victorian chapel.



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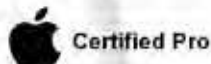
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For further information about our History Group, please visit our website –

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WHERE ARE WE UP TO?

At the end of an exhaustive 4 months of due process, starting with advertising for Expressions of Interest in the Press, we have 2 clear bidders for the project to refurbish the original building and add on new-build to allow a much expanded facility for Elmswell to enjoy whilst retaining the walled garden where the very successful family days were held before the closure. The analysis of these 2 leading bids and their co-operation in helping 'level-up' for fair and accurate comparison has clarified the position towards a genuine like-for-like assessment. This process is moving towards its final stage and the signing of a Contract in time for an early 2025 start. Once a contract is signed, the agreed price and the terms can be made public.

IS IT LIKELY TO BE AFFORDABLE?

Working through the detailed bids as part of the clarification process, nothing has been revealed which suggests that the initial base sums will be exceeded to the extent that the scheme is not affordable when set against the identified funding. Until the Contract is signed, the price is not fixed, but it looks very likely that the project will go ahead without any major cut-backs in the design or in the provision of a community facility with wide appeal.

WHEN WILL THE ELMSWELL TAVERN OPEN?

It would be silly to suggest a date, but the suggested build-times from various contractors is shorter than was originally anticipated. Provided we see a start as anticipated fairly early in the new year there should be enough good weather left for a couple of the popular Family Days starting up again next year. Together with good food, quiz nights, music...that sort of thing.

GLASS FULL / GLASS EMPTY?

An increasingly pointless discussion, really, as we are so close. Close enough to start considering kit we need to acquire, like a machine to wash the glasses when they are empty. Much more effort to come, made slightly easier as an idea becomes closer to reality. Cheers!



Our community together at the Tavern for Carols last year - and again on 18th December this year at 6.30 with mince pies, mulled wine and more.

Elmswell baptist church

The green "tin tabernacle" in Ashfield Road, Elmswell, IP30 9HG



On **Monday December 2nd at 1pm** the Ladies Friendship Group gather for their annual Nosh 'n' Natter to which the men are invited. The event starts with bring and share food and will be followed by carols, readings and poems and a short thought for the season by Rev. Reg Craig. Telephone Margaret on 241541 for more details



On **Wednesday December 18th at 6.30pm** Carols at the Wesley, organised by Christians Together in Elmswell with music by the Norton Salvation Army Band. Afterwards the Wesley Volunteers will be serving mulled wine, tea and coffee. Free mince pies will be available too!



On **Thursday December 12th at Midday** the Food 'n' Friends Christmas Lunch takes place. This is for the older folk and is Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings. Yet another chance to sing some carols! Telephone Jackie on 245918 to book your place.



On **Sunday December 22nd** we have Carols in the Daylight especially for those who don't like coming out in the dark.

Sunday December 15th at 10.30am sees our All-Age Christmas Café Special led by Mark Partridge. A fun time for all the family.

On **Tuesday December 24th at 5pm** it is our Carols by Candlelight which takes place in a unique atmosphere created by over 80 candles. Free coffee, mincepies and shortbreads at end

Do come and join us at one or more of these celebrations and get your Christmas off to a great start. ALL welcome.

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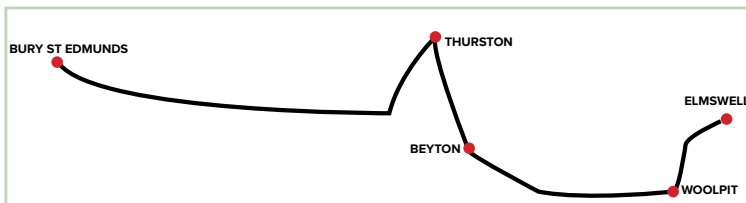
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- Talk to Ann or Lucy on **01359 244134** between 8.00am and 4.00pm weekdays
- Or call in to the Parish Council office at Blackbourne
- Or email clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk

PAY

- Over the 'phone by card
- By BACS
- By cash at the office or at Wesley

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CITIZENS ADVICE

The festive season can be a financially challenging time, and often borrowing money or using a credit card to fund Christmas can seem like your only option. But there are steps you can take to keep your spending under control and avoid falling into debt.

The first thing to do is make a budget and stick to it.

Consider who you're buying gifts for, what other seasonal expenses you have, and how much you can realistically afford to spend. Always keep receipts, or ask for gift receipts, in case you overspend and need to return something. And remember that household bills may be higher during this period due to colder weather and spending more time indoors.

If you've built up debt, please don't ignore bills or letters. Speak to the organisation you owe money to, as they may let you pay smaller amounts.

Pay 'priority debts' first, like rent, mortgage arrears, council tax, and energy bills. For other types of debt like credit cards or loans, gather all the information on what you owe, create a budget and contact your creditors to set up an affordable repayment plan. This might seem scary, but it's an important first step.

If your budget just doesn't add up and you need help to afford essentials like bills and food, see what cost of living support is available on the Citizens Advice website.

It's especially important to check if you're eligible for the Winter Fuel Payment, which will now only be paid to those who receive Pension Credit or other means-tested benefits. If you make a claim for Pension Credit by 21 December, you might still receive the Winter Fuel Payment.

If you do find yourself struggling financially during or after the holidays, don't panic. Support is out there, and Citizens Advice can help you understand what's available. We're here to help you find a way forward.

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

Our office will be closed between 24th and 27th December and the 1st January. Our Eye and Needham Market outreach services will also not be available on Friday 20th and Friday 27th December.

**citizens
advice**

Mid Suffolk

www.clearfinancialservices.co.uk

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Equity Release

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

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

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Hello Elmswell,

We are going to have mince pies and clementines throughout December for customers along with our Warm Welcome offer. Our toy appeal we are running with BBC Suffolk finishes on 6th December so if you have any new toys you would like to donate please bring them in before then. Our monthly display will be of Christmas books with favourites.

We are selling Christmas cards with a selection of sizes available. The cards are sold by us, so when you buy them, you are helping support Suffolk Libraries. We have got them from suppliers that also give money to other charities so our cards help those too. We still have keyring torches for sale. They are small but helpful on the dark evenings. If you want to buy anything from cards and torches to exhibition artwork, we accept cash and card (with a £1 minimum spend on cards).

Over the Christmas period we will be closed on Tuesday 24th, Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th as well as Wednesday 1st January. As we are closed on those days you will get books due back over the Christmas period will be given slightly longer than 3 weeks. If you are wanting to find something new to read or listen to while we are closed then you can access our eLibrary services on Libby and Borrowbox where we have downloadable ebooks and audiobooks.

The will not be any Community Cafe meeting in December, Catch Up in the library will only be on Thursday 12th and Story Time will be on every Tuesday and Thursday except 24th and 26th.

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

See you in the library soon and from all staff at the library we wish you a merry Yule,

Miles

What's on ?

Story Time

1.10pm – 1.30pm every Tuesday (except 1st one of the month)

9.10am – 9.30am every 1st Tuesday

2.30pm – 3pm every Thursday

(no sessions 24th or 26th December)

Sunday Crafts

1pm – 2pm every Sunday (origami 1st, 8th and 22nd December)

Lego Club

Every weekday from 3pm and Sundays 11am – 12noon

Pokémon Club

From 10.30am Saturday 7th December (every 1st Saturday)

The Keep in Touch Community Café

No community cafe in December.

10.30am at the Wesley Café on every 3rd Wednesday of the month

Catch Up In The Library

11am Thursday 12th December (fortnightly on Thursdays but not on 26th December)

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



CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE 2024-25

Refuse (general rubbish) and recycling collections - Collections will take place as normal up to, and including, Tuesday 24 December 2024.

From Wednesday 25 December 2024 to Saturday 11 January 2025, refuse and recycling collections will be on an amended schedule.

Please put your bin out by 6.30am

Check for delays and report a missed collection

Online: www.midsuffolk.gov.uk

Phone: 0300 1234 000 (option 4)



Scan for more information

	Usual collection date	Amended collection date	Change
Refuse	Monday 23 December 2024	No Change	None
	Tuesday 24 December 2024	No Change	None
	Wednesday 25 December 2024	Friday 27 December 2024	2 days later
	Thursday 26 December 2024	Saturday 28 December 2024	2 days later
	Friday 27 December 2024	Monday 30 December 2024	3 days later
Recycling	Monday 30 December 2024	Tuesday 31 December 2024	1 day later
	Tuesday 31 December 2024	Thursday 2 January 2025	2 days later
	Wednesday 1 January 2025	Friday 3 January 2025	2 days later
	Thursday 2 January 2025	Saturday 4 January 2025	2 days later
	Friday 3 January 2025	Monday 6 January 2025	3 days later
Refuse	Monday 6 January 2025	Tuesday 7 January 2025	1 day later
	Tuesday 7 January 2025	Wednesday 8 January 2025	1 day later
	Wednesday 8 January 2025	Thursday 9 January 2025	1 day later
	Thursday 9 January 2025	Friday 10 January 2025	1 day later
	Friday 10 January 2025	Saturday 11 January 2025	1 day later

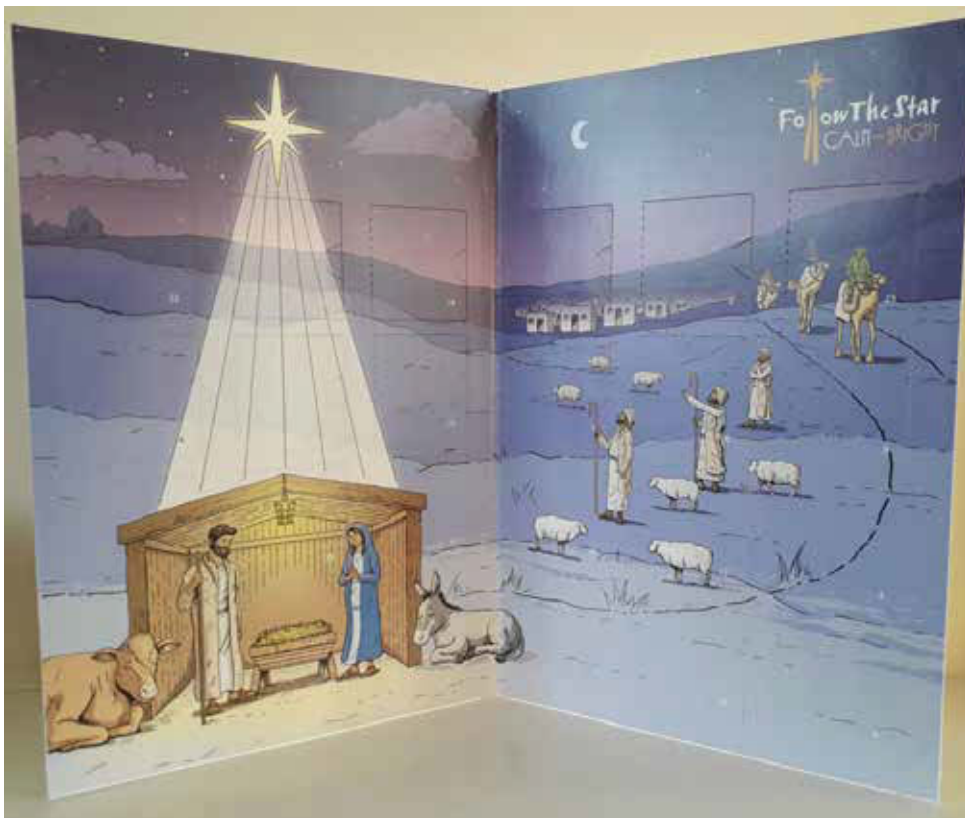
From Monday 13 January 2025, refuse and recycling collections return to the normal schedule.

Garden waste (brown bin) collections

Collections will take place as normal up to, and including, Friday 20 December 2024.

From Monday 23 December 2024 to Sunday 5 January 2025, there will be **no** garden waste collections.

From Monday 6 January 2025, garden waste collections return to the normal schedule



ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Advent greetings from St John's Church

"All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
to those on whom his favour rests
goodwill shall never cease."

(from *While shepherds watched*)

I have to be honest, I love chocolate – which means I have a love for chocolate Advent calendars. When I was a child, I was given 2 Advent calendars. One was full of chocolate and the other was full of pictures telling the Nativity story. Sadly, Nativity Advent calendars seem to be rather thin on the ground these days and I think this impoverishes the run up to Christmas. I used to love opening the pictures and being captivated at how the Angel Gabriel revealed to Mary and Joseph they would be the parents of a special baby. I loved journeying with them to Bethlehem and discovering shepherds and wise men behind the doors. This year, I received a freebie traditional Advent calendar in the post (see above). As the kids are grown up now, my wife and I are looking forward to opening each door ourselves and immersing ourselves once again into the greatest story ever told. More than that – it is greatest news for humankind, as God comes down to bring peace and goodwill to all who will receive him.

We have an exciting December ahead at St John's, full of exciting opportunities to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our atmospheric *Carols by*

Candlelight takes place on Sunday 15 December at 6:30pm and we are delighted to have the Song Circle choir joining us again. Mulled wine and mince pieces will be available afterwards. Key Stage 2 from the school will be in church the following morning for their own carol service. Then, on Wednesday 18 December, join us outside the Wesley at 6:30pm for carol singing with the Norton Salvation Army band, plus mince pies and mulled wine.

Our family nativity service takes place on Christmas Eve at 3:30pm and our early midnight service, *Midnight in Bethlehem*, is at 8:30pm. We also have a special Christmas Day service at 10:00am for all the family (children are invited to bring along a present they have opened and wish to show).

During our main Sunday services in December, we will be delving into the riches of the first 18 verses of John's gospel and our Sunday School will be looking at the Christmas story.

All are welcome at St John's – do pop along on Sundays at 10:30am or get in touch (details below). You can also watch most of our services online via our web site, YouTube or Facebook (links are below).

Upcoming Dates:

- Sun 1 Dec 9:00am
Holy Communion
- Sun 1 Dec 10:30am
Family Service (Advent Sunday)
- Sun 8 Dec 10:30am
Sunday Worship with Communion
- Sun 15 Dec 10:30am
Sunday Worship

- Sun 15 Dec 6:30pm
Carols by Candlelight
- Wed 18 Dec 6:30pm
Carol Singing outside the Wesley
- Sun 22 Dec 10:30am
Sunday Worship with Communion
- Tue 24 Dec 3:30pm
Family Nativity
- Tue 24 Dec 8:30pm
Midnight in Bethlehem (Communion)
- Wed 25 Dec 3:30pm
Family Christmas Celebration
- Sun 29 Dec 10:30am
Shorter Sunday Worship
- Sun 5 Jan 9:00am
Holy Communion
- Sun 5 Jan 10:30am
Family All Age Service
- Every Saturday:**
9:00am Weekly prayer meeting online
(see website for details)
- Rector: Peter Goodridge,
elmswellrector@gmail.com
(01359 240512)
- Web site: www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/stjohnselmswell

YouTube:

www.youtube.com/@stjohnselmswell



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

TOWER

FLOODLIGHTING

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

A night's floodlighting costs £5. Cheques payable please to "ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, ELMSWELL".

For the winter months the lights will be on between 6.00 p.m. and midnight. Please note the deadline for inclusion in the January Newsletter is Monday 16th December.



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

Your support is very much appreciated.

And THANK YOU to everyone who has supported the floodlighting of our church this year.

Happy Christmas to all.

NOVEMBER 2024 SPONSORSHIP NOT PREVIOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED

3 in loving memory of a dear Nana and Grandad, Rene and George Stiff. "God Bless". Louise & Brian. x.

DECEMBER 2024

6 thinking of you, Theresa Evans, on our Wedding Anniversary.

10 in memory of Ray Borrett.

11 in loving memory of Nick Smith.

18 in memory of 'Bob' Durrant on his Birthday. Audrey, Nicole, Craig and families.

23 Revd. Noel Clarke - remembered with love on his Birthday.

24 in memory of Evelyn and Roy Clark.

24 remembering a dear Nana and Grandad, Rene and George Stiff. "Always in our thoughts".

Louise and Brian. xx.

24 always in our thoughts - Carole Bullett.

25 in loving memory of Sheila Sadler on the first anniversary of her passing.

"We miss you every day". Love, Chris, Deb and all the family.

25 David Handyside : remembered with so much love by all his family and friends at this special time of year, and always. "God Bless".

25 Evelyn Simpson : treasured memories of a dear Mum, Nan and Great Nan. "God Bless".

25 in loving memory of Hugh & Dora Handyside. "God Bless". xx.

25 in loving memory of Tony & Mary. "God Bless". xx.

25 remembering a dear Nana and Grandad, Rene and George Stiff. "Always in our thoughts".

Louise and Brian. xx.

25 remembering my darling Son, Craig Stammers. "Always in our hearts".

With much love from Mum and Peter. xxx.

26 in loving memory of Hugh & Dora Handyside. "God Bless". xx.

26 in loving memory of Tony & Mary. "God Bless". xx.

27 in loving memory of Maurice Borrett, our Pop.

30 to remember and thank all those past Elmswell Fire-Fighters who served their village

and community so well.

31 in loving memory of Duncan Wardrop on his Birthday. "Forever in our hearts".

Love, Alex, Doug & Teddy. xxx.

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

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

It would be our prayer that amidst all the busyness and noise of the Christmas period that you will find time to think about what it is we are really celebrating at this time, the birth of Jesus Christ, sent by God to be the Saviour of mankind. Don't miss out on this wonderful fact, here are a few things going on which might help:-

The Ladies Friendship Group have their annual Nosh 'n' Natter at 7pm on December 2nd at 1pm. Men are invited as well, after a bring and share lunch there will be a chance to sing some of your favourite carol or Christmas song and

listen to some poems and Christmas stories and a seasonal thought from Rev. Reg Craig. All are welcome, telephone Margaret on 241541 for more details. The Food 'n' Friends Christmas Special will take place on Thursday December 12th at Midday. Phone Jackie on 245918 to book your place for Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings. Open to all senior citizens. Another chance to sing a few carols.

There are another four opportunities to sing some of your favourite carols. Carols at The Wesley will take place on Wednesday December 18th at 6.30pm with mulled wine provided by the Wesley Volunteers and mince pies provided by the churches. This is organised by Christians Together in Elmswell and music will be provided by the Norton Salvation Army Band, in the Wesley Chapel if it's raining.

On Sunday December 22nd we have Carols in the Daylight at 10.30am for those who don't like coming out in the dark and on Christmas Eve Tuesday 24th we have our very popular Carols by Candlelight at 5pm, a chance to get your Christmas celebrations off to a great start in a unique atmosphere.

Then on Sunday December 29th at our usual time of 10.30am we will be singing carols we haven't sung yet in 2024. All are welcome to all these events, see our separate advert with details of all the above.

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



December 2024

1st Rev. Robert Green
- inc Communion

8th Becky Hembery
(BMS World Mission)

15th Mark Partridge –
All Age Christmas Café Special

22nd Carols in the Daylight

24th Carols by Candlelight 5.00pm

29th Carols we haven't sung yet this year

January 2025

5th Rev. Reg Craig inc Communion
Visit our website at

www.elmswellbaptist.org.uk

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

Christmas Blessings.

Tony

This hedge is undergoing important rejuvenation

Don't worry- they generally grow back surprisingly quickly

Why? Hedge rejuvenation is essential to the long-term survival of every hedge. No hedge can be trimmed forever, nor be left unmanaged forever, without seeing structural decline and eventual loss.

Hedgerows are best managed on a lifecycle, and at some point they all require rejuvenation through hedgelaying or coppicing. These practices may look dramatic, but are both ancient management techniques that reset hedge succession; hedges grow back thicker and healthier than before, creating a better wildlife habitat in the long run. Old hedges in the UK are living proof that they have been laid or coppiced at least once every generation.

How? Both coppicing and laying hedges involve making low cuts to the hedge stems to either partially, or completely sever them.

The ground-level regrowth from these low cuts result in a greater number of stems in the hedge, greater branching density and growth at the ground level providing essential shelter for wildlife such as hedgehogs and low nesting birds.

Crucially this base regrowth offers a hedge another lifespan.

Find out more at www.ptes.org/hedgerows



Hedgelaying – Stems are cut about 80% thorough at the base, bent over and bound. This creates a living fence, with regrowth from the stems and the base.



Coppicing – stems are cut right through near ground level. Coppiced hedges may need gaps planted up, (an opportunity to introduce more shrub species) and will need the young regrowth protected from browsing animals.

Hedgerows won't live forever unless they are periodically rejuvenated

Over 2070 species have been recorded using one single Devon hedge

Rejuvenation is a great time to establish new hedge trees

people's trust for endangered species



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SJP Approved 29/04/2024

NEWS FROM ELMSWILD



Crafty Christmas

Thank you to everyone who came to our Crafty Christmas event at the Wesley on 23 November. We raised over £210 for St Nicholas Hospice Care – a great result! The natural wreath making was a great success, as you can see from the happy faces around the workshop table, and the children were kept busy decorating snowmen, reindeer, santas and candles. Everything on offer was hand-made by ElmsWild volunteers, much of it using material from our own community woodland. It was a lovely way to start the Christmas season. If you didn't get a chance to donate on the day and would still like to make a contribution, please go to the St Nicholas website where it's easy to give a donation online. Just go to <https://stnicholashospice.org.uk> and click on "Donate to our Christmas Appeal". If you are a UK tax payer you can Gift Aid your donation and boost every £1 you give by an extra 25p. This is such a wonderful organisation providing a vital service to so many local families and they really need all our help.



Hedge work at Town Field

Winter is the time when we carry out essential work on our hedges. Last year footpath walkers may have noticed the hedge cutting that we did at Town Field. This was the first phase of a five year project to rejuvenate the hedges around this ancient field. The hedgerows themselves are very old and species-rich so we are taking great care to bring them back into good shape. This often means coppicing down to ground level and it can look very bare after the work has been carried out. If you see the hedges being cut, don't worry – we're not harming them and they will soon be sprouting again and will re-grow bushy and healthy. The useful poster printed on the opposite page from the People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) explains the process and the reasons why we have to keep maintaining our hedges so that they continue to provide a habitat for our wildlife.



Willow cutting – come along to help and take away a bundle

The end of the year is also when we think about harvesting the willow at Lukeswood. We'll be collecting this year's harvest on Saturday 11th January, 9.30-12.30. Once again, we're offering free willow to everyone who comes along to help. Please bring secateurs, or preferably loppers if you have them, and stout gardening gloves. There is parking on site so you can take your bundles away with you. Dress warmly, as it's bound to be cold then. There will be hot drinks on hand to keep everyone warm and happy.

We've grown willow at Lukeswood for many years and lots of people have come along to help and take away willow for various garden projects. Green willow can be planted to grow new trees or make living structures such as shelters, bowers, seats, or a "fedge" – a cross between a fence and a hedge. You just have to stick it in the ground and it will strike roots and grow. Brown willow can be made into hurdles, fences, tepees or as supports for climbing plants. The smaller ends of the wands can also be used in basket work or to make other decorative pieces, such as willow sculptures. Do come and join us – it's a great way to start the New Year!

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas from all at ElmsWild!

Mary Feeney
info@elmswild.org.uk



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• KIRA SUTTON

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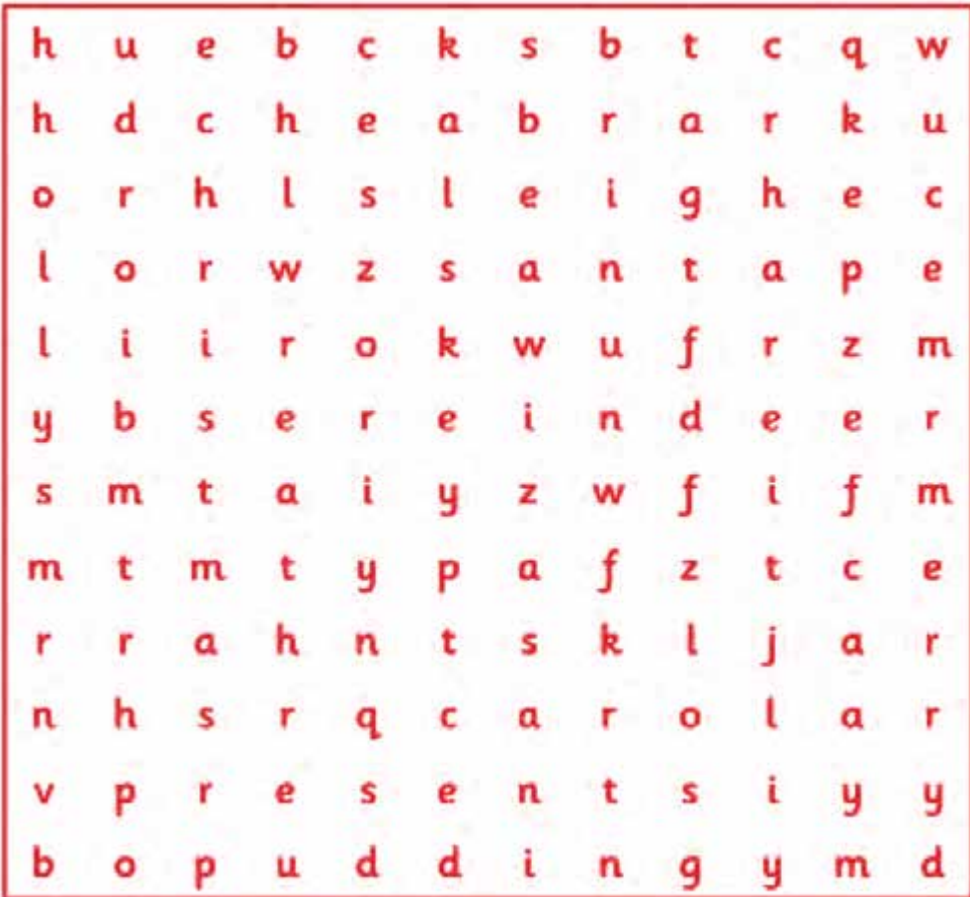
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CHRISTMAS TIME WORDSEARCH



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pudding

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santa
sleigh

star
tree
wreath

Pine Cone Christmas Decorations

You will need

- Pine cones (as many as you like, but between 5-10 would be best)
- Acrylic paints (try metallic paint for a festive feel)
- Medium paintbrushes
- An assortment of different coloured ribbon
- Scissors
- Glue

Paint your pine cones in the colours of your choice and leave aside to dry.

Cut a length of ribbon for each pine cone, in varying lengths. Use glue to attach the ribbon to the pine cones.

Arrange the ribbons and pine cones until you're happy with the design and then secure into a bow at the top. Hang your new pine cone Christmas decoration in pride of place.



What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?
Tinselitus!



What do you call a snowman on rollerblades?
A snowmobile



Ingredients for 30 Biscuits

- 250g self-raising flour
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon (plus extra for dusting)
- 1 tablespoon ground ginger
- 75g unsalted butter
- 1 large egg
- 2 tablespoons of golden syrup
- Icing sugar to dust

Method:

Preheat the oven to 160C/gas mark 3.

Mix the flour, sugar and spices in a bowl. Rub the butter into the mixture with the ends of your fingers until it resembles breadcrumbs.

Beat the egg and syrup together in a jug. Make a well in the middle of the flour mix and add the egg mix. Mix together with your hands until you get a ball of soft dough.

Wrap in cling film and pop in the fridge for at least 1 hour.

Roll out until about 1/2cm thick. Cut out about 30 biscuits with a star cutter.

Place on a lined baking sheet and bake for 12-15 minutes, until golden brown.

Once cool dust with icing sugar and ground cinnamon.

Personalised Gift Tags

You will need;

- plain gift tags
- Paint
- Pen
- Eyes

Using brown or black paint, print using your thumb onto the tag, then follows this by a finger print on top in white or red. Once dry add the eyes and then the legs using pen.



CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS

Norton Salvation Army Band are, once again, leading the singing at our Carol Service. There will be mince pies and punch at Wesley and an outside bar at the Tavern to encourage a loud and lusty contribution to the programme of well known and well loved carols.

Doors open at 6.00pm, singing from 6.30.



Wednesday 18th December at Wesley/Tavern 6.00pm for 6.30



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on many printed items



The BWMA comprises 24 members drawn from Wesley and Blackbourne user groups, Parish Councillors and elected residents. It monitors the activities at the Blackbourne & Wesley facilities, administers the bookings and advises the Parish Council on all related matters.

18 members were present at the November meeting when various matters of maintenance, innovation and administration were discussed including:

- The 5 new external doors to the Chamberlayne Hall should be fitted in December allowing for improved disabled access, better security and upgraded insulation.
- The new Blackbourne solar PV units and storage batteries are specified and costed with a submission made for CIL funding to go to MSDC Cabinet in March
- The security fencing has been removed from the new Ashfield Road housing development allowing use of the link path into Blackbourne. The field immediately adjacent, part of the Turners' Field gift to the village, has been cut, baled and cleared to encourage natural regeneration and use for informal walking and recreation. Research into a name to help differentiate this from the other areas which are to be levelled, drained and seeded for sports use has suggested the old Suffolk term, 'Hobby Meadow', implying an uneven surface which describes the situation well. Meanwhile, residents are using the path which gives off-road access over Lord's Bridge into Eastern Way and onward to the school and the village centre.
- There will be no repeat of the Winter Warmer grant from Mid Suffolk this year but, in recognition of the

popularity of the sessions which were put on last year and of the continuing benefits from widening the Wesley reach into the community, it was agreed that 2 sessions be held in 2025 without grant funding. This will be a repeat of the pie and mash supper on January 23rd, which is national pie day, and a kiddies craft session during the Easter school holiday.

- The progress towards the appointment of a contractor to undertake the works at the Elmswell Tavern was noted with approval. Members look forward to working with the Tavern immediately next door towards extending the effectiveness of Wesley's reach into the community as a 'third place' where people can gather with no commitment or membership requirement, a sometimes bustling gathering, always warm and friendly and aimed at the many.

- The meeting agreed to increase letting fees in anticipation of the considerable uplift in operating costs recently imposed under the budget. The formula agreed was for a 3% rise for village organisations, a 5% rise for village residents and a 7% rise for outside hirers. The concession allowing any Blackbourne or Wesley regular-user group to hire the Chamberlayne hall on a Friday or Saturday night for a fund raising social event is to remain at a cost of £64 plus the bar fee. This offer will be taken back to groups by their representatives.
- It was agreed that, as from the end of the year, there can be no parking at the Tavern in anticipation of the contractors being on site and that all non-user parking at Wesley should cease at the same time to prevent the overload of parking for users at Wesley. Regular parkers and adjacent businesses will be informed.

Peter Edmonds, Secretary



Members of the Companions Group benefit from IT training provided by Mid Suffolk at Wesley where their group meets every 2 weeks.

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NEWS FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

New bus service

This innovative new transport service, 'The Mid Suffolk Taxi Bus', has now launched and is being delivered by Swift Taxi Cabs, with funding from a Mid Suffolk District Council Rural Transport Grant. The 'Stowmarket Circular service via Thurston' runs on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, three times a day, calling at two Elmswell pickup/drop-off points (School Rd/New Rd & Wetherden Rd adjacent to Jubilee Tce), as well as several other local villages including Woolpit, Rattlesden, and Haughley.

More information on times, routes, prices, and pick-up points, can be found online at suffolktaxibus.com. Seats are bookable via the website or call 01449 866 866.

Loans for empty properties

The district council continues to welcome enquiries from owners of long-term empty properties across Mid Suffolk. There are interest free loans available (the 'Empty Homes Renovation Loan') of up to £20,000. These are designed to help owners of properties (which must have been empty for more than 6 months) to return them to a habitable and rentable state - thereby helping to reduce the level of empty homes in the area and providing much-needed affordable homes for rent. The loan covers the cost of repairs, which may include damp proofing, re-roofing, provision of sanitary facilities, repair or replacement of windows and doors, and repairs to structure. Check the Mid Suffolk website for more information: **Empty Homes Renovation Loan - Mid Suffolk District Council - babberghmidsuffolk.com**

Stowmarket Town Centre revitalisation

At October's cabinet meeting, funding was agreed for a list of new measures to help revitalise Stowmarket Town Centre, funded from profits from Gateway 14. Measures discussed included a £400k grant scheme to assist with existing retailers, £100k to increase sustainability from the Wayfinding project, and £16k for developing overnight accommodation within the town.

Pension Credit

Reminder that Pension Credit is available for eligible people over State Pension age. Eligibility is linked to your weekly income (£218.15 if you live alone) and can help with day-to-day living costs. If eligible for Pension Credit, you may also be able to claim Winter Fuel Payment and get help with other things such as rent and Council Tax. More information at gov.uk/pension-credit or call 0800 99 1234.

Community Funding

Mid Suffolk's website now has a new community funding page, which aims to make it much easier for local community groups to understand and apply for grants and funding. So if you are in need of some funding for a project, it's worth going to the www.midsuffolk.gov.uk home page and clicking the 'Access community funding' button.



Locality Grants 2024/25 -

We are still welcoming Locality Budget applications from local community groups. Please get in touch with either of us to discuss options and for an application form. More information is available on the website: <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/mid-suffolk/w/locality-awards>

Monthly drop-ins

Jen and Sarah hold monthly drop-in sessions, alternating between the Wesley Café in Elmswell, and Teacups Café in Woolpit, where we're pleased to meet with residents and answer any questions. We are not meeting in December.

The next dates are:

Tuesday 26th November

10-12

at the Wesley Café

Tuesday 7th January

10-12

at the Wesley Café



District Councillors for Elmswell and Woolpit:

Councillor Sarah Mansel 07860 829517 sarah.mansel@midsuffolk.gov.uk

Councillor Jen Overett 07928 512591 jen.overett@midsuffolk.gov.uk



**Recycle your tree
at Blackbourne
6th – 15th January**





Operations Manager, Dann Lloyd presenting the Trophy to Dick Burch in front of the newly re-branded van and a Bacton Transport truck in the background. These, we are told, will gradually be phased out.

ELMSWELL FOX BOWLS CLUB

EFBC is pleased to announce a new Sponsor for one of our Trophies. We managed to strike a deal with Bacton Logistics, Bacton Transport as was, and it coincides nicely with their Company re-branding. Dick Burch, Graham Baker and myself met with Operations Manager, Dan Lloyd of Bacton Logistics for a photo in front of one of their smart new vans and, as you can see, we couldn't have had a better day for the exercise, but it could have been a little bit warmer for my money! Dan told us that the Company is keen to be more involved with the Club

and would consider sending someone to present their trophy, which instantly got everyone's mind racing, pre-season friendlies (like those we have with Quality Equipment) and more potential club members, more teams, different leagues. These are all distinct possibilities. If there is one thing we are not short of, it's ambition!

I wish you all a happy and meaningful Christmas and, if you need to work off some of the holiday excesses, then might I suggest a little light exercise

and ask you to consider taking up Lawn Bowls? The season doesn't start until early April, but we have all you need to get started and the first year's membership is free, so give it some thought when considering New Year's resolutions.

*Peter Edmonds,
E.F.B.C.
07860 395720*



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Well. What a busy month!! We have performed 7 gigs since last I wrote. 4 of them were return bookings at Peddars Court, Ixworth, the Community Hub in Stowmarket, Nowton Court Village and Cornwallis Court in Bury. All were very well received, especially the Community Hub, where the guests greeted us with enthusiasm, lots of noise and singing and dancing.

25th October saw us visit West Suffolk Hospital at the invitation of My Wish. We played in all four bays of a ward, for half an hour each, which was quite tiring, but very rewarding when some of the patients in Bay 1, and the nurses, followed us through the other three bays. We are very happy to say that we have been invited back and also to re-offend at Newmarket Community Hospital.

15th November saw us perform at Oxlip House in Moreton Hall. This is a very up-market residential home. Again, well received with a request to return at some juncture.

Our final gig, this month, was for a fund-raising lunch held by the Suffolk Punch Trust in the Edmunds dining room at West Suffolk College. We were pleased to have contributed to the collection of over £300 in donations for the Trust.

December is looking very busy again, with at least 7 gigs before Christmas. Must learn those Xmas songs!!

Our picture, this month, is of our percussionist, guitarist and ukulele player, Alan, taken at Oxlip House, by his lovely wife, Sandy. She could become our official photographer.

Til next time. Take care.

**For information, please call
Kevin on 07710 149040 or Carol**

**Or email:
Kevin.Knock99@gmail.com**



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ELMSWELL POPPIES

As well as the wreaths laid by many village organisations on Remembrance Day at St John's, where the village war memorial lists the Fallen of 2 World Wars, Elmswell hosts a poppy emblem on the village sign, a cascade of poppies at Wesley and a wreath is laid on Armistice Day by the Elmswell Amenities Association at the Memorial Garden adjacent to the Library. The memorial stone here was retrieved from the Victorian copings at Lords Bridge when it was demolished and replaced by the current metal structure. The stone bears the indentation marks from the repeated sharpening of knives over many years by poachers who used the bridge as a lookout point in their constant efforts to avoid capture by the local gamekeeper



Sylvia Wilson, Sally Bywater, Margaret Stevens and Maggie Young who decorated the tree at Wesley in remembrance.



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THANK YOU



I am delighted to report that the Elmswell village total raised for the Annual Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2024 amounted to an amazing £7,755-35

In appreciating the current economic climate and the unusual obstacles impacting our collecting circumstances this year, your generosity has been outstanding.

This amazing amount has been passed to the Poppy Appeal and, will certainly help the charity to carry on providing vital assistance and welfare to our serving and ex serving military personnel and their dependants, whose needs and requirements are as vital today as they were back in 1921 when the British Legion was formed.

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

To the volunteers, some old troupers and some new recruits, who helped enormously during my difficult personal situation and, my particular thanks to Sharon Fuller who stepped in when I needed her most.

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

To Elmswell Primary school, who happily promoted our cause.

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

To Elmswell Amenities Association and Parish Council, who offered us their support and use of the Wesley Café, where we were also warmly welcomed by the staff.

Not forgetting the generous donation from Elmswell Bingo.

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



THANK YOU

Norman Plumpton (BIFF)

Elmswell Poppy Appeal Organiser (EJD 024)

STOWMARKET STRIDERS

Stowmarket Striders running club meets year-round on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and holds Sunday morning cross-country sessions during the winter months. The club also organises regular social runs, encouraging members to boost their mental health and well-being through the friendship and fitness benefits of running.

This Remembrance Sunday they celebrated another successful Scenic 7 race attracting 447 participants who enjoyed perfect autumnal race conditions on the 7-mile course.

The local running community came out in full support, with clubs from the area joining in alongside social runners, creating a fun and supportive atmosphere. Congratulations go to Ross

McGill (Woodbridge Shufflers) for taking the top men's spot with a time of 39:07 and Katie King (Saint Edmunds Pacers) for leading the women's finishers with a time of 42:58.

An additional highlight was the charity cake sale, with home bakers whipping up a delicious range of treats, which raised an impressive £719 for the Royal British Legion, adding to the event's charitable impact. The club extends a huge thank you to all participants, volunteers, supporters, local communities of Onehouse and Harleston and event sponsors, Mid Suffolk Physiotherapy, who contributed to the day's success.

As an annual fixture, the Scenic 7 continues to be a popular Striders event in the race calendar for those new to



running and seasoned runners alike taking part each year. The club is pleased to be able to host such an event and to play such an active role in the local Mid-Suffolk community.

For more details on joining or upcoming events, please visit: stowmarketstriders.org.uk



Best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a successful New Year from your Parish Council



The Parish Council meets at least once each month, sometimes excluding August if there is insufficient business, although extraordinary meetings can be called as required at any time.

The November meeting, with 10 councillors present, together with BMSDC Ward Member Cllr Jen Overett, SCC Ward Member Cllr Andy Mellen and the Parish Clerk, Peter Dow, took place at Blackbourne on Monday 18th.

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 [elswell.suffolk.cloud](https://www.elswell.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 meeting held on 21st October, as approved at this meeting, are posted in the Council's notice board at Crown Mill.

Suffolk County Council

Cllr Andy Mellen tabled a written report which included the following: *Protection from Flooding*

You may have seen in the press that Suffolk County Council have announced an extra £1.5m of funding to deliver the first phase of works identified in the flood investigations following Storm Babet. The council is also writing to the government requesting £20m for flood protection to help prevent future flooding in the county, as it is likely extreme weather will become more likely due to the effects of climate change. At Cabinet on 8 October, a £2m financial contribution was agreed from the council towards flood protection at Benacre, south of Lowestoft. It was predicted that without the new measures, the A12 would be flooding at that location at nearly every high tide within a couple of years. The Environment Agency are also committing over £30m to the scheme, and Sizewell C agreed to make up the rest: the total cost of the works is £59m. My group raised concerns about other areas of flooding along the coast and whether the council had a strategy for dealing with the problems caused by coastal erosion and climate change, or a list of priorities when it comes to protecting local infrastructure.

Finally, at Scrutiny Committee on 24 October, a report was presented on highways flooding and the responsibilities held by the council, water companies and the Environment Agency. Suffolk County Council is the lead flood authority for Suffolk and although it has responsibility for surface water flooding, it does not have the capacity to manage it all and has to prioritise its response. Priority is given to works to address internal flooding to five or more properties, or flooding to major infrastructure for 10 hours or more. If you have a stream or watercourse on your land, you have responsibilities to mitigate against flooding. You can find information about this in the

council's guide to riparian ownership: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/maintenance-of-ditches-and-other-watercourses/riparian-ownership-in-suffolk>

Improving Access to GPs At Health Scrutiny on Wednesday 9 October, we heard from the NHS Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) about what they were doing to improve access to GPs in the county. Low numbers of GPs and a high demand for appointments has caused problems recently with many people unable to make appointments to see their doctors. The committee heard how practices were switching to cloud-based telephony to decrease the reliance on a limited number of phone lines (which contributes to the chaos of the 8am rush for appointments each morning), and digital booking so that AI can prioritise the urgency of appointments based on symptoms (it is still possible to book appointments by phone and in person if patients are unable to book online). The ICBs are also making an effort to train GPs and other practice medical staff locally as this means they are more likely to stay in the area. Some services, like blood pressure checks and contraception, can now be accessed at pharmacies. Members of the committee expressed concern that community pharmacies are also under pressure currently, and also that GP surgery buildings were in a poor state, with some plans for new surgeries abandoned due to cost, such as the Cardinal Practice in north west Ipswich. It was agreed that the physical buildings of the NHS – their 'estate' would be looked at in Health Scrutiny at a later date.

Cuts to Winter Fuel Payment At Council on 17 October, a motion was passed that the council would write to the government and ask them to reverse the decision they have made to cut the eligibility for the winter fuel payment for pensioners. It is estimated that this will affect thousands of pensioners in the county. The council also announced a

new £3m fund for interest-free loans to residents wishing to undertake energy efficiency upgrades such as insulation, solar panels, batteries, glazing, or heat pumps. The loans (up to £15,000) to be repaid over a maximum of seven years at 0% interest. The scheme will be open to homeowners across Suffolk from November, but you can register your interest now at <https://www.lendology.org.uk/warm-home-suffolk-loan>. My group are obviously in favour of retrofitting homes to make them more energy efficient, although as the council will be returning an unspent £5m to the government in March from their previous retrofitting scheme, we would urge people to apply if they are eligible - to make sure we are reducing as many energy bills as possible across the county.

Pavement safety and preventing trips and falls At Council on 17 October my group brought forward a motion that the county review its priorities for repairing pavement defects. Currently, if there is a difference in the surface level of the footway of 20mm or more, this will be repaired, but we argued that in areas of high footfall or where a trip or fall had been recorded, this threshold was too high. Most members of the public who trip or fall are over 65, and in areas outside GP surgeries or opticians it would make sense for the repair policy to be more flexible. The administration at the council did not vote to pass our motion, but reported that a review of their highways processes was being undertaken. Councillors from my group will taking part in the review to try and ensure that poor quality footways are made safer for pedestrians to use.

Suffolk Local Transport Plan A newly-developed plan which details the long-term vision for transport in Suffolk has been launched for public consultation. Local communities helped shape a new draft of the Suffolk Local Transport Plan by sharing their views back in February of this year and the council

is now asking for feedback on the final proposed document. The plan details activity between 2025-2040 and sets out a long-term vision for transport in Suffolk, including decarbonisation of transport, strengthening the local economy, promoting health, wellbeing and social inclusion, and creating better-connected places that encourage a range of transport choices. The council has also produced fifteen 'Area Transport Plans' and a 'Suffolk Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan' which are the funded implementation plans for the wider Suffolk Local Transport Plan. These plans outline how the Local Transport Plan's vision and objectives will be delivered in key locations across the county. The consultation is available via www.suffolk.gov.uk/LTP and will close on Monday 25 November 2024. The Local Transport Plan and its associated plans will then be presented to Suffolk County Council Cabinet in 2025.

Clerk's Report

The Parish Clerk's Report to the Meeting included the following:

- Cllr Pallett and I met with the Site Manager at Mathew Homes' development adjacent to Blackbourne on 23rd October to confirm in principle the situation regarding boundaries and responsibilities as the contractor prepares to quit the site. Nothing untoward was noted. The public areas of the development will be in the hands of the designated Management Company whose details we have should liaison be necessary.
- I attended with Cllr Pallett the BMSDC T&PC liaison event at Wesley on 17th October which was based on presentations from Cllr Andy Mellen as Council Leader, Arthur Charvonia as BMSDC Chief Exec., and Tom Barker recently appointed to the new post of Chief Operating Officer. The main points noted were:
 - A move back towards Strategic Planning through the Mid Suffolk Plan
 - The end of the County Deal devolution proposals in advance of new legislation which might well suggest a new governance framework for Suffolk
 - A healthy financial situation benefitting from the emerging Gateway 14 project and income from CIFCO, acknowledging that the Balance Sheet for the latter shows much reduced capital values for the properties purchased in 2017.
 - In discussions away from the meeting proper EPC's secure

position re the CIL input towards the Elmswell Tavern project was confirmed.

- I attended the Launch Event for the Mid Suffolk Taxi Bus scheme on 29th October which brought together many of the principals involved in our local rural transport services which include our own pilot taxi-bus scheme. I have registered my concern regarding the very confusing multiplicity of such schemes which have sprung up encouraged by central government funding. I have tried to make the case for some coordination towards a more coherent picture for the public who are currently presented with a variety of options advertised in various ways, often with overlap of service which does not make for an efficient approach. I am speaking with various other groups towards developing demand responsive transport which, effectively, manages bookings, journeys, and timings on a door-to-door taxi basis. This model already exists in other areas. Meanwhile the bus stops at Elmswell are confusingly festooned with timetables and interactive screens which do not function. This does not encourage faith in public transport towards avoiding car use.
- The Chairman, Vice chairman and myself met with the developers Hartog Hutton seeking to learn of their proposals for resuming the lapsed development of housing off Warren Lane. The meeting was held at their invitation and under the Council's pre application protocol. It sketched out very generally a lower density development than has been previously proposed stopping short of the southern extremity which formed part of the most recent proposal. The landowner is reserving the right to access to the land at the South. Survey work will continue towards a likely Planning application.
- The redevelopment of the Co-op has left us without the community notice board which we negotiated from them when the site was improved and enlarged some 20 years ago. I am in touch with their community liaison in the hope of having a new board installed at the front of the shop to carry village notices as before and I also requested permission to site a display stand for the Elmswell Newsletter
- The process outlined in my report last month has continued with regard to the Elmswell Tavern project. The submitted tenders have been clarified so as to present the basis for comparison and this

- process continues including, where appropriate, through meetings with developers face to face. The positive outcome, ie that the project can be realistically managed within anticipated budgets, remains valid.
- Progress continues on the community path between Elmswell and Woolpit at an appropriately pedestrian pace. The CIL funding bid is in and an outcome expected by February. Discussions have taken place with the landowner regarding works at Bunkers Hill addressing the severe level variations there. An ecology survey has been carried out and identified no protected species, but a work plan is in place to deal with minor vegetation removal before the February window for such works. Meanwhile, specific design details are being worked up and discussions with National Highways are in due process regarding crossing A14.
- In light of a recent incident whereby waste cooking oil was tracked up and down the access road to the Station Road industrial estate I have renewed efforts to persuade the various authorities to ensure that the kebab van stationed there conforms with proper rules and regulations. This includes the suggestion through our Ward Members that BMSDC considers establishing licences for street trading. At the moment this is entirely unregulated and imposes an unfair burden on other traders whose overheads include business rates etc.
- I had the first of the newly-inaugurated Annual Progress meetings with Cllr Andy Mellen as leader of MSDC on 14th November. We covered a range of issues including:
 - * The possibility of the establishment of a Street Trading Licensing system,
 - * The sometimes unrealistic time-lag in allowing CIL bids at 6 monthly intervals
 - * The chaotic multiple bus / taxi-bus initiatives
 - * The culture of buck-passing still evident in some departments, instancing a current regular specific problem with bin collections
 - * Difficulties in making effective contact with officers in trying to help residents access BMSDC services
 - * Shortcomings in effectively publicising some MSDC initiatives I also snuck-in current SCC Highways issues such as the A1088 bridge works which would seem to highlight repeated failures in

the core business model across the board. The only realistic possibility of positive change would seem to be a shake-up in the SCC Administration on 1st May.

Planning results

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

Planning Results

The Meeting noted 2 Results notified by Mid Suffolk, being:

DC/24/05651

Outline Planning Permission for a Care Village...

Land North & West School Road
REFUSED EPC objected

DC/24/04504

Discharge of Condition re landscaping...Railway Crossing east of Eastern Way

APPROVED EPC no comment

Planning Applications

The Meeting voted to approve two Applications on the agenda, being:
DC/24/04866 Erection of two storey side extension and replacement porch including solar panels to roof slopes (following demolition of garage)

Rosefield, Hawk End Lane

DC/24/04823 Erection of attached double garage 4 Hulver Close

Councillors objected to the Applications ref. SCC/0127/23MS & SCC/0084/20MS/VOC2 for the Northern extension to Lawn Farm Quarry for the extraction, processing, sale and distribution of sand and gravel and subsequent restoration using inert materials on Land to the north of Lawn Farm Quarry, Old Bury Road, Wetherden for the following reasons:

- 1 Since the inception of the 'modern' minerals extraction workings at Lawn Farm in March 2009 and for the following several years EPC supported the Community Liaison Forum (CLF) which was established to monitor any adverse effects of the operations and set the site activities against the prescribed policy limits. Council advertised for residents to join the group and both officers and the Clerk attended the quarterly site meetings along with community representatives, Council Members, Ward Members and SCC officers.
- 2 The Terms of Reference of the CLF included all relevant aspects of the relationship between the operators and the community.
- 3 It is a matter of record that there has been much dissatisfaction on the part of the community and others across the board

at the disparity between policy and practice as the works have proceeded and expanded.

- 4 Issues of site security, working hours, dust management, noise management and destructive and dangerous deposits left on the old A45 access road have repeatedly been the subject of complaint and attempts at enforcement action
- 5 There has been an obvious shortfall in resources available to Suffolk County Council (SCC) for monitoring and enforcement and there is no evidence that this has, in advance of the clear need for more and better monitoring and enforcement, been addressed.
- 6 In February 2009, EPC objected in detail to the originating application which effectively revived working at 'the pit' over a much extended area. The application succeeded in line with identified national and local imperatives for aggregate extraction. Permission was hedged-about with stringent conditions covering conditions such as at 4 above.
- 7 Since then, EPC has argued against all variations and expansion proposals. Objections have centred on the repeated lack of compliance with control regulation and the shortcomings in enforcement proceedings.
- 8 EPC accepts, that the current application seeking to vary Ref SCC/0127/23MS is broadly within Policy.
- 9 However, noting that: the SMWLP under Policy MS8 confirms that development at the site will be acceptable so long as the proposals adequately address, amongst other factors:
 - a) the highways safety, maintenance and amenity implications of HGV's including improved wheel cleaning facilities to avoid mud being deposited on the public highway outside of the site;
 - e) the provision of an air quality assessment which considers the potential impacts of increased dust and pollutant concentration... the potential for cumulative impacts...
 - f) the provision of measures which mitigate noise;
 - i) a traffic management plan drafted to avoid traffic routing through local villages including Elmswell and Wetherden except in the case of local deliveries.
- 10 And further noting that the SMWLP lists 'General environmental criteria' at Policy GP4 confirming the acceptability of development which adequately assess (and address where applicable any potential significant adverse impacts including cumulative impacts) on the following:
 - b) vehicle movements, access and the wider highways network;
 - h) neighbouring land use

- j) noise and vibration;
- k) air quality including dust and odour;
- l) light pollution;
- q) mud and aggregates on the road.

- 11 In light of NPPF at Paragraph 111 which states that development can be refused if it poses an unacceptable impact on highway safety.
- 12 Together with further NPPF constraints at paragraph 174 requiring the prevention of noise impact and adverse effects of noise pollution.
- 13 EPC contends that the record shows an extremely poor level of compliance over 15 years' operation in this regard and measures above and beyond those previously implemented would be needed to allow the proposed operations to take place in the much closer proximity presented by the recent housing development at the northern site boundary. Simply conditioning this operation is, provably, inadequate. The Operator has offended in multiple regards on many occasions over the history of the workings and there is no indication of an intention to change working practices despite the increased sensitivities consequent upon those workings moving far closer to the new-build housing at Wetherden Road, Elmswell.
- 14 There is considerable, well-documented and formally recorded evidence logged over 15 fraught years of the community's relationship with the operators of Lawn Farm Quarry that the statutory, policy, and best-practice guidance constraints are flaunted in the commercial interests of the engineering operation and that this has resulted in serious material harm to the host communities at Elmswell, Wetherden, Woolpit and beyond. There seems little in the current Application to suggest that this will change. The proximity of the red line boundary to dwellings in Elmswell magnifies the harm that will be done if quarrying activities continue, as now, effectively beyond all practical regulation.

Without conditioning:

- (i) extra monitoring by SCC Enforcement personnel dedicated to and funded by the site on a minimum of a one-day-per working-week basis;
 - (ii) the adoption of immediate Stop Notices when incursions, particularly related to highways issues occur;
 - (iii) the full prior restoration of the A45 Old Bury Road by way of skirting, drain clearance and the installation of anti-vehicular concrete kerbing,
- this Application should be refused and re-presentation invited when

the community can have some confidence that relevant policy constraints will be met and properly enforced.

The Meeting noted and approved the Clerk's intention to use Delegated Powers to respond to Planning Application ref. DC/24/05-47 for retrospective Permission for a garden room added to the annexe at Orchard House Ashfield Road, itself approved as DC/23/03508, to the effect that Council would make no comment.

Internal Controls

The Meeting unanimously agreed to note and receive the Internal Control Report from Cllrs Brown & Hancock following their review of the Council's system of internal controls carried out on 06.11.2024.

The Report is posted on the Council's website.

Expenditure thresholds

The Meeting agreed that that the Financial Regulations required under Council's Standing Orders be amended at 5.15 to the effect that the limits for expenditures authorisation be uplifted so that the Clerk has delegated authority to spend up to £1,000 net per item (formerly £500) and the Clerk in consultation with the Chair of Council or Chair of the appropriate Committee be authorised to spend up to £10,000 net per item (formerly £5,000).

Local Transport Plan

The Meeting agreed to make a formal response to the consultation from SCC regarding the proposals within their draft Local

Transport Plan to the effect that full weight should be given to considering the effects on the railway crossing at Elmswell when the proposed improvements at Haughley junction increase the freight rail traffic from Felixstowe to the Midlands.

Next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled for 16th December beginning at 7.30pm 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.

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

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

clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk

Tel. 244134 www.elmswell.suffolk.cloud



Future Council Meetings

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

Dec 16 th	Jan 20 th	Feb 17 th	Mar 17 th	April 14 th
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Meetings are held at Blackbourne, beginning at 7.30 unless otherwise notified

Your Councillors are

David Barker Linden Croft Hawk End Lane ELMSWELL IP30 9ED	01359 241135	david@linden-croft.co.uk	Vice chairman of Council Planning Committee Complaints Committee
David Brown 16 Whatley Close ELMSWELL IP30 9GJ	07803 263454	whatley.david@outlook.com	Planning Committee Complaints Committee
Dick Burch 14 Wetherden Road ELMSWELL IP30 9DF	01359 240105	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	Poor's Land Charity BWMA, Planning Committee Complaints Committee
Peter Edmonds Little Acre, Ashfield Road ELMSWELL IP30 9HJ	01359 241640 07860 395720	edmondspeterj@gmail.com	Planning Committee Complaints Committee
Peter Hancock Jubilee End 17A Jubilee Terrace ELMSWELL IP30 9 DH	07483 850965	prjhancock24@btinternet.com	Footpath Officer, BWMA Elmswell Amenities Association Planning Committee Complaints Committee
David Hawes Dunelm Cooks Road ELMSWELL IP30 9BX	01359 240249	annahawes39@gmail.com	Planning Committee Complaints Committee
Sarah Mansel Ashcroft House Ashfield Road ELMSWELL IP30 9HJ	07860 829517	sarah.mansel@midsuffolk.gov.uk	Planning Committee, Complaints Committee <i>Also serves as Ward Member on Mid Suffolk District Council</i>
Fred Pallett Maple Cottage Warren lane ELMSWELL IP30 9DT	01359 408232 07771 962441	upstreambd@gmail.com	Chairman of Council, Poor's Land Charity Planning Committee Complaints Committee
Sue Roots 7 Warren Close ELMSWELL IP30 9DS	01359 240164	sue2955@hotmail.co.uk	Planning Committee Newsletter Report Editorial Board
Mike Schofield Minerva Fairmead ELMSWELL IP30 9HT	01359 241430	mhaksch@gmail.com	
Philip Shaw East View Ashfield Road ELMSWELL IP30 9HG	01359 241192 07710 578212	philipshaw@btinternet.com	Safeguarding Lead BWMA Planning Committee Complaints Committee

VILLAGE INDEX



Useful contacts for community groups & others...feedback is essential.
Do be in touch to correct or add details or to suggest someone else deserving of listing.

Amenities Association	Jean Barker (Sec)	eea@elmswell.org.uk	241135
Art Club	Eddie Douglas	edward.douglas2@gmail.com	
Baby & Toddler Group		elmswellbtgroup@gmail.com	
Baptists	Dave Hollings	davehollings@btinternet.com	241323
BATS (Badminton & Table Tennis)	Mike Burgess Wilson	burgesswilsonmike@gmail.com	
Beavers	Ruth Salmon	ruthcourt4@hotmail.co.uk	
Bingo at Blackbourne	Brian Hawes		07761 125093
BWMA	Peter Edmonds (Sec)	edmondspeterj@gmail.com	07860 395720
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	Mike North	mcnorth8@gmail.com	
Christians Together in Elmswell	Peter Goodridge	elmswellrector@gmail.com	240512
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	Mark Pernot	mark.pernot@gmail.com	
District Councillor	Sarah Mansell	Sarah.Mansell@midsuffolk.gov.uk	07860 829517
District Councillor	Jen Overett	Jen.Overett@midsuffolk.gov.uk	
Elmswheelians	Trevor Sadler	trevor.sadler@dsl.pipex.com	240908
Elmswild	Mary Feeney	info@elmswild.org.uk	241901
Exchange Afternoon WI	Carol Blissett	carolblissett@hotmail.co.uk	242884
First Responders	Merv	merv.smith@tiscali.co.uk	07909 006 496
Football	Chris Edmonds	edddd101@gmail.com	
Fox Bowls Team bowls at Blackbourne	Rob Dann	rccsdann@btinternet.com	07917 013846
Gardening Club	Nick	elmswellgadmin@btinternet.com	01359 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	Paula Reynolds / Samantha Willers	info@littleelms.co.uk	240491
Newsletter	Editorial office	eea@elmswell.org.uk	244134
Over 55's Club	Diann Armstrong	Mayfield, Wetherden Road	241002
Parish Council	Parish Clerk	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
Police Emergencies			999
Police; non-emergencies	Mid Suffolk South SNT	headquarters@suffolk.pnn.police.uk	101
Poor's Land Charity	Peter Goodridge	elmswellrector@gmail.com	240512
Power cuts		Powwercut105.com	105
Rainbows	Jen & Lizzie	elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com	
Royal British Legion	Norman Plumpton (Biff)	nplumpton@aol.com	07707 524722
School	Mrs Ash	admin@elmswell.suffolk.sch.uk	240261
Scouts	Paula Hollings	dc@stowmarketscouts.org.uk	07828 262485
St John's Church	Peter Goodridge	elmswellrector@gmail.com	240512
Sewing Bee	Isabel Burgess	isabel.burgess@live.com	
Village Tree Warden	c/o Parish Clerk	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
Wesley – all enquiries	Parish Council office	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
WI - evening	Tricia McNeeney	triciamcneeney@gmail.com	241197
Youth Football	Wayne	wsast@hotmail.co.uk	

**Enquiries on any Parish Council matter are invited to the Clerk, Peter Dow, at The Council Office, Blackbourne, Blackbourne Road, IP30 9UH - right next to the car park and with wheelchair access. Staffed Monday - Friday 9.00am - 4.00pm and 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 eaa @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.

December 2024

- 2 Ladies Friendship Group, 1pm (NB earlier start) - Nosh and Natter with carols, Christmas songs, poems and readings and a thought for the month.
- 4 Exchange WI 2.00pm at Wesley. Christmas Celebrations. Hosted by the committee
- 5 Over 55's Club Concert by Norton Salvation Army Visitors welcome
- 10 Elmswell WI - It's Christmas
- 12 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 12 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Performers 'Chanters Jigge': Our Merry Christmas Revel – an entertaining evening of live music and seasonal songs, played on traditional instruments
- 13 Bingo - Doors open 6.30 eyes down 7.30 all welcome
- 14 Over 55's Club Christmas Party followed by entertainment with Susan Jayne

January 2025

- 9 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Members' Evening: A selection of members' own researches
- 14 Elmswell WI - Have you ever met a Trans Woman?

February 2025

- 8 Wine Tasting at the Wesley with local wine expert Bob Stopp. Commencing 7:00pm. Further details in next month's Newsletter
- 11 Elmswell WI - Climate change and reducing the carbon footprint
- 13 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Mike Walker: The Siege of Haughley Castle & Battle of Fornham, in 1173

March 2025

- 11 Elmswell WI - Life on a canal boat
- 13 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Don Mobley: U.S. Military Aviation in East Anglia

April 2025

- 8 Elmswell WI - Riding for the disabled
- 10 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP 25th Anniversary meeting, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker – to be confirmed: Saving Britain's Heritage over the past 50 years

May 2025

- 8 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Claire Jowitt: A Royal Shipwreck, the last voyage of HMS Gloucester, 1682
- 13 Elmswell WI - Annual Meeting

June 2025

- 10 Elmswell WI - Lighting the fuse, Work of the first female bomb disposal officer
- 12 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP AGM at 7pm, in Wesley Chapel - immediately followed at 7.30pm by Speaker Neil Instral: The Mid-Suffolk Light Railway (MIDDY)

STOP PRESS

Regular sessions at Blackbourne & Wesley include:

- KARATE** with Lewis - 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** - Chris Edmonds edddd101@gmail.com
- RAINBOWS** - elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com
- JUNIOR FOOTBALL** - smyth98@hotmail.com 07717 841591
- CUBS** Tuesdays 6.15 – 7.30 - mark.pernot@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 triciamcneeney@gmail.com
- WI** – afternoon at Wesley 1st Wednesday monthly Carol Blissett carolblissett@hotmail.co.uk
- ART CLUB** at Wesley every Tuesday 9.00 – 12.00 Eddie Douglas edward.douglas2@gmail.com
- HISTORY GROUP** at Wesley 2nd Thursday monthly 7.30 stellachamberlin@yahoo.co.uk
- GARDEN CLUB** at Wesley 3rd Tuesday monthly 7.30 elmswellgadmin@btinternet.com
- CARPET BOWLS** – Wednesday 7pm at Wesley – em.mcnorth8@gmail.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
- DANCE & FITNESS / CIRCUITS** - Mondays 7.00pm & 7.50pm at Wesley

Your Newsletter Fact File

For the next 3 months we need copy by: December 18th, January 28th, February 25th

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

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

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