

*'Like a friend
dropping in'*



The Elmswell Newsletter



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

FEBRUARY 2024

On line at elmswell.suffolk.cloud

Old hands at New Year



... see page 27

Published on the first Friday of every month by the Elmswell Amenities Association Reg. Charity No. 304879.
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EAA@elmswell.org.uk



Our editorial is designed to inform and to encourage debate.

If you wish to comment, please do so via the office or by email at; eaa@elmswell.org.uk

We reserve the right to edit any such contributions that we may use in a subsequent edition.

A line had to be drawn. Well, several, really.

Of the many and oft-repeated requests for action to help address the week-by-week growth in traffic through our village, 2 stand out as examples of where the system is letting us (and many other communities) down.

One is the junction at New Road, Cooks Road and The Street where traffic approaches a blind bend at a T junction where the road is too narrow for an HGV and a van (or SUV / Bus / tractor) to pass. The other is at Shop Corner where the Co-op car park effectively creates a cross roads and, again, there is limited visibility for traffic heading over the railway crossing.

Our Parish Council is very well aware of both, 'accident-waiting-to happen', hot spots. As long ago as 2018 a site meeting at Cooks road was convened by EPC and attended by SCC Highways engineers, our SCC Ward Member who was Cllr Jane Storey at that time, the Police represented by PCSO Steve Pendergast, and many residents. Ideas included a mini roundabout and changing the priorities so that the Cooks Road /The Street traffic had to stop. In the end, technical advice from the highways engineers conceded that better road markings and signage was as far as we could practicably go. Last year, after numerous efforts to encourage action, the Parish Council road safety task force managed to secure a promise from SCC of some of this action being taken. It remains a firm promise. The hazard remains a hazard. Meanwhile, not far away, a significant additional danger was highlighted. The pedestrian crossing which had been a hard-fought road safety concession as part of the Co-op expansion some years back, had worn out. The distinctive

black-and-white stripes had become more black and dirty-grey, and drivers unused to the local roads were failing to note the crossing or, more importantly, the people using it.

Of course we are not alone in having to tolerate a sub-standard and fast deteriorating road system which has to carry an ever increasing traffic load. Our neighbours at Woolpit and Thurston have their own problems and Stanton warns that their imminent major industrial development will funnel more through traffic our way.

Meanwhile, the laudable national policy of diverting heavy goods from road to rail is about to make a significant improvement at Haughley Junction which will eventually link in with a larger scheme at Ely to allow for more and longer goods trains. From Felixstowe. To the Midlands. Via Elmwell. Over the railway crossing.

As with our road problems, our Parish Council is aware and active – and largely ineffective. Our councillors share the frustrations of the rest of us...they live here too. They battle against the three-headed monster of legislation / national policy and local inadequacy.

Legislation addresses queries such as, 'Why can't we have a pavement along School Road in front of Wesley and the Tavern to Pightle Close?' SCC Highways are bound by national standards, one of which relates to the width of pavements. In the past pavements have been established which do not comply, but nowadays they must

all be to a width allowing safe use by all including wheelchairs. Similar width restrictions apply to roads. There isn't enough room in School Road at this point to fit both in.

National Policy deals with that old favourite, 'Why can't we have a relief road avoiding the railway crossing?

The idea has been tested and talked about for the past 25 years. There is no money nationally for other than far more major schemes than this – think HS2, Sizewell and shudder. A relief road would have to be funded by 'developer contributions'. The last informed estimate suggested that 4,000 new houses might pay for the road.

Local inadequacy why can't they even mend potholes, never mind relief roads and new pavements?

The pattern of funding has changed over the past 10 years. Central funds have dwindled and councils have had to stretch budgets by increasing Council Tax and cutting services. In the case of highways infrastructure, this has led to a different business model than in the good old days when SCC employed good old boys to go out and to a proper job. A contractor is appointed for 10 years and takes on the lot. The contractor appoints sub contractors for various bits of the job – putting out the signs, digging the holes, fixing the problem, refilling the holes... all involving communication, scheduling and all having to make a profit at each stage.

However, with perseverance as our watchword we have success as pictured:



Parish Councillors were told, on 18th December:

Thank you for contacting us about this issue. We have visited the location of your report and assessed against Suffolk County Council's Highway Maintenance Operational Plan. Unfortunately, at this time we are unable to take further action as this does not meet our intervention criteria. We will, however, continue to monitor the location as part of our routine inspections.

The matter was relentlessly pursued with the help of our SCC Ward Member Andy Mellen. The picture was taken on Sunday 28th January. Job done.



Parking at the school is as bad as at any school in Suffolk. The problem has been approached over the years in many ways with walking bus / safely to school / cones... but selfishness prevails and dangerous chaos reigns. Even when, in 2021, the enlarged premises were squeezed onto the site – 3 more classrooms and up to 420 pupils – protests regarding safe access were raised, Suffolk County Council (the Applicant) were as bold as to suggest, 'there may be a need for parking restrictions in the area'. Just 3 years later, after exhaustive chasing by the Parish Council on behalf of concerned local residents, we have our yellow lines.

We suggest that this is about as good as it gets. More people, more trains, more congestion, more frustration. We must continue to defend our own little patch against legislation, policy and inadequacy. We must continue to insist that a line must be drawn...



ELMSWELL ART CLUB

Winter arrived last month with a long spell of low temperatures, ice and frost but very little in the way of snow. At the time of writing this article, we have seen temperatures reaching minus 6 degrees in our local area.

Is this normal for Suffolk in January? Well, on average, we should expect a maximum of 7 degrees in January and a minimum of around 3 degrees; with 13 dry days, 15 days of rainfall (approx. 30mm) and 3 days of snow. So, by the time you read this, it is likely that we will have seen some of the white stuff, providing some typical winter scenery.

Down the years, many famous artists have produced winter scenes, including Claude Monet's "The Magpie" and John Constable's "Gandish Cottage, Suffolk". Both of these can be seen below.



The Magpie, Claude Monet 1868



Gandish Cottage Suffolk, John Constable 1878

So, this month we thought we would display a couple of our members' art works depicting snowy scenes.

The first painting is a watercolour produced by Ann Smith. I'm sure you will agree that this is a delightful winter scene with a very splendid gaggle of geese dominating the foreground.



I am responsible for our second scene "Village in the Snow"; I used soft pastel blocks and pastel pencils to create this from an image originally produced by Norfolk artist Terry Harrison



Eddie Douglas

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



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

ELMSWELL WI

Two guests, Trina and Emma, came to entertain and inform the members of Elmswell WI in January. Our president, Brenda, welcomed members and four visitors to the meeting and introduced Trina, who came to tell us about a charity called 'Our Special Friends'.

Trina explained that the charity is Suffolk based and supports people going through a difficult time in their lives where animal companionship is crucial to help them cope. They do this by assisting people to look after their own pets which includes dog walking or pet care. Many people also benefit by having a volunteer take their own pet to visit.

Our second guest was Emma. Emma explained that she trained as a dancer but then went on to qualify to become a schoolteacher but dancing is still her passion. She had us all on our feet and took us through some warm up moves before teaching us a routine to the Bee Gees song Staying Alive. We had great fun following her instructions.

We also voted on our WI resolutions to help choose the one to go forward to be voted on by all WI members at the national annual meeting at the Royal Albert Hall later in the year. These were proposed by WI members from all over the country on subjects varying from dental health matters, gambling advertising, impact of poor housing and how women are treated in the justice system.

Apart from our meetings we have a Coffee and Chat at the Wesley each month.

We are looking forward to our guided tour of St Edmundsbury Cathedral which we have planned for later this month.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 13th February at 7.30 pm when we will be hearing about 'Charity Knickers'.

Visitors are always welcome so why not come and join us at the Wesley and maybe bring a friend. You will be made very welcome. Your first visit is free.

THANK YOU

Betty Phillips wishes to express her sincere thanks to the kind people who helped her when, on leaving the WI meeting on the 6th of December in darkness, her foot entrapped in a pothole resulting in a serious fall into the road. I'm pleased to say that she is recovering from her injuries and the effects of the unfortunate event.

Thank you, Alan Phillips

John Constable



I never saw an ugly thing in my life: for let the form of an object be what it may - light, shade, and perspective will always make it beautiful.

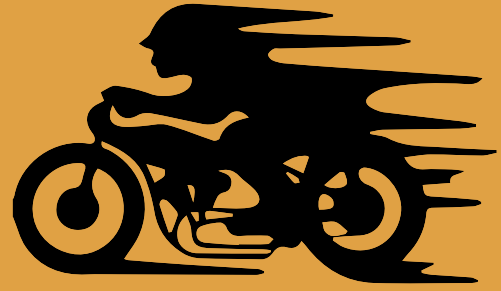
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ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB

The Gardening Club takes a break during December and January and restarts on **20th February** at the **Wesley Hall at 7.30 pm**. David Gedye will give a talk entitled 'Monkey Puzzle Miscellany'. We've invited David on a previous occasion and found him to be very interesting speaker. The following talk on 19th March will be given by Chris Wiley who will tell us about 'Bury in Bloom' and should be really fascinating.

Visitors to the group are always welcome and we hope that coming along once will entice you to attend on other

occasions too. After the talks we make time to ask the speaker questions and enjoy chatting to one another over refreshments.

The winter months can be difficult to do very much in the garden, but it's a great time to plan for the year ahead and order seeds etc. One thing it's possible to do over winter, if necessary, is to prune fruit trees such as apples and pears, but fruits with stones such as plums, apricots or cherries should only be pruned in the summer as they are vulnerable to disease if pruned during the winter.

It's always a joy to see flowers in bloom at this time of year and there are a surprising number of shrubs and plants that flower during the cold weather. Snowdrops, Crocus, Heather, Mahonia, Witch Hazel, Pansies, Aconites and Hellebores are just a few. However, the leaves of plants or plants with berries can look absolutely stunning, especially with a coating of frost.

Wishing all our members and readers of this newsletter a wonderful 2024 and hoping that you'll be tempted to come along to the Gardening Club in February.

For further information please contact Nick on **01359 242601** or e-mail: elmswellgadmin@btinternet.com



At the Christmas carol service lead by the Norton Salvation Army Brass Band, hosted jointly by Wesley and the Elmswell Tavern and arranged by Christians Together in Elmswell, an impromptu bucket-collection yielded £135.00 which has been sent to the Salvation Army towards furthering their work in the community.

ELMSWELL OVER 55's

Just to remind all our members that the club will resume on Thursday 15th February.

When we will welcome a return visit by the Wesley Ukulele band for what will be a rousing evening.

Non and new members are welcome to join the next meeting on 29th February when it will be time for a bingo session.

Our first meeting follows on 14th March with music by "Sarah Jane".

Further events will be published in the "Whats on Section" in the newsletter in due course.

Diann 241002





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Here's a few reminders about **Mid Suffolk support** available during this challenging winter and beyond:

The **cost of living** is affecting many of us and it could be worth checking that you are getting the support you are entitled to. Mid Suffolk's website provides a range of helpful information at <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/cost-of-living>.

The **Cosy Homes initiative**, launched at the start of winter, is available for households to apply for free energy efficiency measures in their own homes, including if privately rented. Full details, including eligibility, are available at <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/mid-suffolk-cosy-homes>.

Particularly vulnerable households can continue to access help via the wider Suffolk scheme www.warmhomessuffolk.org / 03456 037686.

Locality Awards: Applications for this year's locality awards are closing at the end of February. At the time of writing we still have a small amount of funds remaining, and the scheme will be re-opening for applications from local groups and organisations in the spring. Please contact one of us for more information.

Council Tax increases for Empty Homes and Second Homes: Since 2019 Government has permitted districts to increase council tax levies on empty and second homes. Not previously taken up by Mid Suffolk, the new Administration is proposing increases to incentivise bringing more homes back into use. Long-term empty homes currently pay a levy of 50% - this will increase to 100% for homes left empty for one to five years, 200% for five to ten years, and 300%



for ten years or more. Exceptions will apply, such as property under probate or properties undergoing major repairs. If approved, this will be from April 2024.

It is also proposed that second homes attract a 100% levy and, if approved, this will be from April 2025 as a year's notice has to be given.

Tree for Life scheme: This well-established scheme is open to all local families who have, or are, welcoming a newborn or a newly adopted child, and equally to parents who may have recently lost a child. You can apply via <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/tree-for-life>. You'll be offered expert help on picking and caring for your tree and where best in your garden to plant it - alternatively there are locations across the districts which welcome new saplings. As well as celebrating each

new life, the scheme also contributes to local tree coverage for the generations to come.

The new Green Party administration at Mid Suffolk District is aiming to put the climate crisis and social justice at the heart of everything we do. Jen and Sarah are happy to be contacted regarding any concerns or queries you may have, or to hear your ideas on how the District can help to improve our communities.

We hold monthly drop-in sessions, and the next few dates for these are:

- Thursday 8th February 10-12 at Teacups Café
- Thursday 21st March 10-12 at The Wesley Café
- Thursday 25th April 10-12 at Teacups 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

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CITIZENS ADVICE

I've built up a bit of debt and I am panicking. Even though I cut back, Christmas was expensive, my rent has gone up and my paycheque just doesn't stretch as far as it used to. I'm doing everything I can but it's not enough - what can I do?

First of all it's important to know you're not alone in finding things difficult and, crucially, there's support available.

You say you've built up a bit of debt. The first step is to collect all the information you have about your debts. This might include contracts, bills and statements.

Next, make a list of your debts and write down the details of each. This could include whom you owe the money to (this person/company is your 'creditor'); when you first missed a payment; and how much you now owe. You'll also need to make a note of your account or reference number and what steps the creditor has taken to get the money back, eg. sending you letters.

It might feel overwhelming when you see all of your debts written down - but try not to worry, the important thing is that you're sorting them out.

If you're behind on household bills, prioritise paying your rent or mortgage, plus energy bills and Council Tax first. Not paying these bills has the most serious consequences. You should speak to the person or company you owe money to, to see if there are any manageable steps you can take to start reducing your debt.

Once you've got these debts under control, you should look at any other debts like credit card or store card debts, payday loans or missed Buy Now Pay Later payments. While you're

looking at the money going out, do remember to consider money that could be coming in. It's always worth checking if there are any benefits that you're eligible for, including support with your energy costs and living costs.

There's a benefits calculator, advice on how to reduce living costs and information on other ways to increase your income on the National Citizens Advice website at citizensadvice.org.uk

There's also emergency support that you may be able to access locally, such as a food bank, local welfare support or fuel vouchers. We know that times are incredibly tough but please remember, you don't have to face this alone.

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.

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TAXI-BUS SERVICE TO BURY



Trial now extended to the end of March!

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

The trial run throughout July & August is now extended until 30th March 2024 offering a return trip into Bury (Angel Hill) every Wednesday and Saturday

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

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

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clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk



ELMSWELL FOOTPATH WALK SUNDAY 14TH JANUARY 2024

On pleasant winter's day an impressive turnout of seven keen ramblers met at the allotted time and location for a bumble around the footpaths of the area.

The challenge of finding a dryish route persisted and, discretion being the better part of valour, the final leg of the walk was to retrace our steps to ensure all remained free of the excessive accumulation of farmer's fields.

Crossing Station Road and heading north west through the industrial estate and Bacon Factory houses we caught up with FP1 taking us into the open country to the north of the village.

With Willow Farm then Green Farm on the right the group progressed north easterly past the junction with FP3 on the right and into the adjoining parish of Norton and FP32.

A right and left took us past the pond and a further left led on to FP31 heading towards the wooded area known as the Grove which was to be the centre of this circular section of the walk.

Keeping right on FP31 we were now well and truly in big sky country with open views all around. You certainly don't have to go far out of the village for some lovely scenery.

Turning left FP31 became FP20 and, now walking south westerly, we passed FP29 and then FP21 to the right with Norton Hall on the horizon. Ahead of us the views continued to open up as we skipped along.

Left at the Hall took us on to FP7, left past the barn and hence on to FP35 which ultimately completed the circular part of the walk. To the right FP7 continued towards Elmswell Hall with the inherent perils of treacherous underfoot conditions.

Retracing our steps to the start of our journey proved unproblematic as we strode home with thoughts of Sunday lunch and an easy afternoon.

A walk of approximately 4.43 miles in 1 hour 33 minutes (an average speed of 2.9 miles per hour)

Peter Hancock, EPC Footpath Officer



FEBRUARY'S FOOTPATH WALK WILL BE ON SUNDAY 11TH FEBRUARY

ELMSWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL JUNIOR ROAD SAFETY OFFICER NEWS

We have 6 Junior Road Safety Officers at Elmswell Primary School. It is our responsibility to give top tips for road safety to the children in every class. So far, we have created a wall display and have held school assemblies where we have talked about road safety.

Our top tips we shared included:

- How to be safe when walking near roads
- Taking care when playing ball games
- Being prepared for walking as it gets darker earlier in the evening.

Our focus this term has been to make children and adults more aware of crossing roads safely in the dark. We contacted Bloor Homes and they kindly gave us enough money to buy every child in the school a reflector to put on their coat or school bag.



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WESLEY UKULELE BAND

Happy New Year to all our readers. We hope you have a peaceful and healthy 2024.

2023, for us, ended with two outings. The first was our own Christmas Party at the Wesley. Unfortunately, we did not have a full complement of attendees as several of our members had been hit with Covid, colds and other ailments. However, those of us with a stronger constitution made up for it with plenty of food, liquid refreshment and, of course, music. Our picture shows the players entertaining friends, family and ourselves.

On 21st December, our final gig for 2023 was a return to Newmarket Community Hospital, at the request of St Nicholas Hospice, to entertain the patients around the wards. Once again, they all seemed to enjoy the event and we found it very satisfying.

2024 has started off with us playing once again for the Time Out organisation, but this time at their hub in Fornham All Saints. A small group of us crammed into their premises and played for about twelve guests and their helpers, with a special contribution from Ian the centre manager. The whole thing went very well and all the guests seemed to enjoy the morning, with most of them joining in singing and shaking, rattling and rolling with the percussion instruments that we had taken along.

January continues with more dates for the group, but more about that next time.

For information, please call Kevin on 07710 149040 or Carol

Or email: Kevin.Knock99@gmail.com



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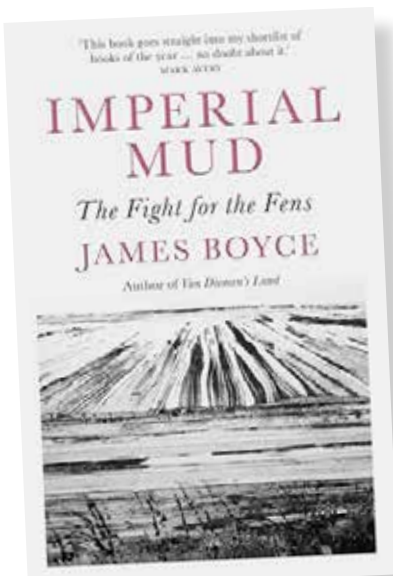


ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

Our January meeting featured three short talks of members' own researches. The first of these was Peter McGee's *Hidden History of the Ickworth Estate* which included discovery of a Tudor manor house, earthworks and dam on the river, and a medieval village, all of which had recently been unearthed by using LIDAR (Light Detection And Ranging) technology and drone footage. Tantalisingly, there is still a lost parsonage to be found.

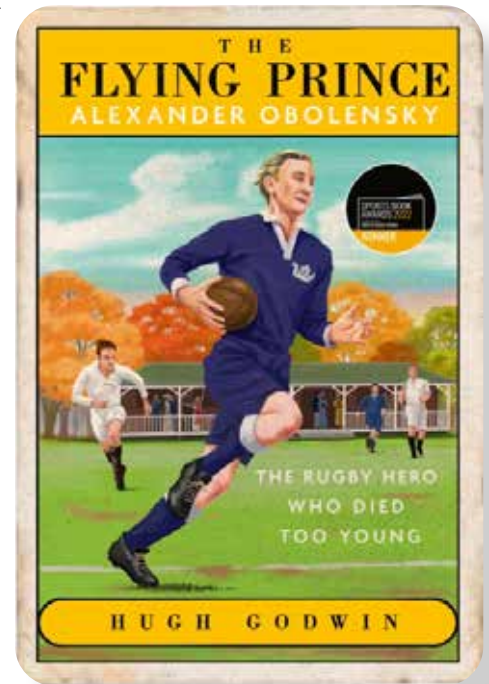
The second talk was Dot Marsden's *Suffolk Workhouses & Stow Lodge* where Dot had worked as Matron in the 1980s. She detailed the start of the workhouse movement from the 14th century, then Stow Lodge becoming a hospital until it finally closed in 2000. Many children were born in the workhouse and some lived there all their lives. The original workhouse clock is still at the Stow Lodge Centre (where you may have been for physiotherapy treatment), and other artefacts are now housed in Stowmarket's Food Museum (formerly M.E.A.L.). There is still a nearby paupers' graveyard which can be visited as it has never been built on to this day.

The third talk was by Sylvie Marshall about *The Fens* which, astoundingly, cover a total of 1,306 square miles across several eastern counties. She detailed the lives of the isolated and feisty Fenlander communities and how these have changed for the better over time. The National Trust's Cambridgeshire Wicken Fen is now a Site of Special Scientific Interest (S.S.I.) and includes a row of fenman's cottages to view. In 2001 the Great Fen Project was started to return areas to the former wetland with all its associated wildlife diversity. For anyone wanting to learn much more, visit the excellent Ely Museum or read a recommended library book "*Imperial Mud: The Fight for the Fens*" by historian James Boyce.



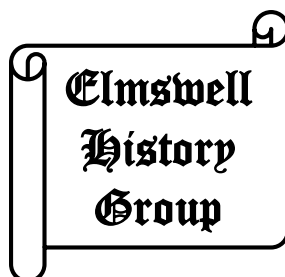
MANY THANKS to Councillor Sarah Mansel's recent generous contribution to our funds from her Locality Budget, which will enable us to buy some new audio-visual equipment so that we can continue to present our monthly talks in a professional manner. Cllr Mansel's support is always much appreciated.

FROM THE ARCHIVE – As the Six Nations Rugby Tournament starts this month, we've looked back as to what rugby-related events happened locally, and found that on 18th February 2009 a bronze statue of Russian rugby legend, Prince Alexander Obolensky was unveiled in Ipswich's Cromwell Square (nearly 100 years after his birth on 17th Feb 1916). He was known as "The Flying Prince", "The Flying Slav", or simply as "Obo" by his many sports fans. Three plaques on the base of the statue describe his life and connection with Ipswich. As a baby, Obolensky had fled to England in 1917 from St Petersburg with his family, following the Russian Revolution. In the fullness of time, he took up rugby, was awarded an Oxford University Blue, and was selected to play for England, at which point he took British nationality. In his international debut for England against the All Blacks he scored two breathtaking tries, which have gone down in rugby history. Less well-known is the fact that he once played at Portman



Road football ground in an international trial. At the outbreak of the World War 2, Obolensky was in his early twenties, when he volunteered as an RAF pilot. His life was cut short in 1940 when his Hurricane fighter plane crash-landed at Martlesham Heath during training. He was buried in Ipswich Cemetery. (*Rugby History website: www.rugbyfootballhistory.com*)

Our next meeting on **8th February, 7.30pm at the Wesley Hall (IP30 9EE)**, will feature local artisan Rick Lewis who will enlighten us on "*Medieval Carpentry in Rural Suffolk*". Rick has 35 years' experience of working on Suffolk's timber-framed buildings such as at West Stow Anglo-Saxon village and Sutton Hoo, and promises to give us an all-encompassing talk on this craft of the 14th and 15th centuries. By looking at illustrations in Books of Hours and ancient woodcuts, Rick has deduced how the craftsmen of the time could hew and shape the timber with very simple tools, but the best of these workmen would have had an excellent understanding of geometry. Do join us to find out more about his ancient craft.



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

www.elmswell-history.org.uk
or contact our Secretary,
on 01359-242601

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FREE ENTRY

Saturday 9th March
11am - 2pm

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25% of sale fees go to Elmswell Toddler Group
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FUNDING THE PROJECT

- With the second Share Issue closed, share and donation income at the bank stands at £188,260
- There are hopes that a substantial grant may come from Mid Suffolk following their recent consultation with Elmswell as to the preferred projects to benefit from some £700,000 of developer contribution money paid over as Elmswell has grown.
- An application for a total of £250,000 has passed the first stage of application to the Government's 'Levelling Up' Community Ownership fund which has already benefitted 2 community pubs in Suffolk - The Doberman Inn, in Framsdon near Stowmarket, and The White Horse in Thelnetham, near Diss. The Elmswell Tavern application stresses the wider community benefit of liaison with the Wesley to create a wider and more inclusive community offering - it certainly worked with the carol service!

PLANNING THE PROJECT

- There was a formal pre-planning application commissioned in August 2023 when the Planning Authority officer's written response confirmed that the principal of the proposals for demolition of the later additions to the original building and the building of the proposed extension could be considered in a full Planning application. The application was duly made in December complete with a detailed Planning & Heritage Statement plus an Ecological Appraisal and Ecological Assessment Report. Comments from the public were invited and, by the closing date of 12th January, no objections were lodged. Determination is due by 16th February.
- Clearly, the decisive factor is money. The principle behind the scheme has always recognised this reality and, when the decisions from potential funders are made and an overall budget identified, aspirations and plans will be trimmed if necessary - always allowing that the core project remains able to offer an attractive community pub with space for drinking and eating and the flexibility to serve the village in tandem with Wesley as a genuine community hub at the centre and heart of Elmswell.

THE PEOPLE

The team elected by the shareholders of Elmswell Community Enterprise, the Community Benefit Society which has worked with the Parish Council towards developing the site served a limited term to allow the members to be able to vote for a change and for the introduction of new talent and energy. Accordingly a new Management Board was duly elected to serve from 1st January. They are:

David Barker, David Brown, Peter Dow, Peter Hancock, Maureen Hunt, Olly Jackson, Chris Layton, Fred Pallett, Philip Shaw, and Andy Stevenson.

Our picture shows...

The Tavern site as purchased from Greene King in 2020 after consultation with the village and clear public support. It shows the extent of the land towards Pightle Close on which the brewer had previously secured Planning permission for 8 substantial houses before offering the whole for sale with the clear possibility of our pub becoming yet another house. Wesley is seen up and running right next door and the Parish Council has since bought the adjacent plot (outlined in blue) to extend the Wesley car park to help cope with ever-increasing demand.





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AROUND & ABOUT

ELMSWELL LIBRARY

Hello Elmswell,

On 24th February we are hosting a free session of English Heritage's Saturday Storytelling Club. Listen to the story 'Midnight Flint', performed by Dave Tong, award winning storyteller & Yarn Smith of Norwich. Adapted from the Original story written exclusively for English Heritage by award winning Children's Author Sophie Kirtley.

As well as the 30-minute interactive storytelling performance, you'll have the opportunity to get up close with our brand-new handling collection of recreated Neolithic artefacts; ask the expert at our Kids Q&A or find your Neolithic fashion style with our Stone Age dressing up box.

The event is aimed at children under 11. It starts at 2pm and finishes at 4pm. No need to book, just turn up on the day.

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/grimes-graves-prehistoric-flint-mine/grimes-graves-project/grimes-graves-midnight-flint>

We have reintroduced books for sale at Elmswell Library. They are by the Suffolk Libraries notice board and are 30p each or 4 for £1.

Stella Davis's artwork is on display until near the end of February. Her artwork is a mix of paintings and prints using the themes of nature and climate change. As well as her artwork, she has prints for sale priced between £10 and £15 and has cards for sale that are £2 for single cards and £5 for packs of 3. 15% of anything sold goes to supporting Suffolk Libraries.

February's book display will be LGBTQIA+ History Month inspired. We will have some classics such as Tony Kushner's Angels in America and Maurice by E. M. Forster, some bestselling authors such as Earthly joys by Philippa Gregory, seafaring adventures with Kemosha of the Caribbean by Alex Wheatle and Leeward by Katie Daysh and crime books including A frightfully fatal affair by Hannah Hendy and The real prime suspect : from the beat to the screen : my life as a female detective by Jackie Malton.

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,

Miles



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What's on at Elmswell Library?

Story Time

1.10pm – 1.30pm every Tuesday

Sunday Crafts

1pm – 2pm every Sunday

Lego Club

Every Sunday 11am – 12noon

Midnight Flint (Grime's Graves event)

2pm – 4pm Saturday 24th February

The Keep in Touch Community Café

10.30am on Wednesday 21st February
at the Wesley Café (every 3rd Wednesday)

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



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ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Greetings from St John's Church

Did you know that that marriage is a beautiful gift of God? It provides love, unity, security and research even suggests it is good for your bank balance!

Maybe you are thinking of getting married this year or maybe next year. Have you thought about getting married at St John's Church? A church wedding is something rather special and our beautiful, historic building is a great wedding venue. If you live, or have ever lived, in the parish or have a connection through your family, it is possible to get married here. Even if none of these apply, you are still be able to get married at St John's if you regularly attend services over a 6 month period. To find out about weddings at St John's, check out our weddings page on our web site - <http://www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk/weddings.php>

January at St John's Church was a quieter month, following the busy Christmas season. We started off with an all age service, celebrating the arrival of the Wise Men in Bethlehem. In our Sunday services since then, we have been focussing on the opening chapter of Mark's Gospel (an account of the life and ministry of Jesus). It is always refreshing to go back to the earliest recorded memories of Jesus and to encounter his powerful presence anew. Having Him in your life can make a real difference.

It has been lovely to have a few new regulars join us at St John's. We are a warm and welcoming church and love to share the good news of Jesus. Why not pop along on a Sunday at 10:30am and discover more about the God who made us and loves us? Tea and coffee are available afterwards.

Upcoming Dates:

- Sun 4 Feb**
9:00am Holy Communion
- Sun 4 Feb**
10:30am Family Service
- Sun 11 Feb**
10:30am Sunday Worship with Holy Communion
- Wed 14 Feb**
5:00pm Ash Wednesday service (with ashing)
- Sun 18 Feb**
10:30am Sunday Worship
- Sun 25 Feb**
10:30am Sunday Worship with Holy Communion
- Sun 3 Mar**
9:00am Holy Communion
- Sun 3 Mar**
10:30am Family Service
- Every Saturday:**
9:00am Weekly prayer meeting online (see website for details)

We live stream most of the 10:30am services on our Facebook page (also available on our main web site later that day).

Rector: Peter Goodridge,
elmswellrector@gmail.com
(01359 240512)

Website: www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjohnselmswell

YouTube: www.youtube.com/@stjohnselmswell



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH TOWER

FLOODLIGHTING

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

For the winter months the lights will be on between 5.30 p.m. and midnight. A night's floodlighting costs £5. Cheques payable please to "ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, ELMSWELL".

Deadline for inclusion in the March Newsletter is Monday 19th February.

Your support is much appreciated.

Thank You.

FEBRUARY 2024 SPONSORSHIPS

- 3 to remember and thank all those past Elmswell Fire-Fighters who served their village and community so well.
- 4 in loving memory of my dear Dad, Geoffrey Dalton.
- 6 Geoffrey Sturgeon. "Remembering the best Grandad".
Love from Shaun & Shelly. xxx.
- 10 Craig Paul Stammers. "Three years have gone since you fell asleep too soon. Love and miss you so much".
With love from Mum & Peter. xx.
- 10 in loving memory of a dear Grandad, George Stiff. Louise & Brian. xx.
- 11 remembering my brother. Louise. x.
- 12 Ted Rookard. Treasured "Happy Birthday" memories, for a dear Husband, Dad & Grandad. Lots of love from all his family. xxx.
- 13 in loving memory of Marjorie Ellen Manning.
- 13 remembering Fred Rush, a dear Dad, Grandad, and Great Grandad, on his Birthday.
- 18 remembering Anne Dyball on her Birthday.
- 20 in loving memory of Wally Fraser on his Birthday.

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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**

As I write this we've just experienced Storm Isha, although I don't think we had it as bad as some. We're certainly seeing a wide spectrum of weather aren't we? Unseasonably mild and wet, freezing cold and back to unseasonably mild, windy and wet! This coupled with the uncertain financial and political climate we're also experiencing undoubtedly leads to worry and concern for some. We all need certainty and structure in our lives don't we? It's as true for adults as it is for children.

For Christians that comes from believing in a God who never changes and whose promises can be totally relied on. If you'd like to learn more about this in a friendly, non-threatening and informal atmosphere why not join us, and several new folk who've joined us in recent

weeks and months, on a Sunday at 10.30am?

The Ladies Friendship Group meet on Monday February 5th at 2pm when Ray Balmer will be coming to talk about "The Doxa Project in Kenya". ALL ladies are welcome, come and join us.

Phone Margaret on 01359 241541 for more details.

Food 'n' Friends meet at Midday on Thursday February 8th for a good meal for a donation of whatever you can afford, and plenty of time to chat. ALL older folk are welcome.

Contact Jackie on 01359 245918 for more info.

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

February 4th
Rev. Norman Tharby – inc Communion

February 11th
Rev. Norman Tharby

February 18th
Rev. Robert Green

February 25th
Rev. Reg Craig

March 3rd
Rev. Norman Tharby – inc Communion

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

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

God bless you all. Tony

**THE CHILDREN'S
SOCIETY**

I have now taken over the 'Household Box Collections' for The Children's Society from Graham & Margaret Newman who have been the collectors over many years for the village.

If you would like to support this charity and have a collection box in your house for any loose change that you might have throughout the year, please contact me so that I can supply you with one. Collections will be once a year and a new box will be returned to you with the amount, that you gave the previous year, noted on the bottom of the box.

Barry Brough
07887 774440
01359 244438

**The
Children's
Society**

**EAST ANGLIAN
TRADITIONAL
MUSIC TRUST**

The Trust collect, archive and perform music, song, dance, and stories from East Anglia. On Sunday 24th March we are inviting you to an informal afternoon of our entertainment in Walsham Le Willows Memorial Hall. Doors open at 1.30. We bring the afternoon to a close at 4 pm.

Entry is free, but donations will be gratefully accepted. There will be a raffle and there is a small charge teas and cakes.

We hope you will be able to join us.



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Day Two: Onwards to the Italian Riviera, where you will stay for two nights.

Day Three: Visit to the qualifying session at the Monaco Grand Prix
Day Four: You head to Monaco Grand Prix by coach where you spend the day. After the conclusion of the race, rejoin your coach for the return overnight journey through France, arriving home the following day.

Departing 24th May 2024. Prices from £1,044 per person. Based on 2 adults sharing.

Tel: 01359 242555 email: elmswell@travel-stop.co.uk
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NEWS FROM ELMSWILD



At this time of year the trees may be resting, but for us winter is the busiest time of year, and the last couple of months have been very busy indeed! When the trees are dormant it's the best time to carry out all the essential tasks of planting, cutting and pruning. We've been kept fully occupied with all three. Of course, in the winter you take pot luck with the weather and sometimes storms, frost and rain can intervene to interrupt your plans.

Blackbourne Big Hedge update

Our hedge planting at Turners' Field got off to a great start last year with the fantastic community planting day in November. We planted all the saplings we had at the time – a great achievement, so a huge thank you to everyone who came and helped. There's still a lot of hedgerow to plant, however, so in December we were very pleased to take delivery of 800 more trees, provided by our District Council. These were heeled in at our tree nursery next to the library to await planting out. Our plan was for another big community planting day in January, but the weather unfortunately had other ideas and that week turned bitterly cold with severe frosts. When we tried to collect the trees from the nursery we couldn't even get a spade in the ground – it was frozen solid! So we had to cancel that day and hope for better weather. Luckily, a team of volunteers

from Bloors Homes came to our aid, and we spent a morning planting – with their help we managed to complete the hedge in the larger field. It was a very wet day, so a huge thank you to all the team for their hard work in less than ideal conditions. Now we just have the second field to plant up....!

Willow harvesting

By contrast, we had a lovely morning at Lukeswood cutting the willow. Many hands make light work, they say, and this was certainly true that day as we finished in record time! Within a couple of hours we had everything cut, bundled up and stacked. Thank you very much to everyone who came and helped – it was great to welcome some new visitors to Lukeswood. We wish you the best of luck with all your willow projects, and hope you enjoy weaving, planting and constructing over the coming months! If anyone missed the harvesting day but would still like some willow, please get in touch. We don't make any charge, but donations are very welcome.

Pruning, felling and cutting

There are many metres of hedgerow over the three largest sites we look after – Lukeswood, Kiln Meadow and Town Field. These need to be cut to keep them healthy and in shape (although not too often as this can damage the hedge and the wildlife it shelters and

prevent blossom, berries and seeds from developing). Occasionally, we also have to fell trees if they have become diseased, dangerous, or are in the wrong place. Coppicing and pollarding help to prolong the life of the tree, encouraging new growth. All this is very skilled work, and also requires the use of a chainsaw. Whilst, between us, your ElmsWild team is quite knowledgeable and handy with a bow saw, some of this work needs the help of a professional. Happily, we have been able to enlist the help of Steve and Will, aka The Wandering Woodsmen, who have been working with us over our three sites. At Lukeswood we have removed some aspens on the western boundary that had grown long and straggly and had a tendency to snap and fall on to the path whenever there was a gale. An area of overgrown and twisted blackthorn at Kiln Meadow has been cut back to take out any dangerously leaning trees, and to encourage fresh new growth. At Town Field we have begun the sensitive task of renovating the ancient boundary hedgerow, carrying out a 'conservation lay', which allows the trees to grow back quickly without losing blossom and berries. All of the cuttings have been used to weave into dead hedges to make new habitats for small mammals, reptiles and invertebrates. A huge thank you to Steve and Will for all their help with these essential tasks – we're looking forward to spring when everything will come into leaf, newly invigorated!

Mary Feeney, info@elmswild.org.uk



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love	candy	caring	hugs
cupid	cards	February	pink
valentine	flowers	red	gifts
heart	kindness	kiss	roses



Children's Mental Health Week
5th Feb to 11th Feb 2024

This week shines a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health, raises awareness and campaigns for all children to have access to mental health support.

Here are our 5 top tips to support mental health:

1. Prioritise rest.
2. Encourage self awareness.
3. Practice gratitude.
4. Get moving – exercise releases endorphins!
5. Listen.



Method:

1.

Collect some kitchen towel inner tubes

2.

Crease the tubes down one edge and fold in to create a heart shape.

3.

Secure with rubber bands to hold the hearts in place

4.

Dip the tubes in paint and create a beautiful heart printed picture for your Valentine.

ELMSWELL FOOTBALL CLUB



FIRST TEAM REPORT

We started the year with a massive derby against Stanton FC in the Morrison Freight Cup. The Blackbourne was unusually waterlogged after those serious downpours, but Stanton offered to host. We took a strong squad over and started brightly. First half goals from Sylvester and Hayden put us in control but Stanton changed things at half time and worked their way back into the game. The deciding goal was scored in spectacular fashion by Jamie Rab McLaughlin for Elmswell, having only recently signed from Stanton. Final score 3-2 to Elmswell. Captain Olly Chaplin got MOTM. We face high flying Somersham away in the next round.

Back in Div.2, and back at The Blackbourne, we next played Claydon Reserves. Another decent squad including a couple of the new signings from Needham. We showed promise and threatened all first half without really clicking into gear. None-the-less, with two goals from Will Hayden and one each from George Chandler and new boy Thomas Dinley we got the win fairly comfortably. It did get a bit feisty second half but the final score was 4-1. MOTM was Andy Brookin.

Another home game followed, this time against Bardwell. Historically we've done rather well against them in recent years but this was a tougher match. It took late substitute Thomas Morgan to make the difference and claim all three points for the Elm.

We head to Somersham on Saturday (last Saturday by the time this goes to print) in the above mentioned cup game. Follow us on Instagram (ELMSWELLFC.HQ) or Facebook (Elmswell FC) to keep up to date with all things E.F.C.



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02/03 - 2:30pm Elmswell Res v Mendlesham

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RESERVES REPORT

A very happy New Year to you all!

Just the one game to report on this edition, what with the bad weather and all. Away to Saxmundham Reserves at the beginning of January. We had a few players return to strengthen the squad but still only managed to take two substitutes with us. We were also without an available goalkeeper until CB Matt Catchpole stepped up to save the day. He did very well, making some decent saves and didn't look out of place at all. We made a solid start and played some good football without looking hugely threatening. Equally, maintained possession and were not really troubled at the back. In one rare foray into their box, after some nice play from Damian Fisk, the ball was worked to the returning Paul Cable who smashed it into the top right-hand corner like he'd never been away. We didn't really look in any danger until Sax brought on a whippet like substitute who took everybody by surprise, running through the midfield and defensive lines and smacking it into the back of the net. Catchpole didn't stand a chance. Both teams had some chances after that. Sax applying pressure with a string of corners but we always looked dangerous on the break. Sam Dew was brought down in the box for a clear penalty, but the ref waved play on. Dew then quite seriously injured his knee ligaments and had to come off; we wish him a speedy recovery. Finally Fisky fought off a couple of defenders to make himself a chance out of nothing but his shot came off the post and bounced along the goal line before being cleared. It was not to be; but a decent point on the road. Final score 1-1. MOTM Ally Clarke.

Our following game against against Redgrave Rangers Reserves was frozen off and next (last for you dear reader) Saturday we are hosting Bramford Utd at The Blackbourne and hungry for three points.

Another sad bit of local football news is that we've just found out that Stow Falcons A are folding. They join the ever growing list of local teams and clubs that can't get the support they need to survive. If you think you might be able to help EFC in any way please get in touch through our socials to find out what kind of roles might be available. Up The Elm.



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AROUND & ABOUT



SID REPORT

January 2024 SID report Monitoring undertaken 8th/9th January 2024

Ashfield Road

Data collected 25th October 2021 to 8th January 2024.

This location less likely to be affected by A14 works.

Total vehicles in monitoring period 775,283. Average speed 29.87 mph AADT (annual average daily traffic) approx. 962 Approx. 54% of drivers over limit. Average excess speed 36.31 mph Maximum speed 100mph 2nd April 2023 22:25

Church Hill

Data collected 23rd February 2022 to 9th January 2024

Total vehicles in monitoring period 2,238,272. Average speed 28.63 AADT (annual average daily traffic) approx. 3266, an increase of 77 in 8 weeks. Approx. 34% of drivers over limit, down 1% from last report. Average excess speed 34.4 Maximum speed 70 mph 24th April 2022 16:05

Wetherden Road

Data collected 1st March 2022 to 8th January 2024

Total vehicles in monitoring period 1,731,693. Average speed 27.58 AADT (annual average daily traffic) approx. 2553, an increase of 140 in 8 weeks. Approx. 34% of drivers over limit, 3% down from last report. Average excess speed 33.4 mph Maximum speed 90 mph 19th November 2022 22:05

We are still seeing an increase in the AADT for Wetherden Road and Church Hill due to the continued rat-running as a result of the A14 works. The new 20 mph limits on Church Road, Cross Street and Wetherden Road have not had the effect of discouraging drivers from diverting off the A14. They have only increased the delay times at junctions.

It is likely that we will see increases in the Ashfield Road AADT once this route is affected by the works to the A1088 Bridge and the new roundabout at Woolpit.

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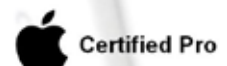
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Winter warmer Pie & Mash Tuesday 23rd January





The latest in a series of community get-togethers at Wesley was, by all accounts, the best yet. Originally suggested as a pie and mash lunch for 24, it almost doubled in size with on-line searches for tickets when bookings had to be closed at 43 places sold. Until the village has the Tavern operating next door to share its commercial catering facilities with Wesley, the event depended on Casper Catering at Bacton, our regular Wesley cake and sausage-roll supplier, and there was much shuffling of potatoes between the kitchen at Blackbourne and the coffee shop. Diners enjoyed, excellent pies, proper mash, Bakewell tart & custard. Result, happiness.

Kevin, the man who put the 'K' in 'ukulele', pulled together a musical treat with himself, Post-Office-Bob on guitar and Peter on harmonica to accompany a singing quartet of Carol, Irene, Maggie and Sylvia.

The event depended on a lot of hard work from the Wesley staff, co-ordinated by Ann and Lucy in the Parish Council office. It was supported by Mid Suffolk as part of their 'Winter Warmer' initiative to provide safe, welcoming opportunities in their District for communities to come together and to encourage social interaction accessible to all. This one worked!

Two more events are in the diary already:

-  Afternoon tea on 14th February – prepaid £8.00 tickets from Wesley or via the Parish Council office... tel. 244134 – email; clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk but be quick, over half already gone
-  Kiddy hands-on craft event on March 23rd – prepaid £1.00 tickets as above

...and coming soon, Fish & Chip Thursday; watch this space



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Dick Burch chatting with Pauline Collins and Don James.



FOX BOWLS CLUB

We have 3 months now until the start of the 2024 Bowls Season and they will be the slowest months ever recorded. Time really is the weirdest of all the dimensions. It can fly when you are enjoying yourself and really drag when you are waiting for something pleasant to happen. We can distract ourselves a little by wondering if we will be allowed to run two Monday teams, for example, or how we will manage it if we are, but the next 3 months are going to feel interminable. Dick Burch and his maintenance team are constantly monitoring the green and giving whatever treatment they deem necessary. Recently they decided that it needed cutting and slitting. There are moves afoot to have a winter tidy-up as we still have hedges to finish cutting and clippings to clear up, but we are going to

need some serious co-operation from the weather if we are going to do any outside work. These days, it is by no means guaranteed.

I would like to thank District Councillors Sarah Mansell and Jen Overrett for granting our application to their Locality Budget. We applied to buy an Honours Board for the Clubhouse and some chairs and tables for outside as the ones we have are getting rather scruffy, and beginning to fall into disrepair. Some were actually donated by a member (but he doesn't live in the village so he shouldn't read this!) We need decent seating because any village resident is entitled come to the green anytime they like and we need to be able to seat them comfortably. As a resident you are also allowed to use the green any time that there is no match taking place,

but even then if all rinks are not in use, which they seldom are. There is a fee of £2 chargeable to anyone who is not a club member and, if you are considering joining us, our annual fee is £25 and your first year is free regardless whether you have played before or not. One local club I know charges £80 per year but I believe that they do not charge match fees, as we do.

This is the time of year when I like to bring you some pictures taken during the height of summer. Remember summer? Shorts and tee-shirts and warm sun on your face, that kind of thing? Not so sure I can put that across with a couple of photos but I'll have a go.

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

NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK

As tradition requires, folk gathered at the village sign on 1st January to walk the New year in. Led by Peter Hancock they meandered for 4 easy miles around the Rights of Way in and about Elmswell.



The route was carefully chosen to avoid the very very muddy paths, but the walk was, inevitably very muddy and all the better for it.

The Father of the current tradition, Dick Burch, was toasted, as per our front

cover, when the walk ended up near to his home and Alan Wells together with Linda provided hot punch, bacon rolls for all and a shot of whisky where necessary or appropriate.

Happy New Year? So far so good.



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David Brown 16 Whatley Close ELMSWELL IP30 9GJ	07803 263454	davideward.brown@outlook.com	Planning Committee Complaints Committee
Dick Burch 14 Wetherden Road ELMSWELL IP30 9DF	01359 240105	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	Poor's Land Charity Blackbourne & Wesley Management Association Planning Committee Complaints Committee
Peter Edmonds Little Acre Ashfield Road ELMSWELL IP30 9HJ	01359 241640 07860 395720	edmondspeterj@gmail.com	Planning Committee Complaints Committee
Peter Hancock Jubilee End 17A Jubilee Terrace ELMSWELL IP30 9 DH	07483 850965	prjhancock24@btinternet.com	Footpath Officer Blackbourne & Wesley Management Association Elmswell Amenities Association Planning Committee Complaints Committee
David Hawes Dunelm Cooks Road ELMSWELL IP30 9BX	01359 240249	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	fjp@oilgasassociates.com	Chairman of Council Poor's Land Charity Planning Committee Complaints Committee
Sue Roots 7 Warren Close ELMSWELL IP30 9DS	01359 240164	sue2955@hotmail.co.uk	Planning Committee Newsletter Report Editorial Board
Mike Schofield Minerva Fairmead ELMSWELL IP30 9HT	01359 241430	mhaksch@gmail.com	
Philip Shaw East View Ashfield Road ELMSWELL IP30 9HG	01359 241192 07710 578212	philipshaw@btinternet.com	Safeguarding Lead Blackbourne & Wesley Management Association Planning Committee Complaints Committee



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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT - JANUARY MEETING

The Parish Council meets at least once each month, excluding August, although extraordinary meetings can be called as required at any time. The January meeting with 10 councillors present, together with District Council Ward Member Jen Overett and the Parish Clerk, Peter Dow, took place at Blackbourne on Monday 15th.

This report is compiled from that meeting by the Parish Clerk and edited by the Council's Editorial Board which comprises the Council Chairman, the Council Vice-chairman and Cllr Sue Roots, elected by her peers to join them. It seeks to cover some of the more interesting or significant items thought to deserve wider public attention. Included, where appropriate, are matters reported to the meeting by external bodies such as the County and District Council Ward Members or as raised at the meeting by members of the public. Further background and reference to subsequent events are included where relevant.

The Minutes of recent Parish Council meetings and Committee meetings, together with the agenda for the next meeting, when ratified, are available online at elmswell.suffolk.cloud and from the Parish Clerk by arrangement. Bound copies of older Minutes are lodged in the Village Archive at Blackbourne and with the Suffolk County Records Office in Bury St. Edmunds. The most recent Minutes from the 18th December meeting, as approved at this meeting, are posted in the Council's notice board at Crown Mill.

Clerk's Report

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

1. I now have on file the Order from SCC introducing the prohibitions of waiting at Elmswell School and on Cooks Road adjacent scheduled to come into effect on 8th January for an experimental period of 18 months. Objections can be lodged for the first 6 months of the Order being in place. EPC has had input to this and feedback is invited as and when the restrictions bed-in.
2. I have secured £1,500.00 from Mid Suffolk in grant aid towards encouraging the 'Winter Warmer' initiative at Wesley. This has allowed for a reduction in cover price and for donations to the various music groups who have agreed to play during the 4 sessions of the programme. The grant will largely be used against usual Wesley catering purchases, but the Proposal at Agenda item 16 gives flexibility to make payments for the entertainment which has characterised the sessions thus far and which now seems to be an integral feature of the events, designed to encourage as diverse a spread of community participation as possible.
3. For information, the 2nd part of the BMSDC Joint Local Plan is triggered by the adoption of the 1st part in November of last year. This involves a 'Call For Sites' process whereby landowners can make submissions of sites which they would like to be considered for residential development and, therefore, inclusion in the final Plan. All submissions are assessed within parameters set for consideration for inclusion in the Plan and, in the meantime, such sites have no enhanced Planning status nor any promise of such.
4. We were advised by BMSDC in December that the cost of emptying our 19 dog bins & 23 litter bins would increase from £1,797.86 to £2,898.00 pa. This advice

was withdrawn as it did not have Member approval. The revised notice is for a 2024 / 2025 total of £2,247.22 which represents a discount on the actual cost price to BMSDC which is £7,350.

5. I attended an on-line meeting hosted by Suffolk on Board on 9th January to discuss community transport including the Government BSIP – Bus Service Improvement Plan – which has allocated Suffolk £3.6m over 2 years. Our current taxi-bus service is in the mix for grant aid from the scheme and evaluation is currently under way with a view to funding allocation to some of the 64 applicants. The Elmswell- based initiative which continues until Easter was mentioned as an exemplar, but there does seem to be a dead weight of old-school thinking which assumes that community transport is 52 seater diesel charabancs, questionable timetabling and the need for a profit beyond simple community benefit.
6. The arrangements for dedication of memorial trees and seats at the cemetery would benefit from review. Given the sensitivities of cemetery-related issues, I prefer that substantive changes are considered by Councillors, rather than just the Clerk, before coming before Council for ratification. Hence the proposal at item 15 for a consultation group to work with me in considering proposals for modification of the Rules.
7. The Precept figure as proposed at Agenda item 12 represents a sum that will require an increase of 5% on the parish council element of the 2024/2025 Council Tax bill. Unusually, there has been no uplift in the Tax Base since the indicative figure was published and on which discussion has centred.

Planning result

The Meeting noted the result of a Planning application made to Mid

Suffolk, the Planning Authority, ref. DC/23/05258 for the erection of two storey front/side and single storey rear extensions including the conversion of an existing garage to form ancillary accommodation at Jamita, Oak Lane. EPC supported the application with a request for a Condition that the garage conversion would never be used for a separate household or for commercial gain but solely for the benefit of dependents of the host dwelling. Permission was granted with the Condition in place.

Planning Applications

The Meeting discussed applications forwarded by Mid Suffolk for comment. It was agreed to support EPC's own application for works at the Tavern and opted not to comment on proposed variations of Conditions attached to the Permission for the construction of 5 dwellings at White House Barns.

Regarding an Application for variations to the Permission granted for an industrial building at the Stag Café land on the old A45, the Clerk was asked to lodge an objection on the following grounds

1. The scale, height and footprint of this proposal completely alters the nature of the original concept development. The increase in size of the original 12m x 18m shed with a single access to a warehouse measuring 24m x 11m with 3 loading bays is compounded by a 65% height-to-eaves increase from 2850 to 4500 to create a more than 4-fold increase in mass and volume. This produces a building with an entirely different function and which cannot rely on the original permission for legitimacy. The large increase in size requires that the building is relocated and the proposal thus unacceptably reduces vehicular access to a facility designed to accommodate an enterprise 4 times larger and busier than the original.
2. The site would, should this



application succeed, be clearly overdeveloped both in terms of scale and traffic usage. There are now 3 food outlets sharing the location and, therefore, the parking. The food outlets derive all of their trade from customers arriving in vehicles, given the distance of the nearest villages of Elmswell and Woolpit and the nature of the approach roads. 3 other existing industrial buildings place further pressure on access and parking. To impose the extra burden of the proposed warehouse premises would lead to offsite parking on the fast A14 exit along the old A45. There is no reference to car parking presented as part of the application and there is considerable doubt that the 7 various enterprises that would be operating here can do so within the safe limits set by Suffolk Guidance for Parking.

3. As previously stated, Councillors have concerns regarding the ad hoc 'development creep' which this site has suffered. Without a cohesive master-plan it has grown without reference to the impacts of the whole built result. This application serves to underline this damaging subversion of strategic

planning and it should be refused so as to help draw a line which prevents further free-for-all rogue development.

4. Councillors contend that the PPG advice re S73 'flexible options' confirms that the expansion and relocation of this proposal goes well beyond acceptable, 'minor material amendments'. In principle and in fact this application stands alone as an application for a sizeable warehouse located, by necessity, very differently from the original shed and requiring a totally fresh assessment in terms of the material considerations of the scale and the manageability of parking and access.

Petrol Filling Station

The Meeting noted the Appeal decision ref APP/W3520/W/22/3312743 in respect of the refusal of Planning permission ref DC/21/06333 for the construction of a petrol filling station, drive-through restaurant and coffee shop at the Ai4 / A1088 roundabout adjacent to the VOSA / DVSA site. The Appeal was allowed and the project can proceed with Conditions.

Precept

It was agreed that the Precept for the financial year 2024 / 2025 be set at £229,749.00.

Winter Warmer

The meeting noted that a grant of £1,500.00 has been secured from BMSDC towards funding of the forthcoming Wesley Winter Warmer series of 4 events and that £200.00 should be dedicated to the provision of entertainments at those events.

Next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled for 19th February 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

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS INSECT?

The UK is under attack from an invasive insect! The **Asian Hornet** (*Vespa velutina*), also known as the **Yellow-legged Hornet**, is a predatory species of hornet indigenous to Southeast Asia, which arrived accidentally in France in 2004. They have since spread throughout Western Europe and have now been found in the UK. They are designated a **Notifiable Invasive Species** and must be reported if seen or captured.

The best way to do this is via the "Asian Hornet Watch App", available free for iPhone and Android. The report will be relayed to a local Asian Hornet Team member (most likely me!) for confirmation. The nest will then be found and destroyed by government officers from APHA.

Why should we be concerned?

The Asian Hornet is voracious and will eat nectar, wasps, bees, flies, butterflies, spiders, caterpillars, fallen fruit and carrion. They are such efficient hunters that they will completely suppress all insects within 1km of their nest! Honeybees are a favourite prey and they will devastate an apiary if they find one. Not surprisingly beekeepers are keen to repel these invaders but we should all do our bit to help, because **all our native insects are at risk**.

What can we do?

Download the app. Be alert. You may hear one before you see it - its wing buzz is loud and low. Report any sightings.

Asian Hornets are black, with yellow legs (socks).

Do not confuse them with native insects, particularly the European Hornet (which is predominately brown and not a problem, despite being bigger and scary-looking!) - See the graphic below.

If we can find them now, we can eliminate them but if we fail they will gain a foothold and then we will never be able to stop them.

Greg Monaghan gmonag@sky.com



Photo: Angus Deuchar



Scan QR code for more information

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.

Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
19th	18th	15th	20th	17th

Meetings are held at Blackbourne, beginning at 7.30 unless otherwise notified

VILLAGE INDEX



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

Amenities Association	Jean Barker (Sec)	eea@elmswell.org.uk	241135
Art Club	Eddie Douglas	edward.douglas2@gmail.com	
Baby & Toddler Group		elmswellbtgroup@gmail.com	
Baptists	Dave Hollings	davehollings@btinternet.com	241323
BATS (Badminton & Table Tennis)	Mike Burgess Wilson	burgesswilsonmike@gmail.com	
Beavers	Ruth Salmon	ruthcourt4@hotmail.co.uk	
Bingo at Blackbourne	Brian Hawes		07761 125093
BWMA	Peter Edmonds (Sec)	edmondspeterj@gmail.com	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	Frank Boxall	jf.boxall@btinternet.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		elmswellgadmin@btinternet.com	
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	ddc.paula@stowmarketscouts.org.uk	07828 562485
St John's Church	Peter Goodridge	elmswellrector@gmail.com	240512
Sewing Bee	Isabel Burgess	isabel.burgess@live.com	
Village Tree Warden	c/o Parish Clerk	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
Wesley – all enquiries	Parish Council office	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
WI - evening	Tricia McNeeney	triciamcneeney@gmail.com	241197
Youth Football	Wayne	wsast@hotmail.co.uk	

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

February 2024

- 3 Wine tasting with Robert Stopp at Wesley in aid of Suffolk Punch Trust; bob.stopp@gmail.com
- 5 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - The Doxa Project by Ray Balmer
- 7 Exchange WI 2.00pm at Wesley. New hospital in Bury St. Edmunds. Speaker Gary Norgate
- 8 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley chapel. Speaker Rick Lewis: Historic Carpentry of 14+15th centuries
- 8 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 13 Elmswell WI - Charity Knickers with Jan Hancock
- 20 Monkey Puzzle Miscellany, Part II, David Gedye, Elmswell Gardening Club, 7.30pm in Wesley Chapel
- 23 Bingo - Doors open 6.30 eyes down 7.30 all welcome

March 2024

- 4 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - St. Edmund by Chris Parfitt
- 6 Exchange WI 2.00pm at Wesley. What happens to our refuse. Speaker Sarah Jane Clark
- 12 Elmswell WI - Women's Refuge with Zoe Gordon
- 14 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Stephen Poulter: Suffolk's Lost Heritage
- 14 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 19 Bury in Bloom, Chris Wiley, Elmswell Gardening Club, 7.30pm in Wesley Chapel
- 29 Bingo - Doors open 6.30 eyes down 7.30 all welcome

April 2024

- 3 Exchange WI 2.00pm at Wesley. Art on London's Streets. Speaker Peter Lawrence.
- 8 2pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - Flower Arranging by a member of Stowmarket Flower Club
- 9 Elmswell WI - Walking Wok with Lily Indra
- 11 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP 24th Anniversary meeting, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Jacquie Norman: Tudor Costumes, Part 2
- 11 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 16 'Garden Butterflies and Moths; tips to encourage them'. Speakers: Trevor Goodfellow and Mark Brewster of Butterfly Conservation Suffolk, Elmswell Gardening Club, 7.30pm in Wesley Chapel
- 26 Bingo - Doors open 6.30 eyes down 7.30 all welcome

STOP PRESS

Regular sessions at Blackbourne & Wesley include:

- KARATE** with Lewis - Friday 5.00 - 7.00 info@greathedma.com
 - JAPANESE JUJUTSU / SELF DEFENCE** - Monday & Wednesday 6.30 - 8.30 ryoishintowaryuheiho@gmail.com tel. 07711 680262
 - BABY & TODDLER GROUP** - Monday mornings elmswellbtgroup@gmail.com
 - BATS- badminton / table tennis / pool** at Blackbourne Friday nights 7 - 9.30 simon@coakleyandtheaker.co.uk
 - BOWLS** - barryhayward1902@gmail.com tel. 240951
 - GUIDES** - elmswellguides@outlook.com
 - FOOTBALL** - shaun.pratt@btinternet.com 07494 864231
 - RAINBOWS** - elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com
 - JUNIOR FOOTBALL** - smyth98@hotmail.com 07717 841591
 - CUBS** Tuesdays 6.15 - 7.30 - 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 Terry Byford bbazby@aol.com
 - WI** - afternoon at Wesley 1st Wednesday monthly Carol Blissett carolblissett@hotmail.co.uk
 - ART CLUB** at Wesley every Tuesday 9.00 - 12.00 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 elmswellgardenclub@gmail.com
 - CARPET BOWLS** - Wednesday 7pm at Wesley - jf.boxall@btinternet.com
 - COMPANIONS** - every other Friday 10 - 12 at Wesley - linda@abbott.plus.com
 - PILATES** - Monday & Friday mornings - suzanne@triformpilates.co.uk
 - BINGO** - Blackbourne, last Friday monthly doors open 6.30...eyes - down 7.30
 - ARTS SOCIETY OF WEST SUFFOLK** first Tuesday monthly, October-June. Diana Hollins 01449 736930 theartssociety-westsuffolk.org.uk
- If we've missed you out, do let us know...all enquiries to Ann at the Council Office Tel. 244134 Email clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk

Your Newsletter Fact File

For the next 3 months we need copy by: February 20th, March 26th, April 23rd, May 28th

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

Published on the first Friday of every month by the Elmswell Amenities Association

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