

'Like a friend dropping in'



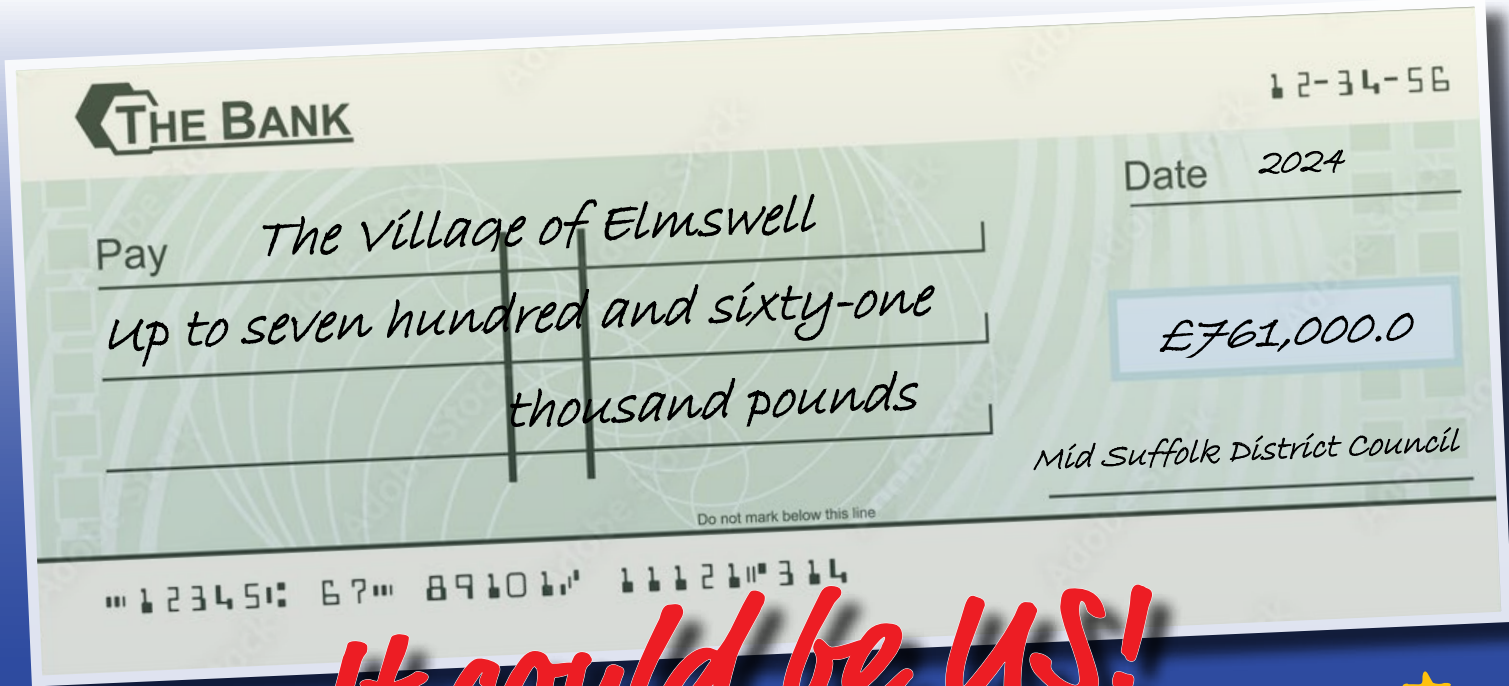
# The Elmswell Newsletter



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

JANUARY 2024

On line at [elmswell.suffolk.cloud](http://elmswell.suffolk.cloud)



## It could be US!

See centre page  
and help decide how to  
spend a windfall for Elmswell



Come & join us for another  
**Winter warmer  
Pie & Mash**  
Tuesday 23rd January 1pm



... please see page 11



**Our editorial is designed to inform and to encourage debate.**

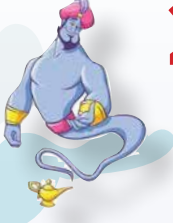
**If you wish to comment, please do so via the office or by email at; eaa.elmswell.org.uk**

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


## Christmas can be a magical time.

**We offer 3 un-scientificallly proven ways to unlock that seasonal magic.**

**1 RUB A LAMP –** like Alladin – and summon a genie to grant you any wish (initial response may be wishy-washy)



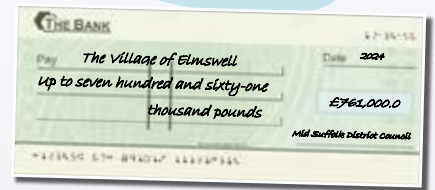
**2 STIR A WISH** into the mix when making the Christmas pudding (eyes must be closed)



**3 ASK FATHER CHRISTMAS** (pre-Christmas behaviour must have been exemplary)



Our cover picture suggests that Elmswell has rubbed, stirred, and requested with particular impact this year. Between a Mid Suffolk genie, a very effective wooden spoon technique and catching Santa in an a very elfy good mood, the village's stocking yields the real promise of a massive boost to our wellbeing which could, if we choose well, be with us for generations. They are looking for our views on how best to spend up to £761,000 (yes, seven hundred and sixty-one thousand pounds) on developing infrastructure in our village. It is money we have 'earned' over recent years from the contributions developers have been required to pay towards supporting the community – to help make infrastructure provision for the expanding population moving into the houses they build.



Our centre pages offer suggestions as to how this money might most effectively be spent...but any new suggestions are welcome and are openly invited.

If inspiration is needed, we can look back at the sort of 'infrastructure provision' Elmswell has fought so hard to provide in recent years.

- ✓ We built a new library and Memorial Garden at Cooks Road
- ✓ We established Kiln Meadow wildlife area and bought the freehold which has allowed Lukeswood to thrive as an exemplary conservation scheme run by an exemplary community volunteer group in ElmsWild
- ✓ We built Blackbourne and established 11 acres of Blackbourne Meadow at a time when the village had no playing field!
- ✓ We have steadily expanded Blackbourne to give much more space for new people and new activities...as recently as this year we officially opened Turners' Field adding 6 more acres of community green space
- ✓ We bought the old Methodist chapel at the heart of the village and developed it into Wesley – unarguably a seriously valuable community asset
- ✓ We bought the Greene King site - rather handily right next door to Wesley – to develop our community pub, extending the social hub in partnership with Wesley, and to establish our own affordable housing scheme on the remaining land

So we seem to have a direction of travel. We seem, from early days, to have been determined to welcome our new neighbours (we are now up to 3,880 adult residents plus lots of lovely kids). We are bigger than Eye, Newmarket or Thurston and, seemingly, we are as popular a place to live as any of them.

The opportunity presented by the Mid Suffolk windfall needs, we suggest, to be very seriously thought about as a chance to carry on along these same lines. The Powers That Be insist that we have to get bigger. We must ensure that, in doing so, we get better.

The Amenities Association, the publishers of your Newsletter for the past 30+ years, has played a key part in supporting Elmswell's success by ensuring that growth does not kill-off community. They have granted some serious money to the projects above over the years from their charitable income. The rationale has always been:

- ☺ Does the money help a large proportion of our population without discrimination on grounds of age or any other social factors...all have to be welcomed
- ☺ Will the money be of benefit well into the future ensuring that Elmswell can cope with expansion...it should benefit our children now and their children eventually

- ☺ Can the money encourage closer ties across a wide range of social aims and aspirations so that some sense of 'neighbourhood' is retained and encouraged...do people meet and mingle and feel that here is where they belong?

In looking at the suggestions put forward by Mid Suffolk as to suitable community projects, it might be argued that a bold step should be taken. We might not have a chance as good as this for many more years. Our parish council is already building funds for car parks and green energy and play facilities. Schemes such as our community affordable homes, nominally a £3m project, are much bigger than we can afford without much bigger inputs. To satisfy all of our smiley-faces above, the community pub would seem to be a front-runner. The money would trigger the starting gun. We could expect to be hosting our first Family Fun Day in early summer of 2025 along with taking table bookings, fixing the dates for the quiz nights / folk nights / bingo. If any of that takes our fancy.

There are an infinite number of ideas that would benefit from a chunk of £761,000. All are invited. We suggest that by far the most effective and productive beneficiary would be the community pub scheme. It aims to give us Wesley-with-a license. It would give us more space and more opportunity for our village to meet and mix. It would, coincidentally, pay its way and provide some income to plough back into Elmswell, as does Wesley.

**We suggest that we should all respond to Mid Suffolk's consultation.  
We suggest that top of our list should be the community pub project.  
We suggest we're worth it!**

**TURN TO CENTRE PAGES**





## ELMSWELL ART CLUB

To start off 2024, we would like to feature Suffolk artist, Sir Alfred James Munnings.

Born on 8 October 1878 at Mendham Mill, Mendham, Suffolk, Sir Alfred is known as having been one of England's finest painters of horses, Alfred grew up surrounded by the activity of a busy working mill with horses and horse-drawn carts arriving daily. After leaving Framlingham College at the age of fourteen he was apprenticed to a Norwich printer and attended the Norwich School of Art in his spare time. When his apprenticeship ended, he became a full-time painter and in 1899 two of his pictures were shown at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition.



Sir Alfred James Munnings 1878 - 1959

He painted rural scenes, frequently of subjects such as Gypsies and horses. Munnings bought Castle House, Dedham, in 1919, describing it as 'the house of my dreams'. He used the house and adjoining studio extensively throughout the rest of his career, and it was opened as the Munnings Art Museum in the early 1960s, after Munnings's death at Castle House, Dedham, Essex, on 17 July 1959. Munnings became best known for his equine painting; he often depicted horses participating in hunting and racing. His painting of *The Red Prince Mare* sold for £4.3m in 2004 and is shown below:



Some of our members have produced excellent paintings of horses; the following were produced by Kelvin Fellingham. Kelvin's first is entitled "The Black Horse" and has been produced using black ink;



Kelvin's second picture shows a fine example of how to use soft pastels to produce atmosphere and detail as well as giving a real feeling of movement and power;



Finally, many thanks to our fellow Art Club member Michelle Russell for presenting her Glass Work talk and demonstration covering 3 ways of how glass can be worked. Michelle introduced us to the equipment, tools and techniques used for creating wonderful pieces of glass art. (NB, in case you are wondering, the brush and pan set is very important for keeping working space free of any glass debris!!)

*Eddie Douglas*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR  
TO ALL FROM  
THE ELMSWELL ART CLUB**

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

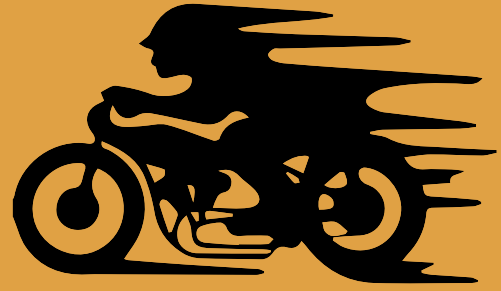


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# CLUBS & SOCIETIES



## ELMSWELL EXCHANGE W.I.

This month was our Christmas celebration and after the birthday gifts for December and January were distributed we handed over to one of our members.

Tricia had kindly offered to demonstrate how to make a Christmas wreath and another decoration. As she skilfully made them she told us how she had learnt to flower arrange at evening classes and then an adult education class. Tricia had lived in Cyprus and told us how there were many volunteers to flower arrange at the church shared with the ex pats. Tricia made it all look very easy and we were all impressed with the results.

After a Christmas tea provided by the committee the usual business took place. The annual awards were presented to the winners of the competition. First was Margaret Hitchins, second was Barbara Carter and third was Carol Blissett.

The raffle prizes were two lovely hampers, plus Tricia's wreath and decoration as well as the pretty table decorations made by Jan.

We wish all our members a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

**Our next meeting will be on February 7th and our speaker will be Gary Norgate. His subject is the new hospital in Bury. St. Edmunds. The competition will be your favourite building and why, with a photo or picture.**

Visitors and new members are always welcome.



## ELMSWELL WI

It was our Christmas party and members were welcomed with mulled wine and prosecco.

Tables were decorated with evergreens and sweets, as well as craft materials and a puzzle.

After making the first little decoration, Brenda welcomed everyone and thanked those who had filled the jars for the Food Bank and had donated provisions. In addition, she thanked members who had made blankets for the Special Care Baby Unit at the West Suffolk Hospital. They were thrilled to receive them.

Sadly, a long term member and friend, Lesley Clark, died recently and as a funeral was not arranged for her by her family, Elmswell Exchange W.I. has planned a Memorial Service at St John's Church on 9th January at 10.30am.

Kerry then proceeded to teach everyone how to make an angel decoration. Apparently, her year 4 students are able to make it easily! This was not the case with some of our members (I think Kerry preferred teaching the children!)

After refreshments, we played Pass the Parcel. There were two huge parcels being passed around, with a present between each layer, so it took some time but was lots of fun.

After singing some carols the raffle was drawn, and Maggie Young, won the hamper much to her surprise! Brenda thanked the committee for all their hard work and Kerry for organising the craftwork.

Sylvia Walton thanked the committee, on behalf of the members. A good time was had by all: there was lots of laughter and fun.

We now look forward to 2024 and hope that there will be more peace in the world...

*Rosie Collins 01359 241652*



## ELMSWELL OVER 55'S CLUB

We have now come to the end of this years activities which culminated with our Christmas party in December 16th with delicious catering by Home Farm.

The hall was beautifully decorated with trees, lights and various Christmas ornaments including snowmen and Father Christmas. Thank you Barry Hazel John and Grant from the committee for doing an amazing job!



The evening continued with entertainment by Bob Whiting. Several members enjoyed dancing the night away and singing along with the festive music.

All it leaves is for me to thank you all for the cards and presents I have received, and wish you all a very merry Christmas.

I will again be opting to donate to the Brain Tumour Charity and not sending cards. A charity close to my family's heart.

Looking forward to seeing you all on 15th February for our first meeting of 2024.

*Best Wishes, Diann 241002*



## TOP TIPS for a COSY HOME

National Energy Action runs a warm and safe homes helpline, which advises on ways to reduce energy use and improve efficiency.

It also offers support to switch suppliers and advice if you get behind on payments.

**Call 0800 304 7159 or visit [www.nea.org.uk](http://www.nea.org.uk)**





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## Help with heating your home this winter

Mid Suffolk District Council can offer support to help with heating bills this winter. There is a lot of information on <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/energy-fuel-and-utilities>

If you are struggling to heat your home, Citizens Advice should be able to offer support and there are helpful suggestions about how to reduce your bills.

The Cosy Homes initiative has been launched with a £2 million fund. Eligible households can apply for free energy efficiency measures in their own homes, including if privately rented. A contractor has been secured to deliver this programme and they have been able to access further grant funding to contribute to this scheme. Full details are available via <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/mid-suffolk/w/mid-suffolk-cosy-homes>

Particularly vulnerable households can continue to access grants information and advice via the wider Suffolk scheme, [www.warmhomessuffolk.org](http://www.warmhomessuffolk.org)

## Joint Local Plan

The New Joint Local Plan Part 1 has now been adopted by both Mid Suffolk and Babergh Councils. This sets out a planning framework to guide development in the districts over the period to 2037.

JLP Part 1 provides a set of strategic and local development management policies against which planning applications and appeals will be assessed. There are 10 strategic policies (such as on affordable housing, climate change and



tourism) and 32 local policies (such as on biodiversity, historic environment and sustainable construction).

JLP Part 2, which covers housing policies such as settlement boundaries and housing requirements, is being worked on and will be consulted on next year and there is now a schedule for the progress on this work alongside a number of supplementary planning documents.

## Energy efficiency improvements for listed buildings

It is currently very difficult to retrofit listed buildings so the Council is looking to help with this. Mid Suffolk is consulting on proposals to put in place a Local Listed Building Consent Order to enable owners of listed buildings to improve their energy efficiency. If ultimately agreed, this will safeguard our valuable heritage assets but streamline the process for approving

balanced and sensitive energy efficiency improvements.

## Call for sites to support nature recovery

MSDC has low tree cover and is actively planting more trees and changing the way that public open spaces are managed. The Council is now working with The Woodland Trust and has put out "a call for land sites" which could be planted or improved for nature. If you have land available, no matter what size, or want more information on funding etc, email [biodiversity@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:biodiversity@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk)

## Locality Awards

A reminder that this year's locality awards are still open for applications. Any group or organisation can apply for amounts of £250 or more. Please contact one of us for an application form.

### District Councillors for Elmswell and Woolpit:

Councillor Sarah Mansel	07860 829517	<a href="mailto:sarah.mansel@midsuffolk.gov.uk">sarah.mansel@midsuffolk.gov.uk</a>
Councillor Jen Overett	07928 512591	<a href="mailto:jen.overett@midsuffolk.gov.uk">jen.overett@midsuffolk.gov.uk</a>

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## CITIZENS ADVICE

### Could you spare a morning or afternoon a week to help local people in need?

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk support local people by providing free, confidential, independent and impartial advice. Demand for the charity's service has continued to increase, and the wonderful team of volunteers are so important to the help Citizens Advice provide.

### Could you be a friendly face to greet people?

The charity are in need of volunteer receptionists to spare a morning or afternoon a week, as a friendly face to greet people who come into the Stowmarket office.

### Could you help people find a way forward?

Volunteer advisers talk to local people on the phone, face to face and online to explore their problems and the options available to them.

### Interested in volunteering?

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk would love to hear from you! Go to [midsuffolkcab.org.uk/volunteer](https://midsuffolkcab.org.uk/volunteer) or call 01449 676060 for an informal chat.

No experience is needed for either role, as training will be given, and you will be part of a friendly team of existing volunteers supported by specialists and supervisors.

Citizens Advice volunteers come from all walks of life and choose to volunteer for a variety of reasons.

### Current volunteers said:

*"I volunteered to help others, but didn't realise how much I would get back! I love the feeling of satisfaction at the end of the day and the feeling you get from being part of a brilliant, friendly, professional and happy team."*

*"You gain skills and experience that stay with you for life. There is a great support system in place...it makes you feel like you are part of something great."*

*"The most enjoyable part of volunteering is seeing the difference we make. You meet a person who might be nervous and not know what will happen to them. At the end of the day they leave smiling and thanking you for all that you have done for them."*

*"Volunteering with Citizens Advice is not only mentally stimulating but also very rewarding."*

Volunteers are Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk are often looking for ways to make use of their skills or to gain valuable experience and make use of the fantastic training. They also enjoy the opportunity to meet different people and be part of a friendly, welcoming team of existing volunteers. They find it rewarding to support local people and make a difference to their lives.

**citizens  
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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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## ELMSWELL FOOTPATH WALK SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2023

With heavy rain forecast towards the end of the walk the party of three set off with a purpose to complete the walk and be home with a cup of tea before the weather closed in.

Heading off along School Road we turned left on to FP17 which runs along Rose Lane, on to Gardeners Walk, past the Telephone Exchange, crossing Church Road and on to FP16 which follows Spong Lane.

We wandered across the recently enclosed meadows heading south when the footpath deteriorated drastically across a ploughed field due to the inordinate and sustained amount of rainfall over previous days and weeks. Discretion being the better part of valour the consensus was that we retrace our steps and find a drier route.

So it was back to Church Road turning right and right again down Warren Lane which is suffering significant damage to its verges due to the vastly increased flow of traffic as a consequence of the A14 roadworks.

Left on to FP22 took us up the slope on to the well drained lighter land with better conditions underfoot. Pressing on into the parish of Wetherden we passed Warren Mill House with the two new adjacent houses now being roofed in as construction continues.

Following the lane down we crossed Wetherden Road into Mutton Hall all the while keeping an anxious eye on the upcoming weather conditions. Heading north and west we crossed the sheep pasture towards the railway.

We crossed the track on FP 9 and FP25 and hence on to Eastern Way and ultimately back to Crown Mill just before the onset of a wet afternoon.

A walk of approximately 3.80 miles in 1 hour 35 minutes (an average speed of 2.4 miles per hour)

*Peter Hancock, EPC Footpath Officer*



**JANUARY'S FOOTPATH WALK WILL BE ON SUNDAY 14TH JANUARY**



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## TOP TIPS for a COSY HOME

- If you are unable to top up your prepayment meter, Citizens Advice can offer you support. You can also contact *Warm Homes, Healthy People Suffolk* for support, advice and an in home survey from a prepay coordinator... call 07769. 365796 or e-mail [prepay@eastssuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:prepay@eastssuffolk.gov.uk).
- If your home currently has no heating, *Warm Homes, Healthy People* can provide free emergency heaters and help you find longer term support. Call 03456037686 or e-mail [whp@eastssuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:whp@eastssuffolk.gov.uk).
- If your home is off-gas. Eastern Savings and Loan Credit Union offer interest free loans of £500 lto help spread the upfront cost of oil and LPG. To become a member and apply, visit [www.eslcu.co.uk](http://www.eslcu.co.uk) or call 03336 000690.
- The Local Welfare Assistance Scheme is a hardship grant offering payments of up to 300 lbs towards the cost of essentials including energy. Visit the Suffolk County Council website For more information and to apply.





## ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP



Our December meetings saw the welcome return of renowned local actor, Bryan Thurlow, for his talk/performance entitled "Music Hall Memories", which gave us an excellent light-hearted potted history of British Music Hall with songs and lively monologues (including some breathtaking tongue twisters!). As a founder member of The Berkeley Squares Music Hall Company, Bryan performed across the country and made several television appearances, as well as playing to packed audiences in their beautifully-costumed annual shows at Bury's Theatre Royal and Felixstowe's Spa Pavilion, together with Gloria Stewart, Mary Alexander and Joyce Frost. He shared his extensive knowledge of the Victorian music hall era which started in pubs and taverns as money-making events for the local landlords. He also explained the origins of and performed some of the songs that made this genre so popular, including giving us extensive details of its most famous (and sometimes rather risqué!) performer, Miss Marie Lloyd, and her somewhat colourful and eventful life. We rounded off this most entertaining evening with light seasonal refreshments and mulled wine.

Looking to the New Year, on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January, 7.30pm at the Wesley, we will be hosting a Members' Evening which will feature three short talks from

our members' own researches, the topics of which will be "The Fens", "The Hidden History of Ickworth House", and "Suffolk Workhouses & Stow Lodge" (where they survive in our scenery, workhouses have changed to serve modern needs but not lost their reputation for having been harsh and feared). Do join us then for what promises to be an interesting and varied evening of talks.

I would like to thank all those who have worked hard throughout 2023 to make our group the success it has been. In saying this, I am not merely referring to our expert speakers, but also to our committee members and many others who have contributed to our various events. It just remains for me to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year, with the hope for new beginnings and peace for all.

*Roger Collins, Chairman*



## WESLEY UKULELE BAND

Our November gigs all went very well. Four of us played for the 1940's themed lunch at the Wesley and then eight went to the Time Out Club, which is held at Gatehouse in Bury. This is another club for dementia sufferers and the reception they gave us was very uplifting. These were followed by performances at Great Barton Bowls Club, Red Gables Xmas Fair in Stowmarket and for Hitcham W.I.

December is already becoming busy. We started off at retirement apartments in Cambridge, where our guitarist, Alan, and his wife Sandy live. Unfortunately, Alan had had a decorating accident and was still in Addenbrookes with several breaks to his leg. We are missing him and looking forward to him rejoining us in January.

Since then we have played at Bildeston Village Hall, the Probus Club in Stowmarket, and for both Great Barton and Woolpit W.I.s Christmas dinners. Our photo show us at the Woolpit event.

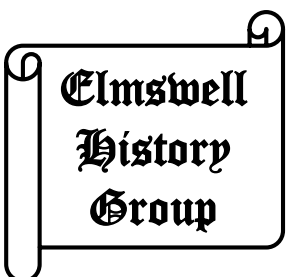
The highlight was on 13th, when we returned to Gatehouse to play for the Wednesday Luncheon Club. There were only five of us there, as most of our ladies had gone to a show at Thursford. However, the reception we were given was overwhelming. The organiser was in tears as she had not seen her guests looking so happy in years. It was a very emotional morning.

The month continues with our own Xmas party on the 16th and then we return to Newmarket Community Hospital on the 21st. We already have 9 gigs for 2024 so are looking to keep busy, raising funds for our various charities.

**We wish all of our readers a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.**

For information, please call Kevin on 07710 149040 or Carol

Or email: Kevin.Knock99@gmail.com



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

[www.elmswell-history.org.uk](http://www.elmswell-history.org.uk)

or contact our Secretary, on 01359-242601

# TURNERS FIELD

3 special oak trees – Quercus x Turnerii or Turner's Oak were planted to grow as standards in the hedge Donimo later entertained the workers with a show in the Jubilee Hall



*Stan Turner and his long-time mate Dick Burch plant a commemorative 'Turner's Oak'.*



*Donimo found a happy audience*

Stan and Ian Turner, in recognition of many years of co-operation as housing developers in Elmswell, purchased and donated 6 acres of land to extend the recreation space at Blackbourne. The formal hand-over was marked on 25th November by a community event with hedge planting assisted by Domino the clown and, as well as the unveiling of a plaque naming the new field, a time capsule was buried containing contributions from many of the community groups taking part.



*The time capsule well and truly buried*

*Donimo thanks his willing assistants*



*Stan hands juggling knives up to Donimo on his unicycle... it ended well*



*Donimo distracts the workers with magical golden acorns*



David Austen and Steve Norman installed a memorial plaque at Turners' Field. The memorial plaque reads:

***This 6 acres of community green space was provided by Stan and Ian Turner to extend Blackbourne Meadow. The plaque was installed at a village hedge-planting event on 25th November 2023, the first community use of Turners' Field.***

Steve used his furniture-restoring skills to source and prepare the English Oak backboard which he kindly donated to the scheme.



David Austen and Steve Norman installing the memorial plaque.



Stan Turner and Parish Council Chairman Fred Pallett unveil the plaque.



Come & join us for another  
**Winter warmer**  
**Pie & Mash**  
 Tuesday 23rd January 1pm  
 £8.00 per person

2 course meal, soft drink & tea or coffee  
 Feel free to bring a bottle too!

Pre booking opens in January & pre payment is required,  
 please head down to the Wesley to secure your space  
 or call 01359 244134



The photo shows Club members presenting our donation to Norton SALVATION ARMY, at December's Christmas Carols event.

## ELMSWELL CARPET BOWLS

Did one of your New Year's resolutions is to get more exercise and meet new people, why not try CARPET BOWLS in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere? It's all for enjoyment, and there's no travel outside the village because we do not take part in any leagues.

We meet in the WESLEY CHAPEL, 7-9.30pm every Wednesday, September to April, for a sociable evening of gentle exercise and light refreshments afterwards. All ages and abilities are welcome, just normal clothes and shoes required, and all equipment is provided as well as optional informal tuition.

Interested? please call Frank on 01359-244591 or Stella on 242601, or just turn up to one of our evenings at The Wesley.



We look forward to hearing from you - First session is FREE.

## TOP TIPS for a COSY HOME



Benefit entitlements such as warm homes, discount cold weather payments and extra winter fuel payments can add up to hundreds of pounds to help you pay your energy bills, but you'll need to be claiming certain benefits to get them. Benefit checks can be done online at.

[www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators](http://www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators)

or by contacting your local Citizens Advice

## THE ELMSWELL AMENITIES ASSOCIATION

### AGM

will be held at

**WESLEY IP30 9EE**

**at 7.40 pm on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January**

including the election of members to the Committee of Management.  
Nominations to the Secretary,  
Mrs Jean Barker, Linden Croft,  
Hawk End Lane IP30 9ED  
[eea@elmswell.org.uk](mailto:eea@elmswell.org.uk)

**01359 244134**  
**on or before Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January.**

Registered Charity No. 304879

Notice posted 23.12.2023

# ELMSWELL TAVERN - OUR COMMUNITY PUB

## POP UP BAR...

We had another very successful pop-up session when the Salvation Army brass band led the carols at the pub and the bar was set-up and run by ECE Members. The event was held in conjunction with Wesley where mulled wine and mince pies were available. A collection raised some £115.00 for the Salvationers' work in the community and the general feeling was that this event might become an annual fixture when we open. For the next pop-up occasion, watch this space.



## ADD YOUR VOICE...

...to those who respond to the consultation on the centre pages of this Newsletter. Add your voice to support the Tavern scheme as the best recipient of a substantial grant from Mid Suffolk. With the money that might then come our way we would be in a position to look to go out to tender for the works. You can vote by email, via Facebook, by scanning the QR code or by filling in the return slip...but do, please, add your voice in support of your community pub

## HOW ARE THE PLANS GOING?

They have gone - to the Planning Department at Mid Suffolk (ref. DC/23/05878) together with The Planning and Heritage Statement, Ecological Appraisal and Ecological Assessment Report. Determination is due on or before 16th February.

## HAVE YOUR SAY

If you are a Shareholder Member, there are elections to the ECE (the 'pub group') Board of Management to be held in February. You would then have a direct input - a voice in how the project is shaped in response to the community's wishes. All Members will be contacted with full details of how to stand for election.

**WHAT YOU SEE**

This is the plan that was decided upon after many hours of discussion and consultation.

It retains and renovates the historic core of our pub and sympathetically adds the facilities needed for an efficient and friendly community hub offering comfortable spaces for preparing and serving food as well as for the village to gather. It aims to copy the success of the Wesley next door which the village bought and refurbished and rebuilt into an enormously successful venue. There's talk that, when the pub opens, it can support a weekend wine bar at Wesley...

**KEY TO PROPOSED NEW LAYOUT**

- Traditional pub area
- Dining area
- Customer toilets
- Staff serving area
- Back of house & kitchen

**WHEN WILL YOU SEE IT?**

These plans are the basis of a Planning application which will be determined early in the new year. A pre-application process and thorough supporting documents such as the Ecological Assessment should mean trouble-free progress to the next stage which will be Construction Drawings for approval and for tendering. There are too many uncertainties at these various stages, but, if the funding is in place, we could see building start in summer 2024.

**HOW WILL WE PAY FOR IT?**

The pub group, ECE, has attracted over £180k in shares and donations. Mid Suffolk are currently consulting the village on the best community schemes to support with a large accumulated fund gathered from the developers who have built in Elmswell over recent years. If enough residents responds and ask that the Tavern be the main beneficiary, there could be several hundred thousand pounds granted. The community pub project scores on the following counts:

- ★ It is a facility which, like Wesley, is open to all and welcomes everyone
- ★ It is a project which, once established, will serve the community for generations as it has done in the past - it's ours for ever!
- ★ It will be run, as is Wesley, without the need to make big profits at any cost...
- ★ the bottom line will always take account of the considerable social benefits that will be generated.

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As well as a complete landscape and maintenance service, we offer garden supplies and waste collection.



## AROUND & ABOUT

### ELMSWELL LIBRARY

Hello Elmswell,

I hope you had a good Solstice, a merry Christmas and a nice start to 2024.

Our next display will be of artwork by Stella Davis. She studied with Open College of the Arts where she discovered a love of Printmaking and gained her Diploma in Creative Arts and a Certificate in Printmaking Skills from Curwen Print Study Centre, Cambridge. Stella has exhibited at Royal Academy 250th Summer Exhibition from Onehouse.

Our January display is of 2023 award winners with books by Natasha Lester, Danielle Jawando, Barbara Kingsolver, Darran Percival, Sheena Patel, Tom Crewe, Victoria MacKenzie, Daniel Wiles, Guy Shrubsole, Lucy Caldwell, Arinze Ifeakandu, John Brownlow, George Dawes Green and Victoria Adukwei Bulley.

The Community Café will be back at The Wesley Café in January after their December break. It is an informal social meet up for anyone in the village who feels like popping along. It could be you are new to the village or you have been here a while but fancy trying a new social group.

The community café meets at 10.30am every 3rd Wednesday of the month (other than August and December) so the next one will be on Wednesday 17th January.

Suffolk County Council are consulting on the future of library services and the consultation is open until 26th January. Libraries are an important community asset and involve a lot more than books. From places to meet others, learn new skills and get involved in activities at all ages, libraries play a special and unique role in peoples lives.

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/consultations-petitions-and-elections/consultations/shaping-the-future-of-library-services-2023>

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

### The Keep in Touch

### Community Café

10.30am on Wednesday 17th January  
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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“ Your service was helpful & professional from start to finish. We were most impressed. ”

“ My house sold within days of you putting it on the market and thereafter you were always on the end of your phone, in order to answer my many questions. ”

“ Your knowledge of the local property market proved invaluable and your attention to potential purchasers, a great time saving asset. ”

“ I have used Coakley & Theaker Estate Agents to sell three properties, all of which they handled extremely professionally. ”

“ We can only praise Simon for the solid, professional and enthusiastic work that went into the sale. ”

“ Your patience and liaising went a long way to bringing everything to the right conclusion. You gave it the personal touch which goes a long way. ”

“ The professionalism and 'go the extra mile' attitude, which you do not seem to get from the big corporate agents, will be the reason we shall be returning in future. ”

“ Your experience and calm and collected manner really showed through. ”

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

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

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

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

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

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\*If you have instructed another agent on a sole agency basis, then the terms of those instructions should be considered to avoid a possible liability to pay two fees.

**NOW IN ELMSWELL**  
**CALL 01359 256821**  
Reduced fee for Elmswell Sellers\*  
\*T's & C's and minimum fees apply





## ST JOHN'S CHURCH

### Happy New Year from St John's Church

**A**blinding light from heaven flashed and a voice spoke. "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

Those are the words the risen Lord Jesus spoke to a man travelling to the city of Damascus, intent on religious hatred. Saul of Tarsus thought he was doing the will of God in persecuting followers of Jesus. However, when he met Jesus on the road to Damascus everything changed. His whole life was turned around and he embarked on a new beginning, spreading a message of God's love and forgiveness rather than intolerance and hate.

The light of Jesus has been shining brightly in Elmswell and at St John's Church over the Christmas period. We have enjoyed many services focusing on the light of Christ - including a family Christingle service, Carols by Candlelight and our Family Nativity. We also enjoyed taking part in Carol Singing outside the Tavern. The message of Christmas is that God entered into the world as a baby and shone his transformative light into the darkness. Like Saul, our lives can be turned around for the better when we encounter Jesus. We can embark on a new beginning, walking in the light of God.

We have a new beginning at St John's this year. On 14 January, we are going to be embarking on a series looking at the opening chapters of Mark's gospel. Mark got his remarkable account of the life of Jesus from Peter. Peter was the closest disciple to Jesus. In this series, we will encounter the remarkable person of Jesus and see the effect he had on those around him. Like them, he continues to call people to follow him.

There is plenty for families at St John's. On 7 January, there is a family service celebrating the arrival of the wise men at Bethlehem. Sunday School resumes

the following week and, this term, the children will be hearing stories from the life of Jesus and enjoying craft activities.

We meet every Sunday morning at 10:30am to worship the Lord Jesus, hear from the Bible and encourage one another as we seek to walk in the light of Christ. If you would like to find more about the Christian faith or how Jesus can transform your life or just want to spend some time with friendly people, do come along just as you are. You will be made very welcome.

#### Upcoming Dates:

**Sun 7 Jan 9:00am**  
Holy Communion

**Sun 7 Jan 10:30am**  
Family Service

**Sun 14 Jan 10:30am**  
Sunday Worship with Holy Communion

**Sun 21 Jan 10:30am**  
Sunday Worship

**Sun 28 Jan 10:30am**  
Sunday Worship with Holy Communion

**Sun 4 Feb 9:00am**  
Holy Communion

**Sun 4 Feb 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](mailto:elmswellrector@gmail.com)  
(01359 240512)

*Website: [www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk](http://www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk)*

*Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stjohnselmswell](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnselmswell)*

*YouTube: [www.youtube.com/@stjohnselmswell](http://www.youtube.com/@stjohnselmswell)*



## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

### TOWER

### FLOODLIGHTING

**E**veryone 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 February Newsletter is Monday 22nd January.**

Your support is very much appreciated. Thank You and a Happy New Year to all.

#### DECEMBER 2023 SPONSORSHIP NOT PREVIOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED

25 Craig Paul Stammers. "Miss you, with love." Mum and Peter". xxx.

#### JANUARY 2024 SPONSORSHIPS

5 to remember and thank all those past Elmswell Fire-Fighters who served their village and community so well.

6 remembering Evelyn Simpson with love. "God Bless".

13 in loving memory of my mother Eileen Fraser on her Birthday.

15 in loving memory of Geoffrey Dalton on his Birthday.

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

19 in loving memory of Natasha Smith.

23 in loving memory of Ricky Woolnough's Birthday.

**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**

Throughout the year if you watch television during the afternoons you are bombarded with adverts for charitable organisations tugging at your hearts for sick children, abused animals, dogs & cats homes and in the period leading up to Christmas the emphasis turns to the homeless and lonely of all ages, Salvation Army, Shelter, Centerpoint, Age Concern and others, all seek financial help to cover their increased workload over the holiday period.

Sadly, loneliness is not confined to the Christmas Holiday period it's an all year round struggle for many people, if you know of anyone who is living alone and not socialising very much point them to our Food and Friends lunches held on the second Thursday of every month where they will be made really welcome. Also the Companions Club meets fortnightly at the Wesley Centre on a Friday morning from 10 am until midday (I'm Sure that Linda who runs the won't mind me mentioning it) the club is aimed at giving the spouses and partners who are or have been caring for a loved one a couple of hours rest in friendly company, but it has developed into welcoming anyone who is in need of some company.

I make no excuses for mentioning another organisation in this offering because in our small way both we and the Companions are trying to offer something for the lonely.

Our Ladies Friendship Group start their 2024 programme at 2PM on the 8th January when they meet at our Church in Ashfield Road to hear a talk by Pip Wright entitled "Living in Suffolk" this group is open to ladies young and old there is no membership or subscription charge just a small donation for piece of cake with a cup of tea, contact Margaret on 01359241541 for any more information you might need.

On 11th January our Food and Friends lunch takes place at midday at the church offering a home cooked meal, a sweet, cheese and biscuits and tea or coffee all for a small donation these meals were introduced many years ago in conjunction with Age Concern for the older folk of our village so if your lonely and want to meet some friendly folk contact Jackie on 01359 245918 to book a place.

**Our preachers for January will be:-**

- |              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 7th January  | Rev Reg Craig     |
| 14th January | Rev Norman Tharby |
| 21st January | Mike Forrester    |
| 28th January | Rev Norman Tharby |
| 4th February | Rev Norman Tharby |

Loneliness is a terrible thing that can lead to anxiety and sometimes suicide so if you are aware of a neighbour living alone give them a knock for a chat I'm sure they would appreciate the gesture

For more information about our church and our activities contact Tony on 01359241541 or go to our website [elmswellbaptist.org.uk](http://elmswellbaptist.org.uk)



**Happy New Year to you all from me Dave Hollings and all at  
Elmswell Baptist Church**



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# FUNDING FOR ELMSWELL'S FUTURE

## YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO CHOOSE WHAT ELMSWELL MIGHT INVEST IN -

As you know you live in a thriving village with lots of ways for residents and others to support and get involved in life in Elmswell.

The Parish Council and Elmswell's Community, Sports and Leisure groups have a wonderful opportunity to apply for funds from Mid Suffolk District Council to support infrastructure projects in the village to the tune of up to £761k. To help the Parish Council prioritise applying for money towards projects which are of most importance to the village and make the biggest difference to Elmswell we want to hear your views!

Infrastructure typically covers 3 broad categories:

- **Physical infrastructure**  
(e.g. highways, transport links, cycleways, energy supply, water, flood alleviation, waste management);
- **Social infrastructure**  
(e.g. education, health, social care, emergency services, art and culture, sports halls, community shops, halls and pubs);
- **Green infrastructure**  
(e.g. parks, woodlands, play areas, public open space).

Some examples that Mid Suffolk are already aware of as to how potential funding could be utilised to support projects and aspirations in Elmswell are outlined below:



**A** Upgraded and/or new play areas including Multi Use Games Areas (like the MUGA at Blackbourne) and public open space



**B** Community affordable housing



**C** Additional Car Parking spaces at current venues (e.g. at The Blackbourne)



**D** Village Hall & Community Space Extensions



**E** Footpath and cycling initiatives



**F** Green energy improvements to Community Buildings such as a wind turbine at Blackbourne



**G** Developing the Community Pub, The Tavern



**H** Developing new or existing sporting facilities (e.g. additional changing rooms, floodlights, pitches and/or equipment)



**I** Minibus / taxi scheme

Charities, faith groups and voluntary and community groups seeking funding may also contact the Grants team independently at Mid Suffolk District Council by emailing [BMSDCgrants@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:BMSDCgrants@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk) for funding information and advice.





## PLEASE TELL US WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!

The funding available may be used across multiple different projects. Please choose a maximum of 3 options from the list opposite and mark them 1, 2 and 3. Where 1 is your top choice and 3 your last. Please also consider what works for you now and what you might want in the future 😊

Project	Ranking 1, 2 or 3
List projects	

If you have any further comments, suggestions or questions, please share these below. You can be creative – if there are facilities that do not currently exist but you would like to see and aren't included in the list above, please list these too.

Additional comments

I confirm I live in Elmswell, I am over 18 and these are my choices to use available funding to support the village.

My postcode is.....

## Consultation deadline Friday 26th January

### HOW TO HAVE YOUR VIEWS NOTED:

- 1 Please return a completed copy of this page to the Council Office at Blackbourne
- 2 Or email your preferences to [clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk)
- 3 Or visit the Elmswell Parish Council Facebook page and follow the link
- 4 Or visit the Parish Council website – [elmswell.suffolk.cloud](http://elmswell.suffolk.cloud) and follow the link
- 5 Or scan the QR code

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The Old Police House,  
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Bury St Edmunds,  
Suffolk IP30 9DB.  
**Tel: 0345 271 3245**



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**Wimbledon Tennis Break**

Valentines is just around the corner! Why not treat your loved one to experience the excitement of one of the most prestigious sporting events of the British summer over the final weekend.



Day One: Make your own way to your hotel and check-in, this evening can be spent at your leisure.

Day Two: Following breakfast, you'll depart by coach for Wimbledon, arriving at the Championships mid-morning. On this great-value break, you'll enjoy all the action, as No.1 Court's retractable roof means you're guaranteed a great day of tennis, whatever the weather. A coach will be on hand to transfer you back to your hotel for a second night.

Day Three: After a leisurely breakfast and a relaxed morning, check out of the hotel and make your own way home.

Prices from £399 per person. Based on 2 adults sharing.

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

The office is open for walk-ins and appointments on Thursdays and 9am to 5:30pm for phone and email enquiries Monday to Saturday.



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SJP Approved 20/04/2023



# NEWS FROM ELMSWILD



## Big Hedge update

What a day we had at the end of November when so many people of all ages came to help plant our new hedge at the Blackbourne! Janet, our Tree Warden, worked very hard all year to plan and organise this event, and everything went like clockwork. Janet writes:

“A huge thank you to all who helped with the first phase of the Big Hedge planting on 25<sup>th</sup> November. It was a splendid day with perfect sunny weather, a jolly jester (with fascinating close-up magic), a time capsule, and a steady trickle of keen volunteers. We just ran out of trees to plant with the last group who came to help as the sun began to fade.”



Although we planted all the saplings we had (hundreds!), there is still more planting to do to complete the hedgerow, **SO WE NEED YOUR HELP AGAIN!**

Janet says:

**“We now have the next lot of trees, from the District Council, all ready in the Tree Nursery. And another date, SATURDAY 20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 9.30am to 4pm.**

**There will be additional help from Bloors Homes staff in January, and BT staff in February. Only 800 or so trees still to go! And they have all been free, from Woodland Trust and the Council.**

**I will contact all the village groups again with details, and hope for many volunteers to come along to help finish the job.”**

Planting such a big hedge is a wonderful achievement for our village and it will be appreciated for many years to come. Do come and be a part of it on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January! Contact us for further details.



## Early Christmas presents!

We use a lot of hand tools in our work at the various sites in the village that we maintain, and most of our current stock are hand-me-downs, bought cheaply from a supermarket that will remain nameless, or borrowed from volunteers. So we were delighted when our application to Mid Suffolk District Council's Pride in Your Place funding scheme was successful. We've been able to buy some lovely brand new equipment – pruning saws, loppers, secateurs, trowels, hand forks, and a smart new wheelbarrow! These will be very helpful in our work at Lukeswood, Kiln Meadow, the Memorial Garden and Town Field. If other groups in the village have a project in mind where these tools would be useful we are very happy to lend them – just get in touch and let us know your plans. A huge thank you to our generous council for their help!



## Willow cutting, Saturday January 13th

Don't forget our willow cutting morning at Lukeswood on **January 13<sup>th</sup>, 9.30 to 12.30!** Everyone is welcome to come along and help with harvesting this year's willow. There will be free bundles of willow for all helpers to take home for garden projects. Dress up warm and wear wellies or stout footwear – the ground has been very wet and muddy this winter. Please bring gardening gloves and loppers if you have them. We now have several new pairs of loppers and secateurs (see above), so don't worry if you don't have any. There will be hot drinks and biscuits for everyone. A great way to start the New Year!

**Happy New Year to everyone from all at ElmsWild – we look forward to seeing you at one of our events in 2024!**

Mary Feeney, [info@elmswild.org.uk](mailto:info@elmswild.org.uk)

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If you wish to make a donation:

Please visit [suffolkcf.org.uk](http://suffolkcf.org.uk) or to pay by card please call Suffolk Community Foundation on 01473 602602. Alternatively, do visit any branch of Suffolk Building Society, who are accepting donations over the counter.





## Winnie the Pooh Day - 18th Jan 2024

Celebrated on author A. A. Milne's birthday, Winnie the Pooh Day celebrates the beloved honey-obessed bear with readings and teddy bear's picnics.

Can you colour the Winnie the Pooh picture?



## Global word search day - 16th Jan 2024

On a cold winter's day, why not snuggle up with a fun and educational wordsearch. A wordsearch will keep your brain active.



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## Big Garden Bird watch - 26th Jan to 28th Jan 2024

Organised by the RSPB, just spend an hour watching the birds in your garden, from your balcony or in your local park, and tell them what you've seen. Can you try and make one of the bird feeders below?



Big Garden  
Birdwatch

26-28 January 2024

# ELMSWELL FOOTBALL CLUB



## FIRST TEAM REPORT

We'd like to welcome our new village magazine sponsor Elmswell Fish and Chip Shop to our page. They have kindly taken out a large advert below, which goes a long way to helping us pay for our double page spread and make a little money for the club. I haven't tried their kebabs yet but definitely will next Friday when we go for our regular fish and chips.

Getting back to the football, as you might remember, our unbeaten run came to an end against Wenhaston last month but we got back to winning way against Stonham Aspal. Goals from Matt McComb and Romaine Scott secured the 2-1 victory.

The following week we travelled to Claydon Reserves when many games were rained off. It wasn't very pretty but we came back with a point and our heads held high.

There have been several teams and clubs folding in the SIL this year, sadly. It's getting harder and harder to find enough players and fill the squad and getting people involved in the essential work of running of the clubs. Needham Phoenix was the latest to drop out. The other bad news was that as we had played and beaten them twice recently, we lost 6 points with their withdrawal. This leaves us in 5th place now which is still not a bad place to be. We have a couple more signings to strengthen us in the new year.

From all the First Team we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you up the Blackbourne next year. Up the Elm.



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## ELMSWELL FC HOME GAMES

02/12 2:00 ko Elmswell v Coplestonians

16/12 2:00 ko Elmswell v Ipswich Athletic

AT THE BLACKBOURNE COMMUNITY CENTRE



## RESERVES REPORT

Firstly we'd like to thank ALL HOMES, and particularly Juliette, for our new match day polo shirts (pictured). They are very smart and our lads wear them with great pride.

We haven't had much football this last month. The few fixtures we did have were affected by the heavy rains and then the frosty weather.

Last month we were a bit unlucky to not get something from our long trip to Wenhasston. We had the better of the second half and had a goal (calmly slotted away by Harry Newman) harshly ruled offside for a player that was not interfering with play.

The following week, when most games were cancelled due to the severe frost, we travelled to Kesgrave Kestrels' artificial pitch. We were able to borrow a few of our first team players as their game was cancelled but the same was true for Kestrels A team who drew in players from their first team and reserves. It was quite a close game and we played some good football but lacked the punch to finish our few half chances. Kestrels scored one and then had a dangerous cross fizzed across the six yard box turned in by one of our defenders. Harry Newman, dropping into centre back, was MOTM for a mature performance spraying the ball around and starting off most of the good play.

We end the year bottom of the table but have the chance to work our way up next year. The only way is up! We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you up the Blackbourne next year. Up the Elm.



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# AROUND & ABOUT



## ELMSWELL BINGO

Elmswell Bingo, has again, had an exceptional year. 2023 has seen the number of members who come along to play increase, 120 to 130 turn up on average to play bingo each month, but the Christmas Special had approximately 240 turn up to play, we only just managed to seat everyone.

The bingo is held the last Friday of every month, with our next one to be held on 27th January 2024.

The bingo is run to raise money for local charities and good causes and a cheque is paid out at each bingo held, in 2023 we donated £7500 to many local charities and good causes as listed below.

Elmswell Food And Friends	£500
Air Ambulance	£300
Elmswell Little Elms	£500
Thurston Air Corps	£500
Teenage Cancer Trust	£500
Stowupland Football Club	£500
Elmswell Under 6 Football	£500
Papyrus	£500
Elmswell Baby & Toddler	£500
Elmswell Beavers	£500
Chiltern Meadows	£500
My Wish	£1000
Poppy Appeal	£200
Haughley Village Hall	£500
Local Resident	£500

If you are new to the village come along and give it a go, its also a chance to meet new friends, you wont be disappointed, so put the 27th January in your diary, doors open 6.30 eyes down 7.30. a warm welcome awaits.

*From the bingo team,  
we wish you all a happy 2024.*

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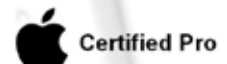
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## ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY THERMAL IMAGING PROJECT

### Helping You Keep Your Warmth In

We have booked a thermal imaging camera for free next year from  
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Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February**

Our aim is to raise awareness about insulation and help you improve the energy efficiency of your home.

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### What can you learn from a thermal imaging survey?

If your house is relatively new, already has insulated cavity walls and double glazing and feels warm – you might not learn much, except to get an even warmer glow after confirming your house is well insulated!



If your house is older and seems difficult to keep warm - you might learn exactly where the heat is escaping and get some ideas about where to insulate.

A thermal imaging survey might:

- ❖ identify places which might have draughts
- ❖ detect whether cavity wall insulation is patchy or missing
- ❖ detect areas with less loft insulation

If you would like us to include your house in the survey please contact the Parish Council Office by email – [clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk) or by 'phone on 244134

The cameras use infra-red radiation which *cannot* pass through glass. This means the camera cannot see through windows, doors or walls. A thermal imaging survey will not invade your privacy as we will only see the outside surface of your house.



Wesley seems to generate and encourage impromptu activities based on people enjoying themselves by giving pleasure to others – as with this recent pop-up carol concert.

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at the Presentation Night



## FOX BOWLS CLUB

The first report of a brand new year. Let me start by wishing you all a very happy New Year. If you happen to be a bowler, then that goes double and, if you happen to be a Fox Bowler, we'll double it again. Way back in the mists of last year, or December, if you want to be pedantic, we were agonising about whether to run a second Monday team or not. On the basis that the hardest position to fill is the Captain, and with us having one, we decided to take the plunge and go for it. Rob Dann has duly informed the League and they will ratify the process at their next meeting. It is unlikely that they will turn us down but they have to follow due process, so it is likely that we will have Silver and Gold, or A and B, Swallows and Swifts, to copy Coney

Weston. Being Foxes is a little restricting in terms of further refining the names but Foxes and Hounds comes to mind. I think we should concern ourselves with construction two viable teams before we worry about what to call ourselves. We are going to have to field twelve players every Monday afternoon when previously it was six from fourteen eager souls all wanting to play. Seven each isn't enough to run a team so we will need to press-gang a couple more from somewhere, I'm thinking.

At the recent League AGM it was decided to keep the rules of who plays for whom the same as last season, that is that players can only play twice for a second team without having to join it full time. We were hoping for an

amendment to make our task a little easier, one suggestion was for a 'pool' of floating players who could play for both teams and, in spite of our support, that idea wasn't adopted. However, with each Captain able to use all of the other's players twice, we should manage to get through the season with full teams. As long as there is not another pandemic! With all this attention focussed on Mondays, we mustn't forget the Tuesday evening Area D team or Dickies' Thursday night superstars, both of whom will be taking to the field in the 2024 season, and looking to build on last season's creditable performance.

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The Parish Council meets at least once each month, excluding August, although extraordinary meetings can be called as required at any time. The December meeting with 9 councillors present, together with District Council Ward Member Jen Overett, County Council Ward Member Andy Mellen, the Parish Clerk, Peter Dow, and 1 member of the public 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 [elmswell.suffolk.cloud](http://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 20th November meeting, as approved at this meeting, are posted in the Council's notice board at Crown Mill.

## Mid Suffolk District Council

Cllrs Sarah Mansel & Jen Overett tabled a written report on BMSDC activities, as reflected in their Report to the Newsletter.

## Suffolk County Council

Cllr Andy Mellen tabled a written report which included the following:  
**Extra £10m Investment in Residential Roads** At Cabinet on Tuesday 7 November, we heard the details of the council's additional £10m investment in resurfacing urban and residential roads, which was announced in May after the local elections. The council plans to use reporting of poor road surfacing on quieter residential roads and cul-de-sacs where residents live to plot a programme of repairs from now until the end of March 2025. The opposition group also had a recent meeting with the council's new contractor for highways to discuss how works would be undertaken in future. The council's new highways contractor is called Milestone, and the new contract began on 1 October 2023. They will be picking up works started by Kier in the last few months of the previous contract and finishing them as soon as possible.

## Budget Monitoring

Cabinet reviewed the quarter two monitoring report for the council budget at Cabinet on Tuesday 7 November, with a net overspend of £11.4m now predicted for 2023-24. Budget pressures for the year include placements for children in care, special educational needs (SEND) and adult care. The council is worryingly overdrawn on its Dedicated Schools Grant fund, which will be at -£48m by the end of the financial year; this is because government funding for education is not enough to provide it. On the plus side, the council has predicted £7m more in business rate income than forecasted, and £10m of income is expected from the Energy from Waste facility at Great Blakenham from selling energy back to the National Grid.

## Flooding Investigations and Repairs

Following the recent Storm Babet flooding around the county, Suffolk County Council teams have pumped away 4.7m litres of water, cleared 8,412 drains of storm debris and removed over 100 trees blocking roads. In addition to this, as the lead local flood authority, Suffolk County Council has a duty to investigate the causes of flooding and take action to prevent future floods, and have announced that £1m will be spent on investigating the Storm Babet flooding and improving the county's resilience for further storms and excess rainfall. Additionally, it will be administering the funding recently announced by the government whereby owners of flooded properties are able to apply for up to £5,000 to protect their homes and business from future flooding. Details of how to apply will be shared once they are known.

## LionLink Energy Project

The council has submitted a second, extensive response to proposals for LionLink, an energy project which could see considerable impacts on Suffolk's coastal communities and natural environment. The council is opposed to the current proposed landing points at Southwold and Walberswick and has asked that better coordination be considered with other offshore energy projects like Sea Link to avoid unnecessary disruption to Suffolk communities and landscapes.

## Libraries Consultation

The council is consulting on the new library service for the county as the contract with the current provider ends in May 2025. A consultation has been launched to gather views from residents about what they value about the current service and what they think should be developed, especially in terms of outreach and mobile libraries used in the county. If you would like to share your views, you can access the consultation at the following link: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/LibraryConsultation>

## New Highways Contract for Suffolk Roads

At Scrutiny Committee on 23 November the opposition group had the opportunity to examine the new Highways contract with Milestone, which began on 1 October 2023. The contract promises better communication with councillors and Suffolk residents, and contains incentives for the new contractor to work efficiently – for example, undertaking other works needed in the same geographical area when they are called out. The committee agreed to review the performance of the contract in 12 months.

## Suffolk Adult Care Rated Good

Suffolk County Council's adult social services were inspected by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in August and September, and the judgement is that services are good, with strengths in safeguarding, leadership, use of digital technologies and the way SCC works with other local partners to provide care. Areas for improvement included equity in experiences and outcomes, and gaps in dementia and nursing care provision. Delays in getting through to the Customer First phonenumber – the main first point of contact for social care – were also highlighted for improvement.

## Social Worker of the Year Award

Suffolk County Council had a successful evening at this year's Social Worker of the Year Awards in London, including a Gold Award for Newly Qualified Adult Social Worker of the Year, and a Silver Award for the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) Team, who work to keep Suffolk residents safe where they do not have capacity to make their own decisions about their care and treatment. SCC children's services also won a Silver Award in the Children's Service of the Year category. Overall, the county council had six award nominations this year.

## Clerk's Report

The Parish Clerk's Report to the

Meeting included the following:

- 1 I attended the SALC local council conference on 29<sup>th</sup> November where the key presenters were Peter Aldous MP and Tom Newcombe from Birkett's Solicitors who spoke on the new Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill. I also sat in on one other presentation, by Scribe, the company whose accounts software we use, regarding the possibilities of Artificial Intelligence. Overall the outcomes suggest no change in direction on EPC's part. However, a key reason for attending was that the event was held at The Hold in Ipswich, the purpose-built new facility housing the Suffolk Archive. I had a long and useful chat with the archivists there which has led to firm contact with the Operations Manager, Judith Berry towards identifying software which will provide a storage and retrieval database to allow accessioning of the material gathering in the Archive Room at Blackbourne.
- 2 I have begun the process of having EPC included in the consultation process towards implementing the imminent Haughley Junction rail-freight improvement scheme, which may well be linked to the Ely Area Capacity Enhancement project. This would mean a significant increase in freight traffic through Elmswell. I would hope, irrespective of the substantive issue, to be able to pin down the protocols which are already in place regarding signalling and gate down-times with a view to identifying areas where technology or working practice could be improved towards reducing the increasing frustration felt by the road users and inevitable tendency towards unsafe behaviours.
- 3 I have worked closely with BMSDC Community Engagement Planning and Communities Team Officers towards producing a public consultation document for publication in the January Newsletter inviting feedback on how the accumulated fund of up to £761k resulting largely from developer contributions at the first tranche of Bacon Factory might best be directed in the village. Consultation has already begun by BMSDC with sports and community groups. The deadline for responses is 26<sup>th</sup> January.
- 4 9 members attended the budget / precept training session on 11<sup>th</sup> December at Wesley led by the Clerk. The previously circulated rolling 4 year budget document with out-turn projections to March 2024 and estimates for the next financial year were analysed and explored in light of individual queries. With that perspective available, options for the precept level were examined and discussed with regard to the effect on charge-pay-

ers and the scope afforded for Council to continue its pro-active programme of social and infrastructure development. Particular attention was paid to the continuing provision of officer support as the work of the Council grows, accommodating not only the increasing pressure of bookings across the many letting options available at both Wesley and Blackbourne, which now incorporate responsibility for the Blackbourne bars, but also the increasing number of social initiatives including the effective management of the pub for 9 months, and most recently the taxi-bus service, the thermal camera scheme and Wesley Winter Warmer programmes. The core structure of posts and job allocations has grown and adapted well but it was agreed that immediate attention might be paid to the splitting of the Clerk / RFO role and the allocation of more hours to the Assistant Clerk post. The current role adopted by the Clerk would be difficult to fill as and when necessary unless attention is paid to spreading the workload and responsibilities to other postholders, a process which is begun and which should be monitored and identified as legitimate succession planning.

### Planning results

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

- DC/23/05291** Tree works...Lewis House, Bennett Avenue GRANTED EPC opted not to comment
- DC/23/05110** Tree works...6 Grange Meadows GRANTED EPC supported with comment
- DC/23/05113** Non material amendment...Dagwood Farm, Ashfield Road APPROVED EPC opted not to comment
- DC/23/04988** Approval of reserved Matters... White House Barns, Ashfield Road APPROVED EPC opted not to comment
- DC/23/05339** Discharge of Conditions...Holly Lodge, Cross Street APPROVED EPC opted not to comment
- DC/23/05437** Non material amendment.. Mulberry Farm, Ashfield Road APPROVED EPC opted not to comment

### Planning Application

The Meeting discussed an Application forwarded by Mid Suffolk for comment ref **DC/23/05651** Outline Planning Application (Access to be considered, all matters reserved) – Erection of Care Village comprising 66 bedroom care home (C2 Use), 40

No. extra Care Bungalows (C2 Use), Management Office (E(g)(l) Use), Club House, Community Growing Area, Orchard, Community Bee Hives and Open space provisions...on...

**Land to the North and West of School Road** The Meeting discussed an Application forwarded by Mid Suffolk for comment, being:

**DC/23/05651** Outline Planning Application (Access to be considered, all matters reserved) – Erection of Care Village comprising 66 bedroom care home (C2 Use), 40 No. extra Care Bungalows (C2 Use), Management Office (E(g)(l) Use), Club House, Community Growing Area, Orchard, Community Bee Hives and Open space provisions

### Land to the North and West of School Road, ELSWELL

It was agreed that the Clerk should forward the following comments: It is not disputed that this site is in the countryside. This has been the case since the 1998 MSDC Local Plan against which it has been previously tested when the Policy constraint has been adjudged to be secure, a view backed by Historic England. That same constraint is very recently reinforced by the BMSDC Joint Local Plan (JLP), made on 20.11.2023. The Elmswell Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) was adopted on 24.11.2023, reinforcing the status of the site as lying outside of the Settlement Boundary where proposals for development, 'will only be permitted where they are in accordance with national and district level strategic policies'. No case is made for consideration of this site as in any way deserving of exception from these historic, recent and unequivocal controls. The countryside in this case is, 'key landscape,' in the case of Elmswell, which the NDP identifies in the context of; 'St John's Church (which) commands a prominent position as a gateway to the village', overlooking a feature defined in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment as, 'Rolling Valley Farmlands'. Into this undulating sweep of valley comprising some 29 acres of agricultural holding this Proposal seeks to impose 40 bungalows and an institutional building with an internal floor area of 3770 m<sup>2</sup>. There is no mitigation suggested regarding the sheer mass of the care home building which the indicative artist's impressions have as 2 storey. Neither is there any constraint suggested on the size of the bungalows or of the ancillary buildings listed as necessary for the administration of the complex. The



NDP confirms and Elmswell accepts that, *'there are few significant landscape features across the parish'*. Should this application succeed, an iconic perspective which, in this village context, makes a unique contribution to the landscape setting, would be irrevocably destroyed. The JLP clearly requires that, *'Proposals for supported and special needs housing will be supported where they are located within a settlement boundary'*. This application cannot and does not claim to qualify.

No evidence is presented regarding the need for this facility. Any such need would be assessed in the context of strategic planning on a District-wide basis and would take into account the acknowledged drawbacks of, 'ghetto-isation', where a high concentration of a restricted demographic is detrimental to community cohesion as well as to individual mental health and wellbeing. The scheme should be subject to a 'call for sites' across the District when the many relevant aspects of community planning could be assessed across the proposals which come forward. An application with such far reaching and dramatic consequences for the host community should not be made on an ad hoc speculative basis.

The concerns raised from residents, both during and outwith the consultation exercise, centre on 2 key issues, being the existing infrastructure shortcomings in terms of highway safety and of health service provision. Elmswell Parish Council shares these concerns and makes specific objection on the following grounds:

1 The junction at Church Hill and School Road is at capacity. Having been recently reconfigured in order to take the extra burden of the 86 dwellings to the north of Parnell Lane it is accepted by the Applicant that there may be the need for traffic lights on Church Hill for the extra loading from this proposal. The issues surrounding any traffic control measures on Church Hill have been recently well

aired, including in professional assessments undertaken on behalf of Elmswell Parish Council, and inevitably reach the conclusion that a very dangerous bottleneck would be created, this much exacerbated by the exceptional HGV units based in the village. The provision of 110 parking spaces within the complex serving their stated assessment of 75 employees and a fair estimate of a minimum of 120 residents, together with the vehicles servicing the special needs of the core demographic, suggests a higher traffic flow than would normally maintain given the density of this development. It is safe to assume that the part-time nature of much of the staff establishment together with the multiple occupancy of many of the bungalows, together with visitor trips above that which might normally be expected on a conventional housing development aggregate to distort the traffic management figures which are presented in support of the application. There can be no safe way to accommodate this proposal in highway terms without dramatic and unacceptable mitigation measures such as traffic controls better suited to an urban environment.

2 The GP surgery which serves Elmswell is in Woolpit. This is a mile distant across the busy A14, a journey which involves points of driver-stress at the Church Hill / School Road junction and across the roundabouts at A1088 and in Woolpit itself. The residents of the proposed facility will be, statistically, less able than average in terms of negotiating complex driving manoeuvres. Further, the Health Centre is under the capacity burden which characterises many NHS facilities and is in no way fit to register 120 new patients en bloc, these drawn from the provably high-needs demographic of elderly individuals requiring specialist and often emergency care. The Applicant's suggestion of a clean-room in which GP's

might be able to consult does not begin to address the strain which this proposal seeks to impose on an already stretched system of medical care. The Practice has been approached previously with a view to an outreach arrangement for minor patient care procedures and has made it clear that this is untenable under their business operating model. The JLP requires that proposals for special needs housing will be supported only, *'where there is good access to services and facilities, especially health services'*. This application in no way addresses this imperative.

There is unease across the community that the vague references to the land within the red line boundary as being not, in this iteration, designated for development, will be a hostage to fortune should the built environment of Elmswell be allowed to creep south of Parnell Lane towards the church and almshouse. The ad hoc sketching-in of features such as random cycle paths and footways form no coherent offer of community benefit and serve only to provide a veneer of protection against further predation. Having met with the developer's Agent, parish councillors remain unconvinced that this element of the scheme does not pose a severe risk of further ill-considered speculative expansion which might, with the passage of time, prove difficult to resist.

In consideration of the above, Elmswell Parish Council strongly urges rejection of this application.

#### Next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> January 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](http://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](http://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.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
15th	19th	18th	15th	20th

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			
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 Chamberlin	npch@btinternet.com	242601
Guides	Viv	elmswellguides@outlook.com	
Health Centre - Woolpit			240298
History Group	Stella Chamberlin	stellachamberlin@yahoo.co.uk	
Ladies Voices (Choir)	Anna Wilton Mills	annawm63@gmail.com	
Library	Miles Row - Manager	Elmswell.Library@suffolklibraries.co.uk	240974
Little Elms	Melanie Garner	info@littleelms.co.uk	240491
Newsletter	Editorial office	eea@elmswell.org.uk	244134
Over 55's Club	Diann Armstrong	Mayfield, Wetherden Road	241002
Parish Council	Parish Clerk	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
Police Emergencies			999
Police; non-emergencies	Mid Suffolk South SNT	headquarters@suffolk.pnn.police.uk	101
Poor's Land Charity	Peter Goodridge	elmswellrector@gmail.com	240512
Power cuts		Powwercut105.com	105
Rainbows	Jen & Lizzie	elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com	
Royal British Legion	Norman Plumpton (Biff)	nplumpton@aol.com	07707 524722
School	Mrs Ash	admin@elmswell.suffolk.sch.uk	240261
Scouts	Paula Hollings	ddc.paula@stowmarketscouts.org.uk	07828 562485
St John's Church	Peter Goodridge	elmswellrector@gmail.com	240512
Sewing Bee	Isabel Burgess	isabel.burgess@live.com	
Village Tree Warden	c/o Parish Clerk	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
Wesley – all enquiries	Parish Council office	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
WI - evening	Tricia McNeeney	triciamcneeney@gmail.com	241197
Youth Football	Wayne	wsast@hotmail.co.uk	

**Enquiries on any Parish Council matter are invited to the Clerk, Peter Dow, at The Council Office, Blackbourne, Blackbourne Road, IP30 9UH - right next to the car park and with wheelchair access. Staffed 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](http://www.elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk) - it might help you in planning dates for your events.

## January 2024

- 8 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - Living in Suffolk at the time of the Plague by Pip Wright (change from original programme)
- 11 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Members' Evening - A selection of members' own researches
- 20 Big Hedge phase 2, Blackbourne 9.30am to 4pm
- 23 Come & join us for another Winter warmer - Pie & Mash Wesley Centre at 1pm
- 26 Bingo - Doors open 6.30 eyes down 7.30 all welcome

## February 2024

- 3 Wine tasting with Robert Stopp at Wesley in aid of Suffolk Punch Trust; [bob.stopp@gmail.com](mailto: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
- 20 Monkey Puzzle Miscellany, David Gedyde, 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
- 14 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Stephen Poulter: Suffolk's Lost Heritage
- 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.
- 11 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP 24th Anniversary meeting, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Jacquie Norman: Tudor Costumes, Part 2
- 16 TBA, Elmswell Gardening Club, 7.30pm in Wesley Chapel
- 26 Bingo - Doors open 6.30 eyes down 7.30 all welcome

## May 2024

- 1 Exchange WI 2.00pm at Wesley. All about Bury Rickshaws. Speaker A member of the Rickshaw team
- 9 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speakers Jill & Richard Mann: Edith Cavell, E. Anglia's WW1 Heroine
- 21 The Perennial Mr Potter, Brian Thurlow, Elmswell Gardening Club, 7.30pm in Wesley Chapel
- 31 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@greatheadma.com](mailto:info@greatheadma.com)  
**JAPANESE JUJUTSU / SELF DEFENCE** - Monday & Wednesday 6.30 - 8.30 [ryoishintowaryuheiho@gmail.com](mailto:ryoishintowaryuheiho@gmail.com) tel. 07711 680262  
**BABY & TODDLER GROUP** - Monday mornings [elmswellbtgroup@gmail.com](mailto:elmswellbtgroup@gmail.com)  
**BATS - badminton / table tennis / pool** at Blackbourne Friday nights 7 - 9.30 [simon@coakleyandtheaker.co.uk](mailto:simon@coakleyandtheaker.co.uk)  
**BOWLS** - [barryhayward1902@gmail.com](mailto:barryhayward1902@gmail.com) tel. 240951  
**GUIDES** - [elmswellguides@outlook.com](mailto:elmswellguides@outlook.com)  
**FOOTBALL** - [shaun.pratt@btinternet.com](mailto:shaun.pratt@btinternet.com) 07494 864231  
**RAINBOWS** - [elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com](mailto:elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com)  
**JUNIOR FOOTBALL** - [smyth98@hotmail.com](mailto:smyth98@hotmail.com) 07717 841591  
**CUBS** Tuesdays 6.15 - 7.30 - [mark.pernot@gmail.com](mailto:mark.pernot@gmail.com)  
**BEAVERS / SCOUTS** - Wednesday 5.45 - 9.15 [ddc.paula@stowmarketscouts.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:jenlerner@gmail.com)  
**TREFOIL GUILD** - 1st Tuesday monthly [lesley.grout@btinternet.com](mailto:lesley.grout@btinternet.com)  
**MARDLE QUILTERS** - last Friday monthly [carpajak@aol.com](mailto:carpajak@aol.com)  
**MOO MUSIC** - Fridays 12.45 - 3.15 [bury@moo-music.co.uk](mailto:bury@moo-music.co.uk)  
**WI** - evening at Wesley 2nd Tuesday monthly 7.30pm Terry Byford [bbazby@aol.com](mailto:bbazby@aol.com)  
**WI** - afternoon at Wesley 1st Wednesday monthly Carol Blissett [carolblissett@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carolblissett@hotmail.co.uk)  
**ART CLUB** at Wesley every Tuesday 9.00 - 12.00 Eddie Douglas [edward.douglas2@gmail.com](mailto:edward.douglas2@gmail.com)  
**HISTORY GROUP** at Wesley 2nd Thursday monthly 7.30 [stellachamberlin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stellachamberlin@yahoo.co.uk)  
**GARDEN CLUB** at Wesley 3rd Tuesday monthly 7.30 [elmswellgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:elmswellgardenclub@gmail.com)  
**CARPET BOWLS** - Wednesday 7pm at Wesley - [jf.boxall@btinternet.com](mailto:jf.boxall@btinternet.com)  
**COMPANIONS** - every other Friday 10 - 12 at Wesley - [linda@abbott.plus.com](mailto:linda@abbott.plus.com)  
**PILATES** - Monday & Friday mornings - [suzanne@triformpilates.co.uk](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk)

## Your Newsletter Fact File

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

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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