

'Like a friend dropping in'



# The Elmswell Newsletter



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

APRIL 2024

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



## Crafty Kids, warm and well at Wesley

... see page 10

Photo by Lucy

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

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

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

**An increasingly popular feature of the trend to list personal choices of music for one's own funeral is to branch out into videos. From the incontrovertible and, therefore, pointless assertions of, 'My Way', the occasion can now be graced with the guest of honour's favourite video clip. The top twenty is headed by Del Boy falling through the pub counter hatch.**



**Another that often features is the Father Ted episode where the 2 priests stage a protest. Their banners read, 'Careful Now!' and 'Down with this sort of thing'.**



**Editor's note, It only works if you know the story, sorry, but it gets us to the next point.**

**Protest is now an industry which has developed beyond a tatty banner or two. It has the cut-throat efficiency of a Putin bodyguard, the efficacy of a poisoned umbrella ferrule. It stops-up motorways and slashes old masters. It shapes and ruins lives and has, through the malign magic of social media, debased the democratic process in some rather scary ways. It offers mob rule at the push of a button and a terror-toll which can shake foundations throughout society – royalty, now, tragically, included. It trolls and it cancels and it knits virtue from venom.**

Of course, Elmswell is not immune. The sadder individuals at the outer fringes of our little society bravely poke at various of their bêtes noires from the anonymous safety of the keyboard, apparently knowing everything, seemingly understanding little.

In fact, Elmswell was ahead of the game. For a couple of years towards the end of the last century we were known in the local press as, 'The Village From Hell'. There would, regularly, be up to 70 members of the public at parish council meetings with a Police presence not uncommon. An inevitably rather boring book could be written about how and why this came about. It might conclude that Party Politics do not sit well at our level of real life. To those who today snipe, with the added benefit of on-line anonymity, at the volunteers who commit to doing something for their community, the book might serve as a reference point. It might paint a picture of what can happen when those who take it upon themselves to organise an alcohol-based celebratory event on brewery premises fall short.

Since its Dark Age, however, Elmswell as we see it today seems to have organised itself rather well. In testing times. Against an onslaught of massive development pressure to add to the National Woes which suggest that doom and gloom really are the order of the day. Once again, as we have consistently done over the past 34 years, your Newsletter tries to encapsulate Elmswell

as seen. It is by no means a drab picture. As in any one of our monthly editions there are accounts from a wide range of clubs, societies and organisations taking advantage of the facilities on offer at Blackbourne and Wesley. Both of these facilities were created by, driven by, and run by those very same volunteers that come under fire for simply creating their, 'vanity projects'.

The Parish Council Report, for those with staying power, gives a fair indication of the tone and direction of community activity in Elmswell. Other pages confirm that in this month's community snapshot:

- The complexities of achieving affordable housing on the land that we bought with the Tavern are crystallising. The community wants them to be absolutely immune from Right to Buy or Right to Acquire. The Parish Council agrees. The lawyers say it can't be done, but progress towards a pragmatic way forward is now likely.
- The recent community consultation held in conjunction with Mid Suffolk District Council yielded a clear result and further discussions promise a programme of improvements led by the development of the Elmswell Tavern and including moves towards improving footpath links, football facilities and play areas as well as developing the successful taxi-bus service – itself a project devised and driven by our own community volunteers.

- The Food Bank has a new home in anticipation of the need for the Bowls Club to resume their use of the pavilion for the season – and the guarantee from the Council stands that they will always be found somewhere from which to operate.
- Wesley goes from strength to strength – the Winter Warmer events making the venue more new friends.
- Hedgehogs are to be safer in Elmswell! They are probably unaware, but, to encourage a 'Hedgehog Highway' allowing them to roam and forage, the Council is to make available free of charge garden fence access surrounds.
- The Elmswell Tavern moves a step closer as the Community Benefit Society, ECE, realises that its job is done and that handing the scheme over to the Parish Council is an inevitable next step.

Not bad for a month's worth of news.

***Of course it will not get in the way of the 'real' picture which the knee-jerk critics prefer. Seizing the baton from their inglorious predecessors they portray those active in shaping and guiding our community as a sad panorama of self-interested glory seekers. They suggest that, by their voluntary efforts, our community volunteers are hell bent on bankrupting the village with their irresponsible and ill-considered schemes. History does nothing to soften their view. Chin-up everyone!***



## ELMSWELL ART CLUB

Many of our members enjoyed a visit to Gainsborough's House in Sudbury on a wet Tuesday in March; however, the rain did not dampen our spirits or spoil our enjoyment of a very interesting day. Thomas Gainsborough (1727-1788) was born in Sudbury and, as one of the great British artists, he produced many landscape paintings of the Suffolk countryside, as well as being a prolific and accomplished portrait painter. The House in Sudbury, a Grade-I listed building, is Gainsborough's birthplace and childhood home where he lived in the 1720's; it was revived through redevelopment between 2019 and 2022 to provide a museum and galleries reflecting the life and works of Gainsborough. Today, it also includes permanent displays of works by John Constable and Cedric Morris; in addition to these, the museum holds regular exhibitions and events. The main building comprises of 3 floors; Gainsborough's home plus galleries of permanent and temporary art displays are situated on the ground and first floors. The top floor has a panoramic window with spectacular views of the surrounding countryside; a new attraction is the Camera Obscura which is current being installed. We had a very enjoyable day visiting these attractions; looking in on their Print Workshop, browsing the extensive Gift Shop and taking advantage of the fine refreshments offered at the Watering Place café which overlooks a lovely garden.



Many thanks to all the staff who made us very welcome and, of course, to our own Lillian Gama who organised the trip and made it all possible.

Elmswell Art Club outside Gainsborough's House, Sudbury  
This month we are showcasing two more of our members' works – the first work is Bobbie Fiske's excellent sketch of Moot Hall, Aldeburgh. The Moot Hall is a Grade I listed municipal building in Market Cross Place in Aldeburgh and it is the meeting place of Aldeburgh Town Council. I hope you will agree that Bobbie has captured the style and atmosphere of the building perfectly. The second work is Caroline North's lovely acrylic painting of a Golden Retriever; I think that Caroline's painting really portrays the dog's character and temperament.



*Eddie Douglas*

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



## Love Nature!

**Enriching biodiversity in Suffolk**

**We need schools and groups to help us spread the love of nature by making fabulous artwork from recycled materials for the Suffolk Show!**



## LOVE NATURE RECYCLING ART PROJECT

Schools and groups are invited to create artwork using recycled materials for a fabulous 'Love Nature' display at the Suffolk Recycling stand at the Suffolk Show.

The way we treat our rubbish - from reducing what we throw away in the first place, re-using things to keep them in circulation, to recycling in the right place - all have an impact on our environment.

We are calling on all Suffolk schools and groups to help us raise awareness of the important message of putting our waste in the right place, to help protect our towns and countryside and increase biodiversity in Suffolk.

More details and instructions can be found here <https://suffolkrecycling.org.uk/news/love-nature>

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## ELMSWELL OVER 55'S CLUB

Following on from last month's report the cards have been printed and most members have received them when paying their annual subscription.

To date we have welcomed several new members to our recent meetings let's hope this a trend for the future of the Over 55's Club.

Our recent meetings have featured Susan Jayne when there was a turnout of 50 who enjoyed a splendid evening in her company great songs and music was welcomed by all present.

Our last meeting in March was our AGM when we will report on it next time if you were not present and propose to come to the meeting on April 11th please ring to book your Fish & Chip supper before April 8th on 241002 or 240943 leave a message please.

**Our next meeting on Thursday April 25th features music by Harry Isacc Prestley he could be a friend of Elvis P its an Open Evening commencing at 7 pm all are welcome .**



Grant (240943)

## ELMSWELL EXCHANGE WI

Mary welcomed members and visitors to the meeting. Lovely to see some new faces as well as welcoming back some familiar faces.

Our speaker this month was Sarah Jane Clark who very enthusiastically explained what and why we should recycle our rubbish and what has to go to landfill. A rule of thumb appears to be that hard plastic can go in our recycling bins but soft plastic, plant pots and tetra pacs can't go in recycling. Christmas cards and wrapping paper can be recycled but beware any with glitter as they can ruin your efforts to recycle!

During Covid slots had to be booked at the tip and when Covid was over residents were happy to keep the booking system. You can also book to receive help at the tip with unloading items from your car. At the Bury tip there is a reuse shop where you can donate items and buy items but clothes are not accepted.

Sarah Jane finished her talk by giving us a quiz. Pauline was the winner and her prize was a miniature wheelie bin!

The competition was an item you had made from recycled materials. There were some interesting ideas on display. Jan Clark was 1st, Rosie Ellis 2nd and Sylvia Walton was 3rd.

Next month's speaker is Peter Lawrence and his subject is art on London's streets.

The competition is a painting on a stone/pebble.

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Carol Blissett 242884



## BLACKBOURNE AND WESLEY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION



Wesley car park day 1



Wesley car park day 5 – nearly there

The Blackbourne and Wesley Management Association has a membership of 24 community volunteers nominated by user groups of the 2 venues.

They meet every 6 weeks to discuss the day-to-day running of the facilities and advise the Parish Council as to the strategies and processes which may help build on the successes that have come so far from Blackbourne and Wesley.

At the meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March the following was noted:

- ☺ The large graphics on canvas which are being developed as wall decorations for the Meeting Room at Wesley are now with Eastern Frames, the printer. They show village scenes from the Archive with some explanatory text.
- ☺ The desperately needed extra parking on the plot purchased adjacent to Wesley should be delivered ready for use before Easter. All non-user parking is to be prevented to relieve the pressure as the venue grows in popularity both as a coffee shop, meeting place, events venue and a nice place to be.
- ☺ Innovations at Blackbourne continue to make slow progress. The idea of a community wind turbine on the new boundary of Turners' field is subject to further site visits and the extra solar panels linked into battery storage is on hold until triggered on reaching the grant deadline.
- ☺ The Winter Warmer sessions have gone extremely well...Wesley has attracted new customers and made new friends. The relationship with the Communities Team at Mid Suffolk who grant-aided the exercise will stand Elmswell in good stead as a proven community champion.
- ☺ Members support the possibility of close co-operation with the Elmswell Tavern venture as it moves closer to a successful opening. They view the community pub as an extension to the good work that Wesley is doing with a wider community appeal bringing in more and different people. The success of the recent co-operation with the pop-up bar in the Tavern and mince pies at Wesley suggests that the village carol service may well follow this formula in future years.



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## ELMSWELL WI

Brenda welcomed everyone, including some more new members. She also thanked all those who had contributed to the pile of knickers which lay in a heap at the front of the hall. This was in response to last month's meeting: many women really need underwear in war torn areas of the world, as well as those in third world countries. Apart from aiding comfort and hygiene it is a fact that the incidence of rape is reduced when underwear is worn.

Our speaker for the evening was Jeannie Bloomfield, the Patron of the Bury St Edmunds women's refuge. She was accompanied by three of the women who work there.

Jeannie told us all about the horrifying experiences she had lived through. Her partner was abusive for many years but she eventually escaped and decided to help other women with the same problems.

In the past few years, more women's refuges have been set up all over the country but there are still not enough. Women often arrive at a refuge with their children, possessing nothing after escaping from their abusers. Not only are they emotionally and physically damaged, their children may be traumatised too. A refuge is a safe space, where no-one is allowed in without being vetted. Someone is on duty twenty four hours a day and the women are able to relax and start getting their lives back.

The three helpers who came to our meeting, told us about their work, counselling the victims and helping them to sort out children's schooling, essential



paperwork etc. They also organise outings for the women and their children to enjoy. The many items of clothing, toys, etc donated by other people, help to make their lives more comfortable and enable them to settle in more easily. Eventually, the helpers find the families safe places to live, where hopefully, they may enjoy better lives.

Many helpers in refuges have had the same experiences as the women they counsel, so they obviously have a greater understanding of how to work through these victims' problems.

We asked how we could provide help for the refuge. Apparently they have enough clothes and toys at the moment but would appreciate vouchers for food or days out for the children (when a day out at the seaside was organised, some of the children saw the sea, for the first time.)

What wonderful work these women do. At times it must be so difficult...

Rosie Collins  
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## ELMSWELL FOOTPATH WALK SUNDAY 10 MARCH 2024

Following a midweek recce of one of the previously waterlogged field paths all looked good for a long overdue change of route.

The following days up to the weekend retained this promise until Saturday afternoon when it started to rain and rain it did. Through Saturday evening, all through the night, into Sunday morning and beyond.

Were we downhearted? Not at all.

Two intrepid ramblers met up at 11.00 at Crown Mill with the mantra 'No such thing as bad weather just bad equipment'.

Suitably attired and with a song in our hearts we set off along School Road turning into Hawk End Lane and on to FP13 running parallel to the railway and to the rear of the substantially complete Bloor Homes development.

A right turn at Parnell Lane took us under the railway bridge then turning left and heading west still on FP13. Things were now becoming a little claggy underfoot.

The path took us over the footbridge then turned right and circumnavigated Elmswell Hall until a left turn took us north on to the most challenging part of the day.

The persistent rain had done its worst and what had previously been comfortably passable had become a bit of a mire. Undaunted we dexterously skipped through this soon reaching the drier stretch of path up the slope.



Now in the parish of Norton FP13 had transitioned into FP7 which passed over the footbridge, took a left, a right and another left heading towards the barn.

It was good to see here the landowner has planted in excess of 350 metres of new hedging alongside the footpath on the field edge.

Forking right at the barn we then took a further right at Norton Hall on to FP20 and another right on to FP31 keeping The Copse to our right all the while.

FP31 took us left and at the junction with FP32 we turned right and meandered back into home territory on to FP1 which was decidedly damp underfoot.

So then through the Bacon Factory housing and back to Crown Mill, bedraggled but triumphant.

A walk of approximately 4.4 miles in 1 hour 40 minutes (an average speed of 2.7 miles per hour as we were in a hurry to get round)



*Peter Hancock, EPC Footpath Officer*

## APRIL'S FOOTPATH WALK WILL BE ON SUNDAY 14th APRIL

### FRIENDS OF WOOLPIT HEALTH CENTRE



Thank you to all those who have contributed to the Trust's funds over the past few years - from individuals or groups and also those who have given donations in memory of a friend or relative who has died.

Every donation, whether large or small, is very much appreciated and used for the benefit of the patients who attend the Health Centre.

Since its inception in 1985, the Trust has received almost £360,000, all of which has been used to purchase equipment for patients that would not normally be provided by the GP practice itself. Recent examples are new chairs for the waiting rooms and two special chairs for the consulting rooms for patients who have mobility difficulties. We also supplied treatment beds that can be raised and lowered for patients who struggle to climb up onto the standard beds.

During the COVID pandemic we stepped in to provide extra diagnostic sets and to replace the ECG machine and defibrillator. We are very much indebted to you all for your contributions and hope you will continue to support us in the coming year. Details of how to contribute can be found in our web page at

<https://woolpithealthcentre.co.uk/information/friends-of-woolpit-health-centre>.

We are also always looking for volunteers to help administer the Trust if you're interested please last the Health Centre to put you in touch with us.

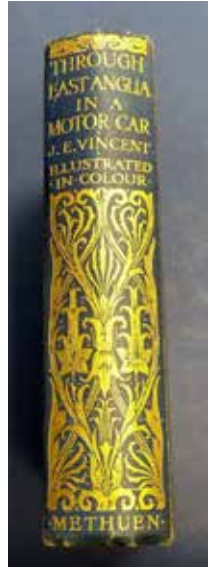
*Karen Sharp, Treasurer*

## CLUBS & SOCIETIES

### HISTORY GROUP

Our March meeting featured Stephen Poulter's talk on "Suffolk's Lost Heritage" when he referenced and quoted various writers and antiquarians over the past 400 years who had reported on their travels around the county. The earliest was "Britannia" by William Camden (1551-1623) which mainly detailed powerful wealthy families and included old maps. "Tour of the Island of

Great Britain" by journalist Daniel Defoe (1660-1731) gave eye-witness accounts of what he saw and experienced on his travels. Then we had two Victorians, Thomas Kitson Cromwell (1792-1870) with his "Excursions of Suffolk" which he undertook on horseback, and solicitor and motoring correspondent, James Edward Vincent (1857-1909), writing his "Through East Anglia in a Motor Car". Finally, there was Arthur Mee (1875-1943) and his "King's England Guides" (first published in 1936) covering all English counties. We were shown wonderful illustrations and images of long-gone buildings (although some ruins still remain) such as Boulge Hall north-east of Ipswich which was owned by famous author Edward Fitzgerald, a roman fort and early Saxon settlement in Brettenham, Brome (pronounced 'broom') Hall on the Suffolk/Norfolk border owned by the Cornwallis family, and powerful Baron Hugh Bigod's Castle in Bungay which was demolished by Henry III. The chapel barn in Bures on the Essex/Suffolk border was where King Edmund was crowned (at the age of 14), the barn being restored in the 1930s. Bury St Edmunds' magnificent abbey was quoted in 1538 as being "a city" in itself, and Clare Castle and Keep on a steep mound was built by a cousin of William the Conqueror. Finally, we saw most of the whole coastal town of Dunwich shown on an 1827 painting by Turner, but by the time of



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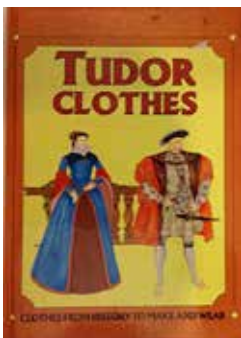
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James Vincent's visit in his car at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century he was "not impressed", because by then most of it had disappeared under the sea (coastal erosion is nothing new), the town being a rather sad shadow of its former impressive self.

Our next meeting on **11<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm at the Wesley** will welcome back **Jacquie Norman** for her talk on "Tudor Costumes" which is the second part of an earlier excellent one she gave us on this subject, and will include wonderful replica samples of the costumes themselves and be shown how they were worn.



Do join us then – everyone welcome.



**TOUR of Woodbridge's Sutton Hoo Ship's Co Project – 11.30am on 25<sup>th</sup> April.**

By the time you read this, there *may* still be spaces available on this tour, so if you wanted to join us then and haven't yet advised us, please do so A.S.A.P. Payment by 11<sup>th</sup> April please.



### FROM THE ARCHIVE

*(Ipswich Evening Star) – 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1911.*

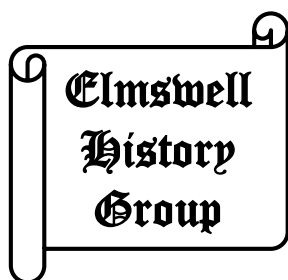
*"About 30 votes-for-women campaigners spent the night in Ipswich's Old Museum Rooms (now Arlington's in Museum Street) to avoid filling in their National Census returns. They maintained that if they were considered intelligent enough to fill in a census form, then they could surely put an X on a ballot paper. The women had supper, sang protest songs, played whist and patience, and talked about the movement. Suffragists from Hadleigh and Felixstowe joined the Ipswich women, and these stalwarts were mentioned in press reports as being there that night:*

*Constance Andrews from Norwich Road with her sister, Lilla Pratt, who were soon to clash with the law over the non-payment of a dog licence;*

*Isabel Tippett from Wetherden, who was related to Charlotte Despart, a grande dame of the suffrage movement. Isabel had been imprisoned for her part in a suffragette demonstration in London's Trafalgar Square [and was the mother of Michael (knighted in 1966) who spent his boyhood in Wetherden and became one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's leading English composers];*

*Marie Hossack, who lived in Berners Street and whose husband was a prominent surgeon and Conservative Party councillor; and Margaret Fison, who had a conviction for riding her bike on a footpath when she lived in Allington House in Woodbridge Road.*

*Police maintained an all-night watch in Museum Street to maintain law and order."*



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

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

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Coffee and crafts

## WESLEY'S WINTER WARMERS

Wesley is more than just a coffee shop with a rather nice Victorian chapel attached. It's makes a major and a growing contribution to our community structure. It deliberately tries to bring people together...either gathering for the taxi-bus to go to Bury, meeting up with friends and colleagues for a catch-up or sitting with the paper / laptop / book or magazine – possibly waiting for the Wesley Ukles to strum their stuff.

In partnership with Mid Suffolk's Locality Support Team, Wesley has been able to offer subsidised events over the winter to widen the scope of its appeal. The successful Pie & Mash lunch in January was followed by a packed Afternoon Tea with gentle musical accompaniment from Stanton Folk and, less gently but equally rewarding, the Kids' Easter Craft Morning.

To round the season off, look out for the Fish & Chip Thursday (with added bingo) in May.



Ted and Phoebe, crafting.



Chapel chat – making friends, meeting neighbours

## JU JUTSU

Members of Ryoshin Ju Jutsu under 16s have recently received grading stripes for meeting the standards required to progress to their next coloured belt. 4 stripes are earned before being awarded yellow and then orange belts.

Ju Jutsu is the martial arts system practiced by the infamous Samurai and includes a wide range of techniques such as striking skills, joint locking and restraining techniques, throws/sweeps/takedowns, grappling and fighting from the ground.

Ju Jutsu is self-defence in its purist form and students learn to protect themselves by avoiding conflict situations and de-escalation skills. When this is not possible the techniques they are taught will help them to prevent any serious harm to themselves and others.

Modern styles like Aikido, Judo, Karate and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu were all derived



from this original art, but most schools have moved away from their self-defence origins to become more sports based or non-combative versions.

Ju Jutsu is also universally regarded as the mother art to self-defence systems used by the military and special forces throughout the world.

Instructor Gary Sallows has been studying martial arts for over 40 years and draws on all this knowledge to give

students a broad range of practical self-defence skills.

Students are taught in a safe, fun, and friendly environment to provide them with a good level of fitness, self-discipline, respect for themselves and others and above all confidence.

**If you are interested in learning this robust and dynamic art, classes are open to anyone aged 12 and above and held at The Blackbourne in Elmswell on Mondays and Wednesdays 18.30 – 20.30pm. Mondays are dedicated to adult beginners and juniors aged 12 plus. Classes are £7.50 and there are no expensive membership fees. First class is free!**

**For Further information contact Gary on 07711680262 or Email: [Ryoishintowaryuheiho@gmail.com](mailto:Ryoishintowaryuheiho@gmail.com) You can also visit [www.dojos.co.uk](http://www.dojos.co.uk) and search for Ryoshin to see what our students say.**



## THE STORY SO FAR

- 1 Elmswell Community Enterprise Limited (ECE) was registered as a Community Benefit Society in March 2021 under Financial Conduct Authority Registration number 8589, Financial year-end 31st December.
- 2 Elmswell Parish Council (EPC) effected the Registration under advice from the Plunkett Foundation towards establishing an autonomous group to take on the development and subsequent management of the Railway Tavern, purchased by EPC from Greene King in March 2020 as a going concern for £805k.
- 3 EPC also established the Elmswell Community Land Trust to take on the development of affordable homes on the Tavern site which had the benefit of a recently lapsed Planning Approval for 8 dwellings.
- 4 One of the main drivers for establishing ECE was the offer of up to £100k matched funding from Plunkett providing that the share issue process was accredited under the Community Shares Standard Mark which confirms national standards of good practice.
- 5 The Standard Mark was duly gained but, in the meantime, the matched funding offer was withdrawn by Plunkett.
- 6 The Share Issue, under 2 iterations, has realised £188,700.00 from 281 subscribers.
- 7 Donations have been made outside of the shares process amounting to £1,660.00.
- 8 All of the ECE setting-up costs including fees, advertising, small equipment etc, have been borne by EPC.
- 9 ECE has retained intact all of the share income and donations.
- 10 Difficulties were encountered when ECE tried to apply for grant aid given the uncertain nature of its eventual tenure of the premises which, it was intended, would be defined within a long-term Lease document.
- 11 The Lease itself proved to be extremely problematic given that it sought to convey to a small self-selecting group of individuals a property which had been purchased by EPC on behalf of the electorate of the village.
- 12 Much time and effort, together with legal advice, was spent on trying to build into a Lease Agreement the control which EPC must have if the interests of the community were to be served in terms of the management of the pub into the future.
- 13 It became clear that this unique business model might not prove to be workable.
- 14 The Proposal to dissolve the Society was taken by the Board of Management on 14th March 2024.
- 15 It was agreed that all share income be returned to the purchasers with an invitation that the money be donated to the continuing cause of the Elmswell Tavern refurbishment in return for inclusion in the 'Wall of Fame' at the pub and free membership of a discount card scheme.
- 16 Meanwhile, EPC has secured £500,000.00 grant aid from Mid Suffolk District Council and has applied for a further £250,000.00 of Government funding.
- 17 EPC has continued the design and costing process based on Planning permission secured in February 2024 towards Tender stage.

## HANG ON - DOES THIS MEAN THE PARISH COUNCIL TAKES OVER

The process of winding-up a Community Benefit Society is not complicated. The Financial Standards Authority simply need to know that it is supported by  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the membership and we are well on the way to gathering those signatures. Then, yes, the Parish Council assumes responsibility for the project and builds on the £500,000 grant received via Mid Suffolk from the levy on new development in the village over recent years. This money could not have gone to ECE. The Council continues its efforts to secure 'Levelling Up' funds which, again, could not come to ECE. Shareholders will be invited to leave their money in the project and will benefit from a 'loyalty discount' if they continue their support.

The Council has a well-established model in the Blackbourne and Wesley Management Association which comprises user groups and Councillors and advises, as an active working party, on day-to-day issues. A similar group, possibly ETMA - the Elmswell Tavern Management Association - can incorporate the considerable skills of ECE members together with other community representatives and Councillors. This will guide the process of getting the pub refurbished and then the appointment of a professional management team. The cross-over with Wesley given common ownership offers considerable potential in terms of both community and commercial development.

## NEXT STEPS

There has been considerable co-operation between the Council and ECE to allow the progress that has been made. The process will not skip a beat given that the Planning permission is secured and a solid funding base established. It's the same simple methodical process that brought the Wesley project in on time and on budget:

- Finalise the layout and have it worked-up by the architectural technician into detailed working drawings and specifications
- Advertise for Expressions of Interest from suitable local building contractors
- Select a short-list and ask for Tenders – effectively quotes for the job
- Assess the practical funding implications that the Tenders may throw up
- Make any necessary adjustments and appoint a contractor

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## ELMSWELL LIBRARY

Hello Elmswell,

It was nice everyone enjoyed Suffolk Libraries Day. We spread out activities including making origami daisies a few weeks before in our Sunday Craft sessions, refreshments and colouring activities on the day and we have crocheted daisy bookmarks for sale for a donation that have been kindly made by the Crochet Away club at The Walnut in Stowmarket.

Our next display will be of books with earth tone covers. The theme has been inspired by Earth Day on April 22nd.

We are pleased that we now have a choir hiring the library on Tuesday evenings. Availability is limited due to a couple of regular hires and the library only being available when we are closed, but if you are looking for a small space for your group to meet then the library may be suitable. We have a small kitchen area, comfy chairs and tables so if you are looking for a space for anything from a

choir to space to run a DnD campaign we may be able to help.

We hope those of you who celebrate it have a pleasant Easter. We are closed on Good Friday and Easter Sunday but open as usual on Saturday 30th March.

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*



## What's on?

### 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 April 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

## ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB

On 19th March we were delighted to have Chris Wiley as our speaker. He gave a fascinating insight into the 'Bury in Bloom' competition and described all the "behind the scenes" activities. The town always looks fantastic during the summer months with many hanging baskets and other floral displays, plus, if you're new to the area, the Abbey Gardens are definitely worth a visit.

The town first enters the 'Anglia in Bloom' competition, then the winners from that are entered into the national competition, 'Britain in Bloom'. 1987 was the first time Bury St Edmunds entered and they've been winning Gold virtually every time ever since.

It's a hugely involved year-round effort with a few part-time paid employees and over two hundred volunteers. The way the competition is judged has changed over the years. Now 40% of the marks go on the floral displays, 30% on environmental concerns and 30% on community involvement.

In order to fulfil the criteria, huge water tanks have been purchased each holding 30,000 litres of water. These fill up during the wetter months and the rain water is then added to a liquid feed then for around three months a full time employee is taken on to water the baskets and floral displays across the town.

The cost of the work is covered by over thirty sponsors - Greene King being one of the better known companies. The owner of the 'Crafty Foxes' business has been really helpful in designing some of the magnificent displays - most notably the Crown display on Crown Street near St Mary's Church. This was recently moved and will shortly been seen outside the Fire Station.

Usually three judges arrive and are given a tour of all the work that has been taking place. They are allowed just three hours to view all the displays and meet lots of the people involved. The tour ends with refreshments at Greene King's Beer Cafe, where the sponsors and others involved are invited to meet the judges.

Chris explained how work begins on the next event almost before the competition ends. There is a huge amount of planning involved.

Bury in Bloom also runs schools competitions entitled 'Green Fingers' and as a result most of the schools in Bury St Edmunds have gardening groups for their pupils.

There's an additional competition in which judges walk around the streets looking at people's front gardens. Those



that are 'up to the mark' receive a Certificate of Merit.

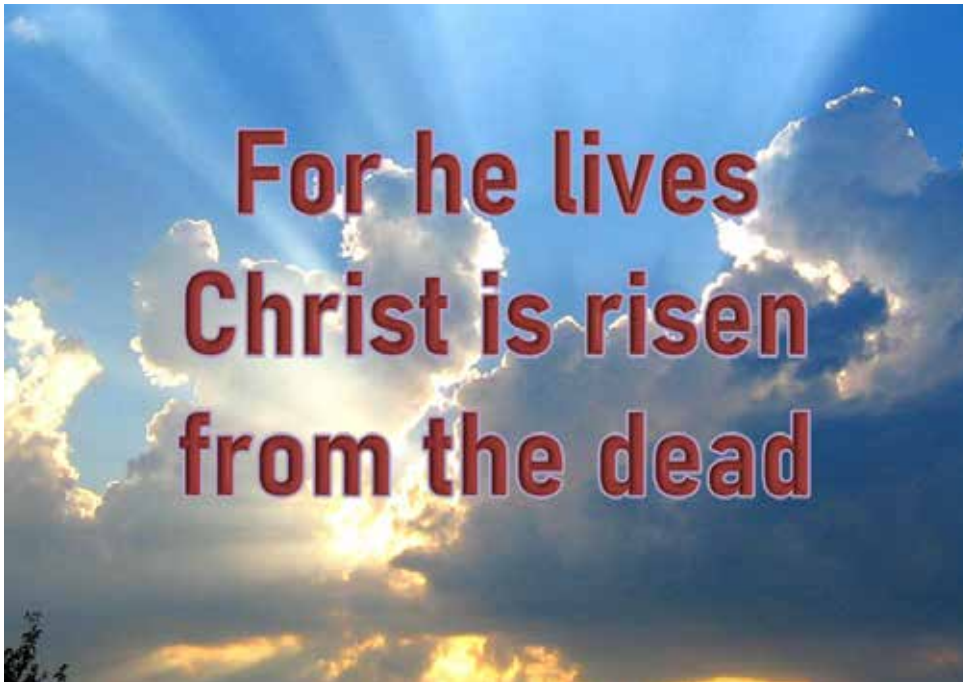
Our speakers on 16th April will be Trevor Goodfellow and Mark Brewster and will be giving tips on how to encourage garden butterflies and moths. It should be a really interesting evening.

An additional event which may be of interest is the Bluebell Gardens display which is held at Haughley Park every year. Refreshments are provided and proceeds go to a local charities.

- Open on the last Sunday in April and first Sunday in May each year
- From 2.00pm to 5.30pm
- £4 Adults, U16s free
- Cash only, on the gate



For further information please contact Nick on 01359 242601 or e-mail: [elmswellgadmin@btinternet.com](mailto:elmswellgadmin@btinternet.com)



## ST JOHN'S CHURCH

### Springtime greetings from St John's Church

*"Death is not the problem it used to be."*

I remember that line from an episode of the TV series Red Dwarf, first broadcast back in the late 1980s. The reason for that comment is that, in that TV programme, a dead person could come back as a hologram - a computer generated version of the person who could walk around, see and talk, but not touch anything. A hologram is not a physical entity.

I have come across many people who think that the Christian Faith teaches something similar about life after death. Our spirit leaves our bodies to just float about in some place called Heaven, where there is nothing physical. Perhaps we might sit on a cloud with a non-physical harp to play for all eternity. That idea of Heaven sounds like torture to me. The Christian Faith does not teach that, however. In the Bible, resurrection life is physical. On Easter Sunday, Jesus rose with a body his followers could reach out and touch. And God promises all who follow Jesus the same - a real, physical, eternal body after death. This is the hope of Easter.

If you would like to know more about this promise, please do come along to St John's or get in contact. We are a warm and welcoming church and love to share the good news of Jesus. Everyone is always welcome. We meet weekly at 10:30am and have groups for children, which include a story from the Bible and a craft. Tea and coffee are available afterwards.

#### Upcoming Dates:

Sun 7 Apr 9:00am  
Holy Communion

Sun 7 Apr 10:30am  
All Age Family Service  
Sun 14 Apr 10:30am  
Sunday Worship with Holy Communion  
Sun 21 Apr 10:30am  
Service with annual meetings  
Sun 28 Apr 10:30am  
Sunday Worship with Holy Communion

#### Every Saturday:

9:00am Weekly prayer meeting online (see web site 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)

Web site: [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

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

A night's floodlighting costs £5.

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

During April the lights will be on between 7.30 p.m. and midnight.

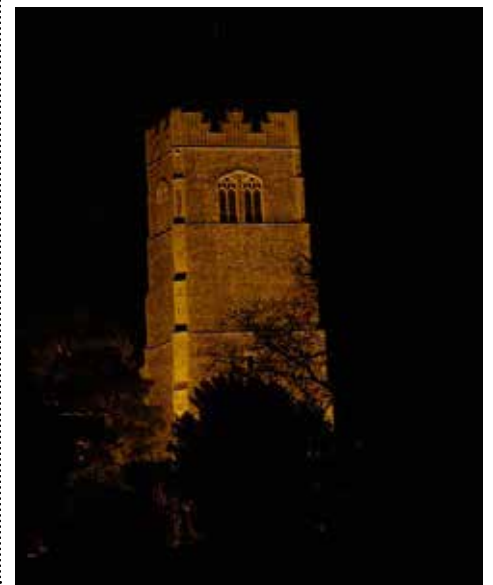
Deadline for inclusion in the May Newsletter is Monday 22nd April.

Your support is very much appreciated.  
Thank You.

#### APRIL 2024 SPONSORSHIPS

- 7 to remember and thank all those Elmswell Fire-Fighters who have served their village and community so well.
- 9 remembering Grace Rush, a dear Mum, Grandma and Great Grandma, on her Birthday.
- 12 in loving memory of Cecil Salmon - greatly missed by all of his family.
- 14 remembering Carl Finch on the anniversary of his death in 1999.
- 14 in memory of Ray Borrett's Birthday.
- 17 in loving memory of Jane Goodchild. Love, Colin. xx.
- 22 in loving memory of Teasel.
- 23 remembering Carl Finch on St. George's Day.
- 28 Ruth Francis (nana).  
"Sometimes our life feels empty, nothing can take your place, We wish we could hear your voice and see your smiling face". Love, miss you so much. xx.  
From ALL the grandchildren/great/great-great. xxx.
- 28 Ruth Francis. Remembering a very special Mum. Today is really hard as it reminds us all that it's been a year since we lost you. We just hope you know how much you were loved, and you're dearly missed. Love Irene & Barry, Janet & Roy, and Family. xxx.
- 30 in memory of David Lakey.
- 30 remembering Duncan Jacob, a loving Husband, Dad and Grandad. "One year down, too many to go. We miss you each and every day". x.

**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](http://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**

**B**By the time you read this we will just  
have celebrated Easter, the most  
important festival in the Christian year.  
Resurrection is at the very heart of the  
Christian message, giving us a sure and  
certain hope (not a vague and wishy-  
washy hope) that, if we have accepted  
Jesus Christ as Saviour, our future is  
assured for eternity.

This is the only way of being reconciled  
to God, **there is no other way!** If there  
has ever been a time when people  
desperately need certainty, it's now, what  
with seemingly unsolvable problems  
around the world and a total lack of  
trust in our politicians to sort the many  
problems facing our country. On April  
17<sup>th</sup> at 10am we will be starting a series  
of studies on the gospel of St. John.  
These gatherings are very informal and  
are open to all. If you'd like to know more  
about how it is that Christians have the  
assured hope I referred to, do come and  
join us. Phone me on 07784 095225 if  
you have any questions.

You may have read of the Food Bank's  
accommodation problems, they will be  
operating from our premises from April  
12<sup>th</sup> on a trial basis until the end of May.

If all goes well for both parties then this  
could be extended until they are able to  
return to the Bowls Club in September.

The Ladies Friendship Group meet on  
Monday April 8<sup>th</sup> at 2pm when a member  
of Stowmarket Flower Club will be  
coming to give a demonstration of flower  
arranging. ALL ladies are welcome, come  
and join the growing number of ladies  
attending.

Phone Margaret on 01359 241541 for  
more details.

Food 'n' Friends meet at Midday on  
Thursday April 18<sup>th</sup> (**NB change of date  
from the norm**) when senior citizens  
gather for a good meal for a donation of  
whatever you can afford, and plenty of  
time to chat. ALL older folk are welcome.  
Contact Jackie on 01359 245918 for  
more info.

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

April	7 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Richard Edwards – inc Communion
April	14 <sup>th</sup>	Stephen Spurgeon
April	21 <sup>st</sup>	Christine Myers
April	28 <sup>th</sup>	Kevin Moore
May	5 <sup>th</sup>	Ann Rudland – inc Communion

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

Please visit our website for further info  
or email [cockant2@btinternet.com](mailto:cockant2@btinternet.com) or  
telephone 01359 241541 to get in touch.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy  
and peace as you trust in him, so that  
you may overflow with hope by the power  
of the Holy Spirit. *Romans ch 15 v 13*

*God bless you all. Tony*



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Est. 2003





**Announcing *Skulduggery in Stowmarket*,  
Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> 2024**

Stowmarket Library's Skulduggery team is excited to announce this year's fast-approaching literary crime festival event.

Join us at Stowmarket Library on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> and meet our guest authors: Susi Holliday, Lauren North, Tim Sullivan, Vaseem Khan, Olivia Kiernan, & James Henry. Tickets are £5 per author, or £15 for all-day Saturday. Light refreshments are available throughout the day.

Book your place:

[www.suffolklibraries.co.uk  
/whats-on/festival/skulduggery-in-stowmarket](http://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/whats-on/festival/skulduggery-in-stowmarket)



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All three hotels have fabulous restaurants which showcase the best regional Italian cuisine with innovative style - and the Kirker Concierge is on hand to recommend and book restaurants on other nights as well organise private walking tours and opera and concert tickets.

Contact us for more information.

Tel: 01359 242555 email: [elmswell@travel-stop.co.uk](mailto: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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# NEWS FROM ELMSWILD



## Join one of our willow weaving courses

Last year we ran some willow weaving sessions at Lukeswood and they were so successful we've decided to offer some more this year. We're delighted to welcome back Jo Hammond as leader; Jo is a local expert in basket making and has agreed to come and share her skills with us. All courses will take place at Lukeswood.

The first course is on **Saturday 18 May**. This is a whole day course and participants will learn how to make a willow basket. Cost is £40 per person, including all tools and materials. Then on **Saturday 15 June** we will have two half day courses (morning and afternoon) learning how to weave either a bulrush or wall basket. Cost is £25 per person, tools and materials included. It's a great way to learn a new skill (or to polish up existing skills, if you've already done some willow weaving before) in the company of other people who enjoy crafting. If you really get bitten by the bug we will have some bundles of our own Lukeswood willow for sale, to take away and do some more weaving at home! Please contact us if you would like to book a place or to get more details.



## Busy Queens on the wing

At this time of year, even if it's still quite cold, you're bound to see bumblebees buzzing about. You can impress your friends by telling them – look it's a female bumblebee! In fact, all the males will have died off at the beginning of winter, so the only ones flying in the spring are bound to be females. The Queens hibernated through the winter, carrying eggs to start off a new colony. Once they emerge in spring they will be very busy, feeding on scarce nectar and looking for a nesting site which is usually a hole in the ground, such as an old mouse burrow. Flowering plants with a good source of nectar can be rare at this time of year so you can help the Queens by planting lots of early flowering plants and shrubs such as Crocuses and Mahonia, or encourage wildflowers such as Red and White Deadnettle to grow in your garden (PICTURED RIGHT).

There are 24 species of bumblebee in the UK, some of them very rare, and some can be difficult to identify, especially when they're buzzing about. Our picture shows one of the commonest – the Buff-tailed bumblebee, with easy to spot orange stripes as well as a white tail. There are lots of these impressive Queens at Lukeswood.

It's not unusual to find a grounded bumblebee at this time of year, especially if there's a cold snap or a sudden shower. They can't take off if the temperature of their thorax falls below 30 degrees C. You can help her out by carefully moving her to a warmer spot (for example, in the sunshine) – use a piece of paper or card, or a large leaf if one is to hand. You can also try feeding her with a 50/50 mix of sugar and water – just put a drop on a suitable surface within her reach, but be careful not to get her wet or sticky. If you can save one Queen you may be saving the whole future colony! And bees do need all the help we can give them.

## Spiders on the move

Also emerging from hibernation at this time of year are many spiders, such as the Nursery Web Spider, as shown in our photo, lying up in the sunshine at Lukeswood. The Nursery Web Spider (*Pisaura Mirabilis*) catches its prey by lurking and pouncing, rather than by spinning a web, although the female does spin a tent-like cocoon for her eggs to hatch in. This time of year can be a good opportunity to spot insects as they often come out to bask in the spring sunshine. You have to look closely, though, and keep quite still, as they will quickly hide as soon as they spot **you!**

Mary Feeney

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



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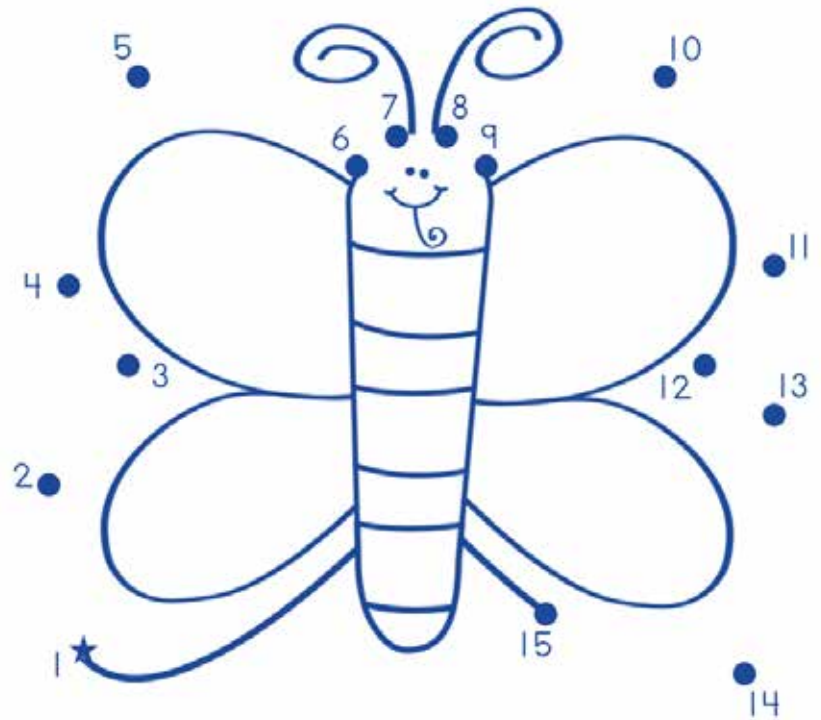


Can you complete this scavenger hunt over April?

- A ladybird
- A bumblebee
- Fluffy white clouds
- A rainbow
- An Easter egg
- A daffodil
- Children playing in the park

## Dot-to-Dot

A butterfly's body has three parts: the head, thorax, and abdomen. It also has two antennae that help it smell, two compound eyes (which are like lots of little eyes that work together), three sets of legs, and four wings: two forewings in front and two hindwings in back.



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3.

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4.

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# ELMSWELL FOOTBALL CLUB



## FIRST TEAM REPORT

We travelled to Whitton to play Ipswich Athletic with a very depleted squad. A game which on paper we should win, but with the majority of other games called off and surprisingly ours not, we played on a pitch that had puddles on! It was a game where we could have played 3 games non-stop and neither team would have scored a goal. It finished 0-0.

Next up we welcomed Ipswich Wanderers to The Blackbourne who we had drawn with early in the season. The game was eventful but not in a positive way for us, a few mistakes led to a 6-3 defeat. A much improved second half couldn't undo the damage done in the first half. Romaine Scott getting 2 goals and Jordan Sylvester getting the other.

We then hosted a team near the top of the league in Kirton who just simply wanted it more and had more fight and desire than us resulting in a 0-4 defeat.

A third home game then against Wenhashton who are also challenging for promotion and again another defeat. This time 2-0 but a much better performance most probably helped by the 'Elmswell Ultra's' who came out and supported us and were singing and playing the drum for 90 mins.

We seem to be in a bit of a rut with performances not being up to standard and as the season comes towards the end and nothing to play for we seem to be taking our foot off the gas.

Maybe a bumper crowd next month at The Blackbourne will give us the encouragement to find our earlier form.

*L.Trickey, First Team Manager*



The Elmswell Fish & Chip Shop



## ELMSWELL FC HOME GAMES

- 30/03 - 2:30pm Elmswell Res v Hadleigh Brettsiders
- 13/04 - 2:30pm Elmswell Res v Mendlesham
- 27/04 - 2:30pm Elmswell Res v Ipswich Vale Exiles
- 04/05 - 2:30pm Elmswell v Coplestonians Res

AT THE BLACKBOURNE COMMUNITY CENTRE



## SECRETARY'S REPORT

The three gents featured at the top of the previous page this month are our First's Management Team. Waving goodbye in the middle is Liam Trickey, flanked on the right by Ash Farmer and the left by Charlie Potter. Sadly, they are leaving us at the end of season due to house moves, family growth and general exciting life changes. I would personally like to thank them sincerely for their time and effort over the last couple of years and wish them all the best for the future. Not only have they represented Elmswell in a positive light with their behaviour and dedication, they have also created a welcoming environment in the first team, drawing in many new players whilst playing good football and consolidating our position in SIL Div.2. Top lads. So now we are looking for a new manager/management team...

## RESERVES REPORT

You may remember that we won our last game against Saxmundham Reserves. Well, the boys only went and did it again. Our first back to back victories this season. This time the opposition was Hadleigh Brettsiders who sit up in fourth position in the table. Matt Catchpole took the reigns for this one as I was away and what a job he did. We didn't have a big squad but everybody played their part. The boys dug in and kept them at only a one goal lead for 90 minutes. In injury time our top scorer, Damo Fisk, popped up with an equaliser out of nowhere. Then Florin Biscleanu scored an even later 'worldie' to win the game for us and bag himself Man of The Match.

Next week Hadleigh come to The BB looking for revenge but that will be last week by the time you read this. Hope you came to watch!

Next month's home games are listed above. Up The Elm

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## WESLEY UKULELE BAND

This month has seen us perform at two new and two previous venues.

The returning gigs were at Chilton Meadows Care Home in Stowmarket and the Time Out Club in Fornham All Saints, where we seem to be regular visitors.

The new venues were at Bacton Bowls Club and Partidge Court in Stowmarket. The Bacton event turned out to be a bit of a raucous evening, as alcohol was involved. (Not us, you understand), and a great time was had by all. Partridge Court was a more sober and quiet affair, which, again, everyone enjoyed. The added bonus was that the guests kindly had a collection and raised nearly £100 for our charity fund.

The coming month finds us at at least two new venues, being the Salvation Army in Stowmarket and Old Newton Football Club.

The other big news, as far as we are concerned, is that we will be hosting another music festival at the Blackbourne on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June. 'June in Tune' will feature musical acts for all different tastes, Comedy Drama from a local group and the usual food and craft stalls. Entry will be free, with a bucket collection for our charity. More details will follow, but please make a note in your diaries and support your local entertainment.

Our picture, this month shows most of our girls, with Merrill, who joins us at our rehearsals at the Wesley on a Thursday morning from about 10 o'clock. Come and join us for great coffee and free entertainment. **For information, please call Kevin on 07710 149040 or Carol**

Or email: [Kevin.Knock99@gmail.com](mailto:Kevin.Knock99@gmail.com)



## SID REPORT

### March 2024

Monitoring undertaken 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

#### Ashfield Road

Data collected 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021 to 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024.

This location less likely to be affected by A14 works.

Total vehicles in monitoring period 877,287

Average speed 29.75 mph

AADT (annual average daily traffic) approx. 997

Approx. 53% of drivers over limit, down 1% from last resort

Average excess speed 36.24 mph

Maximum speed 100mph 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023 22:25

#### Church Hill

Data collected 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 to 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

Total vehicles in monitoring period 2,492,213

Average speed 28.48

AADT (annual average daily traffic) approx. 3286, an increase of 20 in 10 weeks.

Approx. 33% of drivers over limit, down 1% from last report

Average excess speed 34.3

Maximum speed 70 mph 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022 16:05

#### Wetherden Road

Data collected 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 to 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

Total vehicles in monitoring period 1,939,304

Average speed 27.58

AADT (annual average daily traffic) approx. 2578, an increase of 25 in 10 weeks.

Approx. 31% of drivers over limit, 3% down from last report

Average excess speed 33.8 mph

Maximum speed 90 mph 19<sup>th</sup> November 2022 22:05

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

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

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## Council Budget

The February budget agreed a 2% increase in Council Tax. This modest increase (lower than most authorities) is due to the cost of services to residents and communities expected to rise by £1.8M, while Core Government funding is not matching the inflationary pressures. It should help protect services and build on the priorities of the new Green Administration, putting environmental sustainability and social justice at the heart of all its activities.

## Housing Revenue Budget

The housing revenue budget will have financial challenges ahead, most notably an increase of £1.1M in the cost to run the housing service, so there will be a 7.7% increase in housing rents this year just to keep pace with this. The housing revenue account and council general fund account are completely separate so there is no way to cross subsidise from one account to the other. There will also be increases in both service and utility charges for sheltered housing tenants. Advice and help for anyone struggling with these increases is available from the Council.

## Rural Transport Grants

A new rural transport grants scheme has just been launched to provide new passenger transport options across Mid Suffolk. More details are available at <https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/rural-transport-grants-scheme>. The Vertas Bus project is hoping to gain help from this fund.

## Energy Efficiency Grants

Funding is available to help with the cost of installing loft insulation where residents can receive a 50% discount off their purchase (up to £200), with free delivery. According to The Energy Saving Trust, it is estimated that an uninsulated home loses a quarter of its heat through its roof. Correctly installed insulation should pay for itself many times over



in its 40-year lifetime. More details at the Green Suffolk website <https://www.greensuffolk.org/at-home/grants/>.

## Highways

Just a reminder that Highways issues should be reported to Suffolk County Council by using the highways 'reporting tool' at <https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/>. It helps to include photographic evidence if available. A national charity offering flooding advice and support: <https://nationalfloodforum.org/> Advice line: 01299 403055

## Tree Cover

Suffolk County Council has secured over £200K from the Government's Tree-capes Fund for over 1500 new trees in a bid on behalf of all Suffolk councils, including Mid Suffolk District. The funding will go towards planting as well as maintaining the trees.

## Council of the Year Award

The councils of Mid Suffolk, with a Green Party administration, and Babergh, that is independently led, have just been jointly awarded *Council of the Year* for their collaboration and focus on their communities. This was awarded by the iESE, a not-for-profit organisation created by local authorities as a shared resource to transform public services and retain experience within the sector.

## Monthly drop-ins

Our monthly drop-ins alternate between Woolpit Teacups and Wesley Café in Elmswell.

The next few dates for these are:

- Thursday 25th April 10-12 at Teacups Café
- Tuesday 21st May 10-12 at The Wesley
- Thursday 20th June 10-12 at Teacups Café

## District Councillors for Elmswell and Woolpit:

Councillor Sarah Mansel	07860 829517	sarah.mansel@midsuffolk.gov.uk
Councillor Jen Overett	07928 512591	jen.overett@midsuffolk.gov.uk



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Elmswell Fox Bowls Club showing off their smart new shirts.



## FOX BOWLS CLUB

After months of twiddling our thumbs and biting our nails, the 2024 Bowls season is now upon us! It means we now face a short period of intense activity before we settle down to the much-anticipated new league season. The Leagues have sent us the fixtures for this year's campaign and we can now sort our teams out. We kick-off on the 18th of April and run through to 22nd of August. We haven't had any teams drop out this year and it is pleasing to see a few that were struggling have overcome their difficulties and are still with us.

We will open the green on Saturday 13th April at 2.0pm and would ask all club members to wear their club shirts

and remind all new members who have league aspirations to give their shirt size to Jenny Murray (07714 456986) and point out to brand new bowlers that it may take most of the season to reach league standard. Your first shirt will be available at a discounted price thanks to the generous sponsorship of Quality Engineering of Woolpit. Alan Wells of Wells Stitched, near the station, is another EFBC sponsor but we would welcome other sponsors as there is always something that we need.

Our opening day is open to all of the village who, of course, can wear what they like but we will insist on flat-soled shoes to protect the green. We have

spare woods available but very few bowls shoes and certainly not in all sizes and we will also welcome village residents to our roll-up sessions on Saturdays and Wednesdays starting at 2.0pm. These will start once the green is open and will run through possibly to the end of September, depending on what greenkeeper Dick Burch and his team have planned. There are several treatments he can apply without rendering the green unplayable.

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

## ELMSWELL CRICKET CLUB

Elmswell Cricket Club is appealing for new players for the coming season.

The last few seasons have seen us struggle to field a full team for every match and, unfortunately, if this continues then the Club will be unable to carry on.

At the AGM it was decided to carry on for another season with the same Committee in place but some new faces are needed desperately to take the Club forward and, crucially, new players of all abilities are required.

Elmswell Cricket Club is a friendly, not too intense side with a desire to win but, at the same time, promote a good team spirit. So if you are looking for a way to embrace village life this is the perfect way to do so.

The Club has been in existence for 49 years and it would be wonderful to reach 50 years, not least to honour all the characters past and present who are mentioned on our Honours Board.

If you are a member of another cricket club but never get a game then why not give us a try.

If you would like to become part of the team please contact Club Captain, Ben Whatling: Tel.: 07760174811; e-mail: [bwhatling@seamans.co.uk](mailto:bwhatling@seamans.co.uk).

*Be sure you will be warmly welcomed!*



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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 March meeting with all 11 councillors present, together with County Council Ward Member Andy Mellen, a members of the public, and the Parish Clerk, Peter Dow, took place at Blackbourne on Monday 18<sup>th</sup>.

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](https://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 19<sup>th</sup> February meeting, as approved at this meeting, are posted in the Council's notice board at Crown Mill.

## Mid Suffolk District Council

Cllr Sarah Mansel added to the written report submitted for publication in the March Newsletter confirmation that the joint Administration had won the Council of the Year Transformation Award reflecting the successful merging of many roles and the financial benefits accruing from having moved both bodies to a single administration centre at Endeavour House.

## Suffolk County Council

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

### Council Budget for 2024-25

At Council on 15 February, Suffolk councillors met to discuss and vote on the Administration's budget proposals. The council is borrowing heavily from its reserves to meet the growing demand for social care for adults and children, and council tax is due to rise by £74 annually for Band D properties from April this year. There will also be cuts to Family Hubs (children's centres) and Housing Related Support, which supports vulnerable people like care leavers to find accommodation. Funding for arts and museums will be maintained for 2024-25 but not from SCC core funding, and subject to a bidding process for grants from April 2025. The Bury St Edmunds local archives will be moved to The Hold in Ipswich, which like the arts funding cuts has been controversial locally. The Greens, Liberal Democrat and Independent group were concerned about the lack of core funding from Suffolk County Council to arts and museums, as this is how they secure funding from other sources, and proposed an amendment to this effect. It also suggested that some of the council's remaining Covid funding from the government be used to support young people not in education, employment or training, as this cohort had suffered a lot of upheaval in their final years

of schooling and exams. Support for young people not in education, employment and training is one of the services that is due to be cut in the administration's budget plans. The amendment was declined by the Conservatives, as was the Labour amendment which also proposed to reverse some of the planned cuts.

### Ofsted/CQC SEND Inspection Report

As reported in the local press, Ofsted and CQC published their joint report into SEND services in Suffolk at the beginning of the month. The report was scathing about the county's SEND provision and detailed the failures of the council to communicate and work with parents and carers, improve the Education Health & Care Plan and annual review processes and waiting times, improve outcomes and reduce exclusions. There is disappointment and concern that the services are yet to get to grips with improving a service that has now received a third poor inspection result in a row and assistance was offered to the Local Area Partnership (Suffolk County Council and NHS teams) in preparing the Priority Action Plan they now need to submit to Ofsted and CQC by 7 March. The poor report led to the resignation of the Cabinet members for SEND, Education and Children's Services and prompted a reshuffle of the political leadership at the council. This report will be devastating for parents of children with special needs in Suffolk, and the council will need to work hard to make improvements quickly and build back trust.

### Suffolk Devolution in Sight

Devolution is something there has been a lot of talk about in Suffolk in recent years, and it looks like it may be happening from 2025. The deal the government is offering Suffolk is the same as the one for Norfolk and would give the county more freedom on decisions and funding for

transport, skills and adult education, regenerating brownfield sites and retrofitting homes to make them more energy-efficient. If the deal is approved, the leader of Suffolk County Council would be directly elected by the people of Suffolk - every four years, residents will be given two votes, to elect their local county councillor AND the leader of the county council. The first election would take place in May 2025. The council will be consulting on the deal soon and residents will be able to give their opinions on the changes proposed. For more information, see <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/devolution>

### Changes to Local Archives

Following the recent controversial proposal in the county council's budget to move local records from Bury St Edmunds to The Hold in Ipswich, the council have announced that that they will be inviting community representatives from both Lowestoft and Bury St Edmunds to form two new Working Parties to consider local access to historical material. This could allow relevant collections to remain in the local area, but any proposals would need to be funded locally rather than by Suffolk County Council. This is not a reversal of the council's decision, and the majority of the records are still planned to move to The Hold, with the North-East and West Suffolk branches of the archive service to close.

### Flooding and Highways

I am continuing to follow up on a number of persistent flooding problems affecting parishes right across the division. Inevitably attention and resources have been targeted where homes have suffered interior flooding. Gardens and driveways have a lower priority, however I am happy to follow up specific issues, residents can get in touch via the contact details above. Cllr Melen spoke to confirm the

opening of a 6 week consultation period for public consideration of the 'Suffolk Devolution Deal', on offer as a result of the 2022 Levelling Up White Paper.

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

- 1 I have, along with Cllrs Pallett and Barker, had on-line meetings (22.02 / 29.02/ 07.03) involving, variously, Mid Suffolk's Housing Enabling Officer, the Assistant Director of Development and Growth at Orwell Housing and, subsequently, with the solicitor who leads the charity and property development work in the health and social care sector at Anthony Collins Solicitors. The latter is the specialist legal practice which Council used to set up the Elmswell Community Land Trust in September 2020 and which is one of 2 recommended by the National CLT Network, of which EPC is a member.  
We continue to explore all possibilities towards providing the promised affordable housing at the Tavern site with no risk that our properties could be subject to Right to Buy or Right to Acquire legislation.  
It looks likely that an absolute guarantee is not feasible. Many before us have sought the same goal and failed. However, there are ways of mitigating the risk and the solicitor is going to furnish an outline of possibilities for Council's in-depth consideration, along with an estimate of the legal costs involved.
- 2 One of the stated preferences in the recent MSDC Consultation was for the upgrade / provision of new play areas. The play area at Crown Mill is in its second iteration. Installed in 2006 (cost of equipment + fencing @ £22,744, surface @ £8,480) it has proved to be immensely popular but is now well past its best and requiring attention – the last formal Annual Inspection suggests major works both immediately (in hand or completed) and in the medium-term. Of particular concern is the play surface which needs replacing. Replacing a similar surface at Blackbourne in September 2020 cost £36,449. The current facility does not provide any equipment for the pre-school / toddlers age range and this is seen as a shortcoming, particularly in comparison with the facility at Blackbourne. There is scope to extend the area towards the road

allowing scope for more equipment. Mid Suffolk agree that grant aiding a new facility to address the above might best be addressed by using Neighbourhood CIL for 75% of the cost, possibly topped up with s106 money. I am meeting with 3 of the major suppliers of play equipment for their thoughts on the design of an extended facility and estimates. I will involve BWMA members, in particular the Baby & Toddler and youth groups in working towards a proposal for action. Councillor input welcome.

- 3 Encouraged by the recent Consultation feedback, I have had on-line meetings and a face-to-face meeting with, variously, our neighbouring partner villages, SCC and BMSDC officers, and Vertas, regarding the current taxi-bus scheme and the proposal for a Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) scheme centred on a possible Elmswell/Thurston partnership in owning and managing an electric mini-bus. A Major consideration is the fact that the introduction of funding from the Government Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP+) into the local Rural Transport Grants Scheme means that English National Concessionary Travel Scheme – ENCTS (bus pass) may have to be accepted in payment. The SCC Delivery Manager for BSIP+ is looking into the fine print so as to enable our current scheme to continue to derive income.
- 4 Cllr Brown attended a meeting re the forthcoming A1088 road closure to allow the replacement of the bridge at Norton. I have his report together with notes from Cllr Andy Mellen who is co-ordinating a series of such meetings for affected parishes. 4 months of work are scheduled to start on 8<sup>th</sup> July on the understanding that the A14 concrete replacement works are complete with a recommended diversion on to A14 from J43 to J47. A temporary bridge would be too costly. Investigative works will require traffic lights w/c 18<sup>th</sup> March.
- 5 The provision of the pedestrian / cycle link between Blackbourne and the Matthew Homes development adjacent is required under Reserved Matters ref. DC/19/02495 prior to the occupation of the 90<sup>th</sup> dwelling. We are now delivering Newsletters to 80 houses on the estate. I have made an initial approach to the Developer towards co-ordinating the joining of the sites. Experience suggests that communication

will not flow easily and will require perseverance. Meanwhile, when ground conditions permit, I shall re-site the lorry container which stands on the proposed pathway. I have a meeting with the SCC Area ROW Manager scheduled towards improving pedestrian / cycle access up Ashfield Road to Grove Lane, as per feedback from the MSDC Consultation. This will include our link with the Matthew Homes estate along with the proposals for development at Oak Lane and the rationalisation of paths through Turners' Field.

- 7 I have continued to liaise with the Food Bank operation in light of an undertaking to provide emergency accommodation if necessary once the bowls pavilion becomes unavailable at the end of March. I am assured that an alternative venue is secured.

## Planning results

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

**DC/24/00345** Discharge of Conditions...land adjacent to The Wesley APPROVED  
EPC did not comment

**DC/20/01677** Discharge of Conditions...Land West of former Bacon Factory APPROVED  
EPC did not comment

**DC/23/01407** Non material amendment...Dagwood Farm, Ashfield Road APPROVED  
EPC did not comment

**DC/24/00381** Application for tree works...Blackbird Cottage, St Johns Close REFUSED  
EPC objected

**DC/24/00298** Notification of works to trees...Blackbird Cottage, St Johns Close REFUSED  
EPC objected

**DC/24/00264** Application for extensions...Kiln Farm Cottage, Kiln Lane APPROVED  
EPC supported

**DC/24/00798** Discharge of pre-commencement Conditions on land adjacent to Kiln Lane (Petrol filling station & restaurant)...acceptable

**DC/24/00771** Discharge of Conditions re dwelling at Dagwood Farm, Ashfield Road...acceptable

**DC/24/01326** Discharge of Conditions...Condition 5 Materials... acceptable

## Planning Application

The Meeting supported an Application forwarded for comment by MSDC, the Planning Authority ref **DC/24/01149** for works to a tree protected by Tree





preservation Order WS47/A2 – Prune back to previous points 1No lime tree in rear garden and 1No lime in front garden removing any epicormic growth up to main branch emanation point. Crown lift above building to give 1m clearance. Remove secondary branches only where necessary to ensure adequate height clearance over driveway of 3.5m if required and remove any deadwood at **Blackbird Cottage, St John's Close.**

### Hedgehog Highway

It was agreed that Council should purchase 150 Hedgehog Highway surrounds plus supporting window stickers for distribution on request to householders in the village interested in hedgehog conservation.

### Elmswell Tavern

The Meeting agreed that, in the event that Elmswell Community Enterprise Limited should be dissolved, Council would assume responsibility for the delivery of the Elmswell Tavern project. Authorisation was given for the professional fees involved in working-up the concept drawings which were successfully submitted for Planning approval. This will produce of construction drawings with specifications and a schedule of Scope of Works. Subsequent engineering services including structural, civil and Building Control were also agreed to be instructed as necessary, all within a budget of £15,000.00 net.

### Next meeting

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

Apr 15th	May 20th	June 17th	July 15th	Sept 16th
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Meetings are held at Blackbourne, beginning at 7.30 unless otherwise notified



## Hedgehogs R Us

### HEDGEHOGS R US

### HIGHWAY PROJECT

With Hedgehog numbers in decline and Hedgehog awareness on the rise, there has never been a better time to get involved in Hedgehog conservation.

A Hedgehog Highway is a 5 inch gap in a fence and is essential in the battle to prevent the extinction of our endangered spiky friends. This gap allows them access to forage for food and meet mates.

Hedgehog shaped fence surrounds raise awareness to the plight of Hedgehogs, create a talking point and encourage others to take part in the project. Fence surrounds are made from recycled plastic and can themselves be recycled.

**The Parish Council has bought 50 of the Hedgehog Highway fence surrounds to encourage this important conservation initiative.**

**They are available free of charge to Elmswell residents while stocks last.**

**Simply call into the Council office at Blackbourne between 9.00am and 4.00pm on any weekday if you would like to help hedgehogs.**



# VILLAGE INDEX



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

Amenities Association	Jean Barker (Sec)	eea@elmswell.org.uk	241135
Art Club	Eddie Douglas	edward.douglas2@gmail.com	
Baby & Toddler Group		elmswellbtgroup@gmail.com	
Baptists	Dave Hollings	davehollings@btinternet.com	241323
BATS (Badminton & Table Tennis)	Mike Burgess Wilson	burgesswilsonmike@gmail.com	
Beavers	Ruth Salmon	ruthcourt4@hotmail.co.uk	
Bingo at Blackbourne	Brian Hawes		07761 125093
BWMA	Peter Edmonds (Sec)	edmondspeterj@gmail.com	07860 395720
Blackbourne – all enquiries	Parish Council office	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
Brownies	Gemma Sutton	elmswellbrownies@hotmail.com	
CAB		advice@midsuffolkcab.org.uk	01449 676060
Carpet Bowls Club	Frank Boxall	jf.boxall@btinternet.com	
Christians Together in Elmswell	Peter Goodridge	elmswellrector@gmail.com	240512
Community Speed Watch	Marie Spampinato	mariespampinato@hotmail.co.uk	07769 715209
Companions	Linda Waspe	linda@labbott.plus.com	
County Councillor	Cllr Andy Mellen	Andy.Mellen@suffolk.gov.uk	
Cricket Club	Ben Whatling (Captain)	benwhatling@mail.com	07760 174811
Cubs	Mark Pernot	mark.pernot@gmail.com	
District Councillor	Sarah Mansell	Sarah.Mansel@midsuffolk.gov.uk	07860 829517
District Councillor	Jen Overett	Jen.Overett@midsuffolk.gov.uk	
Elmswheelians	Trevor Sadler	trevor.sadler@dsl.pipex.com	240908
Elmswild	Mary Feeney	info@elmswild.org.uk	241901
Exchange Afternoon WI	Carol Blissett	carolblissett@hotmail.co.uk	242884
First Responders	Merv	merv.smith@tiscali.co.uk	07909 006 496
Football	Chris Edmonds	edddd101@gmail.com	
Fox Bowls Team bowls at Blackbourne	Rob Dann	rccsdann@btinternet.com	07917 013846
Gardening Club	Nick	elmswellgadmin@btinternet.com	01359 242601
Guides	Viv	elmswellguides@outlook.com	
Health Centre - Woolpit			240298
History Group	Stella Chamberlin	stellachamberlin@yahoo.co.uk	
Ladies Voices (Choir)	Anna Wilton Mills	annawm63@gmail.com	
Library	Miles Row - Manager	Elmswell.Library@suffolklibraries.co.uk	240974
Little Elms	Paula Reynolds / Samantha Willers	info@littleelms.co.uk	240491
Newsletter	Editorial office	eea@elmswell.org.uk	244134
Over 55's Club	Diann Armstrong	Mayfield, Wetherden Road	241002
Parish Council	Parish Clerk	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
Police Emergencies			999
Police; non-emergencies	Mid Suffolk South SNT	headquarters@suffolk.pnn.police.uk	101
Poor's Land Charity	Peter Goodridge	elmswellrector@gmail.com	240512
Power cuts		Powwercut105.com	105
Rainbows	Jen & Lizzie	elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com	
Royal British Legion	Norman Plumpton (Biff)	nplumpton@aol.com	07707 524722
School	Mrs Ash	admin@elmswell.suffolk.sch.uk	240261
Scouts	Paula Hollings	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.

## April 2024

- 3 Exchange WI 2.00pm at Wesley. Art on London's Streets. Speaker Peter Lawrence.
- 8 2pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - Flower Arranging by a member of Stowmarket Flower Club
- 9 Elmswell WI 7.30pm at the Wesley - Walking Wok with Lily Indra
- 11 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP 24th Anniversary meeting, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Jacquie Norman: Tudor Costumes, Part 2
- 11 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 11 Over 55's Club Fish & Chip Supper
- 16 'Garden Butterflies and Moths; tips to encourage them'. Speakers: Trevor Goodfellow and Mark Brewster of Butterfly Conservation Suffolk, Elmswell Gardening Club, 7.30pm in Wesley Chapel
- 25 Over 55's club Harry Isacc Prestley entertains open evening
- 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
- 9 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 9 Over 55's Club Tyler Kemp 80 year celebration of end of WW2 open evening
- 13 2pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - The Moses Project by Nicky Thomas
- 14 Elmswell WI 7.30pm at the Wesley - Annual Meeting
- 21 Elmswell Gardening Club 'The Perennial Mr Potter' with Brian Thurlow at 7.30pm in the Wesley Chapel
- 23 Over 55's Club Bingo
- 31 Bingo - Doors open 6.30 eyes down 7.30 all welcome

## June 2024

- 3 2pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - Photojournalism by Andy Abbott
- 5 Exchange WI 2.00pm at Wesley. The work of the Samaritans. Speaker Alison Chown
- 11 Elmswell WI 7.30pm at the Wesley - Indoor Kurling with Alison Handley
- 13 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7pm AGM in Wesley Chapel, immediately followed at 7.30pm by Speaker Sarah Doig's talk "The Real Basil Brown"
- 13 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 18 Elmswell Gardening Club 'Succulents' with Paul Sprakin at 7.30pm in the Wesley Chapel
- 28 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** - Chris Edmonds [edddd101@gmail.com](mailto:edddd101@gmail.com)

**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 [triciamcneeney@gmail.com](mailto:triciamcneeney@gmail.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 [elmswellgadmin@btinternet.com](mailto:elmswellgadmin@btinternet.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: April 24th, May 29th, June 26th

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

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