



The Elmswell Newsletter



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

MARCH 2024

On line at elmswell.suffolk.cloud

New facilities for the village



...see Editorial and the Consultation Results on page 18

Wesley Kids' Easter Craft Morning

Saturday 23rd March 2024

9.30am - 11.30am or 11.30am - 1.30pm

£1 per child, pre booking and payment essential

You can secure your space by booking at The Wesley
or calling 01359 244134

Grand aided by BMSDC  



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.

Every now and then your Newsletter records a bit of history which goes beyond the steady, comforting flow of the day-to-day. Our pages will sometimes, carefully avoiding the split infinitive, go boldly. Will go further than the mundane monthly record of our gettings-together to listen and learn or to play our games and enjoy our pastimes. Sometimes we stray beyond our core raison d'être of chronicling our community's doings. This could be such an edition.

When the next, 'Marker for the Millenium', book is published in the year 3000 it will note that Elmswell took a turn for the better in March 2024, 976 years ago, when we chose to direct a game-changing financial windfall to help kick-start a project, the refurbishment of the Elmswell Tavern, that would reach as far as the historian's eye can see and beyond. It will note the hopes that generations should benefit. It will note that everyone could join in, and be welcome. It will record the aspiration that our community should grow richer, more securely grounded, and, it must follow, happier.

To explain:

The windfall was the offer from Mid Suffolk District Council of grants towards community projects. Money made available from the payments made over recent years by developers towards community development. The principle is that this might fund schemes to go some way to offsetting the extra strain that the extra houses put on our village infrastructure.

The choice was made following consultation through the January Newsletter, and widely on social media, offering residents the chance to identify their preferred options as to where £761,000 might be best spent. There were 9 outline schemes suggested from a list that Mid Suffolk already had, and a free hand was offered to suggest anything else.

The results are published on pages 18 & 19 There is still much scope for debate as to where allocations might best be made. But there is no argument as to the village's favourite project. Over three quarters of those responding want the Tavern redevelopment to be the main beneficiary. Of those, 83% had it as their first choice. Nothing else came close.

The Mid Suffolk officers who have driven the survey, subsequently overseeing the results and analysis, attended the February Parish Council meeting. They confirmed that the Elmswell Tavern

project has retained the support which the village gave it in 2020 when we were consulted over the borrowing needed for the purchase of the site from Greene King. They have recommended that a formal application for a grant of £500,000 will be favourably considered



The grant application is on its way. It will, we are promised, confirm that:

- The 'community' element of Elmswell's community pub will be guaranteed by its link with Wesley next door. There is talk of Wesley becoming a wine bar extension on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays; there is talk of the pub kitchen being able to provide as wide a range of catering as Wesley needs, including for the many parties and receptions currently held there with outside caterers having to be brought in. There is talk of, 'a second Wesley, but with a drinks licence'.
- There are detailed business figures projected as far forward as 5

years which have already been scrutinised and validated by the Plunkett Foundation as part of the Community Share Issue. The figures stack up.

- The concept has been successfully tested by the recent 9-month spell of community management proving that family days with bouncy castles and quizzes and folk nights and bingo can all succeed.
- The team which brought in the very similar project at Wesley...a £706,00 refurbishment plus new-build, brought in on-time and on-target with no overspend...are strengthened by new members encouraged by the Wesley success to do it all again.

The monthly report from the Tavern group on page 11 talks of other funding on the horizon. But a crucial stage is reached. With half a million pounds in the kitty to add to the community shares contribution and a Parish Council encouraged by the community support once again demonstrated by the mid Suffolk exercise it really does look as though, once again, Elmswell is about to take another leap forward in providing exemplary village facilities...another initiative to cement our clear position as a caring, innovative and successful community.



The Marker for The Millenium, sadly out of print, was published by the Millenium History Group to give a brief history of Elmswell from its first Roman settlement

Here's hoping that our Marker for the next millennium tells a story of the Tavern's success. It might also be able to pinpoint the day when the very last pothole was filled and when none of the 8 lanes on A14 were under repair. Of course, there may be problems of flooding in the Station Road underpass...

Our cover picture shows: Editorial volunteers and Newsletter distributors having just won yet another 'Newsletter of the Year' Award gathered in the Baden Powell Room at Blackbourne which was, clearly, a work in progress.



ELMSWELL ART CLUB

Oil painting has been the most common technique for artistic painting on canvas, wood panel or copper for several centuries, spreading from Europe to the rest of the world. The advantages of using oil for painting images include greater flexibility, richer and denser colour, the use of layers, and a wider range from light to dark. However, the process could be quite slow, especially when one layer of paint needs to be allowed to dry before another is applied.

The oldest known oil paintings date back to the 7th century; oil paint was used by Europeans for painting statues and woodwork from at least the 12th century. Its common use for painted images began in Northern Europe around the 15th century and, by the end of the 16th century, oil painting techniques had almost completely replaced other mediums.

Today, the majority of paintings in art galleries exhibiting "old masters" will be in oils – including famous works such as The Mona Lisa (Leonardo Da Vinci, 1506); The Blue Boy (Thomas Gainsborough, 1770); The Card Players (Paul Cezanne, 1892).

More recently, the well-known American artist Bob Ross created and hosted The Joy of Painting, an instructional television programme that aired from 1983 to 1994 in the United States, Canada, Latin America and Europe. Bob had a very relaxed approach to his art and attracted large TV audiences to learn about the materials, techniques and tools required to produce

stunning landscapes in oils. He used a "wet-on-wet" oil painting technique of painting over a thin base layer of wet paint; therefore, the painting could progress without first drying.

Sadly, Bob Ross died in 1995; however, he would subsequently become even more widely known through his posthumous internet presence and The Joy of Painting is still shown regularly on the Sky Arts channel.



Bob Ross 1942 - 1995

This month we are showcasing two of our members' paintings – the first work is an oil painting by Bob Coleman, and it is a wonderful image of a peaceful rural scene.



Our second painting is a brilliant depiction of a Zebra in Acrylics. This was produced by Jo Hale using acrylic paint on a canvas frame, from a photograph which Jo took in Fasano wildlife park in Puglia, southern Italy.



I'm sure you will agree that these are both very striking images.

Finally, we will be embarking on another Art Club outing on Tuesday 12th March; this time we are off to Gainsborough House in Sudbury. Gainsborough House is the birthplace of the leading English painter Thomas Gainsborough. It is now a Grade I listed building containing a museum and art gallery, located at 46 Gainsborough Street in Sudbury.

Many of our members will be attending and each member can bring along a guest (for a small charge of £10 to help cover the cost of the return coach travel to Sudbury).
Eddie Douglas

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



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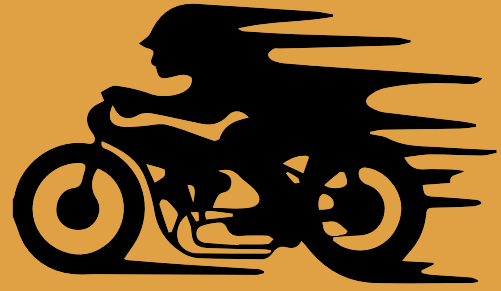
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ELMSWELL EXCHANGE WI

Mary welcomed everyone to the meeting, our first for 2024.

Our speaker was Pip Wright who stood in at short notice and his subject was "The Greatest Showman". It's hard to imagine with wildlife programmes on our television, the wonder and amazement people in the 1800's would have felt when they first saw live lions and tigers. George Wombwell was a man with a menagerie who took these exotic animals around the country for people to pay to see them. He was born in Duddenhoe in Essex in 1777. He was fortunate enough to receive an education and was always interested in animals. George would speak to the local doctor to gain advice on how to look after them.

He moved to London in the 1800's and worked in a cordwainer's shop selling shoes and belts. His first purchase towards his menagerie were two boas he bought in the docks for £75. He exhibited them in taverns and made a good profit. He then went onto buy many exotic animals which became part of Wombwell's menagerie. There were dozens of caravans touring the country and he would often stop at small places en route to bigger towns. The entourage couldn't travel quickly with all the animals and putting on a show in smaller places brought in more revenue. The shows were very popular as the first time the public had seen lions, tigers and elephants. This was long before health and safety rules were in operation and the public were encouraged to shake the tiger's paw when it was in its cage. The animals often died as the owner didn't really know how to look after them.

Thomas Atkins was a competitor of George Wombwell. George's elephant died so Thomas advertised to come and see the only living elephant. George retaliated with come and see the only dead elephant and many of the public did!

Another way to make money George thought was to organise a fight between his lion Nero and bull mastiffs. Nero was very tame and not interested in fighting so his other lion Wallace was brought in and the dogs were badly injured. George also sold dead animals to vets for research and also sold elephant excrement to the public.

It was very expensive feeding all the animals and paying all the tolls as the menagerie toured the country.

The menagerie became the Royal National Menagerie and goes to Windsor on George 1V's birthday. Later George was asked to help Prince Albert. His dogs kept dying and Wombwell realised that the water they were drinking caused the problem. As a gift George received wood from a ship called the Royal George which had previously sunk and had now been rescued. The wood was used to make a coffin for George.

In 1850 George died of bronchitis and was buried in Highgate cemetery under a statue of Nero in the previously made coffin. We thank Pip for an interesting talk and made us think what a sight it must have been when the menagerie arrived in your town!

After refreshments votes were taken for this year's resolutions.

The competition was a picture or photo of your favourite building and why. 1st was Jane Woods 2nd Maureen Lazarus and 3rd was Mary Chown

Next month's speaker is Sarah Jane Clark and the subject is what happens to our refuse.

The competition is an item you have made from recycled materials.

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Carol Blissett
242884

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Wesley Kids' Easter Craft Morning

Saturday 23rd March
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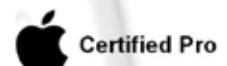
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ELMSWELL WI

Last month Elmswell WI 'Danced the Night Away', this month it was 'Charity Knickers'. We certainly ring the changes at our WI, it's never boring.

Our speak this month, Jan Bettley, known as 'The Knicker Lady', told us about how she got this name.

Jan started by getting involved in Mission Croatia at Anglia Ruskin University (where she was a Principal Lecturer). She took groups of students to Croatia after the War of Independence.

They worked in Learning Disability hospitals and offered willing hands and manpower. They decorated wards, scrubbed floors, laid paths and did any other type of manual labour required. They drove from England to Croatia, non stop, rotating drivers

Mission Ukraine became another activity, based on the same model.

Through contacts made through her membership of WI and the community of many charitable groups, she heard about and started working with UK Aid who delivered aid to a children's rehabilitation centre in Ukraine following the Chernobyl catastrophe; and also the refugees beginning to arrive from the Donbas region after Russia started incursions. Jan was a convoy driver across Europe.

Jan then started working with Hope and Aid Direct who support boat people who have made it to Greece. She would fly into Greece and help to unload, sort and distribute aid to the refugees in the camps on the Greek Islands.

COVID made aid delivery in Europe impossible for a while and as rules eased, Russia formally invaded the Ukraine. Refugees fled West and Jan started volunteering at Stansted Airport offering support and guidance for Ukrainians fleeing the conflict.

Throughout all of her experiences, she realised that in all social and political upheavals, it is the women who provide the glue that hold families and communities together. When gathering and distributing aid Jan said that people are generous with donating clothes but ladies underwear seems to be overlooked. She believed that women deserved knickers to maintain their dignity and comfort. She realised that one pack of knickers in a trolley when someone did their 'big' shop, would hardly be noticed at the checkout. She put this to her WI members and others she spoke to, and it was well supported. Jan gathered those knickers and they were delivered to Greece and the Ukraine. To date she has sent nearly 5000 pairs.

Jan asked our members to buy some knickers when they did their 'big shop' in the size they would normally buy for themselves but no thongs. We shall be collecting them at our next meeting.

Since our report in last month's Elmswell Newsletter our members have been on a tour of St Edmundsbury Cathedral. The cathedral staff looked after us well providing tea/coffee and biscuits before our tour and a wheelchair for one of our members. All the ladies enjoyed the visit and some are keen to do a tower tour there later in the year.

At our next meeting on 12th March at 7.30pm at the Wesley we will hear about The Women's Refuge in Bury.

Why not come along and meet our members. You will be made very welcome.





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ELMSWELL FOOTPATH WALK SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2024

For the third month in a row previous continuous rain limited the choice of route due to lying water on the more agricultural footpaths. Nevertheless six ardent perambulators met at the village sign at 11.00am with the weather looking promising for a jaunt round the footpaths of Elmswell.

Turning left we headed south on Station Road, on to New Road, turning left on to Wetherden Road and then right into Mill Gardens which constitutes the start of FP20. Following the well trodden FP20 we bore left at the rear of St John's Mead heading towards the conifer plantation.

We turned right through the kissing gate on to FP21 and then left at the junction with FP22 and into the Parish of Wetherden. Following the track in front of Warren Mill House and the two impressive new builds we turned right on to FP25 travelling south adjacent to the Aggmax quarry.

The previous weeks' social media had been alive with the impending planning application for the extension of the quarry so we thought we might take the opportunity to inspect the site. The security and safety precautions were found to be absolutely woeful with little or no intruder proof fencing allowing free and unfettered public access to the hazardous operations of the site. With the St John's Mead housing replete with young families only a stone's throw away there is a clear and present danger of injuries to children who may stray into the unprotected site. It really defies belief!

We turned left on to the old A45 and then left again onto FP23 heading north past the fields which are home to Woolpit Steam with the rally this year being on the 1st and 2nd of June. Down and right past Wetherden Farm we scrambled over the style in an unseemly manner and turned left up the slope to the Warren.

Left onto FP25A took us alongside the wooded area on our right and thence turning right on to the track and down to Wetherden Road. A sharp left and right took us through the secret gate into the meadows of Mutton Hall.

Heading north, west and north again around the fields we crossed the railway line with more undignified style climbing. FPs 23 and 10, heading generally west, brought the group safely home emerging onto Station Road by the pharmacy.

A walk of approximately 4.15 miles in 1 hour 43 minutes (an average speed of 2.4 miles per hour)
Peter Hancock, EPC Footpath Officer



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HISTORY GROUP



Despite the extremely wet evening, we were very pleasantly surprised by the large attendance of members and visitors to our **February meeting** when we were delighted to welcome local experienced craftsman Rick Lewis of Traditional Oak Carpentry Ltd and hear his excellent talk on Medieval Carpentry. Starting by selecting the appropriate tree from somewhere like Bradfield Woods (formerly owned by Bury Abbey and from where wood has been sourced for over 400 years!), Rick described in detail how this

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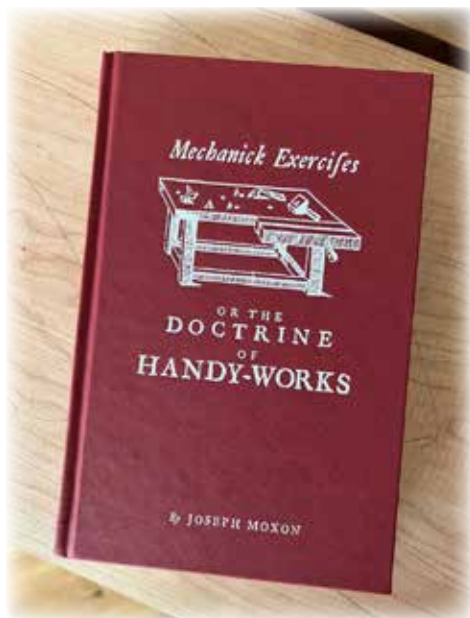
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craft has evolved over the centuries, and he brought along a variety of his historic hand tools and implements for everyone to view and handle. Sourcing some superb ancient manuscripts, illustrations and old photographs, he showed how things were done then (with not much visible “safety” gear except some workers were shown wearing clogs!), and explained that Suffolk had its own quirky way of doing things. He mentioned various local villages where he’s worked on these traditional buildings, such as Haughley, Debenham, Old Newton, and Rattlesden, to name just a few. To cut the logs in the Middle Ages, very long two-handled saws were used on trestles with a man standing on top (the “top dog”), while one stood underneath (the “under dog” who was paid less, even though all the sawdust would fall on him!). Much of Rick’s carpentry work is in private houses, but some can be seen in National Trust properties such as Paycocke’s House in Coggleshall (CO6 1NS) which is a Tudor cloth merchant’s house with elaborate panelling and woodcarving originating around 1420. Rick agreed that those medieval carpenters would have been astounded that their houses had lasted so long, but they would have expected repairs to be made over time. Originally published in 1677, Joseph Moxon’s book, “*Mechanick Exercises or the Doctrine of Handy-Works,*” is still available and studied to this day by historians as well as practical woodworkers, blacksmiths, carpenters, bricklayers and turners. It is the first English-language book on woodworking, even though the author was not actually a woodworker but a printer, a maker of mathematical instruments and (for a time) hydrographer to King Charles II. Rick’s company regularly demonstrates historic carpentry techniques at schools and other events, encourages young apprentices, and keeps an active involvement in the Suffolk Historic Buildings Group.



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Rendlesham Revealed

The Heart of a Kingdom AD 400-800

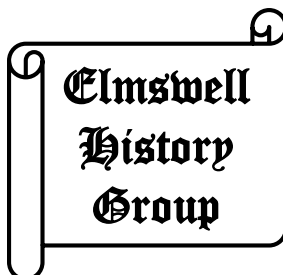
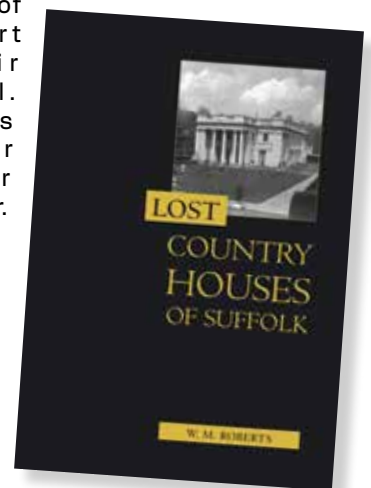
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

EXHIBITION, “*Rendlesham Revealed: The Heart of a Kingdom AD 400-800*”. If you missed this amazing exhibition at Sutton Hoo recently, more than 50 archaeological items found there are now on display at the West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village Museum (Icklingham Rd, IP28 6HG) until 23rd July. The finds include gold jewellery, coinage, and food remains, and the display focuses on the main story of royal Rendlesham at its height when it was the power centre of the early East Anglian kingdom 1,400 years ago.



For more details, visit www.heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/rendlesham, or call 01284-728718.

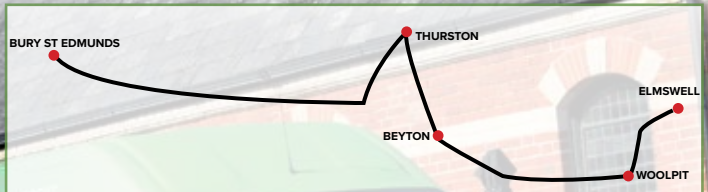
Our next meeting on **14th March, 7.30pm at the Wesley** (IP30 9EE), will feature renowned speaker and historian, Stephen Poulter, on “*Suffolk’s Lost Heritage*”. Like so many places in Britain, Suffolk has had its fair share of losses when it comes to the many historic buildings, grand mansions and medieval churches which have disappeared over past centuries. Stephen will show these vanished architectural gems using surviving period prints and the reports from travellers who visited the towns and villages during the past 400 years, either for personal curiosity or in the process of compiling guidebooks for the increasing number of tourists who had leisure time as well as cheaper and faster methods of transport at their disposal. Do join us then for a similar ‘virtual’ tour.



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

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

TAXI-BUS SERVICE TO BURY



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

THE TRIAL RUN SINCE JUNE LAST YEAR IS NOW PERMANENT.

- ✓ The return fare from Elmswell & Woolpit is £6.00; from Thurston & Beyton is £5.00
- ✓ 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 (the triangle), Beyton (the green opposite the old bus stop) & Thurston (New Green Community Centre)
- ✓ Return from Bury at 1.30

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FUNDING THE PROJECT

- The recent consultation held by Mid Suffolk to seek the community's views on where grant money of £761,000 should be directed in the village produced a real vote of confidence in the Tavern proposals. 77% of the votes supported the scheme and 80% of those people had the extension and refurbishment of the Tavern as their first choice.
- Mid Suffolk have indicated very clearly, therefore, that an application for £500k towards the project funding will be successful. The formal bid is being worked-up with advice from officers on their Communities Team.
- An application for a total of £250,000 was made on 19th January to the Government's 'Levelling Up' Community Ownership fund. This was on the basis of a positive response to the formal Expression of Interest. The decision is awaited.
- Shares and donations are banked and the funds stand at £188,260

PLANNING THE PROJECT

- Full Planning Permission has been granted.
- This allows for the renovation of the core historic building and the replacement of some of the later additions with new-build extensions.
- The plans keep the existing bar area and add dining space - all backed up by extensive kitchen and service facilities sufficient to cope with up to a total of 90 indoor and outdoor covers. There will also be capacity to provide much wider catering choices at Wesley next door.
- The full project is provisionally costed in October last year at £620,000 for the building works. There are other costs related to fitting out and to external works but they are eligible for smaller grant funding related to individual items.
- The estimates were prepared by our in-house Project Management, Quantity Surveyor & Civil Engineer team using external pricing & building norms and confirmed by our Architectural Technician who has specific and recent experience of pub refurbishment
- There is a built-in contingency of +/- 15%

NEXT STEPS

- Once core funding is confirmed, the scale of the build can be agreed...the plans allow for trimming back some of the service facilities if necessary leaving the main facility intact and able to function.
- The final plans can then be developed into working drawings, specifications and scope of works so that a builder can calculate costs.
- We advertise for Expressions of Interest from qualified local builders who can tender for the job.
- A Preferred Contractor is chosen at which point a realistic time-line can be set



CAN IT ALL WORK?

- We still have many of the team on board which successfully followed a very similar route in renovating the Methodist chapel and adding the new-build coffee shop and meeting room etc to create Wesley
- The Wesley project came in on target at £805,000 and bang on schedule...since then it has, in the opinion of many, done rather well.



THERMAL IMAGING PROJECT



In September of last year, Parish Councils across Suffolk were invited by the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership to take part in community thermal imaging surveys.

Suffolk Climate Change Partnership is an umbrella body formed in 2009 and hosted by Suffolk County Council. It works with other organisations such as Groundwork East, the Environment Agency and the University of Suffolk, all having a shared interest in supporting Suffolk's communities, businesses, and residents to reduce their carbon emissions, realise the economic benefits of reducing energy consumption and adapt to the future impacts of climate change.

The aim is to help our local community save money and stay warm & healthy for this and future winters. It will also help Suffolk achieve its Net Zero target by 2030.

As an active council, Elmswell took up the offer and agreed to use the thermal imaging cameras available on loan from the scheme to conduct surveys for householders in the village.

The surveys were announced in the newsletter and households were invited to apply through the Council Office which handled all of the administration. 55 applications came in which the Partnership administrators considered to be a very good response.

Two of our Parish Councillors, David Brown and Peter Hancock, were joined by a third volunteer, Chris Leyton and a programme of household visits drawn up over the 2-week loan period of the cameras. Dodging the rain, which can distort the results, the volunteers carried imaging surveys and, in most cases, discuss the results with the occupants.

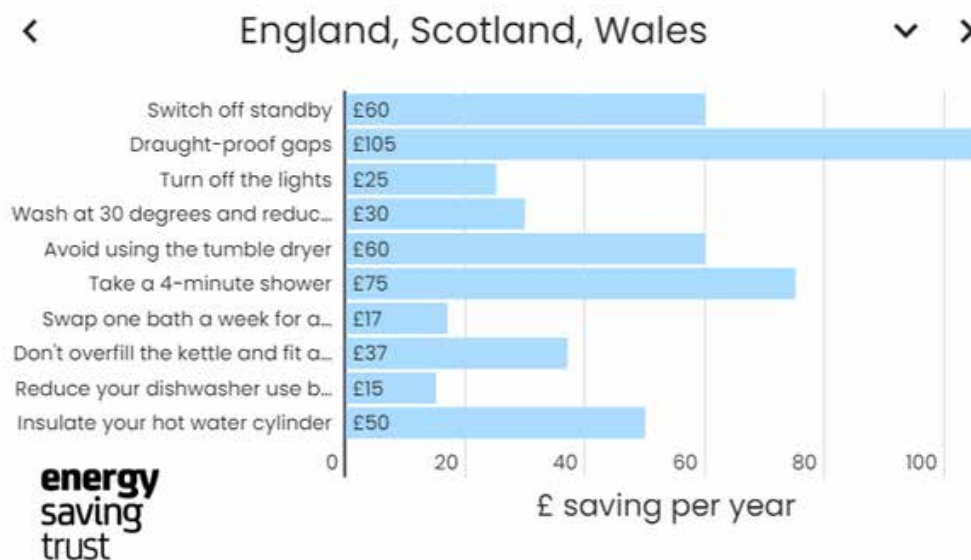
Once the footslogging stage was done, the images, together with an advice note was sent as a package to all of the residents involved. This included a feedback form where the householder could suggest which of the actions recommended in their case might be carried out.

The images show where heat is being lost to atmosphere. The dark colours, blue, purple, red indicate the cooler areas of the image indicating no transfer

of heat outside the building and good insulation. Lead flashing also shows up cold because any heat is rapidly conducted away. The brighter colours, orange, yellow, white indicate heat loss to varying degrees. Most notably from window frames, lintels, soffits and fascias. Air bricks also show up and boiler outlets appears white, which is to be expected.



Some quick tips to save energy costs are:



Further useful advice may be obtained from these websites:

[Warm Homes Suffolk](#)

[Suffolk Climate Action Community Match Funder – Green Suffolk](#)

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/suffolkhomeenergyaudit

http://www.flirmedia.com/MMC/THG/Brochures/T820325/T820325_EN.pdf

<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/energy-at-home/>

<https://www.trustatrader.com/external-wall-insulation-in-Suffolk>

Cambridge Carbon Footprint have a Website called Eco Homes with real life retrofit videos.

<https://www.greensuffolk.org/thermalcamera/>

<https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/energy-saving-advice/>

<https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/boilers/article/tips-to-reduce-your-heating-billsa9k36F56DVJ>

Other quick wins are:

- Close doors on unheated, unused rooms
- Draw curtains, close blinds as sun goes down
- Tuck curtains up on the windowsill at night, especially if there is a radiator below
- Use sealant or grout to block draughts around windows/doors
- Use rolled up towel or “sausage dog” draught excluder at bottom of external doors
- Put rugs on cold floors & thicker doormats at external doors



Suffolk
Creating the Greenest County



ELMSWELL LIBRARY

Hello Elmswell,

Our next exhibition is by artist Nick Mair. Nick is a local artist from Ipswich who has a learning disability. Nick chooses the content and cuts out shapes in order to compose his pieces, before beginning to paint. The humour of his paintings are a reflection of Nick, of his lively personality and wit. Nick's paintings are inspired by animals and wildlife, especially birds. These can be from wildlife magazines but also visits to different places, particularly Scotland, where Nick's father lives. The rugged Scottish landscape has imbued in him a love of wild deer and highland cattle.

23rd of March is Suffolk Libraries Day. There are a few different elements to Suffolk Libraries Day including an online book festival running from Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th. The book festival includes Lee Child,

Tracy Borman, Cara Hunter and Anthony Horowitz. For more information visit <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/whats-on/festival/suffolk-libraries-day-book-festival>

After the success of last year's Pawsitivity campaign, Suffolk Libraries fundraising campaign this year is Make a Difference with a Daisy. We will have crocheted daisies available for a donation and if you feel like helping then you can either donate money to the campaign or donate a crocheted daisy.

We have Sunday Crafts every week with alternate weeks being origami themed. On Sunday 3rd March we will be making origami daisies to tie in with our campaign and on Sunday 17th March we will be making easter themed origami.

Our next display theme is international women and has stories of women travelling around the world. We will have a mix of genres and some non-fiction

We are closed on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

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 20th March 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 Tuesday, 20th Feb, to kick off our year, David Gedye gave us Part 2 of his fascinating Monkey Puzzle Miscellany.

On 19th March we have Chris Wiley with an insight into Bury in Bloom, behind the scenes. 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.

March can be a time of great expectation for gardeners - seeds are being sown, potatoes 'chitted' (put in a light place to encourage the 'eyes' to grow before planting) and plans for the coming year are being considered.

Many of our gardens are looking wonderful with displays of snowdrops, crocuses, early daffodils, Scilla, grape hyacinths, celandine, fritillary and of course tulips. The photograph is a beautiful image of a hellebore in an Elmswell garden.



You may also be interested in Woolpit Garden Club's talk by well known garden designer and broadcaster Chris

Beardshaw on Wednesday 20th March at Woolpit Village Hall. Tickets from WeGotTickets at wegottickets.com. Or Gayle 07392 752445 at Tyrells, Mill Lane, Woolpit. Tickets £20 including refreshments.

For further information about Elmswell Gardening Club please contact Nick on 01359 242601 or e-mail: elmswellgadmin@btinternet.com



BJW PLUMBING & HEATING YOUR RELIABLE LOCAL PLUMBER

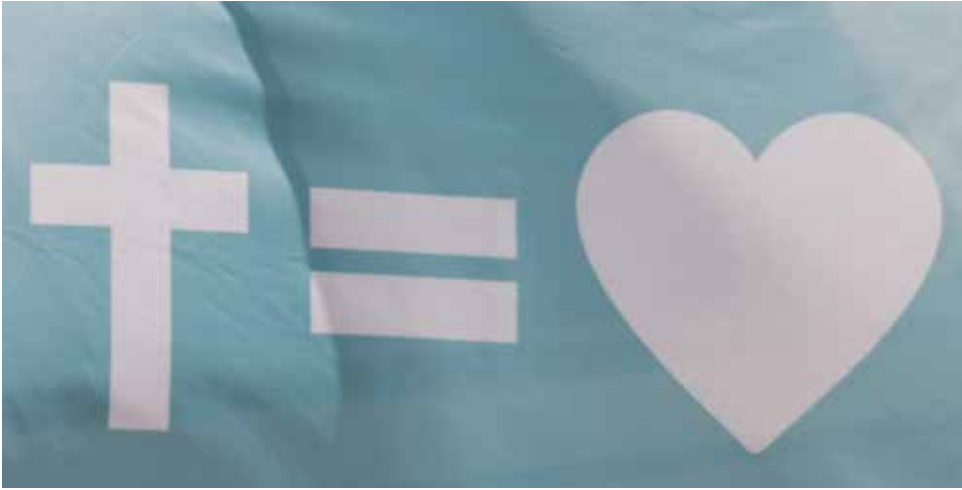
- Boiler Servicing
- Central Heating Installation
- Maintenance & Repairs
- Bathroom Suites, Showers, Tiling
- Install Washing Machines/Dishwashers
- Burst/Leaking Pipes
- Water Softeners
- General Plumbing Needs



200169

GAS Safe registered 200169

BARRY WARD: 01449 615339/07734 872549



ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Greetings from St John's Church

God is love. I think most of us are aware of that phrase, but what does it actually mean?

Romantic love between 2 people can be beautiful, but can also be selfish. We often love another person, because they fulfil our desires and make us feel good. Parental love is far more powerful in that it is frequently self-sacrificial. Parents give up so much for the sake of their children.

God's love for us is akin to parental love. As we approach Easter weekend, this becomes abundantly clear. On Good Friday Jesus willingly laid down his life for you and me. He was painfully nailed to a cross, after enduring humiliation and flogging. Why did he go through all that? He was sacrificing himself out of love, so that all who turn to God may not face eternal death, but life to the full forever. "This is real love - not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins." (1 John 4:10 NLT)

Have you encountered this love of God? At St John's Church, we aim to get to know God and his love more deeply. We do this in our Sunday services as we celebrate his love in songs of praise and as we hear from the Bible and pray. We also have small group meetings, where God's love for us in Jesus can be explored and encountered. The Rector is also always happy to meet anyone for a chat about God over tea or coffee. God's love is the best thing life has to offer.

Your local parish church is a warm and welcoming place, where everybody is valued no matter what background they come from. You are warmly invited to join us - details of meeting times are below. Our main services are on Sundays at 10:30am and we have a lovely Sunday School (except for the first Sunday each month, when the service is for all ages). Tea and coffee are service afterwards, which provides a great opportunity to get to know people and

make new friends.

Upcoming Dates:

- Sun 3 Mar 9:00am
Holy Communion
- Sun 3 Mar 10:30am
Family Service
- Sun 10 Mar 10:30am
Sunday Worship with Holy Communion
- Sun 17 Mar 10:30am
Sunday Worship
- Sun 24 Mar 10:30am
Sunday Worship with Holy Communion
- Wed 27 Mar 12:15pm
Holy Week Communion and lunch
- Thu 28 Mar 7:30pm
Maundy Thursday Serve
- Fri 29 Mar 10:00am
Good Friday Service on the Green
- Sun 31 Mar 10:30am
Easter Sunday Celebration

Every Saturday:

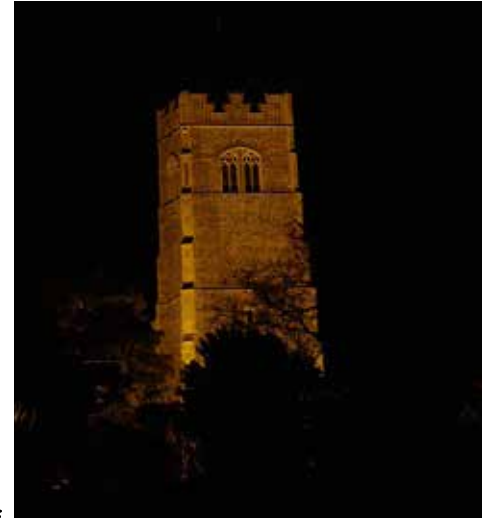
- 9:00am
Weekly prayer meeting online
(see web site for details)
- We live stream most of the 10:30am services on our Facebook page (also available on our main web site later that day).

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

Website: www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/stjohnselmswell

YouTube:
www.youtube.com/@stjohnselmswell



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

TOWER

FLOODLIGHTING

You are invited to sponsor the floodlighting of St. John's to help with the day-to-day running expenses of our parish church. You can choose to commemorate a personal event, an anniversary, or any other special occasion. Alternatively you can simply make a donation.

A night's floodlighting costs £5.

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

During March the lights will be on between 7.00 p.m. and midnight.

Deadline for inclusion in the April Newsletter is Monday 25th March.

Your support is much appreciated.

Thank You.

MARCH 2024 SPONSORSHIPS

- 2 Margaret Clarke - remembered with love on her Birthday.
- 10 Evelyn Simpson. Remembered with so much love on Mothering Sunday, and always. "God Bless".
- 10 treasured memories of Dora Handyside on this special day, and always. "God Bless".
- 10 remembered with so much love, my dear Mum, Mary Eveline Skinner. "God Bless". Margaret.
- 15 in loving memory of Joyce Ivy Jackson, also her son, Barry Anthony Jackson, formerly of Bury St. Edmunds, with Elmswell roots.
- 19 Evelyn Simpson. Remembering a very special Mum/Nan/Great Nan on her Birthday. "God Bless".
- 24 to remember and thank all those past Elmswell Fire-Fighters who served their village and community so well.

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

On Sunday 11th February we celebrated the 137th Anniversary of our church building's existence the opening coincided with Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887, in its early days it was known as the tent as the fellowship had previously met in a tent on a field known as Lords Field where we believe Blacksmiths Way now stands, it later became known as The Mission Hall or The Tin Tabernacle. In 1922 the church joined the Baptist Union of Great Britain which remains the case to this day. We meet each Sunday at 10.30 am for worship and most Wednesday mornings at 10.30 am for either Bible Study in some form or other or prayer. Our style of worship is relaxed and inclusive and varied in format as we rely on visiting preachers to lead our services. On the 29th March at 10.00am we join with Christians Together in Elmswell for a combined open air service at Crown Mill by the village sign please come and join us.

Our services in March will be led by:-

3rd March

Rev Norman Tharby inc. Communion

10th March

Rev Norman Tharby

17th March

Rev Norman Tharby

24th March

Mark Partridge

31st March

Rev Reg Craig

On the **4th March** at 2pm our Ladies Friendship Group meet to hear Chris Parfitt give a talk about St Edmund, all ladies are welcome, contact Margaret on 01359241541 if you would like to join our ladies.

On **Thursday 14th March** is Food and Friends Lunch day open to the older folk of the village we offer a sumptuous home cooked meal, sweet, cheese and biscuits, with tea or coffee before and after, all for a small donation, contact Jackie on 01359245918 if you like to join us.

We are a small friendly fellowship who meet in a very warm church on the Ashfield Road we have seen a small growth in our numbers recently but there is always room for more so if you are new to the village and are looking for a place of worship why not give us a try at !0.30am every Sunday morning I can promise a very friendly welcome.

For any more information contact Tony on 01359241541, or go to our website, or email cockant2@btinternet.com

God bless you all. Tony



ELMSWELL OVER 55's

It was pleasing to welcome so many members back to our first meeting of 2024

We welcomed The Wesley Ukulele Band back for a rousing evening of entertainment .which even found some of the members joining in with Tambourines to the delight of all present ,Thanks to those who stood up and showed their talents.

Our next meeting on February 29th will be a Bingo Session Our next meeting in March will be on Thursday 14th when we welcome SUSAN JAYNE from Norwich as our entertainer {its an open evening so come and join us from 7 00pm .

The meeting on Thursday March 28th will be our AGM when we present the accounts for the previous year and you can have your say on any matters relating to the club as it is also time to elect the committee for the next twelve months.

We are currently awaiting the new cards and the Whats on in Elmswell section will be updated.

Diann 241002 for any further information

Worried about Savings?

Let our team of financial advisers help you to get the most from your savings and investments.

Confused about your pension?

We would be happy to discuss the options available for your retirement planning.

Want to protect your family or income or mortgage and loan?

We are here to advise on the right solutions for your budget.

Mortgages?

For a competitive mortgage, we have advisers to assist with that purchase or remortgage.

Equity Release

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

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

We make it



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



Approver Quilter Financial Services Limited & Quilter Mortgage Planning Limited. 12/06/2023

LAWN FARM QUARRY

The recent Planning seeking to expand quarry operations at Lawn Farm Quarry within the established site boundary caused wide concern. It was the subject of discussion at the February Parish council meeting and the following Objection has been duly registered with Suffolk County Council.

Ref SCC/O127/23MS

Northern extension to Lawn Farm Quarry for the extraction, processing, sale and distribution of sand and gravel and subsequent restoration using inert materials

Land to the north of Lawn Farm Quarry, Old Bury Road

Elmswell Parish Council (EPC) objects to this application and urges Refusal for the following reasons:

- 1 Since the inception of the 'modern' minerals extraction workings at Lawn Farm in March 2009 and for the following several years EPC supported the Community Liaison Forum (CLF) which was established to monitor any adverse effects of the operations and set the site activities against the prescribed policy limits. Council advertised for residents to join the group and both officers and the Clerk attended the quarterly site meetings along with community representatives, Council Members, Ward Members and SCC officers.
- 2 The Terms of Reference of the CLF included all relevant aspects of the relationship between the operators and the community.
- 3 It is a matter of record that there has been much dissatisfaction on the part of the community and others across the board at the disparity between policy and practice as the works have proceeded and expanded.
- 4 Issues of site security, working hours, dust management, noise management and destructive and dangerous deposits left on the old A45 access road have repeatedly been the subject of complaint and attempts at enforcement action.
- 5 There has been an obvious shortfall in resources available to Suffolk County Council (SCC) for monitoring and enforcement and there is no evidence that this has, in advance of the clear need for more and better monitoring and enforcement, been addressed.
- 6 In February 2009, EPC objected in detail to the originating application which effectively revived working at 'the pit' over a much extended area. The application succeeded in line with identified national and local imperatives for aggregate extraction. Permission was hedged-about with stringent conditions covering conditions such as at 4 above.
- 7 Since then, EPC has fought against all variations and expansion proposals, including the siting of the concrete crushing & grading plant and the concrete batching operation. Objections have centred on the repeated lack of compliance with control regulation and the shortcomings in enforcement proceedings.
- 8 The defining Policy document is the Suffolk Minerals & Waste Local Plan (SMWLP) which was examined in June 2019 at a hearing attended by the Elmswell Parish Clerk to make objection on EPC's behalf to the extension of the Lawn Farm site given the proximity of dwellings along Wetherden Road identified in the Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council (BMSDC) Submission Draft by virtue of the fact that the emerging Joint Local Plan (JLP), 'may include an area of housing between the existing settlement of Elmswell and the Quarry'. The Clerk was able to furnish the Inspector with a hand-drawn plan identifying the housing in relation to the proposed northern boundary. This was accepted in his evidence. Nevertheless, the Plan was made in July 2020 with the Lawn Farm proposals for extension approved.
- 9 Relevant policies are found in the BMSDC JLP and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). None are in conflict with the principle of this application but refer to relevant constraints



- All types of driveways
- All types of patio's including porcelain
- Shed bases
- Concrete Foundations
- Mini Digger Hire

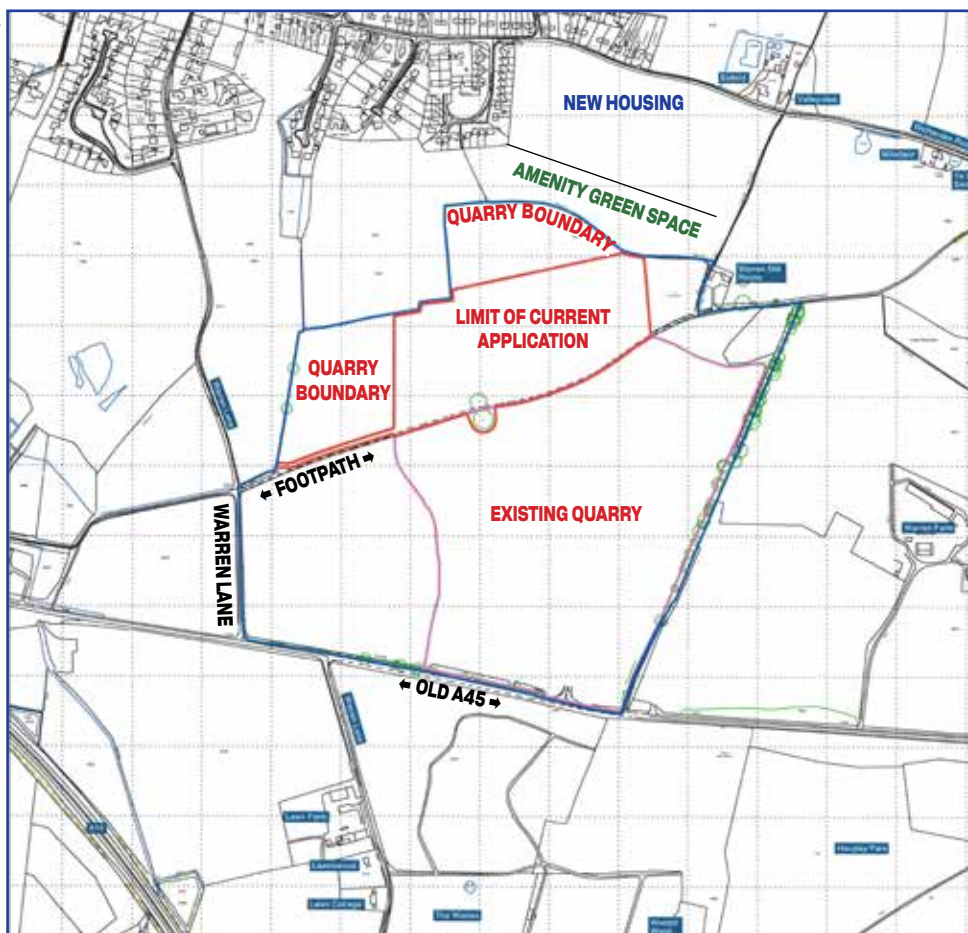
Mobile: 07990 502354

Tel: 01359 250496

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GKW Groundworks



- 10 EPC accepts, therefore, that the current application Ref SCC/0127/23MS which is, effectively, seeking detailed permission for a the first tranche of expansion within this boundary is broadly within Policy.
- 11 The SMWLP under Policy MS8 confirms that development at the site will be acceptable so long as the proposals adequately address, amongst other factors:
- a) the highways safety, maintenance and amenity implications of HGV's including improved wheel cleaning facilities to avoid mud being deposited on the public highway outside of the site;
 - e) the provision of an air quality assessment which considers the potential impacts of increased dust and pollutant concentration...the potential for cumulative impacts...
 - f) the provision of measures which mitigate noise;
 - i) a traffic management plan drafted to avoid traffic routing through local villages including Elmswell and Wetherden except in the case of local deliveries.
- 12 The SMWLP lists 'General environmental criteria' at Policy GP4 which further confirms the acceptability of development which adequately assess (and address where applicable any potential significant adverse impacts including cumulative impacts) on the following:
- b) vehicle movements, access and the wider highways network;
 - h) neighbouring land use
 - j) noise and vibration;
 - k) air quality including dust and odour;
 - l) light pollution;
 - q) mud and aggregates on the road.
- 13 The NPPF at Paragraph 111 states that development can be refused if it poses an unacceptable impact on highway safety. Without specific conditions towards mitigation of the current dangerous and blatant refusal to address the day-to-day deposit of substantial spillage and mud from the poorly washed HGV units, this proposal must fall.
- 14 The NPPF at paragraph 174 requires the prevention of noise impact and adverse effects of noise pollution. Paragraph 211 confirms that unavoidable noise emissions must be controlled, mitigated or removed at source. The record shows an extremely poor level of compliance over 15 years' operation in this regard and measures above and beyond those previously implemented would be needed to allow the proposed operations to take place in the much close proximity presented by the recent housing development at the northern site boundary.



- 15 The JLP at LP15 further stresses the need for prevention, mitigation and reduction of noise nuisance to a minimum. Simply conditioning this is, provably, inadequate. The Operator has offended in this regard on multiple occasions over the history of the workings and there is no indication of an intention to change working practices despite the increased sensitivities consequent upon those workings moving far closer to the new-build housing at Wetherden Road, Elmswell.
- 16 There is considerable, well-documented and formally recorded evidence logged over 15 fraught years of the community's relationship with the operators of Lawn Farm Quarry that the statutory, policy and best-practice guidance constraints are flaunted in the commercial interests of the engineering operation and that this has resulted in serious material harm to the host communities at Elmswell, Wetherden, Woolpit and beyond. There seems little in the current Application to suggest that this will change. The proximity of the red line boundary to dwellings in Elmswell magnifies the harm that will be done if quarrying activities continue, as now, effectively beyond all practical regulation.
- 17 The Applicant states in the Supporting Statement at 10.3 that, 'the operations (will) be undertaken in much the same way as the existing quarry has been worked and restored to date.' In light of the substantive issues which have persistently dogged these operations for some 15 years, to suggest that a new tranche of working, this much nearer to the new-build residential areas at Elmswell, is to be continued, 'in much the same way', must mean that the Application fails.
- 18 Without conditioning:
- (i) extra monitoring by SCC Enforcement personnel dedicate to and funded by the site on a minimum of a one-day-per working-week basis;
 - (ii) the adoption of immediate Stop Notices when incursions, particularly related to highways issues occur;
 - (iii) the full prior restoration of the A45 Old Bury Road by way of skirting, drain clearance and the installation of anti-vehicular concrete kerbing, this Application should be refused and re-presentation invited when the community can have some confidence that relevant policy constraints will be met and properly enforced.
- 19 The secondary application, Ref. SCC/0084/20MS/VOC, seeks variations of existing Conditions which would be needed should the application for expansion succeed. Any reasoning that suggests that the expansion proposals are beyond Policy might be extended to an application which would be redundant should the key application be refused.
- 20 Councillors suggest that there is considerable community support for their objections and ask that you be aware of the petition bearing 600+ signatures at: <https://www.change.org/p/no-northern-extension-to-lawn-farm-quarry>

FUNDING FOR ELMSWELLS FUTURE

In our January edition, we were pleased to carry across our centre pages a consultation launched by the Parish Council, in conjunction with Mid Suffolk District Council, giving Elmswell residents the opportunity to choose what the village might best invest in from a potential fund of £761,000 which has accumulated from developer contributions as the village has grown.

The invitation was published on many of the village Facebook pages. There was a QR code link and responses were invited on line, by email, via the Parish Council website or in hard copy.

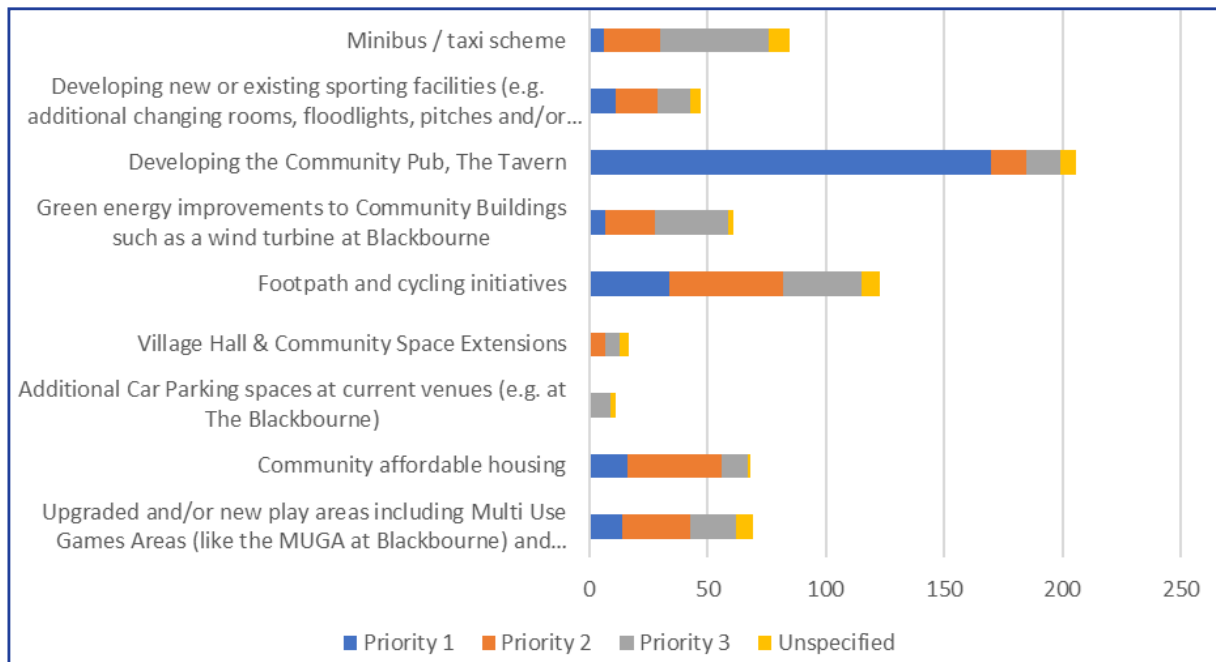
Residents were invited to choose a maximum of 3 schemes from a list of 9, but further comment and suggestions were invited. Separate approaches were made by Mid Suffolk to qualifying village clubs and organisations.

The raw results are shown here and some of the ways forward, as discussed with Mid Suffolk officers are outlined.

ON LINE RESPONSES 263 people made their views known. The preferences voiced, in descending order were:

RANKING	SCHEME	VOTES (tickboxes only)	VOTES (tickboxes + text)	SHARE
1	Developing The Tavern as our Community Pub	199	206	75.7% 78.3%
2	Footpath & cycling initiatives	119	123	45.2% 46.8%
3	Minibus / Taxi scheme	85	85	32.3% 32.3%
4	Upgrade / provide new play areas	66	69	25.1% 26.2%
5	Community affordable housing	66	68	25.1% 25.9%
6	Green energy, eg wind turbine	57	61	21.7% 23.2%
7	Developing sports facilities	45	47	17.1% 17.9%
8	Village hall / community space extensions	17	17	6.5% 6.5%
9	Additional car parking	9	11	3.4% 4.2%

A breakdown of how highly people prioritised each option they voted for is represented below:



HARD COPY RESPONSES 53 paper responses were received:

RANKING	SCHEME	VOTES	SHARE
1	Developing The Tavern as our Community Pub	45	84.9%
2	Footpath & cycling initiatives	17	32.1%
3=	Community affordable housing	15	28.3%
3=	Green energy, eg wind turbine	15	28.3%
3=	Minibus / Taxi scheme	15	28.3%
6	Developing sports facilities	8	15.1%
7	Upgrade / provide new play areas	5	9.4%
8	Village hall / community space extensions	2	3.7%
9	Additional car parking	0	0



COMBINED TOTALS 316 responses in total:

RANKING	SCHEME	VOTES	SHARE
1	Developing The Tavern as our Community Pub	244	77.2%
2	Footpath & cycling initiatives	136	43.0%
3	Minibus / Taxi scheme	100	31.6%
4	Community affordable housing	81	25.6%
5	Green energy, eg wind turbine	72	22.8%
6	Upgrade / provide new play areas	71	22.5%
7	Developing sports facilities	53	16.8%
8	Village hall / community space extensions	19	6.0%
9	Additional car parking	9	2.8%

Residents were invited to make additional comments and to suggest other possible schemes which might deserve support.

These were as follows:

- 12 people reinforced their support for the Tavern project
- 9 suggested a footbridge over or underpass under the railway crossing
- 8 want a GP surgery in the village or Health Centre outreach at Blackbourne
- 5 want improvements to and/or better maintenance of the village pavements
- 4 want a floodlit football pitch
- 4 think the water mains need upgrading to prevent leaks
- 3 want a relief road / by-pass
- 3 want the land at Pightle Close / School Road to be purchased as a wildlife area
- 3 think money should go to support the pedestrian / cycle path to Woolpit
- 3 want an all weather football pitch
- 3 want better facilities for older children
- 2 think we need more shops
- 2 want a gymnasium in the village
- 2 think we need a better play area
- 2 want a youth club established
- 2 want improved sports facilities
- 2 think the footpath (Rights of Way) network needs better maintenance
- 2 want money to go to supporting the Memorial Library
- 2 think the Food Bank deserves support
- 2 want pavements improved – shop corner & New Road

There were single mentions of:

Supporting the Primary school / traffic calming / a splash park / removing the kebab van / potholes / poor road infrastructure / a more accessible post Office / a social club at Blackbourne / more double yellow lines (Blacksmith's Way) / more street lights / more parking at Co-op / cycle path over Lord's Bridge / spread the money over many things / more regular grass cutting / a dental practice for the village / blinds on windows in Jubilee Hall / tennis courts / facilities to reduce loneliness and anxiety / soft play facility / coffee shop at Blackbourne / more children's facilities / deter littering & fly tipping (eg bunkers Hill) / bungalows in any affordable housing scheme / better bus

services / one big, long-lasting, far-reaching project / Footpath linking Lukeswood & Kiln Meadow / spread the money to benefit all sectors / BMX track / discourage car journeys.

3 people said that the money should not be spent on affordable housing, 2 that it should not go to support our Community Pub

There have been meetings with Mid Suffolk officers to trawl through the results and assess feedback from the consultation. The lead Mid Suffolk officers came to the February Parish Council meeting to take further comments.

It would seem that the way forward may be to:

- Put in a formal application for s106 grant of £500k towards the Elmswell Tavern project once Planning permission is secured
- Weed out the suggestions that are beyond the reach of the 2 councils, passing the suggestions on to the appropriate decision-makers when appropriate
- Take account of input from organisations individually consulted by MSDC – football clubs, ElmsWild etc.
- Identify what EPC sees as a way forward in nominating other areas to prioritise for grant aid and refer back to Mid Suffolk for further discussion
- Consider what frameworks / structures might be put in place to address other issues raised through the consultation process.

Wesley Kids' Easter Craft

Morning



Saturday 23rd March

9.30am-11.30am or 11.30am-1.30pm

£1 per child, pre booking and payment essential.

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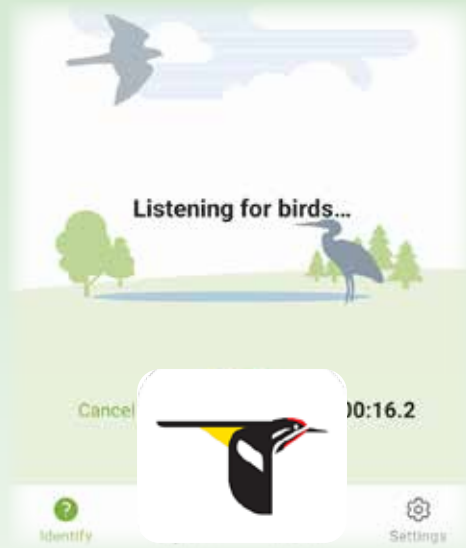
NEWS FROM ELMSWILD



Return of the fungi

Back in March 2021 we spotted some small orange-coloured fungi growing close to the ground in Lukeswood, at a time of year when you wouldn't normally expect to see fruiting bodies. After checking our collective guide books and eventually consulting Google Lens (very useful for solving natural puzzles) we finally identified it – provisionally – as *Caloscypha Fulgens*, a rare find for Suffolk. We sent our photos to our good friend Neil, the County Recorder, who immediately came over and confirmed our mystery fungus as *Caloscypha Fulgens* and – even better – this was the first example he had ever seen! It had been reported in Suffolk only once before, but that was many years ago and the record was incomplete. We were delighted to have this rarity at Lukeswood, but over the next two years, despite looking in the same place, we didn't see it again. Perhaps it was just a lucky appearance, never to be repeated, like some rare plants that only flower once in a lifetime? We put it down to a succession of dry winters and springs – the conditions were probably not right.

But this year it's back! It has migrated away from the woodland floor where we first found it to a more open location. So difficult to spot – it could be just a dead leaf – but serendipity was on our side. The very wet conditions that have plagued us all winter seem to have served it well and it now looks like Lukeswood has become a stronghold for this rare fungus. *Caloscypha Fulgens* doesn't exactly trip off the tongue but fortunately it does have a common name, which is much easier to remember – Golden Cup. Certainly a golden rediscovery for us!



Listen to the birds – and take Merlin in your pocket

The birds are beginning to sing again and soon the dawn chorus will be starting up when all the birds compete to be heard over each other. It's a wonderful time to go out for a listen. It's always lovely to hear the birds singing, whatever they are, but it's great to be able to identify which birds you're hearing, too. Some are really easy, like the chiffchaff which arrives here in March and helpfully shouts its own name over and over again. With others you may only get a fleeting few notes. Luckily, there is a technological fix in the shape of Merlin. This wonderful free app is very easy to use on your phone. Switch it on wherever you hear birdsong and, like magic, it will identify all the individual species. On a recent short walk through Lukewood it identified 12 different species, including Blue Tit, Great Tit, Robin, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Coal Tit, Blackcap, Goldfinch, Chaffinch, Rook, Jackdaw and Magpie! This is a great way to get to know different birds' songs, so even if you don't have Merlin with you, the next time you hear them you'll know who's singing.



Epic mud

Our great friends at BT who have been volunteering with us for many years brought an enthusiastic team to give us a helping hand to finally get the Big Blackbourne Hedge over the line. It was supposed to be a dry day, but of course it rained, so we spent many hours struggling and squelching through the mud. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who persevered and worked through their lunch break to plant all the trees! We are all delighted (and relieved!) that this mammoth task is complete. Janet, our hard working tree warden, writes:

The Big Hedge is all planted! Almost a year of planning, nearly 2000 trees, 370m of hedge. Countless volunteers during the big public day in November, and days with teams from Bloors Homes and BT. And so much mud! We're experimenting with some unprotected trees, to reduce plastic in the countryside, and see if any get browsed by rabbits or deer. These trees were planted more closely, and will be replaced if they are eaten.

A great asset for the village, for the new pitches and amenity land at Blackbourne, and valuable wildlife habitat.

Huge thanks to all who helped, to the Tree Council/Woodland Trust and Mid Suffolk District Council for the trees, to Wayne and Craig Jarvis for the lovely piles of woodchip left on the field for us to use as mulch. And to Elmswild for sterling support in organising and making it happen.

With hedgerows fast disappearing from the landscape it's a great achievement for our village to be bucking the trend and putting something back for nature.

Mary Feeney, info@elmswild.org.uk

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Easter fun facts

1. **Easter's date changes every year - it always takes place the Sunday after the Paschal full moon.**
2. **The largest chocolate egg was over 34 feet tall. Produced in Italy the egg weighed nearly 16,000 pounds!**
3. **New clothes at Easter were once deemed good luck. The tale used to go: If you wear new clothes on Easter, then the rest of your year is sure to be filled with luck.**
4. **It's typical to eat the ears of a chocolate bunny first. A 2022 survey revealed that over 78% go for the ears first!**
5. **In Switzerland, there's an Easter bird instead of an Easter bunny.**

British Science Week

8th Mar to 17th Mar 2024

British Science Week is a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths. The week aims to raise awareness, spark enthusiasm and celebrate science, engineering, technology and maths with people of all ages and from all walks of life.

Why not try a super simple experiment at home with your little people?

Equipment

- milk
- washing-up liquid
- cotton buds
- food colouring
- shallow plate

Instructions

1. Pour some milk onto the plate - enough to cover the base of the plate.
2. Add a few drops of food colouring to the milk - do not mix into the milk. The more colours you use, the more vibrant the experiment.
3. Dip the end of a cotton bud into some washing-up liquid.
4. Dip the cotton bud end into the milk, next to a drop of food colouring.
5. The colour will appear to burst when the washing-up liquid hits it.
6. Once all the colour has burst, swirl the cotton bud slightly around the milk potion to see rivers of colour all merge together.
7. The colours will turn a murky brown colour when they can no longer be mixed.



Magic Milk
Science for Kids

Easter Playdough



You will need:

- 1 cup plain flour
- ½ cup salt
- 2 tbsp cream of tartar
- 1 tbsp oil
- 1 cup boiling water
- Food colouring

Method:

1.

In a bowl, combine the flour, salt and cream of tartar.

Mix well then add the oil

2.

Mix a few drops of food colouring into the boiling water and add to the bowl.

3.

Mix everything very well and knead with your hand until it is no longer sticky.

4.

Enjoy playing with the playdough, creating Easter egg patterns or stamping out Easter shapes.

ELMSWELL FOOTBALL CLUB



The Elmswell under 11's football team celebrating with guests and officials the opening of the new pavilion on the Elmswell Sports Club's sports field.



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SECRETARY'S REPORT

The above picture from a local newspaper article shows the opening of the Grove Lane Sports Pavilion back in the late 80's. The under 11's (D. Bendall, P Jackson, S Peacock, D Newman, G Cotton, P Woods & C Edmonds) run out in front of the Sport Club members that made it happen. The pavilion is small by today's standards and has been sadly neglected and abused over the years. The Sports Club is no more, and it is increasingly hard to find volunteers to help support village clubs. Football clubs are no different with several large and well-established clubs folding in the SIL this year. It is with all this in mind that the three current village football clubs (E.F.C., Elmswell Youth FC and Elmswell Athletic) are currently looking to unite and consolidate under the banner of Elmswell Community Football Club. We also hope that this union will allow us access to better funding to improve the footballing facilities in the village for all the community. Although the priority will start with existing teams, wouldn't it be great if we could improve the access to football for more girls, women and those of a walking football age. Maybe even get the Elmswell Taverners Sunday side back up and running and some Roy Finch style Football Club Dances?!



FIRST TEAM REPORT

We've only had two games since last edition. First we travelled to Somersham in the Cup. They are third in Div.1 so we knew we'd be up against it. We did what we could but lost 6-1 to a superior side who are now in the final. Will Hayden scored the Elmswell goal.

Our next outing was away to Sporting 87 Reserves who sit second in the table. It was close for much of the game but Sporting's fire power from the bench proved the difference. Final result 3-1 with Jordan Sylvester getting our goal.

Plenty of home games this month (as you can see on the calendar at the top of the next page). Please come down and support the lads. Kick off is now at 2:30 as the days begin to draw out.

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KEBABS COMING SOON!

ELMSWELL FC HOME GAMES

- 02/03 - 2:30pm Elmswell Res v Mendlesham
- 09/03 - 2:30pm Elmswell v Ipswich Wanderers
- 16/03 - 2:30pm Elmswell v Kirton Athletic
- 23/03 - 2:30pm Elmswell v Wenhaston Utd
- 30/03 - 2:30pm Elmswell Res v Hadleigh Utd

AT THE BLACKBOURNE COMMUNITY CENTRE



RESERVES REPORT

Unlike the Firsts we have several games to report on. We started with Bramford at home. A game that we'd all like to forget. Not having a keeper didn't help but the stand-in, Ieuan Kidd, was not at fault for any of the goals. The defensive players had an off day with a mix of individual errors and apathy in closing down. The midfield played quite well and we played our attractive football and created many chances. Sadly, the strikers had a day much akin to the defence, wasting at least six glorious chances. Damian Fisk got a goal and Chris Simmons got his first for the club but we gifted the visitors eight the other end. Ally Clark (midfield) was MOTM.

Following week at home to Wenhaston we ironed out our silly errors but lacked a bit of bite and sharpness in our tackling and passing. We gave them a game but ended up being edged out 3-1. Jesse Luff scored and got MOTM on his club debut.

Then away to Somersham who had only lost once all season, again without a goalkeeper. Two early mistakes cost us any impetus we might have had. Their striker, who until recently was playing for Needham U23 and has now dropped all the way down to SIL div.6, didn't help. I think he got five himself. It ended 9-1 but they have also scored 9, 10 and 13 goals in other games this season, so it isn't just us. Malin Davies got our goal on the break. Jake Day got MOTM.

Lastly, to finish on some good news, we got our second win of the season to lift ourselves off the bottom of the table. Saxmundham Reserves were the opposition. They were young and fast and scored a break away goal in the first half. They missed a couple of other chances to extend their lead having outpaced our defence. Damian Fisk scored a spectacular header just before half time to draw us level. Changes were made at half time to cope with their pace and long ball tactic. The changes also helped us keep the ball a bit better and we were superior in the second half. We were a bit unlucky to not score a couple more goals but Malin Davies' goal at the end was enough to grab the 3 points. Thomas Morgan was MOTM for a great display in CM and then an equally strong second half at CB.



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CITIZENS ADVICE

Damp and mould is building up in our house as the weather gets colder. Our living room is the worst and there's a strong smell, so we've stopped having friends round. We're also concerned about our health. We've reported it to our landlord, but they haven't done anything. With six months left on the tenancy agreement, we're running out of options. What should we do?

You've done the right thing by bringing this to your landlord. To work out if they are responsible, you'll need to find the cause of the damp and mould. This can take time unless there's a clear cause, like bad insulation or a leaking roof.

Damp is when an area of your property doesn't dry out, often because it's cold. The main types are rising, penetrating, construction, and condensation damp. It can lead to mould, which is a fungus that grows in areas where warm damp air condenses on cold surfaces, like window frames. Information on our website can help you work out what type of damp you have, who is responsible and what you can do. Go to citizensadvice.org.uk and search damp for more information.

You should check your tenancy agreement for mentions of repairs and damp. Your landlord is responsible for fixing a damp problem if it's making your home unsafe to live in. For example, this could be if it's affecting your health or the health of those you live with. Your landlord will also be responsible if the damp is related to repairs they should have carried out, like if the window frames are rotting.

Condensation is a key cause of damp we're all familiar with. You should try and reduce extra moisture in your home, this will make it easier to show that your landlord is responsible for the damp. Extra moisture can come from portable gas or paraffin heaters, drying wet clothes or using a tumble dryer with no outside vent.

You may reach the point where you just want to get out of your tenancy agreement early, but remember this can be tricky and there might be things you haven't tried yet.

For example, you could get support from Safe Suffolk Renters, a Suffolk wide project to help improve relationships between landlords and private tenants. Contact them via their website safesuffolkrenters.org. As a private renter, if you've got evidence from a health professional that damp is making you ill, you may be able to get free legal advice through Legal Aid.

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

**citizens
advice**

Mid Suffolk



WESLEY UKULELE BAND

Well. We must be doing something right. This last month has seen us invited back to two previous venues. Firstly to Leading Lives at Stowmarket and secondly to the Time Out Club in Fornham. The guests at both places enjoyed themselves and joined in on the tambourines, drums and rattles that we take along.

We played at the Wesley for the Shire Horse Trust, which followed their wine tasting evening, and we were able to donate around £250 to the Trust. This means that we have raised about £500 this month for various charities.

We played for the residents of the Nowton Court Home on the 7th. We have never played in such a palatial residence. Sweeping staircase, wood panelled rooms and a grand piano in the dining room. Just like being at home (not). Our picture this month shows a small portion on one of their lounges. It's good to have Alan back with us after his decorating accident.

Our final gig this month was for the Over 55 club in the Blackbourne Centre. They also seemed to enjoy our visit as they

joined us on the various noisy things that we took along. They helped us by singing loudly enough to cover any of our mistakes!

We are looking forward to seeing what the next month brings.

For information, please call Kevin on 07710 149040 or Carol

Or email: Kevin.Knock99@gmail.com



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Flooding / Damage to highways

The recent heavy rains have caused extensive floods across Mid Suffolk, as well as blocked drains, potholes, and other defects. The Council has agreed a motion to support communities with flooding and to help with emergency plans. A community meeting was held in Debenham, organised by a district councillor, attended by the Environment Agency, Suffolk County Council and MSDC amongst others. From this, various initiatives are now underway. 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 403 055

Cosy Homes

This grant is available for a range of insulation measures for homeowners and renters, including but not limited to:



- loft insulation (including clearance)
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For more information and to apply online: www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/mid-suffolk-cosy-homes. You can email cosyhomes@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk or phone 0300 1234000 (Option 7) with any questions.



Disabled Facilities Grants

If you need to adapt your home to changing needs due to illness, injury or disability, the District Council offers grants from £1,000 - £30,000. These are open to all private and council tenants and homeowners. See <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/mid-suffolk/w/disabled-facility-grants> for more information and how to apply.

Locality Awards

All our budget for 2023/24 has now been allocated, and the new budget for 2024/25 should be available from June. See www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/locality-awards

MSDC Plan

At the January Council meeting, the priorities for Mid Suffolk District Council were agreed, following extensive

consultation to ensure a wide range of views were considered. The core of the plan is to put environmental and social responsibilities at the heart of everything we do, and a key principle is to work collaboratively with communities. This encompasses: Housing and infrastructure, Resilience, Community wellbeing, and Environmental sustainability.

Monthly drop-ins

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

Our next two sessions are:

Thursday 21st March 10-12 at The Wesley Café

Thursday 25th April 10-12 at Teacups Café

District Councillors for Elmswell and Woolpit:

Councillor Sarah Mansel	07860 829517	sarah.mansel@midsuffolk.gov.uk
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Our photos this month show the green in it's present state and the pavilion displaying the Food Bank banner, both bathed in Spring sunlight. No need to delve into the archives to find you cheery solar rays!



FOX BOWLS CLUB

The countdown to the 2024 season now stands at eight weeks. We have members signing on forms back and now know who wants to play and when. This is critical information as team captains need to know the pool of players they have to select from and this is even more important since we are planning to run two teams in the Bury and District Monday afternoon League. Last year, I ran one team from fourteen players, with everybody having about eight games. This year the plan is to run two teams from a pool of fifteen players! This is complicated further because players can only play for both teams more than twice before having to join that team permanently. Teams are going to have to be chosen carefully and managed even more carefully. Then you come to the issue of team strength. Do you have a strong team and a weak team

or two teams of equal strength? I favour the later option because I think the weaker team would a) need someone to manage it and b) have difficulty recruiting players who will know they are going to lose pretty much every week. I for one, wouldn't enjoy the prospect of taking to the green knowing I am likely to get a thrashing and I fear that a number of players would feel the same way. It could also lead to ill-feeling should someone not be assigned to the team they expect. This is just a Monday issue and we do have two other teams namely Tuesday evening Area D, run by the Suffolk County Bowls Association, and Bury and Districts Thursday evening League. Membership numbers don't permit taking part in any further leagues, which we certainly would if we had the players. As it is, both Tuesday and Thursday teams have barely enough players

requesting consideration to cover their needs. Obviously, team captains will be able to call on any member registered with the club to play, but he will have to physically make that call rather than select his teams before the season begins.

We have been very pleased to play host to the Elmswell Food Bank during the closed season and regret having to oust it from our changing room when the season starts but, we will need all of our facilities when the season gets underway. We will be glad to welcome them back when the season ends in September. If we are just having roll-ups, we can manage perfectly well with just one changing room.

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

ELMSWELL CARPET BOWLS

End-of-Season Buffet LUNCH

Tuesday 19th March, 1pm-4.30pm in Wesley Chapel

We look forward to welcoming members, former members and guests to our luncheon on 19th March. If you have not already advised us that you would like to join us for this sociable event, please contact Linda Waspe on 01359-242224 by 6th March latest. Thank you.

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 27th March, 7pm in Wesley Chapel

Please note this date in your diary for our A.G.M. and last session of bowls before we re-start in Sept. As usual for our A.G.M., this session will be free of charge, so we hope to see as many members as possible there that evening.



SPRING CLEANER



Jack Handyside is helping out on community projects as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme accreditation. Here he is working with Kevin, the Village Warden, as they tackle the rolling programme of sign cleaning throughout the village.

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Mkautosmotcentreltd@gmail.com



MOT: 01359 241158/244421

REPAIRS: 01359 245998



The Workshop
Grove Lane
Elmswell
IP30 9HN

Please note as of February
2023 D A Bevan has been
taken over by MK Autos



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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 February meeting with 10 councillors present, together with County Council Ward Member Andy Mellen, Mid Suffolk Locality Team Officers Bethany Taylor and Laura Butters, 19 members of the public and the Parish Clerk, Peter Dow, took place at Blackbourne on Monday 19th.

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

The Minutes of recent Parish Council meetings and Committee meetings, together with the agenda for the next meeting, when ratified, are available online at elmswell.suffolk.cloud and from the Parish Clerk by arrangement. Bound copies of older Minutes are lodged in the Village Archive at Blackbourne and with the Suffolk County Records Office in Bury St. Edmunds. The most recent Minutes from the 15th January 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, after much hard work, the new Administration has produced a sound draft budget which drew on some General Fund money to allow positive and progressive spending whilst looking to keep the rise in Precept to 2%. It was also noted that Planning permission has been granted for the first phase of the Chilton Fields sports facilities allowing work there to begin in early summer.

Suffolk County Council

Cllr Andy Mellen tabled a written report which included the following:
Council Budget for 2024-25 At Scrutiny Committee on 11 January, we got our first look at the proposed budget for the financial year 2024-25. The council has projected increased spend for areas such as social care and SEND which are statutory services – this means that the council is required to spend this money by law. As a result, important areas in the budget that can be cut have been, which will lead to cuts in Housing Related Support for those at risk of homelessness, support for people with learning disabilities and autism, and to the Skills team, who support young people not in education, employment or training (NEET). The budget also included a proposed 100% cut to funding for museums and arts organisations from April 2025, with the funding for 2024-25 coming from government Covid monies to provide a transition period. As you may have seen, this generated a huge amount of controversy in the press and late in January the government announced an extra tranche of funding for councils, which has allowed the administration to reinstate £500,000 for arts and museums – but with a different funding structure. Our opposition group opposes the arts cuts and the other savings, which will hit the most vulnerable in our county. However, there is little room for manoeuvre as the administration is proposing to take the maximum council tax increase allowable without a referendum (2.99% + 2% social care precept). Council tax is only part of the council's funding, and essentially the county council is

not adequately funded from central government.

OFSTED / CQC Report on SEND services

On Monday 29th January a report on the council's Special Educational Needs & Disability services was published which described a failing service. This follows on from previous reports and lots of anecdotal evidence from parents who feel that the service has let their children down. This report led to the resignation of three cabinet members who were responsible for this area, on Friday 2nd February. The council's chief executive has promised new leadership for the service, and re-organisation has been underway for some time. There is a long-term problem with a country-wide lack of qualified Educational Psychologists who are needed to conduct Education Health and Care Plans for each child with special needs, hence a big backlog of children waiting for these. Funding for this service is also an issue.

Autism Strategy for Suffolk At the Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board on 18 January, the first draft of a Suffolk autism strategy was discussed, which will increase awareness and support for autistic people and make sure local services are accessible and meeting their needs. The plans include supporting autistic people to look for work and those who are considering self-employment, tackling health and care inequalities, improving access to education and transition into higher education. The strategy was commissioned by Suffolk County Council and local NHS providers and has been developed in co-production with Suffolk people with autism to reflect their views and experiences.

Sizewell C Construction Begins

Construction begins this month of the controversial new power station at Sizewell, a project that is forecast to take 17 years to complete. This will have a massive impact on local communities, the coastal environment and transport routes in the county. Suffolk County Council has secured £250m in mitigation monies for Suffolk communities, but this will still create a lot of upheaval in the county and the council has a role to play in making sure Sizewell C make every effort to minimise its impact and listens to

the concerns of residents and local businesses.

New Funding to Combat Serious

Violence Suffolk's Safer Stronger Communities Board has announced a fund of £150,000 from the Home Office to support Suffolk's Serious Violence Strategy. Organisations can bid for funding for specific projects which support the work of Suffolk's Serious Violence Strategy, with allocation of funding managed through Suffolk Community Foundation. The Serious Violence Strategy focuses on young people and communities at risk of becoming involved in serious violence, and the funding for projects is available to charities, voluntary sector organizations, social enterprises, parish councils, educational settings and other public bodies from April 2024. Applications are invited for grants between £4,000 and £15,000 and organisations can apply by visiting: <https://www.suffolkcf.org.uk/grants/seriousviolencedutyfund/>
'Good Journey' Scheme for Visitor

Attractions Visitor attractions in Suffolk are invited to sign up for a new scheme promoting car-free days out in the county. Suffolk Growth Partnership and Suffolk County Council have teamed up with national organisation 'Good Journey' to create the scheme, which launches in March. Around 25 local tourism and visitor attractions are invited to join the Suffolk Good Journey scheme offering residents and visitors discounts and incentives to leave the car at home and explore more of the county on foot, by bike or using public transport. Participating attractions will be supported and will feature on goodjourney.org.uk which provides travel information and discounts to domestic and international visitors and there will a marketing campaign to promote it. Visitor attractions and venues interested in joining Suffolk Good Journey can find out more details by contacting Loretta Jones at loretta@goodjourney.org.uk or info@suffolkgrowth.co.uk

Blue Badge Team - Change of

Telephone Number As a direct result of customer feedback, the Blue Badge phone number will be changing, and there will now be a dedicated phone line for Blue Badge customers. From

31 January the Blue Badge team will be answering enquires on **03456 066 077**, this number will be visible online across the SCC Website, InfoLink and any future published materials. This is a change from the current telephone number, which is 0808 800 4005. For more information about how you can apply for a blue badge or assist someone to make an application, please visit <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/parking/blue-badge-scheme>

Cllr Mellen spoke to confirm:

- The County Council element of the Council Tax is now set to rise by 4.9%
- Local flooding at Hawk End Lane and at Shop Corner have been addressed and the pedestrian crossing repainted
- He continues to pursue issues related to flooding at Grove Lane / Ashfield Road / Bottenhaugh Green
- He is pressing for answers from Highways to questions regarding the design of the new A14 access roundabout at Woolpit

Clerk's Report

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

1. The ground-breaking initiative to trial a taxi-bus return-trip service based at Elmswell visiting 4 local villages and into Bury twice weekly has proved successful enough to be continued until the end of March. Meanwhile the application from the group to the Bus Service Improvement Plan fund established by central government and providing £3.6M over 2 years for just this sort of innovation has been successful. We are granted £6,000 for this year and the same again for next year. The managing group, drawn from all 4 parishes, will meet to determine a way forward.
2. I met with the MSDC Housing Enabling Officer along with our Mid Suffolk Community Team Liaison officer and Cllrs Mansel & Pallett on 18th January to investigate the possibility that Mid Suffolk involvement in the Elmswell CLT aspirations for community affordable homes with absolute security of tenure might help move the project on. It was agreed that a 3-way discussion with a Registered Housing Provider might be productive and this is now scheduled, on-line, for 22nd February. I have also made enquiry via a Teams session organised by Community Action Suffolk which I attended on 13th February.
3. We are consulted on the BMSDC Joint Local Validation List (LVL) which must be reviewed in light of the recent adoption of the Joint Local Plan. The review process includes consultation. For a planning application to be valid, there are statutory and local

information requirements which apply to each type of application. These are known informally as the national and local lists. National requirements apply to all planning applications in England. The local planning authority set the local requirements, with regard to local policies and constraints. The substantive new matters covered by the draft LVL for Minor and Major applications are:

Building for a healthy life via a Wellbeing Impact Assessment; Biodiversity Net Gain; Flood Risk Assessment for some minor applications. The full proposals are available on line: [BMSDC Joint Local Validation List Consultation \(smartsurvey.co.uk\)](https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/parking/blue-badge-scheme)

4. A key element of community social provision is storage. This was skimmed in the original Blackbourne scheme for reasons of economy, but adequately addressed when Blackbourne was extended to create the Jubilee Hall etc and problems eased when the extension at the Chamberlayne Hall was largely devoted to storage, including the Archive Room. The growth of uses in terms of variety and number has required much more furniture and other kit to be readily available in multiple locations. For practical and historical reasons provision has been made for certain community groups – the carpet bowlers / scout & guide groups / cricket club etc but an important element of the facilities management is resisting calls from many sides for storage space. It has never been proven, but widely suggested that stuff expands to fill available storage space. We have in the past had recourse, reluctantly, to a lorry container at Blackbourne to deal with the transitional situation of building works. Such units are a management problem in that they attract antisocial behaviour (despite anti-climb paint) and are unsightly. This must now be moved as it stands in the line of the pedestrian / cycle path link to the new Ashfield Road housing estate. It may be possible to clear some of the contents which has proven not to be needed over the past few years. Re-location is under consideration if total disposal is impractical. This might fit into any discussion, if necessary, regarding temporary accommodation for the Food Bank until the bowls pavilion becomes available again in September. In the meantime, I have consulted with members of the recently convened cemetery T&F group regarding the possibility of storing the Baby & Toddler twice-yearly Nearly New Sale clothing racks in the bier shed. This found favour at a site visit and storage will be offered on the understanding that the arrangement could be terminated at short notice should circumstances change.

6. Council's initiative to provide householders with a free-of-charge thermal image survey of their property towards suggesting energy-saving measures which might be taken has proved to be very well subscribed over the fortnight of operation. Meanwhile thanks are due to Cllrs Brown and Hancock and to resident Chris Layton who helped make up a very efficient and effective team which visited some 55 properties in the village.
7. There is now a complete run of indigenous staggered hedging planted defining the previously bare boundaries of Turners' Field at Blackbourne. This very considerable job was undertaken by the ElmsWild / Lukeswood volunteers on top of their regular community commitments. It involved community planting sessions as well as 'team building' work parties from British Telecom and Bloor Homes. The field is now ready for levelling, draining and seeding and the BWMA will be making recommendations in these regards.
10. I have engaged very constructively with Cllr Schofield regarding the need for accommodation of the Food Bank when Council can no longer house it in the bowls pavilion as the playing season begins in April. We had come some way towards a workable solution but an alternative has been found which does not have the logistical constraints posed by the various options at Blackbourne where considerable flexibility was required as the facility is busy and becoming busier. Having overseen arrangements for housing the Food Bank first at the Tavern and recently in the pavilion we are in a position to judge what is needed for the core service to continue and I have suggested that, should the recent new arrangements falter, EPC can find short-term solutions to the scheduling and storage problems and offer a temporary fall-back arrangement until he bowls pavilion becomes available in September. The Food Bank volunteers have thanked the Council and staff for helping establish the facility free of charge since it started, which support has allowed it to develop a sound basis for operation.

Planning result

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

DC/23/03167 Removal or variation of a Condition...Land to the East of Oak Lane GRANTED EPC supported

DC/23/05845 Removal or variation of a Condition...White House Barns, Ashfield Road GRANTED EPC did not comment

DC/23/02899 Variation of Conditions... Land to the East of Oak Lane GRANTED EPC no comment

DC/23/05878 Demolition of existing...



erection of single storey side & rear extensions.... Railway Tavern, School Road GRANTED EPC supported

Planning Applications

The Meeting discussed applications forwarded by Mid Suffolk for comment.

It was agreed to support applications for extensions at Kiln Farm Cottage in Kiln Lane and extensions at 7 Wetherden Road.

Objections were lodged against 2 applications for works to 2 trees at Blackbird Cottage, St John's Close. Regarding the tree at the front on Church Road, Councillors agreed with their Tree Officer that the proposal for pollarding represents a drastic action which would destroy the cohesion of the historic line of limes along the southerly edge of Church Road. It would leave a brutal result, completely at odds with the deliberate and pleasing effect currently presented by this long line of mature trees which makes a significant contribution to the street scene. Crown lifting by virtue of the removal of a few lower branches would suffice and, in the absence of further detail, or an arboricultural report, seem to be adequate. The pleasing effect of the historic pattern which justifies the protection of the Tree Preservation Order would therefore be retained.

Councillors also urged rejection of an application for a detached self-contained annexe at Grange House, 112 Bennett Avenue on the following grounds:

- 1 Bennett Avenue was developed in a considered and balanced manner with high density houses, including some 'quarter homes', at its eastern extremity and with substantial dwellings in their own spacious plots towards its junction with Cooks Road.
- 2 The application site is one of the distinctive and individual dwellings which define the character of the immediate neighbourhood. The spacious layout, substantial plots and individual character of these houses were, significantly, taken up by the adjacent and subsequent development at Grange Meadows thus reinforcing the special nature of the street scene.

- 3 This proposal seeks to increase the housing density on one of these key sites and destroy the cohesive pattern which defines the area. It would set a precedent for cramped over-development and urbanisation harmful to the amenity and appearance of the surrounding dwellings and is out of keeping with the character of the locality and the prevailing street scene at this end of Bennett Avenue. It is inappropriate to its setting and would be to the significant detriment of the existing residential amenity
- 4 There is, clearly, no possible integration at some later date into the host dwelling. This runs counter to Policy and would result in the creation of a sizeable detached bungalow.
- 5 In reaching these conclusions, Councillors had reference to their own Neighbourhood Plan, to the recent BMSDC Joint Local Plan, and to the National Planning Policy Framework.

Lawn Farm Quarry

Councillors heard representations from members of the public objecting to plans for expansion of workings within the Quarry boundary. Their objection is printed in full elsewhere in the Newsletter. A secondary application seeking to vary the operating conditions of the workings across the whole site was also the subject of objection on the following grounds:

- 1 This is, effectively, a secondary application seeking variations in existing Conditions which changes would, it is suggested, be needed should the application for expansion Ref SCC/0127/23MS succeed.
- 2 Elmswell Parish Council has lodged formal and detailed objection to the Application for expansion.

Given that Councillors consider that expansion of workings should not be countenanced unless and until their substantive objections are adequately addressed, this Application for variations in conditions in light of expansion is redundant and should be refused

June in Tune

The Meeting agreed that Council should underwrite facilities hire costs up to £243.00 for this forthcoming community music event which successfully launched last year, free entry to all comers. The concessions income from food traders etc covered the hall hire costs at the very successful inaugural day last year, but underwriting costs in case of a shortfall, allows the organisers to go ahead with an expanded 2024 version.

Town Field

The last remaining holding which is administered by the Poor's Land Charity is Town Field at Spong Lane. The 2 acre plot retains the original field shape as shown on the Elmswell Tithing Map of 1842. All of the other land, originally gifted over the years by benefactors to the charity so that the rents collected could be devoted to the support of the parish poor, has been sold off and the money invested to create a regular income for the charity's causes. The field is leased to ElmsWild who maintain it as an eco-friendly meadow. The Parish Council supports their considerable volunteer efforts by funding the rent and the Meeting agreed that payment should also be made for the recent specialist work to the ancient hedge which forms the boundary. A total sum of £362.00 was authorised.

Village consultation

The Meeting noted the results of the consultation exercise recently conducted in conjunction with Mid Suffolk, as reproduced elsewhere in the Newsletter. Two officers from the Mid Suffolk Localities Team spoke in support of a very effective initiative and agreed to work with the Parish Council to deliver funding appropriately.

Next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled for 18th March beginning at 7.30pm at Blackbourne. The public are, as ever, welcome to attend all Council meetings and the agendas will always offer opportunities for questions and comment. Agendas are published online at elmswell.suffolk.cloud and on the Council's notice board at Crown Mill and hard copies can be collected from the Council Office at Blackbourne

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

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

clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk
Tel. 244134 www.elmswell.suffolk.cloud



Future Council Meetings

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

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

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

VILLAGE INDEX



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

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

Amenities Association	Jean Barker (Sec)	eea@elmswell.org.uk	241135
Art Club	Eddie Douglas	edward.douglas2@gmail.com	
Baby & Toddler Group		elmswellbtgroup@gmail.com	
Baptists	Dave Hollings	davehollings@btinternet.com	241323
BATS (Badminton & Table Tennis)	Mike Burgess Wilson	burgesswilsonmike@gmail.com	
Beavers	Ruth Salmon	ruthcourt4@hotmail.co.uk	
Bingo at Blackbourne	Brian Hawes		07761 125093
BWMA	Peter Edmonds (Sec)	edmondspeterj@gmail.com	07860 395720
Blackbourne – all enquiries	Parish Council office	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
Brownies	Gemma Sutton	elmswellbrownies@hotmail.com	
CAB		advice@midsuffolkcab.org.uk	01449 676060
Carpet Bowls Club	Frank Boxall	jf.boxall@btinternet.com	
Christians Together in Elmswell	Peter Goodridge	elmswellrector@gmail.com	240512
Community Speed Watch	Marie Spampinato	mariespampinato@hotmail.co.uk	07769 715209
Companions	Linda Waspe	linda@labbott.plus.com	
County Councillor	Cllr Andy Mellen	Andy.Mellen@suffolk.gov.uk	
Cricket Club	Ben Whatling (Captain)	benwhatling@mail.com	07760 174811
Cubs	Mark Pernot	mark.pernot@gmail.com	
District Councillor	Sarah Mansell	Sarah.Mansell@midsuffolk.gov.uk	07860 829517
District Councillor	Jen Overett	Jen.Overett@midsuffolk.gov.uk	
Elmswheelians	Trevor Sadler	trevor.sadler@dsl.pipex.com	240908
Elmswild	Mary Feeney	info@elmswild.org.uk	241901
Exchange Afternoon WI	Carol Blissett	carolblissett@hotmail.co.uk	242884
First Responders	Merv	merv.smith@tiscali.co.uk	07909 006 496
Football	Chris Edmonds	edddd101@gmail.com	
Fox Bowls Team bowls at Blackbourne	Rob Dann	rccsdann@btinternet.com	07917 013846
Gardening Club		elmswellgadmin@btinternet.com	
Guides	Viv	elmswellguides@outlook.com	
Health Centre - Woolpit			240298
History Group	Stella Chamberlin	stellachamberlin@yahoo.co.uk	
Ladies Voices (Choir)	Anna Wilton Mills	annawm63@gmail.com	
Library	Miles Row - Manager	Elmswell.Library@suffolklibraries.co.uk	240974
Little Elms	Paula Reynolds / Samantha Willers	info@littleelms.co.uk	240491
Newsletter	Editorial office	eea@elmswell.org.uk	244134
Over 55's Club	Diann Armstrong	Mayfield, Wetherden Road	241002
Parish Council	Parish Clerk	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
Police Emergencies			999
Police; non-emergencies	Mid Suffolk South SNT	headquarters@suffolk.pnn.police.uk	101
Poor's Land Charity	Peter Goodridge	elmswellrector@gmail.com	240512
Power cuts		Powwercut105.com	105
Rainbows	Jen & Lizzie	elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com	
Royal British Legion	Norman Plumpton (Biff)	nplumpton@aol.com	07707 524722
School	Mrs Ash	admin@elmswell.suffolk.sch.uk	240261
Scouts	Paula Hollings	ddc.paula@stowmarketscouts.org.uk	07828 562485
St John's Church	Peter Goodridge	elmswellrector@gmail.com	240512
Sewing Bee	Isabel Burgess	isabel.burgess@live.com	
Village Tree Warden	c/o Parish Clerk	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
Wesley – all enquiries	Parish Council office	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
WI - evening	Tricia McNeeney	triciamcneeney@gmail.com	241197
Youth Football	Wayne	wsast@hotmail.co.uk	

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

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**IF YOU ARE NOT HAPPY THAT YOUR DETAILS APPEAR HERE,
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What's On in Elmswell ?



To be included in our events diary make sure you send separate notification of your announcement.

For a full year's calendar of what's booked at Blackbourne, please go to the Parish Council website at www.elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk - it might help you in planning dates for your events.

March 2024

- 4 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - St. Edmund by Chris Parfitt
- 6 Exchange WI 2.00pm at Wesley. What happens to our refuse. Speaker Sarah Jane Clark
- 12 Elmswell WI 7.30pm at the Wesley - Women's Refuge with Zoe Gordon
- 14 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Stephen Poulter: Suffolk's Lost Heritage
- 14 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 14 Over 55's Club Music with Susan Jayne visitors welcome 7 00pm
- 19 ELMSWELL CARPET BOWLS' Buffet Lunch, 1-4.30pm in Wesley Chapel. Details from Linda Waspe, 01359-242224.
- 19 Bury in Bloom, Chris Wiley, Elmswell Gardening Club, 7.30pm in Wesley Chapel
- 28 Over 55's Club AGM followed by Bingo
- 27 ELMSWELL CARPET BOWLS' A.G.M. 7pm in Wesley Chapel. Immediately followed by usual evening of bowls, free of charge; last session before re-start in Sept.
- 29 Bingo-Doors open 6.30 eyes down 7.30 all welcome

April 2024

- 3 Exchange WI 2.00pm at Wesley. Art on London's Streets. Speaker Peter Lawrence.
- 8 2pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - Flower Arranging by a member of Stowmarket Flower Club
- 9 Elmswell WI 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 The Perennial Mr Potter, Brian Thurlow, Elmswell Gardening Club, 7.30pm in Wesley Chapel
- 23 Over 55's Club Bingo
- 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

JAPANESE JUJUTSU / SELF DEFENCE – Monday & Wednesday 6.30 – 8.30 ryoishintowaryuheiho@gmail.com tel. 07711 680262

BABY & TODDLER GROUP - Monday mornings elmswellbtgroup@gmail.com

BATS- badminton / table tennis / pool at Blackbourne Friday nights 7 – 9.30 simon@coakleyandtheaker.co.uk

BOWLS - barryhayward1902@gmail.com tel. 240951

GUIDES - elmswellguides@outlook.com

FOOTBALL - shaun.pratt@btinternet.com 07494 864231

RAINBOWS - elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com

JUNIOR FOOTBALL - smyth98@hotmail.com 07717 841591

CUBS Tuesdays 6.15 – 7.30 - mark.pernot@gmail.com

BEAVERS /SCOUTS - Wednesday 5.45 – 9.15 ddc.paula@stowmarketscouts.org.uk

OVER 55'S - every other Thursday 6.30 – 10.30 Diann Armstrong tel. 241002

CIRCLE DANCING - Thursdays 1.45 – 3.15 jenlerner@gmail.com

TREFOIL GUILD - 1st Tuesday monthly lesley.grount@btinternet.com

MARDLE QUILTERS - last Friday monthly carpajak@aol.com

MOO MUSIC - Fridays 12.45 – 3.15 bury@moo-music.co.uk

WI – evening at Wesley 2nd Tuesday monthly 7.30pm Terry Byford bbazby@aol.com

WI – afternoon at Wesley 1st Wednesday monthly Carol Blissett carolblissett@hotmail.co.uk

ART CLUB at Wesley every Tuesday 9.00 – 12.00 Eddie Douglas edward.douglas2@gmail.com

HISTORY GROUP at Wesley 2nd Thursday monthly 7.30 stellachamberlin@yahoo.co.uk

GARDEN CLUB at Wesley 3rd Tuesday monthly 7.30 elmswellgardenclub@gmail.com

CARPET BOWLS – Wednesday 7pm at Wesley – jf.boxall@btinternet.com

COMPANIONS – every other Friday 10 – 12 at Wesley - linda@abbott.plus.com

PILATES – Monday & Friday mornings – suzanne@triformpilates.co.uk

BINGO – Blackbourne, last Friday monthly doors open 6.30...eyes – down 7.30

ARTS SOCIETY OF WEST SUFFOLK first Tuesday monthly, October-June. Diana Hollins 01449 736930 theartssociety-westsuffolk.org.uk

If we've missed you out, do let us know...all enquiries to Ann at the Council Office Tel. 244134 Email clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk

Your Newsletter Fact File

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

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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