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The Elmswell Newsletter



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JANUARY 2025

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Wesley and the Tavern help bring the community together once again at the heart of the village for the Christmas Carol service... Norton Salvation Army band lead some 200 lusty singers who went on to enjoy mince pies, hot punch and a Tavern pop-up bar.

ELMSWELL TAVERN LATEST - see page 9

Published on the first Friday of every month by the Elmswell Amenities Association Reg. Charity No. 304879. 2500 copies delivered free to households and to businesses in the community. A volunteer enterprise entirely supported by advertising.

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Our editorial is designed to inform and to encourage debate.

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

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

Traditionally, as the annual calendar jumps a digit, we look back to the year past and hazard a guess as to what the Dickens the future yet-to-come may bring. Hoping that we may read the book of fate. Hazarding that we can anticipate the revolution of our times.

As we did on this page back in January 2020. When we eagerly anticipated the opening of Wesley and, beyond, the imminent sealing of the deal to secure the Tavern site from Greene King. And, for 10 weeks or so, it all went so well. Until, on 23rd March, our New Normal denied such frivolities as Lockdown hit.

It hit so hard and so comprehensively that we were, and remain, fundamentally changed. The aftershock will be with us for many years. 'Working from home', is being claimed as an inalienable 'right'. The NHS attained superstar status but is since mired in a backwash of conditions, complaints and complexes resulting from the subsequent disease of anxiety. Phrases such as, 'pull yourself together', are now classified as hate speech inviting a visit from the police who have, therefore, little time to chase shoplifters.



Proposed North-East Visualisation
Not to Scale

TAVERN YET TO COME



Proposed South-East Visualisation
Not to Scale

...FROM THE GARDEN

But, despite massive setbacks, both Wesley and the Tavern deal were successfully taken forward and, witness the Stop Press news on page 9, the latter looks to be on track to follow the groundbreaking difference to our community that the former can claim to have made. Pandemics aside, it seems that we have successfully plodded through the bureaucratic mire that surrounds small islands of funding possibilities and come up with a scheme that will work and the money to make it deliverable.

At risk of tempting fate, no more should be said here. But fate has been positive thus far. We are lucky to have found the individuals who have come forward to get us this far. There are talents, there is experience and there is commitment which has not wavered as the obstacles have loomed large to be painstakingly tackled and quietly overcome. Let's hope that, in a future January retrospective we can confirm continued success, and, even further ahead, we can express gratitude for those volunteers with the drive and foresight to have secured a substantial holding of community-owned land at the very heart of the village of Elmswell, for the people of Elmswell, for ever.

For as long as this spirit maintains, we are writing our own history.



Chapel Outline

...AND FROM SCHOOL ROAD



ELMSWELL ART CLUB

At the end of a very enjoyable and successful 2024, we all enjoyed a little Christmas get together for our final meeting of the year, as can be seen below;

We all enjoyed a selection of festive treats that had been provided by our members, whilst exchanging the season's greetings and passing on our thanks to the Wesley staff for their support throughout the year.



Our first picture this year is a fine acrylic painting of Aldeburgh produced by Norman Tharby.

Norman's painting shows Moot Hall (Aldeburgh Museum) and Market Cross Place.

Aldeburgh is a charming and fashionable seaside town, which has grown from an old fishing and shipbuilding centre - fishermen still haul their boats up the steep shingle beach and sell their catch each morning.

With a rich cultural identity, Aldeburgh is famous for its Literary Festival, multiple galleries and iconic sculptures

(e.g the "Scallop" sculpture dedicated to Benjamin Britten) as well as the Aldeburgh Music Club which was started by Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears in 1952.



Norman is a Suffolk boy, born in Glemsford but spent his childhood and teenage years in Clare. He became a Christian in his mid-teens and, after a few years working as an industrial chemist, Norman's life was redirected to becoming a Baptist minister, serving in churches in Surrey, Kent and Essex before becoming a 'regional minister' covering Kent, Surrey and Sussex - lots of churches on the coast!

Moving to Stowmarket, Norman spent several years at Whitehouse Baptist Church in Ipswich; he is currently leading worship services in different churches - including here at Elmswell.

"All this means that I have left it far too late to receive either fame or fortune as an artist; however, being a Baptist minister has meant that time has been somewhat limited for, what a former prime minister described as, 'a joy ride in a paint box.'

But now, Norman thinks there is possibly a crack of light. He and his wife Debbie enjoy short breaks at Aldeburgh to visit the galleries and cafes, to enjoy walks along the shingle and to make sketches. One of the two paintings he has sold was of the well-known boat on the shingle at Aldeburgh - hence his comment above about 'fortune'!

But, for Norman, it's not about fame or fortune, it has to do with the "joy of watching a picture take shape and appear. It's about solitude, but also the togetherness of the group of fellow artists and their encouraging and helpful comments and suggestions. Watching the waves, trying to capture their movement, beauty and power in a painting, enhances my awareness of my Creator and develops in me a sense of trusting awe."

Finally, our members would like to wish all Elmswell Newsletter readers a Happy and prosperous 2025.

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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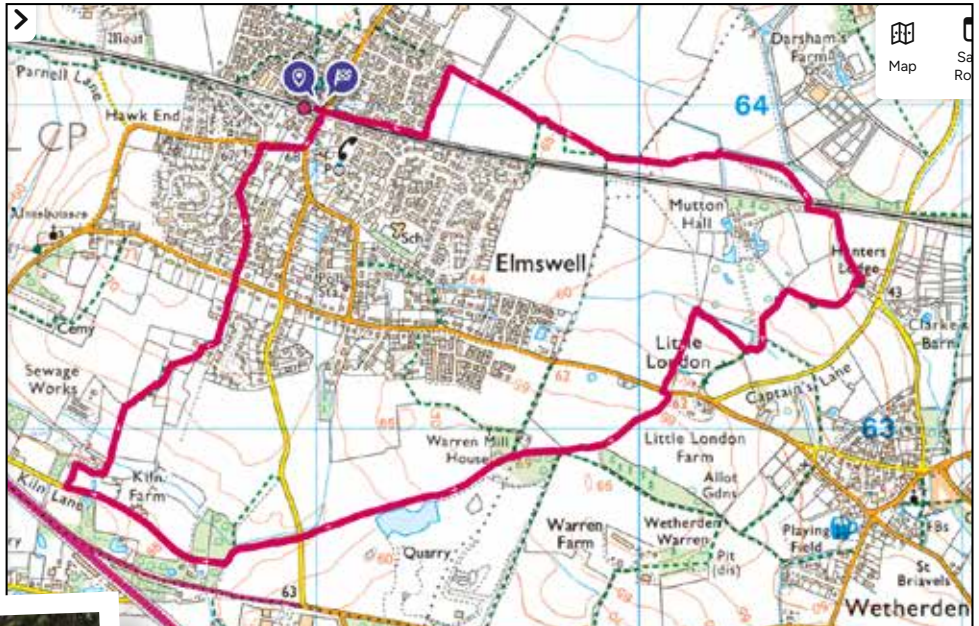


ELMSWELL FOOTPATH WALK Sunday 14th December 2024

On an overcast winter's morning a group of 6 ramblers met at the usual place at the usual time looking forward to a pleasant jaunt on a few of Elmswell's rights of way.

Striking out left then right on to School Road the party soon came across it's first designated footpath, FP17, on turning left into Rose Lane, heading south.

Travelling past the back of the telephone exchange, across Church Road and into Spong Lane we rendezvoused with a further avid Rambler, complete with hound, and the throng was now replete. Now on FP16, we continued south down Spong Lane then south and west across the sheep meadow and a cereal field, through the leafy tunnel and hence on to Kiln Lane via the rear of the Water Treatment Works.



Turning left we followed Kiln Lane, past the junction with FP18 on the left and met up with Warren Lane.

Straight across here took us on to FP22, up the hill past Warren Mill House on the left and then on to Wetherden Road.

Now well into the Parish of Wetherden, a left and right here took us through gate 1 of Mutton Hall into Smiths' then Jenny's field exiting at gate 8 on to the pleasantly wooded RB46 and the approach to Hunters Lodge.

Re-entering Mutton Hall through gate 7 to the left we headed north, under the railway bridge then east parallel to the railway track and exited the estate through gate 4 back into the Parish of Elmswell. FPs 23, 9 and 10 led us west, south and west again safely back to the familiar sight of the village sign.

A convivial walk of 4.38 miles in 1 hours and 49 minutes (an average speed of 2.4 miles per hour)

Peter Hancock, EPC Footpath Officer

JANUARY'S FOOTPATH WALK WILL BE ON SUNDAY 12th JANUARY.



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ELMSWELL



HISTORY GROUP


Chanter's Jigge

 present

Our Merry Christmas Revel




Carols, songs and festive tunes
for a winter's night


Our December meeting featured a festive mix of musical treats performed by the talented duo "Chanter's Jigge", played on an impressive variety of instruments both ancient and modern. We learnt that carols originated from medieval times when it was a popular dance form when words appropriate to each season were sung to the tunes but only the tradition of Christmas carols survives to this day. For thousands of years, mid-winter has been a time of merrymaking, and many of the world's religions have mid-winter festivals "to drive the cold winter away". It is a season of celebration and festivity, a time of tradition and mystery and, in this country, we can thank the Tudors and Victorians for many of our Christmas customs and, indeed, our festive music. Throughout the festive season in Tudor times all ranks of society were freed from every-day cares to indulge in feasting, revelry and merry-making. A carnival atmosphere presided at the royal court, with a 12-day festival of entertainments. It is often assumed that Christmas celebrations were invented by the Victorians, but many of our favourite traditions date back much further. Carol singing, present giving, mulled wine and mince pies were just as popular in Tudor times as now, and even Father Christmas and roast turkey have their origins in the Tudor period. In the Middle Ages, Christmas was preceded by the month-long fast of Advent, during which rich foods and over-indulgence were avoided. However, once Christmas Day came around, if you had the stamina, you were expected to eat, drink, be merry, dress up, play games, and go dancing for



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12 days. So, we were royally entertained by singing and the playing of many weird and wonderful instruments such as the hurdy-gurdy (a string instrument played with an internal circular bow), curtal (an early type of bassoon from the Tudors), chalumeau (a single-reed forerunner of the clarinet), raschpfeife (a loud reed instrument used outdoors in

the 16th century), two types of bagpipe, and mandola (originated in the 12th century), to name but a few! Amidst all this merry-making, we were fed and watered extremely well with mulled wine, tea/coffee, and a delicious selection of home-made festive treats – with many thanks to all our members who prepared and served these.

Elmswell History Group

CAN YOU HELP WITH SOME FAMILY RESEARCH, on the HOWE family?

I am the grandson of Henry Arthur Howe (see photo) who was born at 199 Bunkers Hill, Elmswell in 1895 as son and part of the Thomas & Philippa Howe family; my Dad, Reginald Alexander Arthur Howe, was also born there. My Dad and Grandad moved to Woolwich at some point in the late 1940s or early 1950s, and that's where I was born in 1953.

I have quite a lot of history for my Dad, who served in the RAF during WW2 but not very much on my Grandad, Henry Arthur, other than his WWI medals which included a 'Military Medal' for gallantry awarded in July 1918. I also know he was 'gassed' at the battle of Ypres and spent some time in military hospitals in France.

Grandad served with the RFA (Royal Fleet Artillery) in France/Belgium as a driver (horse-drawn gun team), surviving the war. Although I do know and very much appreciate that he is commemorated (along with my relatives Charles and George Howe who didn't survive) on the plaque at Elmswell Church, I wondered if any villager might have more information for me or have any suggestions as to where I might look next please.

For example, I am told the Military Medal with citation is quite rare, especially to be awarded to an Elmswell resident, so I wondered if there might have been something at the time locally that would enlighten me as to why he was awarded the honour?

Thank you very much in anticipation of any assistance you might be able to give.

Keith Howe e-mail = keith.howe9@btinternet.com Tel: 07922.804623

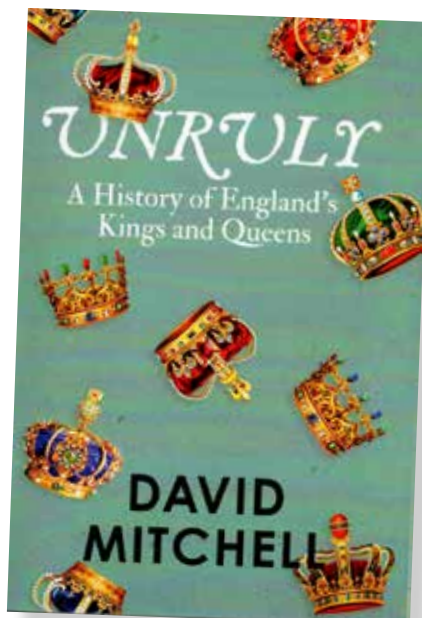


BOOK REVIEW

"Unruly – A History of England's Kings & Queens" by David Mitchell

Perhaps one of your New Year's resolutions was to learn more about our country's history without getting too deep or complicated? If so, this book is for you as it takes a light-hearted and humorous romp through the ages, from King Arthur (spoiler: he didn't exist) to Queen Elizabeth 1. It explores how England's monarchs, while acting as rulers firmly guiding their subjects' destinies, were actually a bunch of lucky

so-and-so's who were mostly as silly in real life as they appear today in their portraits. From the founding story of post-Roman England, it's a tale of narcissists, middle-management insurrection, uncivil wars and excessive beheadings, as the population evolved from having their crops nicked by the thug with the largest armed gang, to bowing and paying taxes to a divinely anointed king. How this happened, who it happened to and why it matters today are all questions answered with brilliance, wit and the full erudition of a man who once studied history – and won't let it off the hook for the mess it's made. For those of us here in East Anglia, it's pleasing to note several local references - Bury St Edmunds, Framlingham, the Barons Bigod, and Norfolk's Castle Acre. Although it is like the children's series "Horrible Histories", the book is definitely for grown-ups (hence some rude words scattered throughout) so not one for your kids or granny! Enjoy this book from the Library.



Our next meeting at the Wesley Hall, 7.30pm on 9th January, will feature three short talks of our members' own researches, the topics of which will be "Newmarket", "The History of the Co-Op", and "An Unusual Early Childhood". Do join us then for what promises to be an interesting and varied evening of talks.

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

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



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ELMSWELL W.I.

Our December meeting, as usual, was a bit of a party. Our ladies were all greeted with a Mulled Wine (or tea or coffee if they wished) and with nibbles and crackers on the tables we were ready to start. There was a paper quiz on the table and all the answers were games. Sally talked us through making a Christmas decoration and during more refreshments (and why not it's Christmas!) Julie organised for us to taste some sparkling wines (was it champagne?) and choose our favourite. After giving out the quiz answers, with a lot of groans and mutterings of 'of course it is', we played Charades organised by Brenda. The prizes for the quiz and the Charades were Smarties for the smarties!

We had a super raffle with many prizes donated by our members and a lovely

hamper put together by Rosie. After we had drawn the raffle and given the birthday girls their gifts, we sang happy birthday to them and then sang some carols and Christmas songs.

We have had a very busy year with some superb speakers and demonstrations at our monthly meetings, our get togethers each month for a Coffee & Chat at the Wesley and our lunches at various local hostelrys and, new this year, our two Books Clubs and Wine Tasting Club. We have had tours of St Edmundsbury Cathedral, its tower and its Ancient Library, the Gin Distillery at Bacton and the Yum Yum Tree Fudge factory in Woolpit. We have also had a Basic Life Training Course for some of our members and another to be run soon for more members to learn these essential skills.

We organised the Thedwastre Group Meeting (the group comprises of WIs from local villages) and we ran the refreshments at Elmsfest with members producing some wonderful cakes.

We support a local charity each year and this year it was the Women's Refuge in Bury St Edmunds. We ran a paper quiz that raised £250 for them. We also raised money for MacMillan. Our charity for next year is The Moses Project which gives Moses Baskets filled with essentials for new mums and babies who have limited means and are recommended by Social Services.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 14th January at 7.30 pm at the Wesley. Why not come along and give us a try?

For more information ring
Tricia 01359 241197

ELMSWELL EXCHANGE W.I

Mary welcomed everyone to our Christmas party.

The birthday gifts for December and January were given out.

Michele, one of our members, is very skilled at stain glass work. She gave us a short talk about some of the skills needed for stain glass work. Michele had prepared a round disc for everyone and cut out lots of coloured petals in glass for us to decorate our discs. After we all had glued them to our discs, Michele collected them all to take home and fire in her kiln. A week later these were ready for us so we can hang them on our Christmas trees. We are all very grateful

to Michele for all her hard work and the members were delighted with their finished decorations.

After this everyone enjoyed a Christmas tea and a chat with other members.

The annual competition results were given. First was Jan Clark, and joint second were Rosie Ellis and Maureen Lazarus. They were given hampers as prizes as well as a cup for first prize and a teapot to share for second place.

On Wednesday 11th December we held our service of Carols and lessons at Wetherden Church. Our thanks to Wetherden Church for all their help with this event.

We do not meet in January so our next meeting will be on Wednesday 5th February 2025. Our speaker will be Nicky Thomas on "The Moses Project". The competition is a memento of a baby.

Our usual Wesley meet up will be on Wednesday 15th January 2025.

We wish all our members a happy Christmas and a healthy new year.

New members and visitors are always welcome.

Carol Blissett
242 884



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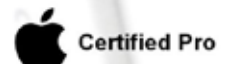
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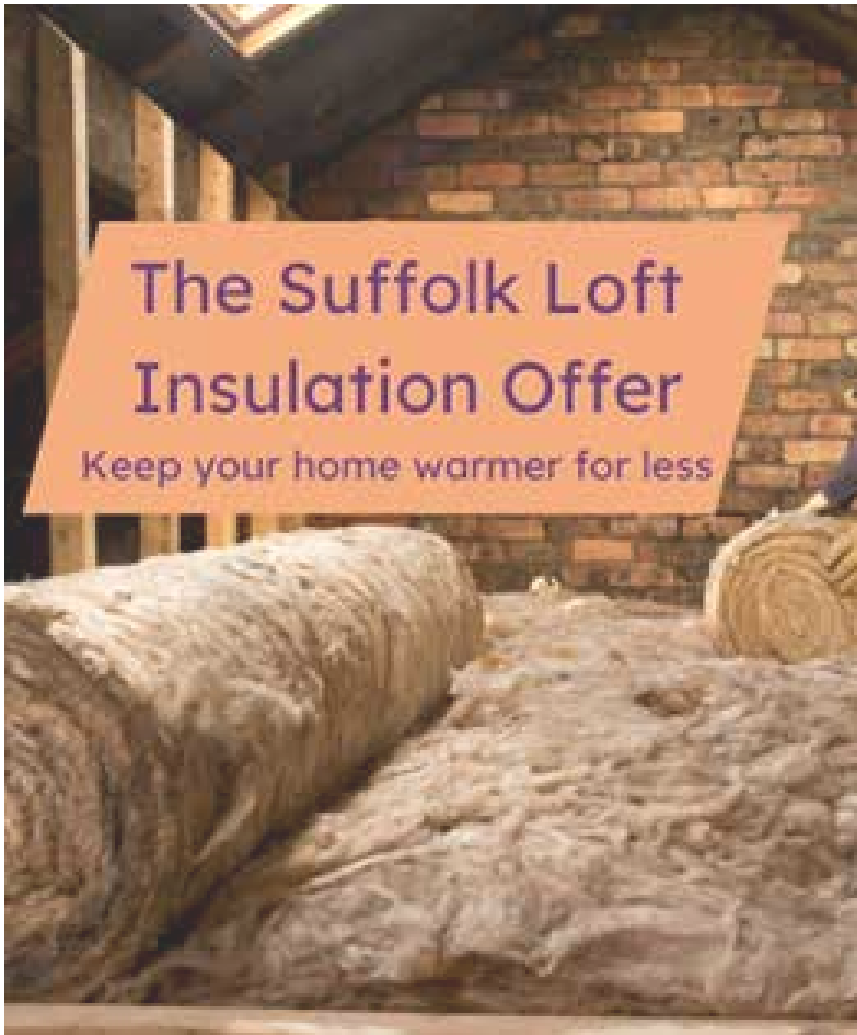
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ANOTHER MILESTONE?

At its December meeting, the Parish Council took the decisive decision to confirm its intent to enter into a Contract with Stroods Specialist Contractors of West Mersea for the refurbishment and new-build project which will create our Community Pub to work in with Wesley next door. The Contract price is £464,293.00 and the agreement will be governed by the RIBA Concise Building Contract. Stroods emerged from the lengthy assessment process begun when invitations to submit Expressions of Interest were advertised in the Press June 2024. From the 11 companies who came forward, the firm's considerable and specific experience in just this kind of work, their thorough professionalism of approach, and a very sound financial base backed up an extremely competitive quotation to make them front runners. A face-to face meeting with Stroods, Councillors and the Architect threw up no problems or reservations.

HOW DOES THAT LEAVE US FOR MONEY?

There are some other costs not currently in the contract...the drainage plan awaits a camera survey and permeability test...external works including car parking are left until the scope can be defined by available funding...nothing is costed in for the fitting-out...but the immediately available pot amounts to some £620,000.00 so there is headroom of £150,000.00+ and there are as-yet untapped funding sources for specific elements of the scheme.

WILL WE BE OPEN FOR SUMMER FAMILY DAYS IN THE GARDEN AGAIN?

Stroods have a substantial direct-labour workforce which makes their project build-time shorter than might be expected. From a start date in March they are currently anticipating an 18 - 20week project. Given the number of possible pitfalls it would be silly to book the bouncy castle just yet, but perhaps put the ice cream van on notice?

GLASS FULL / GLASS EMPTY?

There can be an almost endless list of things that can go wrong. There remains, unaccountably, a small bevy of the joyless who hope it will go wrong. One day they'll tell us why. Meanwhile we seem to be blessed with a far greater number who have seen the difference Wesley has made and are willing the Tavern to get itself sorted and help the village towards further success.



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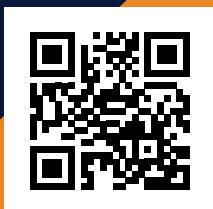
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- Tree Felling • Stump Grinding
- Concrete bases laid • Sheds erected
- Turf Laying • Artificial Turf
- Driveways • Pressure Washing
- Garden machines serviced and repaired

No obligation quotes

Contact Andy

01449 403050 077487 85197

wade.andrew63@gmail.com



ELMSWELL LIBRARY

Hello Elmswell,

I hope you all had a good Christmas period.

Catch up in the library is going to restart in January on Thursday 2nd January and then fortnightly from then. The other January dates are 16th and 30th. Come in and enjoy a free cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit and a chat.

The Community Café will also be back in January after their December break 10.30am on Wednesday 15th at The Wesley Café. This is also a welcoming drop in social group and meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month.

The exhibition up throughout January is by Mary Lynch. Mary worked as a oil painting restorer but now concentrates on developing her own arts practice. Her inspiration is from flowers, plants and imaginary landscapes. There are originals, prints and cards for sale in the library with 15% of anything sold going to support Suffolk Libraries.

The display for January will be Award Winning Books. Included in the display are the winners of Women's Prize for Non-Fiction (Doppelganger by Naomi Klein), East Anglian Book Awards (The meaning of geese by Nick Acheson), Polari Prize (The gallopers by Jon Ransom), Romantic Novelists' Association (Girl, goddess, queen by

Bea Fitzgerald), Diverse Book Awards (Maame by Jessica George), The British Fantasy Awards (The spear that cuts through water by Simon Jimenez) and more.

I am sure we all received gifts we love but on the off chance that some gifts need to be sent back or sent on to someone who will like them even more, you can come in and print in the library. It costs 20p for 1 black and white sheet or 30p for a double-sided sheet. We can also photocopy up to A4. Colour printing or photocopying casts 50p per sheet or 80p double-sided.

Unfortunately we are unable to afford to provide newspapers to read in the library from the beginning of January. This means that we will no longer have the East Anglian Daily Times or the Bury Free Press. We will still have PressReader for national and international publications that you can read on a device at home or on the computers in the library.

We are able to offer the range of books, activities, 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 (except 1st one of the month)

9.10am – 9.30am every 1st Tuesday
2.30pm – 3pm every Thursday

Sunday Crafts

1pm – 2pm every Sunday (origami 5th and 19th January)

Lego Club

Every Sunday 11am – 12noon

The Keep in Touch Community Café

10.30am on Wednesday 15th January at the Wesley Café (every 3rd Wednesday)

Catch Up In The Library

11am fortnightly on Thursdays (2nd, 16th and 30th January)

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

CITIZENS ADVICE

I've really struggled with my money and have already spent too much on Christmas. I also recently got caught out by a free trial on an app that rolled into a paid subscription. Even without this though, it feels like every month I end up in my overdraft. How can I keep track of my spending better?

Lots of people will be feeling this way right now, and it can be difficult to stay on top of things like online subscriptions. But there are steps you can take to be more in control of your money.

Firstly, draw up a budget. Remember to include all of your general spending, and any other bills you have to pay. Be realistic about what you'll need for essentials like food and travel. If your income fluctuates, use bank statements, benefit award letters and Universal Credit journals to plan your budget each month.

Your bank should be able to tell you what regular payments you have. If you find subscriptions you don't want, contact the company in question to cancel them. In future, before signing up to anything, make sure you know what you'll get, for how long and what it'll cost. If you do use any free trials, set a reminder a week before the free period ends so you've time to cancel it if you want to. Keep evidence of any subscription cancellations in case you need it in the future.

If you've been relying on your overdraft lots this year or turned to credit cards or Buy-Now-Pay-Later, it's understandable if this worries you. Always prioritise paying your rent, mortgage, plus energy bills and Council Tax first though, because not paying these has the most serious consequences. If you're having trouble managing your debts and paying bills, contact Citizens Advice for support.

Our website has an income checker where you can see if you're getting all you're entitled to, such as benefits or government grants. <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk> and then search: 'Check if you can increase your income'.

Everyone's circumstances are different, particularly when it comes to managing personal finances. We're here to help you find a way forward.

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

Opening hours are Monday-Thursday 9.30am – 3.30pm and Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm.

**citizens
advice**

Mid Suffolk



ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Greetings from St John's Church

As we head into a new year, the atmospheric photograph above probably reflects how many of us feel - the future is unclear and somewhat gloomy. We live in an unstable world with many changes happening both globally and locally. This can cast a feeling of uncertainty and gloom over us. However, just as the house of God is still visible in the midst of the gloom in the photograph, so God too remains present in our unclear world. Sometimes his purposes appear to be a bit hidden, but the promise in Psalm 100 verse 5 still stands:

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever,

and his faithfulness to all generations.

Let us, therefore, move ahead into 2025 confident that the Lord will uphold us no matter what 2025 brings.

December was a busy month of celebrating God's love to us, seen in his entering into our world as an infant - Immanuel (God with us). It was lovely to welcome so many people into St John's for Carol services and to share God's steadfast love (as well as mince pies, chocolate rolls and Christmas tree biscuits). The Carols By Candlelight service, with performances by Song Circle, was a particularly lovely occasion.

We will continue to share God's steadfast love in January and beyond. We will be starting the year with an all age service commemorating the arrival of the wise men in Bethlehem and God's rescue of Mary, Joseph and Jesus from Herod's evil schemes. Our services will then follow the adult ministry of Jesus from Mark chapter 7 onwards. Our Sunday School will be looking at some of the parables Jesus told. The children really love hearing from the Bible and doing the related craft activities.

All are welcome at St John's. If you would like to find out more about us and the God we worship, please pop along one Sunday at 10:30am or get in touch (details below). Remember, you can also check out our services online on our web site, YouTube or Facebook (again the links are below).

Upcoming Dates:

Sun 5 Jan
9:00am Holy Communion
Sun 5 Jan
10:30am Family Service (The wise men)
Sun 12 Jan
10:30am Holy Communion
Sun 19 Jan
10:30am Sunday Worship with baptism
Sun 26 Jan
10:30am Holy Communion
Sun 2 Feb
9:00am Holy Communion
Sun 2 Feb
10:30am Family Service

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)

Web site: www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/stjohnselmswell

YouTube:
www.youtube.com/@stjohnselmswell



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

TOWER

FLOODLIGHTING

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

expenses of our parish church.

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

For the winter months the lights will be on between 6.00 p.m. and midnight.

Please note the deadline for inclusion in the February Newsletter is Monday 20th January.

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

Your support is very much appreciated.

Thank You and a Happy New Year to all.

JANUARY 2025 SPONSORSHIPS

- 1 treasured memories of Hector & Ruth Francis. Much love - Janet, Irene, Linda and all the family. xx.
- 2 treasured memories of Hector & Ruth Francis. Much love - Janet, Irene, Linda and all the family. xx.
- 5 to remember and thank all those past Elmswell Fire-Fighters who served their village and community so well.
- 6 Evelyn Simpson : remembered with so much love. "God Bless".
- 13 in loving memory of my mother Eileen Fraser on her Birthday.
- 15 in loving memory of Geoffrey Dalton on his Birthday.
- 15 in loving memory of Allison Schofield, devoted wife and mum. "She brightened all our lives and we miss you more every day". All our love, Michael, Christopher and Jonathan.
- 19 in loving memory of Natasha Smith.
- 23 in loving memory of Ricky Woolnough's Birthday.

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

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY, STOWMARKET

Parish Priest:

Rev. Simon Leworthy,
The Presbytery, 29 Lockington Road,
Stowmarket, IP14 1BQ
Tel:01449-612946
E-mail: pp@ourladystowmarket.org.uk

MASS TIMES:

Saturday (First Mass of Sunday) – 6pm
St Mary's C of E Church, Woolpit IP30 9QG

Sundays – 8.30am & 10.15am
Our Lady's, Stricklands Road,
Stowmarket IP14 1AW

Holy Days – 10am & 7.30pm



Our Lady's Strickland Road Stowmarket
Weekday Mass is usually 10am, see the weekly Newsletter or the Parish Website – www.ourladystowmarket.org.uk

All are welcome to "Coffee and Chat", 2 – 4pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. This is held in the Parish Hall above the Church – a lift is available.



ELMSWELL

BAPTIST CHURCH

I hope that during the hustle and bustle leading up to the Christmas Festivities some of our readers found time to think about the true meaning of Christmas if you've never attended a church on a regular basis and something in the Christmas Story sparked a little bit of curiosity why not join us on a Sunday

at 10.00 AM to find out more about the love of Jesus. We Baptists are not strange people we worship the same god as people who attend Anglican and Catholic Churches but we do it in a less formal way our priests do not wear robes, our prayer time is more spontaneous and generally our services are much more relaxed, and we guarantee a warm and friendly welcome to everyone who comes into our church, we are the Tin Building on the Ashfield Road.

Our activities in January begin on the 6th of January at 2 00pm when our Ladies Friendship Group meet for the first time in 2025 to hear Pip Wright tell them all about "Travelling with Animals" the group is open to all ladies not just those who attend our services, there is no membership charge they just ask for a donation towards the cost of a cup of tea and a piece of cake contact Margaret on 01359 241541 to find out more.

On Thursday 9th January our first Food and Friends lunch of the year takes place at 12 noon these lunches are aimed at the older folk of the village contact Jackie on 01359 245918 to book a place if you haven't been before you will be made most welcome.

The Elmswell Foodbank will be open at our church on Mondays and Fridays 10AM -11AM

Our services in January will be led by :-

- Jan 5th
Rev Reg Craig (inc. Communion)
- Jan 12th
Stuart Hendry
- Jan 19th
Stephen Horrex
- Jan 26th
Stephen Spurgeon

On behalf of all of us at the Baptist Church I wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous 2025.

For any more information about our Church and Fellowship please contact Tony on 01359 241541 or visit our website www.elmswellbaptist.org.uk

Dave Hollings



There was a bucket collection at the Village Carol Service at Wesley / Tavern and £125.00 has been forwarded to the Norton Salvation Army Corps towards supporting their work in the community.

Recycle your real Christmas tree at THE BLACKBOURNE

'Real' trees can be left from
7am on Monday 6th January, until 7am on Wednesday 15th January.
Trees must be less than 7' tall & must have all decorations, stands & pots removed

For more info please contact:
recycling@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk
 Tel 03001234 000 (Option 4)

ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL
clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk
 01359 244134

Thinking about starting Yoga in 2025?

Yoga is a great way to **build your strength, flexibility** and **develop a better connection to your body.**

If you haven't been to a class before, you will find a sense of well-being from my **Hatha Flow**, and for a stronger workout, why not try my **Dynamic Vinyasa**.

All classes incorporate mindfulness, breathing techniques and variations throughout – there's something for **all ages and stages**.



yogadia

stretch·breathe·relax

I'll be at the **Wesley Hall, Elmswell**, offering two classes:

When: Every Tuesday, starting 21st January 2025

Time: Hatha Flow: 18:15 - 19:15 and Dynamic Vinyasa: 19:30 - 20:30

Price: £12 per class - Pre-Booking Only

For **More Details** and to **Book**, contact Claudia at:

www.yogadia.co.uk
claudia@yogadia.co.uk
07710 198580

*If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.
Looking forward to seeing you!*

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TRAVEL STOP

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Sonia recently came back from a trip to Western Australia! Her journey began with a seamless direct Qantas flight from London to Perth aboard the 787 Dreamliner. She started her adventure soaking in the vibrant energy of Elizabeth Quay before enjoying a luxurious stay at the Intercontinental Perth.



Margaret River was a true highlight, offering the perfect blend of indulgence and adventure. From exquisite wine tastings at top estates and a gourmet lunch at Vasse Felix to up-close encounters with humpback whales in Dunsborough. The day ended with a tranquil sunset kayak along the stunning coastline—a truly magical experience.

Contact Sonia to book your next trip to Australia!

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

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



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SJP Approved 29/04/2024

NEWS FROM ELMSWILD



Crafty Christmas update

Our first crafty Christmas session at the end of November was so successful that we decided to come back for another go. We held our pop-up stall at the Wesley on Saturday 14th December with all sorts of home-made decorations and gifts on offer. This year we dedicated all our proceeds to St Nicholas Hospice Care, and overall we raised £355! A big thank you to the Wesley team for hosting us and to everyone who came to support our endeavours. A reminder that if you missed out this year but would still like to contribute please go to the St Nicholas website where it's easy to give a donation online. Just go to <https://stnicholashospice.org.uk> and click on "Donate". If you are a UK tax payer you can Gift Aid your donation and boost every £1 you give by an extra 25p. St Nicks provides a vital service to our community and they really do need all our help.



Busy, busy, busy!

The end of the year was a very busy time for the ElmsWilders. Apart from our crafty Christmas sessions, we have spent some time at the Blackbourne, maintaining the hedge around the new playing fields. Some readers will remember helping to plant this hedge a year ago at our marathon community session last December. The hedge is doing very well, with very few losses and little evidence of predation by rabbits or deer. As an experiment we planted some sections with the standard tree guards and some without, just to see how the unguarded saplings would fare. Interestingly, there seems to be little difference between the two – so far. In fact, the tree guards have in some cases proved to be more problematic for the saplings as they attract ants' nests which lead to a build-up of mud damaging the growing tree. It's preferable to avoid using plastic wherever possible, so it's useful to have some evidence to guide our planting practices in future.

We've also been working on the hedges at Town Field which, in contrast to the very new hedge at the Blackbourne, are ancient and in need of rejuvenation. With the help of Steve and Will (the Wandering Woodsmen), we have been coppicing and cutting back the overgrown trees so that the hedges will re-grow bushy and healthy. To protect the new growth from deer and rabbits we are using all the brush to construct dead hedges around the newly coppiced stumps; these also provide new habitats for all the wildlife that depend on hedgerows for food and shelter. It's a very satisfying activity!



Willow cutting, Saturday 11th January, 9.30-12.30

Don't forget our willow harvesting morning on 11th January at Lukeswood! This is the time of year when we cut the previous year's growth on all the willow stools to allow new shoots to grow. Everyone is welcome to come along and help and to take away a bundle or two for any garden projects you have in mind for the new year. Please bring secateurs or loppers if you have them. Gloves and wellies or stout boots are recommended – it's bound to be muddy. Refreshments will be provided to keep everyone warm and cheerful!

**A very happy New Year
to everyone from ElmsWild!**

Mary Feeney
info@elmswild.org.uk



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TENNIS	O	A	E	I	H	Y	S	M	H	U	E	U
BASKETBALL	V	A	Y	W	A	F	Q	Q	D	O	Y	N
FOOTBALL	S	W	I	M	M	I	N	G	A	F	B	N
SWIMMING	O	I	G	B	D	T	E	M	A	B	A	I
RUNNING	C	B	M	Z	Z	G	O	L	F	Y	L	N
GOLF	C	B	A	S	K	E	T	B	A	L	L	G
	E	C	T	E	N	N	I	S	V	S	M	Z
	R	L	C	J	D	A	E	O	E	J	Q	A



Threading Activity

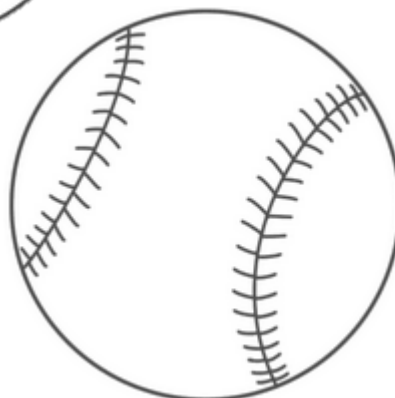
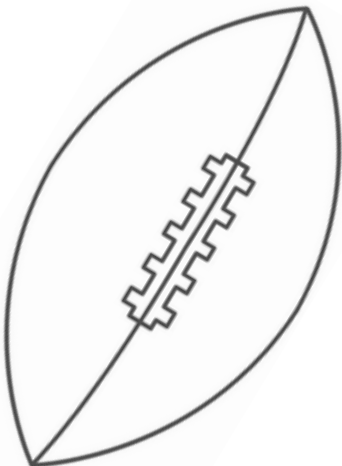
You will need:

- Wool or Ribbon
- Card
- Scissors
- Pencil

Instructions:

- Using your pencil draw out your rugby ball
- Cut out your shape
- Using your hole punch make holes around the sides
- Use your wool or ribbon and begin threading
- Practice tying knots or Bows at the end
- Decorate with stickers, stampers and pens

Colour in the balls! What colours will you use?



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NEWS FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Council meeting:

The most recent full council meeting took place on 21st November and included a discussion on the council's treasury management. The Green administration also introduced a motion urging the Government to rethink the decision to cut the Winter Fuel Allowance for most pensioners – following a debate, this was agreed and a letter has been written to the chancellor.

The next Full Council is Thursday 23rd January, and this, together with most District-run public meetings, will be available to view on YouTube.

Reforms to Local Government:

There has been a lot of national press speculation about changes to local government structure. Government has recently published a number of White Papers and appears committed to pressing ahead with combining County and District services into new larger 'Unitary Councils.' So far there is no information about what new structures may emerge for Suffolk and what exactly the impact will be on all of us as residents. Meanwhile we will continue to do everything we can to provide district services as usual.



The Mid District Councillors for Elmswell and Woolpit:

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

Car Park behind Woolpit Health Centre:

MSDC have confirmed responsibility for the maintenance of the new car park behind the surgery. Soft landscaping will be planted this season and work is ongoing to provide EV charging points in the allocated spaces. Road signage has been ordered and the County Council will erect the signs in due course.

Locality Awards:

These are a form of Community Grant used by district councillors to support small-scale community groups and projects, or to contribute towards larger projects taking place across the local area. We still have some funding remaining in our Locality Budget for 2024/25, so if your local community group could benefit from a grant between now and spring '25, do get in touch with either of us to discuss options and for an application form. The current scheme closes end of February '25, and re-opens in early summer.

More information can be found at: <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/mid-suffolk/w/locality-awards>

Councillor drop-in sessions:

We hold regular drop-in sessions, at either Teacups Café, Woolpit or Wesley Café, Elmswell. The next sessions are:

Tuesday 7th January
10 – 12 at the Wesley Café

Thursday 13th February
10 – 12 at Teacups Café

Thursday 20th March
10 – 12 at Teacups Café

With all best wishes for the New Year –
Jen and Sarah



Following my previous update, I have now received a cheque from St. John's from their Remembrance Sunday service collection for £166.01, plus a load of 2p and 1p coins from a friend of mine amounting to exactly £5. This has now pushed our total collected to £7,926-36. Amazing, Thank you all. Norman (Biff)

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ELMSWELL FOX BOWLS CLUB

Christmas has been and gone, and I hope yours went well, but it is now time to look ahead to the coming year, and I wish for you everything you wish for yourself. For regular followers of these reports, should there be any, you will remember that I listed the winners of the Club's in-house competitions and promised to feature the runners-up in another report. Well, this is that very report. Runner-up to Rob Dann's 4-wood win was Jenny Murray and runner-up to Mark Edwards in the 2-wood final, in her first year of Club competitions, with a remarkable performance, was Linda Vince. Coming in behind Chris Edmonds' Handicap win was 2-wood champion, Mark Edwards and trailing Jenny Murray and Jess Hudson in the pairs were 4-wood champion Rob Dann and Pete Edmonds. Photos of the runners-up appear below.

Quite how we will improve on last year's record – breaking performance is hard to imagine, but if at least one

of our three promoted teams can stay up in the first division, I think that will qualify as another year in which we have progressed. In any event, the friendlies we will have with teams from our sponsors' employees will make up for any disappointment we might suffer in the Leagues. All games are enjoyable but these friendlies, which are fiercely competitive, take bowls to a whole new level.

Team Captains are much the same as new year, with rising star Linda Vince leading our assault on Monday League Division One, myself heading the Div 2 team and half of Tuesdays' side, Mark Edwards leading the other half and Dick Burch heading the Thursday team.

Happy New Year to you all

Peter Edmonds,
E.F.B.C.

07860 395720

edmondspeterj@gmail.com



Linda Vince receiving her 2-wood r/up trophy and Mark Edwards his Handicap r/up trophy from President Dick Burch



ELMSWELL

FOOTBALL CLUB

As you'll have noticed we've had to drop our double page spread as we couldn't get enough sponsors to pay for it. A real shame as it's been a nice feature and when supported raises a few quid for the club too. If you know anyone that might be interested they can contact me at edddd101@gmail.com. Prices start at £25 a month (£300 a year).

FIRST TEAM REPORT

A dip in form not helped by injuries and absences has seen us drop to 6th in the SIL div.2. Our last win in our last report was at home to Framlingham. We then lost 1-0 to Stonham Aspal at the end of October. We have drawn Stanton in the Cup for the last few years and generally fared well but this year they finished strongly to beat us 2-1. Hayden got our goal and Hynard MOTM for a great out-of-position performance in goal including a penalty save. League leaders Redgrave Rangers remained unbeaten on their visit to The Blackbourne. Final score 1-3 with Thomas Morgan scoring a deflected goal after a good run. Away to Trimley we started like a rocket, scoring two early goals and led 1-3 at half time only to end up drawing the match 3-3. Hayden and Sylvester (2) were our scorers and Elliot Chaplin got MOTM. Last week we lost 4-1 away to Framlingham. Sylvester got the goal and MOTM. We face second place Sporting 87 next week before the Xmas break. We'll have played exactly half our league games after that match so there's still a lot to play for. With players returning from injury there is no reason why we can't work our way back up the table with a bit of effort. It is also worth bearing in mind that only First teams can be promoted (three teams last year) and two of the teams above us are Reserves or A's, and we have games in hand on nearly all of them. Up The Elm.

RESERVES REPORT

The Reserves' have suffered a similar fate to the Firsts, not having won since our last report. A bruising game away to Achilles saw us beaten 3-2 in injury time and two Achilles pitch invasions lead to a pair of Elmswell red cards. Bramford Utd at home. A 10 goal thriller. Tough game against a decent side. We took the lead but were 2-1 down by the break to 2 soft goals. Pulled it back to 2-2, before conceding another 3 disappointing goals. It looked over, but the boys showed great grit and determination to pull it all the way back to 5-5. There was no pitch invasion. MOTM Tom Welsh scored a hat trick and also a goal a piece for Fisk and Green. Then back top Benhall in the Cup. Different squad same result. 2-0 at half time but last ten of first half was much better. Came out on the front foot second half and looked a different side. Pulled one back but a penalty to Benhall halted our momentum at 3-1. As we pushed on to get back into the game they broke and powered home a header to make it 4-1. Mendlesham away was postponed due to a water logged pitch or because they only 9 players; not sure. Saxmundham away we had to cancel and then Achilles at home they also were too short of players. Welcome to grassroots football in 2024. At the moment we have home games in January against Brantham and Benhall. Let's hope the weather is kind.

Hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Up The Elm



Post Christmas greetings! We hope that you have had a happy and peaceful Xmas and a Happy New Year. We are all recovering from a hectic run up to the festive season.

We have had 6 gigs since the last newsletter. Which is not bad for under three weeks! The biggest was a celebration in the Wesley Chapel, which included '70 Shades', 'Scrambled Eggs', Kevin, Alan and Bob, in aid of Blood Cancer UK. We were thrilled that, through the generosity of those attending, we were able to present the charity with around £1700.

Our other performances were for the Stowmarket Probus Club's Xmas dinner, Mendlesham W.I., Gatehouse in Bury and the Rookery Bowls Club.

Our first picture, this month, shows the band, in their festive regalia, at Nowton Court Village. The second shows our treasurer, John, with the Village's Sue, who presented us with £100, raised by the residents, for our next charity, which is St. Nicks Hospice. We are hoping that we will be able to present them with £1000 in the New Year.

Just two gigs before the Big Day. A return to Time Out Club at Fornham and to Elmswell Primary School. That's four in a week! We need the rest.

'Til next time. Take care.

For information, please call Kevin on 07710 149040 or Carol

Or email: Kevin.Knock99@gmail.com



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Q&A

What is it?

Real world self defence combined with traditional Japanese JuJutsu.

Who can do this? Or Who is it for?

Male and females over the age of 15.

Do I need to be fit or have trained before?

No, you will get fit from the training.

What will I get from doing this?

Fit, focused, confident, street smart, to meet new like minded people.

When can I start?

No better time to start your martial arts journey than now.

What do I do next?

Call Gary on 07711 680262

Email: Ryoishintowaryuheiho@gmail.com

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AROUND & ABOUT

NEW BLACK BELT AT THE BLACKBOURNE

After 10 years of diligent and dedicated training, Jason Evans, one of the clubs first students has been awarded his Black Belt. The grading was held in Dublin last month with Jason having to demonstrate a variety of self-defence techniques and martial arts skills for assessment by a panel of international instructors. It was an outstanding display and showed the depth of his knowledge and understanding of the traditional syllabus as well as the Ryoshin Self Defence System.

Jason will now assist in teaching new students and help to get existing students ready for their gradings next year. Harvey Cook who also attended the grading was awarded 4th Kyu following another spirited demonstration.

Ryoshin Ju Jutsu combines real world self-defence with traditional martial arts and includes a wide range of techniques such as striking skills, joint locking and restraining techniques, throws/sweeps/takedowns, grappling and fighting from the ground. Students also learn how to use Katana (sword) and Yari (spear).

Unlike other martial arts, Ryoshin Ju Jutsu is not a sport or competition based and focuses purely on the ability to defend yourself in real life situations.

Head instructor Gary Sallows has received multiple black belts in several martial arts styles over 40 years of training but has devoted the last 11 years to teaching **Ryoshin Ju Jutsu**. He believes it to be the best he has studied, as it gives students a broad range of practical self-defence skills that are useful in the real world.



Receiving Black Belt and certificate from Shihan Tony Carrick 8th Dan



Harvey Cook receiving 4th Kyu from Shihan Tony Carrick 8th Dan



International grading panel

Classes are open to anyone aged 15 years plus and held at The Blackbourne in Elmswell on Mondays and Wednesdays 18.30 – 20.30pm.

Classes are £7.50 and there are no expensive membership fees. First class is free!



Contact Gary on 07711680262
or Email: Ryoishintowaryuheiho@gmail.com

OVER 55'S CLUB

As promised we had a brilliant evening at our Christmas Party firstly as a change to our sit down meal we had a wonderful Buffet Supper supplied by Rhona from Crossways Catering which was enjoyed by all guests present.

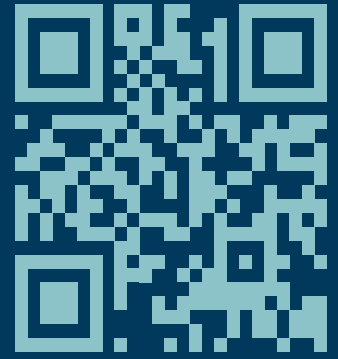
The evenings entertainment was provided by Susan Jayne with every one enjoying the party atmosphere joining in with the singing and dancing till quite late.

We are now taking a short break to put the programme together for 2025 which a start date of February 13th being our first meeting at 7 00pm .
Grant Elliston (240943) or Diann 241002

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

The December meeting, with 10 councillors present, together with BMSDC Ward Member Cllr Jen Overett, SCC Ward Member Cllr Andy Mellen and the Parish Clerk, Peter Dow, took place at Blackbourne on Monday 16th. 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 when ratified, together with the agenda for the next meeting, 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 meeting held on 18th November, as approved at this meeting, are posted in the Council's notice board at Crown Mill.

Suffolk County Council

Cllr Andy Mellen tabled a written report which included the following: *Flooding Investigations and Prevention* At Cabinet on Tuesday 5 November, a decision was made by the council that it would allocate £1.5m from its reserves to deal with the recommendations which have come out of the flood investigation (Section 19) reports following Storm Babet last October. The money will mostly be used for highways flood mitigation and drainage work, but some will be put aside to develop longer-term schemes and accessing funding for further flood protection for the county. The money will not fix all problems with flooding in the county and the £1.5m relates only to the recommendations from the reports published so far (10 reports out of the 48 commissioned). The works funded via this decision will be carried out between now and March 2026, and additional funding is required because the council would ordinarily only carry out three or four investigations a year – Storm Babet means that 48 will be needed. Flood investigations are prioritised in locations where five or more properties have been flooded, or flooding to major infrastructure for 10 hours or more.

Loft Insulation Offer for Suffolk Residents For the second year running, Suffolk's Public Sector Leaders are providing funding to help Suffolk residents make their homes warmer and save money on their energy bills by providing discounted loft insulation - an uninsulated home can lose up to a quarter of its heat through its roof. The Suffolk Loft Insulation Offer enables homeowners in Suffolk to receive a 50% discount (up to £200) and free delivery on orders of 200mm or 370mm wide eco-friendly thermal insulation rolls from High Loft, the UK's leading eco loft insulation brand. Last year, the project enabled the insulation of over 5,000m² of roofs in Suffolk, and this year the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership wants to double that figure. The offer is open to anyone in Suffolk and will only close once the allocated funding has been spent. Visit <https://highloft.co.uk/pages/suffolk-council-200-loft-insulation->

contribution and fill in the form to receive your discount code.

More Home Energy Efficiency Schemes The council's new £3m fund for interest-free loans to residents wishing to undertake home energy efficiency upgrades that was mentioned in last month's parish report is now active, and applications can now be made at <https://www.lendology.org.uk/warm-home-suffolk-loan>. Energy efficiency upgrades such as insulation, solar panels, batteries, glazing, or heat pumps are possible with loans from £2,000 to £15,000 to be repaid over a maximum of seven years at 0% interest. A Suffolk Retrofit Assessment Voucher Scheme is also launching, funded by Suffolk Public Sector Leaders, whereby homeowners in Suffolk will be able to apply for a voucher that covers the cost of a professional retrofit assessment on their home property. These assessments are the first step towards making their home more energy-efficient, lowering their bills and reducing their carbon footprint. Residents who own a home with an EPC band of below C can take up the offer of a voucher to claim an assessment from a PAS 2035 Retrofit Assessor who will identify the best measures for their home, for example insulation, draft proofing, ventilation repairs, low carbon heating or solar panels. The assessment report will also incorporate analysis of the cost vs benefit of implementing the suggested improvements. The assessment is free for those with properties smaller than 98m², with a maximum additional charge of £30 for larger properties bigger.

Homeowners can check to see if their property has an existing Energy Certificate with an EPC band and record of their property size at gov.uk/find-energy-certificate. They can apply for the vouchers by visiting suffolkenergyassessment.co.uk. Applications are open now, and vouchers will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Council Budget Consultation Suffolk County Council has launched a public consultation prior to decisions on the budget for the next financial

year, 2025-26, which are due to be made in the next few months. This is an opportunity for residents and businesses to share their views on proposed Council Tax changes and spending priorities, as well as giving information on how the council manages its finances, the cost-saving measures already in place, and how the council might generate more money to support essential services. The council can increase its budget in two main ways: by receiving more funding from the government or by increasing Council Tax. The survey asks residents which council services they use and to indicate which council services they consider most important to them. The consultation will close on Monday 16 December, and if you want to participate, visit www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/2025_26_budget. The results of the consultation will be included in a final report when the council sets its budget is set in February 2025.

Clerk's Report

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

- I attended, representing EPC as an *ex officio* Member of the Bowls Club Committee of Management, the Club's AGM on 20th November. The Club is celebrating its best year ever with promotions for several of its teams and victory in the prestigious Guinness Cup competition. Finances remain healthy and a donation of £550.00 was agreed to EPC in recognition of their continuing support. The failure of the irrigation pump after some 24 years' use has prompted an initiative to ensure back-up and I am consulting with a Work Party from the membership to this end. Meanwhile, it was noted that the green looks immaculate and the green-keepers were congratulated. It was agreed that the annual Club membership fee be increased by 20% to £30.00.
- Cllr Pallett and I met with Robert Feakes, Housing Enabling Officer with BMSDC, together with Bethanny Taylor, our BMSDC Communities Officer, on 19th November towards continuing the exploration of possible ways forward for an

Elmswell Affordable Homes initiative avoiding the possible loss of the homes through Right to Buy or Right to Acquire legislation. It remains the case that there is no cast iron guarantee of security of community ownership. Furthermore, Registered Providers (RP's) – Housing Associations – have many calls on their funding as developers seek partnership deals towards delivering affordable units required under s106 Agreements. There was discussion around the possibility of building almshouses which remain, under the protection of charitable status, immune from being sold on into the private market. There would remain the considerable problem of funding the build without the Government grants available to RP's. Recent developments at Stoke by Nayland & Creeting St Mary may be instructive and the idea might be taken further when more details of these initiatives are to hand. It is worth noting that almshouses need not be designed and provided solely for elderly tenants. Rather, housing need across the whole host community is what they can seek to address.

- Cllrs Brown, Pallet and I met with Andrew Moore, our SCC Highways Community Liaison Engineer, on 27th November to try to revive the road safety initiative promised, with a funding input from EPC, in 2023 and never delivered other than the renewal of the zebra crossing markings which had benefitted from direct intervention by Cllr Andy Melten as Ward Member. It was agreed that the scheme is to be revisited and revived. Meanwhile, it transpired that the recent work on the A1088 roundabout to cut back vegetation to allow for safe visibility had nothing to do with EPC appeals or references to The National Highways Design Manual for Roads & Bridges section CD 116, Geometric Design of Roundabouts. Our reference to the text-book documents was in response to SCC having forwarded photographic evidence purporting to illustrate the safety of the roundabout as was, but using angles and perspectives which did not reflect the reality of the risk and which masked the contravention of proper regulation. The work had, in fact, been carried out by a company called Marketing Force under licence from SCC Highways to provide advertising on roundabouts. Andrew Moore had not known of the arrangement. It leaves the smaller 'splitter islands' still in a very poor state and much to the detriment of the main access into Elmswell - however, these are the responsibility of BMSDC Public

Realm who must be approached separately.

In personal later discussion between Councillors it was suggested that the transfer of responsibility to a new highways services provider at SCC has been of no material benefit. The culture remains one of, 'clear your desk by passing the buck and then keep your head down'. It is possible to suggest that a possible change of administration in May next year could provide an opportunity for some intelligence of approach towards a new business model for Highways administration and, perhaps, some accountability.

- A Budget Training Session for Councillors held on 3rd December covered the process & procedures whereby the Tax Base is applied and considered in detail various outcomes including the outturn from a precept yielding the same income as last year, the precept needed to increase the cost to charge payers of 5% or of 1% and the result of holding the levy as last year. Reference was made to the RFO's forecast of next year's I&E which included the usual raft of purely discretionary expenditure as, 'schemes'. It was noted that Elmswell is, as has been the case for several years, 5th in the league table of Council Tax levied by T&PC's across Mid Suffolk and it was suggested that this is a reflection of the facilities enjoyed and the constant development and expansion of those facilities making Elmswell attractive to incomers. The many hundreds of new households who have joined the village over the past few years have done so in full knowledge of the Council Tax level and possibly aware of the benefits this has allowed. It was accepted that comparisons are difficult and Woolpit was instanced as having a village hall but no other Council-managed letting options and no allotments, cemetery, bowls green or football club facilities. It was noted that the employer's extra burden resulting from the recent budget had not been factored into the forecast but the RFO undertook to do this and to modify outcomes accordingly now that an Employer's Contribution Calculator is available. A suggestion was floated that a 5% uplift on the amount levied would allow the continuing improvement of Elmswell as a thriving community. This found general favour.

Planning results

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

DC/24/04310 Advertisement consent...(petrol filling station) Eg On

The Move, Kiln Lane REFUSED
EPC objected

DC/24/04764 Discharge of Conditions re DC/21/05976 (3 dwellings)...EV charging / access & boundary details Hedgerows, Grove Lane APPROVED EPC no comment

DC/24/04709 Discharge of Conditions...Blackbird Cottage, St Johns Close APPROVED EPC no comment

DC/24/04510 Discharge of Conditions re DC/22/03966 (65 dwellings)...photovoltaic panels Land adjacent to Elmtree Business Park, Station Road Industrial Estate APPROVED EPC no comment

Planning Applications

The Meeting voted not to make any comment on the technical issues related to

Applications ref. DC/24/05140 for tree work at 36 Oxe Close and to support the Application for an extension to The Bracken in Oak Lane. The Clerk outlined his reasons for supporting the late application at Pippins in Station Road for a new garage and confirmed that he would register this under Delegated Powers in order to meet the consultation deadline. Objections are to be lodged against an Application ref. DC/24/04890 for another commercial building to the rear of the Stag Café on the old A45 in Woolpit and a further Application adjacent, ref DC/24/05355 for 2 further buildings on Land at Lawn Farm. Both of these proposals would result in heavier HGV traffic which is problematic, particularly where the poor management of the Lawn Farm Quarry site allows dangerous accumulations of mud, and both would have the effect of increasing non-HGV traffic from Elmswell down Warren Lane. The café site has the added problem of overcrowding with regard to parking which has to serve 3 food outlets as well as traffic associated with what would be 5 industrial units.

Allotment fees

Councillors agreed to an increase in allotment fees bringing the cost of a large plot to

£48.00 per year and a small plot to £38.00. Tenants on Pension Credit can claim a discount. Further, it was agreed that the fees should increase annually from 1st January 2026 by 10% rounded.

Precept

It was agreed that the level of Precept be set so as to increase the levy on charge payers by 5%. Given the current Tax Base published by Mid

Suffolk, this would produce an income of £249,150.00.

Elmswell Tavern

Councillors agreed that a Letter of Intent should go to Stroods Specialist Contractors of West Mersea confirming Council's aim of awarding them the contract for the refurbishment and extension of the former Railway Tavern premises at School Road at a Contract price of £464,293.00. This is a decisive step towards a definitive agreement within the terms of the RIBA Concise Building Contract 2018. It is a significant stage in the process which began when the site was

purchased from Greene King, with the village's agreement, in 2020 for £805,000. Advertisements inviting Expressions of Interest from architects resulted in the appointment of Donani Design of Beyton in 2023 and their scheme gaining Planning permission in February 2024. Subsequent invitations for Expressions of Interest from suitably qualified and experienced contractors drew 11 enquiries from which Stroods emerged as a clear favourite. The Meeting noted that there are significant further expenditures on top of the basic build cost but that these can be met within the identified funding.

Next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled for 20th January beginning at 7.30pm at Blackbourne. The public are, as ever, welcome to attend all Council meetings and the agendas will always offer opportunities for questions and comment. Agendas are published online at elmswell.suffolk.cloud and on the Council's notice board at Crown Mill. 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

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Future Council Meetings

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

Jan 20 th	Feb 17 th	Mar 17 th	April 14 th	May 19 th
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Meetings are held at Blackbourne, beginning at 7.30 unless otherwise notified

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Pie & Mash

Thursday 23rd January 1pm

£12.00 per person

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VILLAGE INDEX



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

Amenities Association	Jean Barker (Sec)	eea@elmswell.org.uk	241135
Art Club	Eddie Douglas	edward.douglas2@gmail.com	
Baby & Toddler Group		elmswellbtgroup@gmail.com	
Baptists	Dave Hollings	davehollings@btinternet.com	241323
BATS (Badminton & Table Tennis)	Mike Burgess Wilson	burgesswilsonmike@gmail.com	
Beavers	Ruth Salmon	ruthcourt4@hotmail.co.uk	
Bingo at Blackbourne	Brian Hawes		07761 125093
BWMA	Peter Edmonds (Sec)	edmondspeterj@gmail.com	07860 395720
Blackbourne – all enquiries	Parish Council office	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
Brownies	Gemma Sutton	elmswellbrownies@hotmail.com	
CAB		advice@midsuffolkcab.org.uk	01449 676060
Carpet Bowls Club	Mike North	mcnorth8@gmail.com	
Christians Together in Elmswell	Peter Goodridge	elmswellrector@gmail.com	240512
Community Speed Watch	Marie Spampinato	mariespampinato@hotmail.co.uk	07769 715209
Companions	Linda Waspe	linda@labbott.plus.com	
County Councillor	Cllr Andy Mellen	Andy.Mellen@suffolk.gov.uk	
Cricket Club	Ben Whatling (Captain)	benwhatling@mail.com	07760 174811
Cubs	Mark Pernot	mark.pernot@gmail.com	
District Councillor	Sarah Mansell	Sarah.Mansel@midsuffolk.gov.uk	07860 829517
District Councillor	Jen Overett	Jen.Overett@midsuffolk.gov.uk	
Elmswheelians	Trevor Sadler	trevor.sadler@dsl.pipex.com	240908
Elmswild	Mary Feeney	info@elmswild.org.uk	241901
Exchange Afternoon WI	Carol Blissett	carolblissett@hotmail.co.uk	242884
First Responders	Merv	merv.smith@tiscali.co.uk	07909 006 496
Football	Chris Edmonds	edddd101@gmail.com	
Fox Bowls Team bowls at Blackbourne	Rob Dann	rccsdann@btinternet.com	07917 013846
Gardening Club	Nick	elmswellgadmin@btinternet.com	01359 242601
Guides	Viv	elmswellguides@outlook.com	
Health Centre - Woolpit			240298
History Group	Stella Chamberlin	stellachamberlin@yahoo.co.uk	
Ladies Voices (Choir)	Anna Wilton Mills	annawm63@gmail.com	
Library	Miles Row - Manager	Elmswell.Library@suffolklibraries.co.uk	240974
Little Elms	Paula Reynolds / Samantha Willers	info@littleelms.co.uk	240491
Newsletter	Editorial office	eea@elmswell.org.uk	244134
Over 55's Club	Diann Armstrong	Mayfield, Wetherden Road	241002
Parish Council	Parish Clerk	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
Police Emergencies			999
Police; non-emergencies	Mid Suffolk South SNT	headquarters@suffolk.pnn.police.uk	101
Poor's Land Charity	Peter Goodridge	elmswellrector@gmail.com	240512
Power cuts		Powwercut105.com	105
Rainbows	Jen & Lizzie	elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com	
Royal British Legion	Norman Plumpton (Biff)	nplumpton@aol.com	07707 524722
School	Mrs Ash	admin@elmswell.suffolk.sch.uk	240261
Scouts	Paula Hollings	dc@stowmarketscouts.org.uk	07828 262485
St John's Church	Peter Goodridge	elmswellrector@gmail.com	240512
Sewing Bee	Isabel Burgess	isabel.burgess@live.com	
Village Tree Warden	c/o Parish Clerk	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
Wesley – all enquiries	Parish Council office	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
WI - evening	Tricia McNeeney	triciamcneeney@gmail.com	241197
Youth Football	Wayne	wsast@hotmail.co.uk	

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clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk Tel. 244134**

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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.

January 2025

- 6 2pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - "Travelling with animals" by Pip Wright
- 9 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Members' Evening: A selection of members' own researches
- 14 Elmswell WI - Have you ever met a Trans Woman?

February 2025

- 3 2pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - "Getting an award from the monarch" by Brian Hawes
- 5 Elmswell Afternoon WI - The Moses Project Speaker Nicky Thomas
- 8 Wine Tasting at the Wesley with local wine expert Bob Stopp. Commencing 7:00pm. Further details in next month's Newsletter
- 11 Elmswell WI - Climate change and reducing the carbon footprint

- 13 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Mike Walker: The Siege of Haughley Castle & Battle of Fornham, in 1173
- 18 Elmswell Gardening Club - 7.30pm in Wesley Hall-New Build Garden by Mike Burgess-Wilson

March 2025

- 3 2pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - "The Isle of Skye" by Chris Parfitt
- 5 Elmswell Afternoon WI - Beneath the City Streets - Speaker Peter Lawrence
- 11 Elmswell WI - Life on a canal boat
- 13 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker Don Mobley: U.S. Military Aviation in East Anglia
- 18 Elmswell Gardening Club - 7.30pm in Wesley Hall - Herbs for the Gourmet Gardener by Caroline Holmes

April 2025

- 2 Elmswell Afternoon WI - Craft, Spinners, Weavers & Dyers - Speakers Stella and John Briggs
- 7 2pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - "Fraud" by Jane Riches
- 8 Elmswell WI - Riding for the disabled
- 10 ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP 25th Anniversary meeting, 7.30pm; in Wesley Chapel. Speaker - to be confirmed: Saving Britain's Heritage over the past 50 years
- 15 Elmswell Gardening Club - 7.30pm in Wesley Hall-My World of Alpines by David Livermore

May 2025

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

STOP PRESS

Regular sessions at Blackbourne & Wesley include:

- KARATE** with Lewis - Friday 5.00 - 7.00 info@greatheadma.com
- JAPANESE JUJUTSU / SELF DEFENCE** - Monday & Wednesday 6.30 - 8.30 ryoishintowaryuheiho@gmail.com tel. 07711 680262
- BABY & TODDLER GROUP** - Monday mornings elmswellbtgroup@gmail.com
- BATS- badminton / table tennis / pool** at Blackbourne Friday nights 7 - 9.30 simon@coakleyandtheaker.co.uk
- BOWLS** - barryhayward1902@gmail.com tel. 240951
- GUIDES** - elmswellguides@outlook.com
- FOOTBALL** - Chris Edmonds edddd101@gmail.com
- RAINBOWS** - elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com
- JUNIOR FOOTBALL** - smyth98@hotmail.com 07717 841591
- CUBS** Tuesdays 6.15 - 7.30 - mark.pernot@gmail.com
- BEAVERS /SCOUTS** - Wednesday 5.45 - 9.15 ddc.paula@stowmarketscouts.org.uk
- OVER 55'S** - every other Thursday 6.30 - 10.30 Diann Armstrong tel. 241002
- CIRCLE DANCING** - Thursdays 1.45 - 3.15 jenlerner@gmail.com
- TREFOIL GUILD** - 1st Tuesday monthly lesley.grout@btinternet.com
- MARDLE QUILTERS** - last Friday monthly carpajak@aol.com
- MOO MUSIC** - Fridays 12.45 - 3.15 bury@moo-music.co.uk
- WI** - evening at Wesley 2nd Tuesday monthly 7.30pm triciamcneeny@gmail.com
- WI** - afternoon at Wesley 1st Wednesday monthly Carol Blissett carolblissett@hotmail.co.uk
- ART CLUB** at Wesley every Tuesday 9.00 - 12.00 Eddie Douglas edward.douglas2@gmail.com
- HISTORY GROUP** at Wesley 2nd Thursday monthly 7.30 stellachamberlin@yahoo.co.uk
- GARDEN CLUB** at Wesley 3rd Tuesday monthly 7.30 elmswellgcadmin@btinternet.com
- CARPET BOWLS** - Wednesday 7pm at Wesley - em.mcnorth8@gmail.com
- COMPANIONS** - every other Friday 10 - 12 at Wesley - linda@abbott.plus.com
- PILATES** - Monday & Friday mornings - suzanne@triformpilates.co.uk
- BINGO** - Blackbourne, last Friday monthly doors open 6.30...eyes - down 7.30
- ARTS SOCIETY OF WEST SUFFOLK** first Tuesday monthly, October-June. Diana Hollins 01449 736930 theartsociety-westsuffolk.org.uk
If we've missed you out, do let us know...all enquiries to Ann at the Council Office Tel. 244134 Email clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk
- DANCE & FITNESS / CIRCUITS** - Mondays 7.00pm & 7.50pm at Wesley
- BRIDGE** - Blackbourne - Monday afternoons from 1.15pm - Phil Peters 07825 016884 peters33@btinternet.com

Your Newsletter Fact File

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

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

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

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

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