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The ELMSWELL Newsletter

At the heart of your community - bringing people together

NOVEMBER 2000

Our Cover Picture Shows



A very healthy donation... *see page 20*

Published by the Elmswell Amenities Association Reg. Charity No. 304879.
Delivered free to every household and to businesses in the community.

This Month's "COMMENT"

"If you have a 300-500 word "Comment" on something directly related to, happening in or affecting Elmswell please submit it! Presentation unimportant - hand written is fine - simply include contact telephone number." Editors.

2001 will be an exciting year for Elmswell Library, when we move into a brand new building just around the corner from our present site in Crooks Road. At the same time we will also be able to open an extra session per week. This is a direct result of being one of the busiest village libraries in the county. Our current opening hours are:-

Tuesday		2.00 - 5.00;	5.30 - 7.30
Thursday	10.00 - 1.00;	2.00 - 5.00	
Friday		2.00 - 5.00	
Saturday	10.00 - 1.00		

Please help us choose our new extra session.

We could offer either Mondays or Wednesdays, morning or afternoon, or Friday mornings. At present the afternoon sessions are the busiest. If you have a preference please fill in the voting slip on page 2 and return it to the library.

As library manager, I would like to say a big thank you to all our customers for

continued...

The deadline for the next issue is 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday 6th December 2000. Copy to Gobblin's office on Station Road Industrial Estate or contact: Jean Barker 241135 or Peter Dow 241841.

The Amenities Association, which publishes the Newsletter, will try to find space for all contributions, regardless of any point of view expressed, if space permits and providing that they are legal and that the writer's name and address are included.

Any views expressed or implied are not necessarily condoned or supported by the Association which offers, in the Newsletter, an impartial service to the community.

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all the support and good humoured encouragement you gave us. For any Elmswell residents who haven't yet visited the library, you might be surprised at the range of services on offer. As well as a wide selection of recently published fiction and non-fiction for adults and children, our customers have access to the entire book stock of Suffolk County Libraries, our Inter-library loan service connecting us to the rest of Britain. From the public computers, customers can view the catalogue and make reservations, use various CD-ROMs such as mapview, and access the Internet. Videos are available for hire on our shelves, while CDs, CD-ROMs, DVDs, audio books etc. can all be ordered.

If you have any suggestions for improvements in our service we look forward to hearing them and, if possible, putting them into action.

This is your village library, an asset for everyone to use!

Oh! - And special thanks to the group of young men who pushed a car out of the mud one Tuesday night outside the library. The member of staff concerned thought she was stuck for good, and might have been there a long time, had it not been for these good samaritans. Thank you.

Contributor: Julie Harrison - Library Manager



ELMSWELL LIBRARY NEW OPENING SESSION VOTING SLIP

Please tick your choice(s) ... more than one tick allowed!

Mondays 10-1 Mondays 2-5 Wednesdays 10-1
Wednesdays 2-5 Fridays 10-1

Return to Elmswell library.

Thank you.

**Letters to the Editor should be sent c/o Gobblins, Station Road.
Please be brief. A name and address must be included.**

Around and About ...

ELMSWELL PTA

The Elmswell PTA would like to thank the people of Elmswell and the surrounding areas for making the Bonfire Night such a huge success. We would like especially to thank the following businesses:

Village Homes of Elmswell, Manver's Triumph, Desira Motor Company, J.W. Diaper & Sons Poultry, O.C. Jewers of Elmswell, Mentors of Elmswell, Ipswich & Norwich Co-operative of Elmswell, Gobbins Wholefoods of Elmswell, The Fox Tavern of Elmswell, Bright Acres Tool Hire, Waitrose of Bury St Edmunds, Tesco's of Bury St Edmunds, Sainsbury's of Bury St Edmunds, HSBC Bank.

The PTA purchase the fireworks every year and it has become a village tradition but not everyone knows that all the monies raised from Bonfire Night and other PTA events goes directly to benefit the children of Elmswell Primary. It is our intention this year to upgrade the computers and other school equipment so our children have every advantage technology can offer. Please don't feel that you have to wait till next Bonfire Night to be a contributor. Upgrading computers and other school equipment is an ongoing process. If you

would like to contribute to the education of tomorrow's leaders please, contact Elmswell Primary's Head teacher or any PTA member.
Ja Lynn Hudnall

ELMSWELL TODDLERS

Elmswell Toddlers have had a busy month. We would like to thank everyone who supported our nearly new sale by buying, selling or donating items. The sale was very successful and we raised £220. Thank you too, everyone who helped with leaflet delivering, preparation or on the day. The hard work was all worthwhile. Our next spring nearly new sale will be held on 17th March 2001. So make a note in your diaries!

We are now preparing for a visit to Elmswell Firestation, a couple of mums' social events ('toddlers is great fun for carers too!'), our Christmas party, a Darling Kindersley Book Party and a swimming trip.

On 25th October 2000 we will be having our annual photo session with 'Tempest'. There will be a £1.00 entrance charge and photos will be taken on a 'first come first served' basis. We will be having a raffle and everyone will receive a ticket, for which the prize will be a free set of photos.

We would also like to thank Chrissy for her donation of a toy teapot, and the use of her



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Clive Jenkins. Tel/Fax 01359 242284

Around and About cont'd., pg3

bouncy castle at the autumn fayre. We would also like to thank everyone who has donated toys to the group. We have recently been given two bicycles which we are most grateful for. Also thank you to the Parish Council for their donation of £14.00 to pay for advertising for our Nearly New Sale.

We aim to be a friendly + welcoming toddler group and are always open to new ideas. Elmswell Toddlers meets on Monday from 1.30pm - 3.00pm and on Wednesday from 10.00am - 11.30am. We meet during school holidays, but not on Bank Holidays. We welcome parents, grandparents, mums, dads, nannies and child-minders. The cost is 75p per session for 1 child and £1 for 2 children over a year old.

For further information on Elmswell Toddlers, please contact

Sarah Mansel 241857 or Jackie Denial 242857. **(written by Victoria Webb**

- 01359 240768)

EXPERIENCED NANNY

N N E B Qualified.

22 years old, driver,
experience with children
from new born
to school age.

5 years child care
experience.

References can be given.

Please telephone Lisa on
Elmswell (01359) 241858
Mobile 07887 875130

W.I.

A member of the broadcasting team from BBC Radio Suffolk, Maureen Garratt, was our October speaker.

We heard how each slot in the day was planned with local people and events in mind, and how the music is computer chosen with the occasional touch of individual choice. We admired Maureen's skill in organising her early morning shift, as well as family commitments, and appreciated her lively and interesting talk. We meet at the Blackbourne Hall at 7.30pm on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. New members and visitors are most welcome.

ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB

Our guest speaker arrived at the Hall quite early, and I felt it only right to mention that our membership might be a bit on the low side as our meeting and the Village quiz had clashed, but my concerns and apologies were short lived. Members just kept coming in, and the cry for additional chairs soon went out, and another dozen chairs soon appeared thanks to the sterling efforts of our Ladies. It never fails to amaze me how our Secretary keeps finding such superb and interesting speakers, Mr Parnwell a Nurseryman from Peterborough brought with him several trays each of Primroses and Cyclamen and a very comprehensive selection of slides, and gave a talk on the two species that was second to none. There was a time after the official talk was over, when Mr Parnwell and members entered a question and answer session that I wondered if the man would ever get back to Peterborough that night such was the interest in his subject. Our competition of three different vegetables was won by Mrs Marguerite Lankester with Mrs Ruth Armstrong as runner up, well done to all entrants. It only



Around and About cont'd.. pg5

leaves me now to remind all members that our next meeting will be the AGM in the Exchange Hall at 8.00pm on November 16th. Please come along and tell us what you thought of last year and what you would like for next year, because it's your club.

ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

November 2000

Well, I'm back from my holidays, and winter has truly set in. Dark nights, and only Eastenders for comfort, oh dear, roll on the Summer. If like me you're finding the winter boring, why not join us for some of our activities. If you are under 13, male or female then join us for an hour on Sunday at 9.45am, we'll keep you busy. If you're over this age, again male or female then join us every Sunday at 11am, again for an hour. If you're a lady, at 7.45 on December 4th, turn up for an evening of 'Nosh and Natter'. A good chance to meet others and have good food, and a chat. If you don't fit into any of the above categories, then I suggest you join the Cricket Club, (just getting my own back from September!!).

Our weekly Tuesday meetings carry on throughout the month, and again these have proved very beneficial to all who have attended.

If you are good at DIY, gardening, cleaning, and want to get out of the Christmas shopping, give us a look anytime between 9.30 - 12.30 on Saturday 2nd December where once again we shall be having our monthly working party. All help welcomed. I won't mention the 'C' word to often (Christmas, not Cricket), but of course, we shall be holding our Christmas services on 24th December, which is also Christmas Eve (I love it when it falls on a Sunday), so come early to avoid disappointment. I think you'll find a few surprised in store this year. Not least of which is a nice hot drink, from our new water heater (we are gradually moving into the 21st Century).

See you soon if not before.

Mark

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY, STOWMARKET

Parish Priest:

Father Denys Lloyd,
The Presbytery,
76 Ipswich Street,
Stowmarket IP14 1AZ
Tel: 01449-612946

Parish Office:

Tel: 01449-771703

MASS TIMES:

Saturdays (First Mass of Sunday)

Woolpit C of E Parish Church, 6pm

Sundays

Stowmarket (Our Lady's, Stricklands Road)
8.30am & 10.15am

Wattisham Airfield Church (first Sunday of
each month) 12.15pm

Needham Market C of E Parish Church
(second Sunday of each month) 12.15pm

**Could
GOLFERS
using
Grove Lane
Playing Field
please
retrieve all
practice balls -
they are damaging
the grass mowers.
Thank you.**

Around and About cont'd., pg2

Holy Days

Stowmarket (Our Lady's, Stricklands Road)
8am; 10am & 7pm

Weekday services in the parish are listed at the front of the church at Our Lady's and in the weekly Newsletter. If you are unable to contact Fr. Denys and need a Priest in a hurry, please telephone either 01284-754358 or 01473-741975.

The Parish Representative in your area is: Mrs Hilda Jackson, Holly Cottage, Long Thurlow, Badwell Ash IP31 3JB. Tel: 01359-259944.

ELMSWELL FC

Club Sponsors: Mirror Group Newspapers.

Warm up Top Sponsors: Energizer.

First Aid Sponsors: Euro Food Machinery (Elmswell).

1st Team Sponsors: Mirror Group Newspapers

2nd Team Sponsors: Elmswell Fox.

Matchball Sponsors: Rota-Rod (Bob Barter), Travelstop (Elmswell), Stowmarket Golf Club, Tulipa Gardens (Elmswell).

1st Team Manager: D Scace; Assistant K Hammond.

2nd Team Manager: B Barter; Assistant S Harrison.

Over 35 Sponsors: C G Finch & Sons

Results for October

7th First Team Ufford Home Drew 1-1,
Scorer S Tweddle.

Res Tuddenham Home (SP Cup)
Lost 8-1, Scorer S Warby.

14th First Team Dennington Away Won 4-0,
Scorers S Champion 2, T Conway 1,
M Lombardo 1.

Res Stowupland (A) Home Won 3-1,
Scorers G Coleman 2, A Spinga 1

21st First Team Needham Market (A)
Home Won 3-2, Scorers M Lombardo, P Swallow, D Thomas
Res Somersham Res Away Won 5-1,
Scorers S Tweddle 3, T Warby 1, R Turnbull 1.

28th First Team Helmsman Away (SJ Cup) Lost 1-0

Fixtures for Nov/Dec

Nov 25th First Team Waterside Away
Res (Orwell Cup)

Dec 2nd First Team Orwell Ath Home
Res East Bergholt (A) Away

Dec 9th First Team Waterside Home
Res Stradbook Utd Away

Dec 16th First Team Bramford Road Away
Res Kitchener Utd Home

Monthly Draw November

Drawn by J Gilbert

£50 No 383 H Manning

£35 No 270 R Brown

£25 No 126 A Leeks

£15 No 109 P Hunt

£15 No 365 C (Clive) Hewitt

Anyone wishing to join Elmswell Football Club please telephone B Hayward on (01359) 240951. Training Wednesday nights, Grove Lane pitch.

Compiled by H Mulley

ST JOHN'S CHURCH ELMSWELL

On 29 October at 10.30am our preacher was the Revd Tom Curtis; Tom's son Tim works in the Chaco in South America for the South American Mission, one of the charities which the members of St John's Church have supported for many years. He told us not only of the various hardships SAMS workers have to contend with, but also of the great successes - amongst them being the translation of the Bible into local dialects, enabling the indigenous tribes to read God's word in their own language. Another charity which we support is the

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Children's Society. Earlier this year Graham and Margaret Newman were sponsored to walk the Inca Trail, from Chilca to Machu Picchu. On Thursday 2 November at 7.30pm, they told us of their great adventure; they raised £1,400 for the Society, which seeks to support vulnerable children and teenagers who have problems with their lives. The Family Christingle Service on Sunday 2 December at 9.30am will also remember the work of the Children's Society.

We hope to see you at our Autumn Fair on Saturday 18 November at 2pm at the Blackbourne - all the usual stalls, plus craft stalls and refreshments. This is one of our largest fund raising efforts of the year, when we once again look to the village to support the work of the Church.

On Sunday 19 November at 10.30am there will be a service of Thanksgiving in the Church for the completed restoration work - everyone is invited to join us in worship on this day.

There will be a CHRISTMAS FLOWER ARRANGING DEMONSTRATION ON SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER IN THE CHURCH AT 10.30AM. Mrs Anne Dyball will give the demonstration, after which a light lunch will be served. For tickets (£5) please telephone 01359 240245.

The Friends of St John's

Our next fund raising event will be the Concert by the Suffolk Constabulary Male Voice Choir on Friday 24 November at 7.30pm in the Church - Tickets £5, which includes refreshments. The programme will include Schubert's 'Sanctus' and 'Any Dream will do' by Andrew Lloyd Webber. Tel: 01359 242099 for further details.

Following on from the Tea Towels which sold so well to raise funds for the Friends, we now have aprons for sale - price £6.50, they are similar to the Tea Towels, with a sketch of the Church, the Almshouses, the

Elmswell Village Signs, etc. - excellent value - perfect Christmas presents! Tel: 01359 242099 to order.

Services etc.,

at ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Saturday 18 November

2pm Autumn Fair at the Blackbourne

Sunday 19 November

10.30am Holy Communion - Thanksgiving Service

Friday 24 November

7.30pm Concert in Church

Sunday 26 November

10.30am Morning Prayer

11.30am Holy Communion

Saturday 2 December

10.30am Flower Arranging Demonstration in Church

Sunday 3 December

9.30am Family Christingle Service

10.30am Morning Prayer

11.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 10 December

8am Holy Communion

10.30am Parish Praise - Nativity Service

Sunday 17 December

10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday School at 10.30am each Sunday except 1st Sunday in month

St John's Church Floodlighting

A nights floodlighting costs £5. (Please make cheques payable to "St John's Church, Elmswell")

November 2000 Sponsorships

- 1 in loving memory of Alfred Clarke on his 83rd birthday.
- 2 in loving memory of John Philip Parsk, a dearly loved husband, dad and grandad.
- 6 in memory of Dorothy May Nunn (nee Manning).

Around and About cont'd., pg10

- 7 for the birth of Laura Annic Skinner, with love, from proud grandparents, Doreen & John Adams.
11 in loving memory of Ena May Clover.
12 in memory of Thomas Henry Manning.
14 in memory of Ann Thorby.
15 in memory of Wally Fraser.
22 in memory of Ann Thorby.
26 in memory of Margery Rose Cammell.
28 in memory of Evelyn Clark.

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

PROJECT 2000

The next meeting of the St Johns Church Kneeler Group will be held at Bunkers Hall Farmhouse on Tuesday 28th November at 2.30pm. Any new stitchers interested in joining this interesting project please contact Pat Catton 242902 or Janet Baker 240229. Step by step instruction is given.

WI SHOPPING TRIP

The outing to Norwich will be on Wednesday 22nd November 2000 leaving Bakers Mill Yard at 9am, then leaving Norwich at 4.30pm arriving back in Elmswell around 5.45pm. To book a seat ring Janet Baker 240229.

ELMSWELL METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

Our Church in School Road is now 102 years old. Our Anniversary was celebrated with a buffet supper at the home of Alan and Maureen Newcombe, and on the last Sunday in October, when representatives of all the organisations using the premises were invited to attend the morning service which was conducted by our minister Revd. Joyce Dye. We were delighted with the response, and all units were recognised and presented with a certificate to thank them

for their support. It was a particular joy to have the children from mums and toddlers present. The previous evening the Dominote tripped memories from way back when the reminded the audience of 'Songs from the Millennium'. The weather was atrocious, but those who braved it sand, amongst many other songs, 'I'm singing in the Rain' with smiling faces. On November 4th we held our Autumn Bazaar. Although support from the village was disappointing, we thank all who helped to raise £287 for our church funds.

Preachers planned to lead worship at 10.45am for the coming month

Nov 19th	Mr Colin Francis
Nov 26th	Mrs Maureen Newcombe
Dec 3rd	Revd. Joyce Dye
Dec 10th	Mr Andrew High
Dec 17th	Revd. Joyce Dye

Women's Fellowship 2.45pm Tuesdays

Nov 21st	Mrs Jessie Parker
Dec 5th	Mr Ron Moody
Dec 12th	Members Afternoon

Exchange Hall Club

November 28th - Outing to Thursford
Christmas Spectacular

House Fellowship held at the home of Jill and Duncan Jacobs, Wednesday November 29th.

Revd. Joyce Dye has arranged a group Advent study course to be held at Stowmarket during November and December.

Around and About cont'd., pg 13

ELMSWELL CRICKET CLUB

Sponsored by Manvers Triumph



November is that time of year when, quite frankly, not much happened in cricketing terms. Not unless you've just had the sort of season which, once again, prompts you to contemplate retirement. If you're lucky, you'll have stacked up loads of runs and wickets when you were younger which now, potentially, stand you in good stead. You can sit back and recount to anyone who'll listen just how good you were all those years ago and how you might just have played for Suffolk, if not a first-class county - but for the lack of opportunity, boots that were too big, poor parents, no luck and even less talent! That's why our mouths are bigger than the combined sizes of our car holes (I appreciate that may not make any real sense, yet it's strangely compelling).

But what if you weren't that good in your youth? The whole thing is a bit like life. Most people aren't saving enough for their retirement. If you're one of them, I'd suggest you start exercising vigorously so that later in life you can bully your friends and take their stuff when you need it. You often see more senior people in the park and in places like The Blackbourne practising t'ai chi or shiatsu. The *alleged* purpose to increase balance and energy, or

some such hogwash. What ever happened to TAKING A WALK. You don't need to learn lethal skills to increase balance and energy. It's obvious, isn't it. These middle-aged and senior retired folk are preparing to beat the heck out of us and take our stuff. They're just biding their time, waiting for us to realise there isn't enough retirement money for everyone. Many of you are saving money instead of exercising. It may seem the smart thing to do but later you'll be cursing as you watch t'ai chi experts walk off with your stuff in huge boxes. Don't say you haven't been warned. Anyway, maybe those of us contemplating giving up at this time of year will just have to accept that one more season will give us the strength we need for what's to come.

Is there any real cricketing news, do I hear you cry? Nope. Although I would remind everyone that the Club's **AGM** is on Wednesday 22 November at 8.00pm in the Library. Miss it and weep!

Can I also add that we're now selling our '**Quiz of the Century**' sheets. For just £2.00 you can buy one of our quizzes. All you have to do is answer 100 questions about the last century, return the form and you could be in line for a stupendous prize. Finally, we are indebted to John Lankester, a local unidentified resident, and the Police for their vigilance and help during the recent gale-force winds. Our score-hut had the misfortune to think it was a dice and

~~ Novelty Cakes! ~~

You create the idea - Let me create the cake!

Something different for Christmas?

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Around and About conf'd., pg 14

go on a roll! The aforementioned folk spotted this, reported it and helped us to retrieve the beast. As a result, the damage was not as bad as it might have been. Thank you very much.

Doug Reed, Secretary (Tel: 241009; e-mail: elmswellcc@hotmail.com)

Elmswell CC Century Club

Results October

£15 C Gould (No 21)

£10 D Wiggins (No 95)

£5 R Linnett (No 3)

HELPING HAND CLUB



Well done our Village Quiz Team! Despite being a

'man' short, the team reached a very creditable place in the table, achieving our highest ever number of points.

Thanks to Steve from 'Jems' for his demonstration and explanation of his posture bed and to those of our members who tried out the movement and massage provided by the model shown.

The British Legion group was as ever most welcome and provided an enjoyable evening of entertainment. A collection was taken on their behalf.

We will welcome the Brownies who are coming to entertain us at our next meeting and also the popular Peter Clark who is making a return visit on December 7th.

That takes us through to our final gathering of the year, our Christmas Party on 9th December at 6 for 6.30pm. How time flies!

A reminder to those of you who have Carers to help you to bed, that our evening will finish much later than our normal meetings. Carers have been most helpful in the past by reorganising their times in order to let you enjoy our party evenings in full but you do need to speak with them in good time.

Finally may I remind you that we have a good collection of photos as a record of our activities throughout 1999, compiled by Pat

Burch and me, and on which I exercise my muscles by carting the albums to and from our meetings for you to enjoy and perhaps to raise a smile. If you can't manage to get to the table where they are placed please ask any of us and we will be happy to bring them to you. Visitors are also most welcome to look through them to see some of the things that we get up to!

Correction to misprint in last newsletter - the Coffee Morning and Sale raised £80 and not £60 as stated.

Betty 241386

ELMSWELL AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY



The society's Christmas pantomime will be "Aladdin" and will be performed Thursday 1st, Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd February 2001. This is our most ambitious show to date, so why not book a date and join in the fun!

If anyone would like to help behind the scenes you would be very welcome. Just turn up at the Methodist Hall on any Monday evening or 'phone Keith Farrow on 01359 242215 for more details.

Could any individual or business help us out with storage of props and costumes? We are desperately seeking a small room to use for six months or more. Access will be needed only rarely, during office hours, if more convenient. 'Phone Keith on the above number if you can help.

KILN MEADOW

Here' a question for readers to ponder; what do fungi (slimy, squidgy things growing on rotting vegetation) have to do with marquetry (beautifully inlaid wood work) and jewellery (items of personal adornment often placed next to the skin)? Not a lot, you might think. But you'd be wrong, as the volunteers carrying out the annual fungi survey at Kiln Meadow discovered. We were lucky enough to have

Around and About cont'd., pg16

an expert with us, Nick Gibbons of the Wildlife Trust, who not only identified the species we found, but supplied us with all sorts of fascinating facts about things fungoid.

For instance, Green Wood-cup, a pretty blue-green fungus which grows on wood, stains its host with a beautiful verdigris dye, prized by wood workers to the extent that they deliberately introduced the fungus into suitable wood in order to produce "green oak", used in the manufacture of inlay work known as Tunbridge Ware. A bracket fungus, the Versicolor Polypore, has rings of green, brown and cream and used to be dried to and made into jewellery. We found both these species at Kiln Meadow.

One of the wonderful things about fungi is their huge range of colours, shapes and sizes. We found them growing amongst the leaf litter under trees, on living trees, on rotting wood and on grassland. Some appeared to be growing on the ground, but the presence indicated a fallen tree or log, long since covered over. Some are edible, while others are highly toxic. Even the edible varieties range from those which have gourmet cooks rushing about the countryside uttering small cries of delight, to others that you might just consider eating if you were taking part in a survival course. Somewhere in between are the "magic mushrooms", much sought after by some for the hallucinogenic qualities. We didn't find any of these, but we did find a Giant Puffball, unfortunately rendered inedible by a misplaced boot, and lots of Shaggy Ink-caps, which we could have eaten if only someone had remembered the frying pan and the garlic.

Even the names of the fungi are fascinating. We found a splendid specimen of Jew's Ear, which grows on Elder. The name is a corruption of "Judas's Ear", referring to Judas Iscariot who is said to have hanged himself from an elder tree (and presumably

left his ear behind). It does look remarkably like an ear, but reminded some of us uncomfortably of those pictures of the human ear growing on a mouse. Perhaps the best named, though, is an orangey-pink toadstool called the Deceiver. It's very variable in appearance, depending on age and conditions, hence the name. But they're all a bit like that, aren't they?

The volunteers would like to thank Mr & Mrs Thompson of Stradbroke for their kind donation of two guelder roses. These two native shrubs are very appropriate for the site and will fit nicely into the new hedges. We will plant them as soon as the weather permits.

Mary Feeney (241901)

Is your garden
a jungle ?

Call Jane Hamblin
garden design and build
Tel: 01359 270644

LAND ARMY DESIGNS
www.gardendesignsuk.co.uk

Our Cover Picture Shows

Doctors and staff at the Woolpit Health Centre receiving a cheque for £1425 as a donation from Elmswell Football Club and their friends and supporters.

This magnificent gesture was made possible by local effort in memory of Carl Finch, an Elmswell FC stalwart who rose through the ranks of refereeing in the local, regional and national game to become one of the chosen few officials listed by the Football League. Carl died of lung cancer, aged just 40, after a long illness.

His widow, Virginia, hopes that, given the tremendous support for this year's memorial football match and dance, the event can continue to benefit the local community on an annual basis. Pledged to help her in this is fundraiser extraordinary Roy Finch, whose wide ranging work for local charitable causes efforts was recently featured on Radio Suffolk. Roy, himself an ex Elmswell player, expressed his delight at the support he had found throughout the village and the local football community – a real opportunity for building bridges between people.

In the picture from left to right are; Beryl Finch (Carl's mother), Dick Burch (representing Elmswell Football Club), Virginia Finch, Roy Finch, Dr Tony Brain, Maggie Aldridge, Sallie Crouch (Woolpit Health Centre Practice Manager), Dr Will Ridsdill Smith and Dr Sonny Aung.

'Twas Ever Thus

I should tell you that a good number of villagers showed up at the last Parish Council meeting, which was most enlightening and added some cheer to the forum of councillors gathered to discuss the current activities and problems of this parish of Elmswell. There were in attendance some villagers for the first time, others who attend intermittently or when they have a grievance to make known. We surely all have grievances to air, where better to go than to those people appointed to be the custodians of your rights. If your Parish Council has not got to grips with a just complaint raised, come along again to the next month and ask again for an answer. After all you life here, so why not make it a better place to live.

The subjects discussed included:

- * Vacancy for a Parish Councillor
- * The upgrading of street lighting
- * Thedwastre play area
- * The proposed development of the new area for a Playing Field at Street Farm

Elmswell Newsletter November 1986

VILLAGE QUIZ 2000

For the seventh consecutive year the Amenities Association Annual Quiz presented an opportunity for a slightly more cerebral gloss to be presented to the world. For brain to take precedence over brawn. For the thrill of the intellectual chase to be to the fore.

Once again, it didn't quite work out that way. There was the usual melée of shouting contestants, jealous for every point. The inevitable challenges to Julie King as question setter – why do they bother...Julie knows they're wrong! All supervised by the mellifluously commanding John Read who gently stirs up team rivalry to fever pitch. And all fed by the waiters (David Barker, Jackie van der Ree, Peter Edmonds & 'Mr Tuxedo', Ian Renouf) whose impeccable training is evident as they slop beer, coins and sandwiches about allowing the teams to concentrate on the finely balanced battle of wit and recall that the contest represents.

But, this year was special. The Jubilee Quiz Cup was inaugurated by the Parish Council in 1977. It was rather fully inscribed, so the Amenities Association decided that a Millennium Cup would be appropriate. The members were unanimous in naming the award after Muriel King who had, in recent years worked hard to re-establish an annual quiz event in the village. From her behind – the – scenes roll as refreshments co-ordinator Muriel was thrust into the spotlight to present the impressive 'Muriel King Quiz Trophy' to this year's winners.

It was the Amateur Dramatic Society who nicked it. The closeness of the result bore testimony to the skill of the question setting. It was 'TV Themes' that allowed them to creep ahead of the fast pedalling Elmswheelians who just held off St Johns Church who had scored an impeccable 20 (playing their joker) on 'True or False.' At the other end The Unknowns, about whom little is known, joined Sixth Sense, who had a strong Parish Council element to boost their intellectual weight, in the glory of defeat.

The rivalry was healthy, the enjoyment obvious. A rare chance for different groups within the community to meet, bridges built through the natural process of community. No question!

QUIZ FACTS...

the inaugural Quiz, chaired by the redoubtable Norman Sinclair, was won by the Parish Council who also won the second year, 1978. In 1979 the dream team including a youthful Peter Dow and Dr Andrew Mason (resplendent in school cap) won for the PTA and in 1980 the Playgroup triumphed. Private enterprise was to the fore in 1981 when Hawes' Printers won and in both 1982 and 1983 the (now defunct) Thursday Club triumphed.

Then – nothing. Until, in 1994 Muriel King battled to persuade the Amenities Association to revive the event in a new format. Which proved a great success – especially for The Fox, who wiped the floor with all comers in that year, and the next...and the next...and so on for five years until Paddy Butcher (our P.A. provider on the night) rode into town with his redoubtable RSVP team who saw off the barroom brains last year.

ARE YOU HERE ?

The picture dates back to the New Year's Day Footpath Walk in 1989.

It shows the Parish Council Footpath Officer, Joan Hunter, together with Council Chairman Alan Ling and Amenities Association Chairman Peter Dow toasting the fact that the Council, after months of hard and technical wrangling, secured the freehold of the site which was to become Blackbourne Meadow.

The Parish Council has, until recently, taken a keen interest in the protection of and the development of the footpath network in and around the village. In those days, 'bridge building' meant a couple of railway sleepers and a lot of muddy spadework. One of the battles they began was to reclaim Footpath 9 where it had, for generations, run along the village boundary behind Valley View, the last house in the village along Wetherden Road. It disappeared one day under an impenetrable mesh of barbed wire and fencing erected by the landowner who asserted that the footpath had never existed! Footpath stories are, inevitably long. To cut this one short, Suffolk County Council have, just this month, finally agreed that the path should be added to the Definitive Map. This removes all argument and restores the right to the public (removing also the necessity to use the fast and dangerous Wetherden Road alternative route).

Well, almost. The Order making the modification will be advertised and the landowner is likely to object. There will probably be a Public Enquiry. Which is where you might come in. The Enquiry will seek evidence of the path being walked. If you are in our picture you walked it on that day. If you are not, you might still have walked it either on one of the other organised walks, or independently. The path in question leads from Wetherden Road along the side of Valley View, over the ditch and towards the railway line.

We need to know. Your evidence could help sway this important matter the people's way.

If you think you can help, please ring Joan Hunter on 240818.



At a meeting of Elmswell Parish Council held on Monday 13th November 2000 the following points were discussed.

KILN LANE WILDLIFE

Cllr Marriott read out a report sent by the Wildlife Group which outlined a successful visit by Elmswell Cub pack and the fungi foray which took place at Kiln Lane. Another Oak tree has been identified for pollarding and 2 roses have been donated to the group. A bat expert has also attended the site and an evening survey will be carried out next summer.

RESIGNATIONS

It was noted with some sadness the resignation of Cllr Samain and Cllr Helliwell. An election will be held in due course. Further details will be published on the Parish Councils notice boards.

NAMING OF FLATS AT JUBILEE TERRACE

The Council raised no concerns over the developers suggestion of Laurel Court as a suitable name for this development and as a result will be writing to Mid Suffolk to notify them accordingly.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Parish Council approved a grant of £100 for the Exchange Hall Club. This was to be used towards ongoing speakers at the club.

STANDING ORDERS

The debate on amending Standing Orders was adjourned for a month to allow Cllr Burch to negotiate a revised deadline for the provision of Parish Council notes to the Newsletter.

LEASE AT STATION PREMISES

Cllrs approved the advice given by Merryfields with regard to the Railway Station Lease and agreed to implement the Lease on the due date later this month.

IMPROVEMENTS AT CHURCH HILL

Cllrs expressed pleasure over the improvements with the widening of Church Hill, which has been achieved by the Highways Department cutting back the verge and the house owner trimming back the hedge to the true road edge. It was noted that there were still some hedge trimming to be carried out and it was agreed that if this was not carried out within two weeks then Highways Department should be contact with a view to enforcing the work. The resident was present during this discussion and it was hoped that no further official action would need to be taken.

CRITICISM OF PARISH COUNCIL

Cllrs discussed a letter which had been received from the Treasurer of the Amenities Association outlining his belief that his professional competence and integrity has been called into question over remarks made by a Councillor at a meeting in September. It was felt that an unqualified apology as requested was unnecessary because the criticism centred around the technical interpretation of the word 'audit' rather than the every day interpretation.

PROPOSED CYCLE PATH

Cllr Talbot outlined the work he had undertaken in an effort to establish a cycleway between Elmswell and Woolpit travelling down Church Hill. It was hoped that the recommendations would be adopted into the Transport Plan in order to allow applications for funding to be made.

BLACKBOURNE

Cllrs decided to provide 3 No. street lights on Blackbourne car park for the benefit of all users. It was also decided that the handover of administration of the Blackbourne would take place on the 1st January 2001 and that the Management Association would receive £3,000 as a working fund towards the continued use of the Blackbourne.

VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE

An invitation from the Fellowship of Churches to the Village Carol Service on 20th December 2000 resulted in Cllr Curry volunteering to read a lesson.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Cllrs noted the service on Sunday 19th November 2000 in Thanksgiving of the repairs and restorations at the Church and at least two Councillors accepted the invitation to attend.

THE BLACKBOURNE CENTRE, THURSTON

In response to a letter from The Blackbourne Centre, Thurston Councillors agreed to contribute £50.00 to this thriving Day Care centre.

STREET LIGHT, WARREN CLOSE

Council agreed to pay for the replacement of the damaged street light at Warren Close and to then pursue a claim via the Insurance Company.

PHARMACY AT WOOLPIT

The Council expressed continued support for the provision of a Pharmacy at Woolpit and the Clerk was asked to write to the Suffolk Health Authority to this effect.

ACCESS TO BLACKBOURNE

Concern had been expressed over recent failures in the availability of keys to The Blackbourne. It was decided by Council that this matter should be passed to the Blackbourne Management Association for them to address future provision of access.

CRICKET CLUB

An application has been received from Elmswell Cricket Club to provide outdoor nets at Blackbourne. Whilst Council were fully supportive of this request it was felt that the fine detail over location, size etc would best be dealt with by discussions between Elmswell Cricket Club and the Blackbourne Management Association. For this reason it was decided that this matter also should be passed to the Management Association for completion.

PLANNING

No planning applications were considered at this meeting. The following results were noted:

- 811/00 - The Beeches, Station Road - Granted.
- C/TPO/21/00 - Tree work at Oliver House - Granted.
- 932/00 - 5 Pightle Close - Granted
- 954/00 - Hill Farm, Ashfield Road, Granted.
- OL/44/00 - Development at Oliver House - Granted.
- 904/00 - Recycling Centre - Granted.

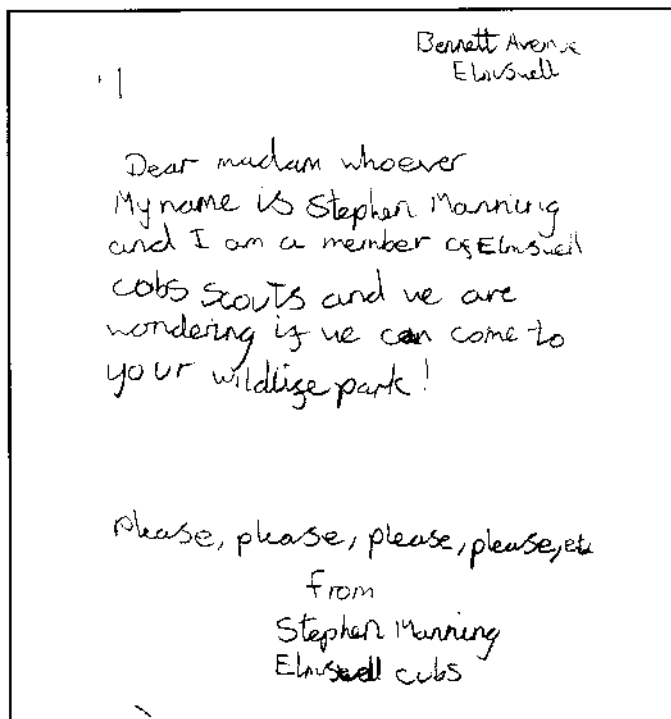
Elmswell Parish Council

Mrs D Brannick, Parish Clerk, Street Farm, Ashfield Road, Elmswell

Tel: 244134 (24hr answerphone)

**THIS REPORT WAS SUBMITTED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AND
THE SPACE PAID FOR AT ADVERTISING RATES.**

BADGE HUNTING



The Kiln Meadow Wildlife Group, keen bridge builders in both a real and a community sense, were delighted to respond to Stephen Manning's letter (see above).

The lads arrived, complete with packed lunch, on an unpromising, drizzly day, determined and keen to learn. They are all working towards their Wildlife badge, to which end a questionnaire was provided and reference made to the excellent report that the volunteer group recently produced detailing the recent developments on the site.

The pond was a star attraction, but the new tree planting, the bird boxes and the fungi were well and truly noted. Alan 'Birdbox' Thomson and Bob Boardman took the group round and highlighted some of the less obvious features.

A very enjoyable and successful afternoon seems to have been had by all concerned.



Between the Lines

..... adding a little colour to the official report of your Parish Council's doings (see page 28) our Diarist's view of some of the proceedings, the reasoning and the possible consequences of the livelier moments of the November meeting ...

Councillor Clark declared an interest in the new brick-built meter housing at Blackbourne through which the electricity supply to the bowls green and drop in centre is routed. The old portakabin that originally housed the meter has finally been removed following the intervention of the Health & Safety Executive in response to public complaint. Cllr. Clark is the owner of the company which built the box at a cost of £350 + VAT.

One of our rivals in bringing you news of the great and the good, The East Anglian Daily Times, was accused by our **County Councillor, Gordon Iredale**, of printing a mischievous piece following up their Correspondent's report of dissatisfaction with the fact that the Councillor continues to sit and represent us from 110 miles away at Rye in Sussex. In an e-mail to the Chairman of Council, Cllr. Iredale defended his decision, and was supported in later debate when it was suggested that his presence at a site meeting might serve the village well. It was pointed out, in discussions on the improvement of Church Hill, that considerable progress had been made without Cllr. Iredale even when he had lived locally, so nothing has changed.

In a letter of **resignation**, Cllr Barry M Samain expressed the view, at odds with that of his Chairman, that, having moved out of the village, he is not best placed to serve. In *his* letter of **resignation**, Cllr John Helliwell cited personality clashes as his reason for going.

A small war broke out between Councillors and **Alan Sparrow**, who is Treasurer to several village and other organisations and who felt that his professional standing and reputation were impugned by recent remarks made at a Parish Council meeting. By the logic which is becoming recognised as being all their own, Councillors decided that no apology was necessary.

There was a similarly Alice in Wonderland feel to the discussion relating to the proposed **Blackbourne Management Association**. As our letter pages show, all is not well with rather ethereal body. It was agreed that, even in the most positive scenario, the new committee will not take over until 1st

January. Inevitably, therefore, there was a question relating to the status of the recent flurry of letters which has flown around the village from the 'Secretary' Cllr Ronald Curry, asking all concerned, including the Football, Cricket and Bowls Clubs; '...as an existing user of our facilities...' *whether you would like to make an application to use any part of the Blackbourne facilities in 2001*' (There is an undeniable whiff of increasing fees in the air!) It will not surprise regular readers to know that the whole issue remains unclear.

Progress is slow, but the dogged senior citizenry of our community keep plugging away in the hope of some trust and common sense in the matter of getting into their hall at **Blackbourne** for their regular meetings. Letters from both the Luncheon Club and the Helping Hand Club were referred to in a discussion which drew a rare apology regarding massive disruption and inconvenience to both bodies recently as they have chased about the village for a key. There was even recognition that there is, 'a problem' - one Councillor put it as high as, 'a fiasco'. No action, though. All referred to the nebulous Management Association. Meanwhile, perhaps the worst of the wet weather is over which might make the traipsing easier?

The merry-go-round of **Blackbourne keyholders** continues. The Chairman confirmed that a key is no longer available from Street Farm unless the Clerk just happens to be there. This follows recent complaints that a key was supplied by an unknown young man who answered the door and offered to dig out a key from the Clerk's office to which he had free access. The key was gratefully received, but the obvious implication for the supposedly new top-notch four-star security (which is at the root of the access problems which are causing so much friction and upset) is less welcome.

Planning permission has been granted for **14 houses** behind Oliver House with access coming out via the green space opposite the Co-op. Councillors agreed that this would seem to fly in the face of all reason in the road hazard which it would create.

More Alice in Wonderland, this time from Mid Suffolk District Council. They were obliged by the Highways Authority to put in a **visibility splay at Jubilee Terrace** as part of the permission for their new flats (now built!). Expensive new garden walls were provided for two houses on Wetherden Road to ensure that the boundary would not have a high level fence or hedge. But the hedge at the first house remains some twelve feet high ... thick, healthy and growing. An obvious and very dangerous hazard. Perhaps the fact that the new development was on the Council's land has something to do with it.

Letters to Editor

From Maureen Dow of the Elmswell Millennium History Group

“A Marker for the Millennium”

The Millennium Awards Fellowship has recently forwarded congratulations for our successful completion of the Millennium project ‘Elmswell - A Marker for the Millennium’, which was grant aided through Suffolk ACRE.

May I, through the Newsletter, pass on my thanks to all those who contributed towards the success of the book which has been very well received locally and which has been dispatched all over the world to former Elmswellians? Thanks are due to, John Perrott, Jean Folkard and Muriel King for their kind support in getting the project off the ground, to Tina and Jason of KDS Printers for their infinite patience, and to all those who provided an outlet for the sale of the book, namely, Bob at the post Office, Martin and Carole (formerly of the Fox), Bridget at Travel Stop, Chris from the Tavern, Julie at the Library and Jean from The Friends of St John’s. Over £1100 has been raised so far from book sales with the proceeds enabling the setting up of Elmswell’s first ever Local History Group. The Group aims to forward research within the community and to provide a programme of monthly talks with speakers covering a wide range of topics of interest to local historians. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Group should contact Norman Kenyon on 241569.

The Book is still available from the following outlets, the Library, the Church, The New Saxon Book Shop, (Hatter Street, Bury,) and from myself by calling 240390. Price £2.50 (£3.20 inc. p&p).

“...officious little man”

I know that I speak for many of the people who were at the Football Club dance on 14th October and who were disgusted by the attitude and behaviour of the officious man who came at the end of the evening to lock up.

It turns out that he is actually a Parish Councillor, Ronald Curry. He embarrassed many present, after a really enjoyable evening, by demanding loudly and offensively, that the organisers vacate the premises in extremely short order. He was extremely and very publicly rude to the bar staff for what he saw to be shortcomings in their clearing up. He was sarcastic and extremely aggressive to Roy Finch, the organiser, who did his best to reason with the man but was roundly abused for his trouble. Even the group, experienced as they are in the use of village halls, were taken aback by the abusive and dictatorial manner in one who they took to be the caretaker.

There are ways and means of expressing dissatisfaction. Within a community, and especially when concerned with facilities that the community has built and paid for, those ways and means should never involve insulting and demeaning behaviour such as demonstrated by Councillor Curry. He has not been part of the community for long enough to throw his weight around in such a destructive and hurtful

manner.

I notice from a previous Newsletter that this same Councillor Curry stands accused of cheating in the process of drawing up the recent Village Appraisal. Surely his fellow Councillors realise the damage he is doing to their relationship with the village?

Name and address supplied

'Blackbourne Management Association'

The Bowls, Cricket and Football Clubs were each invited to nominate a representative to serve on the proposed Blackbourne Management Association. This is the body which the Parish Council is seeking to establish to manage all aspects of The Blackbourne (use of the hall, sports facilities, fields etc). The main reason for its creation being so that the site does not fall liable for business rates of £5,000 per year. Minute 12(e) of the Council meeting of June 12 refers:

"Cllr Clark stated that the Blackbourne is owned and run by the Parish Council, at present it is subject to business rates. If this is run by a voluntary organisation it will get 100% discretionary relief from rates. It was also suggested that people may get involved more and this would be good for the village."

The sports clubs were included in the proposed Constitution of this body without even being asked by, nonetheless, were concerned that they should take the opportunity to be represented. The motivation for wishing to partake was, with reference to Councillor Clark's statement above, primarily concerned with his secondary aim.

The three representatives attended the initial meeting which, in their view, proved so unsatisfactory, that it was agreed to start again with the Parish Council being asked to change the Constitution document under which the body was formed.

Sad to say, the second meeting was no better. The Council's three representatives (Councillor's Clark, Curry and Marriott) pushed through procedures which were not justified by the 'Constitution' thereby enabling them to control proceedings entirely. They then sought to co-opt yet another councillor (Councillor Crook) so that non-Council representatives could always be outvoted on any issue. This is not to say that sports clubs representatives would always be in disagreement over issues being discussed but the fact that this situation had been engineered would leave the non-Council representatives with no viable mechanism for progressing matters of genuine concern to them.

The crucial issue at this meeting was that of securing a chairman for the body. Given a three-three split in the voting, Councillor Clark maintained that he had a casting vote as convenor of the meeting and duly voted himself into office. This was wholly inappropriate. Thereafter, regrettably, the attitude of the Council's representatives was of a far from co-operative nature.

As a result of the above, a joint letter was despatched to the Parish Council. Regrettably and inexplicably, the specific and considered view of the sports clubs were neither acknowledged nor answered. Instead, a somewhat curt reply was received which indicated simply, that the clubs' representatives could either continue on the present basis, or, in effect, remove themselves from participation.

Since the second meeting, the 'Secretary' of the Management Association has proceeded to write letter to people in the village as though the body is up and running as a legitimate organisation. In fact, even assuming it had secured approval for its 'Constitution' and had an agreed plan of action, it does not have any right to operate until January 1.

Curiously, it must also be said, there has been no discussion with other village organisations regarding this new Association. Indeed, the sports clubs queried this fact but, again, received no answer. However, we cannot believe that others would not wish to be involved or be represented.

That the Parish Council has acted properly in setting up this Association to achieve the relief from business rates is undeniable. It makes eminent sense to do so. That the proposed Association would wish to have a mix of councillors and representatives from village organisations is equally appropriate. It is the implementation of the process which, in the clubs' view, is seriously flawed.

The sports clubs representatives have tried, in good faith, to work with the Council's members on this putative body to establish a position which works for the benefit of the village as a whole. Their efforts, to date, have been denied and their views ignored. If the Association is to have any credibility and viability it needs to have a workable constitution and to not only been seen as independent of the Council but also to *be* independent of the Council. The starting point, therefore, ought to be the election of a chairperson who is appropriately independent.

The sports clubs and their representatives continue to seek a positive way forward. The Council has, repeatedly during the last year, emphasised its commitment to bridge-building. The sports clubs, for their part are apolitical and only seeking to further the development of recreational and related facilities in the village in support of an ever-increasing population. One has to believe that the Council is also working for the community. As such, it should not be impossible to find a means of progressing what must be the most important development for The Blackbourne since its construction. It is a real opportunity and not one to be squandered.

Despite all that has happened, the sports clubs' representatives return to the next meeting of the proposed Association, on November 24, fully committed to overcoming the present obstacles and to the establishment of a body that can promote and develop the facilities at The Blackbourne to the benefit of all. It is genuinely hoped that this attitude is reflected by the councillors.

The village as a whole must hope that, as a result, this newsletter will be able to report of the creation of an Association of which the community can be proud.

from Elmswell Bowls Club, Elmswell Cricket Club, Elmswell Football Club

from Gwen Drake of Pightle Close

"A big thank you"

On behalf of Samaritan's Purse International I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported the coffee morning on 18th October and so generously gave to the work of S.P.I. Through the 'bring and buy' sale and donations £160 was raised.

Thank you all so much.

from Ray Eyres of Cooks Road

... Buck Passing ...

I must once again, Write, should I say in self defence, in the october Edition Mike Schofield, passed the buck. If he had understood my letter, the reference (ie) was it worth while. referred to the many attempts I have made to assist with village life over many years and not expressly his Village Appraisal. For his information, I spent two months in W.S.Hospital with pneumonia, and major surgery, coming home on Feb II 2000, I will repeat if anyone came I was not aware of it, and with regard to his comment that I should have contacted someone to collect it is just buck passing after being told that it would be collected

(refer page 35 Newsletter. Oct).

May I offer my appreciation to Joan Craven for her letter, I have been told on many occasions that people agreed with what I write, but this is the first time someone has stood up to be counted, thank you.

(ref page 39 Newsletter Oct.2000)

Last but not least, I would offer a "snippit" for the Elmswell History People, Elmswell once had, in my time, a Church School, a village pound, this was where stray animals found on the roads where kept until claimed, a village reading room, which became Mr. Newson's Office and later Mr.Jewers Seedsman & Coal Merchants Office, now deemed The Old Tea Rooms, Which it never was, is a vetinary centre. At one time there where seven Pub's if you count The Hovel Arms, Which was really in Gt. Ashfield and The Fox And Goose just inside the Elmswell border. The others being The Crown, The Oak, Fox Lion and Railway Tavern.

Now I would refer to the centre pages Newsletter Oct Thedrawing a diagram ofwhat was a Tennis Court and a Bowling Green, Two separate Entities. The one time tennis court was given to the Village by a solicitor Mr. Chamberlayne for a Memorial Hall. The Bowling Green was given to Elmswell Bowl's Club by a Mr. Kay, gentlemen hairdresser, or may have been Barber in those days, and late of Harrods of London. Now appropriated by what is called the Amenities Assn.

Please note, it is RAY not Roy

PARISH COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS

This important document, which lays down the rules by which the Council is run, has recently come into the public domain as a result of public pressure. However, the Council refuses to make a copy available free of charge in the Library. Copies must be purchased at a cost of £5.50.

A group of concerned individuals has, by public subscription, paid for a copy to be lodged in the Library so that the people of Elmswell have full and free access.

ADVERTISEMENT PAID FOR BY PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION.

from A Couzens of Cresmedow Way

... contact our local M.P.

With reference to the letter in the October Newsletter about the Level of noise from the A14.

I for one am pleased that we no longer have to suffer the levels of noise from aircraft that we used to. I have lived in Suffolk for 25 years, the last 16 in Elmswell, and can well remember the Lightnings and Tornados that used to scare the life out of us on frequent occasions.

The problem, in my view, with the A14 is the significant increase in noise pollution from it in recent years, particularly the last 2 or 3. This is not something others and I have moved into but has crept up on us by stealth. It has now reached the point, where I live, where it can be heard through closed double glazed windows 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Many people I have spoken about it have come to the same conclusions as to the reasons for this.

- 1) The increased levels of traffic generally and specifically the increase in the volume of traffic to and from Felixstowe docks. Recent reports indicate that further expansion of the Docks is planned so the problem is likely to increase.

The Old Tea Room



Veterinary Surgery and Pet Health Care Centre

The Level Crossing, Elmswell

New Opening Hours:-

8.30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. Monday to Friday

Consultations By Appointment. Tel: 01359 241761

Please call in to see our full range of pet supplies, including flea treatments, worming tablets, pet shampoos, pet food and many other accessories for the routine care of your pet.

24 Hour Emergency Service 01449 613130

from Rex Durham

Re-application to Register as New Village Green Land at Pightle Close

Further to my letter in last month's Newsletter, I now have confirmation from Suffolk County Council that the above application is considered valid. Their next step will be to appoint an independent inspector to consider the arguments for and against, at a non-statutory inquiry. A likely venue for this will be the Blackbourn Centre at some future day. Watch this space - and the village notice boards - for the date of this inquiry and try to attend. Better still, force yourselves to attend. However, before this I would ask all village residents to look back over the years and try to recall if they, or their children or grandchildren, have used this piece of land recreationally. If so, contact me on 240718 - as I said last month, your support could be crucial.

Finally, you may have read, or heard, that planning permission has been granted by Mid Suffolk District Council for building on this land. Take heart - no building should take place before the above inquiry and, if the application is successful, definitely not afterwards.

From Barbara Mullins of Stowmarket

What has happened to good old "Community Spirit" in Elmswell?

I was at a recent dance at the village hall very well organised as usual by Mr Roy Finch. The group were brilliant and a good time was had by all! At 12.20 the hall was almost cleared, a lot of people were helping (because they wanted to) stock the last few tables. The bar was cleared and everyone was feeling happy, having enjoyed a good dance etc.... when in comes this rather rude little man shouting at Roy Finch for not having the hall closed at 12.30pm... (still on 12.20 at this time). Not only did he embarrass Roy, he rather embarrassed himself with his unnecessary outburst. What I couldn't get over was...who he was...a councillor of the village...! I used to live in Elmswell a few years ago and know what a lot of good work Roy Finch has, and still does, voluntarily for the village.

What right has this so called representative of the official body to talk to any man/woman in public (or otherwise) like this. I think Mr Curry...Sir! an apology to Mr Finch would not go amiss!

It would certainly be a shame for the village, and outsiders to miss out on these really good evenings.

Yours... disappointed, disgusted but hopeful.



What's On in Elmswell ?

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

November

- 18 St John's Church Autumn Fair 2pm at the Blackbourne
- 19 Service of Thanksgiving, St John's Church, 10.30am
- 20 Elmswell Cricket Club AGM, 8.00pm at the Library
- 21 Elmswell Millennium History Group talk by Clive Payne
- 24 Concert by Suffolk Constabulary Male Voice Choir 7.30pm in St John's Church
- 6 Elmswell Exchange WI, Christmas Party featuring Punch and Judy with Mr Batey, 2-4pm - Competition, Make a Christmas Cracker, The Old Telephone Exchange
- 10 Nativity Service, 10.30am, St John's Church
- 12 Elmswell Millennium History Group talk by Clive Payne
- 12 W.I. - Christmas Party, 7.30pm, Blackbourne

December

- 2 Elmswell Millennium History Group - Clive Payne's talks continue with a morning site visit
- 2 Christmas Flower Arranging Demonstration, 10.30am in St John's Church
- 3 Christingle Service at St John's Church, 9.30am
- 3 Winter birdwatch (please bring binoculars), Kiln Meadow - 9.00am
- 5 Elmswell Millennium History Group talk by Clive Payne
- 16 "THE BEAVERS"
- 17 Nine Lessons & Carols, St John's Church, 6.30pm
- 17 Toddlers Christmas Party at the Blackbourne
- 20 Village Carol Service at St John's Church, 7pm
- 24 Carols by Candlelight, 6.30pm, Elmswell Baptist Church

February

- Thurs 1st - Sat 3rd
Elmswell Amateur Dramatic Society presents 'Aladdin'.

Tell us more - Tel 241841