

Sixteen years of Parish Record.....
..... ALL THE FACTS THE COMMUNITY NEEDS.



The ELMSWELL Newsletter

DECEMBER 2001

..... Your Parish Matters



Compliments of the Season



to all our Readers



Our Cover Picture Shows.....

Elmswell Hall Farm House in about 1914 See page 23

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

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**This Month's
"COMMENT"**

.... and then there were four

Under the saddest of circumstances, as reported last month, we lost our County Councillor, Chris Storey.

Under the strangest of circumstances we seem to have lost, or at least mislaid, our District and Parish Councillor, Glyn Talbot. He has disappeared. House empty and neighbours baffled. Mid Suffolk know nothing - they were not aware of the disappearance until enquiries were made by people seeking to contact their Councillor.

Similarly, if with less mystery and drama, Parish Cllr Geoffrey Woods has 'flitted'. Back to Essex. His resignation from council is not, however, expected. Elected for four years, he will, he says, 'serve' for four years, if by remote control down 52 miles of A12. This follows the lead of Parish Cllr David Marriott who last year moved to Culford but still feels that he has a contribution to make by turning up for some meetings.

In fact, of the original 'Gang of Nine' who swept so cleverly and effectively to power in May 1999, only four are left as residents of our village. Cllrs Samain and Helliwell jumped very quickly, but had the good grace to resign. All together, five of their number have left the village. But three remain clinging to their seat on the Council, denying representation by active community members.

The tone was set two years ago when our then County Councillor, Gordon Iredale, decamped to Sunny Sussex but hung on for over a year to his place as our representative at county level. It was his experience and PR skills which put together the group of nine who, having attained power, have not grasped the responsibilities which election brings. His poor example has left a legacy of token representation with the inevitable muddle and the recent vote of 'No Confidence' in those primarily concerned.

There are many able individuals with commitment to and a record of practical involvement in our community keen to make a contribution as councillors (the writer is not amongst them). They should, surely, be given a chance to seek the people's vote for a place currently wasted by a sitting absentee Parish Councillor?

These token places ensure that the current pattern of voting continues and power is retained. This is wrong.

At the recent AGM of the Blackburne Management Association, Cllrs Clark and Curry, the principal officers both of that organisation and of the Parish Council, made it clear to an angry public that only an election would shift them.. This, they said, was democracy. Christmas, solstice, New Year, new beginnings ... let that democracy be tested. Our Christmas appeal; let the absentee councillors resign and the democratic process choose representatives who participate in our community.

Councillors, this is not a threat - it's an opportunity!



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Employed, Self-Employed or Starting a New Business

For a free initial discussion without obligation call
Clive Jenkins. Tel/Fax 01359 242284

The deadline for the next issue is 5.00 p.m. on **Wednesday 16th January 2002**. 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.

Advertising at the following rates. Please let us have an invoicing address with your copy:

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¼ page £18 ½ page £23 Full page £35

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¼ page £17 ½ page £22 Full page £33

One off ads:

¼ page £20 ½ page £25 Full page £38

**N.B. Photographs £10 extra.
Classified Ads: 30 words maximum
£5 cash with order.**

Around and About ...

W.I.

In October we enjoyed a colourful and mouth-watering demonstration using exotic fruits and vegetables obtainable from Sainsburys, everyone tasted the finished products.

November, AGM time again and a summary of the years events. Some hard work, lots of education and much laughter, the usual W.I. year.

This year our deadly darts team have surpassed themselves and won the side of the county to beat the East side to win the Cannon Darts Cup.

Our talented team of three 'Chinese Musicians' also took first place in the group competition playing - of all things - 'kitchen utensils' who can accuse the W.I. of being stuck in their ways?

December here and again time for our Christmas party - Why not join us we meet on the 2nd Tuesday each month at 7.30pm at Blackbourne Hall.

Jeannc Crook

ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB

A good turn out of members came along to support the officers and committee for the AGM, which followed the Agenda in the usual manner with Minutes from last years AGM being accepted and signed, the Hon Secretary gave a flowing report and expressed his hopes for the future of the Club which he felt were nothing but good. It was then the turn of the Treasurer to enthuse about the sound financial state of the Club,



saying that the Club had never been in such a strong position before.

The Chairman then said that before the election of officers for next year took place, and while he was still Chairman that he would like to give thanks to the Secretary and committee for their loyal support and hard work, and it was all this hard work that had put the Club in such a strong and prosperous position.

Next came the election of Officers and Committee for the forthcoming year, and there was no reason for the Chairman to have earlier voice concern regarding his position as all Officers and Committee were re-elected on bloc. Annual Subscriptions, the Treasurer said that owing to the strong financial position of the Club he could see no valid reason for an increase in subscriptions and thought it should remain at £5.00 which was very good value, this was proposed by Mr Ian Tullett and seconded by Mr John Spanton.

Under the heading of Any Other Business it was proposed by Mr Mike Scott that in addition to our Annual rent that a further donation of £50.00 should be made to the Methodist Church towards their maintenance programme, this motion was accepted and seconded by Mrs Janet Sparrow.

The Chairman then presented the Annual Competition Cup to Mrs Ruth Armstrong for another consecutive year, saying it was a pleasure he looked forward to from one November to the next, and before closing the meeting

Around and About cont'd., pg3

he said he would like to Wish all members and friends of Elmswell Gardening Club a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

What a month we have had. It's been great to see so many fresh faces through our doors. I'm not saying we are getting fed up with the old ones, but it is good to see others now and again.

Firstly thanks to the Cricket Club for their quiz, which was well attended, we came 8th out of 12 and I'll even forgive you Doug for having us down as the Methodists, although at the end I think we were happier that we were down as those. (Nothing against them of course). We are still having an argument between us about the four private's

names in Dads Army, with one being called Private Sponge. The Internet even got switched on first thing Sunday morning - answers please on a postcard to

Our new children's club got off to a cracking start with just over 20 new children joining us for the first week's excitement. We shall be finishing this term on the 18th December at 6-7.30pm with a Christmas Party. Give us a look and join in the fun and partying. If you have missed this term, we shall start again on January 8th at the same time, so give us a look, it's totally new and for anyone aged between 5-12. We also had our Christmas Beetle Drive on December 8th, but I am writing this before the event, so I will let you know how that went next month.

We continue with our Sunday Trailblazers Club, who meet every week on a Sunday morning between 9.45-10.45am. If you can't attend on Tuesday nights (I know the cubs can't) then give us a look for a scaled down version of the Tuesday Omnibus edition (I've been watching too many soaps). It's open to the same age group.

We also continue our **Sunday services throughout the month at 11am** each week, and I am happy to say that our crowd are increasing, and not just in waistline.

We now have our loop system installed for anyone with hearing difficulties, and I am pleased to say our PA system is working well, without any feedback (high whistling noises) reaching the railway gates, thanks to our operator

Wetherden Under Fives



Pre school (age 3-5) and
Rising 3's (age 2½-3)

Open:

Mondays, Tuesdays,
Thursdays and Fridays
9.00am - 12.30pm

A secure, happy place where learning
to socialise, share and develop is fun.

We accept nursery grants.

Contact:

Sandra Gidney 07971 827522 or
Sarah Paczy 01359 242965

Around and About cont'd., pg5

David.

Give us a look on December 23rd for our special Christmas Services. The morning **Children's Service (for all the family) - begins at 11am** - if you enjoyed the harvest one then give this a look, it will be very similar, but obviously without the vegetables.

Then at **6.30pm we have our traditional Carols by Candlelight**, come early to get a back seat. You won't have to stumble outside in the dark either, as our new security light will guide you in, not unlike a certain star some 2000 years ago.

The ladies Friendship Group meet up again in the New Year on the 7th January 2002 at 7.45pm. There is something for all, start the New Year with us on any of the above. For more information contact our Church Secretary, or look on our NEW notice board.

Finally a get well soon to two people in our Chapel who have both been poorly lately, we are all thinking of you.

Have a good Christmas - see you in the New Year.

Mark

ELMSWELL FC

Sponsors: Mirror Group
Newspapers

Warm Up Top Sponsors:
Energizer

Match Day Sponsors: Harris Cuffaro
Nichols (Solicitors, Old Harlow,
Essex)

First Aid Sponsors: Euro Food
Machinery (Elmswell)

1st Team Sponsors: Mirror Group



Newspapers

2nd Team Sponsors: Elmswell Fox
Match Ball Sponsors: Rota-Rod (Bob
Barter), Travelstop (Elmswell),
Stowmarket Golf Club, Tulipa
Landscaping (Elmswell)

1st Team Manager (Joint): A Garnham,
T Price.

2nd Team Manager: B Barter; Assistant:
K Hammond

(A) Team Manager: J McMillan

Over 35 Sponsors: C G Finch & Sons

Under 14 Sponsors: Abbots Estate
Agents (Manager P Case)

Under 12 Sponsors: Allpack (Manager
S McCreesh)

Under 10 Sponsors: Village Homes
(Manager N Kerry)

Monthly Draw for December

Drawn by J Clarke

No 334 £500 R Bolton

No 100 £115 S Cox

No 47 £70 A Goddard

No 109 £15 P Hunt

No 228 £15 S Page

Results

Saturday 10 November

1st Team - Stowupland (Home) Lost
3-0.

Res - Coplestonians (Away) Lost 6-2.
Scorers Y Warby, G Colman.

(A) Team - Sporting 87 Res (Home)
Won 9-1. Scorers G Warby 2, A Stiff 2,
L Stiff, S Fisk, J Clements, D Carter.
Under 14s - Bramford (Away) Cup.
Lost 8-0.

Under 12s - Pulham Market (Away).
Won 7-4. Scorers T Poole 3, M Hurrell

Around and About cont'd., pg7

2, J McCreese 2

Under 10 - Bury Town. Lost 3-1. Scorer S Grainger.

17th November

1st Team - Bramford (Away) Lost 2-0.

Res - Ipswich Postal (Home) Lost 5-2.

Scorers P Hughes, G Coleman.

(A) Team - Silver Spoon (Away) Lost 3-2. Scorers D Drew, J Lewis.

Under 14s - Stowmarket Won 10-0.

Scorers D Lynch 4, M Hurrell 3, A Case 2, S Thorrold.

Under 10s - Rattlesden Won 1-0.

Scorer S Bass.

24th November

1st Team - Stradbroke (Home) Lost 5-2. Scorer P Farmer 2 (Pens)

Res - Kirton White Horse (Away). Drew 3-3. Scorer G Coleman 3.

(A) Team - Priors (Away) Cup. Lost 3-0.

Under 14s - Thetford (Away) Lost 9-0.

Under 12s - Bildeston (Home) Lost 4-0.

Under 10s - Abbeygate Won 4-2.

Scorers E Oates 2, C Mowles, J Ingram.

1st December

1st Team - Ipswich Exiles (Home) Lost 3-1. Scorer T Price.

(A) Team - Bushel (Home) Drew 2-2. Scorer S Church 2.

Under 14 - Felixstowe Hawkes Lost 8-1. Scorer A Case.

The Under 14s have now withdrawn out of the league due to the lack of support from the players who week in

week out would cry off on Saturday or Sunday morning.

Anyone wishing to join Elmswell Football Club please telephone B Hayward on (01359) 240951.

Training Wednesday nights Grove Lane pitch.

Anyone wishing to join our monthly draw which restarts in January please contact H Mulley or any member of E.F.C.

Compiled by J Mulley (01359) 240889

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY, STOWMARKET

Parish Priest:

Father Denys Lloyd,
The Presbytery,
29 Lockington Road,
Stowmarket IP14 1BQ
Tel: 01449-612946

MASSTIMES:

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

Holy Days

Stowmarket (Our Lady's, Stricklands Road) 8am, 10am and 7.30pm

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

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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.

METHODIST CHURCH

We would like to wish all our readers a very Happy and Blessed Christmas and invite them to join us for all or any of our special services. First of all on **December 23rd at 10.45am we will be having our Carol Service**, led by Mrs Maureen Newcombe, but with contributions from many, this will be followed by coffee and mince pies.

Then on **CHRISTMAS DAY at 10am there will be a short service of celebration** led by Alan and Maureen Newcombe. On **December 30th there will be a Songs of Praise at 10.45am**, when the opportunity will be given to sing favourite carols, this service also will be followed by coffee. On **JANUARY 6th we shall be holding our annual Covenant Service** led by Revd. Peter Dainty of Bury St Edmunds. A very warm

welcome is assured at all times.

Our Ladies meeting is having a Christmas/winter recess, and commence date will be announced in the next Magazine. **The annual Church dinner will be held at 'The Bull' Woolpit on December 18th.**

As we resume our usual pattern the preachers planned to lead our worship at 10.45am are: 13 January Andrew High; 20th January Alan Newcome. On 13th January there is also a united service at 6.30pm.

God bless you all into and through 2002.



ELMSWELL TODDLERS

Just a short note to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and to thank everyone who has helped throughout the year to keep Toddlers open.

We close for Christmas on Wednesday 19th December and re-open on Wednesday 2nd January. If you didn't visit us in 2001 with your toddler(s), make it a New Year's Resolution for 2002!

Merry Christmas

Alex Bartholomew 244692

Elizabeth French 244229

~~ Novetty Cakes! ~~

You create the idea - Let me create the cake!

Free Delivery within Elmswell

Jean Barker ~ 01359 241135

Cartoons ✓ Sports ✓ Animals ✓ Hobbies
Anything!...



Around and About cont'd., pg10

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Services, etc.

Friday 21 December

7.30pm Concert for St Nicholas' Hospice

Sunday 23 December

10.30am Morning Prayer

11.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Monday 24 December

11.30pm Christmas Eve Communion

Tuesday 25 December

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Christmas Day Family Service

11.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 30 December

10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 6 January

9.30am Family Service

10.30am Morning Prayer

11.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 13 January

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Parish Praise

6.30pm United Service Elmswell Fellowship of Churches in Methodist Church

Sunday School every Sunday except 1st Sunday in month in Church Room.

St John's Church

The Flower Arranging Demonstration by Anne Dyball was a sell-out! We were treated to a superb demonstration of flower arranging for the Christmas season, followed by a buffet lunch. The day raised around £600 which has gone towards the Fabric Fund Appeal.

On the second Sunday of Advent the children who attend Sunday School performed their Nativity Play; the Music Group took part as did the St John's Singers; Jill Reed read the lesson and Karen Godfree led the prayers.

As well as our usual Christmas services there will be a Candlelit Concert by the St John's Singers, with music and readings - this will be held in the

NEW YEARS EVE



FAMILY PARTY

31.12.01

AT THE
BLACKBOURNE

7.30pm ~ til late

Tickets £3 from Ray
242455

All proceeds to Cancer Research

Around and About cont'd., pg13

Church on Friday 21 December at 7.30pm. Admission is free but there will be a retiring collection for the St Nicholas' Hospice.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has supported St John's Church in any way this year, by attending services and fund raising events, making donations, etc - we wish you all a very Happy and Blessed Christmas.

The Friends of St John's Church

We have started arranging our programme for 2002 and the first event will be a Sausage Supper in the Church Room at 7 for 7.30pm on Saturday 23 February. Tickets will be available soon. Tel: 01359 242099.

St John's Church Tower Floodlighting

A nights floodlighting costs £5. Please make cheques payable to "ST JOHN'S CHURCH, ELMSWELL".

December 2001 Sponsorships

- 3 in memory of Reginald Bloomfield
- 10 in memory of Ray Borrett
- 11 in loving memory of Edward (Ted) Woolnough
- 12 in memory of Ada Hunt's birthday; from Adrian, Kay, Aaron and Freddy
- 13 in memory of Bert Hollings
- 15 to celebrate the marriage of Daniel Edward Kent to Michelle McKnight
- 17 cherished memories of my

wonderful husband Des; birthday 17 December; who left us July 1999

- 18 in memory of Nanna and Grandad, Ada and William Hunt
- 21-24 in memory of Revd. Noel Clarke
- 24 in loving memory of Rita Bennett on Christmas Eve
- 24 in memory of Evelyn and Roy Clark
- 25 remembering Ronald Miller and sister Peggy Hurst, who will be sadly missed by their families this Christmas
- 28 in memory of Wilfred Hammond
- 29 Enid and Douglas Wahorn

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

HELPING HAND CLUB

Another Club year is swiftly drawing to a close. At the time of writing these notes we are looking forward to our Christmas Concert with the Norton Salvation Army Band and Songsters. Always very welcome visitors to our Club.

On December 6th we had another visit from The British Legion Choir from Bury St Edmunds. They gave us a great evening of Christmas music much enjoyed by everyone.

Saturday 9th was our Christmas Party.



Around and About cont'd., pg15

A large number of members and guests enjoyed a superb Christmas meal prepared and served by Tina and her helpers. This was followed by a great evenings entertainment in the hands of our very own talented Peter Clark.

Grateful thanks to Tina, all her helpers and Peter for making the evening so enjoyable from us all at the Club. A very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year to you all. **Stan**

ELMSWELL CRICKET CLUB

**(Sponsored by
Manvers Triumph)**

Congratulations to EADS for winning our 'Entertainment Quiz' last month. I think they can, justifiably, be referred to as anoraks now, having also won the recent 'Village Quiz'. It was a closely-fought contest throughout but they deserved the spoils, beating Martin Reilly's 'Regulars' into second place and Mr Burch's 'Clever Dicks' into third.

May we take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported the Club this year. Our sponsor Clive Manvers, especially. The Parish Council for providing grant-aid. To all those who have turned up to make our fund-raising efforts so successful. To organisations and individuals who, very kindly, sponsored match-balls during the playing season. To the Amenities Association for providing us with the means, through this newsletter, to get our various messages and news across.

We are indebted to you all and wish you a very happy Christmas and peaceful new year.

Lastly, can we also thank the Baptists for an excellent 'Beetle Drive'. You missed a thoroughly enjoyable evening if you didn't attend. This Club's 'team' in the event was sadly out-insected by some keen youngsters and, of course, by Mark, some loaded dice, dubious throwing thereof, debateable scoring, laced drinks, pencils that wouldn't draw antennae properly and, what I am convinced, was the illegal placement of cheese and onion savouries. The lengths to which these people go to win is frightening ... they could almost become honorary cricketers.

Doug Reed, Club Secretary
(Tel: 241009)

Elmswell CC Century Club:

November Draw

£15 to J Singer (35), £10 to E Peachey (51) and £5 to R Bailey (63)

December Draw

£30 to N Jolly (67), £20 to B Hatton (25), £10 to D Peachey (15) and £5 to R Dalby (13)

CLASSIFIED ADS

Are you in need of a reliable babysitter? -
Contact Amy Jarvis on 01359 241958 or
077619914298.

Do you need a babysitter. I am responsible
and reliable. Phone Emma on 241278 or
07761931466.

A Cricke



'Twas the night before Christmas, and over the ground
No cricketers stirred, 'cos none could be found.
They'd hung up their socks still unwashed for the year
And decamped to "The Fox" for some crisps and a beer.

When later they nestled all snug in their beds,
And visions of centuries danced in their heads,
In an old Elmswell street there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.

A roller and reindeer were causing this mayhem
I knew in a moment - it's old Santa Graham.
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his toes
(What he does in his private life nobody knows!).

More rapid than bowlers, his coursers they came
And he chaired, and he shouted, and called them by name:
"Now, Wiggy! now, Wally! now, Jamies - all three!
On, Deano! on, Ronald! on, Steff and 'One T!'"

"You can't get the reindeer these days" he did mutter,
"Our support's at a loss, and our funds in the gutter."
Still a sack full of gifts, he had something for all,
And maybe for Wink, he'd no present too small?

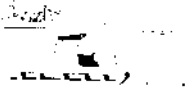
Mr Peachey and Uncle had written to ask,
If Santa and helpers might rise to the task
Of gifting some goals to young Burley and crew
But "Alas" said St Graham, "there's nowt I can do".

"I create lots of toys and can get around the earth,
But elves to make goals I'm afraid there's a dearth.
There's hope and there's magic...and then there's the Town!
They've neither; they're doomed - and so must go down."

"To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall!
Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!"
Yet when Santa did park on a roof his old sleigh
Up popped Nigel - "Two quid please - it's only short stay."

"And if after this night you decide on a break
I've got some spare houses - for six month you can take
The rent's not too high; of the lot take your pick
Your 'reindeer' look knackered; and *you're* not in good Nick!"

With his job yet done, time to visit a King
For whom Santa had something bit special to bring.
"That Stan is a star, and can be quite a thriller -
I'm told mention 'trombone'...and maybe Glen Miller!"



ters Carol

Off to Andy (not Charlie), he of the groan;
With no sense of humour, he'd been injury-prone,
So his present *should* cheer him(!) - a kit for first-aid
To be opened in safety, or so Santa prayed!



Ah, yes, then that Tony, a mean Scrooge-like bloke;
What would please him - who knows? Thought Santa, a joke.
On this Christmas Day morn, he o'er will be bowled
As his face will light up with some Terry's 'Old Gold'.

The Blackbourne and Bowls Club - but did Santa go?
New pavilion's required (who said "Ho! Ho! Ho!?")
Messrs Bendall and Tullett they looked to the sky
But 'twas only those pigs that kept flying on by!

The Baptists did beckon, and Mark down the road.
A chuckle was heard as he searched through his load.
He gave a wry smile, on this night, crisp and evens(!)
"I'm told he's a fan of that great(?) Shakin' Stevens."

"He might drive a beetle, though heaven knows why;
Has supported our quizzes - at winning is shy.
Mark's newsletter pieces? At best they are poor!
But his heart soars to heights at the sound of "Green Door"!!!"



His eyes how they twinkled! His dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry.
Yep, young Mr Burch was the last, not the least;
But what of his gift? Maybe something from yeast?

Though he bowls like a drain, and supports Norwich City
In Elmswell that justifies praise more than pity!
But nothing was left - all the presents delivered!
What was to be done? Santa pondered ... and shivered.

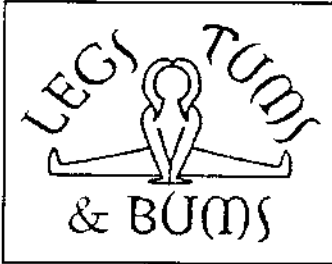
He rang up the Council, in St Nick of time(!);
Requested a grant, though through hoops had to climb,
But alas he was stumped, despite this mad dash
For the gift you need quotes - all three or no cash!

So he sprang to his roller, and whistle did blow,
As he chugged down the road, i-n-c-r-e-d-i-b-l-y slow
And I heard him exclaim, ere he dropped out of sight
"I'll resign again soon if you don't get things right!"

Happy Christmas!



Legs, Tums & Bums is run by myself, Jane Smart. I am a former National Amateur Body Builder and have been teaching all types of fitness since 1982. I have also spent a year in America teaching and training where most of my ideas come from. I am qualified in both nutrition and exercise.



tummy, and trim your waist, bottom and thighs. with all levels of fitness catered for. **If you want to make this the year that you succeed in losing your excess pounds, firm up and tone your body, don't delay, come along to one of the classes and meet friendly faces,**

and others wanting to do the same in our welcoming classes. I can be contacted on 01359 230922 for more information, or just turn up ...

After having taught full time for ten years, and part time for nine years, I am now a mother of three girls aged 10, 9 and 7 years. All of them keep me on my toes running around, so now I only teach a few classes per week, which helps keep me fit and gets me out and about, and doesn't clash with the children and schools. Being a mother and that the youngest two children were born by caesarian section, I realise how hard it is to regain your figure and to find the time to exercise. Therefore I have devised the 'Legs, Tums & Bums' workout to help those stubborn areas, but a fun and enjoyable class to help lose weight and increase your energy, flatten your

and others wanting to do the same in our welcoming classes. I can be contacted on 01359 230922 for more information, or just turn up ...

QUALIFICATIONS

City & Guilds 7303 Adult Ed. Teaching Cert. * Advance RSA Exercise to Music * RSA Pre/Post Natal Certificate * N.A.B.B.A. Weight Training Instructor * Universal Fitness Assessor * Reebok Alliance Instructor * Reebok Step Instructor * Avia Step Instructor * Aqua Aerobic Instructor * St Johns Ambulance First Aid Certificate * Shame Advance Teaching Training Cert. * Healthy Education Centre - You and Your Health Certificate

A DIFFERENT CLASS EACH WEEK YOU'LL NEVER GET BORED - JUST FIT!!

Classes re-start
Monday 14th January

- Monday 9.30am Creche available
- And £1 for 1st child
- Thursday 7.30pm
Village Hall, High Street, Ixworth
- Tuesday 7.30pm
Methodist Church Hall
Northumberland Ave,
Bury St Edmunds

£2.50

Body Conditioning, Hi & Lo Impact aerobics, Bands and Step. Please bring a towel or mat to work on. All levels of fitness catered for.

THE BLACKBOURNE
KEEP FIT FOR THE
MORE MATURE
 ADULT EDUCATION CLASS
 COMMENCING
TUESDAY 8th JANUARY
TIME: 10:30am - 11.30am
Taught by Jane Smart

- * Improve mobility and agility
- * help develop and maintain suppleness,
- * strength and stamina
- * use the whole body in movements that are NOT aerobic
- * mental stimulus helps to tone up the body and mind
- * friendly group situation
- * comfortable clothes such as a T-shirt and leggings/trousers
- * comfortable non-slip shoes/trainers
- * no payment on the first class
- * further details or to enrol contact Thurston Local Learning Centre 013359 232204.

Our Cover Picture Shows

Elmswell Hall Farm House in about 1914

The house stands just over the railway line down Penny Lane off School Road. It is thought to have been built on the site of the former country seat of the Abbot of St Edmund's Abbey but has undergone many changes. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1536, Henry VIII granted the Hall to Sir Thomas Darcy. It was acquired in 1590 but Sir Robert Gardener, the builder of the Elmswell Almshouses. During the 18th Century it was occupied by the Cocksedges, father and son tenant farmers. Later, it was home to Sir Hervey Smith, only son of Sir Robert Smyth and Lady Louise Hervey, daughter to the 1st Earl of Bristol. He died, unmarried, at Elmswell in 1811.

Since that time the Hall has seen various owner-occupiers, tenant farmers and farm bailiffs. The site has been occupied for nearly 1000 years.

Our thanks to Paul Peachey (tel. 241517) for the loan of one of his many postcards of Elmswell and to the Elmswell Millennium History Group (tel. Norman Kenyon 241569) for the information.

The History Group's recently published book, 'Elmswell - A Marker For The Millennium,' contains more fascinating insights into the history of our village and includes many photographs.

Available from the Group Secretary, Maureen Dow, price £2.50. Tel 240390.

Monica L. Carlin MSSCh. MBChA.

Ruth E. Carlin MSSCh. MBChA.

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BLACKBOURNE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION AGM 7th DECEMBER

An audience of fifteen, including existing Committee members and some ordinary members of the public who had been sharp-eyed enough to spot the one poster advertising the event, attended the AGM of the Blackbourne Management Association.

This organisation was set up by the Parish Council to manage the Blackbourne in order that the hall is not liable for the payment of rates. The constitution of the Association requires that the AGM be held in June that an annual audited statement of accounts be prepared up to 31st March. Neither requirement had been met, but, throughout the rather bad-tempered proceedings, no reason was given for these shortcomings.

An unaudited balance sheet was presented covering the period January to September 2001 and the Chairman, Cllr Clark, indicated that it demonstrated that the aim of self-sufficiency, as envisaged by the originators of the scheme, was well founded.

The lack of democratic input into the Committee was queried by several members of the public. The Parish Council had, it was claimed, retained total control by manipulation of the appointee system and the use of the Chairman's casting vote. This had allowed the two bodies to carve up a changing room between them for use as a Parish Clerk's office. The three sports organisation nominees confirmed that no vote had been taken in Committee on the matter of seizing the changing room and that discussion regarding such a move had centred on a different changing room than that which was eventually annexed. A recent letter from Mid Suffolk District Council taking the Chairman to task for not having consulted either themselves, other funding partners or the users was dismissed by Cllr Clark as 'no problem' and he reassured the people of Elmswell that there would be no need to repay the District Council back the £45,000 grant aid which they had made available for the changing rooms at Blackbourne. Plans were available for proposed additions to the building, including an IT suite, some storage, a bar, a conservatory and additional glazed viewing area adjacent to the cricket boundary. The plans did not show the allocation of yet another changing room as a, 'Committee Room,' which was a significant element of the scheme as recently approved by some Councillors.

Other points raised from the floor included the shortcomings experienced by hall hirers regarding access to the facilities - both the hall itself and the cleaning materials cupboard, by the poor standard of maintenance, particularly the outside lighting which is dangerously deficient, and by the general lack of attention to things that matter to the village users. Cllr Clark drew attention to the extractor fans which had been installed as an example of good stewardship.

It was pointed out that Cllr David Marriott had represented the Parish Council since January although not an elector of the village as required by rule 7 (1) (a) of the Constitution. Cllr Clark argued, against those in the audience who claimed to have copies of the relevant document, that such a rule does not exist. Cllr Marriott was not present and is no longer a member of the Committee. When questioned about the proper way to have an input to the Association, Cllr Clark, supported by the Associations Secretary, Cllr Ronald Curry, recommended that concerned electors should stand for Parish Council at the next election.

The next full Parish Council election is in May 2003. The next AGM of the Blackbourne Management Association should take place in June 2002. Audited accounts to 31st March 2001 are pending.

The Old Tea Room



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Letters

From Tony Chaplin, Poppy Appeal Organiser

The 'Poppy Appeal' this year raised the magnificent amount of £1,428.40p.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed, collected, displayed boxes of poppies or who helped in any way whatsoever.

The money has been sent to the Poppy Appeal Headquarters where it will be put to good use. I hope that the generosity of the people of Elmswell will keep Suffolk in its strong position in the Country.

Once again Many, many thanks indeed.

From David Hollings, Group Scout Leader

I am very pleased to advise you that Elmswell Scout Group are planning to re-open our Scout section early in the new year.

We plan to meet each week on Wednesday evenings at the Primary School in Oxer Close the section will be open to boys between the ages of 10 and 14 years.

Anyone interested in joining should contact me on 01359 241323.

Whilst writing to you I would request that anyone who feels that they could help in any of our sections and eventually train as a uniformed leader should contact me on the above telephone number.

We are particularly looking to recruit lady leaders in order that we can open our doors to girls and thereby offer Scouting to boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 14 years in Beavers, Cubs, or Scouts.

And finally, may we in Elmswell Scout Group wish everyone in the Village a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

From Sheryl Paine of Oak Lane

'...terrible service and no apologies...'

I was disappointed to miss the recent AGM of the Blackbourne Management Association which I understand is the Parish Council Committee which runs the Blackbourne. I didn't see it advertised on the notice boards or in the Newsletter, and, if other people's experience of hiring Blackbourne is like mine, I don't

blame the Councillors for keeping it quiet.

I wanted to air my grievances! I hired the hall with two friends to celebrate a joint birthday on 30th November. At the end of the night we went to get the brushes etc to clean up but everything was locked away. I had to take a morning off work to clean up the next day after getting keys from Cllr Clark. The right keys weren't there! Luckily, after a lot of time and trouble I borrowed a key from a friend who is a member of the football club and was able to get in and do the job.

We had tried to get into the hall earlier than the time on the booking form - the hall was empty - but Cllr Clark refused without we pay extra money! (We are all long standing village residents). However, getting what was owed to us back, a £35 deposit, has proved very difficult. Over a month and several promises, and we are out of pocket. It was a different story when we booked - quick money or no hall. Very efficient!

Terrible service and no apologies! I agree with Virginia Finch's letter last month. Cllr Clark and his cronies are arrogant, badly organised and have no idea what a community is about.

From Virginia Finch of Tostock

... Elmswell has a heart ...

Thank you Elmswell !

I wrote last month about the high handed and divisive attitude of our Big Three Parish Councillors, Clark, Curry and Marriott and their attitude to the public - particularly in the matter of the annual Carl Finch memorial events towards fundraising for the Woolpit Health Centre which they seem to have taken against and which have suffered as a result of their undemocratic bungling.

Elmswell to the rescue. Within days, all sorts of offers of help and support and a cheque for £68 from Jane and John at A & A Cars, our local taxi service, to cover the hall hire costs and for next year's event, a sum required by the Councillors months in advance and a sum denied by those same Councillors when we applied for grant aid.

Elmswell has a heart, if the Councillors don't. Thanks to all concerned, particularly A & A Cars and to the Newsletter for giving ordinary people a voice. Roll on the election.

PARISH COUNCIL

At the December Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council, held at Blackbourne on the 17th and attended by 18 members of the public, the following items of interest were among those discussed.

Banning the Public.

The Clerk set the tone for yet another fractious session by warning the public that recent unacceptable behaviour by electors at meetings would trigger reference to the courts where an injunction could, she explained, be sought under the Representation of the People Act of 1985 to prevent troublesome individuals from attending meetings.

Cllr David Marriott.

A member of the public, Mr Alan Crouch, asked why he had not received a reply to his letter received by the Council on 14th November which sought information on various points and an explanation as to the statements made by Cllr David Marriott, as Chairman of Council, regarding, 'evil in the village,' and stating that he had not been involved in any capacity with the Police action towards the Amenities Association, a statement he later admitted to be untrue. Mr Crouch was promised a reply which would make it clear that Cllr Marriott had been, in both circumstances, acting as a private individual.

Planning.

Councillors had no objection to the proposals to extend 'The Bungalow', Cross Street or to provide office accommodation to Suffolk Meat Traders' premises at Grove Lane. They objected to the suggestion that a bungalow might be built in the back garden of 'Arvon House', Cooks Road on the grounds that safe access would not be feasible and that the resulting 'back land development' was unacceptable. They approved a similar proposal for 'Little Acre', Ashfield Road, although commented that the site could only reasonably take one dwelling rather than the two proposed. Appeals have been lodged against the refusal of permission at the 'tin shed' site next to the railway station for a four storey development, although a smaller scheme was passed, and against the refusal of a plan for 10 houses on the old sugar factory site at Ashfield Road opposite Grove Lane where 6 dwellings were finally approved. Industrial starter units at Grove Lane have been refused planning permission.

Budget.

Cllrs Burch and Reed argued for an adjournment of the agenda items towards setting a budget and, therefore, the amount to be taken from the village in 'rates' so that such important matters could be more fully discussed. The relevant documents having been presented to them only that evening, they felt that an 'honourable and fair' assessment of the relevant factors was not possible. This did not find favour and both Councillors said that they did not feel that they could vote on any proposal in the circumstances. Cllr A Clark, Chairman of the relevant advisory committee, recommended that the only major changes be to the office budget which needed an increase in the light of the way Council is operating and to the Clerk's wages to be increased by 30% for similar reasons. Insurance for Blackbourne is dramatically increased by 56% due to recent claims. Savings could be made however, by reducing the money allocated to grant aiding village organisations, as last year, and a 25% reduction was proposed. Various maintenance figures were included as before and funding for the lapsed Shop Corner improvements retained as an earmarked reserve. No new capital projects were proposed and a budget requiring a precept of £49,500, up by 4% on last year, was agreed by just 5 councillors.

Grove Lane.

The council has, since it purchased the Grove Lane playing field, paid for some of the water and electricity used by the villagers using the facility. This is to cease. The charitable trust set up by the Council at the time to administer the site is to be reminded that it may apply for grant aid from the council to help address the shortfall.

Cllr Glyn Talbot.

A letter was read from Cllr Talbot who sits on both the Parish Council and Mid Suffolk District Council. He explained that, for family health reasons he has had to move out of the area and 'take a step back' from his duties.

Absentee Councillors.

Cllr Burch sought support for his view that the Parish Council should actively seek to persuade the councillors who no longer live in the village to resign and make way for active community members so that the electorate is properly represented. He pointed out that Tiptree (Cllr Woods) is further away than Culford (Cllr Marriott) and that no-one knows where Cllr Talbot has gone. The Clerk pointed out that this position could maintain for 6 months before Council was obliged to act. Cllr Burch acknowledged this but argued that 'popping in' twice a year just to maintain your place and keep someone else out was not representation. No action was determined other than to increase the cheque signatory list to cover the unavailability of certain councillors.

Newsletter.

The Council's own Newsletter is to be published every other month rather than monthly as originally intended.

Mike Schofield.

As the result of a report from the relevant advisory committee, Councillors were asked to support a recommendation that Mike Schofield, who masterminded and managed the Village Appraisal, be seconded onto the committee in question to help implement the Appraisal recommendations. A procedural mess ensued culminating in the Chairman having to use his casting vote to block the proposal amidst claims of unfair dealing and that the Council was, yet again, 'a laughing stock.'

Kiln Meadow Wildlife Area.

As a result of a report from the relevant advisory committee, Alan Thompson has, after several months of debate, been seconded to help advise on environmental matters including Kiln Meadow which, Cllr Clark maintained, should be taken more firmly under Parish Council control.

Grant Aid Policy.

After many months of messy procrastination, Council finally agreed to adopt a policy on grant aid. Under new guidelines £50 was given to the Citizen's Advice Bureau but an application from a youngster in the village for help with an educational travel project was refused. This went against the precedent recently set when 3 similar youngsters were given £200 each, but this, it was argued, demonstrated the need for a Policy.

Season's Greetings.

Despite the good behaviour of the public, the dormant gavel and there having been, apparently, no requirement for reference to either Court or Constabulary, compliments of the Season were not rendered.

Next Meeting.

The next scheduled meeting should take place on Monday 21st January at 7.30 in Blackbourne. The public is entitled to attend. The notice board at the Co-op usually has the agenda on the Wednesday before the meeting.



What's On in Elmswell ?

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

December

- 21 Concert in St John's Church for St Nicholas' Hospice, 7.30pm
- 23 11am, Family Christmas Service, Elmswell Baptist Church
- 23 6.30pm, Christmas Carols by Candlelight, Elmswell Baptist Church
- 24 Christmas Eve Communion, 11.30pm, St John's Church
- 25 Christmas Day Family Service, 10.30am, St John's Church

January 2002

- 2 10-11.30am, First Toddlers session of 2002

February 2002

- 23 Sausage Supper at St John's Church, 7.30pm (Friends of St John's)

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