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# The ELMSWELL Newsletter

Parish Matters

FEBRUARY 2001

*Our Cover Picture Shows ....*



*Dramatic chain-saw makeover for unique village residence .....  
Cruel To Be Kind. see page 25....*

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.*

546 Villagers voted on 25th January and chose 2 new Parish Councillors from the 5 nominated candidates.

Four of those candidates took up the Newsletter's offer of space in the last edition to make their case. Three of them went further and circulated pamphlets.

The result was decisive. Cllr Mrs Mary Feeney and Cllr Doug Reed polled almost the same number of votes - some 65% each of those cast. Mr Buckmaster's ideas attracted some 30% of support with Dr Norman Kenyon, who opted not to publish a leaflet, pulling in 22%. Of Mr Matthews little is known, but he still polled 44 votes (8%).

There is a peculiar madness which threatens those who analyse election results. More so with this election, unique in the village's history - 2 seats, 5 candidates, a Council at the height of its mid-term popularity ... perhaps we can best gauge what most concerns our community by repeating some of the ideas and ideals which were on offer. We list extracts from the published material which highlights some of the areas where candidates saw room for improvement in the way your Council is run;

- ✓ We need more consultation, better communication, openness and flexibility ... to acknowledge ... people's honesty and commitment both to Elmswell and to facilities in the village.
- ✓ Problems which, according to the ... outcome of the Village Appraisal, really matter ... include lorry traffic, pavements, facilities and services for young people
- ✓ Ensuring value for money ... dissatisfaction over the very high parish precept (taken from the rates) ... there must be a lot of money in the coffers somewhere, but how much, what will it be used for ... focus on value, not just cost.
- ✓ The environment ... open spaces, planting trees, litter, noise, recycling

- ✓ Moving forward rather than repeatedly criticising what went before ... engaging and involving people and organisations rather than alienating them ... publishing fully and widely rather than to the minimum it can get away with ... operate with sensitivity, and, admit when it gets things wrong.
- ✓ Take the less confrontational middle ground and plan for the future.

On the basis of the above suggestions, you voted;

Doug Reed	359	ELECTED
Mary Feeny	353	ELECTED
Eric Buckmaster	168	
Norman Kenyon	121	
Maurice Matthews	44	

Our 'Letters to the Editor' pages would welcome your further comments as you ponder the power of 'X'.

**Monica L. Carlin**

MSSCh. MBChA.

**Ruth E. Carlin**

MSSCh. MBChA.



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**The deadline for the next issue is 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday 7th March 2001.** Copy to Gobbins 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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**N.B. Photographs £10 extra.**  
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**A surcharge is made on advertisers from outside the village.**

# Around and About ...

## LUNCHEON CLUB

The Club is now very happily settled in the new regular weekly venue at the Woolpit Bull where mine hosts Trevor and Val make us extremely welcome and very comfortable. We have had three new members join since the move and any misgivings amongst members seem to have been put to rest. It is a great relief after the recent months of upheaval to realise that, having been forced to 'go private' we actually enjoy it! Certainly the strain of administration and the constant uncertainty of the arrangements at Blackbourne are things of the past to our great relief. Don't forget, if you are retired and at least 55 years of age, you are welcome to join us. Contact our Secretary, Rosalie Summons on 240001.

## SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY FRAUD SQUAD RAID ON THE PREMISES OF TRUSTEES OF THE ELMSWELL AMENITIES ASSOCIATION

7th December 2000

Due to pressure of work, the officers detailed to pursue this matter have, so far, made little progress towards the first stage which is to list all of the documents seized and let the Association know what was taken.

In the meantime, the Officers of the Association are doing their best to continue the business of the Association under difficult circumstances.

The most obvious effect is on the income to the Newsletter. Without the background files, it is uncertain as to who owes for their advertising. We are in consultation with the Police towards the release of copies of certain files. In the meantime, please bear with us, and, when

an invoice arrives, please pay promptly. If the aim of the mischief was to close your Newsletter down, we trust that you will share our determination to ensure that, on your behalf, we continue.

Although many of those who have contacted us with messages of support are convinced that the Parish Council or Parish Councillors are at the root of this troublesome and vindictive attack, there has been no admission to that effect to date and the Association can make no comment on the allegations.

We remain fully co-operative with the Police in the hope of a speedy conclusion and secure in the knowledge that there has been neither fraud, nor dishonesty on the part of the Trustees.

Thank you for your continued support.

## KILN MEADOW - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

This year we're planning our biggest programme of events ever, with a good mix of work parties and surveys. There are several new ideas, too, including a bat watch, where we will make use of a bat monitoring device. Our survey will start in the village and finish down on the site, so if you know of any bat roosts near you, then let us know and we'll try and include it in the itinerary.

### Sunday 6 May, 4.30 am

Dawn Chorus (yes, we really do mean THAT EARLY - this is one for the early risers!)

### Thursday 7 June, 7.00 pm

wildflower survey

### Sunday 17 June, 9.00 am

mowing/raking (equipment provided; gloves useful)

### Thursday 5 July, 7.00 pm

ragwort pull (bring gloves, spade)



## Around and About cont'd., pg3

**Friday 13 July, 8.30 pm**

bat watch (like the date!)

**Sunday 23 September, 9.00 am**

mowing/raking (equipment provided, bring gloves)

We're still finalising details for some meetings, including summer and winter bird watches, a bird ringing exercise, pond dipping, a fungi foray, and tree/hedgerow identification. Details will appear in the Newsletter as soon as we have them.

Everyone welcome to attend. For further details, please contact Bob Boardman (240171), Mary Feeney (241901) or Alan Thompson (241373).

### ELMSWELL CRICKET CLUB

**Sponsored by Manvers Triumph**

Did you know that Adolf Hitler once owned 8,960 acres of land in Colorado? Or that Harvey Kennedy invented the shoelace and made \$3 million on the patent? You probably didn't. OK, you do now - but to what lengths would you have gone to find out? Now I'm a quiz fan but just a keen amateur. I know when to give up. Not so, it would seem, many of you who bought one of the Club's 'Quiz of the Century' sheets before Christmas.

We offered 100 questions on the 1900s and a relatively small cash prize for the most correct answers. Word on the street (not sure which street, mind you) was that it was a difficult quiz. For that I blame our Chairman, Graham Newman. While he and I shared the question-setting, it was Mr Newman (address available if anyone would care to take issue with him!) who sank to the depths of obscurity. For every potentially easy question I added, like "Which statesman was born in Hope, Arkansas in 1946?" (Bill Clinton, of course), he would provide one such as "What unusual stationery feat did

Lympsham First School complete in two days in 1998?" or "What feat did Atto Acrom perform at Hervey Bay, Queensland in 1997?" Faced with questions like that you'd give up, wouldn't you? No matter how battle-hardened you were, in quiz terms, would you really go to any great effort just for £25?

Perhaps the full story of all the entries will never be known. If it were, it might betray an even sadder group of people, of the anorak-type, than is known about currently! On what is this judgement based? Well, consider those who actually admitted that they telephoned Lympsham First School for the answer (a chain of 60,000 paper clips); those who scoured the Internet for hours to locate the local newspapers of Queensland to find out about Atto Acrom (he held on to two 300HP Cessna planes, so preventing them from taking off in opposite directions);



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Eyebrow Shape



## Around and About cont'd., pg5

and those who actually drove to Portman Road solely to discover the answer to the question "What was the price of a North Stand adult ticket for John Wark's 1996 testimonial game, Ipswich against Arsenal?" Incidentally, locals might like to know that Mr David Peachey, cricketer extraordinaire and lifelong Town fan put down the correct answer of £10 - then crossed it out and opted for £5. As one of a number of people who has been run out batting with 'Wink' I can only confirm that this is typically indecisive!

Anyway, we are grateful to all who bought the quiz and helped us raise a much-needed £151. We had just 17 entries although they came from all over the place - Felixstowe, Rowley Regis (West Midlands), King's Lynn, Sweden (the answers were e-mailed!) and even a few from Elmswell! Winner of the £25 was

John Herrington of Woodbridge who scored 95. Wine was won by the next three highest scorers - Sally Lakey, Elmswell, with 94; Linda Challenor of Bury St Edmunds with 93; and Kate Exworth of Ipswich with 90. A full list of answers is available should anyone want a copy - please contact me (details below).

On the cricket front we're just 10 weeks away from the new season (wives and girlfriends be warned!). An arrangement to secure the future of the Club in the village is close to being finalised and plans are being put in place for the outdoor nets at The Blackbourne which if you recall, are being substantially funded by a grant from the Sports Aid Foundation. Even so, we'll be having our usual pre-season indoor nets at Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre in Stowmarket in April. Dates and times will be in the next issue.

Finally, if you're man or boy, woman or girl and would like to join us in 2001 then now's the time to get in touch. Please contact either myself or Graham Newman (Tel: 240846) and prepare for the experience of a lifetime!

**Doug Reed** Club Secretary (Tel: 241009)

**DONIMOTE**



**Needed Urgently**

Pianist or Keyboard Player willing to accompany a group of young singers at rehearsal for just 1 hour per week, Tuesdays 7-8pm.

*You would find the one hour very rewarding!*

**More information from  
Chas Nunn 240783**

### **Elmswell Cricket Club Century Club Draw - January Results**

£15 A Farmer (No 87)

£10 C Salmon (74)

£5 J Keeble (80)

### **PROJECT 2000**

The next meeting will be held at Bunkers Hill Farmhouse on Tuesday 27th March 2001 at 2.30 pm. After the dedication of the first batch of kneelers by the Bishop of Dunwich at St John's Church, Elmswell on Sunday 18th February 2001, the project will continue.

We still have a long way to go to reach our original target of 100 and always welcome new stitchers!

## Around and About cont'd., pg7

### ELMSWELL MILLENNIUM HISTORY GROUP

The History Group is keen to build up an *Oral History*, capturing the voices of Elmswell people recalling the past - the people and events of the village. With this in mind we invited *Dr Tessa Stone*, an experienced recorder of 'Oral Testimony' to speak to the group. *Dr Stone's* particular expertise on this subject comes from the work she did for her doctorate, which involved recording the memories of women who had served in the forces during the war. She spoke of the possible pitfalls and suggested certain techniques that will prove invaluable.

Oral testimony is a fairly recent branch of historical research and was originally dismissed by professional historians as unreliable and unscientific. Conventionally history was written from the 'top, down', concentrating on royalty and the 'better sort.' However, oral history is now accepted as a serious subject and a legitimate way of giving the working class and minority groups a 'voice'.

If you are interested in this project and would like to take part, either as an interviewer or interviewee, please contact *Maureen Dow 240390* or *Norman Kenyon 241569*.

Our next meeting takes place on *Thursday March 8th* at 8.00pm in *St John's Church Room*, when *Roger Dalby* will speak on *The History of Great Ashfield/Elmswell Airfield*.  
Members £1: Non-members £2.

### ELMSWELL FOOTBALL CLUB

Club Sponsor - Mirror Group

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Warm up top sponsors -

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Match Ball Sponsors - Rota-Rod (Bob

Barter), Travelstop (Elmswell),

Stowmarket Golf Club, Tulipa Gardens

(Elmswell)

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Newspapers

1st Team Manager - D Scase, Assistant

K Hammond

2nd Team Sponsor - Elmswell Fox

2nd Team Manager - B Barter, Assistant

S Harrison

Over 35's Sponsors - C G Finch & Sons

**Monthly Draw for January 2001 -  
drawn by B Hayward**

£50 54 H Royal

£35 171 T Johnstone

£25 333 K Stiff

£15 226 G Bryson

£15 317 K Harris



### ELMSWELL FOOTBALL CLUB - YOUTH SECTION

We need to find someone to act as *Secretary* to our growing & increasingly successful youth teams as from June of this year. *Neville Bendall* is retiring from the post which he has held for 15 years. It involves arranging and notifying fixtures and results as well as the week-by-week administration.

*Please give it a thought.*

If you might be able to help - ring *Neville* on 241977  
for further details.



## Around and About cont'd., p28

### Monthly Draw for February 2001 - drawn by D Young

£50	311	S King
£35	128	W Phillips
£25	86	M Bendall
£15	29	R Hatton
£15	89	V Wade

### Results:

#### January 27th

1st Team: Needham Market (A) Away Won 4-3. **Scorers:** P Hughes (1), P Swallow (1), R Turnbull (1 Pen), S Champion (1)

Reserves: Somersham Reserves Home Won 7-0. **Scorers:** G Coleman (1 Pen), D Hudson (6)

#### February 3rd

1st Team: Bacton Home Drew 1-1. **Scorer:** P Farmer (1 Pen)

### Fixtures:

#### February 24th

First team: Mendlesham - Home  
Reserves: Benhall St Marys - Home

#### March 3rd

First team: Waterside - Home  
Reserves: Coplestonians "A" - Away

#### March 10th

Reserves: East Bergholt "A" - Home

#### March 17th

Reserves: Coplestonians "A" - Home

**Anyone wishing to join Elmwell Football Club please telephone B Hayward on (01359) 240951**

**Anyone wishing to join the monthly draw contact H Mulley on (01359) 240889**

Training Wednesday nights Grove Lane Pitch.

Compiled by **H Mulley**

## Mother's Help WANTED

For family in Elmwell

- \* 3:00 - 6:00pm daily but we could be flexible
- \* Competitive rate of pay
- \* To collect 2 children from school
- \* Duties include cleaning & ironing
- \* Walking distance from Elmwell School
- \* Term-time only
- \* Reference required

**Telephone 01359 242215 after 6pm for further details.**

## ELMSWELL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

On January 9th, despite the frosty weather, the majority of members braved the cold to sit in the warm at Blackbourne Hall and to hear about the life of Badgers with many wonderful colour slides.

Later this month we shall be enjoying our annual dinner at Stowmarket Golf Club. Next month Peter Driver will regale us with tales of the many curiosities of Suffolk, and in March we will hear about the work of a magistrate.

We are also looking forward to future activities, a trip to the theatre, a barbecue and an evening walk around part of the village.

We meet at Blackbourne Hall at 7.30 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

New members and visitors are always welcome.



## Around and About cont'd., pg10

### ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB

Our next meeting will be on February 15th 2001, in the Exchange Hall, in School Road at 8.00 pm, when Mr Bob Jackson of Woolpit Nurseries will give a talk on the Practicalities of Seed Sowing, and the competition for the evening will be a Dried Flower Arrangement. Now I can hear you all saying, why ever has he started the report off like this, well, the answer to that is because I keep getting told that there are several people in the village that would like to come to Gardening Club but they don't know which night it is held on, despite the date, time and location being at the end of each monthly report (perhaps the report is too boring for people to read through to the end). Please let me know.

Despite the bad weather and sub-zero



temperatures on the 18th January, a good turnout of members were introduced to the sensory delights of having and growing Herbs in the garden by that well known writer and broadcaster Caroline Holmes who apart from having a good understanding of her subject was able to combine it with a great sense of humour. See you all on February 15th.

### ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

Into the New Year and away we go again. We hope that this year will be a special year for both the Church and everyone involved in its activities. We began the year with a special committal service for each other and the village and we pray that this year will be a good one for our chapel, and each and every one of you.

Our weekly services continue throughout February on Sundays at 11 am, and the Children's Trailblazers at 9.45 am.

Our Tuesday evening get-togethers continue also, and more information on these for anyone interested can be gained from our church secretary, if you can catch him in. Our annual church AGM takes place on Tuesday February 20th at 7.30 pm, and is open to anyone from the congregation who would like to attend so please join us, it's your opportunity to have your say.

On March 3rd, if you are feeling in the spring cleaning mood, then join us anytime between 9.30 - 12.30 in the morning for a chance to put your elbow grease to the test. It's got to be better than doing the grocery shopping, and there will be no trolleys to bump into (not even a tea one, unfortunately).

On March 5th the Ladies meet for some flower arranging at 7.45 pm. So if you enjoy watching paint dry, give it a look. I didn't mean it, there is definitely an art to it, you only have to see the display each week in the chapel to see how clever some

### DOMINOTE



*To all parents of  
youngsters aged 9+*

**Dominote is looking for  
more members.**

If your sons or daughters enjoy singing, bring them along on Tuesdays, 7-8pm at the Exchange Hall in School Road to give Dominote a try.

We have just started rehearsing 'Songs from Different Musicals'.

**Just turn up or call  
Chas Nunn on 240783.**

## Around and About cont'd., pg13

people are with this skill. So if you are interested in coming along to this free demonstration give it a look (I think I got out of that one).

We hope to see even more of you this year, either by you visiting us, or us visiting you. You never know, we may even enter a team in the various quizzes held in the village, as long as the cricket club don't mind the extra competition.

So I'm off now to study my 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire' quiz book.

See you next month if not before. **Mark**

### FRIENDS OF KILN MEADOW WILDLIFE SITE

Just a reminder to all who have in the past sponsored a nest box and would like to renew for another year, payment will be due in March slightly increased to £3, thanks for your support in the past and hopefully for the future.

#### National Nest Box Week

Commences Feb 14th for a week, sorry this is slightly late, but am sure you will do your part for this breeding season, make sure nest box is clean and has drain holes in the bottom.

#### To "all Friends of Kiln Meadow"

If anyone would like to take down to the site any bird feeders and keep "topped up" please do so, you might like to let me know. Any points that you would like me to know or I can help you with, please ring Alan Thompson 241373.

### CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY, STOWMARKET

#### Parish Priest:

Father Denys Lloyd,  
The Presbytery,  
29 Lockington Road,  
Stowmarket IP14 1BQ  
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 and 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): 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 IP13 3JB. Tel: 01359-259944*

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## **Around and About conf'd., pg 14**

### **ELMSWELL METHODIST CHURCH**

All activities are now in full swing again, and we are delighted to report growing numbers for our monthly Exchange Club, when interesting speakers or enjoyable outings are arranged. The next meeting is on 20th February at 2.45pm when Rebecca Batterham will be speaking on Fire Safety. Everyone is welcome - it will not be a problem if we outgrow the Exchange Hall!! On 20th March Louise Brundell will be talking to us about Hearing Dogs for the Deaf.

#### **Our Sunday 10.45am services this month will be led by:-**

25th February - Mr John Goddard  
4th March - Revd Keith Hordon  
11th March - Revd Joyce Dye  
18th March - Miss Jenny Benfield

**The Ladies Meeting** - Tuesday at 2.45pm. All ladies welcome.

## **ELMSWELL W.I.**

**Come and join us at our monthly  
W.I. meetings on the second  
Tuesday each month at 7.30pm  
at Blackbourne Hall.**

We are not just "Jam and Jerusalem". We have interesting and informative speakers as well as enjoying good company and entertainment, each year we enter County Competitions, dine out, visit theatres and shop.

*Something for everyone!*

### **INTERESTED ???**

#### **Contact:**

Sandra Peagam Tel: 01359 240328  
or Anne Dyball Tel: 01359 240245

#### **Speakers for the month:**

Feb 27th - Mrs Maurcen Newcombe  
March 6th - Mrs Thelma Rogers  
March 13th - Mrs June Want (Gideons)

#### **Don't forget the coffee mornings, coffee/tea, biscuits and chat**

10 - 11.30am Thursday Feb 22nd and  
Thursday Mar 8th

#### **Monthly house fellowship**

Wednesday 21st February.

### **SERVICES etc at ST JOHN'S CHURCH**

**Sunday 18 February**  
10.30am Holy Communion  
Dedication of new Kneelers

**Sunday 25 February**  
10.30am Morning Prayer  
11.30am Holy Communion

#### **Wednesday 28 February**

**Ash Wednesday**  
7.30pm Holy Communion

**Sunday 4 March**  
09.30am Family Service with Music  
Group

10.30am Morning Prayer  
11.30am Holy Communion

**Sunday 11 March**  
8.00am Holy Communion  
10.30am Parish Praise

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

#### **St John's Church, Elmswell**

On Sunday 18 February we look forward to the visit of the Rt Revd Clive Young, Bishop of Dunwich, who will be the Celebrant and Preacher at a service of Holy Communion at 10.30am. For some time now The Project 2000 Kneeler Group has been working hard to make new kneelers for the Church - these depict various scenes relating to the Church and the village. During the service the Dedication of the Kneelers so far completed will take place.

## Around and About cont'd., p216

### Christian Aid

Recent collections made after our morning service have totalled £200 for the relief work of Christian Aid in El Salvador & India.

### The Friends of St John's Church - Elmswell

Our 2001 programme is now being arranged and we hope to see you at some of the following events:

AGM and Salad Supper, Friday 15 June.

Coffee Morning at Fayreways, Cross Street, Saturday 18 August.

Festival of Art, Music and Flowers, Friday - Sunday 7-9 September.

More events and details will be announced later.

### ST JOHN'S CHURCH FLOODLIGHTING

A night's floodlighting costs £5 (Please make cheques payable to "ST JOHN'S CHURCH, ELMSWELL")

### January 2001 Sponsorships not previously acknowledged

11 in loving memory of our beautiful daughter and special sister, Kayleigh Wallace

27-30 Anon

### February 2001 Sponsorships

1 Anon

3 in memory of Geoffrey Dalton

4 in memory of Kayleigh Wallace on her Brother's 1st Birthday

6 in memory of Dad and Grandad, Geoffrey Sturgeon

13 Tony Clark Homes Limited

14 in memory of Marjorie Ellen Manning

16 in memory of Ronald Last

19 in memory of Doris Towndrow

26 in memory of Wally Dudley

All bookings and payments, please, to:-

Trevor Sadler, Abbots Warren, Church Road, Elmswell (Tel: 240908)

### ELMSWELL FUND RAISERS

(Carrol Sadler, Christine Jackson and Lorraine Revett) were delighted to send 'Breakthrough Breast Cancer' a cheque for £2580.00, following a successful Charity Ball held at The Athenaeum, Bury St Edmunds on 25th November 2000.

Carrol, Christine and Lorraine would like to thank everybody who supported the event in any way.

### ELMSWELL HELPING HAND CLUB



ELMSWELL

Greetings to all Members, hoping that you are managing to keep your feet dry and stay free of illness in the seemingly endless wet of this winter.

Your Committee has held its first meeting of the year and the date for the A.G.M. has been set for 29th March with meetings to follow at the usual fortnightly intervals,

## Nearly New Sale

Maternity Wear  
Baby's and Children's Clothes  
Baby Equipment  
Toys and Books

If you have any thing to sell,  
please contact Jackie Denial on  
01359 242857.

25% of the sales fees will go to  
Elmswell Toddlers.

We would also welcome any  
donations of goods.

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March  
2pm-4pm  
Wesley Hall, School  
Road, Elmswell

## Around and About cont'd., pg 18

culminating in our Christmas Party on Saturday 8th December.

As the Chairman and Secretary are both definitely standing down at the A.G.M., I urge you to consider from amongst our very able membership those whom, with their permission, you can propose and have seconded to stand for election to the vacant posts. It helps to keep a club lively and interesting if new blood, with different ideas and suggestions, can be injected from time to time. Whoever is elected will as usual receive full support and help from the present officers and committee. The Vice-Chairman and the Treasurer are both prepared to stand for re-election for 2001. An interesting programme for the year is in hand and three outings are being planned although actual venues have yet to be definitely decided upon (so disregard all rumours until firm arrangements have been made and details announced at a meeting). Outings will have to take place on Saturdays this year owing to the work commitments of our organisers and helpers.

Many thanks to our Committee Members who have kindly offered to continue supplying all items necessary for our refreshments at meetings, and to Stan King, our Vice-Chairman, who is going to finance a visit from old favourites Tom and his musicians in the summer.

A decidedly belated (as I did not write last month), very many thanks to all at the Railway Tavern who made such a generous donation to the Club. The Christmas Party certainly went with a swing and comments were made as to its being our best ever!

Our thanks go in addition to Mary Flack and especially her daughter for arranging and running the special second Draw. The prizes, over 50 of them, had to be seen to be believed!

Finally, we look forward to seeing you all, and any prospective new members, at the Blackbourne for the A.G.M. on 29th March at 7pm.

Betty

## ELMSWELL TODDLERS



It's the time of year for a new committee at toddlers. The last year has gone very quickly and toddlers have been very busy, with lots of children attending regular sessions and outings. At the Christmas party 60 children had fun and games and enjoyed a visit from Father Christmas. At this time of year the children really appreciate the space to play when it's too wet to go outside.

All of this year's committee would like to thank everyone in the village that has supported toddlers over the last year. Several people have been generous with money, carpets, toys and other items, which have been greatly appreciated.

There are a couple of events coming up. On Wed 28th February 'Fempest Photos' will be at the Wesley Hall from 10.00 am. Anyone is welcome to come along and have their children's photographs taken. Saturday 17th March is the nearly new sale at the Wesley Hall from 2-4 pm. This is an opportunity for anyone to sell their outgrown children's clothing, toys and equipment as well as maternity wear. I would recommend it to anyone with small children, as there are always some lovely, hardly worn clothes at very reasonable prices. We would also be pleased to accept any donations of such goods to be sold for toddlers. Please make donations at least a week before the sale so that we are able to label them up before the day. Anyone wishing to sell or donate items please contact Jackie (01359 242 857).

Toddlers always welcome new parents/carers to come along with their children. We are open on Monday 1.30-3.00pm and Wednesdays 10.00-11.30am at the Wesley Hall School Road. We have a range of toys and activities for children from birth to 4. For further details please contact Jackie Denial (01359 242857) or Sarah Mansel (01359 241857).

## *It's That Time Again - OH! YES IT IS*

The best yet E.A.D.S. Panto - '*Aladdin*' was performed in the Wesley Hall on 1st, 2nd and 3rd February - very traditional, very funny and very well done by all involved. The two highlights, I think, were the washing machine scene with garments going in normal size and coming out 10 sizes smaller and going in white and coming out red! The other clever scene was a spoof of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" - a contestant by the name of Aladdin and a Chris Tarrant disguised as Genie of the Lamp!

We had all the traditional characters - two bumbling policemen and a dead-pan secret police chief who rendered an amusing "A Policeman's Lot is not a Happy One". I did say it was traditional. A lovesick Aladdin with his fun-loving equally lovesick brother Wishy Washy with the coy Princess and her shy ladies maid. The domineering Empress who henpecked the browbeaten Emperor. The nasty, scheming Ebenezer and of course Widow Twanky, although suffering from a sore throat and heavy cold pulled off her/his performance.

There were references to Peter Mandelson, George Bush and, closer to home, the Luncheon Club. And what was it that Widow Twanky said they could afford now that Aladdin was in the money - oh yes, they could hire the Blackbourne for five minutes on a Saturday night!!!

Well done everybody! Oh yes those people who didn't go and told me they



didn't know it was on - it has been advertised in every Newsletter for the last six months and posters were put up on every notice board in the village. However, there were full houses Friday and both performances on Saturday. Thursday's audience was a bit disappointing.

*The next production is a farce, called Black Comedy, to be performed in June.*

**They need your support so keep looking in your Newsletter for details.**

## Cruel to be Kind

Some time around 200 years ago an acorn germinated in a piece of ground just to the south of our village, in fact the area we now know as Kiln Meadow. At that time the area must have presented a very different aspect to the one we are familiar with. No, it wasn't a pristine piece of rural England, in fact probably far from it, for this area was, as the name implies, the heart of a significant industrial complex turning out white "Suffolk Bricks". Be that as it may, our tiny oak flourished and grew. At some unknown point in time, perhaps when the tree was about 50 years old, someone cut its top off, at about 7 foot above the ground! Vandalism? Far from it, in fact an act intended to manage the trees growth so that it would continue to produce an assortment of timber products for an almost infinite period of time to come. Product ranging from firewood to spindle legs for furniture, handles for tools and many others. The process is called POLLARDING, and along with its sister system, Coppicing, has been used to manage trees and woodland for timber products back so far into antiquity that no firm date has yet been put on their original use.

The systems are basically similar, in that the tops of trees are cut off and allowed to re-grow, and then the re-growth is again cut off, or harvested at regular intervals ranging from around 5 to 15 years, depending on the variety of tree, and the type of product wanted. The difference between the two systems is that in coppicing the tree is cut down essentially to ground level, whereas a pollard is cut off at between 6 and 8 feet above ground level. The reason for this being that it prevents the tender re-growth from being eaten by browsing animals such as cattle and deer, and for that reason it is most often employed in such places as deer parks and in the boundary hedges of grazing meadows. An interesting and useful side effect of both systems is that trees so treated live for a very long time. Often significantly longer than would be the case for a virgin tree of the same species, so that for example in Bradfield Wood there are coppiced Hazel stools, a shrub/tree with a normal life expectancy of perhaps two to three hundred years on average, which are thought to be in excess of one thousand years old. They were being harvested for timber before the Norman Conquest!

In the case of pollards, such was their permanence in the landscapes that they often became marker points in all type of boundaries, from those of farms and

cstates, to parishes, manors and counties.

Down on Kiln Meadow our young pollard never achieved that level of fame. It did however continue to be harvested for around a hundred years, until the middle of the last century (that is the 20th century). Times had changed, the need for firewood and rustic timber products had gone, and often, sadly, so had the men who had practised the old skills. Our pollard was left, forgotten and neglected to grow as it would. Unfortunately, left to their own devices, neglected pollards quite rapidly (relatively speaking) destroy themselves. The rapid and vigorous re-growth which has been so valued, left uncut continues growing until it is far too large and heavy to be supported by the older trunk, which may have become hollow. One day there is a strong wind, the trunk cracks, and the whole tree may collapse radial fashion away from the centre.

Nation-wide there are moves being made to save these valuable old trees from self-destruction, and to restore them to their former glory. At time this process appears at first sight to be anything but beneficial. Trees which for as long as most people can remember, have been a much-loved part of the local landscape, are suddenly subjected to drastic surgery. Most or all of their tops are cut off, and they look as if they have been destroyed! For a month or two it looks terrible, a great open space where once there was a mass of branches. Then with the spring re-growth starts. In the first year the new branches may grow four feet. Within a year or two there is a great mass of foliage. A pollard has been reborn, and if it is maintained it may go on to live for another thousand years or more.

This is the process that has been started on the oak in Kiln Meadow. Some, but in this case not all of the upper branches have been removed, by a qualified tree surgeon. In a year or two, when the tree has got over the shock, and got back into the swing of producing new growth, the rest will be removed, and hopefully the process will then be repeated on a routine basis.

So with luck our oak, which may have been born during the Napoleonic Wars, perhaps originally intended to provide timber for the "Wooden Walls", which saw the rise of the railways, Queen Victoria's coronation and death, the first aeroplanes, two world wars and men on the moon, will go on to see - ?

Well, whatever the future holds.

**John Ibbetson**, Parish Tree Warden,  
on behalf of the Friends of Kiln Meadow

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## PARISH COUNCIL

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**The February Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council was attended by 26 members of the public. Our Correspondent noted the following matters of interest amongst those discussed.**

**Minutes:** The Chairman ruled that letters which are read out in meetings at the request of Councillors do not form part of the Meetings and, therefore, do not have to be minuted. He agreed to sort out, 'back at the office,' the omission of the formal proposal and voting on the Precept which was set at the January meeting but not properly minuted. Three Councillors, therefore, voted against the acceptance of the Minutes as a true record.

**BMX Track:** A 27 name petition was presented on behalf of youngsters in the village keen to see a BMX or similar facility in the village.

**Kiln Meadow Wildlife:** A report was read by one of the volunteers who maintain the wildlife area at footpath 16 near Kiln Lane on behalf of the Council. It detailed extensive remedial tree works, including some relocations and the pollarding of an old oak. A seat has been offered for the site free of charge and the nest boxes have been prepared for the new season with considerable activity already recorded. The closed circuit television camera has been installed in a nest box in anticipation of a new tenant.

**Recycling Centre Licence:** The necessary paperwork to allow the re-location of the recycling centre to the Industrial Estate behind the Fox was tabled but not signed. Concerns were expressed regarding the poor state of the road near to the new location at the junction with Station Road at the railway crossing.

**County Council:** A report was read out from County Councillor Gordon Iredale who lives in Sussex. It mentioned the re-organisation of Social Service, the fact that the Police Authority is still reachable via the County Council, Youth Justice Plans and the provision of Locality Funding for a project in Drinkstone. It was suggested that future reports be circulated to Councillors rather than read out in full.

**Grants:** Councillors agreed to grant aid the Little Elms Pre-School in the sum of some £230 and the Toddler Group some £369.

**Communication:** Widespread concern was voiced by Councillors regarding poor communication on the part of Council across a broad range of activities. The Website has not been updated since September and contains much wrong information. The last minutes were deposited at the Library in June 2000. Telephone communication with the Clerk is difficult and very hit-and-miss. Letters go unanswered and astray. One-to-one dealings with the public are often aggressive and unhelpful. There is a perception abroad that the Council is secretive and high handed. The reduction of the Agenda, Council Minutes and other supporting documentation to a minimalist level has led to poor relations with the public who repeatedly asked, during the recent election campaign, that more information should be available. Having abandoned its monthly report in the village's Newsletter, the Council is without an official voice. Although new Freedom of Information legislation will eventually force a more open approach, it was argued that a positive and pro-active move now should be implemented to address these important issues as the Council is losing the PR war which it has begun against those it should be serving. A proposal from Cllr Ronald Curry that this body should meet in private was defeated. Three Councillors voted against the new body, but the proposal, from Cllr Mrs Mary Feeney, seconded by Cllr Doug Reed, was passed to the obvious satisfaction of the public present.

**CCTV:** Councillors decided not to actively pursue an initiative suggested by Mid Suffolk District Council which would make available a mobile closed circuit television facility in the District to be located at 'trouble hot spots' within Parishes on request.

**Play Area:** It was decided not to arrange for an opening ceremony at the Thedwastre Close Play Area in the light of the embarrassing condition of the site which is dangerously rutted, marred with spoil heaps and likely to remain underwater for many weeks. The builders have been paid in full. There was no money retained against poor workmanship or failure to complete the project. It was suggested that Council might review its procedures with regards to such contracts.

**Street Cleaner:** The Street Cleaner has recently resigned for unspecified reasons. The post is to be advertised.

**Street Lights:** In response to a letter from a resident and to comments made during recent election campaigning, Cllr Mrs Mary Feeney expressed her astonishment that a professional street lighting survey had suggested that 5 new lights in Bennett Avenue are a priority, given the overall lighting situation

in the village. The implementation of the proposals is delayed for want of a contract price.

**Appraisal:** Councillors noted a number of areas highlighted in an 'Action Plan' put forward by the group which recently carried out a Village Appraisal. No further action was scheduled.

**Anonymous Leaflet:** The Chairman defended his decision to place on the agenda and read to the Meeting an anonymous pamphlet regarding the development of the Amenities Association Trust Property at Cooks Road. He denied that this was motivated by malevolence.

**Planning:** Five planning applications have been received. These may be the subject of discussion at a future meeting.

**Blackbourne Management Association:** A proposal to look again at the structure of the body which has been set up by the Council to administer Blackbourne and which has been the subject of considerable public criticism was defeated by 6 votes to 3.

**Luncheon Club:** There was considerable discussion on a proposal from Cllr Mrs Mary Feeney which sought to draw a line under the long running problems between the Council and the Luncheon Club which had arisen when the rates for the Club's use of Blackbourne had been dramatically increased. The Club now meets out of the village but is being pressed by the Parish Clerk for the return of some grant aid made to it as a Blackbourne tenant. The Chairman conceded that the wording of the Council's proposal relating to the original grant was so poor as to be open to a wide and confusing interpretation. Cllr Mrs Feeney's case was that there was an opportunity to 'bridge building' to begin. Her proposal that the Parish Council require no refund of grant made to the Luncheon Club succeeded very narrowly.

**Fraud Squad:** An item for discussion, placed on the agenda by a Councillor, sought to open up the vexed question of the Council's involvement, or that of individual Councillors, in the recent Suffolk Constabulary Fraud Squad's raid on the Trustees of the Amenities Association. The Chairman, Cllr David Marriott, who is in contact with the Officer leading the investigation, refused to allow discussion to proceed.

**Information for Councillors:** A member of the public, herself a Parish Councillor, observed that Councillors seem very poorly briefed on matters

which come before them and that the Clerk might provide more background documentation towards meaningful and informed discussion.

**School Road Flooding:** Cllr Burch pointed out that, once again, the many potholes around the village are posing serious hazards. He looked forward to the election of a new County Councillor who might be persuaded to stay in the area and be on hand to progress such matters.

**Next Meeting:** The date of the next Ordinary Meeting was agreed as Monday 12th March at 7.30 at Blackbourne.

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## ELMSWELL SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND NURSERY NATIVITY



The retiring collections at the school's Christmas concert and nursery nativity amounted to £265. A cheque was presented to the Rainbow Ward at the West Suffolk Hospital by Mrs J Merrywest, Charlotte Parsk, Tom Proctor and Sam O'Doherty. Many thanks to all the parents and friends who contributed to this magnificent sum.

## *Letters to Editor*

### *An Open Letter to Doug Reed and Mary Feeney - our new Parish Councillors*

Sincere congratulations to you both! You thoroughly deserve your success and very many of us are privileged to have had a small part to play in promoting you.

It has been so sad to see so much hard work being destroyed. The regular meetings of the Parish Council and its reports are now a sham with so little information being passed on to anyone, so little progress being made on anything worthwhile and so much aggression shown to anyone who expressed an alternative viewpoint - and this from a group which came to power on the basis of value for money, awareness and openness.

It would seem as if the majority of the present members are incapable of thinking positively. Their whole *raison d'être* seems to be based on a desire to destroy anything put in place either by the previous administration or by those persons or bodies associated with it. What undoubtedly amounts to sheer hatred blinds both them and what is left of their supporters into believing that the end justifies the means, whatever the casualties created as a result of their actions, witness the numerous damage such as the Luncheon Club, the Cricket Club and The Elmswell Amenities Association. Even this year's Elmswell Fayre could, it seems, be in jeopardy as a result of red tape, unpleasantness and procrastination.

No one expects you to be able to turn the tide overnight but perhaps just the presence of new voices of reason might cause one or two of the present incumbents to question others' motives in the future. At least there will be valid, appropriate and educated comment which will enable the rest of us to be aware that, at last, someone is ensuring that an alternative point of view, based on a genuine desire to build rather than a hidden agenda of destruction, is heard.

With every good wish for the task ahead of you, from all your supporters.

*Name and address withheld by request as the writer has recently suffered an aggressive and unpleasant telephone call from a Parish Councillor.*

*Letter to Ed from Mrs E Longhurst (née Farrow) from Warmminster, Wilts*

**... Such lovely memories ...**

I have just received the Jan 2001 News letter from my brother Mr R Farrow. I feel I must write and say how pleased I am with the tribute to my father, the late Mr W G Farrow.

We all have such lovely memories of him and the stories he told us over the years. I will treasure this News Letter for many years. It was also lovely to read about my parents wedding which was on the centre pages.

I also wish to pass on my thanks to everyone who attended the funeral of my Father.

*Letter to Ed from Keith Harrison of Wetherden Road*

**WHY?**

Why do we as a village have to sell the old memorial hall site as a whole, why couldn't we just sell off the old bowling green site for housing, we are sure you could get three houses on the site and still sell it for £100,000. The money could then be used along with grant aid from the lottery and mid Suffolk district council, etc., to remove the old hall or redo or rebuild the library with the addition of a meeting room with cloakroom and toilet on the same site. It could be used as somewhere for mothers to meet after dropping their children off at school for a chat and a coffee, for users of the library to sit and read their books, perhaps to hook up to the internet, something for the whole village to use. For the senior citizens of the village to meet and chat during the day, and as somewhere for the youth to meet in the evening. Should we sell the whole site and end up with new houses and a small library stuck up the corner of the old bowling green and with £100,000 in the bank for what use? I am sure we would like to know! To find out the answer to this question please ring the Amenities Association on 01359 241841 and ask why or why can we not have a small meeting room as a memorial attached to the library. We lost our old station buildings, our old school, we must not lose the only peice of ground in the centre of the village that belongs to the village.

*Letter to Ed from A Couzens Cresmedow Way*

### **Noise Pollution from the A14**

I refer to the recent correspondence in these columns regarding the noise from the A14. The Parish Council has written to the Highways Agency but been told there are no plans to re-surface the stretch of road that affects this village.

I understand that a significant number of people raised this issue during the Village appraisal carried out last year.

What is now clear is that nothing will be done unless enough people complain about it. With this in mind I would urge anyone who is affected by this pollution (and that must be all those who live on the Southern side of the Railway) and those that are less affected to help try to improve the quality of life in the village by writing to our Member of Parliament about the noise from this road.

His address is

David Ruffley M.P.  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA.

Remember that there are plans to increase the size of Felixstowe docks so the amount of traffic using the road will increase significantly and so will the noise pollution from it.

So come on don't be shy WRITE NOW, help make Elmswell a better place to live.

*Letter to Ed from Eric Buckmaster - Church Road*

### **The 'Funny Things' that Happen on the way to an Election**

Elmswell Parish Council - **Casual Vacancies** - Election, it has a lovely ring to it, doesn't it.

Obviously an expression out of the past, and delightfully laid back. But it wasn't like that at all.

There was excitement - drama - extremely inclement weather before the day -

and I reckon that those of us who went around posting leaflets were sometimes taking our life in our hands.

For my part the walking about over at least seven days did me a power of good.

Some letter boxes are a bit of a puzzle, it's the 'Hairy' draught excluders - they are not always aligned exactly with the apertures, so if anyone received a slightly creased leaflet, then my apologies.

Like the other worthy candidates, I submitted my 'election statement' to our Parish newsletter and it was duly and quite properly printed in the January issue.

For convenience I asked the printers of our parish magazine to print a 'run on' of my 'manifesto' as leaflets and they ran off 1500 copies.

On one of my delivery days I was passing the village Police station and mischievously popped a copy of my leaflet through their letterbox. To give them some light reading I thought.

That night two Policeman came to my house asking to speak to me. In fairness they did apologise, but told me they had been instructed to follow up a misdemeanour. The printers had omitted to print their name on the leaflet that I was giving out and an elderly gentleman had gone into the Police station to report the matter.

It seems that it is the law, which on reflection I can understand. Because otherwise you could have someone printing any old scurrilous statement and not know who was doing it. They were obliged to follow it up.

Polling day came and the count began at 9.15 pm. Mr Dow acted as Polling agent for all of us, he hovered over the Mid-Suffolk tellers just to make sure that they didn't get it wrong and he seemed to be quite pleased with the result, as were we all.

But that wasn't the end of it. On the following Monday, the East Anglian Daily Times telephoned to ask me to confirm that there had been some wrong doing in the course of the Election.

The reporter also asked me to explain why it was that Elmswell seemed always to be such a politically controversial village. I was able to tell him that it was a lively place.

They wanted to get a picture but I declined that, on the grounds that I'm not



very Photogenic and it might frighten the horses, even though they promised a very good photographer.

I think it's the **Dogs of Elmswell** who get the last word in all of this. There are some 1380 homes in Elmswell and at least 20 times, just as my leaflet was entering the letterbox there was an incredible lunge at the door, the paper was torn out of my grasp and from the snarling and rending that was going on behind the door it would seem that they certainly didn't agree with what I'd written.

The recently arrived lady who asked for more humour in Elmswell has promised to come round with me the next time, I don't think she realised what a funny place it really is and I have now two Policeman friends that I didn't have before.

**'Congratulations'** to both **Mary Feeney** and **Doug Reed** upon their election to the Parish Council.

Notwithstanding the delightful title given to it, there was nothing really casual about this event. The main candidates and their helpers vigorously tramped the streets over several days to present their leaflets at the various dwellings, in a mixture of extreme cold, snow, wind and rain.

Despite this, slightly less than 25% of the possible electorate turned out to Vote.

Still those that did chose wisely and Mary and Doug now join our Parish Council which over the past two years has been the subject of unwarranted and frequently unfair criticism. Let us hope that it is not their fate also.

**Let us start this new period by beginning to pull together. It's more fun.**

*Letter to Ed from Cllr Doug Reed*

**"... grateful for the support ..."**

**T**hrough the *Newsletter* I'd like to offer my thanks to those who voted in the recent by-election and, especially, to those who were kind enough to put their cross against my name. I hope that, over the next couple of years, I can make a positive contribution to issues facing the village and do justice to the office of parish councillor.

Though I have never, even remotely, contemplated any form of public service previously I have, from a less than certain beginning, enjoyed the experience to date - much to my surprise. I'm sure the going will get tough at times. I suspect that's in the nature of the beast, but I'm nothing if not determined.

I'm really grateful for the support people have given me. I've also been genuinely taken aback by the number of good wishes that I've received. For once, I've had only nice things shouted at me in the street and the telephone and doorbell have, seemingly, not stopped ringing.

Can I congratulate Mary Feeney on her success. I think, from her election details, I share many of her concerns and so look forward to working with her. Unfortunately, I did not meet Mr Matthews, but I did have the chance to speak with both Dr Kenyon and Mr Buckmaster and I trust that both will not let this particular setback prevent them from returning to the fray. It was a tough but fair battle, and from start to finish, contested with respect and dignity. While Mary and I were fortunate this time, I'm all too well aware that things can change very easily in 2003 so will guard against complacency. Should I fail in the next two years, it certainly won't be for the lack of trying.

Finally, if as an individual or an organisation you think I can help in any way with matters you feel need addressing then please don't hesitate to contact me -Second Thoughts, Church Road (Tel: 241009; e-mail: doug@reed.nu). I've a lot to get to grips with ... but I'm a fast learner. Thank you again.

*Letter to Ed from Cllr Mary Feeney of School Road*

**“... I am ready to LISTEN ...”**

**I**would like to thank everyone who voted for me during the recent by-election and especially those who helped make my campaign a successful one.

Joining the Council mid-term can be a daunting prospect, but it also represents a real opportunity for everyone to make a fresh start and open up to new ideas. My hope is that the whole Council can now move forward in a more positive direction and that Elmswell can become a forward-looking community again.

I can't promise you that I will succeed in all my aims, but I can promise you hard work, integrity and above all that I am ready to LISTEN to you!

## What's On in Elmswell ?

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

### February

- 28 Tempest Photos at Wesley Hall 10.00am

### March

- 17 Toddlers Nearly New Sale Wesley Hall 2-4pm

### April

- 21 Annual Carl Finch Memorial Charity football match and dance. Tickets £5 from Roy.

### May

- 6 Kiln Meadow - Dawn Chorus (yes, we really do mean THAT EARLY - this is one for the early risers!) - 4.30am  
13-19 Christian Aid Week

### June

- 7 Kiln Meadow - wildflower survey, 7.00pm  
9 Church Garden Fete - The Cedars, Warren Lane, 2pm

### June cont ...

- 15 Friends of St John's AGM & Supper  
17 Kiln Meadow - mowing/raking (equipment provided; gloves useful), 9.00am

### July

- 5 Kiln Meadow - ragwort pull (bring gloves, spade), 7.00pm  
13 Friday - Kiln Meadow - bat watch (like the date!), 8.30pm

### August

- 18 Friends of St John's Coffee Morning, Crossways, 10am

### September

- 7-9 Friends of St John's Festival  
23 Kiln Meadow - mowing/raking (equipment provided, bring gloves), 9.00am

### November

- 17 St John's Autumn Fair, Blackbourne, 2pm

*Tell us more - Tel 241841*