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# The ELMSWELL Newsletter

JULY 2001

..... Your Parish Matters

*Our cover pictures shows ....*



*Gratefully received in memory of Carl .....See page 27*

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"**

**T**he climax to the Suffolk Constabulary Fraud Squad raid on certain Trustees of the Amenities Association lacked, thank goodness, the drama of the four burly officers who instigated the proceedings when they came to the village to seize

documents on 7th December last year. On 18th June this year Jean Barker, Secretary to the Association, was asked to attend for a formal interview at Bury St Edmunds Police Station. The interview was tape recorded with a solicitor present.

The officers then expressed themselves happy that the view that they had held for some time, that there was absolutely no evidence of anything dishonest or fraudulent, was borne out and that there was no case to answer.

This was formally confirmed by letter and on 26th June the Association's files were returned in seven large, sealed plastic sacks, annotated, and scheduled to show that they contained such items as 'No. 34, refuse collection timetable' and 'No. 128, shopping list.'

The Police letter confirmed that, 'the complaint was made by officials of the Elmswell Parish Council' and that they had found 'no indication of criminal activity.'

The Officer who led the enquiry was able to confirm, when returning the files, that one of the Parish Council Officials was Councillor David Marriott who admitted his part in the affair at the June meeting of the Parish Council. There is, apparently, one other Parish Councillor involved who has not yet seen fit to admit his complicity.

The same Officer confirmed that the Amenities Association was not the only Elmswell organisation against whom a complaint of possible fraudulent activity was made by the Parish Council. However, the Crown Prosecution Service ruled that there was no justification in taking any of the other complaints further. The Officer gave a verbal assurance that no other group, club or organisation in Elmswell need fear any police activity as a result of the Parish Council's action.

It has become obvious which area of the Association's activities had aroused the interest of at least two councillors. Following the retirement of Roger Dalby after 15 years' loyal service as Treasurer of the Amenities Association, the post was unfilled. Those involved in voluntary work know just how difficult it is to find volunteers, particularly those as capable and as skilled as Roger. Into the breach were dragooned two Trustees, one of whom, Jean Barker, under considerable pressure, took on the administration of the Newsletter, despite her clearly stated reluctance. As the Newsletter grew bigger and better, so the task of administering the advertising became ever more onerous and

complex. We were, in short, in a muddle. Eventually, replete with shining armour, came Alan Sparrow to whom figures are a health diet, and Steve Murphy, an extremely capable chap and an organisations man. Problem period over.

During all of this, the Amenities Association continued to ensure, as it had done for many happy years, that half of the advertising revenue received by your Newsletter was paid to the Parish Council in recognition of the grant aid which had helped establish the magazine. It would seem that the Parish Councillors concerned were unaware of the immense organisational problems which success had brought about and which had inevitably led to the inefficient record of the volunteers charged with the unenviable task of chasing advertising revenue. It has been said that mention of concerns was made at a Parish Meeting and, apparently, at a Council Meeting. However, there is no doubt whatsoever that at no stage were any direct questions asked by the Parish Council of the Amenities Association, either of a detailed or a general nature. Would the Parish Council have offered help if they had taken the trouble to acquaint themselves with the true situation? The price of a second class stamp might have saved the cost of many thousands of pounds of wasted police time.

Water under the metaphorical bridge. More might be revealed if the other Councillors choose to seek an explanation from the two who were involved in the complaint as to how the Parish Council came to be implicated in something of which they, the majority of elected members, knew nothing. If matters run true to recent form there will be much heat generated and very little light.

Suffolk ratepayers pick up the bill. Elmswell, eventually, picks up the pieces.

*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.*

*If you would like to comment on this 'comment', do write to our 'Letters' page c/o Goblins, Station Road, IP30 9HR.*

**The deadline for the next issue is 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday 8th August 2001.** Copy to Goblin's office on Station Road Industrial Estate or contact: Jean Barker 241135 or Peter Dow 241844.

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:

Repeat ads - run for 6 months or more - per issue:

¼ page £15      ½ page £20      Full page £30

One off ads:

¼ page £17      ½ page £22      Full page £34

Charitable, non-party political community groups based in Elmswell:

¼ page £8      ½ page £11      Full page £16      Front Cover £22

Payment strictly in advance.

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

**A surcharge is made on  
advertisers from outside  
the village.**

# Around and About ...

## ELMSWELL CRICKET CLUB (Sponsored by Manvers Triumph)



We're about half-way through the season. Doesn't time fly when you're getting beaten more often than you should? We've lost League matches by pretty much the same margin each time and yet each time we could just as easily have won. All we need is more consistency, more appearances by key players, more commitment, more runs, more wickets, more talent .... oh, yes, and even more for tea.

That's not, I hasten to add, any criticism of our own. We shall be ever in debt to those kind enough to give up their Sunday mornings to do unspeakable things to bits of chicken (though I know the skipper likes the end result) prior to serving the same, and more, in the afternoon. Indeed, by the time the break in the games comes round various manifestations of tuna have often been added to the array of haute cuisine on offer (as requested by Messrs. Newman, Parker and Whatling).

Personally, tea has always been something of a necessary evil to me. Bit like umpires, I guess. Can't live with them; can't shoot them. For many, the tea needs to be massive. It's all they seem to be there for. Doesn't matter how much they had for lunch, a chocolate cake is a chocolate cake. In fact, home-made chocolate cakes are especially acceptable, as are eggy

sandwiches (not to mention the tuna, of course) and those cornflake or rice krispie things that, supposedly, are extinct but which still curiously appear at cricket teas. Similarly loved is anything by Mr Kipling (you know which one!), and anything with cream (no, not the tuna). Beetroot and salad, popular in odd corners of Surrey, are less well received. Cricket teas are, let's be honest, a reversion to childhood. For this reason, most cricketers like to stop their womenfolk joining them for tea (Wink excepted, of course). Consider these vital points:

- \* the first person to the table sits directly in front of the largest plate of cakes;
- \* everyone takes a handful of sandwiches as well ... having been well brought up;
- \* everyone eats the sandwiches before the cakes (as you do);
- \* all and any chocolate cakes have disappeared before the last player has come off the field;
- \* people don't say "Does anyone want this last tuna and mayonnaise sandwich?" as they would normally do in adult company - they just take; and
- \* if there are any Club biscuits, at least one person will sing, "If you like a lot of chocolate on your biscuit join our club."

Cricketers don't really want to be seen like this. They know one cricket tea would confirm every prejudice women ever held about male behaviour patterns. Hard-won respect

## Around and About cont'd., pg3

would be gone in the time it takes to eat your choc-roll. So who can blame us for excluding wives and girlfriends? Besides.... they'd probably eat all the best cakes.

To matters less serious. Thanks to all who turned out for our Music Quiz. We said it would be different but nobody, apparently, believed us. So not having revised contestants, thus, failed to tell their "Stabat Mater" from their Mahier or to notice the distinction between The Shadows and The Ventures. Congratulations to 'The Regulars' led, as usual, by Martin Reilly who emerged bloodied but victorious; commiserations to the Bowls Club for rolling up! A final thought to Mark and the Baptists (sounds like a 60s group in itself,

doesn't it?), a.k.a. 'The Water Babies', for achieving a commendable fifth place. We'll be nice to you this month!

### Recent Match Results:

**Friendly:** Elmswell 55 (Doug Reed 17); Falcon Promotions 20 (Reed 4 for 5, Linden Stiff 2 for 2, Ben Whatling 2 for 2). Won by 35 runs.

**League:** Elmswell 153 for 8 (Nigel Greathead 35, Adi Read 35); Risby 131 (Whatling 3 for 25, Dave Wiggins 3 for 27). Won by 22 runs.

**Friendly:** Elmswell 63 for 2 (David Peachey 27 not out, Stephen Froud 16); Risby 67 for 4 (Russell Sheldrake 3 for 9). Lost by 6 wickets.

**League:** Edwardstone 132 (Reed 5 for 12); Elmswell 107 (Wiggins 25). Lost by 25 runs.

**League:** Bushel 67 (A Garnham 5 for 13, Wiggins 4 for 29); Elmswell 68 for 8 (Tom Price 17, Wiggins 17 not out).

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

### ELMSWELL MILLENNIUM HISTORY GROUP - AGM

Thursday 13th September 7.00  
in the Wesley Hall, School Road

followed by 7.30 by

A presentation of

#### rare archive film

detailing many aspects of

#### EAST ANGLIAN LIFE

as presented and described by

#### Geoff Clarke

Film Archivist with the  
University of East Anglia

ALL WELCOME

### Elmswell CC Century Club

#### June Draw

£30.00 T Orford (No. 65), £20.00 C Reilly (No. 46), £10.00 D Martin (No. 10) and £5.00 R Brown (No. 110).

### OLD CROCKERY WANTED

The Cricket Club hopes to run a 'crockery smashing' stall at the Elmswell Fayre. If anyone has any old or unwanted items (no number too small!) we'd be grateful for donations - please contact **Graham Newman (240846)** or **Doug Reed (241009)**. Thank you.

## Around and About cont'd., pg5

### ELMSWELL FOOTBALL CLUB



**Club Sponsors:** Mirror Group Newspaper

**Warm Up Top Sponsors:** Engergizer

**First Aid Sponsors:** Euro Food Machinery (Elmswell)

**Match Ball Sponsors:** Rota Rod (Bob Barter), Travel Stop (Elmswell), Tulipa Landscaping (Elmswell), Stowmarket Golf Club.

**1st Team Sponsor:** Mirror Group Newspaper.

**2nd Team Sponsor:** Elmswell Fox.

**Over 35's Sponsor:** C G Finch & Son.

**1st Team Manager:** D Scase,

**Assistant:** K Hammond.

**2nd Team Manager:** B Barter.

**'A' Team Manager:** M McMillan.

Training has now started at Grove Lane on Wednesday evenings. All welcome.

This season we are putting an 'A' Team in the Bury League Div. 2, so any new players who have moved into the village and would like a game of football on a Saturday afternoon we would be glad to hear from you.

**Ring B Hayward (Chairman) on Elmswell 240951.**

### Monthly Draw for July

#### Drawn by Kim

£50 No 111 B Hayward

£35 No 8 D Royal

£25 No 219 D Buch

£15 No 153 D Goldwin

£15 No 367 J Foreman

**Compiled by H Mulley**

### ELMSWELL BOWLS CLUB



### Junior Cup Second Round

Elmswell 68 - Thetford 77

### Monday 'A'

Elmswell 74 v Meadlands 71

Mendlesham 84 v Elmswell 61

Elmswell 84 v Needham Market 77

Gislingham 75 v Elmswell 74

### Monday 'B'

Ixworth 97 v Elmswell 73

Elmswell 81 v Stowupland 'B' 75

Stanton 69 v Elmswell 94

Elmswell 52 v St Botolphs 82

**HAVE YOU SEEN  
TOMMY?**

**MISSING  
GINGER AND WHITE  
CAT**

He has white feet and chest  
with a ginger spot under his chin  
and on his nose.

From the Blackbourne Road vicinity,  
but could have headed towards  
School Road

Please telephone 01359 240018  
if you have found him or have any  
information as to his whereabouts.

## Around and About cont'd., pg7

### Tuesday 'A'

Stowupland 'B' 41 v Elmswell 34  
Elmswell 32 v Meadlands 46  
Elmswell 39 v Rookery 21

### Tuesday 'B'

Elmswell 31 v Debenham 'B' 39  
Elmswell 22 v Bramford 48  
Gt Barton 39 v Elmswell 23

### Wednesday 'A'

St Botolphs 94 v Elmswell 50  
Elmswell 50 v Haughley 90  
Elmswell 56 v Rookery 63  
Bildeston 52 v Elmswell 74

### Wednesday 'B'

Elmswell 84 v Meadlands 61  
Stowupland 55 v Elmswell 89  
Debenham 95 v Elmswell 60  
Elmswell 66 v Earl Stonham 62

### Thurlow Shield First Round

Elmswell 'B' 40  
Ncedham Market 41  
Elmswell 'A' 50  
Walsham Le Willows 27

### EADT Trophy

Thornham Magna 93 Elmswell 55

### Soames Cup

Eyc 96 Elmswell 58

## CLASSIFIED AD

Do you hate the weekly ironing?  
Or don't have the time. Ring  
Steamers Ironing Service 01359  
242369.

## ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB



### "OPEN GARDENS SUNDAY 25th JULY"

Now just imagine the sense of panic that was beginning to enter the Hall when we received a call from our guest speaker saying that he was held up due to a traffic accident and he would be about half an hour late, what should we do, have an impromptu Gardening quiz, or a sing along or should we just have a good old gossip, the latter looked favourite. But with 15 minutes to start time the door was flung open and a Gent of good proportions stood

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

### **COFFEE MORNING**

**Saturday 18 August 2001  
10am - 12noon**

**At Fayreways, Cross Street  
(If wet, in the Church Room)**

*Bring & Buy, Raffle,  
Cakes, Plants, Books  
Bric a Brac, Games,  
Greetings Cards, etc.*

*Proceeds to The Friends of St  
John's Church - Elmswell  
Registered Charity No. 1083116*

**Everyone Welcome**

## **Around and About cont'd., pg8**

there and announced "Bond's the name", not James but David, which was just as well as he bore no resemblance to 007, but that didn't stop him from going into a very unrehearsed talk on the huge subject of Geraniums and Erodiums, plus Mr Bond had a little story to tell, about the way in which some of his plants were collected, which he threw in at regular periods, only to extend his hour long talk to an hour and a half, frustrating the Tea Ladies in the process. We must however thank Mr Bond for a very good talk on his subject, and how he graciously accepted a cup of tea in place of a Martini.

The competition also drew a record number of entries, being an arrangement of Grasses, and there were some very unusual as well as the more common grasses being exhibited, the winner being Mrs Jean Mason, second was Mrs Ruth Armstrong, with Mrs Doreen Wood in third place and of course congratulations to all the other entrants.

Now there is no meeting in July, but we do have Open Gardens on Sunday 15th of July as previously mentioned at the top of the page when we shall be very happy to welcome you all to our Gardens, plus we still have a few seats left on the coach going to Blickling Hall on Saturday 4th August.



### **FREE FOOTBALL COACHING !**

**August 14th, 15th and 16th**

**9.30am to 12.30pm on  
Blackbourne Playing Field**

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Open to Boys aged 7-13

Only 20 Places Available !

Fully Qualified FA Coach

Tel: Don, 01359 241541 or

E-mail: [don@jibber.com](mailto:don@jibber.com)

Organised by Elmswell Baptist Church

## **ST' JOHN'S CHURCH**

**Services etc.**

**Sunday 15 July**

10.30am Holy Communion

6.00pm Choral Service

**Sunday 22 July**

10.30am Morning Prayer

11.30am Holy Communion

**Sunday 29 July**

10.30am Holy Communion

**Sunday 5 August**

9.30am Family Service with  
Music Group

10.30am Morning Prayer

11.30am Holy Communion





*Please help us to make this year's Fayre another great success.*


Inside your Newsletter we have, with the kind permission of the volunteers who deliver it every month, slipped a book of draw tickets.

Our Draw is renowned for its vast array of prizes, the first prize this year is £100.

Simply fill in your name and telephone number or address on the stub and drop them together with £1.00 to either;

4 Paws Pet Foods  
The Post office  
Travel Stop  
Gobblins Office  
The Chip Shop  
The Mace Stores

All of these local businesses have agreed to help -  
we do hope that you will, too.

A decorative border on the left side of the box, consisting of several small, stylized coins or medals arranged vertically.

**Don't miss the opportunity to raise funds  
for your own organisation.**

To book a still ring Peter Edmonds on 241640.  
For vintage entries and events enquiries  
ring Terry Southgate on 240528.

## **Around and About cont'd., pg10**

### **Sunday 12 August**

8.00am Holy Communion  
10.30am Parish Praise

### **Saturday 18 August**

10.00am Coffee Morning at  
Fayreways

*Sunday School at 10.30am on 15 and 22 July then Summer break until September.*

### **St. Johns Church, Elmswell**

On Sunday 3 June there was a united service of the three churches in the village. The Fellowship of Churches has three such services each year; this time it was held at St. John's Church. During the service two Graham Kendrick songs were sung by a group formed from those who last year performed the 'Hopes and Dreams' musical, together with other singers and musicians from the three churches.

Our Church Summer Fun Fair on 9 June was a great success and raised around £1100 for Church funds. In the garden of The Cedars we were entertained by Elmswell School Choir, a group of musicians willing to play our favourite tunes, a bouncy castle and various games. It was a really enjoyable afternoon; thank you to everyone who supported this event.

### **The Friends of St. John's Church, Elmswell**

The Annual Meeting of The Friends of St John's was held on 15 June. During 2000 £3,250 has been raised by the Friends for the Fabric of the Church, a total of £13,000 since the formation of the Friends in 1995. Mrs Jean Leeks has retired from the Committee and was thanked by the Chairman for all her hard work over the past few years. Mrs Karen Godfree was welcomed as a new member of the Committee. Mrs Jean Turner reported on the various fund raising events held in the past year and the accounts were made available for those wishing to study them. Following the meeting a Salad Supper was served in the Church Room; it was then the turn of The Miserable von Trapp Family to entertain us. Margaret Hodgson and Helen and Graham Tilney performed songs from Les Miserables, Oliver! and The Sound of Music - they even taught us how to yodel! Our next fund raising event will be a Coffee Morning in the garden of Fayreways, Cross Street, at 10am on Saturday 18 August; see advert on page 8 of this Newsletter for more details.

Then the first weekend in September we have the 5th Annual Friends' Festival of Art, Music and Flowers, starting with a Cheese and Wine Preview Evening and a concert by local musicians on Friday 7th September and continuing

## Around and About cont'd.. pg13

throughout the weekend; there will be pictures by local artists for sale, floral displays, music and a special service at 10.30am on Sunday 9th, when the preacher will be Mr John Andreasen of Ipswich. More details about the weekend in next month's Newsletter.

If you would like to join the Friends of St John's Church further information can be obtained from Jean Folkard, Tel: 242099.

### St. John's Church Floodlighting

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

### June 2001 Sponsorship not previously acknowledged

12 to celebrate the 2nd Wedding Anniversary of Joanna & Andrew Cromarty

### July 2001 Sponsorships

- 1 in memory of Ronald Last
- 2 in memory of Betty Peachey
- 7 Joan & John Davidson's Golden Wedding

- 10 in memory of Henry (Harry) Baker
- 12 in memory of Shirley Beamer
- 15 in memory of Ivy Millicent Elliston
- 18 in memory of Rosina Pamment
- 19 in memory of Grace Rush
- 20 in memory of Wilfred Hammond's Birthday
- 21 in memory of Reginald Bloomfield
- 23 in loving memory of Thomas Clover
- 26 treasured memories of a darling Des (Fox). Died 26 July 1999. From May.
- 27 in memory of Leonard Newland's Wedding Anniversary
- 28 in memory of Nan. Sadly missed. Will never forget.
- 28 Chaffin Chester's birthday

All bookings and payments, please, to:-

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

## ~~ 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., pg 14**

### **METHODIST CHURCH**

How the time has flown! Our minister Revd. Joyce Dye will be on her way home to the United States by the time you are reading this. We have enjoyed a somewhat different ministry under Joyce, who brought to us her own special gifts and graces. She joined in the Fellowship of Churches events in the village most enthusiastically and as our vicar said was 'like a breath of fresh air'. Her ten months with us have now ended and a 'wish you well' lunch was held at the home of Jill and Duncan Jacobs, when a picture of Elmswell was presented to Joyce to remind her of her time here.

One of our members, Maureen Newcombe, a local preacher in the Bury St Edmunds circuit was inducted at Stockton on Tees as the National President of the Methodist Local Preachers Mutual Aid Association - an organisation whose aim is to care for and help preachers and their dependents, mostly elderly, but also those that fall on hard times in earlier life. The organisation maintains four residential homes throughout the county and several sheltered housing units. Maureen was presented with a beautiful preaching stole by the Superintendent minister of the Bury St Edmunds circuit, Revd. Ian Wilson. Together with husband Alan many thousands of miles will be travelled during the coming months. The Ladies meeting is taking a summer break, but the members of the Exchange Club are looking

forward to their outing to Snape Maltings on 17th July.

### **Preachers for Sunday worship at 10.45am**

July 15	Mrs Christine Martin
July 22	Mr Oliver Baker
July 29	Mr Cyril Mowles
Aug 5	Mr Andrew High
Aug 12	Mr Colin Francis

The welcome is warm, the worship is rich and the coffee is good.

*COME AND JOIN US.*

### **CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY, STOWMARKET**

Parish Priest:

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

### **MASS TIMES**

**Saturdays** (First Mass of Sunday)  
Woolpit C of E Parish Church, 6pm

### **Sundays**

Stowmarket (Our Lady's, Stricklands Road), 8.30am & 10.15am  
Wattisham Airfield Church (first Sunday of each month), 12.15pm  
Needham Market C of E Parish Church (second Sunday of each month), 12.15pm

## **Around and About cont'd., pg17**

### **Holy Days**

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

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

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

### **ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH**

Summer's here, and most people are looking forward to the sunny weather and long nights. Firstly, thanks to the cricket club for organising the music quiz night, even with an internet mobile phone, a book of pop history up my jumper, and changing the team names on some of our answer sheets, (good job we are an honest lot), we still managed to come 5th out of 8. Next year, I think there should be a name that hymn (or her) round.

On to our own activities, this year for the first time we are running a footballing coaching session for any boys (aged 7-13) over three days in August. We are fortunate in the chapel to have a fully qualified footballing coach, and he shall be running a course from 14th-16th August 2001.

Obviously we are expecting a lot of interest, so if you are interested in booking a place (pre-bookers only I'm afraid as we have to limit the numbers) then see the separate advert in this newsletter for contacts. I would recommend this 3 day event, especially if you play for Norwich City. Although the summer months are fairly quiet as a lot of people are away, we continue to have our weekly services at 11am, and our trailblazers childrens club at 9.45am. I am pleased to say that we have had a new lad join us which means the lads now outnumber the girls, so come on girls, don't be outdone. There's a girl fed up with hearing about football, and would like to talk about Barbie.

Finally, thanks for the ex-tractor fan joke, which Tony Blackburn joke book do you own, Volume 1, 2 or 3.

See you next month if not before, you never know, if you turn up in August for the footy you might see me in shorts. I shall only be watching however, my playing days are over now I've reached the grand old age of 21!!!

**Mark**

P.S. I hear that the Cricket Club are looking for new blood for their side. "O.K.," said one eager volunteer, "what are you like at wicket-keeping?" asked the captain, "Passable," said the applicant. "That's no good," said the captain, "we've already got one like that. We want one that's **IM**passable!"

## Around and About cont'd., pg21

### ELMSWELL TODDLERS



June has been a busy month for the toddler group with two trips to Playworld at Stowmarket Sports Centre, which always proves popular with both mums and toddlers. A good play followed by a good night!

Many mums and carers were obviously in need of entertainment as a healthy sixteen turned out for an enjoyable meal at the Royal Tandori in Stowmarket.

One of the highlights of next months activities is the return train trip to Needham Lake, book your places early to avoid disappointment. The fare will be subsidised.

Even though the sun has decided to shine, don't put away all your winter clothes as the September Nearly New Sale will soon be here.

Toddlers always welcomes new parents/carers to come along with their children. We meet Mondays 1.30 - 3.00pm and Wednesdays 10.00 - 11.30am at the Wesley Hall, School Road and offer a wide range of toys and activities for children from birth to four. For further details contact Alex Bartholomew (01359 244692) or Sarah Mansel (01359 241857).

### SCOUT NEWS Beaver Colony

In August/September last year, I responded to Dave Hollings' (Group Scout Leader for Elmswell) request to help out at Elmswell Beavers. Being a Warranted Leader and the proud owner of a Wood badge I was made welcome and am now running the Beaver Colony with the help of Jim (Skunk Beaver: Don't ask!) who has recently become a Warranted Leader and will undergo training towards his Wood badge also; we are assisted by his wife Annie (Brown Beaver) and can be a mind of information.

We have had a varied programme over the past eight months, a video on firefighting in South Africa (forget the cats stuck up trees they have snakes stuck behind cupboards); we have also visited our own Fire Station, a very interesting evening and what a great bunch of firefighters they are; we have walked one of the many footpaths in the village as part of caring for the environment and a visit by one of the Policemen, he was actually Malaysian and that was another interesting evening. We also have someone coming to show the Beavers how to make simple pots out of clay and take them home and to fire them and then bringing them back the following week for the Beavers to decorate; so by the time you read this the pots should be presented to parents; hope they enjoy them, if they are anything like mine as a child they might just be

## Around and About cont'd., pg23

crooked.

We are always looking for new ideas so if there is anyone out there who would like to come and give us a talk on a subject or even a special craft that would be of interest to the Beavers between 6½ to 8 years old, please give me a ring on 01359 240387. By the way my name is Sue or Squirrel Beaver as they call me (there again, don't ask!)

### ELMSWELL W.I.

Elmswell W.I. have had a busy two months discussing suggestions for a new National Constitution, winning a trophy for fielding an expert team playing darts in the West Suffolk Competition. "Well done Ruth, Glenda, Brenda and Elizabeth."

And then learning the art of picture making with coloured wax, everyone was amazed at the designs created by Barry Moulton.

One evening about twenty hardy walkers tramped down Warren Lane visiting the Kiln Lane site and then joining others for a wonderful Bar-B-Que at Anna Hawes home. Everyone was able to enjoy the warm weather and especially the tasteful food.

Another evening a coach load of members and friends spent an evening visiting the quaint church at Huntingfield, admiring the superb painted ceilings.

Do come and join us on the second Tuesday each month. 7.30pm at Blackbourne Hall.

### HELPING HAND CLUB

Our June outing to Kings Lynn and Hunstanton was much enjoyed. Despite uncertain weather everyone made the best of it.

Peter Clark (as always) gave us a superb evenings entertainment on our first meeting in June, his many talents were on display! Thanks again Peter. Our second meeting in June we received a visit from our good friends from Bury, the Ladies and Gentlemen of the British Legion Choir who gave us 60 minutes of a very wide variety of songs, much enjoyed and appreciated by everyone present.

Like Peter Clark they are making a return visit to our Club in December. Our July meetings are on the 5th with the Tom Smith Band and Strawberry Supper.

July 19th Bingo and Chat. Seems ages since we had one of these evenings and our Mystery Tour on July 28th. New members and guests always welcome.

Until next month.

*Best wishes*



**Stan King**



## *Our Cover Picture Shows . . .*

Our cover picture shows the presentation of a magnificent cheque for £1725 to Woolpit Health Centre. The money was raised at the Carl Finch Memorial Football Match and Dance and we would like to thank the following sponsors:

Bob Barter	Groupbridge Ltd (Bob)
Andy Taylor	Des & Dale Bevan
Barry Hayward	Hudson Transport
Bury Refs	Barry & Sue Knights
Dick Burch	Mr & Mrs B Knights
Gary Hurrell	Elmswell Co-op
Alan Wells	Mrs Diaper (Diaper Poultry)
Ally Lucks & Michelle	Mr & Mrs J Petchey (Elmswell Motors)
Val Warby	Mr & Mrs Trencher (Plough Inn Woolpit)
Pauline, Chris & Barbara (Bar)	G Goymer & S Lomax
Cover the Night (Band)	Mr & Mrs B Foot (Heart & Soul)
Super Bee (Disco)	Stan & Eric King
Newmarket Refs	Keven & Paula Hollings
A & A Cars	Mr L Taylor
Yvonne & John (Elmswell Fox)	Mrs A Hope
Mr & Mrs Barry Bridges	Larry & Ann Finch
Mr & Mrs Ron McLangan	Falcon Promotions
David Barker & Burnett Barker	Louise & John Oldknow
Bob Goodall (Post Office)	Virginia & Anette Finch
Mr R Williams (John Rannoch Foods)	Tim & Pauline Evans
Margaret Ladies Hairdressing	Bob Rice
Louises Hair (Woolpit)	Wendy & Gordon Rayner
Mr & Mrs C Finch	Woolpit Nurseries (Mr & Mrs Jackson)
Elmswell Parish Council	Anna Hawes and David
Peter Dow & Andy Pryke	W W Hawes Printers
Mr & Mrs P Peachey	Jason Keeley
Mr & Mrs M Davey	Peter Dixson
Mr & Mrs P Jones	Trevor Pollard
H W Wilson	Steve Bundy
David Young	
R Hui (Takeaway)	<i>and with Special Thanks to</i>
Euro-Foods Ltd (Ian)	Mr & Mrs Andy Blackstock of
	16 Jarman Close, Bury St Edmunds.

**To anyone who did not reply to our letter, you may want to sponsor next years event on April 20th 2002.**

**All proceeds to Friends of Woolpit Health Centre.**

*Virginia Finch and Roy Finch  
(Tel: 241344)*



*From Alan Wells of Crabtree Meadows*

"....huge waste of Villagers' money....."

## **FRAUD SQUAD RAID**

**N**ow the Amenities Association has been totally cleared of any fraudulent practice, perhaps those that instigated the investigation would like to ponder the damage they have done to the community.

Notwithstanding the hundreds of Police and Fraud Squad man-hours that have been wasted investigating a bitter and twisted vendetta, the lost revenue to our village Amenities Association must run into the thousands. For the last 7 months since the fraud squad raided the association and seized all the books, no money has been allowed to be collected for its advertising, which is the life blood of our Newsletter.

Could this have been the reason behind those who instigated the inquiry?

The lost revenue from advertising over the past 7 months will now hopefully be requested from those who placed the adverts, and also, hopefully, they will be understanding and affluent enough to make this back payment.

In the recent village poll, certain Councillors cried "It's a waste of time and money having the poll, we are not going to stand down". **60% of those who voted disagreed.** Now, surely 99% of villagers must see the Fraud Squad raid on the Amenities Association as a huge waste of villagers' money, a vast waste of Fraud Squad money and a colossal waste of time all round.

*From the Mongolia Team 2002*

**W**e are writing to thank the Parish Council for their generous contribution towards our fundraising efforts a few weeks ago. We are taking part in an expedition to Mongolia in 2002 as a joint effort between Stowupland High School and World Challenge Expedition Ltd.

We have to raise a total of £3000 each to take part on the expedition, which is spread over a month. During the expedition, we will first have an acclimatisation phase, which will last for a few days. After this we will be taking part in a trek

through Mongolia, on foot or on pony. After this, we will start our community project that will take up the majority of our time there. This may include helping in an orphanage or school. Towards the end of the month, we will then have a small rest and relaxation period before returning home.

The Parish Council has been very generous in helping us with our fundraising and we can't thank them enough.

*Letter from Dr E J A Dodds of Cross Street*

**....lives could be at stake....**

**T**he attempt to build a ramp for the disabled at Blackbourne was well intentioned but proper professional help was not sought; moreover the result did not fully comply with building regulations, neither was it user-friendly.

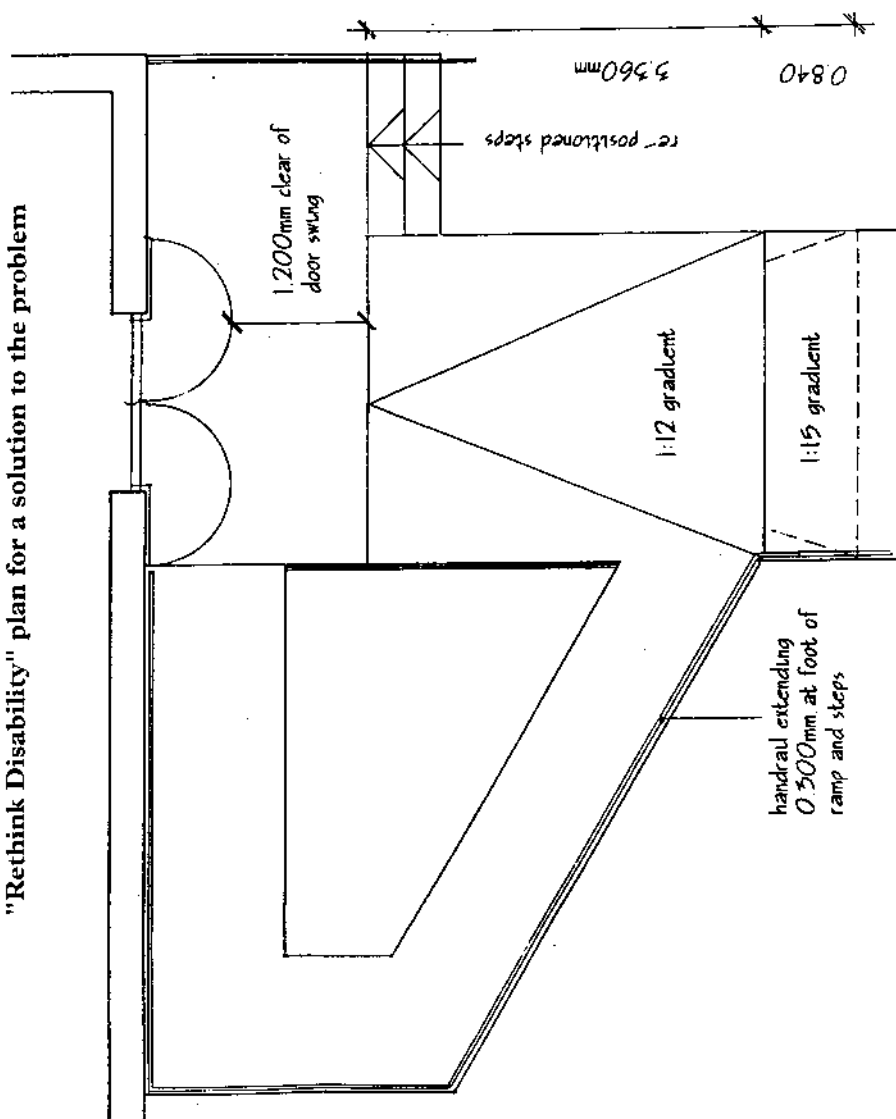
Therefore I thought the only way to persuade the Parish Council to build a ramp that all could be proud of, was to seek advice from a Consultant Architect. Mr Barry V. FitzGerald MBE, or Rethink Disability in Stowmarket kindly tackled the problem. Two designs were appended plus his report to each Councillor before the latest Council meeting.

I prefer the universal slope for everyone's use. This was there is NO discrimination against any disabled person. The handrail should extend 300mm beyond the slop and the top rail should be made of wood as Mr FitzGerald advised. There must be no raised bottom door threshold protrusions to tip up the blind, the old, the arthritic; neither should these protrusions impede wheelchair access.

There is no shame in building a bad ramp provided the matter is corrected. Leaving it as it is would be criminal. Moreover a safe ramp would be good publicity and sound business sense for our Community Centre. Remember lives could be at stake! Improper construction will surely be a valid excuse for an Insurance Company to absolve itself of any damage claim; the Parish Council would have to pay!

I attach the "Rethink Disability" plan for a solution to the problem. My own suggestion appeared in the March 2000 Newsletter. Either would do - but please, Councillors, DO SOMETHING.

"Rethink Disability" plan for a solution to the problem



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## PARISH COUNCIL

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### **Planning**

The Planning Committee met on 25th June. As the first meeting since the Annual Council Meeting, at which all Council Officers retire, the first business was to elect a Chairman. Cllr. Clark proposed Cllr Marriott who was elected unopposed. Councillors then voted to object to the proposal for the M&G Homecare site on Ashfield Road, opposite Grove Lane, where the developer proposes that an existing permission for 6 houses be varied to allow ten houses. They also sent to Mid Suffolk their objection to the proposal at Haughley New Street for an extension to the existing poultry processing plant on the grounds that there would be an increase of traffic through Elmswell together with undesirable environmental and waste disposal impacts.

### **July Meeting**

The July meeting took place at Blackbourne on 9th and was attended by 20 members of the public. Our correspondents noted the following items of interest amongst those discussed.

**Fraud Squad** In the time designated for 'Public Comment' at the beginning of the meeting there ensued an ill tempered exchange between members of the public, the Chairman and Cllr. Marriott over remarks made at various meetings and in the Press regarding the Parish Council's involvement in the recent Suffolk Constabulary Fraud Squad raid on Trustees of the Amenities Association in the village. The Police, confirmed the Parish Clerk, had for those 7 months, been wrong to have assumed that the original complaint came from the Parish Council and he has written to tell them so. Cllr. Marriott read from a 15 page document which he had presented to the Police outlining his concerns that £11,004 was missing from theoretical receipts by the Village Newsletter. However, his complaint, he claimed, was made as a private individual. He rejected further calls for his resignation. The public session was brought to a premature end by the Chairman, Cllr. Ronald Curry, in some disarray with many questions unanswered and several members of the public leaving in disgust.

**Recycling Centre** The recycling centre, set up as one of the first in Suffolk nine years ago and managed successfully as a joint Parish Council/Amenities Association/Mid Suffolk initiative over the years has been moved to Station Road Industrial Estate near to the station. There is no longer a textile bank facility.

**Accounts** For the third successive month accounts were not available for inspection or approval. The solution to the problems with the recently purchased accounts software is, the meeting was again assured, imminent. No accounts were presented for payment.

**Shorter Meetings** It was agreed that all future meetings of Council be limited to two and a half hours.

**Local Beat Officer** P.C. 345 Grant Critchley made himself known to the meeting as the recently assigned community beat officer covering 15 parishes including Elmswell. He detailed 9 crimes dealt with in the village since the beginning of June including 6 of criminal damage, possession of cannabis and a bag snatch from the bus stop in School Road. Responding to questions from the public, he promised to refer to the appropriate section problems of speeding in residential areas of the village, often late at night, where the radar traps are seldom set up.

**Vandalism at Blackbourne** Advice is to be sought from the Crime Prevention Unit of Suffolk Police regarding recent incidents of serious damage to the buildings and sports facilities at Blackbourne.

**Fact Sheet** The issue of editorial control of the Council's forthcoming newsletter was debated in the light of concerns expressed by Councillors that there had been no discussion on the editorship or compilation of the document and therefore no authority for anyone to speak on behalf of the Council. Cllr. Ronald Curry defended his decision to do the job himself in the light of a poor response from Councillors to his appeal for contributions.

**Expenditure** There was discussion regarding recent items of expenditure incurred by the Chairman and two other Councillors on the grounds of 'extraordinary circumstances.' Recent examples include £1,000 on a storage container at Blackbourne and a new photocopier, cost unknown, both made without the prior knowledge or approval of the Council. Such major items of capital expenditure should, it was claimed, come before Council. The Chairman argued that he would continue to interpret the Council's Standing Orders in this regard as he saw fit. There had been, he said, an urgent need for space at Blackbourne given the imminent possibility that Street Farm, recently advertised as being for sale, would not be available to house the Clerk's Office which will be temporarily sited in a changing room. 'That is the way,' he confirmed, 'that this Council will do business.'

**Working Parties** Councillors narrowly agreed to set up working parties to try to get something done. It was argued that this was a backward step to the 'bad old days' of previous administrations. Some Councillors voiced dissatisfaction at the constitution of the groups which had been determined for them without discussion and with no choice as to which areas they were to cover, but it was argued that Council had to start somewhere.

**Drop in Centre** It was agreed to engage Pryer Associates to take further a proposal to replace the Portakabin at Blackbourne with a permanent building.

**Disabled Ramp** There was insufficient support for the establishment of a group to look at problems raised by an inspection by Rethink Disability of the ramp arrangements at Blackbourne.

**Stanton Development** Councillors agreed to address concerns raised by Cllr. Mrs Mary Feney regarding the possible implications of proposed developments at Stanton which would inevitably impinge on the traffic situation in Elmswell. The Planning Committee will take the matter further when detailed plans are available.

**Blackbourne improvements** Councillors had first sight of sketch plans from Pryer Associates for additions to the building at Blackbourne to include a bar, conservatory, new entrance and a Parish Clerk's office with IT facilities. Their comments were noted and an estimated build cost of £90,000 put on the project by the Chairman, Councillor Ronald Curry.

**Grant Aid** The Chairman used his casting vote to deny the Luncheon Club a grant of £200 towards their minibus transport costs. It was argued that the Club had had enough money from the Council already and that some members did not come from the village.

**County Council** The meeting was closed to allow County Councillor Chris Storey to speak. He was able to report increased allocations of money for road repairs and improvements and that he was now serving on the Policy Authority.

**Closed Session** The Chairman successfully proposed that the public be excluded for 4 agenda items. These were:

- \* That the current Blackbourne cleaner be employed as caretaker as well.

- \* That Gross & Co. Solicitors be engaged to represent the Council as and when required and to keep Council documents in safe custody.
- \* To discuss a claim by a member of the public of a libellous statement made by the Parish Council.
- \* To discuss the appointment of a new parish clerk.

**Presentation** A presentation of engraved glassware was made to recently retired Chairman, Cllr. David Marriott on behalf of some Councillors acknowledging his contribution to the Community during two years of office. His lady wife received a bouquet in recognition of her support. Councillor Clark, Vice Chairman of Council, presented Chairman, Councillor Ronald Curry, with a wooden gavel to help him keep order.

**Next Meeting** The date of the next meeting is likely to be Monday 10th September at 7.30. Notice of this and any other meetings will be posted in the notice board at the Co-op.

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## **PUBLIC INQUIRY FOOTPATH 9**

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**An inquiry is to be held at Blackbourne  
TUESDAY 31st JULY  
10am-5pm**

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into the claim that Footpath 9 rightly extends from  
Wetherden Road (adjacent to Valley View, next to the Fish Farm)  
up to the railway line.

If you can attend and support the Village's claim to  
this important route, please do so.

## What's On in Elmswell ?

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

### July

- 15 Elmswell Gardening Club - Open Gardens
- 15 Choral Service in St John's Church led by local choirs, 6pm
- 22 Elmswell Cricket Club v Ampton & Culford at the Blackbourne (League), 2.15pm. Match-ball sponsor: Stowe Veterinary Group
- 25 Elmswell Toddlers - Train trip to Needham Lake.

### August

- 1 Elmswell Toddlers seaside trip to Walton-on-the-Naze
- 1 Elmswell Cricket Club v Brettenham at the Blackbourne (Friendly), 6.15pm. Match-ball sponsor: Eastern Frames
- 4 Elmswell Gardening Club annual outing to Blickling Hall
- 5 Elmswell Cricket Club v Hadleigh III at the Blackbourne (League), 2.15pm. Match-ball sponsor: Travel Stop

### August continued

- 18 Friends of St John's Church: Coffee Morning, Fayreways, Cross Street, 10am
- 22 Elmswell Toddlers teddy bears picnic at the Blackbourne
- 26 Elmswell Cricket Club v Edwardstone at the Blackbourne (League), 2.15pm. Match-ball sponsor Eastern Frames

### September

- 7-9 Friends of St John's Church: Art, Music and Flower Festival in the Church
- 7 Friends of St John's Church - Festival Weekend - Cheese and Wine Preview Evening with Concert at 7.30pm
- 8 St John's Church, Exhibition open 10am-6pm, Admission Free, refreshments available
- 8 Church Bike Ride, contact Sarah Mansel 01359 241857



September continued

- 9 Friends of St John's Church  
Annual Friends' Service,  
10.30am in the Church,  
Preacher Mr J Andreasen
- 13 Millennium History Group  
AGM and Archive Film  
Show "East Anglian Life",  
7pm Wesley Hall
- 23 Kiln Meadow - mowing/  
raking (equipment  
provided, bring gloves),  
9.00am
- 28 Macmillan Cancer Relief  
Coffee Morning, 10am in St  
John's Church Room
- 29 St John's Church Gift Day
- 30 Harvest Festival, St John's  
Church, 10.30am

October

- 6 Elmswell Sports Clubs:  
Sports Quiz, 7.30pm, £2  
per person, max. 6 per  
team

November

- 17 St John's Church: Autumn  
Fair, Blackbourne, 2pm
- 17 Elmswell Cricket Club:  
Entertainment Quiz,  
7.30pm, £2 per person,  
max. 6 per team

*Tell us more - Tel 241841*

*Monica L. Carlin*

MSSCh. MBChA.

*Ruth E. Carlin*

MSSCh. MBChA.



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