

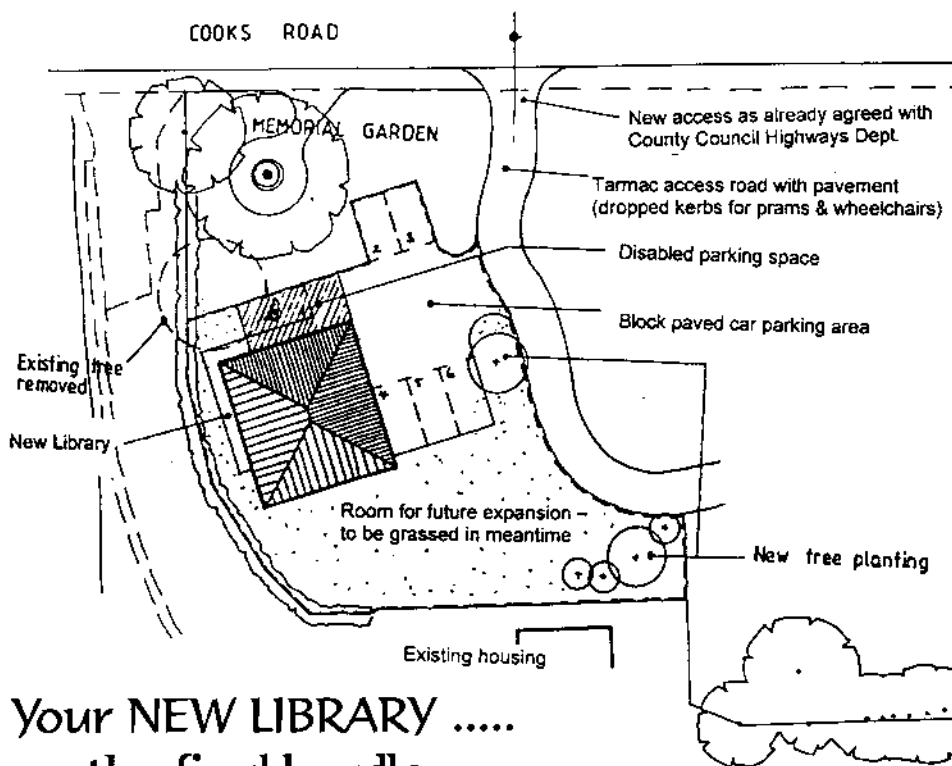
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The ELMSWELL Newsletter

Your Parish Matters

MARCH 2001



Your NEW LIBRARY
the final hurdle - see page 23.

Published by the Elmswell Amenities Association Reg. Charity No. 304879.
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**This Month's
"COMMENT"**

THE OBSERVATION that 'A week is a long time in politics' has always seemed far removed from the Parish Pump, from the dreamy, Dibley world which is commonly thought to be the rural Suffolk lot.

Not so this week. We report on three significant and linked meetings...and one yet to come.

The link may not be obvious. It begins with a Committee meeting of the Parish Council - the result of pressure from the two newcomers following their success in the recent by-election. The public came along to hear a long awaited debate - "the Council's relationships within the Community it serves and the problems around the working practices which help form those relationships".

An opportunity for bridge building? Not a bit of it! The public were ejected en masse (see page 27) to fume angrily at the injustice and to anticipate the forthcoming Parish Meeting (see page 22) when revenge was to be sweet. And so it proved to be. Just two days later. An overwhelming rejection of the Parish Council's initiatives and the Library saved. Still no bridges built, but, at the largest gathering seen at a village meeting for many years, the majority felt that they had got their message across.

Wrong again. At the monthly Parish Council meeting the seating had been re-arranged so as to deny most of the public anything other than a fleeting idea of what was being discussed (see page 38). Frustrated yet again - to the extent that Alan Thompson, he of Kiln Meadow Wildlife fame and one of the most reasonable and positive regular attenders at these meetings, stormed out with an angry, untypical, imprecation on his lips and a cheery farewell from the Chairman. The chasm over which a bridge is to be built yawned inevitably wider.

Thus three meetings. And one to come?

At the Parish Council meeting, a proper requisition was made by 6 electors for another Parish Meeting. This will be called to consider the holding of a

Parish Poll. It was released to the Press. It asks the question;

'Do you agree that the village has no confidence in the elected officers of the Elmswell Parish Council and that they, Cllrs. Marriott, Curry and Clark, should resign.'

The meeting must, by law, be held. The question will be put. A Poll might take place. The people are trying to say something. Somebody should be listening.

Our 'Letters' pages invite your comment of 300 words or less.

"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.

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 4th April 2001. Copy to Gobblin's office on Station Road Industrial Estate or contact: Jean Barker 241135 or Peter Dow 241841.

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

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

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

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Classified Ads: 30 words maximum £5 cash with order.

A surcharge is made on advertisers from outside the village.

Around and About ...

PROJECT 2000

The next kneeler meeting will be held at Bunkers Hill Farmhouse on Tuesday 27th March at 2.30pm.

HOME-START MID SUFFOLK

Home-Start Mid Suffolk is a voluntary organisation offering support, friendship and practical help to families where there is at least one child under 5.

Volunteers, parents themselves, regularly visit families in their own homes for a couple of hours each week, more often in times of crisis, to help prevent family breakdown.

Volunteers need to have the use of a car. Before being matched with one or two families new volunteers receive training. Travelling costs and expenses are paid. A new preparation course begins in May 2001.

If you would like more details about how you can become a volunteer, please either ring Home-Start Mid Suffolk on 01379 678552 or write to Susan Fitch, Home-Start Mid Suffolk, Kerrison, Thorndon, Eye IP23 7JQ.

FRIENDS OF THE WOOLPIT HEALTH CENTRE

During the year 2000 donations received amounted to £7,198.92. This was made up as follows:- 12 from individuals, 3 anonymous, 19 in memory of friends or relatives who

have died, £125 from the collection box at the Health Centre and £1,000 from the Co-op dividend.

Total expenditure amounted to £6,520.63. The more expensive items purchased during the year included ten nebulisers and masks, 24hr continuous heart monitor, syringe driver and three TENS machines used for pain relief; also children's play equipment for the waiting room. Over £1,100 was spent on maintenance to keep all the existing equipment in good order.

Thank you to all those who have given so generously throughout the year and to those who have used our Co-op Share Number which is 215050. Keep up the good work!

Mrs Sue Eburne, Treasurer

ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB

I'm not sure whether it was the interest in the Practicalities of Seed Sowing by Bob Jackson from Woolpit Nurseries or the fact that the weather was a little kinder than when we held our January meeting, but it was a very good turnout of members that enjoyed a very fine talk by Bob who spoke of his own radical views on how seed sowing should be carried out, along with the sexuality of seeds and their basic needs, plus the fact that a seed is a whole plant encapsulated in a shell of convenience, just waiting to become a new plant when the time



Around and About cont'd., pg3

and conditions are right for its survival, and like all Horticulturalists he spent some time discussing the high costs of seeds, whilst recognising the vast amount of work that is needed to produce the modern F1 hybrid seed, he then finished off his talk with a lively question and answer session. The competition was won by Mrs Muriel Durham, with Mrs Ruth Armstrong second, and Mrs Lorna Scott in third place, and a well done to all other entrants.

Due to the vulgarity of the calendar this report will not be on the streets before our next meeting, in March, but it will all synchronise again by April, so our guest speaker for April will be Mrs Alison Davies who will talk on the Aims and Activities of the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens, and that will be on April 19th at 8.00pm in the Exchange Hall, in School Road. The competition for that evening will be 5 Spring Flowers.

ELMSWELL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Many of the members of Elmswell W.I. who were born and bred in Suffolk, were amused and entertained by Peter Driver's anecdotes of memorials and mysteries of the county, especially when he described his findings in a broad Suffolk accent. He was interested in the many postcards depicting Suffolk entered for the monthly competition, Jean Mason's postcard of Elmswell was the winning entry.

Some members would take part in a service at St John's Church when the Bishop of Dunwich would dedicate the kneelers, some made by our members, alongside other groups in the village.

Members were also reminded of the County Annual Meeting at the Corn Exchange, and a trip to the Theatre Royal.

A team from the Institute would also take part in "Who dares wins" at Risby Village Hall in March.

In April we are looking forward to advice on growing fuchsias from a local expert, Mike Scott.

Visitors are always welcome.

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Around and About cont'd., pg5

ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

Spring is on the way, I can tell because it's that time of year when the DIY shops are busy, and so is the dustcart. You should see the stuff that I've thrown out in the spring clean, and you should see the brochures we now have for better kitchens, bathrooms, conservatories etc., etc.

We all like a change now and again, and our chapel is no exception. We've already had the skip in once, and after our spring clean on the first Saturday of April, I'm sure we'll need it again. If anyone would like to help in whatever way, even if it's just making a cup of tea (hint hint), then turn up between 9.30 - 12.30am on the first Saturday of April and we will keep you busy.

Our weekly services continue at 11am on a Sunday, so if you feel like a change to your normal Sunday routine, give us a look one week, we really would be pleased to see you.

On 2nd April the Ladies group meet for an evening entitled DIY, now my other half should attend this as she is very experienced in Doing It Herself. (I knew if I left the ceiling to be painted for 7 years she'd do it in the end!!!).

According to my Charlie Dimmock calendar (it was a Christmas present, honest), Easter Sunday falls on 15th April this year. We shall be holding our Easter Services on this day at 11am and 6.30pm. If you would like to join us for either of these please do, especially the 6.30pm in which we

shall be having a Songs of Praise service. If you can sing, play an instrument, or would just like to look in then turn up one Sunday or give us a call, we would love to have as many musicians as possible involved at this service. If you would like further information on this, the dates of our practices for Easter or any of our other meetings please call our secretary Tony on 241541 and he shall be more than happy to speak with you. If we have as many as we did at Christmas (over 80), we shall be in for a good evening although I can't promise we shall sing Jingle Bells this time.

Have a good spring clean, roll on the Summer.
Mark



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Around and About cont'd., pg7

CATHOLIC CHURCH 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 Ladys, Stricklands
Road), 8.30am & 10.15am

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

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

Holy Days

Stowmarket (Our Lady's, Stricklands
Road) 8am, 10am & 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*

PASSIONTIDE, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES IN THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY, STOWMARKET

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

(1st April): Saturday evening (Anticipatory Mass) at St Mary's, Woolpit at 6pm; Mass at Our Lady's, Stowmarket at 8.30am and 10.15am; Mass at Wattisham Airfield Church at 12.15pm.

Stations of the Cross and Benediction at Our Lady's at 4.30pm.

Tuesday, 3rd April at 7.30pm: The Paschal Meal.

Saturday, 7th April: Confessions 10.30am - 11.30am.

PALM SUNDAY (8th April):

Saturday evening (Anticipatory Mass) at St Mary's, Woolpit at 6pm; Mass at Our Lady's, Stowmarket at 8.30am and 10.15am; Mass at St John's, Needham Market at 12.15pm.

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AMENITIES ASSOCIATION A.G.M.

This meeting would normally take place in March.

Unfortunately, the Association's Officers are experiencing considerable difficulty in accessing the necessary paperwork which was seized by the Suffolk Constabulary Fraud Squad on the strength of warrants to search premises in the village on 7th December last.

The officers concerned have confirmed that they have now started to look at the documents but cannot say when they may be returned.

In the meantime, it would be helpful if Appointee Organisations were to contact the Chairman or Secretary with written confirmation of their representative for the year 2001/2002 as they are no longer in possession of the list of such organisations and their contact addresses.

Nothing has yet come to light to suggest who perpetrated the mischief or that there are any grounds at all for concern on the part of Trustees.



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Around and About cont'd., pg8

TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK:

Confessions at 7.15pm.

MAUNDY THURSDAY (12th April) at 7.30pm: Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper, followed by Watch at the Altar of Repose until Midnight.

GOOD FRIDAY (13th April) at 3pm: Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Children's Liturgy during the first part of the Service).

Stations of the Cross at 7.30pm, followed by Confessions.

EASTER EVE (Saturday, 14th April) at 9pm: The Easter Vigil (at Our Lady's, Stowmarket).

EASTER DAY (15th April): Mass at 8.30am and 10.15am (at Our Lady's, Stowmarket).



ELMSWELL TODDLERS

The new committee would like to thank Jackie and her team for making 2000 such a success and hope that it will continue.

The children enjoyed a musical morning in February which involved learning new songs and actions.

As usual we had a good response for the Tempest photo session and eagerly await the end results.

The next big event is the Nearly New sale on Saturday 17th March at the Wesley Hall from 2.00 to 4.00pm.

This is the ideal opportunity for everyone to sell their outgrown children's clothing, toys and equipment as well as maternity wear.

Unfortunately we don't have enough room to sell buggies or prams, but if you have one to sell then please put a card on the notice board in Wesley Hall.

We would be grateful for donations to be sold for the benefit of Elmswell Toddlers. Please make donations at least a week before the sale so that they can be labelled.

Anyone wishing to sell or donate items, please contact Jackie on 01359 242857.

Toddlers always welcomes new parents/carers to come along with their children. We are open on

Mondays 1.30 to 3.00pm and Wednesdays 10.00 to 11.30am at the Wesley Hall, School Road. We have a

wide range of toys and activities for children from birth to four. For further details please contact Alex

Bartholomew 01359 244692 or Sarah Mansel 01359 241857.

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Around and About cont'd., pg10

LITTLE ELMS

Our AGM is fast approaching and we would welcome any new committee members, as several of old committee members will be retiring; the chairperson and other important posts will be up for re-election. If you have a child who is due to start at Little Elms Pre School in the next 12 months, you are eligible to stand on the committee. If you are interested please obtain a form from the Portacabin or contact Sarah Jobbins on 01359 242316. The **AGM** with Cheese and Wine is on **21st March at 7.45pm in the School Hall** at Elmswell Primary School.

We rely heavily on fund-raising and the current competition to fit the largest number of items in a yoghurt pot will remain open until 31st March. The winner will receive a Disney Video. For further information please speak to the staff at the Little Elms Portacabin.

The next fund-raiser will be an Easter Raffle, there will be three prizes of Easter Eggs and tickets will be on sale for £1 a strip at the Portacabin from 26th March. The draw will take place on the last day of term, 6th April. Please support us.

With the onset of government funding for 3 year olds at pre-school, places may become limited at Little Elms. Please register your child as soon as possible (from birth onwards), to help our forward planning. Contact Sarah Jobbins on 02359 242316.

BLACKBOURNE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

At a recent meeting of the Management Committee the Chairman welcomed new representatives from the Football Club and the Cricket Club and also two new co-opted members. Consideration was given to the suggestion in the Village Appraisal that there should be more youth activities, sports clubs and leisure clubs in the village and it was felt that many of these could be accommodated at the Blackbourne Centre. In order to encourage the formation of new clubs it was decided to allow concessionary hire rates to



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Around and About cont'd., pg 13

senior citizens and youth organisations and to give reduced rates to clubs who regularly use the centre. The outdoor sports activities presently held at the Blackbourne were reviewed and it was felt that a wider variety of sports provisions, particularly for females, should be encouraged. In an effort to increase the utilisation of the centre it was decided to launch an advertising campaign aimed at promoting greater use of the centre for private and corporate functions. A rolling programme of interior re-decoration of the centre has begun and the Parish Council have been asked if they will repaint the exterior as soon as possible. The Committee were unanimously in favour of building a new Bar facility at the centre and gave authority for plans to be prepared and presented at the next meeting. It was also decided to enter into a one-year agreement with a sub-contractor to provide bar services pending the completion of the new bar. The Amenities Association have asked if they can use the sports field on 1st

and 2nd September and the centre on 2nd September to hold the Autumn Fayre and they were told that they could have the facilities free of charge subject to a donation being made to the new bar fund. However the officers of the Amenities Association have indicated that they are not prepared to make a donation to the bar building fund and they suggested that a hire charge should be made instead. After due deliberation it was unanimously agreed to let the Amenities Association use the facilities requested without charge but as the Fayre uses gas, electricity and water, it was decided to ask them if they would like to make a voluntary donation from the proceeds to cover the cost of the utility services used. The Management Committee are very keen to see more use of the Blackbourne and if anyone wants to form a girls hockey or basketball club or indeed any sort of indoor club please contact the Chairman Tony Clark @ 242331 or the Secretary Ron Curry @ 242742.

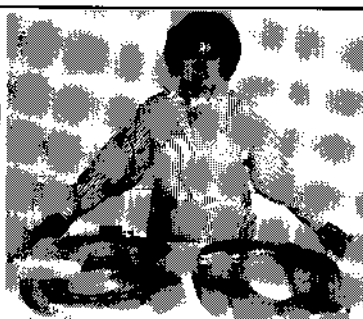
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Around and About cont'd., pg 14

SERVICES etc., at ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Sunday	18 March
10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday	25 March
10.30am	Morning Prayer
Mothering Sunday Service	
11.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday	1 April
09.30am	Family Service with Music Group
10.30am	Morning Prayer
11.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday	8 April
8.00am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Parish Praise
Palm Sunday	
Thursday	12 April
7.30pm	Maundy Thursday
Friday	13 April
10am	United Good Friday Service at Baptist Church
Sunday	15 April
10.30am	Holy Communion
Easter Day	

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

St John's Church, Elmswell

On Sunday 18 February we were pleased to welcome the Rt Revd Clive Young, Bishop of Dunwich, who was the Celebrant and Preacher at a service of Holy Communion when he also dedicated the kneelers so far completed by The Project 2000 Kneeler Group. The kneelers are now in the Church but are not yet in use as the builders are again in the Church, this time working on repairs to the 'Gardener Chapel'.

This year the Womens World Day of Prayer service was held at the Baptist Church; the service had been prepared by the women of Samoa and the speaker was Miss Eileen Warner of Colchester.

On **Sunday 25 March** we celebrate Mothering Sunday and hope that many families will join with us to thank God for our Mothers; as usual the children will receive a small posy of flowers to give to their mothers.

Our **Easter Services** are detailed above and a warm welcome is extended to anyone who would like to join us in worship at this joyful Eastertide.

During this Lenten period we are starting an **Emmaus Group**, a new venture which examines the Way of Faith. These meetings are an informal opportunity to ask those questions about the Christian way of life which we might not otherwise ask. If you would like to join with this group, it meets on Monday evenings in the Church Room at 7.45pm and you will be made very welcome.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH FLOODLIGHTING

You are invited to sponsor the floodlighting of St John's to help with the day-to-day running expenses of our parish church.

You can choose to commemorate a personal event, an anniversary, or any other special occasion. Alternatively you can simply make a donation. During March the lights will be on between 6.30pm and midnight.

Around and About cont'd., pg16

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

April 2001 Sponsorship not previously acknowledged:

18 Enid & Douglas Waghorn

March 2001 Sponsorships

3 to celebrate the birth of Abigail Patricia Kent

9 in memory of Bill Cammell

9 in memory of Rob Dalby

13 in memory of Ann Thorby

16 for Claire Chester's Birthday

17-23 for various Metcalfe family anniversaries

24 Nan Stagg. Wedding Anniversary 1940.

31 in memory of Don Baker.

All bookings and payments, please to:-

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

KILN MEADOW

There is a temporary suspension of activity at Kiln Meadow during the Foot and Mouth outbreak (please see the notice in this Newsletter). We hope to resume normal service as soon as possible, and hope that everyone will be patient until the restrictions are lifted.

In the meantime there is some good news to report. We have been offered a number of redundant electricity poles for use on the site. Two will be used to mount kestrel/owl nestboxes and the others will be sawn up into suitable sizes to provide a variety of seating around the site. So, in the near future, you will be able to watch perching birds of prey whilst perching

yourself on a rustic seat. Our thanks go to 24Seven for their generous donation, to the Hawk and Owl Trust for advice on suitable nestboxes, and to Wendy for masterminding the deal.

Mary Feeney (241901)

ELMSWELL METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES 10.45am

25 Mar Mrs Maureen Newcombe

1 Apr Mr Alan Newcombe

8 Apr Revd Joyce Dye

15 Apr Revd Alan Stephens

LADIES MEETING

Tuesday 2.45pm

27 Mar Mrs Joyce White

3 Apr Major MacNay

10 Apr Mrs Jane Bean

EXCHANGE CLUB 2.45pm

17 Apr Air Ambulance, Brian Cave

This is an open meeting, anyone and everyone will be welcome.

COFFEE MORNINGS

Thursday 10 - 11.30

held in Exchange Hall

March 22nd

April 5th and 19th

Coffee/tea/biscuits/second hand books/greeting cards/bring and buy stall.

MONTHLY HOUSE

FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday 28th March.

CARL FINCH MEMORIAL

As testimony to our Newsletter advertising and the popularity of the cause, the Dance on 21st April is **SOLD OUT**. Don't forget the football match, same day, kick-off 6pm at Blackbourne between a select Elmswell F.C. II and Bury Refs.

Around and About cont'd., pg19

ELMSWELL CRICKET CLUB

Sponsored by Manvers Triumph of Elmswell



There are many mysteries and puzzles in life seeking solutions. That's OK, but I find it worrying that, despite being told otherwise, despite the so-called benefit of experience and despite an unending thirst for knowledge, it seems the answers get more elusive as you get older. Maybe it's the questions that are getting harder? Why bring back "Crossroads"? Who shot Phil Mitchell? Are there really such things as flying saucers? How can Andy (don't call me Charlie) Brown (even *with* a bad back) hit a ball to leg which is so far outside the off stump it would otherwise be a 'wide'?

While few may care who shot Phil Mitchell (as long as he stays shot) I'd have to lay claim to some first-hand knowledge about UFOs. Yep, I've seen one and endured 26 years of ridicule and pointed fingers... but it's true. However, while arguments continue about whether or not all UFOs are of extraterrestrial origin, experts *do* agree that any glowing object in the night sky capable of rising straight up at 12,000 miles per second would require the kind of maintenance and sparkplugs available only on Pluto. Experts also agree that there's no answer to Andy Brown's batting. Maybe he's an alien - humans just can't play those sort of shots.

Even more puzzling for the coming season are the new laws affecting cricket which penalise sides for acting outside the spirit of the game. Things like 'sledging', arguing with the umpire,

swearing, tampering with the ball, applying too much Brylcreem to the hair, arranging the sandwiches (at tea) so that the smell of the salmon paste ones 'infects' the cheese and pickle variety and all that sort of stuff. It's a nightmare and could lead to problems both on and off the field. If found guilty, runs are added to your opponent's total. We're doomed.

Just imagine it. Nice Sunday afternoon at The Blackbourne. We lose the toss (no change there ... despite the new captain). We end up bowling. Dave Wiggins applies more hair gel than usual before bowling. This renders him aerodynamically unstable so that, as he runs-up to deliver the ball, his head is moving faster through the air than his feet - the delivery, as a result, is released early and just misses the batsman's head. We're penalised five runs for ungentlemanly conduct. The next ball is edged by the batsman ... Wiggy mutters a few choice words. We're penalised another five runs. He then argues with the official. Five more gone. Baldrick Whatling takes his turn to bowl and swears as he delivers another 'wide' and so on. Within half an hour we could be facing a total that has more noughts than Tony Sadler's bank balance.

It's not that we're an argumentative or disreputable team but, it has to be said, we do have our moments. Competitive, that's the word. Anyway, the skipper Nigel 'Handy Andy' Greathead will keep people in check (oops ... maybe that's another five run penalty for sartorial inelegance?). Maybe we should all quit and take up Quidditch? Thankfully, to get us out of this potential mess, we're hoping for guidance from ace umpire, Alan

PARISH MEETING -

A Parish Meeting was called for Friday 9th March at the Blackbourne by Cllr David Marriott who is entitled to do so as Chairman of the Parish Council.

The main item on the agenda was to discuss the future of the Memorial Hall Site.

No presentation of history, facts or reasoning was offered to the 200 or so villagers who packed the hall. Comment was simply invited from the floor towards the forwarding of the village's views to a forthcoming meeting of Mid Suffolk Council's Planning Committee.

Cllr. Burch immediately stood to disassociate himself from the calling of the meeting by the Parish Council. He had not been consulted and considered the whole exercise a thinly veiled attempt to embarrass the Amenities Association. Cllrs Mrs Feeney and Reed tried, they later confirmed, to make the same point but were not called by the Chairman.

The tone of much of what was to follow was encapsulated in a letter read from the floor on behalf of a resident who had checked the Planning File at Mid Suffolk and found just two letters of objection to the scheme, one from the Parish Council and one from a Parish Councillor, Cllr Clark, whose only special interest, it was suggested, was as a rival property developer. The basis of the supposed 'widespread public concern' which had apparently prompted the Council's action was, it was conjectured, the posting of anonymous notices around the village by, it now transpires, yet another Parish Councillor.

From then on a series of points were made by some 63 speakers, one of whom was invited to contribute seven times. None added anything to the debate which has not been quietly accommodated over several years and which has included two other statutory meetings, both

of which came down decisively in favour of the scheme. These points included.

- ❑ The issue is dead...we have a new hall at Blackbourne, two high profile public meetings have decided that the old one be sold towards improving the Blackbourne facilities.
- ❑ If the question were genuinely important enough for yet another public meeting, why did it not feature prominently in the recent Village Appraisal?
- ❑ Is the idea to keep calling meetings until the Council gets the vote it wants, i.e. against the Amenities Association?
- ❑ The Memorial Hall was spirited away from the Village by a hippy stranger who gifted it to the care of the Charity Commissioners without the Village's knowledge.
- ❑ The Amenities Association holds the land in Trust and, having sought and gained the agreement of the Village, can now dispose of it under the guidance of the Charity Commissioners using the proceeds as the Trustees see fit and within their charitable object.
- ❑ A Parish poll was never requisitioned on the question, neither dose it have to be.
- ❑ Any faltering now in the determination to proceed with the long standing scheme which is about to be implemented could seriously jeopardise the Library. There is no capital available to proceed without the sale of some of the land.
- ❑ The existing Hall is no longer a respectful memorial. A 'Memorial Library' is a possibility, a Memorial Garden is part of the proposals.
- ❑ There is a groundswell of opinion within the Village for greater social cohesion and unity. Given the efforts of the people of energy and goodwill which have brought us this far, there could be a sunnier future.
- ❑ There is confusion in the Parish Council's official objections to the plans given the previous overwhelming stamp of approval at public meetings and the lack of comment from the Council in the interim. The plans

The Memorial Hall site

were fully explained in the October Newsletter with no adverse response at all.

- ❑ A living memorial, as proposed in the memorial garden idea is entirely appropriate.
- ❑ The Memorial Hall was built to commemorate the dead of two World Wars.
- ❑ There is an official War Memorial at St Johns Church.
- ❑ Contrary to the continued protestations of Cllr. Clark, the Line Manager of the Library assured the Meeting that the new Library is bigger than the old library.
- ❑ All of the alternative scenarios mentioned throughout this evening and over the past few years have been considered, and some costed by the Trustees of the site. These have included more housing, less housing, no housing, more library, more space for expansion, more parking, another hall, more garden, no garden etc. It is their considered opinion that the proposals now before the meeting for endorsement offer the best deal for the Village.
- ❑ The Parish Council should stop being obstructive; they should match the Amenities money £ for £ towards providing proper permanent facilities at Blackbourne for young people.

❑ A roughly equal number of letters for and against were read out making many of the above points again.

The meeting was ill tempered and poorly structured. Angry dissent greeted the suggestion that a break for coffee might be a good idea. Cries of disbelief soon forced the Chairman to abandon his proposal for a vote to be taken by written poll, to be left for the Council to count and the result published later. The news that the Parish Council was to convey the result of the meeting to the Mid Suffolk Planning meeting via Cllr. Clark was loudly derided. There were frequent cries for a vote to be taken by a simple show of hands. Glorious misrule was never far away. A sense of almost medieval anarchy began to permeate the proceedings as people sensed power. Their Friday night had been stolen from them. Revenge would be sweet.

At 9.00pm the Chairman capitulated. Some 30 hands sought to reject the proposal. 'That we proceed with the plans as submitted.' The overwhelming majority showed enthusiastic support for the Amenities Association proposals and applauded loudly for having done so. Friday night was resumed.

Our Cover Picture Shows

At the Mid Suffolk District Council Area Planning Committee meeting held at Needham Market on Monday morning, 12th March, the Councillors voted to GRANT the planning application for our new Library and Memorial Garden.

This went against the Parish Council's recommendation for refusal and removes the last hurdle.

The Amenities Association is grateful for the overwhelming support demonstrated during this last, sad, episode in the saga of the scheme.

You may contact the Amenities Association on 241841.

Around and About cont'd., pg20

Sparrow. Doesn't your heart go out to him?!

On a sadder note (though we haven't put it to the vote) we've 'lost' Mr Whatling, our Mid-Week XI skipper. Seems he feels a career comes before cricket. He's still young. He'll learn what's really important in life. In his stead comes the Chairman, our master of cemeteries (or should that be ceremonies?), Graham Newman. Let him try and resign now!

We have a pre-season indoor net planned for the end of April. Details in the next issue. Don't forget to support the "Race Night" on 7 April (see the advert in this issue) which we are holding, jointly, with our colleagues in the Bowls and Football Clubs. Otherwise, further info about the new season (it's approaching fast) will also be in the next edition.

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

P.S. Mark, Baptists - fancy your chances in quizzes, eh? Look forward to taking you on ... try this for starters - "What colour is the Black Box on an aeroplane?"

Elmswell CC Century Club

Unfortunately, not all of the entry fees had been received in time for the February draw (the first of the new 'Century Club year'). As such it had to be postponed and so there will now be two draws made on March 29. Both results will appear in the next issue.

MILLENNIUM HISTORY GROUP

In 1964 the remains of a Roman pottery kiln were unearthed in this village by a trench-cutter on a building site. Since then very little of archaeological

significance has been found in Elmswell. This, says **Colin Pendleton** from **Suffolk Archaeological Unit**, is not because there is nothing there, but because no one has looked.

'Looking', does not mean full-scale excavations as demonstrated on television by Time Team, but '**field walking**'. This is, systematically walking over ploughed fields picking up anything that looks man-made (pottery, artefacts, coins etc.) and carefully recording the finds. Entering the details of significant finds onto a database is part of Colin's job at the Archaeology Unit and he would be more than happy if an Elmswell field-walking team were to increase his workload. If you fancy helping him, do be in touch.

Metal Detectorists are another group of people whose activities provide valuable evidence for study. One such is local man, **Alan Acker**. The History Group is most grateful to him for bringing along some of his finds to our February meeting. After seeing the drawing of an Iron Age brooch found in Elmswell projected onto a screen, it was fascination to be able to see the original amongst Alan's collection.

In April the History Group celebrates the anniversary of their publication of '**Elmswell - A Marker for the Millennium**', with a return visit from **Clive Paine**. This year Clive will be talking about '**Railwaymania**' and the building of the Ipswich to Bury line in 1846. The talk will take place on **Friday, April 27th 7.30 at The Blackbourne**. Entry for members is £1, non-members £1.50, and everyone is welcome. Enquiries to Maurcen Dow on 240390.



ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Committee Meeting 7th March

Following a proposal from Cllr Mrs Mary Feeney, the Council convened a Committee to discuss its *"relationship with Councillors and with the electorate in matters of communication, publication of proceedings and freedom of information"*

14 members of the public attended. The Vice Chairman of Council, Councillor Clark proposed the Chairman of Council, Cllr Marriott as Chairman of the Committee. This was seconded by the Chairman of the Planning Committee, Cllr Curry. Cllr Marriott was unopposed and began by ruling that, as the agenda item which formed the main topic for consideration mentioned the word 'discuss', then the status of the Committee is that of an advisory body only. This means that, although all Councillors are members of the Committee, whatever they decide in that Committee must be referred back to themselves as full Council for ratification. The objections from Cllrs Mrs Mary Feeney and Doug Reed, who had sought, independently, advice from SALC on the matter, were noted.

The following public comment session lasted for almost an hour, such was the weight of opinion on the shortcomings of the Council in this crucial area. The following points were amongst those raised. Any response from the Chairman is italicised;

- ☐ Is the Public allowed just this one opportunity to speak at this meeting? *Yes. There is always the chance of further comment at a subsequent full Council meeting.*
- ☐ Checking on various statements made at recent Parish Council meetings has revealed inaccuracies, misleading statements and downright lies. In particular, Cllr Curry's references to the results of the Parish Appraisal are ridiculously biased.
- ☐ The claim that an 'overwhelming' view in the village is for a review of the Memorial Hall site proposals is not borne out by the Appraisal, as claimed. Certain Councillors are twisting the Appraisal results to suit themselves in their vendetta against the Amenities Association.
- ☐ Should any Councillor who is known to be avoiding Planning requirements and the payment of Business Rates be reported and, if found guilty, is this a resignation issue? *This would be up to the individual Councillor.*
- ☐ Communication with the village could be improved if each group or organisation were to be allocated a Councillor as their direct contact. *We prefer the current system of general approachability.*

- ❑ The agenda for Parish Council meetings should revert to being produced in subject sections with members of the Public invited to speak on each section.
- ❑ There is a real problem with the availability of the Parish Clerk. *The office hours of the Clerk have been publicised once. The duties extend to only 15 hours per week. The answerphone is monitored daily.*
- ❑ The Clerk's hours should be published monthly for reference in the Newsletter together with details of forthcoming meetings. The Council's abandonment of the Newsletter for petty reasons has left the Public ill served by them.
- ❑ The forthcoming Parish Meeting has been widely publicised on all notice boards with large colourful notices and with a leaflet through every door. This meeting is equally important but merited just two small, brief notices. *The Parish Meeting is to address a matter of considerable concern, not least to the lady wife of our County Councillor. All legal requirements have been met.*
- ❑ Once again the Newsletter is being shunned for Council publicity purposes. It is the obvious link with the village.
- ❑ Councillors should go back to their election addresses published two years ago. The rates are still sky high and the claim that the previous administration offered 'a farce in three acts' does not sit well with the activities of this Council which should ask itself, 'is the village better or worse off for their efforts?'
- ❑ The way the Parish Council agendas are now arranged leaves the public at several disadvantages. Planning application to be discussed should be notified. *Planning applications due for discussion are available for 30 minutes before the start of a meeting.*
- ❑ The forthcoming Parish Meeting does not reflect any substantial concern in the village. It has been whipped up by certain Councillors in the mischievous hope of damaging the Amenities Association. The issues are well known, openly discussed over several years and determined by previous well documented public meetings. *The Council would be derelict in its duty if it did not make available to Mid Suffolk District Council the up to date views of the village on this matter as it comes before the Planning Committee.*
- ❑ The items towards the end of the Parish Council meeting agendas seldom get properly covered, but Council should see such observations as an opportunity for improvement rather than as a threat.
- ❑ The recent action taken by Council in banning football games at Blackbourne as an extension of the advice from the County Council re the closing of footpaths could well lead to fines imposed on the Football Club who were the only Club in the County to lose games for this reason Games took place in all surrounding villages and at Grove Lane. The only other cancellations were because of waterlogging. We are a laughing stock. *Council acted on advice.*

At this point the Chairman decided that the Meeting would use a discussion document, tabled by Cllr Doug Reed for the meeting, as the framework for debate.

He also decided that, as the document contained (in paragraph 37 of its 44 paragraphs) the suggestion that the Parish Clerk might be trained to administer the Council Web site, this constituted a question relating to the '*appointment, conduct, promotion, dismissal, salary or conditions of service, of any person employed by the Council*' and that he could therefore propose the exclusion of the public. This he did and was supported by six Councillors.

The public and Press, having gathered to hear the Council discuss its relationship with the electorate in matters of communication and freedom of information was to have no more of either. There was a brief discussion with one Councillor as to whether they had been, 'asked to leave', or, 'turfed out'. But 'out' they definitely were.

If minutes are published we shall try to piece together the strategies which might improve the situation and which were no doubt discussed after the doors slammed behind us. If there is another meeting, our correspondent will try again to ascertain what our elected representatives might do to improve communication.

Meanwhile, we publish the discussion document to stimulate discussion on what might constitute real, 'open government'.

Communication - 'Discussion' Document

This issue falls into two substantial areas:

- ◆ information to/for councillors; and
- ◆ information to/for the people of Elmswell.

While they might be seen as separate, the one necessarily informs the other and so they should be viewed as inextricably linked.

Information to/for Councillors

1. Council Meetings: Agenda

- 1.1 Effective communication must start with the Parish Clerk and Chairman in terms of the construction of the agenda and the provision of supporting papers. The agenda needs to be structured so that it not only conforms to legal requirements and standing orders but also deals with items in terms of their importance, thus ensuring that crucial issues are not left until the end of the meeting when there might be either no or insufficient time for consideration.
- 1.2 It should be clear why agenda items have been submitted. Essentially, these fall into three groups:
 - ◆ for discussion;
 - ◆ for information; and
 - ◆ for decision.

- 1.3 Items should be 'owned', i.e. excepting standing items, the councillor who asked for an item to be included should be identified with that agenda item.
- 1.4 Whenever and wherever possible, agenda items should have a supporting paper to facilitate an efficient meeting and effective decision-making.
- 1.5 The agenda should revert to being broken down into sections, with members of the public invited to speak prior to each section being considered by the Council.
- 1.6 Those items which are required to be read out at meetings should be exceptional. It would be for the Chairman to determine if an item was of such importance that it had to be conveyed to a meeting immediately rather than being deferred and, thereby, able to be circulated for proper consideration prior to the following Council meeting.
- 1.7 In recognition of their increased use and, indeed, legal standing substantial and significant items of correspondence received and sent by e-mail should listed for Council meetings together with printed communications.
- 1.8 The Clerk's report should be reinstated on the agenda. Its present absence means that those who should be information-rich are, currently, information-poor!

2. Council Meetings: Process

- 2.1 As a matter of course, members of the public should be welcomed to each meeting, those councillors (and the Clerk) present should be introduced (nameplates aren't always visible) and a brief statement provided which informs people present about how the business will be conducted.
- 2.2 Any change to the published agenda, e.g. items not being taken, should be announced before the start of business.
- 2.3 A time limit should be placed on the meeting, e.g. 2½ hours. If, as the deadline approaches, it seems likely that not all of the items can be accommodated then, by agreement, matters to be deferred should be identified.

3. Council Meetings: Minutes

- 3.1 While councillors will, clearly, make their own notes, the draft minutes should appear as soon as possible after any meeting. The norm should be that these are received by councillors within 10 days.

4. Correspondence

- 4.1 Unless for specific and readily identifiable reasons of confidentiality, councillors should be able to request and be supplied with copies of any correspondence addressed to the Council.

4.2 Such requests should be satisfied within a given timeframe. Three working days is suggested for urgent items; seven working days for general material.

5. Council Papers, Reports and Working Documents

5.1 Given that some Council business will, necessarily, be conducted by committees and working groups, documents relating to the activities of the same should be available, on request, to councillors.

5.2 Given, too, that the Blackbourne Management Association has been established by the Council to manage the facilities (as determined by the Association's constitution), but is accountable to the Council, councillors should routinely be supplied with copies of agendas and minutes of committee meetings of that body.

6. Committees, Working Groups and the Blackbourne Management Association

6.1 Better use should be made of the facility for establishing committees and working groups to put in place decisions taken by the Council, and to consider matters in far more depth than would otherwise be possible at full Council meetings.

6.2 The Planning Committee already exists but another obvious subject for a committee is finance. There was, for example, only a minimum Council debate about the precept recently and given the need for greater openness with regard to this matter then a standing committee could serve the Council well.

6.3 Further to 5.2 (above), a representative from the Blackbourne Management Association should present a formal report to each Council meeting.

6.4 Committees, when established, should meet regularly and follow the same requirements for agendas, process, minutes and correspondence as per sections 1-4 (above).

6.5 A formal report of the activities of and outcomes from any committees and working groups should be presented to the next Council meeting.

Information to/for the People of Elmswell

7. General Council Information

7.1 Basic Council information, i.e. availability of the Parish Clerk (office hours, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail address) should be published, e.g. through notices and leaflets, which are posted throughout the village.

7.2 The same details should be provided through *The Elmswell Newsletter* as a matter of course, on the Council's Web site and in any other appropriate media.

- 7.3 Contact details for all councillors should also be published in the same way.
- 7.4 There should be an effective process for 'out-of-hours' communications and, especially, emergencies. These should be advertised as above.

8. Council Processes

- 8.1 There is an overriding and pressing need for consistency in the announcement and publication of notices for meetings, e.g. the notice for the Parish Meeting of March 9 was in large type and appeared to be advertised on all village noticeboards while that for this Committee meeting was restricted to a small font and only displayed on the noticeboard outside the Co-op/Post Office!
- 8.2 Council and any committee agendas should be deposited in Elmswell Library, on the Co-op and other noticeboards, be available (to take away) in the Clerk's office and on the Web site.
- 8.3 Draft Council minutes should be published and made available to the public within 14 days.
- 8.4 Council and any committee minutes should be distributed as per section 8.1 (above).

9. Newsletters

- 9.1 The Council needs to use readily available, inexpensive and timely means to convey information to people.
- 9.2 *The Elmswell Newsletter* is established, has a seemingly efficient distribution network and reaches all homes and businesses in the community. A formal approach should be made to the Amenities Association to ensure that Council news is made properly available through this medium.
- 9.3 The alternative, to establish a separate publication with the attendant production and distribution costs, needs to be given due consideration although this would, undoubtedly, incur far greater expense and it is difficult to imagine how this might be justified in terms of cost-benefit.
- 9.4 Weekly 'freebie' newspapers represent an additional rather than alternative opportunity to get Council information out to people and ought to be used on that basis (see also section 12 below).

10. Noticeboards

- 10.1 There seems confusion over how these are managed if, indeed, they are; and just who is entitled to put up notices, e.g. the leaflet entitled *Why* has remained on noticeboards for a number of weeks. Many notices are faded and tatty etc.

10.2 Noticeboards represent an effective and valued means of communication and so need to be used and managed effectively. General notices should be displayed for a fixed period only. Those advertising a particular event should be removed immediately the event has passed.

11. Web Site

11.1 The site has not been updated since early autumn. The increasing value of an efficiently managed Web site should not be overlooked. However, a site that contains non-current information is worse than having no site. Immediate moves should be made to edit the current pages and delete redundant and out-of-date information.

11.2 Responsibility for the day-to-day routine management of the site should be established. Logically, the Parish Clerk should undertake the role and, as required, funding provided to enable the relevant training to be undertaken.

11.3 A councillor (or possibly two) should be identified to assume the editorial (content) role.

11.4 The Web site should be promoted and links established with, at least, the Web sites of related bodies (e.g. other councils) and other general sites in Elmswell (of which there are an increasing number).

12. Articles in Publications/Press Releases

12.1 The opportunity should be taken to issue press releases for any significant news and developments in the village.

12.2 Contacts should be established, if they have not been already, with the local press, TV and radio to ensure that Elmswell gets the best possible, positive coverage in the media. A number of the local organisations already have such links and reap the benefits.

Customer Service Charter

13.1 The above matters lend themselves to the production of a 'Customer Service Charter'. The Council should give serious consideration to the establishment and publishing of such a document which sets down the level of service that people can expect from the Council, e.g. time within which correspondents might expect acknowledgements and/or replies to letters, and to comments and complaints.

13.2 County, district and borough councils already have such charters (or equivalent) and it would represent a very positive move on the Council's behalf to create a working group to draft such a document.

This document was compiled by Cllr. Doug Reed (Tel: 241009)

ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL

The March Ordinary Meeting took place on the 12th at the Blackbourne attended by 31 members of the public. Our correspondent noted the following items of interest among those discussed.

Communication: Members of the public complained that the new seating arrangement which Council has adopted means that they, the public, have great difficulty in hearing what is said. The Chairman, Cllr. David Marriott pointed out that Councillors could hear, that the meeting was not primarily for the public's benefit and that he would not countenance any change. A member of the public forcibly expressed his disgust and left the meeting. The Chairman wished him goodnight.

Kiln Meadow: The wildlife area is currently closed as the foot and mouth restrictions deny access from the footpath.

Grants: Councillors decided to grant £8 to the Toddlers to cover Newsletter advertising, £880 towards the Cricket Club's practice nets and roller, £250 to the Helping Hand Club transport costs and £50 to the Suffolk Accident Rescue Service. At the end of the financial year less than half of the available money for such grants has been allocated. The rest will be absorbed back into general funds.

Amenities Representative: Councillors voted to appoint Mr Eric Buckmaster rather than one of their own number to represent them on the Amenities Association for the coming year. No explanation was given for this. Mr Buckmaster, an unsuccessful candidate in the recent by election, has also been co-opted by Councillors in the Blackbourne Advisory Committee.

Street Lights: The total cost of new street lights in Bennett Avenue will be £4000. The Chairman agreed that it is possible that the areas requiring lighting which were mentioned in the recent Village Appraisal might also be considered for expenditure.

Blackbourne ventilation: The long standing problem of ventilation in the hall is to be addressed by the installation of several small extractor fans in the walls. The problem of noise from the units was not considered to be significant. No figures were given as to the number of fans or of their effectiveness.

Appraisal: A working party is to be set up to chase the Council's progress in taking further the recommendations drawn from the Village Appraisal as the Action Plan.

Sports Clubs Representatives: Cllr. Doug Reed was elected unopposed to the Committee of Elmswell Sports Advisory Committee which is the Registered Charity administering Grove Lane Playing Field.

Drop-In Centre: The facilities for young people in the village are, Councillors think, not good enough. They are to look at the cost of a simple brick or block building which youngsters can sit in. They would be encouraged to decorate it. A budget of £5000 for providing a facility was suggested.

New Library: In the light of the news that Mid Suffolk District Council have gone against the recommendation of the Parish Council and granted Planning Permission for the new Library and Memorial Garden, Cllr Mrs Mary Feeney suggested that the Council support the scheme from now on and consider making a donation. No action was determined.

Letters: In response to public questions regarding letters presented to Council at the beginning of the meeting for consideration and not dealt with, the Chairman refused to discuss them during the meeting.

Clerk's Report: Cllr. Mrs Feeney raised the lack of progress-chasing since the dropping of the 'Clerk's Report' which had been a very effective way of noting, month by month, whether action on matters in progress was being effective. She cited the unsightly rubbish on the fire site at Thedwastre Close Playing Field, the Station Flowers, the painting of the speed hump at Blackbourne to aid visibility and slippery leaves still to be found on pavements as examples of areas of concern which would have benefited under some sort of scrutiny. No action was determined.

Blackbourne Management Association: Cllr. Doug Reed sought more frequent reports from the body which administers the Blackbourne on behalf of the village and which, under its constitution, only reports once a year. No action was determined.

Next Meeting: No date was notified to the public of the next meeting, but it would normally be expected to be held on Monday 9th April at 7.00pm in the Blackbourne. The public are entitled to attend.

Letter to Ed From Maurice Matthews of Hanover Court

This is no way to run an outfit

It has been said that little is known of me so here are some facts, I am a retired Teacher, who as a young man spent some twelve and one half years in the Royal Navy, before entering the profession. I retired from teaching after twenty five years and worked at my great love as a gardener.

My wife and I first saw Elmswell one Sunday in September 1998, and fell in love with the village. We moved here in January 1999 and I lost no time in exploring the village and learning something of its past. I saw that the character of the place had been somewhat “destroyed” by out of character new building and disregard for the infrastructure. Heavy lorries on roads designed for the horse and cart. Little thought as to the damage such transport causes to the drains in the roads. I also learned that a newly voted Parish Council were trying to put things right, only to be frustrated at every turn by criticism from the older, discarded Councillors, or so it seemed to an outsider. This was no way to run an outfit as someone once said, and I said so to one or two folks I met in queues in the Post Office or while waiting for a bus. I was asked to stand for the Parish Council but I knew that when it came to a vote I was not well enough known, and I would not make it into the chamber.

Thank you to those who know me and who voted for me. Be aware however those who continue to place petty differences before the job of caring for the people of the Parish and their needs. There are many new people and many of the longer inhabitants of the Parish who are well able to take the lead in this village, and take it happily into the future, until we are needed I say good luck and may peace reign in the council meetings of the future.

Letter to Ed from Cllr A Clark, Vice Chairman, Elmswell Parish Council

Put the record straight

In recent months a lot has been said in the Newsletter about the Fraud Squad’s raid on the Amenities Association including the rumours, speculation and suggestions that the Parish Council are at the root of the attack.

I am not aware of any undue concerns within the community regarding the

Fraud Squad's raid. Not a single person in the village has mentioned the matter to me and I do not believe that the general public are greatly concerned. The only rumours emanate from Peter Dow the Chairman of the Amenities Association who says that there is nothing to worry about and the only speculation is whether the Amenities Association have or have not done anything wrong.

I am not aware of any involvement by the Parish Council and I know that the matter has never been discussed at a Council meeting. I cannot therefore see how the Parish Council can be in a position to say whether they do or do not have a suspicion that an officer of the Association or a member of his family has committed a criminal offence. Only the police can answer that question. All I can say is that the police must have considerable grounds for suspicion otherwise they would not have become involved. The Fraud Squad DO NOT raid an organisation unless they have very good reasons for doing so. I can confirm that there has been no correspondence whatsoever between the Parish Council and the police and I believe that in the best interests of all concerned, everyone should wait until the police have completed their investigation and made their report before making any further accusations.

From M Davey of Bennett Avenue

'...Roll on an election ...'

I was one of many Elmswell people who found themselves buying tickets for a recent dance at Norton Village Hall. Why Norton? What's wrong with Elmswell?

Roy Finch, who for many years has run the majority of Elmswell village dances and raised many thousands of pounds for charitable causes, is no longer willing to deal with the Parish Councillors who now run Blackbourne. I was present at the dance there in October last year when one of the very same Councillors almost caused a breach of the peace with his high handed and extremely rude attitude to the organisers and public alike. This was the tip of the iceberg. I can understand why a letter in last month's magazine which criticised them had 'name and address withheld'.

Roll on an election when we can hope to get back to normal.

What's On in Elmswell ?

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

March

- 17 Toddlers Nearly New Sale Wesley Hall 2-4pm
- 21 Little Elms Cheese & Wine AGM at Elmswell School Hall, 7.45pm

April

- 21 Annual Carl Finch Memorial Charity football match and dance. Tickets £5 from Roy.
- 27 Millennium History Group - 7.30pm - Blackbourne - *Railway Mania 81-46 - the Ipswich to Bury line* - **Clive Paine** returns to deliver our First Anniversary Lecture

May

- 6 Kiln Meadow - Dawn Chorus (yes, we really do mean THAT EARLY - this is one for the early risers!) - **4.30am**
- 10 Millennium History Group - *Member's evening* - A chance for members to display and discuss their own research, to swap information, or just chat - St John's Church Room
- 13-19 Christian Aid Week
- 13 St John's Church Annual Christian Aid Service, 10.30am

June

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

June cont.

- 14 Millennium History Group - *Introducing the Museum of East Anglian Life* - **Miriam Stead** (Museum Director) - St John's Church Room
- 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
- 12 Millennium History Group - *An evening visit to the Museum of East Anglian Life* - Guided tour with **Miriam Stead**. More details later
- 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
- 9 St John's Annual Friends' Service, 10.30am, Preacher Mr J Andreasen
- 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