

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



The ELMSWELL Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2001

..... Your Parish Matters



"QUIZ MASTER....."

See
"Comment"

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

Our cover this month, snapped by Peter Edmonds who has provided many valuable records of Elmswell at work and at play over recent years, could rightly be captioned, 'Community Spirit'.

It shows Dick Burch, Elmswell born and bred and immensely proud of it! Proud, here, to have been honoured at the Annual Village Quiz with a special prize for energetically failing to lead his team to anything beyond a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Which he has done for several years with undiminished enthusiasm.

The Quiz, in its current manifestation, began in the old Memorial Hall as a spin-off from the Autumn Fayre... an attempt to continue the spirit of the Fayre beyond its brief one-day blossoming, a chance for the village to come together once again before Christmas engulfs.

The founding force behind the event, Muriel King, is now celebrated in the trophy which is named after her. Muriel remains key to the event, particularly by organising a team of cake bakers and sandwich makers who provide half time refreshments to each team table.

The formula, often copied but never bettered, is extremely successful. This year 22 teams booked in. The added incentive of cash prizes to the highest placed village organisations proved an attractive lure and encouraged a slightly sharper edge to the genteel rivalry. The bar did well. The nimble waiters provided impeccable service while Questionmaster John Reed kept cool and kept going for two hours or more.

This year the Elmswell Amateur Dramatic Society claimed the cup, bottles of wine all round and the £50 boost to their funds. Their second team tied with the Cricket Club for second place, so the Cricketers earned the second community prize of £30. The third donation of £20 went to the Friends of St John's.

The rest - 'Over the Hill', 'Toddling Toddlers', 'Tiddling Toddlers' & 'Pigging Useless' included - just had a good time. Which brings us back to our cover boy. Dicky's Diners' had hoped to win some cash for the Luncheon Club. It doesn't look as

though it mattered that they missed their goal by one place. It rather looks as though the spirit of the evening makes the result of secondary importance.

Our community functions at many levels. It is reassuring to be aware that one of them includes the chance to mix and meet across all sorts of barriers with a view to having a good time.

The net profit from the Quiz and the Autumn Fayre this year totalled £3009. The money is held by the Trustees of the Amenities Association which organises the events. The accumulated fund has, in the past, made contributions of over £23,000 towards equipping Blackbourne.

Next year's Fayre will take place on 1st September and the Quiz will be held on 17th October - watch your Newsletter for details. To try your hand at some of this year's questions, see page 21.



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The deadline for the next issue is 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday 12th December 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:

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

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

Payment strictly in advance.

N.B. Photographs £10 extra.

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order.**

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

Around and About ...

ELMSWELL TODDLERS



While the Elmswell Toddlers have been busy with Halloween and Christmas crafts, the adults have had a 'Pot Luck Supper'. This almost consisted of dessert, dessert, followed by dessert!!! Sounds like most peoples idea of a meal out! Recently we had Tempest Photos visit, for which we were well attended. The results were excellent and well received by all parents/carers. Thanks to Liz Collins and her Teletubbie! (Local Tempest photographer).

Due to our popularity, we have had a good clean, check and tidy of all our toys. We have therefore noted a few shortages of the following: dolls, prams, pushchairs, cooking utensils and play food and trikes. If you have any suitable toys that are in good condition and are happy to donate to us, we would be most grateful.

Our fundraising over the past years has enabled us to subsidise all our trips out and summer parties. We have also achieved new doors on our top cupboards which are safer with the toddlers around.

Also, we are planning what hopes to be our best Christmas party for the toddlers. We have Hot Shots for the entertainment, a Christmas tea, and of course a visit from Santa. He will be giving toys out to all the toddler children. The tickets are £2 for a family ticket - available from Toddler sessions

or Alex or Elizabeth. The party is held at The Blackbourne Centre on Sunday 16th December at 3pm.

We are keen to meet new parents/carers. We have a range of toys to suit birth to four years, craft activities, music sessions and refreshments, plus subsidised trips out. If it sounds like your cup of tea, then join us on Mondays 1.30pm-3pm and Wednesdays 10am-11.30am at the Wesley Hall, School Road. It only costs 80p per session and your first visit is free.

For more details please contact Alex Bartholomew (244692) or Elizabeth French (244229).

Christmas Services at St John's Church, Elmswell

*Wednesday 19 December at 7pm
Village Carol Service*

*Sunday 23 December at 6.30pm
Nine Lessons and Carols*

*Sunday 24 December at 11.30pm
Christmas Eve
Holy Communion*

*Christmas Day at 10.30am
Family Service*

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FOREIGN CURRENCY

Have you any foreign currency left over from your holiday?

Early in 2002 twelve member states of the European Union are changing over to the Euro. The countries involved are Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal and Spain.

Many of you, on returning from holiday, will have odd items of local currency which from next February will no longer be legal tender as only the Euro will be in use. Would you be willing to donate this to *The Children's Society* thus enabling the charity to help disadvantaged and vulnerable children.

If you are willing to help could you

please drop in any foreign money to me as soon as possible or I will gladly call and collect any donations.

Margaret Newman

25 Warren Close, Elmswell. Tel: 240846

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

Holy Days

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

Weekday Services in the parish are listed at the front of the church at Our Lady's and in the weekly Newsletter.

If you are unable to contact Fr Denys and need a Priest in a hurry, please telephone either 01284-754358 or 01473-741975.



HELPING HAND CLUB

Christmas Carol Concert
with the
Norton Salvation Army Band
and Songsters

at the Blackbourne Hall
on Thursday December 13th
at 7.30pm

Everyone Welcome!

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

Times of Christmas Masses and other Services in the Catholic Parish of Our Lady, Stowmarket

Masses

Fourth Sunday of Advent (23 December):

Anticipatory Mass on (Saturday 22 December) at St. Mary's (CofE), Woolpit at 6pm.

Masses at Our Lady's, Stricklands Road, Stowmarket at 8.30pm and 10.15am.

Christmas Eve (Monday 24 December):

Mass at St. Mary's (CofE), Woolpit at 9pm.

Midnight Mass at Our Lady's, Stricklands Road, Stowmarket at 11.30pm.

Christmas Day (Tuesday 25 December):

Mass at St. John's (CofE), Needham Market at 8.30am.

Mass at Our Lady's, Stricklands Road, Stowmarket at 10.15am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

(at Our Lady's Stricklands Road, Stowmarket):

Catechism Reconciliation Service (with individual Confessions): Monday 10 December at 6.30pm.

Parish Reconciliation Service (with individual Confessions): Thursday 13 December at 7.30pm until 8pm; and Saturday 22 December 10.30am until 11.30am.

Other times by appointment: Father Denys Lloyd: Tel: 01449 612946.

DOMINOTE - The Children's Music Group



HELP

Christmas Musical "This is Your Life Santa Claus"

Headgear for:

- 4 Elves - Green Hats - (Tops?)
- 3 Reindeer Antlers.

Please, if you can help telephone Chas Nunn on 240783, thank you.

ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB



It's always rewarding for the committee and organising officers when their own small club can draw in its members even when there is other high profile events taking place on the same evening. I refer to The Village Quiz and Ipswich Town playing at home and also being on television. There was only one notable absentee, that being Hon. Sec. Rex Durham who I understand is suffering from the effects of the recurrence of an old war wound, so it's a get well soon Rex from all of us. Now to the evening itself, our guest

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speaker Mr Ford from Wetheringset gave a very informed talk on Ornamental Grasses, and with his obvious knowledge of the subject I am sure he would have little difficulty in naming the worlds 9000 species. Mr Ford brought with him quite a large selection of grass plants for sale, and there is now way he could have been disappointed with his sales, as members appeared to be quite anxious to introduce new grasses to the gardens of Elmswell.

Our competition of an arrangement of Seed Heads was won by Mrs Ruth Armstrong, and well done to all other entrants, by the time you read this the AGM will be all done and dusted, but a full report will appear in the December issue of the Newsletter.



**St John's Church
Elmswell
a
Candlelit Concert
of
Seasonal Music.
Songs and Readings
at 7.30pm on
Friday 21 December**

followed by refreshments

Admission Free
but a retiring collection will be made
for St Nicholas' Hospice



ELMSWELL FC

Sponsors: Mirror Group
Newspapers

Warm Up Top Sponsors:
Energizer

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

First Aid Sponsors: Euro Food
Machinery (Elmswell)

1st Team Sponsors: Mirror Group
Newspapers

2nd Team Sponsors: Elmswell Fox

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

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

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

(A) Team Manager: J McMillan

Over 35 Sponsors: C G Finch & Sons
Under 14 Sponsors: Abbotts Estate
Agents (Manager P Case)

Under 12 Sponsors: Allpack (Manager
S McCreish)

Under 10 Sponsors: Village Homes
(Manager N Kerry)

Monthly Draw for November Drawn by N Kerry

£50	No 330	A Page
£35	No 69	M Mitchell
£25	No 155	A Cole
£15	No 331	M Speirs
£15	No 14	D Taylor



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Results for October

Saturday 26th:

Res - Fornham St Martin (Primary Cup) Away - Lost 7-1.

Saturday 13th:

1st Team - Saxmundham Sports, Home - Won 2-0. Scorers P Farmer, S Tweedle.

Res - Woodbridge (A), Away - Lost 4-1. (A) Team - Bushell, Away - Won 7-5. Scorers S Bessent 4, P Isaacs 1, J Reilly 1.

Under 10 - Brandon - Drew 3-3. Scorer E Oakes 3.

Saturday 20th:

1st Team - Murrey Rangers, Away - Won 4-0. Scorers S Tweedle 3, P Swallow 1.

Saturday 27th:

1st Team - Whitton United, Home - Won 2-1. Scorer S Tweedle, A Read.

Res - AFC Hoxne, Away - Lost 8-0. (A) Team - Fornham St Martin - :Lost 10-1. Scorer J Stinson.

Under 14 - Bury Town, Home - Lost 1-0.

Under 10 - Haverhill (B) - Won 9-1. Scorers E Oakes 5, S Bass 4.

Results for November

Saturday 3rd:

1st Team - Saint Edmunds 65, Away - Drew 1-1. Scorer S Tweedle.

Res - Benhall St Mary, Home - Lost 3-2. Scorer J Irving 2.

(A) Team - Silver Spoon, Home - Lost 2-1. Scorer J Reilly.

Under 10 - Morton Hall - Won 3-2.

Under 12 - Wetherden, Home - Lost 4-1.

Fixtures

17th November:

1st Team - Bramford Road Old Boys (Away)

Rex - Ipswich Postals F.C. (Home)

24th November:

1st Team - Stradbroke United (Home)

Rex - Kirton White Horse (Away)

25th November:

Under 14 - Thetford (Away)

1st December:

1st Team - Ipswich Exiles (Home)

Res - Needham Market (B) (Away)

Under 12 - Thorndon (Home)

2nd December:

Under 14 - Felixstowe (Away)

8th December:

1st Team - Wickham Market (Away)

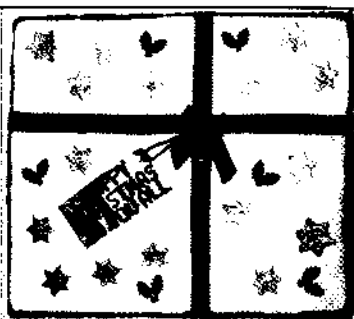
Res - Whitton Maypole (Home)

Under 12 - Wetherden (Away)

~~ Novelty Cakes! ~~

*Let me create something
different for Christmas*

Jean Barker ~ 01359 241135



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15th December:

1st Team - Saracens (Home)
Res - Somersham Res (Away)
Under 12 - Pulham (Home)

16th December:

Under 14 - Christchurch (Home)

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

Compiled by H Mulley (01359) 240889

ELMSWELL METHODIST CHURCH

During the morning service on October 21st fifteen new Bibles were dedicated to the memory of Peggy Hurst, who died in June. These had been purchased with a donation from the family, who were present at the service. The 103rd Anniversary of our Church was celebrated in style with a morning service conducted by the Rev. Ian Wilson, Superintendent Minister of the Circuit, who with his wife Dorothy stayed for the special Church lunch following the service. Our Minister Rev. Stephen Yelland and his wife Clare joined us as did our lay worker, Mr Stephen Roe, Angela his wife and children Christopher and Emily. It was a lovely Church family day.

Just one week later on November 3rd we held our annual Bazaar, and would like, through the pages of this magazine, to thank all who attended and/or donated to the total raised - £405.

The Preachers planned to lead our Sunday Worship at 10.45am are November

18 Rev Alan Ashton
25 Mrs Joyce White

December

2 Rev Jeffrey Bloomfield
9 Mr David Rogers
16 Rev Stephen Yelland

Ladies Meeting - Tuesday 2.45pm November

27 Mrs Maurcen Wayman

December

4 Rev Stephen Yelland
11 Carols & Mince Pies

Exchange Hall Club - Tuesday 2.45pm

November

20 Members' Afternoon

December

18 Christmas Lunch at The Bull

An advance notice - Summer Sale with cream teas - June 29th 2002. Please book the date in your new diaries.

W.I. SHOPPING TRIP

The bus will leave Bakers Yard at 9.10am on TUESDAY 20th November 2001 for Norwich, then leave Norwich at 4.30pm on return journey. Cost £5 each. A few seats are still available on the coach.

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PROJECT 2000

The next kneeler meeting will be held at Bunkers Hill Farmhouse on Tuesday 27th November at 2.30pm. New stitchers are always welcome with step by step instruction given. **Contact Pat Catten 242902 or Janet Baker 240229.**

LITTLE ELMS PRE-SCHOOL

With the sudden nip in the air you can feel winter coming, and what does winter mean? Christmas! With that in mind we have our Christmas fair in the school hall on Friday 30th November from 2.30pm-4.00pm. With the money tree, lucky dip, raffle and jarbola you have many chances to win something wonderful, and with our make your own Christmas card stall you can go home fully kitted out for the big event. All that and a cake stall too! Be sure to mark the date now, and if you can help out by filling any empty glass jar with something enticing - a small toy, crayons, toiletries etc. for the jarbola, please pop into the portacabin where they will only be too happy to hand you a jar!

Another date for your diary is the Little Elms Christmas party on Saturday the 9th at the Blackbourne, 2-4pm. There will be a disco, food and we hope a visit from Santa. More details will be posted in the portacabin nearer the time.

As a legal requirement Little Elms need at least two trustees who live in the village, not necessarily with children at playgroup. This is a nominal role and

beyond signing the lease on renewal (every 5 years) trustees can become involved as much, or as little, as they like. They will be invited to every committee meeting and communicated with, but do not have to be involved on a regular basis. With the move of Julia Broom we now need at least one new trustee. **Anyone interested can call Sarah Jobbins on 242316 for an informal chat or visit the portacabin to find out more.**

ELMSWELL CRICKET CLUB (Sponsored by Manvers Triumph)



I don't know. You go on holiday after a long hard dedicated season, entrusting this important newsletter slot to supposed colleagues and (now ex-) friends, and all they can do is be critical. Don't they know how sensitive I am? Don't they know about libel? Have they met my solicitor? Nobody has owned up to writing last month's piece and so ugly rumours are rife; if not, they *should* be by now (I've tried hard enough...). I did wonder, initially, if the foul deed had been perpetrated by Mark (Baptists) but then even he came in for some grief! Rest assured that I have contacted Nick Ross and the next "Crimewatch" will ask you to grass on the culprit(s). If you need help I can supply you with some names and telephone numbers. Didn't someone once say something link 'The pen is mightier than the bat...'? Not in Gotham City, it isn't - revenge will be

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sweet!!

So what's been happening? Well, we had our jumble sale. Many people were kind enough to donate clothes, records (you remember...those big black circular things), books, battery-operated paperweights, old pictures of the Spice Girls, cars, second homes etc. Thank you to all who did - there were too many to name individually but can we say how very grateful we were for everything. It just emphasised again how supportive people in the village are to local clubs and organisations. What else? Well, we're heading towards our AGM later this month. That's when everyone resigns, mumbles a bit about time, lack of commitment, pressure of work - and then gets re-elected. No change there, then.

Otherwise, we're considering a Club dinner. Typically, this is held in December when the summer's emotional wounds have not entirely healed, and swallows and Nasser Hussain have flown south. 'Wink' Peachey will be telling everyone he plans to play less next season, Nigel will be promising that his new lady wife will do teas, and the Chairman that he'll resign at the end of next year. All of this will fool nobody. Afterwards, it will be some six months before we clap eyes on each other again (there is a God). Grudges need to be saved for the first game next year. So, it's time to use the knife as well as the fork, and hope the seating plan works in your favour. Such optimism!

Cricket dinners are all different, yet all

the same - especially when it comes to ritual humiliation. You need to be armed with the memory of who you ran out at Edwardstone or off whose bowling you dropped a catch at Hadleigh. Yet a dinner rounds off the season in the way the last match never does. The final game of the season is always a monumental anti-climax and you always lose. It was also your last chance to excel but, in the event, your last opportunity to fail. Cricket seasons always end in disarray. A day after the match an Indian summer begins, everyone wears shorts and sunglasses, the weatherman says there's more to come and the swallows turn round and fly back.

The dinner is when the Chairman produced his comprehensive statistical digest to prove, once again, that the best players are better than the ones who aren't any good. With luck, there'll be three people below me in the batting averages, although since Rob Linnert's now-wife stopped playing for the team Andy 'don't call me Charlie' Brown has been denied the cushion she provided between him and last place. Ben 'One T' Whatling who delights in the role of official worst player - either you delight in it or you connect the hosepipe to the exhaust - now seems to have taken up permanent residency in last place, which I can't help feeling is very kind of him. Without his selflessness the Chairman's record of avoiding last place every year would surely be under threat. At the end of the meal Mr Newman will hand out the annual

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awards for excellence - The Nigel Greathead Memorial Rolling Pin for the Most Henpecked Player; Fattest Player of the Year (given to the player who would be most offended at receiving the award), the Dean Rust Award for Worst Bowler, Most Promising Dive off Dave Wiggins' Bowling, Player Who Failed to Laugh when Andy Brown Missed the Ball and Injured Himself (no contenders this year), Baldest Player of the Year and so on. Institutionalised cruelty enjoys a central role in all primitive cultures and there aren't many cultures more primitive than a cricket team! We'll then subside happily into our minicabs and the season is finally closed. Time to fumigate the sports bag and humanely destroy any stray socks that remain.

Doug Reed, Club Secretary (Tel: 241009)

ELMSWELL CC CENTURY CLUB

October Draw

£15 to D Newman (73), £10 to K Clarke (57), and £5 to J Farmer (91).

SERVICES etc., at ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Sunday 25 November

10.30am Morning Prayer

11.30am Holy Communion

Saturday 1 December

10.30am Flower Arranging
Demonstration

Sunday 2 December

9.30am Family Service with
Music Group

10.30am Morning Prayer

11.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 9 December

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Parish Praise with
Children's Nativity Play

Sunday 16 December

10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 19 December

7.00pm Village Carol Service

Friday 21 December

7.30pm Concert for St Nicholas'
Hospice

Sunday 23 December

10.30am Morning Prayer

11.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Monday 24 December

11.30pm Christmas Eve
Communion

Tuesday 25 December

10.30am Christmas Day Family
Service

11.30am Holy Communion

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

St John's Church

Our Special Sunday service for the South American Mission Society was held on 28 October. Over £380 has been raised this year in support of their work, a major part of which is to translate the Bible into the various languages spoken by the native South American people.

The Remembrance Day service was very well attended and wreaths were laid at the memorial in the Church on

Around and About cont'd., pg 16

behalf of the Parochial Church Council, Parish Council, Guides and Scouts. The very moving service included the Brownies' prayer and prayers written and read by the Cub Scouts.

As well as our usual Christmas services there will be a Candlelit Concert in the Church on Friday 21 December at 7.30pm. Admission is free but there will be a retiring collection for the St Nicholas' Hospice.

October 2001 Sponsorships not previously acknowledged

- 19 in memory of Dorothy, Charles and Kenneth. Mother, father and brother of Douglas Mead
- 20 in loving memory of Percy Pleasance

November 2001 Sponsorships

- 1 Alfred Clarke, Treasured memories of my dear husband, Alf, on his 84th Birthday, November 1st. Sadly Missed. Peg and family
- 2 in loving memory of John Philip Parsk, a dearly loved husband, dad and grandad
- 6 in memory of Dorothy May Nunn
- 7 Happy 1st Birthday Laura. Love Nanna & Grandad
- 11 in loving memory of Ena May Clover
- 12 in memory of Thomas Henry Manning
- 14 in loving memory of my dear wife Ann. Mum to Gavin, Lisa, Ashley, Helen and Aaron.
- 14 in loving memory of Ann Thorby. Love from both Mums and Dads

- 15 in memory of Wally Fraser
- 26 in memory of Margery Rose Cammell
- 28 in memory of Evelyn Clark

All bookings and payments, please, to:-

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

ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH November 2001

Hello again, firstly thanks to everyone who came to our harvest services. The best thing, apart from me wearing my Ipswich Town FC home shirt, was seeing the chapel filled with families for our harvest services. Thanks to the Beavers and Scouts for their participation and I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. You sang brilliantly, and took part well, even if you did spot my trick egg before you should have done. We are going to hold a similar family service on DECEMBER 23rd at 11am. I know it's a long way away, but put it in your diary, because I know how booked up you get, and yes I'll be taking it again. We shall also of course have our 6.30pm carols by candlelight on the same day.

Before this however, we have a NEW CHILDRENS CLUB beginning in November. We are quite excited by this, it will be run by people from the Church, and it will be the only mid-week children's club for 5-12 year olds in the village (as far as I know). You will be getting a visit from the

Around and About cont'd., pg 17

organiser at the village primary school on 14th November, and be given more info. If, as a parent, you would like to know more (I know what children are like at passing on info) then phone Margaret on 241541. It will start on Tuesday 27th November at 6pm until 7.30pm. If you are fed up with your children being bored then please help us by supporting this, and giving children something to do instead of watching Neighbours!!!!

For all adults, children, grandmas, Ipswich Town Supporters, Cricket celebrities, etc. etc. we are holding a Christmas Beetle Drive. On 8th December at 7pm turn up at the Chapel for an evening of - well, whatever happens at a beetle drive. Light refreshments will be provided. This Drive is open to anyone in the village who enjoy meeting others, and playing games. It's open to all ages, and it should be a fun evening. So recover from the days Christmas shopping and give us a look, the more that play, the bigger the prize. (I'll just blow the balloon up more!!!).

Finally, anyone who suffers with hearing difficulties, we shall be installing a loop system into the chapel this month, please come along and try it out the last Sunday of the month. You will probably want it turned off again once you hear my singing.

That's it, see you next month for the bumper Christmas edition, I'll be able to get my repertoire of jokes out of the crackers for next year.

See you at any of the above, if not before.

Mark

P.S. We would be bowled over to have Doug in our church after his retirement from the game of cricket, what a catch he would be. To think of all the things he has done for cricketing in the village - on second thoughts!!!! (you know I like you really - from one of your many admirers).

HELPING HAND CLUB



At our recent October meeting we welcomed

Dr West and Sally Crouch from Woolpit Health Centre. Dr West outlined some of the future developments planned for the centre, especially next year. When the Teaching School is established, several members offered to act as guinea pigs for the medical students. Members were reminded that the Flu Jab Programme was in full swing and that they should take advantage of it. After a very informal question and answer session Dr West and Sally Crouch were presented with a cheque for the Friends of the Health Centre.

Our meeting on November 8th was well supported. Considering the nasty weather we had encountered during the day (hopefully not the start of winter). Our meeting on December 6th sees the return of the Bury British Legion Choir and on December 8th we have our Christmas Party. To round off the year

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we welcome Norton Salvation Army Band and Songsters on Thursday December 13th at 7.30pm for a concert. See our separate advert. All are welcome. Start 7.30pm.

Grant Elliston

CARL FINCH MEMORIAL FUND

Woolpit Health Centre has requested that we use funds raised at the last two year's Memorial Day's - £3,300 to purchase the Convex Probe for an Ultra Sound Scanner that they wish to buy. We are delighted to be able to help. This scanner - costing in total £15,000 will be a very useful piece of equipment for the Health Centre.

We would like to thank all those who support this day each year. It is a wonderful achievement which enables us to help our local Health Centre who in turn are able to provide a better service with this specialised equipment for all local people.

See you all again - April 2002!

Sincere thanks from Virginia Finch, Colin & Beryl Finch, and Roy Finch.

FIREWORKS & BONFIRE EVENING

4th November 2001

The Finch & Ollett Partnership would like to thank all those who helped during this evening and for all those who attended.

We raised £170 during the evening and this money will go to Woolpit Health Centre. The money will be held in

reserve and added to the proceeds of the Carl Finch Memorial Day next April.

Thank you once again
Colin & Beryl Finch

CLASSIFIED ADS

STEAMERS IRONING SERVICE. Do you hate the weekly ironing? or simply don't have the time - Ring 01359 242 369.

GARDENER - reliable gardener needed to maintain lovely well established large garden, one day a week from mid December. References required. Please call Clare on 07711 640582 to discuss.

DAVID ROYAL

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NO-one Expects the Suffolk Inquisition...

But at the Annual Village Quiz you might expect to have to deduce the names of these Suffolk villages from the cryptic clues below:

1. COURSE MEAT

2. OLIVER'S HEAVY FRIEND

3. POKE THE DYING FIRE

4. A POET IN A HOLE

5. CLEAN IN THE STREAM

6. THROW THE CLOCK NOISE

7. LEANED ROUGHAGE

8. MIXED UP ODOUR, NEARLY IN A WATER HOLE

9. OLD VALUE OF NINE?

10. EVIL WATER TREE

There were 25 of these, set by Muriel King, in this year's Quiz!

Answers on page 38

County Councillor Chris Storey

It is with considerable regret that we mark the death of Chris Storey who was elected in May of this year to serve as our County Councillor.



Chris Storey seen here helping to formally open our new Memorial Library on 22nd September this year.

In the few months in which we had to get to know him, Chris promised a refreshingly energetic non-partisan approach to the job which he obviously took very seriously.

His most recent act on behalf of our community was to join us for the opening of the new Memorial Library when he expressed his wish that we should continue with such projects as a way of looking to the future.

That future will be the poorer without his help.

*Contact with a Suffolk County Councillor may be made through
Cllr Mrs Sue Sida-Lockett on 01449 781327,
Cllr Jeremy Clover on 01449 720424 or
Cllr Jeremy Pembroke on 01787 210416.*

Letters

From A Owen, Hon. Clerk to the Elmswell Poor's Land Charity

CHARITY FUND VOUCHERS

The Trustees will meet later this month to decide on the allocation of their funds for 2001, which is normally by way of vouchers to be used in local shops. Applications are restricted to those resident in Elmswell for more than 2 years (Pensioners, widows, widowers and other deserving cases) and application forms can be obtained from the Post Office. Those who received a voucher last year need not re-apply.

From John Hines of New Road

.... thank the people of Elmswell

I shall be glad if you would kindly allow me to announce through your columns the fact that my firm's Elmswell office will be closing on 31st December 2001. The reason for this is that I shall, to all intents and purposes, be retiring at the end of this year and any future business or on-going business will be carried out from our Bury St Edmunds office. You will notice that the advertisement on the back page of this edition of the Newsletter indicates the two addresses that this firm operates from in Bury St Edmunds and Needham Market. My colleagues at those two offices will be pleased to hear from any former, existing or new clients.

May I also take this opportunity to thank the many people of Elmswell who have supported me over the last eleven years since I commenced practice in the village. May I also assure them that the service that they will get from Bury St Edmunds and Needham Market will be just as good!

From Mrs T Sawyer of New Road

"A worried Mother"

I am writing to convey a word of warning to all parents in the village, when they sign up their children to attend the local Nursery Unit, run by Elmswell Primary School. They should read the form that they are given very carefully, or they too could misinterpret it as I did. I thought that the sooner you signed the form the better the chance of securing a place at the school. Unfortunately this is not true and although I completed and returned by form in 1998, this still does not mean my daughter has a place. In fact, I was informed only last month that she has not been successful, and cannot attend the Nursery in January but she can in April (4 months later!!), because there are only 18 places available and 20 children applied.

The reasons I have been given are;

- the admissions policy is mainly based on a chronological order ie. their birthdays and who's older (and not first come, first served, as I and so many others had thought).
- the floor space of the Nursery is inadequate.
- there is only one teacher per afternoon session (last term there were 2).

Elmswell is such a large and thriving village now. More and more houses, probably means more and more families. Surely the school, like so many facilities, must change and adapt to meet the extra needs of expansion. This problem will only get worse every year.

So my message to you all is to beware, it might happen to you and your children too.

Monica L. Carlin MSSCh. MBChA.

Ruth E. Carlin MSSCh. MBChA.

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From Virginia Finch of Tostock

How condescending!

I refer to the October 2001 Newsletter and am again saddened by the comments and actions of some of the Elmswell Councillors - how long will the villagers of Elmswell let them get away with their patronising and dictatorial manner?

In the Items of Interest in the October edition Councillors Marriott, Curry and Clark make several remarks that are nothing short of scandalous - who do they think they are? When are they going to start doing what they were elected for? It would appear Dick Burch asked that Planning matters be discussed at an additional meeting as there were so many, to allow more time to be allotted to general matters. This proposal fell - Why? Probably because they are frightened of having any time at all for the villagers to question them.

Cllr Feeney proposed that no meetings be held before 6.00pm to allow the public to be able to attend. The proposal fell - Cllr Marriott states that these meetings are not for you the villager - but for the council members - so it does not matter to him if you cannot attend? Cllr Curry's comment that peoples jobs are flexible enough that they can attend any time is a joke - get real Cllr Curry and hold meetings in the evenings.

Much good it will do you if you are able to attend however, as you will not be able to speak, unless the subject you wish to address is already on their agenda! The proposal by Cllr Reed to bring back Any Other Business of course fell because according to Cllr Clark it is a "privilege" for the villagers/public to be given an opportunity to speak!

How condescending can they get?

These Councillors are the ones in a privileged position and if they are not prepared to work for the best interests of the Community, have open discussion times for all to have their say, accept criticism as hopefully being constructive, then they are in the wrong job.

It should be very worrying for every Elmswell resident that the current Council seemingly consists of 3 dictatorial Councillors, 4 whose names you rarely see in print, but presumably they vote with those who deem to be in charge or abstain, and 3 genuine Councillors - Burch, Feeney and Reed who are trying to inject

some democracy and common-sense into the proceedings.

Apologies to the 4 Councillors if you are active and speak up for what you believe is right for the village, but there is rarely a mention of you in the reports. Although I no longer live in the village, I did for 18 years until quite recently and have worked there for 13 years and continue to do so. I am constantly hearing complaints of how this Council is running Elmswell facilities - so come on everybody, do something about it and support those who have your best interests at heart.

Hang in there Cllr Birch, Feeney and Reed - hopefully at the next election at the latest, you will be joined by others also wanting to work for the Community.

On a more personal note I would like to update you as to how petty and mean your Council is. As you will hopefully now be aware Roy Finch organises a Carl Finch Memorial Day with all proceeds going to the Woolpit Health Centre. For two previous years, we have had the hall fee waived for this event, but were disappointed to learn that this year not only did we have to pay, but pay months (8/9 mths) in advance to secure the hall. We have just had to pay another £8.00 on top of the £60.00 already paid - what for you may ask - well because we need the hall from 5.00pm instead of 6.00pm!!!

Roy applied to the Grant Aid for this same cause and surprise, surprise Grant Aid was refused.

Although I do not have a problem with the Grant Aid system - aiding any charity or worthy cause - it is particularly hard to accept that others outside the village get help, but an event which could ultimately help anybody in the village of Elmswell gets turned down. The portable heart monitor that we have already bought for Woolpit Health Centre enables the patient to have a 24 hour reading taken from their heart. Let's hope that Cllrs Marriott, Curry and Clark never require such equipment.

Well, I know that they have no heart - otherwise they would endeavour to support and help those only interested in raising money for others, their fellow villagers, without fuss, not asking for recognition - just getting on quietly with the job in hand - helping others they could do with taking a leaf out of Roy Finch's book!

Looking forward to a time when democracy and common-sense prevails!

from Julia May

"dictated to by 3 Parish Councillors"

I felt, after reading last month's newsletter, that I must write and ask if there is anyone else out there who is reacting to these reports on the Parish Council meetings as I am.

I have lived in Elmswell for about 17 years and like it very much. Although the village is industrialised it provides the amenities very few villages can boast.

What I am so very sad, angry and down right fed up with is the continual way we are being dictated to by 3 Parish Councillors. I shouldn't have to name them, but I will, Cllrs. Clark, Marriott and Curry.

'What is wrong with Cllrs. Clark, Marriott and Curry?' We always used to have, as parishioners, time to be able to ask questions at parish meetings, How dare Cllr. Marriott state that parish council meetings are only for councillors. Why do meetings go on for so long that there is no time for questions from the public? I cannot believe that Cllr. Marriott also pointed out that the public wasn't interested in the next stage of planning for Blackbourne. From where did he get that idea? We, as parishioners, help towards paying for the changes and additions to Blackbourne. Surely we have the right to know on what our money is being spent.

I attended my first parish council meeting some 17 years ago and enjoyed the friendly banter. There was always time for the public to speak, as Cllr. Marriott must surely know since he was one who in recent years always had something to say at these meetings.

I for one am grateful to Cllrs. Feency, Burch and Reed who appear to be the only councillors fighting on behalf of the electorate.

I could go on and on, as I feel so strongly about the attitude of Cllrs. Clark, Marriott and Curry. I just hope that there are others out there that care about what is happening to our village.



PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council held an extraordinary meeting on 5th November attended by 8 members of the public. A meeting of the Planning Committee was held on 19th October attended by 3 members of the public. The Ordinary Meeting of Council was held on 19th November and was attended by 12 members of the public. At these meetings the following items of interest were among those discussed.

Communications Working Party

The Chairman of the Communications Working Party, Cllr Ronald Curry, reported that his Committee had met and expressed itself unanimously satisfied with the recent innovation of a Parish Council 'Fact Sheet' which certain Councillors produce and which goes to many houses in the village. Two editions have been published since July and there has been positive feedback from readers sufficient to encourage Cllr Curry to aspire to a monthly edition. The cost of the exercise, which falls on the ratepayers, is within budget. The Clerk is to pursue the establishment of a new web site and to seek to finally manage the deletion of the existing pages which continue resolutely to state that the next Parish Council meeting will take place in September 2000. Suggestions for a cheaper option using a community facility hosted by Suffolk County Council have not found favour. Both the Chairman and Clerk are to undertake training in Public Relations.

Environment Working Party

Cllr Mrs Mary Feeney reported on a site meeting at the cemetery attended by three other Councillors and at Thedwastre Close Playing Field with two other Councillors in attendance. The major recent 'environmental' problem related to the allotments where there has been an infestation of rats which was not dealt with on an emergency basis when first notified in early September so that the vermin had spread to create considerable damage and unacceptable health hazard. A contract was finally entered into with a pest control contractor in mid November, but only after allotment holders had been driven to lay their own poison with obvious Health and Safety implications. Regarding the cemetery, concern was expressed by public and councillors alike regarding the lack of grass cutting during October, despite the scheduled obligations of the contractor. Of 12 other detailed improvements required by the Working Party, the Clerk is to attend as a

matter of urgency to the removal of the grave arisings spoil heap which is now enormous and beginning to attract other rubbish, at the overgrown nature of much of the hedging, and at establishing a proper system for notifying the contractor of sunken plots requiring attention. Other areas of concern to the Working Party include the Thedwastre Close playing field which is overgrown, waterlogged and rubbish strewn as well as the Crown Mill play area which has been allowed to degenerate to a possibly dangerous state requiring closure whilst remedial works are undertaken. Concerns from many quarters were brought to Council's attention regarding the wrecked and burnt out motor car which has sat on the Blackbourne car park for many weeks. This matter is to be addressed.

Maladministration

Councillors discussed a recent claim that they had not followed their own correct procedures in raising matters for Formal Resolution without due notice on the agenda. Advice from the Suffolk association of Local Council, that such resolutions are not necessary in the instances quoted but that the specific matters in question were not of sufficient import to constitute maladministration, was accepted by Councillors.

Vandalism

The general and apparently increasing problem of vandalism about the village was raised in the context of further requests from young people for facilities such as a skateboard park. The Chairman recommended that serious debate on 'youth issues' should await a report on the Village Appraisal which was published in October 2000 but which has yet to be debated by Council.

Planning

Councillors went along with the eloquent case made by members on the public against a reduced number of 15 dwellings on the site adjacent to the railway station sharing access and car parking with the vets surgery. The obvious dangers of traffic access and parking together with the overcrowded nature of the proposals, revised down from 22 dwellings, failed to convince Mid Suffolk District Council who subsequently granted permission. Permission has also been granted for new warehousing at Hudson Haulage site on Grove Lane, the use of outbuildings at Street Farm Bungalow as a children's day nursery, for a new house at Windrush, Ashfield Road and for the proposed bowls pavilion at Blackbourne.

Parish Clerk

In the light of the workload which the new Clerk has encountered in having to put the Council's affairs into order as well as on-going tasks, Councillors were

asked to note the much increased expenditure on Clerk's pay. Six Councillors agreed that Mr Eric Buckmaster be engaged as an unpaid assistant to the Clerk, discounting suggestions that this was merely a way of securing Mr Buckmaster a place on the Council to which he recently failed to be elected.

Representatives

Cllr David Marriott proposed that three existing representatives to the Blackbourne Management Association, Cllrs Curry, Clark and Crook, be re-elected en bloc. Six Councillors agreed. Cllr Doug Reed was returned unopposed as the Council's representative to the Elmswell Sports Advisory Group. Mr Eric Buckmaster is to be the Representative on the Amenities Association.

Surgeries

Quarterly 'surgeries' are to be held for the public, by appointment only, to 'bring their concerns and issues to the Council'. A proposal that such sessions be minuted and reported back to Council did not find favour.

Blackbourne Extensions

Councillors discussed plans to make alterations and additions to Blackbourne. Plans were not shown to public or press, but include the provision of a glazed conservatory, extension to the existing glazed vestibule area, a room where a bar can be sited, a store room, an IT suite and the conversion of a second changing room into office accommodation / committee room. Arguments against the scheme included the 'piecemeal' nature of the proposal which suggests a very expensive way to make extra provision with no attempt to address any shortfall in facilities in any imaginative way, with the lack of reference to the Village Appraisal which made no mention of these proposals as priorities in the public's eyes, and with the loss of a second changing room. Cllr Burch urged his fellow Councillors to consult with the ratepayers and other organisations in the village before committing yet more money developing this ill-considered scheme. Public consultation was, however, recently ruled out as unnecessary, and six Councillors voted to proceed.

Council Land

The Clerk is to draw up the terms of reference for a Review of the Council owned land in the Parish. This may well, it was suggested, include proposals for housebuilding at Crown Mill on the greenspace reserved in the original plan for siting of a future footbridge over the railway line.

Dog Bins

A review of dog waste bins is to be carried out at the suggestion of Cllr Mrs Crook who argued that there were too many of them and that, there no longer being a dog bin warden in post, they are not properly serviced.

Warren Lane Pavement

Council is to formally agree in principle to continue to support the very long-standing County Council scheme to provide a pavement down Warren Lane from Church Road to Warren Close.

Drop in Centre

Plans for a permanent building to replace the existing Portakabin facility as a Drop In Centre at Blackbourne were discussed but not made available to public or press. After much discussion as to floor finishes, it was decided that the architect is to specify garage floor paint to the main area in producing a costed scheme.

Grant Aid

In discussing a letter from a day centre for the elderly at Thurston requesting £50, the lack of a coherent grant making policy was once again raised as a concern, with particular reference to applications from outside the village. It was argued by Cllr David Marriott that this request was not for a grant but for a donation. Six Councillors voted for the proposal to make the money available.

Public Ejected

A member of the public, who repeatedly tried to voice his dissatisfaction with the lack of action on the part of Council with regard to 'things that really matter to the people' was ruled out of order by Chairman Ronald Curry. When he persisted, citing the broken lights around the pathway at Blackbourne which had caused a recent accident, he was asked to leave. His insistence on being heard on the matter of doggie bins which, he claimed, were too high for many dogs to reach, brought about the adjournment of the meeting whilst the Police were summoned. The meeting resumed when the elector left without there being recourse to constabulary assistance.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled Ordinary Meeting should take place on 17 December. Members of the public are, however, advised to watch the notice board at the Co-op for variations.

What's On in Elmswell ?

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

November

- 24 E.M. History Group, 10am,
Tour of St Mary's Church,
Woolpit with Clive Paine
- 27 6pm, New Childrens Club,
Elmswell Baptist Church
(Then Tuesday weekly)
- 29 E.M. History Group,
7.30pm with Clive Paine
- 30 Little Elms Christmas Fayre,
2.30-4pm in the School Hall

December

- 1 Flower arranging
demonstration in St John's
Church, 10.30am
- 4 Christmas meal out for
Toddler Adults, Elmswell
Toddlers
- 5 2pm. The Old Telephone
Exchange, Elmswell
Exchange WI, Christmas
Party. Competition
homemade Christmas Tree
decoration
- 6 E.M. History Group,
7.30pm with Clive Paine
- 8 7pm, Christmas Beetle Drive,
Elmswell Baptist Church

December cont.

- 13 E.M. History Group, 8pm,
talk by Dr Pat Murrell, 'A
Victorian Christmas'
- 16 Elmswell Toddlers
Christmas Party
- 19 Elmswell Toddlers last 2001
session
- 19 Village Carol Service, 7pm,
St John's Church
- 21 Concert in St John's Church
for St Nicholas' Hospice,
7.30pm
- 23 11am, Family Christmas
Service, Elmswell Baptist
Church
- 23 6.30pm, Christmas Carols
by Candlelight, Elmswell
Baptist Church
- 24 Christmas Eve Communion,
11.30pm, St John's Church
- 25 Christmas Day Family
Service, 10.30am, St John's
Church

January 2002

- 2 First Toddlers session of
2002

Tell us more - Tel 241841

